



Front-of-package nutrition labelling policy: global progress and future directions

Over the past decades, there has been a growing momentum, both from governments as well as the industry, to implement front-of-package nutrition labels. While a number of different labelling schemes exist globally, front-of-package nutrition labels have two main objectives: “(i) to provide additional information to consumers to inform healthier food choices; and (ii) to encourage the industry to reformulate products towards healthier options.” Given these two distinct objectives – one is policy oriented while the other seems to be industry-focused – “the purpose of this editorial is to provide an update on the global policy environment regarding government-endorsed front-of-pack nutrition labelling and to examine real-world evidence of policy implementation.”

Given the co-existence of a number of different logos globally, the study provides a list of the different front-of-pack nutrition labelling schemes that have been implemented globally. While identifying some of the common components of the different schemes, the study provides “a summary of various government-led FOP nutrition labelling schemes that have been implemented, divided by type, and how they vary.” Overall, the study showcases that the growing adoption of government-endorsed front-of-pack labelling policies reflects a political and societal acceptability of front-of-pack nutrition labelling.

The current body of studies suggest that “the impact of front-of-pack nutrition labelling on industry reformulation may have greater potential to affect all consumers, independent of sociodemographic characteristics, compared with impacts on consumer behaviour that are often influenced by socio-demographic characteristics.” Decisions regarding mandatory or voluntary implementation may also influence the amount of opposition from industry regarding front-of-pack nutrition labelling policy.

Reference: Kanter, R., Vanderlee, L. & Vandevijvere, S. Front-of-package nutrition labelling policy: global progress and future directions. *Public Health Nutrition*. 2018;21(8):1399–1408.
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