

Jessica Cole

PA575: Advanced Health Policy

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Proposed Policy:

Studies show a direct correlation to the location, frequency, and sales of convenience stores to overweight and obesity in children and youth. By tightening zoning ordinances and implementing land-use policies to prohibit the establishment of convenience stores within one city mile of public schools strides can be made in the reduction of overweight and obesity.

Stores that are already established within one city mile of a public school will receive incentives to provide at least 20 percent of their food or beverages as health food options. Incentives will be in the form of loans, grants, tax incentives, workforce training, general capital or development projects, commercial distribution systems for fresh produce and healthy foods, store renovation, etc.

To Read:

- As unhealthy food outlets multiply, teens eat more junk. (2011). *ScienceDaily*.
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/07/110727141324.htm>
- Babey, S.H., Wolstein, J. & Diamant, A.L. (2011). Food environments near home and school related to consumption of soda and fast food. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.
<http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/publications/Documents/PDF/Food%20Environments%20Near%20Home%20and%20School%20Related%20to%20Consumption%20of%20Soda%20and%20Fast%20Food.pdf>.
- CDC addressing zoning to encourage health eating. It provides some models to look at. The zoning ordinance in LA has met with mixed results (see Zoning for health? The Year-Old Ban on New Fast-Food restaurants in South LA, *Health Affairs*, 2009, 28(6), 1088-1097), but shows that there is considerable weight behind the idea:
http://www.cdc.gov/php/winnable/zoning_obesity.html.
- Gebauer, H. & Nelson Laska, M. (2011). Convenience stores surrounding urban schools: an assessment of health food availability, advertising, and product placement. *Journal of Urban Health*. 88(4), 616-622.

To Review:

- Portland Convenience Store Map (if you zoom in you can see their relationship to some PPS schools): <https://maps.google.com/maps?ie=UTF-8&q=city+of+portland+convenience+store+map&fb=1&gl=us&hq=convenience+store&hnear=0x54950b0b7da97427:0x1c36b9e6f6d18591,Portland,+OR&ei=ha1uUpXjMq6UigKB6lHoAw&ved=0CIACEMqT>

- Regional Equity Atlas, Proximity to Unhealthy Food Sources: <http://clfuture.org/atlas-maps/proximity-typical-sources-unhealthy-food-heatmap>
- This is about 24 minutes long, but HBO produced a great series last year called Weight of the Nation. This is a short about Poverty and Obesity: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MJnm5X9NN0>

Discussion Questions:

- Zoning may not be the end-all-be-all of answers, but do you think it is a reasonable start? I think about how kids/families can go to any other convenience store/fast-food joint/grocer outside the proposed limit and access unhealthy foods and beverages.
- Does zoning restrictions impede on freedom of choice and freedom of enterprise?
- Can this effort really make changes without addressing the broader disparities (race, poverty, livable wage, food access, pervasive marketing to youth) that drive people to shop for the cheapest, most often unhealthy, foods?
- Will changing the food environment really work if health & nutrition education is not a priority in our educational system?