

Lessons learnt from government-led food environment policy processes: A systematic review

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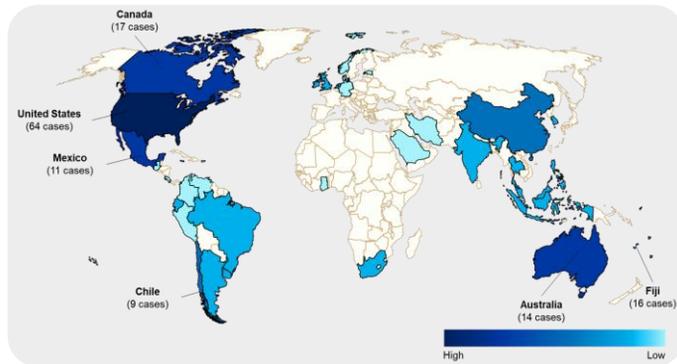
Introduction

- Systemic changes within food environments¹⁻³ are integral to health equity and wellbeing.
- Government-led food environment policy⁴ processes should better prepare health reform and facilitate good policy governance.
- This review aimed to identify barriers and facilitators when developing and implementing government-led food environment policies to prevent obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases.

Methods

- PRISMA Guidelines were applied.
- Systemic search of academic ($n=10$) and grey literature ($n=7$) databases, national websites ($n=45$) and reference lists was conducted, including papers of all languages published between January 1988 and January 2021.
- Eligibility criteria:* Quantitative and qualitative research reporting barriers and facilitators during government-led food environment policy processes.

Findings and Interpretations



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mandatory than voluntary policies



policies from very high HDI* countries than low to high HDI countries

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*HDI = Human development Index (derives from life expectancy, education and gross national income indices)

Top cited barriers



Industry resistance or disincentive

Top 1



Technical challenges

Top 1



Lack of resources

Top 2

Top cited facilitators



Strategies in policy process[‡]

Top 1



Resources availability or maximisation

Top 2



Stakeholder partnership or support

Top 3

Policy Development

Policy Implementation

[‡]Approaches of stakeholders to promote policy process (e.g. policy framing, advocacy through media, negotiations for a flexible grace period, stepwise policy approaches).

Conclusions

- Little evidence from low to high HDI countries and on voluntary policies.
- This review indicates lessons in government-led food environment policy processes which can be generalised to guide policy reforms to create healthy food environments.

References

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