



Communities' Views on Nutrition and Sugary Drinks

In 2016 Toi Te Ora Public Health commissioned a telephone survey of people living in the Bay of Plenty and Lakes district health board areas in order to help understand what local communities think about a range of public health issues. A total of 841 people over the age of 15 years were interviewed.

Key results

When asked about schools and health:

- 85% of respondents agreed that sugary drinks should not be sold on school grounds.
- 67% of respondents agreed that schools should not allow children to bring sugary drinks to school.
- 44% of respondents agreed that shops close to schools should not be allowed to sell sugary drinks.
- 64% of respondents agreed that shops close to schools should not be allowed to advertise sugary drinks outside on their buildings.
- 80% of respondents agreed that school tuck shops and canteens should only be allowed to sell healthy food.
- 68% of respondents agreed that there should be limits on the number of fast food outlets permitted near schools.

When asked about nutrition generally:

- 83% of respondents agreed, "there should be health warnings for all sugary drinks".
- 86% of respondents agreed, "there is too much marketing of sugary drinks to children".
- 89% of respondents agreed, "there is too much marketing of unhealthy food to children".

Preventing childhood obesity was identified by 85% of respondents as the most important priority (chosen from a list of public health priorities) and there is clearly community support for promoting healthy eating, encouraging physical activity, and reducing sugary drink consumption.

For more information read the report, '*Issues of Health and Wellbeing Population Survey 2016*'; Toi Te Ora Public Health, available at www.ttophs.govt.nz/populationsurvey.

