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The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
WA State NOPREN

Members

**UW:** Public Health, Urban Form, Food Systems, Medicine, Policy

**Policy NGOs:** Anti-Hunger, MCH Advocates, Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition

**Government:** State Health & Agriculture, County Health

Research Teams

- Restaurant Policy
- Rural Food Access
- CPPW
- State Policy Feasibility & Effectiveness
Purpose of Pilot Study

• Advance understanding of the public health function of *policy development* in order to improve public health practice
  – Describe the process
  – Identify facilitators, barriers, lessons learned
  – Disseminate results
County Public Health Departments Work to Improve Restaurant Food
Design & Methods

Multiple-case, replication design

Data: documents and key informant interviews

- Interviews: public health officials, board of health members, restaurant owners and Restaurant Association representatives
- Interview questions: explore themes related to policy process and change as described by the Advocacy Coalition Framework
Advocacy Coalition Framework

## Constructs from the ACF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy subsystem</th>
<th>Interview Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who makes up the coalition?</td>
<td>How did you participate in the development of the menu labeling policy (in Seattle-King Co) [or pilot project in Tacoma Co, healthy food labeling project in Thurston Co]?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Probe:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* What was your role in the development of the menu labeling policy (in Seattle-King Co) [or pilot project in Tacoma-Pierce Co, healthy food labeling project in Thurston Co]?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Who else participated in the process?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* What were their roles in the process?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* What were their positions on the issues?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Characteristics of the coalition:

**Role: dominating the subsystem? Trying to dominate? (power)**

Please describe the relationships between the individuals and groups that were involved in this initiative, both inside and outside the health department.  
**Probes:**  
* Who was supportive of improving restaurant foods?  
* Who was not supportive?  
* How did these relationships play out as decisions were made?
# Interview Sample (n)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Public Health Staff</th>
<th>BOH Members</th>
<th>Restaurant Owners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seattle-King</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacoma-Pierce</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurston</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One interview with Representative of Washington Restaurant Association
## Coding Example: Beliefs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACF construct</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Sample codes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deep Core Beliefs</td>
<td>Fundamental, unlikely to change</td>
<td>freedom, justice, health (priority of)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Core Beliefs</td>
<td>Basic strategies for achieving core values</td>
<td>education, regulation (priority of)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Aspects</td>
<td>Causal linkages, performance of institutions &amp; programs</td>
<td>environment, behavior (change strategies)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preliminary Findings

- External Events
- Policy Beliefs
- Leadership Resources
- Policy Learning
# Policy Subsystem Actors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Leaders:</th>
<th>Staff:</th>
<th>Restaurants:</th>
<th>Community:</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King</td>
<td>BOH, HD director</td>
<td>HEAL*, environmental health, law</td>
<td>owners, restaurant association</td>
<td>health organizations &amp; advocates</td>
<td>Center for Science in the Public Interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierce</td>
<td>BOH, HD director</td>
<td>HEAL</td>
<td>owners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurston</td>
<td>HEAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>owners, restaurant association</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Healthy Eating Active Living staff
Examples of External Events

- CSPI & NYC mandate: helped set agenda
- Legal Action in NYC
  - King: carefully worded requirement
  - Thurston: Avoided any regulation
  - Pierce: restaurants & their association very interested in partnering
- National legislation: Pierce stopped considering further initiatives
Examples of Beliefs

• Deep core beliefs
  – Freedom for businesses
  – Importance of nutrition & health

• Policy Beliefs on Appropriate Instruments & Role of Health Department
  – Education
  – Regulation
  – Both
Examples of Constraints & Resources: Leadership

- New Health Department Director in King Co had strong focus on policy as a public health tool & the board of health initiated and championed the menu labeling policy despite industry pushback.
- In Pierce Co, budget cuts led to personnel changes at the health department including the loss of several champions for menu labeling. Menu labeling policy development was put on hold during the transition.
Policy Oriented Learning

- King County had most extensive policy oriented learning.
  - Initial regulations: labeling applied if had 10 franchises, information display requirements seen as burdensome by restaurants
  - Restaurant Association went to state legislature in an attempt to get preemptive and less restrictive regulations.
  - County and restaurant association worked collaboratively to modify regulation.
  - Final regulations: 15 outlets & changes to display rules
Next Steps

• Complete preliminary analysis
• Present to restaurant research team
  – “Member checking”
• Work with NOPREN members
  – Use of model & compare findings
Questions?