

Retail Audit of Sugary Drinks in Six New York City Neighborhoods

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Sugary Drink Retail Audit 2011: Data from the NYC Health Department's 2009 Community Health Survey (CHS: for survey details, visit www.nyc.gov/health/survey) were used to select neighborhoods based on sugary drink consumption. CHS respondents were asked how many 12-ounce sugary drinks (soda, iced tea, sports drinks, etc.) they drink per day on average. Neighborhood consumption levels were grouped into tertiles based on the percentage of adults reporting consumption of one or more sugary drinks per day. In "higher" consumption neighborhoods, the rate was 35-46% of adults, and in "lower" consumption neighborhoods, the rate was 11-27% of adults. Six NYC neighborhoods selected for the retail audit, three each with higher and lower rates of sugary drink consumption. In the neighborhoods selected for the audit, 43-46% of residents in the higher consumption neighborhoods and 18-27% in the lower consumption neighborhood after excluding atypical zip codes that had few retail outlets, along with Columbia University and the Bronx Zoo, for a total of 12 zip codes. Data collectors used a standardized assessment tool to survey all corner stores, chain pharmacies, and grocery stores in each zip code, capturing information on the availability and promotion of a variety of sugary drinks, low calorie drinks, water/seltzer, and 100% juice. A total of 911 stores were visited, and data were collected at 883 stores with 28 store refusals, for a 97% participation rate.

To access the related Epi Data Brief, go to nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/databrief17.pdf



Epi Data Tables, No. 17 New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Table 1. Retail store types within NYC neighborhoods by higher and lower neighborhood consumption of sugary drinks

Source: Sugary Drink Retail Audit 2011

The New York City 2009 Community Health Survey asked respondents how many 12-ounce sugary drinks (soda, iced tea, sports drinks, etc.) they drink per day on average. Neighborhood consumption levels were grouped into tertiles based on the percentage of adults reporting consumption of one or more sugary drinks per day. In higher consumption neighborhoods, the rate was 35-46% of adults, and in lower consumption neighborhoods, the rate was 11-27% of adults.

	Hig	gher Consumption	ı Neighborhoods		Lower	P-value Higher vs. Lower			
Store Type*	South Bronx (N=189)	Central Harlem (N=63)	East New York (N=266)	All (N=518)	Greenpoint (N=174)	Astoria (N=84)	Upper West Side (N=107)	All (N=365)	Consumption Neighborhoods (All)
Corner Store N (%)	166 (88)	49 (78)	228 (86)	443 (86)	134 (77)	65 (77)	52 (49)	251 (69)	<.001
Chain Pharmacy N (%)	7 (4)	2 (3)	3 (1)	12 (2)	5 (3)	6 (7)	20 (19)	31 (8)	<.001
Grocery Store N (%)	16 (8)	12 (19)	35 (13)	63 (12)	35 (20)	13 (15)	35 (33)	83 (23)	<.001

* Corner stores (commonly referred to as "bodegas") are small convenience stores that have no more than 2 cash registers and sell a variety of mostly non-perishable grocery items. Chain pharmacies are larger than corner stores and carry basic grocery items in addition to doctor-prescribed and over-the-counter medications. Chain pharmacies visited included CVS/pharmacy[®], DUANEreade[™], Rite Aid[®], and Walgreens[®]. Grocery stores are larger chain or independent stores carrying fresh produce and other grocery items.

Due to rounding, percentages may not always add to 100%.

Table 2. Mean beverage availability by neighborhood consumption level and store type

Source: Sugary Drink Retail Audit 2011

The New York City 2009 Community Health Survey asked respondents how many 12-ounce sugary drinks (soda, iced tea, sports drinks, etc.) they drink per day on average. Neighborhood consumption levels were grouped into tertiles based on the percentage of adults reporting consumption of one or more sugary drinks per day. In higher consumption neighborhoods, the rate was 35-46% of adults, and in lower consumption neighborhoods, the rate was 11-27% of adults.

	Overall			Corner Store			Chain Pharmacy			Grocery Store		
	Higher Consumption Neighborhoods	Lower Consumption Neighborhoods		Higher Consumption Neighborhoods	Lower Consumption Neighborhoods		Higher Consumption Neighborhoods	Lower Consumption Neighborhoods		Higher Consumption Neighborhoods	Lower Consumption Neighborhoods	
Beverage Category*	Mean (N=518)	Mean (N=365)	P-value	Mean (N=443)	Mean (N=251)	P-value	Mean (N=12)	Mean (N=31)	P-value†	Mean (N=63)	Mean (N=83)	P-value
Sugary Drinks	11.4	10.4	<.001	11.9	11.4	0.001	11.0	11.5		8.0	7.0	0.106
Low Calorie Drinks	4.1	5.6	<.001	4.3	5.9	<.001	5.8	6.9		2.7	4.1	0.002
Water/Seltzer	2.3	2.5	<.001	2.4	2.7	<.001	2.1	2.2		1.5	2.0	0.003
100% Juice	1.0	1.0	0.219	1.0	1.0	0.269	1.0	0.9		0.9	0.9	0.265

*Sugary drinks include soda, sports drinks, energy drinks, iced tea, and fruit drinks, and have more than 25 calories per 8-ounce serving. Low calorie drinks include the counterparts to each of the sugary drinks and have 25 calories or fewer per 8-ounce serving. Thirteen varieties of sugary drinks, 13 varieties of low calorie drinks, 3 varieties of water/seltzer (plain water and seltzer, and flavored seltzer), and yes/no availability of 100% juice were assessed.

Mean availability was calculated by finding the average number of these refrigerated beverage varieties per store.

[†]Multivariate significance test did not yield significant results, so univariate p-values were not calculated.

Table 3. Number of stores with any beverage advertising by neighborhood consumption level and store type

Source: Sugary Drink Retail Audit 2011

The New York City 2009 Community Health Survey asked respondents how many 12-ounce sugary drinks (soda, iced tea, sports drinks, etc.) they drink per day on average. Neighborhood consumption levels were grouped into tertiles based on the percentage of adults reporting consumption of one or more sugary drinks per day. In higher consumption neighborhoods, the rate was 35-46% of adults, and in lower consumption neighborhoods, the rate was 11-27% of adults.

	Overall			Corner Store			Chain Pharmacy			Grocery Store		
	Higher Consumption Neighborhoods	Lower Consumption Neighborhoods		Higher Consumption Neighborhoods	Lower Consumption Neighborhoods		Higher Consumption Neighborhoods	Lower Consumption Neighborhoods		Higher Consumption Neighborhoods	Lower Consumption Neighborhoods	
Beverage Category*	N (%) (N=518)	N (%) (N=365)	P-value	N (%) (N=443)	N (%) (N=251)	P-value	N (%) (N=12)	N (%) (N=31)	P-value†	N (%) (N=63)	N (%) (N=83)	P-value†
Sugary Drinks N (%)	500 (97)	324 (89)	<.001	429 (97)	230 (92)	0.004	11 (92)	23 (74)		60 (95)	71 (86)	
Low Calorie Drinks N (%)	167 (32)	119 (33)	0.942	135 (31)	81 (32)	0.670	6 (50)	10 (32)		26 (41)	28 (34)	
Water/Seltzer N (%)	102 (20)	137 (38)	<.001	81 (18)	84 (33)	<.001	2 (17)	14 (45)		19 (30)	39 (47)	
100% Juice N (%)	291 (56)	128 (35)	<.001	247 (56)	92 (37)	<.001	2 (17)	1 (3)		42 (67)	35 (42)	

*Sugary drinks include soda, sports drinks, energy drinks, iced tea, and fruit drinks, and have more than 25 calories per 8-ounce serving. Low calorie drinks include the counterparts to each of the sugary drinks and have 25 calories or fewer per 8-ounce serving. Water/Seltzer includes plain water and seltzer, and flavored seltzer.

+Omnibus significance test did not yield significant results, so individual chi square p-values were not calculated.