Alignment between the New Zealand Health Star Rating system and the Chilean Warning Label system

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Background

- Unhealthy diet is the leading preventable risk for poor health in New Zealand
- Simple, front-of-pack labelling may help consumers to make healthier choices
- One alternative to current food
 labelling are the Chilean Warning
 Labels which state if a product is high in added sugar, saturated fats, sodium or energy

Aim

- To determine the degree of alignment between the Health Star Rating (HSR) system and the Chilean Warning Label system.
- Phase 1 involved assessing how many New Zealand products would meet the criteria for a "high in sugar" warning label



Figure 1: The Health Star Rating star graphic.





Method

- We assessed how many packaged foods and beverages sold in New Zealand supermarkets would meet the criteria for a "high in sugar" warning label
- 8195 products containing added sugar, syrup, honey, mono- or disaccharides were included in the analysis
- Of these, foods containing >10g/100g and beverages containing >5g/100ml of total sugars met the criteria for a "high in sugar" warning label

Results

- 4734 (58%) of NZ packaged foods and beverages with added sugar, syrup, honey, mono- or disaccharides would receive a warning label for sugar
- This equals to approximately 34% of packaged foods and beverages sold in NZ supermarkets

Upcoming work

- We will conduct the same analysis for saturated fats, sodium and energy warnings
- We will analyse the alignment between the HSR system and the Chilean Warning Label system

Future perspectives

 This work could inform potential improvements to food labelling in New Zealand

Conclusion

More than a third of New
Zealand packaged foods and
beverages could receive a
"high in sugar" warning label

% of NZ packaged products that meet the criteria for a "high in sugar" warning, within each food group

