

Average soda fountain serving exceeds daily recommended added sugars

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(HealthDay)—You'll get more than a day's worth of added sugars when

you pour a soda fountain drink at most U.S. restaurant chains, a new report finds.

Even small-sized drinks exceed recommended guidelines, said researchers at the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI).

For the study, CSPI researchers examined levels of added sugar in full-calorie soda fountain drinks at the top 20 restaurant chains by revenue.

The investigators found that small drinks averaged 65 grams of added sugar—more than the recommended daily limit of 50 grams (12 teaspoons) of added sugar, based on a 2,000-calorie diet.

Medium or regular drinks averaged 75 grams—that's 1½ times the recommended limit. Large drinks, averaging 109 grams, had more than two days' worth of added sugar.

The report suggests that state and [local governments](#) in the United States should require menus to include warning icons on items with high levels of added sugar.

"People are returning to restaurants and dining out more," said Sarah Sorscher, deputy director of regulatory affairs for the CSPI.

"Sugar warnings would allow all of us to make more informed decisions about our own health by providing information on menus about the [added sugars](#) that are often hidden in restaurant foods and beverages," she said in a center news release.

The researchers also found that even drinks sold as part of meal combinations usually had more than the recommended daily limit of added sugar. And half of kids' drinks had more than 40 grams of added sugar.

Making it harder for consumers to manage their sugar intake, [sugar content](#) in the same size soda could vary threefold from [restaurant](#) chain to chain, according to the report.

Citing a New York City idea as a model, the researchers said a proposal there would require icons on menu items that exceed the 50-gram recommended daily limit for added [sugar](#).

A new survey accompanying the report showed that three-quarters of New York State residents support having these warnings on menus.

The findings were released online July 8 by the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

More information: The American Academy of Family Physicians has more on [added sugars](#).

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