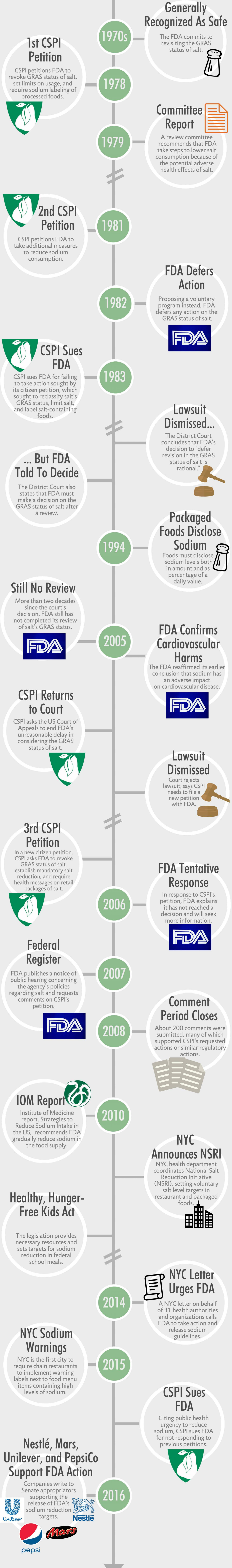


Sodium: A Timeline

CSPI's 38-year history of seeking stricter sodium regulations from the Food and Drug Administration



1970s

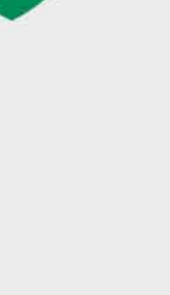
Generally Recognized As Safe
The FDA commits to revisiting the GRAS status of salt.



1st CSPI Petition
CSPI petitions FDA to revoke GRAS status of salt, set limits on usage, and require sodium labeling of processed foods.

1978

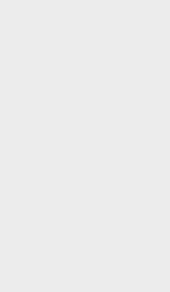
Committee Report
A review committee recommends that FDA take steps to lower salt consumption because of the potential adverse health effects of salt.



1979

1981

2nd CSPI Petition
CSPI petitions FDA to take additional measures to reduce sodium consumption.



FDA Defers Action
Proposing a voluntary program instead, FDA defers any action on the GRAS status of salt.



1982

1983

CSPI Sues FDA
CSPI sues FDA for failing to take action sought by its citizen petition, which sought to reclassify salt's GRAS status, limit salt, and label salt-containing foods.



Lawsuit Dismissed...
The District Court concludes that FDA's decision to "defer revision in the GRAS status of salt is rational."



... But FDA Told To Decide
The District Court also states that FDA must make a decision on the GRAS status of salt after a review.

1994

Packaged Foods Disclose Sodium
Foods must disclose sodium levels both in amount and as percentage of a daily value.



Still No Review
More than two decades since the court's decision, FDA still has not completed its review of salt's GRAS status.



2005

FDA Confirms Cardiovascular Harms
The FDA reaffirmed its earlier conclusion that sodium has an adverse impact on cardiovascular disease.



CSPI Returns to Court
CSPI asks the US Court of Appeals to end FDA's unreasonable delay in considering the GRAS status of salt.



Lawsuit Dismissed
Court rejects lawsuit, says CSPI needs to file a new petition with FDA.



3rd CSPI Petition
In a new citizen petition, CSPI asks FDA to revoke GRAS status of salt, establish mandatory salt reduction, and require health messages on retail packages of salt.



2006

FDA Tentative Response
In response to CSPI's petition, FDA explains it has not reached a decision and will seek more information.



Federal Register
FDA publishes a notice of public hearing concerning the agency's policies regarding salt and requests comments on CSPI's petition.



2007

Comment Period Closes
About 200 comments were submitted, many of which supported CSPI's requested actions or similar regulatory actions.



IOM Report
Institute of Medicine report, Strategies to Reduce Sodium Intake in the US, recommends FDA gradually reduce sodium in the food supply.



2010

NYC Announces NSRI
NYC health department coordinates National Salt Reduction Initiative (NSRI), setting voluntary salt level targets in restaurant and packaged foods.



Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act
The legislation provides necessary resources and sets targets for sodium reduction in federal school meals.

2014

NYC Letter Urges FDA
A NYC letter on behalf of 31 health authorities and organizations calls FDA to take action and release sodium guidelines.



NYC Sodium Warnings
NYC is the first city to require chain restaurants to implement warning labels next to food menu items containing high levels of sodium.

2015

CSPI Sues FDA
Citing public health urgency to reduce sodium, CSPI sues FDA for not responding to previous petitions.



Nestlé, Mars, Unilever, and PepsiCo Support FDA Action
Companies write to Senate appropriators supporting the release of FDA's sodium reduction targets.



2016