

**Menu Labeling Timeline**

**Key milestones in CSPI’s campaign to advance menu labeling nationwide**

**1993**

For more information, visit menulabeling.org or contact the Center for Science in the Public Interest at policy@cspinet.org.

Eating out is no longer a rare treat saved for special occasions. Americans eat out more than ever, consuming, on average, one-third of their calories from away-from-home foods. And, numerous studies link eating out with obesity.

Without clear, easy-to-use calorie information at the point of ordering, it’s difficult to make informed and healthy choices.

**2002**

**WOK ON THE WILD SIDE**

CSPI publishes the first in a series of landmark investigative reports (beginning with Chinese-restaurant food). Those studies, generated in collaboration with CSPI’s food technologist and research associate, revealed that sit-down restaurant food is often higher in calories, saturated fat, and sodium than fast food.

**2003-2004**

**FIRST MENU LABELING BILL IN CONGRESS**

CSPI worked with former Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) to introduce the Menu Education and Labeling (MEAL) Act each Congressional session up to passage.

**2006**

The New York City Board of Health, at CSPI’s urging, adopts the first menu labeling policy. That rule required calorie labeling on menus and menu boards at fast-food and other chain restaurants, working with advocates and policy makers to introduce menu labeling policies.

**2008**

CSPI worked with Public Health Advocates (then called the California Center for Public Health Advocacy) and other state advocates to pass the first state menu labeling law, signed by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**2006-2010**

CSPI lends technical assistance to advocates to pass menu labeling policies in more than 20 states and localities.

**2012-2014**

CSPI meets with the FDA and White House, provides background research, and mobilizes organizations and the public for strong menu labeling regulations. On December 1, 2014, the FDA finalizes the regulations.

One week before the May 5, 2017 implementation date, the FDA delays implementation to May 7, 2018, and reopens rulemaking due to the same industry opposition.

May 7, 2018: Nationwide implementation of menu labeling