Introduction

- There has been growing advocacy by parents highlighting the absence of diaper changing stations in public restrooms.
- 83% of parents report eating at restaurants with their child (<3 years old) more than once and 90% of parents report having used public diaper changing stations at least once.
- There are few laws in the United States requiring diaper changing stations to be installed.
  - Federal Law- Bathroom Available in Every Situation Act requires diaper changing stations to be installed in all publicly accessible federal buildings.
  - State Law- California and New York have passed state laws requiring diaper changing stations accessible to both men and women in new businesses.
  - City Law- Reno Nevada, Miami Florida, and Dallas Texas have passed laws requiring diaper changing stations to be installed in all publicly accessible federal buildings.
- Philadelphia City Government does not keep record of which businesses have diaper changing stations installed.
- There has been no validated method using phone interviews to assess whether restaurants have diaper changing stations.

Objective

The objective of this study is to assess a phone-interview methodology to determine the presence and accessibility of diaper changing stations among restaurants.

Method

- Restaurant list collected in October 2018 from online Philadelphia Department of Food Safety Inspection Database that recorded food license inspection at “eat-in” restaurants in Philadelphia zip code 19103.
- After removing institutions whose primary purpose was not food-service, the search generated 260 results.
- 67 restaurants were picked at random.
- Phone interviews were completed with restaurant employees over 4 days with 60 restaurants.
- Restroom type was noted as unisex stalls, gendered restrooms, both, or no bathroom available.
- Diaper changing station was noted as yes or no, with indication for where the diaper changing station was located such as unisex stall, women’s room only, men’s room only, or both.
- In-person audits were completed to verify the 60 restaurants’ responses.

Discussion

- Phone interviews correctly reported the presence or absence of a diaper changing station 59 of 60 times (98.3%).
- Phone interviews correctly reported the type of bathroom at a restaurant 55 out of 60 times (91.7%).
- Only 9 of 60 (15%) restaurants had diaper changing stations installed.
- Only 7 of the 9 (77.8%) restaurants had diaper changing stations accessible to both men and women.
- Phone-interview can be used as an accurate tool to build database on diaper changing station status in Philadelphia restaurants.

Future Steps

- Using phone interview methodology to continue gathering information on diaper changing stations.
- Continue further research to build database in order to study possible disparities.
  - Diaper changing station access by zip code income
  - Chain-restaurants vs. independent restaurants
- Quantitative measure of the current access to diaper changing stations to use to advocate for policy changes.

Diaper Changing Station Related Law by State as of May 2019

Conclusion

Phone-interviews are an accurate tool to gather data whether restaurants has a diaper changing station

Acknowledgement

This project was developed and executed with the support of Dr. Russell McIntire, Dr. Rosemary Frasso, and Dr. John McAna