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11
12 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
13 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
14

15 EVA GRAUSZ, on behalf of herself, all
16 others similarly situated, and the general
17 public,

18 Plaintiff,

19 v.

20 THE KROGER CO.,

21 Defendant.

Case No: '19CV449 JLS AGS

CLASS ACTION

**COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF
CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17200 *et*
seq.; CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§
17500 *et seq.*; CAL. CIV. CODE §§ 1750
et seq.; and BREACH OF EXPRESS &
IMPLIED WARRANTIES**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff Eva Grausz, on behalf of herself, all others similarly situated, and the general
2 public, by and through her undersigned counsel, hereby sues Defendant, The Kroger
3 Company, and alleges the following upon her own knowledge, or where she lacks personal
4 knowledge, upon information and belief, including the investigation of her counsel.

5 **INTRODUCTION**

6 1. Reliable and compelling scientific studies demonstrate that the oil or fat from
7 coconuts detrimentally affects the body's cardiovascular system, increasing risk of heart
8 disease—the number one cause of death in the United States—among other morbidity.
9 Because of its harmful effects and because it “has no known offsetting favorable effects” the
10 American Heart Association and other groups have warned and advised against its
11 consumption.

12 2. Despite the compelling evidence of the harmful effects of consuming the oil or
13 fat from coconuts, Kroger sells Simple Truth “Coconutmilk” (the Product”), a drink that is
14 primarily coconut oil suspended in water. Kroger specifically markets Simple Truth
15 Coconutmilk to health conscious consumers using health and wellness claims, with the goal
16 of increasing the price and sales of the Product.

17 3. Plaintiff, who was deceived into purchasing the Product, brings this action
18 challenging Defendant's deceptive claims on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated
19 consumers in California, alleging violations of the Consumer Legal Remedies Act (Cal. Civ.
20 Code § 1750, *et seq.*, “CLRA”), Unfair Competition Law (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200,
21 *et seq.*, “UCL”), and False Advertising Law (*id.* § 17500, *et seq.*, “FAL”), as well as breaches
22 of express and implied warranties.

23 4. Plaintiff primarily seeks an order compelling Defendant to cease marketing the
24 Product using deceptive claims.

25 **PARTIES**

26 5. Plaintiff Eva Grausz is a resident and citizen of San Diego County, California.
27
28

6. Defendant The Kroger Co. is a Ohio Corporation, with its principal place of business in Cincinnati, Ohio. Kroger markets, distributes, and sells the Simple Truth Coconutmilk Product.

JURISDICTION & VENUE

7. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) (The Class Action Fairness Act) because the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs and at least one member of the class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a State different from Defendant. In addition, more than two-thirds of the members of the class reside in states other than the state in which Defendant is a citizen and in which this case is filed, and therefore any exceptions to jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) do not apply.

8. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Kroger because it has purposely availed itself of the benefits and privileges of conducting business activities within California, specifically, by intentionally distributing, marketing, and selling the Product in California. Defendant is registered to do business in California under entity number C0692542.

9. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Plaintiff resides in and suffered injuries as a result of Defendant's acts in this District. Thus, many of the acts and transactions giving rise to this action occurred in this District. Further, Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in this District.

FACTS

I. The Composition of the Simple Truth Coconutmilk Product

10. The Simple Truth Coconutmilk Product is an emulsion of coconut oil suspended in water, made through a process where the coconut meat ("copra") is pressed to "release" the oil from the meat.

11. The Product is sold in Original and Unsweetened flavors.

12. According to the Nutrition Facts box of Original Simple Truth Coconutmilk, each 1 cup (8 fl. oz.) serving contains 80 calories, 50 of which come from fat. According to

the Original Simple Truth Coconutmilk Nutrition Facts box, each serving contains 5 grams of total fat and 5 grams of saturated fat. Each serving also contains almost 6 grams of sugar, nearly all of which is added sugar.

13. According to the Nutrition Facts box of Unsweetened Simple Truth Coconutmilk, each 1 cup (8 fl. oz.) serving contains 60 calories, 50 of which come from fat. According to the Unsweetened Simple Truth Coconutmilk Nutrition Facts box, each serving contains 5 grams of total fat and 5 grams of saturated fat.

14. As demonstrated by the studies cited below, consuming Simple Truth Coconutmilk, which is basically saturated fat (or saturated fat and added sugar) in water, is unhealthy as it increases risk of CHD, stroke, and other morbidity.

II. Because of its High Saturated Fat Content, Simple Truth Coconutmilk Detrimentially Impacts Health, and Increases Risk of Cardiovascular Diseases and Other Morbidity

A. Saturated Fat Consumption Increases the Risk of Cardiovascular Heart Disease and Other Morbidity

1. The Role of Cholesterol in the Human Body

15. Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance found in the body's cell walls. The body uses cholesterol to make hormones, bile acids, vitamin D, and other substances. The body synthesizes all the cholesterol it needs, which circulates in the bloodstream in packages called lipoproteins, of which there are two main kinds—low density lipoproteins, or LDL cholesterol, and high density lipoproteins, or HDL cholesterol.

16. LDL cholesterol is sometimes called “bad” cholesterol because it carries cholesterol to tissues, including the arteries. Most cholesterol in the blood is LDL cholesterol.

17. HDL cholesterol is sometimes called “good” cholesterol because it takes excess cholesterol away from tissues to the liver, where it is removed from the body.

2. High Total and LDL Blood Cholesterol Levels are Associated with Increased Risk of Morbidity, Including Coronary Heart Disease and Stroke

18. Total and LDL cholesterol blood levels are two of the most important risk factors in predicting coronary heart disease (CHD), with higher total and LDL cholesterol levels associated with increased risk of CHD.¹

19. High LDL cholesterol levels are dangerous because “[e]levated blood LDL cholesterol increases atherosclerotic lipid accumulation in blood vessels.”² That is, if there is too much cholesterol in the blood, some of the excess may become trapped along artery walls. Built up formations of cholesterol on arteries and blood vessels are called plaque. Plaque narrows vessels and makes them less flexible, a condition called atherosclerosis.

20. This process can happen to the coronary arteries in the heart and restricts the provision of oxygen and nutrients to the heart, causing chest pain or angina.

21. When atherosclerosis affects the coronary arteries, the condition is called coronary heart disease, or CHD.

22. Cholesterol-rich plaques can also burst, causing a blood clot to form over the plaque, blocking blood flow through arteries, which in turn can cause an often-deadly or debilitating heart attack or stroke.

¹ See, e.g., Dr. Dustin Randolph, *Coconut Oil Increases Cardiovascular Disease Risk and Possible Death Due to Heart Attacks and Stroke* (Sept. 19, 2015) (“Heart attack and stroke risk can be largely predicted based on total and LDL cholesterol levels in people” because “as cholesterol levels increase so does one’s risk of symptomatic and deadly heart disease.”), available at <http://www.pursueahealthyyou.com/2015/04/coconut-oil-increases-cardiovascular.html>.

² USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, *Dietary Saturated Fat and Cardiovascular Health: A Review of the Evidence*, Nutrition Insight 44 (July 2011) [hereinafter, “USDA, Review of the Evidence”], available at http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/sites/default/files/nutrition_insights_uploads/Insight44.pdf.

23. Thus, “[f]or the health of your heart, lowering your LDL cholesterol is the single most important thing to do.”³

3. Saturated Fat Consumption Causes Increased Total and LDL Blood Cholesterol Levels, Increasing the Risk of CHD and Stroke

24. The consumption of saturated fat negatively affects blood cholesterol levels because the body reacts to saturated fat by producing cholesterol. More specifically, saturated fat consumption causes coronary heart disease by, among other things, “increas[ing] total cholesterol and low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol.”⁴

25. Moreover, “[t]here is a positive linear trend between total saturated fatty acid intake and total and low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol concentration and increased risk of coronary heart disease (CHD).”⁵

26. This linear relationship between saturated fat intake and risk of coronary heart disease is well established and accepted in the scientific community.

27. For example, the Institute of Medicine’s Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee “concluded there is strong evidence that dietary [saturated fatty acids] SFA increase serum total and LDL cholesterol and are associated with increased risk of [cardiovascular disease] CVD.”⁶

28. In addition, “[s]everal hundred studies have been conducted to assess the effect of saturated fatty acids on serum cholesterol concentration. In general, the higher the intake

³ Pritikin Longevity Center, *Is Coconut Oil Bad for You?*, available at <https://www.pritikin.com/your-health/healthy-living/eating-right/1790-is-coconut-oil-bad-for-you.html>.

⁴ USDA Review of the Evidence, *supra* n.2.

⁵ Institute of Medicine, *Dietary Reference Intakes for Energy, Carbohydrate, Fiber, Fat, Fatty Acids, Cholesterol, Protein, and Amino Acids*, at 422 (2005) [hereinafter “IOM, Dietary Reference Intakes”], available at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=10490.

⁶ USDA Review of the Evidence, *supra* n.2.

1 of saturated fatty acids, the higher the serum total and low density lipoprotein (LDL)
2 cholesterol concentrations.”⁷

3 29. Importantly, there is “no safe level” of saturated fat intake because “any
4 incremental increase in saturated fatty acid intake increases CHD risk.”⁸

5 30. For this reason, while the Institute of Medicine sets tolerable upper intake levels
6 (UL) for the highest level of daily nutrient intake that is likely to pose no risk of adverse
7 health effects to almost all individuals in the general population, “[a] UL is not set for
8 saturated fatty acids.”⁹

9 31. In addition, “[t]here is no evidence to indicate that saturated fatty acids are
10 essential in the diet or have a beneficial role in the prevention of chronic diseases.”¹⁰

11 32. Further, “[i]t is generally accepted that a reduction in the intake of SFA
12 [saturated fatty acids] will lower TC [total cholesterol] and LDL-cholesterol.”¹¹

13 33. For these reasons, “reduction in SFA intake has been a key component of dietary
14 recommendations to reduce risk of CVD.”¹²

15 34. The Institute of Medicine’s Dietary Guidelines for Americans, for example,
16 “recommend reducing SFA intake to less than 10 percent of calories.”¹³ And “lowering the
17 percentage of calories from dietary SFA to 7 percent can further reduce the risk of CVD.”¹⁴

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19
20 ⁷ IOM, Dietary Reference Intakes, *supra* n.5, at 481.

21 ⁸ *Id.* at 422.

22 ⁹ *Id.*

23 ¹⁰ *Id.* at 460.

24 ¹¹ Shanthi Mendis et al., *Coconut fat and serum lipoproteins: effects of partial replacement with unsaturated fats*, 85 Brit. J. Nutr. 583, 583 (2001) [hereinafter “Mendis, Coconut fat”].

25 ¹² USDA Review of the Evidence, *supra* n.2.

26 ¹³ *Id.*

27 ¹⁴ *Id.*

35. In short, consuming saturated fat increases the risk of CHD and stroke.¹⁵

4. In Contrast to Saturated Fat, the Consumption of Dietary Cholesterol has No Appreciable Impact on Blood Cholesterol Levels

36. For many years, there has been a common misperception that dietary cholesterol significantly affects blood cholesterol levels and should be avoided. According to the USDA and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), however, “available evidence shows no appreciable relationship between consumption of dietary cholesterol and serum cholesterol.”¹⁶

37. In fact, the USDA and DHHS have concluded that “Cholesterol is not a nutrient of concern for overconsumption.”¹⁷

38. In contrast, the USDA and DHHS state that “[s]trong and consistent evidence from [randomized control trials] shows that replacing [saturated fats] with unsaturated fats, especially [polyunsaturated fats], significantly reduces total and LDL cholesterol.”¹⁸

39. Therefore, the USDA and DHHS specifically recommend replacing “tropical oils (e.g., palm, palm kernel, *and coconut oils*)” with “vegetable oils that are high in unsaturated fats and relatively low in SFA (e.g., soybean, corn, olive, and canola oils).”¹⁹

¹⁵ See Mendis, Coconut fat, *supra* n.11, at 583.

¹⁶ USDA & DHHS, *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, Part D., Chapter 1, at 17 (2015) [hereinafter “USDA & DHHS, Dietary Guidelines”], available at <http://health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2015-scientific-report/pdfs/scientific-report-of-the-2015-dietary-guidelines-advisory-committee.pdf>.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.* Part D, Chapter 6, at 12.

¹⁹ *Id.* (emphasis added).

B. Studies Specifically Demonstrate that Consuming Coconut Oil—the Only Source of Fat in the Product—Increases Risk of Cardiovascular Heart Disease and Other Morbidity

40. Although it is well established that diets generally high in saturated fatty acids increase the risk of CHD,²⁰ several studies have specifically shown that consuming coconut oil—which is approximately 90 percent saturated fat and the only source of fat in the Product—increases the risk of CHD and stroke.

41. For example, in 2001 the British Journal of Nutrition published a 62-week intervention study that examined the “effect of reducing saturated fat in the diet . . . on the serum lipoprotein profile of human subjects.”²¹ The study had two intervention phases. In Phase 1 (8 weeks), “the total fat subjects consumed was reduced from 31 to 25 % energy . . . by reducing the quantity of coconut fat (CF) in the diet from 17.8 to 9.3 % energy intake.”²² “At the end of Phase 1, there was a 7.7 % reduction in cholesterol and 10.8 % reduction in LDL and no significant change in HDL and triacylglycerol.”²³

42. In Phase 2 (52 weeks), the total fat consumed by subjects was reduced from 25 to 20 % energy by reducing the coconut fat consumption from 9.3 to 4.7 % energy intake.²⁴ At the end of phase 2, these subjects exhibited a 4.2% mean reduction of total cholesterol and an 11% mean reduction in LDL cholesterol.²⁵

43. The authors of the study noted that “[a] sustained reduction in blood cholesterol concentration of 1 % is associated with a 2-3 % reduction of the incidence of CHD (Law et

²⁰ See Mendis, Coconut fat, *supra* n.11, at 583.

²¹ *Id.*

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.* at 586.

al. 1994).” Further, “[i]n primary prevention, a reduction of cholesterol by 20% has produced a 31% reduction in recurrent coronary morbidity, a 33% reduction in coronary mortality, and 22% less total mortality (Grundy, 1997).”²⁶

44. Based on these relationships, the researchers estimated that “the reduction in coronary morbidity and mortality brought about by the current dietary intervention would be of the order of about 6-8 %.”²⁷

45. Simply put, the results of the yearlong study showed that reducing coconut oil consumption “results in a lipid profile that is associated with a low cardiovascular risk.”²⁸

46. The detrimental health effects of consuming coconut oil are not limited to long-term consumption. To the contrary, a 2006 study published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology found that consuming a single high-fat meal containing fat from coconut oil “reduces the anti-inflammatory potential of HDL and impairs arterial endothelial function.”²⁹ In the study, researchers examined the effect of consuming a single isocaloric meal that contained “1 g of fat/kg of body weight,” with “coconut oil (fatty acid composition: 89.6% saturated fat, 5.8% monounsaturated, and 1.9% polyunsaturated fat)” as the source of fat.³⁰ They found that consuming the coconut oil meal significantly “reduces the anti-inflammatory potential of HDL and impairs arterial endothelial function.”³¹ In contrast, when the fat from the same isocaloric meal came from “safflower oil (fatty acid composition: 75%

²⁶ *Id.* at 588.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.* at 587.

²⁹ Stephen J. Nicholls et al., *Consumption of Saturated Fat Impairs the Anti-Inflammatory Properties of High-Density Lipoproteins and Endothelial Function*, 48 J. Am. Coll. Cardio. 715 (2006).

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Id.*

polyunsaturated, 13.6% monounsaturated, and 8.8% saturated fat),” “the anti-inflammatory activity of HDL improve[d].”³²

47. Other studies have similarly demonstrated that coconut oil consumption negatively affects blood plasma markers when compared to other fats.

48. A 2011 study published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition found that consuming coconut oil, unlike consuming palm olein and virgin olive oil, decreased postprandial lipoprotein(a), which is associated with an increased the risk of cardiovascular disease.³³

49. Similarly, a study comparing the effects of consuming coconut oil, beef fat, and safflower oil found that coconut oil consumption had the worst effect on subjects’ blood lipid profiles.³⁴ The authors noted that “[o]f these fats, only CO [coconut oil] appears to consistently elevate plasma cholesterol when compared with other fats.”³⁵

50. In another study, researchers found that that subjects who consumed 30 percent of energy from fat, with 66.7% coming from coconut oil, had “increased serum cholesterol, LDL, and apo B.”³⁶ Apo B is a protein involved in the metabolism of lipids and is the main protein constituent of VLDL (very low-density lipoproteins) and LDL. Concentrations of apo B tend to mirror those of LDL, so the higher the level of apo B, the greater the risk of heart

³² *Id.* at 715.

³³ P.T. Voon et al., *Diets high in palmitic acid (16:0), lauric and myristic acids (12:0 + 14:0), or oleic acid (18:1) do not alter postprandial or fasting plasma homocysteine and inflammatory markers in healthy Malaysian adults*, 94 Am. J. Clin. Nutr. 1451 (2011).

³⁴ Raymond Reiser et al., *Plasma lipid and lipoprotein response of humans to beef fat, coconut oil and safflower oil*, 42 Am. J Clin. Nutr. 190, 190 (1985).

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ V. Ganji & C.V. Kies, *Psyllium husk fiber supplementation to the diets rich in soybean or coconut oil: hypercholesterolemic effect in healthy humans*, 47 Int. J. Food Sci. Nutr. 103 (Mar. 1996).

1 disease. In sum, the study found that consuming coconut oil increased all three cholesterol
2 markers, signifying an increased risk of cardiovascular disease.³⁷

3 51. In short, as the American Heart Association recently and succinctly stated,
4 “because coconut oil increases LDL cholesterol, a cause of [cardiovascular disease], and *has*
5 *no known offsetting favorable effects*, we advise against the use of coconut oil” (emphasis
6 added).³⁸

7 **III. Because of the High Added Sugar Content, the Consumption of Simple Truth**
8 **Original Coconutmilk Further Increases the Risk of Cardiovascular Heart**
9 **Disease and Other Morbidity**

10 52. Sugars are sweet, short-chain, soluble carbohydrates. Simple sugars are called
11 monosaccharides, while disaccharides are formed when two monosaccharides undergo a
12 condensation reaction. The three most common sugars in our diets are fructose, glucose, and
13 sucrose. Other sugars, like lactose, found in milk, and maltose, formed during the germination
14 of grains like barley, are not generally consumed in large amounts. Glucose is a
15 monosaccharide that occurs naturally in fruits and plant juices and is the primary product of
16 photosynthesis. Most ingested carbohydrates (like bread and pasta) are converted into glucose
17 during digestion, and glucose is the form of sugar transported around the body in the
18 bloodstream, and used by the cells for energy. Fructose is a monosaccharide that occurs
19 naturally in fruits and honey. It is the sweetest of the sugars. Sucrose is a disaccharide
20 comprised of one molecule of glucose chemically linked to one molecule of fructose. It is
21 found in sugar cane and beets. Common table sugar is sucrose. During digestion and prior to
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23

24 ³⁷ *Id.*

25 ³⁸ American Heart Association, *Dietary Fats and Cardiovascular Disease: A Presidential*
26 *Advisory From the American Heart Association*, *Circulation* (June 15, 2017), available at
27 <http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/early/2017/06/15/CIR.0000000000000510>.

1 blood absorption, enzymes called sucrases cleave a sucrose molecule into its constituent parts,
2 glucose and fructose.

3 53. Humans' consumption of sugar has shifted dramatically over time. Cro-
4 Magnon men during the Paleolithic age were hunters and gatherers, with a diet mainly
5 comprised of meat, high in protein, moderate in fat, and low in carbohydrates. Fruits and
6 berries were the major source of carbohydrates, and starch consumption was low.³⁹ In 1200
7 B.C., a process was developed in India for extracting sugar in the form of cane juice called
8 khanda, which is where the word "candy" comes from. For nearly 3,000 years, sugar was
9 rare, reserved for nobility. The invention of the pot still in 1700 A.D., however, allowed mass
10 production of refined sugar. But it was still extraordinarily expensive until the middle of the
11 18th century, when there was a worldwide growth in sugar production, including in America.
12 Thus, humans have been consuming sugar in substantial amounts for less than 300 years.

13 54. For most of that time, Americans' sugar consumption was almost exclusively
14 table sugar, with only small amounts of glucose and fructose ingested from fruit.⁴⁰ And sugar
15 was a condiment, added to coffee or tea, with control over the amount eaten.

16 55. Fructose is sweeter than either glucose or sucrose. In fruit, it serves as a marker
17 for foods that are nutritionally rich. Before the development of the worldwide sugar industry,
18 fructose in the human diet was limited to items like honey, dates, raisins, molasses, figs,
19 grapes, raw apples, apple juice, persimmons, and blueberries (which contain approximately
20 10-15% fructose). Food staples like milk, vegetables, and meat have essentially no fructose.
21 Thus, until relatively recently, human beings have had little dietary exposure to fructose.⁴¹
22

23 ³⁹ Tappy, L., et al., "Metabolic Effects of Fructose in the Worldwide Increase in Obesity,"
24 *Physiology Review*, Vol. 90, 23-46, at 24 (2010) [hereinafter "Tappy, Metabolic Effects of
25 Fructose"].

26 ⁴⁰ *Id.*

27 ⁴¹ Bray, G., "How bad is fructose?," *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 86, 895-96
28 (2007) [hereinafter, "Bray, How Bad is Fructose?"].

56. Today, the majority of sugars in typical American diets are added to foods during processing, preparation, or at the table.⁴² The two primary sources of added sugar in processed food are High Fructose Corn Syrup (“HFCS”) and sucrose (i.e., granulated sugar used, for example, in baked goods). Added sugar is in more than 74% of processed foods,⁴³ under more than 60 different names.⁴⁴

57. There has been a rise over the past 45 years in Americans’ consumption of added sugars. From 1970 to 2000, there was a 25% increase in available added sugars in the U.S.⁴⁵ The American Heart Association found that between 1970 and 2005, added sugars available for consumption increased by an average of 76 calories per day, from 25 teaspoons (400 calories) to 29.8 teaspoons (476 calories), a 19% increase.⁴⁶ The Continuing Survey of

⁴² U.S. Dep’t of Agric. & U.S. Dep’t of Health & Human Servs., “Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010,” at 27 (2010) *available at* <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/dga2010/DietaryGuidelines2010.pdf>.

⁴³ Ng, S.W., et al., “Use of caloric and non-caloric sweeteners in US consumer packaged foods, 2005-9, *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, Vol. 112, No. 11, 1828-34 (2012).

⁴⁴ Some examples: Agave nectar, Barbados sugar, Barley malt, Barley malt syrup, Beet sugar, Brown sugar, Buttered syrup, Cane juice, Cane juice crystals, Cane sugar, Caramel, Carob syrup, Castor sugar, coconut palm sugar, Coconut sugar, concentrated fruit juices, Confectioner’s sugar, Corn sweetener, Corn syrup, Corn syrup solids, Date sugar, Dehydrated case juice, Demerara sugar, Dextrin, Dextrose, Evaporated cane juice, Free-flowing brown sugars, Fructose, Fruit juice, Fruit juice concentrate, Glucose, Glucose solids, Golden sugar, Golden syrup, Grape sugar, High-Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS), Honey, Icing sugar, Invert sugar, Malt syrup, Maltodextrin, Maltol, Maltose, Mannose, Maple syrup, Molasses, Muscovado, Palm sugar, Panocha, Powdered sugar, Raw sugar, Refiner’s syrup, Rice syrup, Saccharose, Sorghum Syrup, Sucrose, Sugar (granulated), Sweet Sorghum, Syrup, Treacle, Turbinado sugar, and Yellow sugar.

⁴⁵ Bray, How Bad is Fructose?, *supra* n.41, at 895 (citing Havel, P.J., “Dietary fructose: implications for dysregulation of energy homeostasis and lipid/carbohydrate metabolism, *Nutrition Reviews*, Vol. 63, 133-57 (2005) [hereinafter, “*Havel, Dietary Fructose*”]).

⁴⁶ Johnson, R.K., et al., on behalf of the American Heart Association Nutrition Committee of the Council on Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Metabolism and Council on Epidemiology

Food Intake by Individuals from 1994 to 1996 showed that the average person had a daily added sugars intake of 79 grams, equal to 316 calories and about 15% of energy intake. Those in the top one-third of fructose consumption ingested 137 grams of added sugars per day (548 calories, about 26% of energy per day), and those in the top 10% of fructose consumption ingested 178 grams of fructose per day (712 calories, about 34% of energy).⁴⁷

58. In 2014, researchers analyzing data obtained from National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) showed that during the most recent period of 2005-2010, the mean percent of calories from added sugar in the American diet was 14.9%. Most adults, 71.4%, consumed 10% or more of their calories from added sugar, while about 10% of adults consumed 25% or more of their calories from added sugar.⁴⁸

59. While the availability and consumption of added sugars was increasing over the past several decades, documents published in September 2016 demonstrated that “[t]he sugar industry paid scientists in the 1960s to play down the link between sugar and heart disease and promote saturated fat as the culprit instead”⁴⁹ The documents show, for example, that “the Sugar Research Foundation, known today as the Sugar Association, paid three Harvard scientists the equivalent of about \$50,000 in today’s dollars to publish a 1967 review of research on sugar, fat and heart disease.”⁵⁰ Due to the effort of the sugar industry and its supporters, U.S. food policy, including FDA rulemaking, for many decades inappropriately

and Prevention, “Dietary Sugars Intake and Cardiovascular Health: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association,” *Circulation*, Vol. 120, 1011-20, at 1016-17 (2009) [hereinafter “AHA Scientific Statement”].

⁴⁷ Bray, How Bad is Fructose?, *supra* n.41, at 895.

⁴⁸ Yang, Quanhe, et al., “Added Sugar Intake and Cardiovascular Diseases Mortality Among US Adults,” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, at E4-5 (published online Feb. 3, 2014) [hereinafter, “Yang, NHANES Analysis”].

⁴⁹ Anahad O’Connor, “How the Sugar Industry Shifted Blame to Fat,” *New York Times* (Sept. 12, 2016).

⁵⁰ *Id.*

1 focused on fats, largely ignoring the detrimental health consequences of consuming excessive
2 added sugar, leading to the obesity and type 2 diabetes epidemics present in the U.S. today.

3 60. Today, “the vast majority of the U.S. population exceeds recommended intakes
4 of . . . added sugars.”⁵¹ Despite some reduction in added sugar intake recently, “intakes of
5 added sugars are still very high . . . and are well above recommended limits”⁵²
6 Approximately 90% of the population exceeds recommended daily limits.⁵³

7 **A. The Body’s Physiological Response to Excess Sugar Consumption**

8 **1. The Body’s Response to Glucose**

9 61. The body needs some glucose, largely to meet the brain’s metabolic demands,
10 but also because all living cells use glucose for energy. Blood glucose levels below 25mg/dL
11 may result in coma, seizure, or death, while levels consistently exceeding 180 mg/dL can
12 cause long-term damage, including renal failure and atherosclerosis.

13 62. For these reasons, blood glucose concentration is tightly-regulated by
14 homeostatic regulatory systems. When blood glucose rises after a meal, beta cells in the
15 pancreas secrete insulin into the blood, which helps muscle, fat, and liver cells absorb the
16 glucose for energy, lowering the blood sugar. Too little blood sugar stimulates the secretion
17 of hormones that counteract the insulin and thus restore normal blood sugar.⁵⁴

18 63. During certain steps in processing glucose, the body forms fructose. However,
19 unlike with glucose, there is no biological need for dietary fructose, i.e., fructose consumed
20

21 ⁵¹ U.S. Dep’t of Agric. & U.S. Dep’t of Health & Human Servs., “Scientific Report of the
22 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee: Advisory Report to the Secretary of Health
23 and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture,” at 26 (February 2015), *available at*
24 [http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2015-scientific-report/PDFs/Scientific-Report-of-](http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2015-scientific-report/PDFs/Scientific-Report-of-the-2015-Dietary-Guidelines-Advisory-Committee.pdf)
25 [the-2015-Dietary-Guidelines-Advisory-Committee.pdf](http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2015-scientific-report/PDFs/Scientific-Report-of-the-2015-Dietary-Guidelines-Advisory-Committee.pdf).

26 ⁵² *Id.* at 38.

27 ⁵³ *Id.* at 35.

28 ⁵⁴ Ludwig, David S., “The Glycemic Index: Physiological Mechanisms Relating to Obesity,
Diabetes, and Cardiovascular Disease,” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol.
287, No. 18, 2414-23, at 2415 (May 8, 2002) (citation omitted).

1 from food, whether fruit, honey, HFCS, or some other form. Moreover, unlike glucose,
2 fructose does not directly stimulate insulin secretion.

3 64. The body processes glucose and fructose differently. With little processing,
4 fructose passes through the small intestine, into blood bound for the liver, so that it is taken
5 up nearly 100% for processing in the liver (a characteristic shared by substances commonly
6 referred to as poisons). By contrast, glucose is both “burned up” by cells directly, and
7 processed elsewhere outside the liver, so that the liver must process only 20% of glucose
8 consumed.

9 65. So much glucose is burned up prior to liver processing, because all the body’s
10 cells contain a transporter that, when stimulated by insulin, takes in glucose from the blood.
11 By contrast, fructose can only be absorbed by cells that contain a different transporter, which
12 most cells lack.

13 66. The liver is capable of processing relatively small amounts of sugar, meted out
14 slowly. This is one of the reasons that eating the fructose in fruit is not problematic: the sugar
15 in fruit is encased in the fruit’s fiber, which slows the sugar’s uptake, and some sugar encased
16 in fruit fiber may not even be released. Thus fruit consumption does not overwhelm the liver.
17 Notably, adding fiber to foods that are high in sugar does not replicate this effect, because the
18 sugar and fiber remain separate, and the sugar is not encased in the fiber like it is in fruit.
19 Fruit also comes packaged with nutrients, like vitamins, that are beneficial for health, and
20 sends satiation signals to the brain, telling it that the body is full.

21 67. Because the liver has some capacity to process sugar, there does appear to be a
22 “safe” threshold of daily added sugar consumption, small enough not to overload the liver:
23 approximately 5% of calories, or about 38 grams (9 teaspoons, 150 calories) per day for men,
24 25 grams (6 teaspoons, 100 calories) per day for women, and 12-15 grams (3-3.5 teaspoons,
25 50-60 calories) for children depending on age and caloric needs, which is the basis of the
26
27
28

1 American Heart Association's foregoing recommendations for maximum daily added sugar
2 intake.⁵⁵

3 68. But the long-term consumption of excess sugar can have dire physiological
4 consequences, acting as a chronic, dose-dependent liver toxin, overloading the liver and
5 causing chronic metabolic disease, also sometimes called metabolic syndrome, a cluster of
6 symptoms that, when present together, increase a person's risk of chronic disease like
7 cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.

8 69. When excess sugar consumption overloads the liver, the glucose increases
9 insulin secretion, while the fructose gets turned into liver fat, causing insulin resistance. The
10 combination over time results in rapid and dramatic increases in blood glucose and insulin
11 concentrations.⁵⁶ Over time, individuals with frequent insulin secretion may develop insulin
12 resistance, where the body produces insulin but does not use it effectively, so that glucose
13 builds up in the blood instead of being absorbed by the cells. Because the muscle, fat, and
14 liver cells do not respond properly to insulin and thus cannot easily absorb glucose from the
15 bloodstream, the body needs higher levels of insulin. Eventually the pancreas' beta cells
16 cannot keep up with this increasing demand, and over time can no longer produce enough
17 insulin to overcome insulin resistance, so blood glucose levels remain high.

18 70. Currently, about two-thirds of the American population is overweight, about
19 one-quarter to one-third is diabetic or pre-diabetic, and another one-quarter is hypertensive.
20
21

22 ⁵⁵ AHA Scientific Statement, *supra* n.46; *see also* "How Much Is Too Much?," at
23 <http://www.sugarscience.org/the-growing-concern-of-overconsumption>.

24 ⁵⁶ Janssens, J.P., et al., "Effects of soft drink and table beer consumption on insulin response
25 in normal teenagers and carbohydrate drink in youngsters," *European Journal of Cancer*
26 *Prevention*, Vol. 8, 289-95 (1999) ("In contrast to table beer, consumption of regular soft
27 drinks induced a fast and dramatic increase in both glucose and insulin concentration within
28 a maximum 1 hour after consumption.").

1 Many Americans also have high serum triglycerides. Insulin resistance is a component of all
2 of these health issues.

3 71. Energy deposition into fat cells by insulin stimulate them to secrete a hormone
4 called leptin, which is a natural appetite suppressant that tells the brain the body is full and
5 can stop eating. Generally, glucose suppresses the hunger hormone, ghrelin, and stimulates
6 leptin. But high insulin levels brought on by excess sugar consumption have been linked to
7 leptin resistance, where the brain is desensitized to the hormone and so no longer “hears” the
8 message to stop eating.⁵⁷ Because increased insulin makes the body feel hungry, excess sugar
9 consumption can create a vicious cycle in which the more sugar one eats, the hungrier one
10 feels.

11 **2. The Body’s Response to Fructose**

12 72. But it is the fructose, found in most processed foods, that appears to cause the
13 greatest harm in the shortest amount of time. Nearly all added sugars contain significant
14 amounts of fructose. For example, HFCS typically contains approximately 42% or 55%
15 fructose, while table sugar and other sweeteners, like cane sugar, contain 50% fructose.

16 73. Fructose is the most lipophilic carbohydrate, meaning it easily converts to a
17 form, glycerol, that supports conversion to fats, including free fatty acids, a damaging form
18 of cholesterol called very low-density lipoprotein (VLDL), and triglycerides, which get stored
19 as fat. Studies in humans and animals have shown that fructose is preferentially metabolized
20 to lipid (fat) in the liver, leading to increased triglyceride levels, which are associated with
21 insulin resistance and cardiovascular disease.⁵⁸ Fatty acids created during fructose
22 metabolism accumulate as fat droplets in the liver, also causing insulin resistance, as well as
23

24 ⁵⁷ Shapiro, A., et al., “Fructose-induced leptin resistance exacerbates weight gain in response
25 to subsequent high-fat feeding,” *American Journal of Physiology, Regulatory, Integrative
and Comparative Physiology*, Vol. 295, No. 5, R1370-75 (2008).

26 ⁵⁸ Elliot, S.S., et al., “Fructose, weight gain, and the insulin resistance syndrome,” *American
27 Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 76, 911-22 (2002) [hereinafter, “Elliot, Fructose & Insulin
28 Resistance”]; Bray, How Bad is Fructose?, *supra* n.41; Havel, Dietary Fructose, *supra* n.45.

1 non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. In addition, when the liver turns excess sugar into liver fat
2 and becomes insulin resistant, that generates hyperinsulinemia, which drives energy storage
3 into body fat.

4 74. Glucose does not do this. Following consumption of 120 calories of glucose,
5 less than 1 calorie should be stored as fat, while 120 calories of fructose should result in 40
6 calories being stored as fat.

7 75. The metabolism of fructose also creates several waste products and toxins,
8 including uric acid, which drives up blood pressure, causes gout, and is a risk factor for
9 cardiovascular disease because the production of uric acid utilizes nitric oxide, a key
10 modulator of vascular function, and causes inflammation. Experimental human studies
11 confirm that fructose feeding raises serum uric acid levels.⁵⁹

12 76. Moreover, fructose interferes with the brain's communication with leptin, which
13 may result in overeating. And while glucose suppresses ghrelin, thus reducing hunger,
14 fructose has no effect on ghrelin.

15 3. The Addiction Response

16 77. Research shows that, for some people, eating sugar produces characteristics of
17 craving and withdrawal, along with chemical changes in the brain's reward center, the limbic
18 region, which can be similar to those of people addicted to drugs like cocaine and alcohol.⁶⁰
19

20
21 ⁵⁹ Nguyen, S., et al., "Sugar Sweetened Beverages, Serum Uric Acid, and Blood Pressure in
22 Adolescents," *Journal of Pediatrics*, Vol. 154, No. 6, 807-13 (June 2009) (citations omitted)
23 [hereinafter, "Nguyen, Serum Uric Acid"]; Johnson, R.J., "Potential role of sugar (fructose)
24 in the epidemic of hypertension, obesity and the metabolic syndrome, diabetes, kidney
25 disease, and cardiovascular disease," *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 86, 899-
906 (2007); Nakagawa, T., et al., "A causal role for uric acid in fructose-induced metabolic
syndrome," *American Journal of Physiology*, Vol. 290, F625-31 (2006).

26 ⁶⁰ Volkow, N.D., et al., "Drug addiction: the neurobiology of behavior gone awry," *Nature*
27 *Reviews Neuroscience*, Vol. 5, No. 12, 963-70 (2004); Brownell, K.D., et al., "Food and
addiction: A comprehensive handbook," *Oxford University Press* (2012).

1 These changes are linked to a heightened craving for more sugar.⁶¹ This can create a vicious
2 cycle leading to chronic illness.

3 **B. There Has Been a Dramatic Rise in Obesity & Chronic Disease That**
4 **Parallels the Rise in Human Sugar Consumption**

5 78. As noted above, there was a dramatic rise in Americans' use of sugar, first in the
6 mid-18th century, then again starting in the United States in about 1970, with the introduction
7 into the market of HFCS. Concurrently with these changes in the diet have been alarming
8 rises in obesity and chronic disease.

9 79. In 1924, New York City health commissioner Haven Emerson noted a seven-
10 fold increase in diabetes rate in the city. In 1931, Dr. Paul Dudley White, a cardiologist at
11 Massachusetts General Hospital, warned of an epidemic of heart disease. And in 1988,
12 scientists learned about the advent of adolescent type 2 diabetes.

13 80. In 2004, researchers reported their analysis of food consumption patterns from
14 1967 to 2000. Noting that HFCS consumption increased more than 1,000% from 1970 to
15 1990, "far exceeding the changes in intake of any other food or food group," researchers
16 found this "mirrors the rapid increase in obesity" seen during the same period, as
17 demonstrated in the below graphic.⁶²

21 ⁶¹ Avena, N., "Evidence for sugar addiction: behavioral and neurochemical effects of
22 intermittent, excessive sugar intake," *Neuroscience Behavior Review*, Vol. 52, No. 1, 20-39
23 (2008).

24 ⁶² Bray, G.A., et al., "Consumption of high-fructose corn syrup in beverages may play a role
25 in the epidemic of obesity," *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 79, 537-43, at 537,
26 540-41 & Table 2 (2004); *see also* Flegal, K.M., et al., "Prevalence and trends in obesity
27 among US adults, 1999-2000," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 288, 1723-
28 27 (2002); Putnam, J.J., et al., "Food consumption, prices and expenditures, 1970-97," *U.S.
Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service statistical bulletin no. 695* (April
1999).

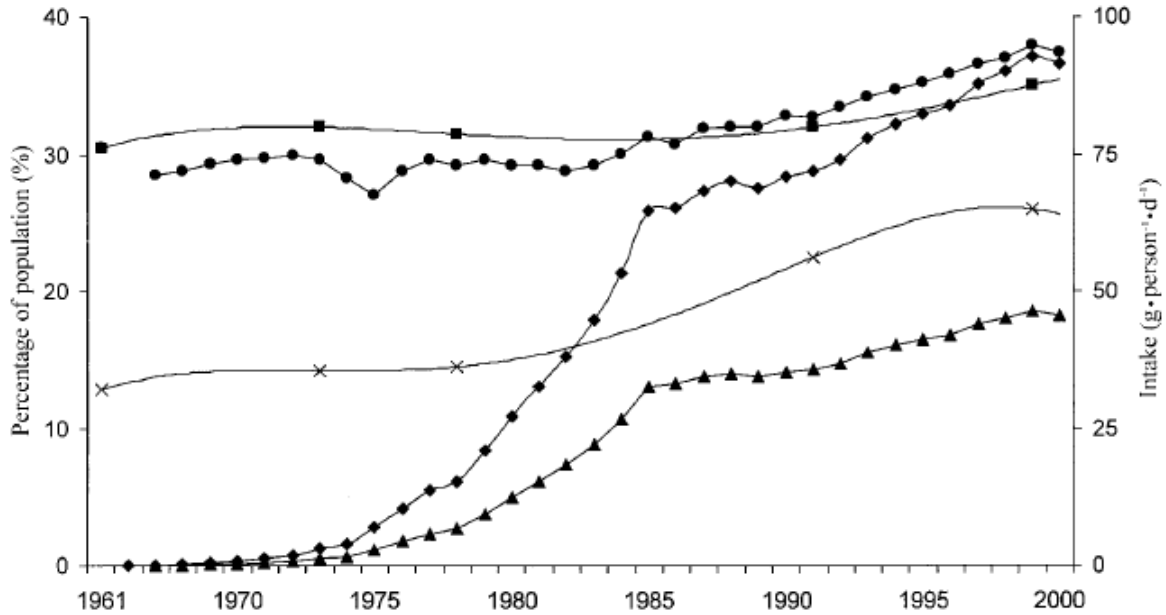


FIGURE 1. Estimated intakes of total fructose (●), free fructose (▲), and high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS, ◆) in relation to trends in the prevalence of overweight (■) and obesity (x) in the United States. Data from references 7 and 35.

81. Besides the compelling circumstantial evidence that increased sugar consumption has led to chronic disease, there is substantial research showing the causal mechanisms of disease and demonstrating substantial increased risk of chronic disease with excess sugar consumption.

C. There is Substantial Scientific Evidence That Excess Sugar Consumption Causes Metabolic Syndrome, Cardiovascular Disease, Type 2 Diabetes, and Other Morbidity

82. Research shows that overloading the mitochondria—the energy-burning factories within the cells—in any given organ will manifest various forms of chronic metabolic disease. Whatever organ becomes insulin resistant manifests its own chronic metabolic disease. For example, insulin resistance of the liver leads to type 2 diabetes. Insulin resistance of the brain causes Alzheimer’s disease. Insulin resistance of the kidney leads to chronic renal disease.

83. After artificial trans fat, the chemical that best overloads mitochondria is sugar.

1 **1. Excess Sugar Consumption Causes Metabolic Syndrome**

2 84. Excess consumption of added sugar leads to metabolic syndrome by stressing
3 and damaging crucial organs, including the pancreas and liver. When the pancreas, which
4 produces insulin, becomes overworked, it can fail to regulate blood sugar properly. Large
5 doses of fructose can overwhelm the liver, which metabolizes fructose. In the process, the
6 liver will convert excess fructose to fat, which is stored in the liver and released into the
7 bloodstream. This process contributes to key elements of metabolic syndrome, including high
8 blood fats and triglycerides, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and extra body fat,
9 especially in the belly.⁶³

10 85. Metabolic disease has been linked to type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease,
11 obesity, polycystic ovary syndrome, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, and chronic kidney
12 disease, and is defined as the presence of any three of the following:

- 13 a. Large Waist Size (35” or more for women, 40” or more for men);
- 14 b. High triglycerides (150mg/dL or higher, or use of cholesterol
- 15 medication);
- 16 c. High total cholesterol, or HDL levels under 50mg/dL for women, and 40
- 17 mg for men;
- 18 d. High blood pressure (135/85 mm or higher); or
- 19 e. High blood sugar (100mg/dL or higher).

20 86. More generally, “metabolic abnormalities that are typical of the so-called
21 metabolic syndrome . . . includ[e] insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, high
22
23
24

25 ⁶³ Te Morenga, L., et al., “Dietary sugars and body weight: systematic review and meta-
26 analyses of randomized controlled trials and cohort studies,” *BJM* (January 2013)
27 [hereinafter, “Te Morenga, Dietary Sugars & Body Weight”].

1 concentrations of circulating triacylglycerols, low concentrations of HDLs, and high
2 concentrations of small, dense LDLs.”⁶⁴

3 87. 56 million Americans have metabolic syndrome, or about 22.9% over the age of
4 20, placing them at higher risk for chronic disease.

5 88. In 2010, Harvard researchers published a meta-analysis of three studies,
6 involving 19,431 participants, concerning the effect of consuming sugar-sweetened
7 beverages on risk for metabolic syndrome. They found participants in the highest quantile of
8 1-2 servings per day⁶⁵ had an average 20% greater risk of developing metabolic syndrome
9 than did those in the lowest quantile of less than 1 serving per day, showing “a clear link
10 between SSB consumption and risk of metabolic syndrome”⁶⁶

11 89. Researchers who studied the incidence of metabolic syndrome and its
12 components in relation to soft drink consumption in more than 6,000 participants in the
13 Framingham Heart Study found that individuals who consumed 1 or more soft drinks per day
14 (i.e., 140-150 calories and 35-37.5 grams of sugar or more) had a 48% higher prevalence of
15 metabolic syndrome than infrequent consumers, those who drank less than 1 soft drink per
16 day. In addition, the frequent-consumer group had a 44% higher risk of developing metabolic
17 syndrome.⁶⁷

18
19 ⁶⁴ Fried, S.K., “Sugars, hypertriglyceridemia, and cardiovascular disease,” *American Journal*
20 *of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 78 (suppl.), 873S-80S, at 873S (2003) [hereinafter, “Fried,
21 Hypertriglyceridemia”].

22 ⁶⁵ Because 1 sugar-sweetened beverage typically has 140-150 calories and 35-37.5 grams of
23 sugar per 12-ounce serving, this is equivalent to between 140 and 300 calories per day, and
24 35 to 75 grams of sugar per day.

25 ⁶⁶ Malik, Vasanti S., et al., “Sugar-Sweetened Beverages and Risk of Metabolic Syndrome
26 and Type 2 Diabetes,” *Diabetes Care*, Vol. 33, No. 11, 2477-83, at 2477, 2480-81 (November
27 2010) [hereinafter “Malik, 2010 Meta-Analysis”].

28 ⁶⁷ Dhingra, R., et al., “Soft Drink Consumption and Risk of Developing Cardiometabolic Risk
Factors and the Metabolic Syndrome in Middle-Aged Adults in the Community,”
Circulation, Vol. 116, 480-88 (2007) [hereinafter “Dhingra, Cardiometabolic Risk”].

1 90. Recently, researchers concluded a study to determine whether the detrimental
2 effects of dietary sugar were due to extremely high dosing, excess calories, or because of its
3 effects on weight gain, rather than caused by sugar consumption directly.⁶⁸ In other words,
4 the researchers dissociated the metabolic effects of dietary sugar from its calories and effects
5 on weight gain.

6 91. Because the researchers did not want to give subjects sugar to see if they got
7 sick, they instead took sugar away from people who were already sick to see if they got well.
8 But if subjects lost weight, critics would argue that the drop in calories or weight loss was the
9 reason for the clinical improvement. Therefore, the researchers designed the study to be
10 isocaloric, by giving back to subjects the same number of calories in starch that were taken
11 away in sugar. The study involved 43 children, ages 8 to 19, each obese with at least one
12 other co-morbidity demonstrating metabolic problems. All were high consumers of added
13 sugar in their diets.⁶⁹

14 92. To perform the study, researchers assessed subjects' home diets by two
15 questionnaires to determine how many calories, and how much fat, protein, and carbohydrate
16 they were eating. Subjects were then tested at a hospital based on their home diets. Then, for
17 the next 9 days, researchers catered the subjects' meals. The macronutrient percentages of
18 fat, protein, and carbohydrate were not changed. Subjects were fed them the same calories
19 and percent of each macronutrient as their home diet; but within the carbohydrate fraction,
20 researchers took the added sugar out, and substituted starch. For example, researchers took
21 pastries out, and put bagels in; took yogurt out, and put baked potato chips in; took chicken
22 teriyaki out, and put turkey hot dogs in (although subjects were still given whole fruit).
23 Researchers reduced subjects' dietary sugar consumption from 28% to 10% of calories.

24
25
26 ⁶⁸ Robert H. Lustig, et al., "Isocaloric Fructose Restriction and Metabolic Improvement in
27 Children with Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome," *Pediatric Obesity*, Vol. 24, No. 2, 453-60
(Feb. 2016).

28 ⁶⁹ See *id.* at 453-54.

1 Researchers also gave subjects a scale to take home, and each day they would weigh
 2 themselves. If they were losing weight, they were instructed to eat more. The goal was for
 3 subjects to remain weight-stable over the 10 days of study. On the final day, subjects came
 4 back to the hospital for testing on their experimental low-added sugar diet. The study team
 5 analyzed the pre- and post-data in a blinded fashion so as not to introduce bias.⁷⁰

6 93. Researchers analyzed three types of data. First, diastolic blood pressure
 7 decreased by 5 points. Second, baseline blood levels of analytes associated with metabolic
 8 disease, such as lipids, liver function tests, and lactate (a measure of metabolic performance)
 9 all improved significantly. Third, fasting glucose decreased by 5 points. Glucose tolerance
 10 improved markedly, and fasting insulin levels fell by 50%. Each of these results was highly-
 11 statistically-significant.⁷¹

12 94. In sum, the study indicated that subjects improved their metabolic status in just
 13 10 days, even while eating processed food, by just removing added sugar and substituting
 14 starch. The metabolic improvement, moreover, was unrelated to changes in weight or body
 15 fat.

16 2. Excess Sugar Consumption Causes Type 2 Diabetes

17 95. Diabetes affects 25.8 million Americans, and can cause kidney failure, lower-
 18 limb amputation, and blindness. In addition, diabetes doubles the risk of colon and pancreatic
 19 cancers and is strongly associated with coronary artery disease and Alzheimer's disease.⁷²

21 ⁷⁰ See *id.* at 454-55.

22 ⁷¹ See *id.* at 455-56.

23 ⁷² Aranceta Bartrina, J. et al., "Association between sucrose intake and cancer: a review of
 24 the evidence," *Nutrición Hospitalaria*, Vol. 28 (Suppl. 4), 95-105 (2013); Garcia-Jimenez,
 25 C., "A new link between diabetes and cancer: enhanced WNT/beta-catenin signaling by high
 26 glucose," *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology*, Vol. 52, No. 1 (2014); Linden, G.J., "All-
 27 cause mortality and periodontitis in 60-70-year-old men: a prospective cohort study," *Journal*
 28 *of Clinical Periodontal*, Vol. 39, No. 1, 940-46 (October 2012).

1 96. In 2010, Harvard researchers also performed a meta-analysis of 8 studies
 2 concerning sugar-sweetened beverage consumption and risk of type 2 diabetes, involving a
 3 total of 310,819 participants. They concluded that individuals in the highest quantile of SSB
 4 intake had an average 26% greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes than those in the lowest
 5 quantile.⁷³ Moreover, “larger studies with longer durations of follow-up tended to show
 6 stronger associations.”⁷⁴ Thus, the meta-analysis showed “a clear link between SSB
 7 consumption and risk of . . . type 2 diabetes.”⁷⁵

8 97. An analysis of data for more than 50,000 women from the Nurses’ Health
 9 Study,⁷⁶ during two 4-year periods (1991-1995, and 1995-1999), showed, after adjusting for
 10 confounding factors, that women who consumed 1 or more sugar-sweetened soft drink per
 11 day (*i.e.*, 140-150 calories and 35-37.5 grams of sugar), had an 83% greater relative risk of
 12 type 2 diabetes compared with those who consumed less than 1 such beverage per month, and
 13 women who consumed 1 or more fruit punch drinks per day had a 100% greater relative risk
 14 of type 2 diabetes.⁷⁷

15
 16
 17 ⁷³ Malik, 2010 Meta-Analysis, *supra* n.66 at 2477, 2480.

18 ⁷⁴ *Id.* at 2481.

19 ⁷⁵ *Id.*

20 ⁷⁶ The Nurses’ Health Study was established at Harvard in 1976, and the Nurses’ Health Study
 21 II, in 1989. Both are long-term epidemiological studies conducted on women’s health. The
 22 study followed 121,700 women registered nurses since 1976, and 116,000 female nurses
 23 since 1989, to assess risk factors for cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. The Nurses’
 24 Health Studies are among the largest investigations into risk factors for major chronic disease
 in women ever conducted. *See generally* “The Nurses’ Health Study,” at
<http://www.channing.harvard.edu/nhs>.

25 ⁷⁷ Schulze, M.B., et al., “Sugar-Sweetened Beverages, Weight Gain, and Incidence of Type
 26 2 Diabetes in Young and Middle-Aged Women,” *Journal of the American Medical*
 27 *Association*, Vol. 292, No. 8, 927-34 (Aug. 25, 2004) [hereinafter “Schulze, Diabetes in
 28 Young & Middle-Aged Women”].

98. The result of this analysis shows a statistically significant linear trend with increasing sugar consumption.⁷⁸

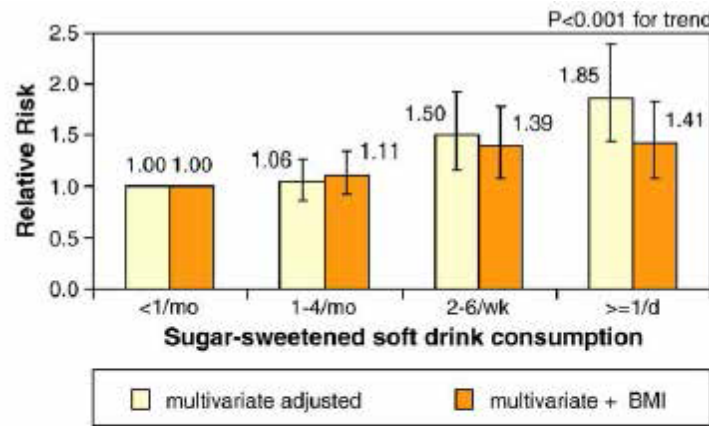


Fig. 4. Multivariate relative risks (RRs) of type 2 diabetes according to sugar-sweetened soft drink consumption in the Nurses' Health Study II 1991-1999 (Multivariate RRs were adjusted for age, alcohol (0, 0.1-4.9, 5.0-9.9, 10+ g/d), physical activity (quintiles), family history of diabetes, smoking (never, past, current), postmenopausal hormone use (never, ever), oral contraceptive use (never, past, current), intake (quintiles) of cereal fiber, magnesium, trans fat, polyunsaturated:saturated fat, and consumption of sugar-sweetened soft drinks, diet soft drinks, fruit juice, and fruit punch (other than the main exposure, depending on model). The data were based on Ref. [50]).

99. A prospective cohort study of more than 43,000 African American women between 1995 and 2001 showed that the incidence of type 2 diabetes was higher with higher intake of both sugar-sweetened soft drinks and fruit drinks. After adjusting for confounding variables, those who drank 2 or more soft drinks per day (*i.e.*, 140-300 calories and 35-75 grams of sugar) showed a 24% greater risk of type 2 diabetes, and those who drank 2 or more fruit drinks per day showed a 31% greater risk of type 2 diabetes, than those who drank 1 or less such drinks per month.⁷⁹

100. A large cohort study of more than 70,000 women from the Nurses' Health Study followed for 18 years showed that those who consumed 2 to 3 apple, grapefruit, and orange

⁷⁸ Hu, F.B., et al., "Sugar-sweetened beverages and risk of obesity and type 2 diabetes: Epidemiologic evidence," *Physiology & Behavior*, Vol. 100, 47-54 (2010).

⁷⁹ Palmer, J.R., et al., "Sugar-Sweetened Beverages and Incidence of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in African American Women," *Archive of internal Medicine*, Vol. 168, No. 14, 1487-82 (July 28, 2008) [hereinafter "Palmer, Diabetes in African American Women"].

1 juices per day (280-450 calories and 75-112.5 grams of sugar) had an 18% greater risk of
 2 type 2 diabetes than women who consumed less than 1 sugar-sweetened beverage per month.
 3 The data also showed a linear trend with increased consumption, as demonstrated below.⁸⁰

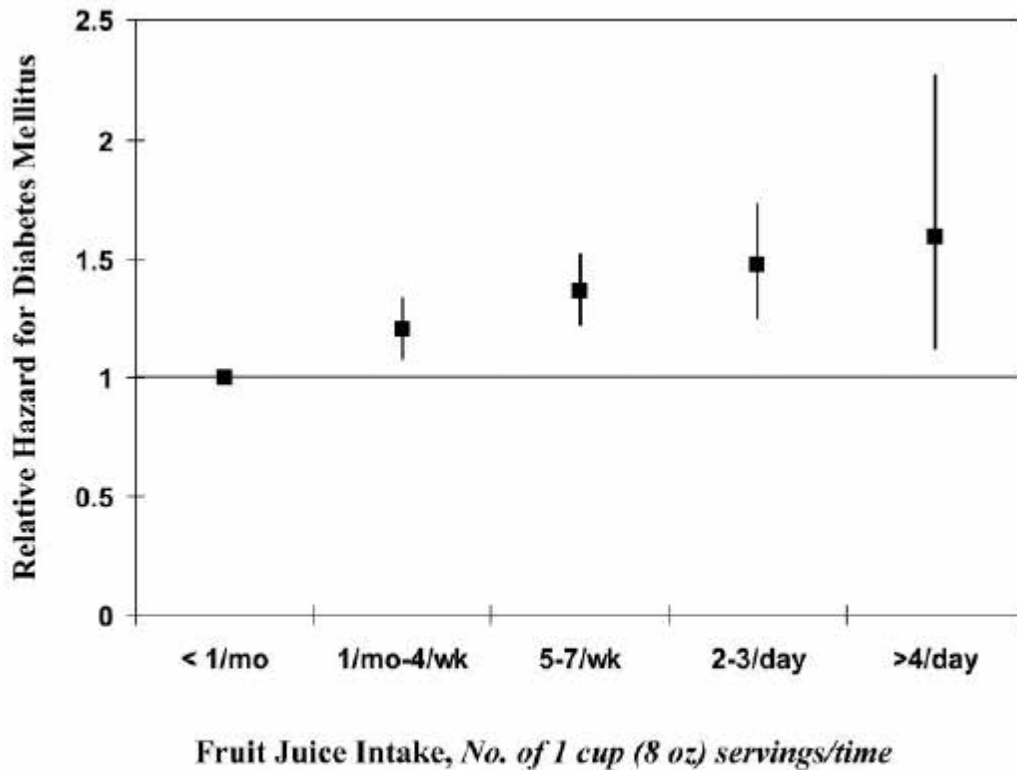


Figure 1—Multivariate-adjusted relative hazard of diabetes by category of cumulatively updated fruit juice intake. Values were adjusted for cumulatively updated BMI, physical activity, family history of diabetes, postmenopausal hormone use, alcohol use, smoking, and total energy intake. For an increase of 1 serving/day of fruit juice, the multivariate-adjusted relative risk was 1.18 (95% CI 1.10–1.26; $P < 0.0001$).

101. An analysis of more than 40,000 men from the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study, a prospective cohort study conducted over a 20-year period, found that, after adjusting for age and a wide variety of other confounders, those in the top quartile of sugar-sweetened beverage intake had a 24% greater risk of type 2 diabetes than those in the bottom quartile,

⁸⁰ Bazzano, L.A., et al., “Intake of fruit, vegetables, and fruit juices and risk of diabetes in women,” *Diabetes Care*, Vol. 31, 1311-17 (2008).

1 while consumption of artificially-sweetened beverages, after adjustment, showed no
2 association.⁸¹

3 102. Most convincingly, an econometric analysis of repeated cross-sectional data
4 published in 2013 established a causal relationship between sugar availability and type 2
5 diabetes. After adjusting for a wide range of confounding factors, researchers found that an
6 increase of 150 calories per day related to an insignificant 0.1% rise in diabetes prevalence
7 by country, while an increase of 150 calories per day in sugar related to a 1.1% rise in diabetes
8 prevalence by country, a statically-significant 11-fold difference.⁸²

9 **3. Excess Sugar Consumption Causes Cardiovascular Disease**

10 103. Sixteen million Americans have heart disease, which is the number one killer in
11 the United States.⁸³

12 104. Data obtained from NHANES surveys during the periods of 1988-1994, 1999-
13 2004, and 2005-2010, after adjusting for a wide variety of other factors, demonstrate that
14 those who consumed between 10% - 24.9% of their calories from added sugars had a 30%
15 greater risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) mortality than those who consumed 5% or less
16 of their calories from added sugar. In addition, those who consumed 25% or more of their
17 calories from added sugars had an average 275% greater risk of CVD mortality than those
18 who consumed less than 5% of calories from added sugar.⁸⁴

21 ⁸¹ de Konig, L., et al., “Sugar-sweetened and artificially sweetened beverage consumption
22 and risk of type 2 diabetes in men,” *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 93, 1321-
27 (2011).

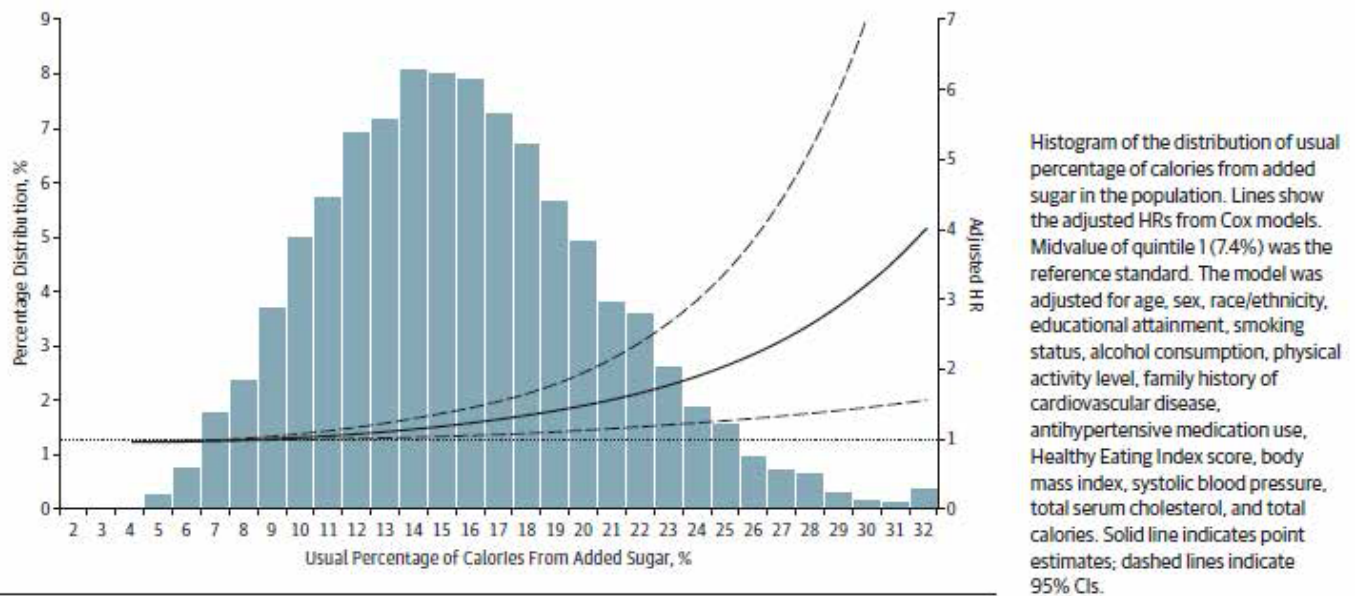
23 ⁸² Basu, S., et al., “The Relationship of Sugar to Population-Level Diabetes Prevalence: An
24 Econometric Analysis of Repeated Cross-Sectional Data,” *PLOS Online*, Vol. 8, Issue 2
(February 27, 2013).

25 ⁸³ Gaddam, K.K., et al., “Metabolic syndrome and heart failure—the risk, paradox, and
26 treatment,” *Current Hypertension Reports*, Vol. 13, No. 2, 142-48 (2011).

27 ⁸⁴ Yang, NHANES Analysis, *supra* n.48 at E4-5.

105. Similarly, when compared to those who consumed approximately 8% of calories from added sugar, participants who consumed approximately 17% - 21% (the 4th quintile) of calories from added sugar had a 38% higher risk of CVD mortality, while the relative risk was more than double for those who consumed 21% or more of calories from added sugar (the 5th quintile). Thus, “[t]he risk of CVD mortality increased exponentially with increasing usual percentage of calories from added sugar,”⁸⁵ as demonstrated in the chart below.

Figure 1. Adjusted Hazard Ratio (HR) of the Usual Percentage of Calories From Added Sugar for Cardiovascular Disease Mortality Among US Adults 20 Years or Older: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey Linked Mortality Files, 1988-2006



106. The NHANES analysis also found “a significant association between sugar-sweetened beverage consumption and risk of CVD mortality,” with an average 29% greater risk of CVD mortality “when comparing participants who consumed 7 or more servings/wk (360 mL per serving) with those who consumed 1 serving/wk or less”⁸⁶ The study concluded that “most US adults consume more added sugar than is recommended for a healthy diet. A higher percentage of calories from added sugar is associated with significantly

⁸⁵ *Id.*

⁸⁶ *Id.* at E6.

1 increased risk of CVD mortality. In addition, regular consumption of sugar-sweetened
2 beverages is associated with elevated CVD mortality.”⁸⁷

3 107. The Nurses’ Health Study found that, after adjusting for other unhealthy lifestyle
4 factors, those who consumed two or more sugar-sweetened beverages per day (280 calories
5 and 70 grams of sugar or more) had a 35% greater risk of coronary heart disease compared
6 with infrequent consumers.⁸⁸

7 **4. Excess Sugar Consumption Causes Liver Disease**

8 108. Fructose consumption causes serious liver disease, including non-alcoholic fatty
9 liver disease (NAFLD), characterized by excess fat build-up in the liver. Five percent of these
10 cases develop into non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), scarring as the liver tries to heal its
11 injuries, which gradually cuts off vital blood flow to the liver. About 25% of NASH patients
12 progress to non-alcoholic liver cirrhosis, which requires a liver transplant or can lead to
13 death.⁸⁹

14 109. Since 1980, the incidence of NAFLD and NASH has doubled, along with the
15 rise of fructose consumption, with approximately 6 million Americans estimated to have
16 progressed to NASH and 600,000 to Nash-related cirrhosis. Most people with NASH also
17 have type 2 diabetes. NASH is now the third-leading reason for liver transplant in America.⁹⁰

18
19
20 ⁸⁷ *Id.* at E8.

21 ⁸⁸ Fung T.T., et al., “Sweetened beverage consumption and risk of coronary heart disease in
22 women,” *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 89 at 1037-42 (February 2009).

23 ⁸⁹ Farrell, G.C., et al., “Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: from steatosis to cirrhosis,”
24 *Hepatology*, Vol. 433, No. 2 (Suppl. 1), S99-S112 (February 2006); Powell, E.E., et al., “The
25 Natural History of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis: A Follow-up Study of Forty-two Patients
26 for Up to 21 Years,” *Hepatology*, Vol. 11, No. 1 (1990).

27 ⁹⁰ Charlton, M.R., et al., “Frequency and outcomes of liver transplantation for nonalcoholic
28 steatohepatitis in the United States,” *Gastroenterology*, Vol. 141, No. 4, 1249-53 (October
2011).

110. Moreover, because the liver metabolizes sugar virtually identically to alcohol, the U.S. is now seeing for the first time alcohol-related diseases in children. Conservative estimates are that 31% of American adults, and 13% of American children suffer from NAFLD.⁹¹

5. Excess Sugar Consumption Causes Obesity

111. Excess sugar consumption also leads to weight gain and obesity because insulin secreted in response to sugar intake instructs the cells to store excess energy as fat. This excess weight can then exacerbate the problems of excess sugar consumption, because excess fat, particularly around the waist, is in itself a primary cause of insulin resistance, another vicious cycle. Studies have shown that belly fat produces hormones and other substances that can cause insulin resistance, high blood pressure, abnormal cholesterol levels, and cardiovascular disease. And belly fat plays a part in the development of chronic inflammation in the body, which can cause damage over time without any signs or symptoms. Complex interactions in fat tissue draw immune cells to the area, which triggers low-level chronic inflammation. This in turn contributes even more to insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

112. Based on a meta-analysis of 30 studies between 1966 and 2005, Harvard researchers found “strong evidence for the independent role of the intake of sugar-sweetened beverages, particularly soda, in the promotion of weight gain and obesity in children and adolescents. Findings from prospective cohort studies conducted in adults, taken in

⁹¹ Lindback, S.M., et al., “Pediatric Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: A Comprehensive Review,” *Advances in Pediatrics*, Vol. 57, No. 1, 85-140 (2010); Lazo, M. et al., “The Epidemiology of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: A Global Perspective,” *Seminars in Liver Disease*, Vol. 28, No. 4, 339-50 (2008); Schwimmer, J.B., et al., “Prevalence of Fatty Liver in Children and Adolescents,” *Pediatrics*, Vol. 118, No. 4, 1388-93 (2006); Browning, J.D., et al., “Prevalence of hepatic steatosis in an urban population in the United States: Impact of ethnicity,” *Hepatology*, Vol. 40, No. 6, 1387-95 (2004).

1 conjunction with results from short-term feeding trials, also support a positive association
2 between soda consumption and weight gain, obesity, or both.”⁹²

3 113. A recent meta-analysis by Harvard researchers evaluating change in Body Mass
4 Index per increase in 1 serving of sugar-sweetened beverages per day found a significant
5 positive association between beverage intake and weight gain.⁹³

6 114. One study of more than 2,000 2.5-year-old children followed for 3 years found
7 that those who regularly consumed sugar-sweetened beverages between meals had a 240%
8 better chance of being overweight than non-consumers.⁹⁴

9 115. An analysis of data for more than 50,000 women from the Nurses’ Health Study
10 during two 4-year periods showed that weight gain over a 4-year period was highest among
11 women who increased their sugar-sweetened beverage consumption from 1 or fewer drinks
12 per week, to 1 or more drinks per day (8.0 kg gain during the 2 periods), and smallest among
13 women who decreased their consumption or maintained a low intake level (2.8 kg gain).⁹⁵

14 116. A study of more than 40,000 African American women over 10 years had similar
15 results. After adjusting for confounding factors, those who increased sugar-sweetened
16 beverage intake from less than 1 serving per week, to more than 1 serving per day, gained the
17 most weight (6.8 kg), while women who decreased their intake gained the least (4.1 kg).⁹⁶

18
19
20 ⁹² Malik, V.S., et al., “Intake of sugar-sweetened beverages and weight gain: a systematic
21 review,” *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 84, 274-88 (2006).

22 ⁹³ Malik, V.S., et al., “Sugar-sweetened beverages and BMI in children and adolescents:
23 reanalyses of a meta-analysis,” *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 29, 438-39
(2009).

24 ⁹⁴ Dubois, L., et al., “Regular sugar-sweetened beverage consumption between meals
25 increases risk of overweight among preschool-aged children,” *Journal of the American
Dietetic Association*, Vol. 107, Issue 6, 924-34 (2007).

26 ⁹⁵ Schulze, Diabetes in Young & Middle-Aged Women, *supra* n.77.

27 ⁹⁶ Palmer, Diabetes in African American Women, *supra* n.79.

117. A study of more than 6,000 participants in the Framingham Heart Study found those who consumed more than 1 soft drink per day had a 31% greater risk of obesity than those who consumed less than 1 soft drink per day.⁹⁷

118. The link between sugar intake and weight gain was also demonstrated in a randomized, controlled intervention study, where “[a] simple 12 month school based intervention focused on reducing consumption of carbonated drinks resulted in significant differences in the proportion of overweight children in the control and intervention groups,” as demonstrated in the chart below.

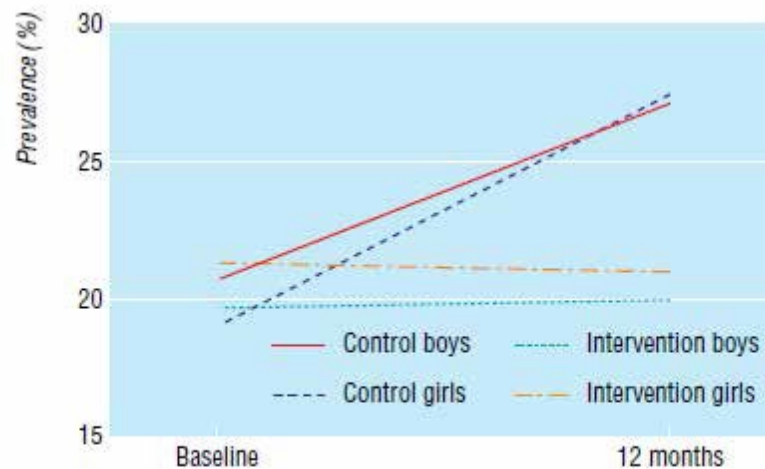


Fig 2 Mean change in prevalence of overweight and obese children from baseline to follow up at 12 months according to clusters

At a three-year follow-up, however, the significant difference seen between the groups after a year of focused education was no longer evident, with overweight more prevalent in both groups, providing further support for the link between sugar and weight gain.⁹⁸

⁹⁷ Dhingra, *Cardiometabolic Risk*, *supra* n.67.

⁹⁸ James, J. et al., “Preventing childhood obesity: two year follow-up results from the Christchurch obesity prevention programme in schools (CHOPPS),” *BJM*, Vol. 335, 762 (2007) (discussing James, J., et al., “Preventing childhood obesity by reducing consumption of carbonated drinks: cluster randomized controlled trial,” *BJM*, Vol. 328, 1237 (April 27, 2004)).

119. Similarly, experimental short-term feeding studies comparing sugar-sweetened beverages to artificially-sweetened beverages have illustrated that consumption of the former leads to greater weight gain. As demonstrated in the chart below, one 10-week trial involving more than 40 men and women demonstrated that the group that consumed daily supplements of sucrose (for 28% of total energy) increased body weight and fat mass, by 1.6 kg for men and 1.3 kg for women, while the group that was supplemented with artificial sweeteners lost weight—1.0 kg for men and 0.3 kg for women.⁹⁹

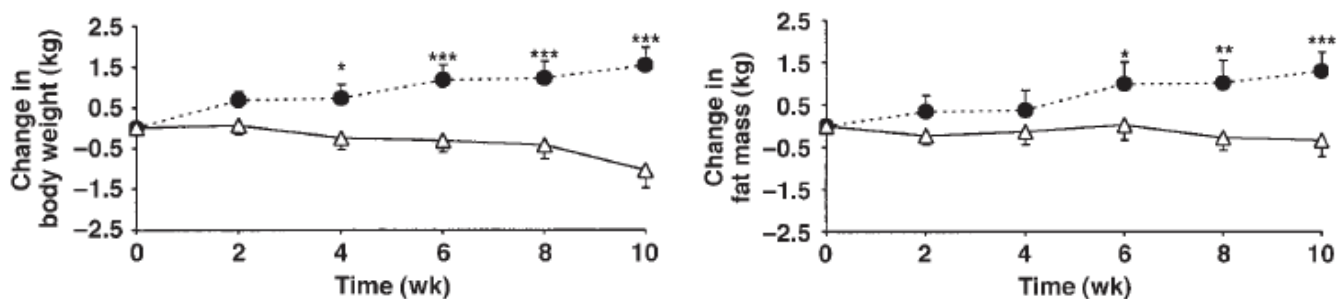


FIGURE 2. Mean (\pm SEM) changes in body weight, fat mass, and fat-free mass during an intervention in which overweight subjects consumed supplements containing either sucrose (\bullet ; $n = 21$) or artificial sweeteners (Δ ; $n = 20$) daily for 10 wk. The diet \times time interactions were significant for changes in body weight ($P < 0.0001$) and fat mass ($P < 0.05$) by analysis of variance with Tukey's post hoc tests. At specific time points for changes in body weight and fat mass, there were significant differences between the sucrose and sweetener groups: * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.001$, and *** $P < 0.0001$ (general linear model with least squares means and adjustment for multiple comparisons).

120. In another, 3-week study, researchers gave normal-weight subjects 1150 grams of soda per day, sweetened with either aspartame or HFCS. The experiment found that drinking artificially-sweetened soda reduced calorie intake and body weight of men, while

⁹⁹ Raben, A., et al., "Sucrose compared with artificial sweeteners: different effects on ad libitum food intake and body weight after 10 wk of supplementation in overweight subjects," *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 76, 721-29 (2002) [hereinafter, "Raben, Sucrose vs. Artificial Sweeteners"].

drinking HFCS-sweetened soda significantly increased calorie intake and body weight of both sexes, as demonstrated in the chart below.¹⁰⁰

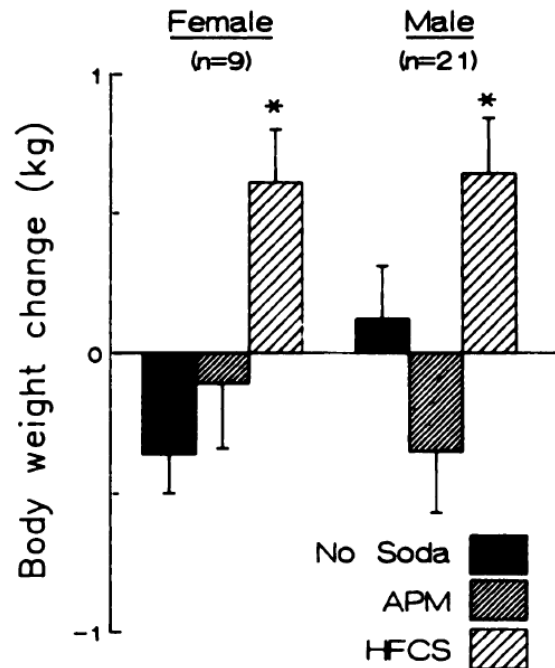


FIG 1. Changes in body weight during 3-wk periods when subjects drank 1150 g/d of soda sweetened with aspartame (APM), an equal weight of soda sweetened with high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS), or had no experimental manipulation (no soda). * $p < 0.05$ relative to weight gain in no-soda period.

6. Excess Sugar Consumption Causes Inflammation

121. Inflammation has been associated with type 2 diabetes, myocardial infarction, and stroke, as well as weight gain and obesity.¹⁰¹

¹⁰⁰ Tordoff, M.G., et al., "Effect of drinking soda sweetened with aspartame or high-fructose corn syrup on food intake and body weight," *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 51, 963-69 (1990).

¹⁰¹ Sorensen, L.B., et al., "Effect of sucrose on inflammatory markers in overweight humans," *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 82, 421-27 (2005) (citations omitted) [hereinafter, "Sorensen, Inflammatory Markers"]; see also Pearson, T.A., et al., "Markers of Inflammation and Cardiovascular Disease: Application to Clinical and Public Health Practice, A Statement for Healthcare Professionals From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Heart Association," *Circulation*, Vol. 107, 499-511 (2003).

122. A 10-week study comparing a group whose sucrose intake was increased by 151% to a group whose intake was decreased by 42% showed the former's blood concentration of the biological markers for inflammation, haptoglobin, transferrin, and C-reactive protein, increased by 13%, 5%, and 6%, respectively, while the later group's concentrations decreased by 16%, 2%, and 26% respectively.¹⁰²

123. In a prospective, randomized, controlled crossover trial, 29 subjects were studied over six 3-week interventions in which they either consumed various amounts of fructose, glucose, or sucrose, or received dietary advice to consume low amounts of fructose. The study showed LDL particle size reducing (associated with atherosclerosis) by 0.51 nm after high-fructose intake (80 grams per day), and by 0.43 nm after high-sucrose intake (also 80 grams per day). It also found significant increases in fasting glucose and C-reactive protein, leading the authors to conclude that the "data show potentially harmful effects of low to moderate consumption of SSBs on markers of cardiovascular risk such as LDL particles, fasting glucose, and [C-reactive protein] within just 3 wk in healthy young men, which is of particular significance for young consumers."¹⁰³

124. In a nested case-control study of 656 cases of type 2 diabetes and 694 controls from the Nurses Study, researchers identified a dietary pattern strongly related to inflammatory markers, which was high in sugar-sweetened soft drinks, showing linear trends across quintiles of dietary pattern for six inflammation markers.

¹⁰² Sorensen, Inflammatory Markers, *supra* n.101.

¹⁰³ Aeberli, I., et al., "Low to moderate sugar-sweetened beverage consumption impairs glucose and lipid metabolism and promotes inflammation in healthy young men: a randomized controlled trial," *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 94, 479-85 (2011).

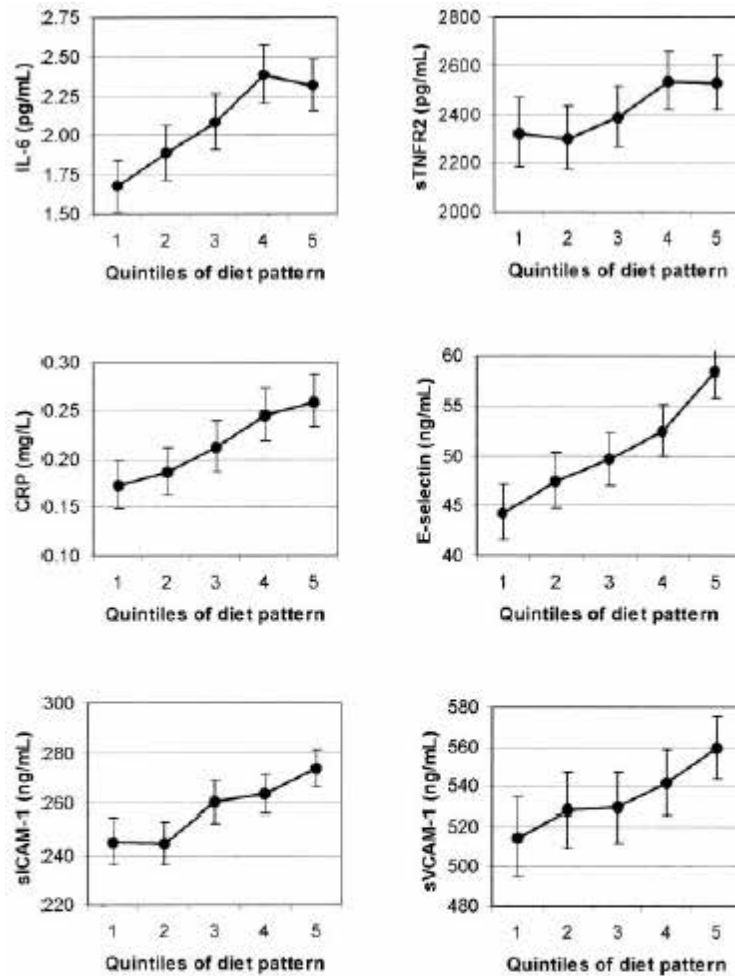


FIGURE 1. Geometric mean concentrations and 95% CIs of interleukin 6 (IL-6), soluble tumor necrosis factor α receptor 2 (sTNFR2), C-reactive protein (CRP), E-selectin, soluble intracellular cell adhesion molecule 1 (sICAM-1), and soluble vascular cell adhesion molecule 1 (sVCAM-1) by quintiles of diet pattern score adjusted for age, BMI (9 categories), physical activity (quintiles), family history of diabetes, smoking (never, past, current, or missing), postmenopausal hormone use (never, ever, or missing), energy intake (quintiles), and fasting status. The comparison between quintile 5 and quintile 1 was significant for all biomarkers, $P < 0.05$. Quintile cutoffs were based on distributions in controls.

7. Excess Sugar Consumption Causes High Blood Triglycerides and Abnormal Cholesterol Levels

125. Fructose facilitates the biochemical formation of triacylglycerols more efficiently than does glucose.¹⁰⁴ This is because fructose metabolism in the liver converts the fructose to fructose-1-phosphate, which readily becomes a substrate for the backbone of the

¹⁰⁴ Elliot, Fructose & Insulin Resistance, *supra* n.58.

triglyceride molecule.¹⁰⁵ As compared to starches, sugars—particularly sucrose and fructose—tend to increase serum triacylglycerol concentrations by about 60%.¹⁰⁶

126. Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance found in the body’s cells, used to make hormones, bile acids, vitamin D, and other substances. The human body manufactures all the cholesterol it requires, which circulates in the bloodstream in packages called lipoproteins. Excess cholesterol in the bloodstream can become trapped in artery walls, building into plaque and narrowing blood vessels, making them less flexible, a condition called atherosclerosis. When this happens in the coronary arteries, it restricts oxygen and nutrients to the heart, causing chest pain or angina. When cholesterol-rich plaques in these arteries burst, a clot can form, blocking blood flow and causing a heart attack.

127. Most blood cholesterol is low-density lipoprotein, or LDL cholesterol, which is sometimes called “bad” cholesterol because it carries cholesterol to the body’s tissues and arteries, increasing the risk of heart disease. High-density lipoprotein, or HDL cholesterol, is sometimes called “good” cholesterol because it removes excess cholesterol from the cardiovascular system, bringing it to the liver for removal. Thus, a low level of HDL cholesterol increases the risk of heart disease.

128. Diet affects blood cholesterol. For example, the body reacts to saturated fat by producing LDL cholesterol.

129. When the liver is overwhelmed by large doses of fructose, it will convert excess to fat, which is stored in the liver and then released into the bloodstream, contributing to key elements of metabolic syndrome, like high blood fat and triglycerides, high total cholesterol, and low HDL “good” cholesterol.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁵ Bray, G.A., “Soft Drinks and Obesity: The Evidence,” *CMR e-Journal*, Vol. 2, Issue, 2, 10-14, at 13 (Oct. 2009).

¹⁰⁶ Fried, Hypertriglyceridemia, *supra* n.64, at 873S.

¹⁰⁷ Te Morenga, Dietary Sugars & Body Weight, *supra* n.63.

130. A study of more than 6,000 participants in the Framingham Heart Study found those who consumed more than 1 soft drink per day had a 25% greater risk of hypertriglyceridemia, and 32% greater risk of low HDL cholesterol than those who consumed less than 1 soft drink per day.¹⁰⁸

131. A systematic review and meta-analysis of 37 randomized controlled trials concerning the link between sugar intake and blood pressure and lipids found that higher sugar intakes, compared to lower sugar intakes, significantly raised triglyceride concentrations, total cholesterol, and low density lipoprotein cholesterol.¹⁰⁹

132. A cross-sectional study among more than 6,100 U.S. adults from the NHANES 1999-2006 data were grouped into quintiles for sugar intake as follows: (1) less than 5% of calories consumed from sugar, (2) 5% to less than 10%, (3) 10% to less than 17.5%, (4) 17.5% to less than 25%, and (5) 25% or more. These groups had the following adjusted mean HDL levels (because HDL is the “good” cholesterol, higher levels are better): 58.7 mg/dL, 57.5, 53.7, 51.0, and 47.7. Mean triglyceride levels were 105 mg/dL, 102, 111, 113, and 114. Mean LDL levels were 116 mg/dL, 115, 118, 121, and 123 among women, with no significant trend among men. Consumers whose sugar intake accounted for more than 10% of calories had a 50% - 300% higher risk of low HDL levels compared to those who consumed less than 5% of calories from sugar. Likewise, high-sugar consumers had greater risk of high triglycerides. All relationships were linear as demonstrated in the charts below.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁸ Dhingra, *Cardiometabolic Risk*, *supra* n.67.

¹⁰⁹ Te Morenga, L., et al., “Dietary sugars and cardiometabolic risk: systematic review and meta-analyses of randomized controlled trials on the effects on blood pressure and lipids,” *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 100, No. 1, 65-79 (May 7, 2014).

¹¹⁰ Welsh, J.A., et al., “Caloric Sweetener Consumption and Dyslipidemia Among US Adults,” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 303, No. 15, 1490-97 (April 21, 2010).

Figure 1. Multivariable-Adjusted Mean HDL-C Levels by Level of Added Sugar Intake Among US Adults, NHANES 1999-2006

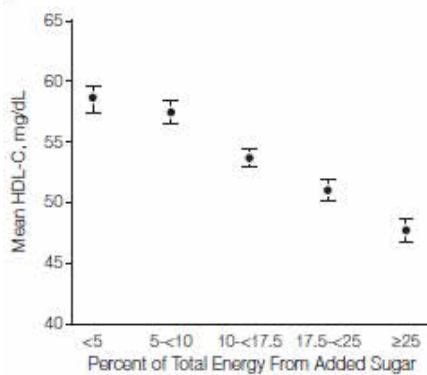


Figure 2. Multivariable-Adjusted Geometric Mean Triglyceride Levels by Level of Added Sugar Intake Among US Adults, NHANES 1999-2006

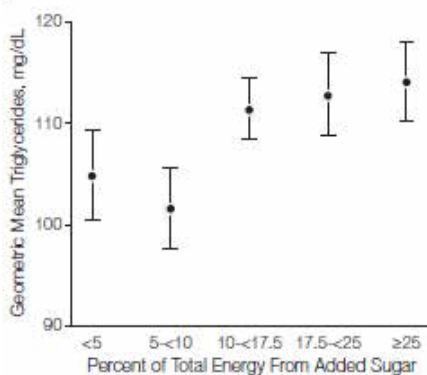
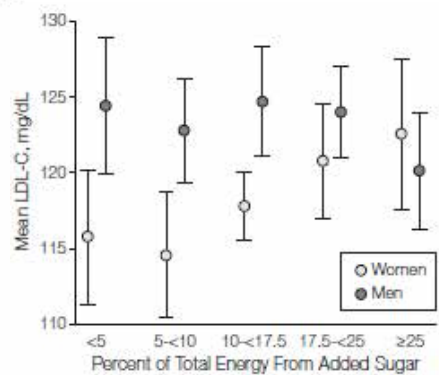


Figure 3. Multivariable-Adjusted Mean LDL-C Levels by Level of Added Sugar Intake Among US Men and Women, NHANES 1999-2006



133. One experimental study showed that, when a 17% fructose diet was provided to healthy men, they showed an increase in plasma triacylglycerol concentrations of 32%.¹¹¹

134. Another 10-week experimental feeding study showed that those who were fed 25% of their energy requirements as fructose experienced increases in LDL cholesterol, small dense LDL cholesterol, and oxidized LDL cholesterol, as well as increased concentrations of triglycerides and total cholesterol, while those fed a 25% diet of glucose did not experience the same adverse effects.¹¹²

135. In a cross-sectional study of normal weight and overweight children aged 6-14, researchers found that “the only dietary factor that was a significant predictor of LDL particle size was total fructose intake.”¹¹³

¹¹¹ Bantle, J.P., et al., “Effects of dietary fructose on plasma lipids in healthy subjects,” *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 72, 1128-34 (2000).

¹¹² Stanhope, K.L., et al., “Consuming fructose-sweetened, not glucose-sweetened, beverages increases visceral adiposity and lipids and decreases insulin sensitivity in overweight/obese humans,” *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, Vol. 119, No. 5, 1322-34 (May 2009).

¹¹³ Aeberli, I., et al., “Fructose intake is a predictor of LDL particle size in overweight schoolchildren,” *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol. 86, 1174-78 (2007).

8. Excess Sugar Consumption is Associated with Hypertension

136. A study of more than 6,000 participants in the Framingham Heart Study found those who consumed more than 1 soft drink per day had a 22% greater incidence, and an 18% greater risk of high blood pressure than those who consumed less than 1 soft drink per day.¹¹⁴

137. An analysis of the NHANES data for more than 4,800 adolescents also showed a positive, linear association between sugar-sweetened beverages and higher systolic blood pressure, as well as corresponding increases in serum uric acid levels.¹¹⁵

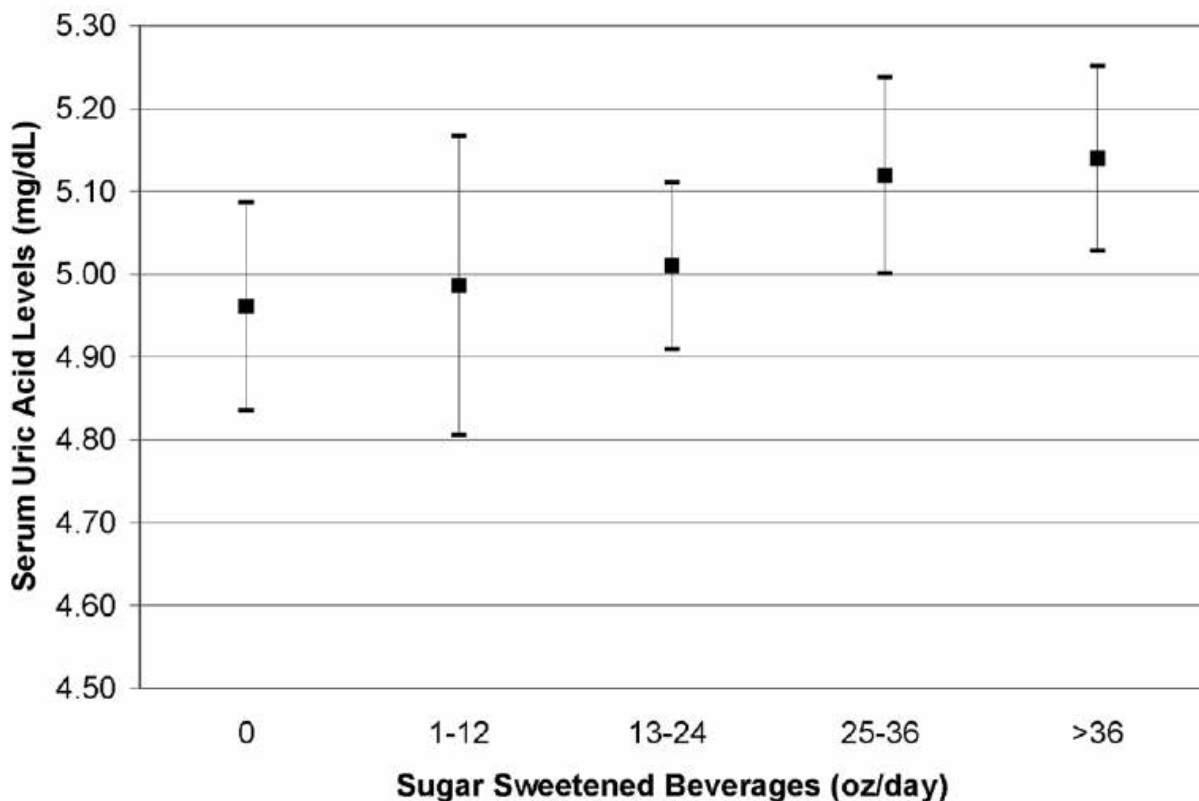


Figure 1.
Sample mean of serum uric acid with 95% confidence intervals by categories of sugar sweetened beverage consumption adjusted for age, race/ethnicity, sex, total calories, BMI z-score, alcohol, smoking, dietary fiber intake, diet beverage consumption, and milk consumption. *P* for trend = 0.01

138. In one study, 15 healthy men drank 500 ml water containing either no sugar, 60 grams of fructose, or 60 grams of glucose. Blood pressure, metabolic rate, and autonomic

¹¹⁴ Dhingra, *Cardiometabolic Risk*, *supra* n.67.

¹¹⁵ Nguyen, *Serum Uric Acid*, *supra* n.59.

nervous system activity were measured for 2 hours. While the administration of fructose was associated with an increase in both systolic and diastolic blood pressure, blood pressure did not rise in response to either water or glucose ingestion, as demonstrated in the chart below.¹¹⁶

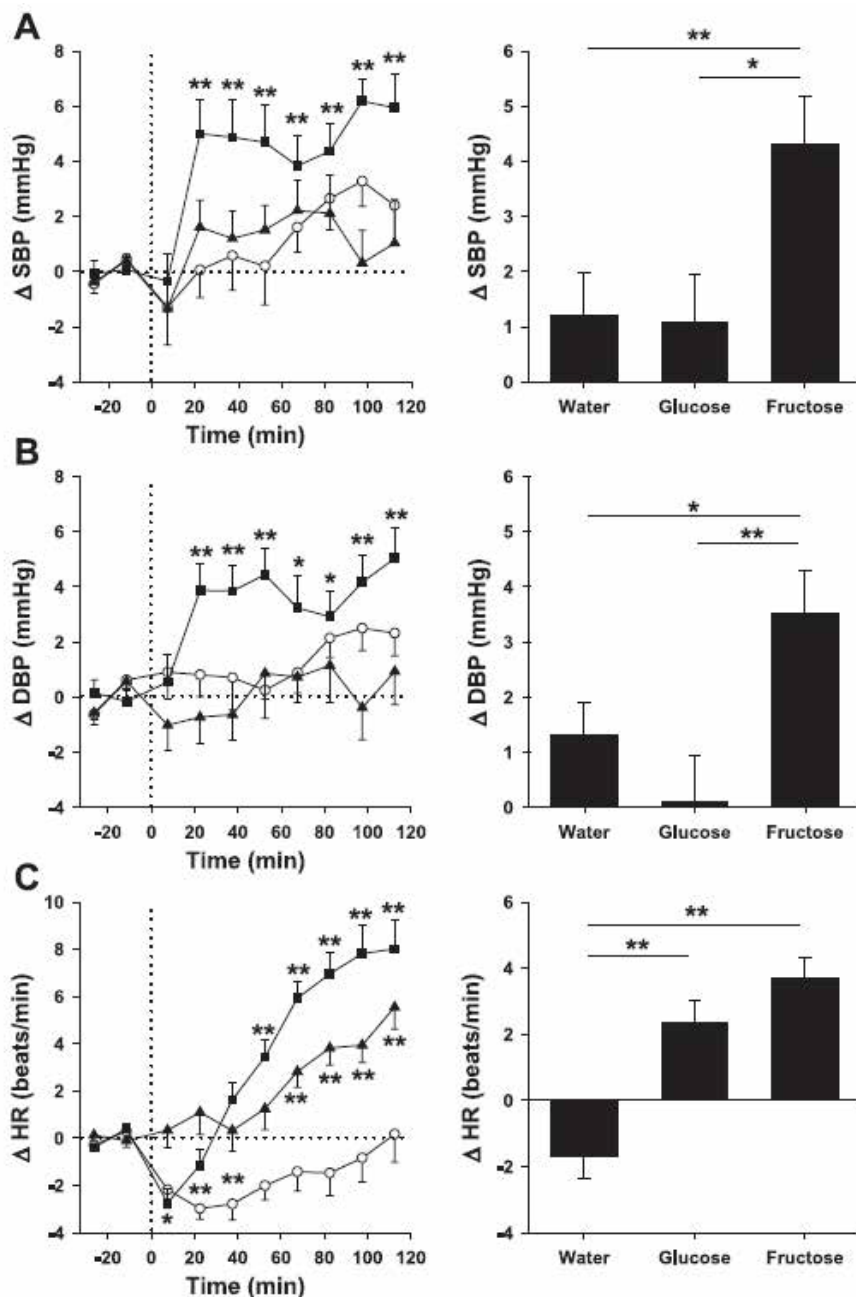


Fig. 1. Time course of the systolic blood pressure (SBP; A), diastolic blood pressure (DBP; B), and heart rate (HR; C) changes (left) and mean responses (right) to drinking water (○), glucose (▲), and fructose (■). * $P < 0.05$ and ** $P < 0.01$, statistically significant differences over time from baseline values (left) and differences between responses to the drinks (right).

¹¹⁶ Brown, C.M., et al., "Fructose ingestion acutely elevates blood pressure in healthy young humans," *Am. J. Physiol. Regul. Integr. Compl. Physiol.*, Vol. 294, R730-37 (2008).

139. In another study, more than 40 overweight men and women were supplemented for 10 weeks with either sucrose or artificial sweeteners. The sucrose group saw an increase in systolic and diastolic blood pressure, of 3.8 and 4.1 mm Hg, respectively, while the artificial sweetener group saw a decrease in systolic and diastolic blood pressure, of 3.1 and 1.2 mm Hg, respectively.¹¹⁷

140. Another study took a variety of approaches to measuring the association between sugar intake and blood pressure, concluding that an increase of 1 serving of sugar-sweetened beverages per day (*i.e.*, 140-150 calories, and 35-37.5 grams of sugar) was associated with systolic/diastolic blood pressure differences of +1.6 and +0.8 mm Hg (and +1.1/+0.4 mm Hg with adjustment for height and weight), while an increase of 2 servings results in systolic/diastolic blood pressure differences of +3.4/+2.2, demonstrating that the relationship is direct and linear.¹¹⁸

9. Excess Sugar Consumption is Associated with Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, and Cognitive Decline

141. In a study of over 2,000 participants over 6.8 years, researchers found that higher average glucose levels within the preceding 5 years (115 mg/dL compared to 100 mg/dL) were related to an 18% increased risk of dementia among those without diabetes. For those with diabetes, higher average glucose levels (190 mg/dL compared to 160 mg/dL) were related to a 40% increased risk of dementia.¹¹⁹

142. "To evaluate a possible association between fructose mediated metabolic changes and cognitive behavior," researchers "assessed the correlation of serum triglyceride

¹¹⁷ Raben, Sucrose vs. Artificial Sweeteners, *supra* n.99.

¹¹⁸ Brown, I.J., et al., "Sugar-Sweetened Beverage, Sugar Intake of Individuals, and Their Blood Pressure: International Study of Macro/Micronutrients and Blood Pressure," *Hypertension*, Vol. 57, 695-701 (2011).

¹¹⁹ Crane, P.K., et al., "Glucose Levels and Risk of Dementia," *New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 369, No. 6, 540-48 (2013).

and insulin resistance levels with memory,” and “found a positive correlation between serum triglyceride levels and insulin resistance index . . . , which indicates that increased serum triglyceride levels may contribute to increase[d] insulin resistance” And researchers “found that the latency time varied in proportion to the insulin resistance . . . , which suggests that memory performance may rely on levels of insulin resistance”¹²⁰

10. Excess Sugar Consumption is Linked to Some Cancers

143. In a population-based case-control study involving 424 cases and 398 controls, women in the highest quartile of added sugar intake had an 84% greater risk of endometrial cancer.¹²¹ Similarly, in a study of patients with stage 3 colon cancer, those in the highest quintile of glycemic load experienced worsening in disease-free survival of approximately 80% compared to those in the lowest quintile.¹²²

144. A population based case-control study on Malaysian women found a significant, two-fold increased risk of breast cancer among premenopausal and postmenopausal women in the highest quartile of sugar intake.¹²³

145. A prospective epidemiological study of nearly 45,000 cancer cases among 436,000 participants aged 50-71, found added sugars were positively associated with risk of

¹²⁰ Agrawal, R., et al., “‘Metabolic syndrome’ in the brain: deficiency in omega-3 fatty acid exacerbates dysfunctions in insulin receptor signaling and cognition,” *Journal of Physiology*, Vol. 590, No. 10, 2485-99, at 2489 (2012).

¹²¹ King, M.G., et al., “Consumption of Sugary Foods and Drinks and Risk of Endometrial Cancer,” *Cancer Causes Control*, Vol. 24, No. 7, 1427-36 (July 2013).

¹²² Meyerhardt, J.A., et al. “Association of dietary patterns with cancer recurrence and survival in patients with stage III colon cancer,” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 298, 754-64 (2007).

¹²³ Sulaiman, S., et al., “Dietary carbohydrate, fiber and sugar and risk of breast cancer according to menopausal status in Malaysia,” *Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention*, Vol. 15, 5959 (2014).

esophageal adenocarcinoma; added fructose was associated with risk of small intestine cancer; and all investigated sugars were associated with increased risk of pleural cancer.¹²⁴

D. Based on the Scientific Evidence, Authoritative Scientific and Health Organizations Recommend Restricting Added Sugar Consumption to Below 5% or 10% of Daily Calories

146. Based on the scientific research, the AHA recommends restricting added sugar to 5% of calories.¹²⁵ Based on the average caloric needs, this equates to 12 grams for children 4 to 8 years old, up to 25 grams for children up to 18 years old, 25 grams for women, and 38 grams for men.

147. Similarly, the World Health Organization recommends that no more than 10% of an adult's calories—and ideally less than 5%—should come from added sugar or from natural sugars in honey, syrups, and fruit juice.¹²⁶

148. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration recently set a daily reference value of 50 grams of added sugar, or 10% of calories based on a 2,000-calorie diet. 81 Fed. Reg. 33742, 33820 (May 27, 2016). While the FDA acknowledged the AHA and WHO recommendations to keep added sugars below 5% of calories, it set the DRV at 50 grams because this was “more realistic considering current consumption of added sugars in the United States as well as added sugars in the food supply.” *Id.* at 33,849. Nevertheless, the FDA's rulemaking was based, in part, on the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's “food pattern analysis,” which—consistent with the AHA and WHO recommendations—

¹²⁴ Tasevska, N., et al., “Sugars in diet and risk of cancer in the NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study,” *International Journal of Cancer*, Vol. 130, No. 1, 159-69 (Jan. 1, 2012).

¹²⁵ See AHA Scientific Statement, *supra* n.46.

¹²⁶ See World Health Organization, Sugars intake for adult and children: Guideline” (March 4, 2014), *available at* http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/guidelines/sugars_intake/en (Based on scientific evidence, recommending adults and children reduce daily intake of free sugars to less than 10% of total energy intake and noting that “[a] further reduction to below 5% or roughly 25 grams (6 teaspoons) per day would provide additional health benefits.”).

1 “demonstrate[d] that when added sugars in foods and beverages exceeds 3% to 9% of total
2 calories . . . a healthful food pattern may be difficult to achieve”¹²⁷

3 **IV. The Manufacture, Marketing, and Sale of Simple Truth Coconutmilk**

4 149. Simple Truth Coconutmilk has been sold on a nationwide basis, including in
5 California since the Class Period began.

6 150. According to the Simple Truth website (www.simpletruth.com), Simple Truth
7 products are sold at more than 2,200 grocery stores nationwide, including major retailers such
8 as Kroger, Ralphs, Pay Less, Food 4 Less, Lucky’s Market, among others.

9 151. Original Simple Truth Coconutmilk is sold in 64-fluid-ounce containers and
10 Unsweetened Simple Truth Coconutmilk is sold in 32-fluid-ounce containers.

11 152. Representative exemplars of the Product’s labeling sold during the Class Period
12 are seen below.

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27 ¹²⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture, “Scientific Report of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines
28 Advisory Committee” (February 2015), Ch. 6 p.26.

Simple Truth Original Coconutmilk (64 fluid ounce)¹²⁸



¹²⁸ The front and back of the 64-fluid-ounce container are the same.



Simple Truth Unsweetened Coconutmilk (32 fluid ounce)





UNSWEETENED
Coconutmilk

- Mix your favorite fruit and Coconutmilk in a blender to make a delicious smoothie.
- Try it for cooking or baking in your favorite recipe.
- Great over fresh fruit or cereal.
- It's delicious straight from the container too!



Enjoy some today and taste the difference!

Simple Truth Coconutmilk is made from real coconuts and is a good source of Vitamin A.

121875



Nutrition Facts
Serving Size 1 cup (8 fl oz) 240mL
Servings Per Container 4

Amount Per Serving	
Calories 60	Calories from Fat 50
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 5g	8%
Saturated Fat 5g	25%
Trans Fat 0g	
Polyunsaturated Fat 0g	
Monounsaturated Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 55mg	2%
Potassium 55mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 1g	0%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Sugars 1g	
Protein 1g	
Vitamin A 10%	Vitamin C 0%
Calcium 45%	Iron 4%
Vitamin D 25%	Vitamin B12 50%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:

	Calories: 2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than 65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less than 20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg	2,400mg
Potassium	Less than 3,500mg	3,500mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g	375g
Dietary Fiber	25g	30g

INGREDIENTS: FILTERED WATER, COCONUT CREAM, CALCIUM CARBONATE, CARRAGEENAN, XANTHAN GUM, GUAR GUM, NATURAL FLAVORS, GELLAN GUM, VITAMIN A PALMITATE, VITAMIN D2, VITAMIN B12.
CONTAINS: COCONUT.
DISTRIBUTED BY THE KROGER CO.
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202
REFRIGERATE AFTER OPENING.

153. Except for immaterial differences, such as in the name of each flavor, the labeling of each flavor is essentially identical.

V. Defendant Markets Simple Truth Coconutmilk with Misleading Health and Wellness Claims

154. Consumers are generally willing to pay more for foods they perceive as being healthy, or healthier than other alternatives. Nielsen’s 2015 Global Health & Wellness Survey, for instance, found that “88% of those polled are willing to pay more for healthier foods.”¹²⁹

155. To increase sales of the Product and Product’s price, Kroger places statements directly on the Simple Truth Coconutmilk labeling that convey the concrete message that Simple Truth Coconutmilk is healthful. Further, the labeling claims are designed to conceal or distract consumers from noticing that Simple Truth Coconutmilk is high in saturated fat (or saturated fat and added sugar) or convince consumers that it is not harmful to health.

156. Specifically, Kroger labels the Product with the statement, “Each serving of Simple Truth Coconutmilk is full of great flavor and healthy for you too. Made from real coconuts, it’s an excellent source of calcium It’s also 100% free of . . . cholesterol” This claim, taken individually and in context of the label as a whole, is false and misleading because the Product is unhealthy and contains dangerous amounts of saturated fat or (saturated fat and added sugar), the consumption of which detrimentally affects blood cholesterol levels and causes morbidity, including heart disease and stroke. The claim is further false and misleading because it suggests that by the absence of cholesterol that Simple Truth Coconutmilk is healthy and will not detrimentally affect blood cholesterol levels.

¹²⁹ Nancy Gagliardi, Forbes, Consumers Want Healthy Foods--And Will Pay More For Them (Feb. 18, 2015) (citing Neilson, 2015 Global Health & Wellness Survey, at 11 (Jan. 2015)).

1 157. In sum, the totality of the Simple Truth Coconutmilk labeling conveys the
2 concrete message to a reasonable consumer that the Product is healthful, beneficial to health,
3 or at least won't detriment health.

4 158. Defendant intended consumers to rely upon this message, which is false and
5 misleading for the reasons stated herein. Its senior officers and directors allowed the Product
6 to be sold with full knowledge or reckless disregard that the challenged claims are fraudulent,
7 unlawful, and misleading.

8 159. In conjunction with marketing Simple Truth Coconutmilk with claims that
9 convey that the Product is beneficial to health and won't detriment health (particularly
10 cholesterol levels), Defendant intentionally omits material information regarding the dangers
11 of consuming the Product. Defendant is under a duty to disclose this information to
12 consumers because (a) Defendant is revealing some information about Simple Truth
13 Coconutmilk—enough to convey it is healthful or conducive to good physical health—
14 without revealing additional material information—that its consumption has significant
15 detrimental health effects, (b) Defendant's deceptive omissions concern human health, and
16 specifically the detrimental health consequences of consuming Simple Truth Coconutmilk,
17 (c) Defendant was in a superior position to know of the dangers presented by the Product as
18 a manufacturer of foods whose business depends upon food science and that holds itself out
19 to be a leader in health foods, and (d) Defendant actively concealed material facts not known
20 to Plaintiff and the Class.

21 160. As described above, in marketing the Product, Defendant regularly affirmatively
22 uses certain words and phrases to suggest Simple Truth Coconutmilk is healthful or
23 conducive to good health and physical well-being, which is misleading given the negative
24 health consequences of consuming the Product. In light of these voluntary statements,
25 Defendant has a duty to disclose information regarding the harmful effects of consuming the
26 Product.

VI. The Labeling of Simple Truth Coconutmilk Violates California and Federal Law

A. Any Violation of Federal Food Labeling Statutes or Regulations is a Violation of California Law

161. Pursuant to the California Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law, Cal. Health & Safety Code §§ 109875 *et. seq.* (the “Sherman Law”), California has adopted the federal food labeling requirements as its own, *see, e.g., id.* § 110670 (“Any food is misbranded if its labeling does not conform with the requirements for nutrition labeling as set forth in Section 403(r) (21 U.S.C. Sec. 343(r)) of the federal act and the regulation adopted pursuant thereto.”). *See also id.* § 110665.

162. The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act expressly authorizes state regulations, such as the Sherman Law, that are “identical to the requirement[s]” of the FDCA and federal regulations. *See* 21 U.S.C. § 343-1.

163. Because the Sherman Law’s requirements are identical to the requirements of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and FDA regulations the Sherman law is explicitly authorized by the FDCA.

B. The Simple Truth Coconutmilk’s False and Misleading Labeling Claims Render the Product Misbranded Under California and Federal Law

164. Kroger’s deceptive statements described herein violate Cal. Health & Safety Code § 110660 and 21 U.S.C. § 343(a), which both deem a food misbranded if its labeling is “false or misleading in any particular.”

165. As described above, the Product’s labeling contains numerous statements that are false or misleading because they state, suggest, or imply that it is healthful, conducive to health, and won’t detriment health, which render it misbranded.

166. In addition, the Product’s labeling is misleading, and thus misbranded, because “it fails to reveal facts that are material in light of other representations.” 21 C.F.R § 1.21.

167. Defendant’s voluntary and affirmative misrepresentations challenged herein “fail[ed] to reveal facts that are material in light of other representations made or suggested

1 by the statement[s], word[s], design[s], device[s], or any combination thereof,” in violation
 2 of 21 C.F.R. § 1.21(a)(1). Such omitted facts include the detrimental health consequences of
 3 consuming the Product.

4 168. Defendant similarly failed to reveal facts that were “[m]aterial with respect to
 5 the consequences which may result from use of the article under” both “[t]he conditions
 6 prescribed in such labeling,” and “such conditions of use as are customary or usual,” in
 7 violation of § 1.21(a)(2). Namely, Defendant failed to disclose the increased risk of serious
 8 chronic disease likely to result from the usual consumption of Simple Truth Coconutmilk.

9 **C. Simple Truth Coconutmilk is Misbranded Because its Labeling Makes**
 10 **Unauthorized Nutrient Content Claims**

11 169. The Product is misbranded because its labeling bears unauthorized nutrient
 12 content claims.

13 170. Under 21 U.S.C. § 343(r)(1)(A), a claim that characterizes the level of a nutrient
 14 which is of the type required to be in the labeling of the food must be made in accordance
 15 with a regulation promulgated by the Secretary (or, by delegation, FDA) authorizing the use
 16 of such a claim. *See also* Cal. Health & Safety Code § 110670 (“Any food is misbranded if
 17 its labeling does not conform with the requirements for nutrient content or health claims” set
 18 by federal law.).

19 171. Characterizing the level of a nutrient on food labels and the labeling of a product
 20 without complying with the specific requirements pertaining to nutrient content claims for
 21 that nutrient renders a product misbranded under 21 U.S.C. § 343(r)(1)(A).

22 172. The Product is misbranded (and also misleading), because the labeling bears
 23 nutrient content claims using the term healthy, but the Product does not meet the requirements
 24 for making such implied nutrient content claims as set forth in 21 C.F.R. § 101.65(d).

25 173. The Product’s labeling bears the statement, “Each serving of Simple Truth
 26 Coconutmilk is full of great flavor and healthy for you too. Made from real coconuts, it’s an
 27 excellent source of calcium”
 28

1 174. To “use the term ‘healthy’ or related terms (e.g., ‘health,’ ‘healthful,’
 2 ‘healthfully,’ ‘healthfulness,’ ‘healthier,’ ‘healthiest,’ ‘healthily,’ and ‘healthiness’) as an
 3 implied nutrient content claim on the label or in labeling of a food that is useful in creating a
 4 diet that is consistent with dietary recommendations,” a food must satisfy specific “conditions
 5 for fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, and other nutrients.” 21 C.F.R. § 101.65(d)(2).

6 175. The Product is “not specifically listed” in the table contained in 21 C.F.R. §
 7 101.65(d)(2)(i), and therefore are governed by section (F) of the table. *See* 101.65(d)(2)(i)(F).

8 176. Under 21 C.F.R. § 101.65(d)(2)(i)(F), to use a “healthy” term, a food must (1)
 9 be “Low fat as defined in § 101.62(b)(2),” (2) be “Low saturated fat as defined in §
 10 101.62(c)(2),” and (3) contain “At least 10 percent of the RDI [recommended daily intake]
 11 or the DRV [dietary reference values] per RACC [reference amount customarily consumed]
 12 of one or more of vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, iron, protein or fiber.” *See* 21 C.F.R. §
 13 101.65(d)(2)(i)(F) (incorporating by reference total fat requirement, 21 C.F.R. § 101.62(b)(2),
 14 and saturated fat requirement, 21 C.F.R. § 101.62(c)(2)). In addition, the food must comply
 15 “with the definition and declaration requirements in this part 101 for any specific nutrient
 16 content claim on the label or in labeling.” 21 C.F.R. § 101.65(d)(2)(iii).

17 177. Section 101.62(b)(2)(i)(A) provides the applicable definition of “low fat” for the
 18 Product because it has a RACC (reference amounts customarily consumed) “greater than 30
 19 g or greater than 2 tablespoons.”

20 178. Under section 101.62(b)(2)(i)(A), a food is low fat only if it “contains 3 g or less
 21 of fat per reference amount customarily consumed.”

22 179. The Product contains more than 3 grams of fat per RACC. Thus the Product does
 23 not meet the total fat requirement in section 101.65(d)(2)(i)(F), and as a result, the use of a
 24 “healthy” term renders the Products misbranded.

25 180. Under section 101.62(c)(2), a food is “low saturated fat” only if it “contains 1 g
 26 or less of saturated fatty acids per reference amount customarily consumed and not more than
 27 15 percent of calories from saturated fatty acids.”
 28

181. The Product contains more than 1 gram of saturated fat per RACC. The Product therefore does not meet the saturated fat requirement in section 101.65(d)(2)(i)(F), and as a result, their use of a “healthy” term renders the Product misbranded.

182. In addition, the Product bears the labeling claim, “100% free of . . . cholesterol.”

183. This phrase meets the definition of a nutrient content claim because it characterizes the level of cholesterol in the Product, *see* 21 C.F.R. § 101.13(b), but the Product fails to meet the requirements for making the claim that it is cholesterol free.

184. Under 21 C.F.R. § 101.62(d)(1), to bear the nutrient content claim “cholesterol free” and similar claims that cholesterol is absent, a food must, *inter alia*, contain less than 2 grams of saturated fat per Reference Amount Customarily Consumed (RACC),¹³⁰ *id.* § 101.62(d)(1)(ii)(C), and must disclose the level of total fat in a serving in immediate proximity to the claim, *id.* § 101.62(d)(1)(ii)(D).

185. According to the Product’s labeling, it contains 5 grams of saturated fat per 1 cup serving.

186. Accordingly, the Product does not meet the saturated fat requirement, instead containing a disqualifying amount of saturated fat making the Product ineligible for “cholesterol free” claims under 21 C.F.R. § 101.62(d)(1)(ii), and rendering it misbranded. *See* 21 U.S.C. § 343(r)(1)(A). *See also* 21 C.F.R. § 101.62(f) (“Any label or labeling containing any statement concerning fat, fatty acids, or cholesterol that is not in conformity with this section shall be deemed to be misbranded.”).

187. Plaintiff and Class Members would not have purchased Simple Truth Coconutmilk if they knew it was misbranded pursuant to California and federal regulations because its labeling made unauthorized and misleading nutrient content claims and omitted material information and disclosures.

¹³⁰ The RACC for the Product is 1 cup, which may be expressed as 240 millimeters or 8 fluid ounces. *See* 21 C.F.R. § 101.12(b), Table 2 (“Milk, milk-substitute beverages . . . soy beverage.”).

VII. Plaintiff's Purchase, Reliance, and Injury

188. Eva Grausz purchased Unsweetened Simple Truth Coconutmilk during the Class Period from her local Ralph's store. Ms. Grausz consumed Simple Truth Coconutmilk after purchasing it.

189. At the time of purchase and when deciding to purchase Simple Truth Coconutmilk, Plaintiff read and relied on claims made on the Product's labeling including the following claim: "Each serving of Simple Truth Coconutmilk is full of great flavor and healthy for you too. Made from real coconuts, it's an excellent source of calcium. It's also 100% free of . . . cholesterol" "Cholesterol Free Food".

190. Based on these representations, Plaintiff believed the Product was healthful, beneficial to health, and that it would not detriment her health (in particular her blood cholesterol levels).

191. When purchasing Simple Truth Coconutmilk, Plaintiff was seeking a product to consume, which had the qualities described on the Product's labeling, namely, one that was a healthy and that would not detriment her health such as by increasing her risk of CHD, stroke, and other morbidity.

192. The representations on the Product's labeling, however, were false and misleading, and had the capacity, tendency, and likelihood to confuse or confound Plaintiff and other consumers acting reasonably (including the putative Class) because, as described in detail herein, the Product is not healthful but instead its consumption increases the risk of CHD, stroke, and other morbidity.

193. Plaintiff is not a nutritionist, food expert, or food scientist, but rather a lay consumer who did not have the specialized knowledge that Defendant had regarding the nutrients present in the Product or the effects of consuming the Product. At the time of purchase, Plaintiff was unaware that consuming Simple Truth Coconutmilk, adversely affects blood cholesterol levels and increases risk of CHD, stroke, and other morbidity.

1 194. Plaintiff acted reasonably in relying on the health and wellness claims that
2 Kroger intentionally placed on the Product's label with the intent to induce average
3 consumers into purchasing the Product.

4 195. Plaintiff would not have purchased Simple Truth Coconutmilk if she knew that
5 it was misbranded pursuant to California and FDA regulations in that many of its claims were
6 prohibited due to its saturated fat content, that its labeling claims were false and misleading,
7 and it omitted material information.

8 196. The Product cost more than similar products without misleading labeling, and
9 would have cost less absent the false and misleading statements.

10 197. Plaintiff paid more for Simple Truth Coconutmilk, and would only have been
11 willing to pay less, or unwilling to purchase it at all, absent the false and misleading labeling
12 statements and omissions complained of herein.

13 198. For these reasons, the Product was worth less than what Plaintiff paid for it.

14 199. Instead of receiving a product that had actual healthful qualities, the Product
15 Plaintiff received was one that is not healthy, but rather its consumption causes increased risk
16 of CHD, stroke, and other morbidity.

17 200. Plaintiff lost money as a result of the deceptive claims and practices in that she
18 did not receive what she paid for when purchasing the Product.

19 201. Plaintiff detrimentally altered her position and suffered damages in an amount
20 equal to the amount she paid for the Product.

21 202. Plaintiff continues to regularly shop at stores where the Product is sold and
22 continues to encounter it when she shops.

23 203. Without prospective injunctive relief requiring Defendant to label the Product in
24 a truthful manner, she and other consumers will be unable to determine whether a future label
25 bearing similar claims is valid and the Product has been reformulated and improved, or
26 whether Defendant has simply continued or resumed its misleading behavior, and thus will
27 be unable to decide how best to spend their money.

204. The continued use of the challenged claims on the Products' labels threatens to repeatedly infringe upon the substantive right California's consumer protection statutes give Plaintiff to be free from fraud in the marketplace.

205. If Defendant was enjoined from making the false and misleading claims, the market price for Simple Truth Coconutmilk would drop. While Plaintiff would not use the Product on a regular basis, if it did not bear false and misleading claims and she would not have to pay the premium associate with those claims Plaintiff would consider purchasing the Product again and use it in limited amounts on special occasions, for example, when a recipe calls for coconut milk.

206. Even aware of Defendant's misleading labeling, Plaintiff's substantive rights continue to be violated every time Plaintiff is exposed to the misleading labeling.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

207. While reserving the right to redefine or amend the class definition prior to seeking class certification, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, Plaintiff seeks to represent a class of all persons in California who, at any time from four years preceding the date of the filing of this Complaint to the time a class is notified (the "Class Period"), purchased Simple Truth Coconutmilk for personal or household use, and not for resale or distribution (the "Class").

208. The members in the proposed Class are so numerous that individual joinder of all members is impracticable, and the disposition of the claims of all Class Members in a single action will provide substantial benefits to the parties and Court.

209. Questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff and the Class include:

- a. whether Kroger communicated a message regarding healthfulness of the Product through its packaging and advertising;
- b. whether that message was material, or likely to be material, to a reasonable consumer;

- c. whether the challenged claims are false, misleading, or reasonably likely to deceive a reasonable consumer;
- d. whether Kroger's conduct violates public policy;
- e. whether Kroger's conduct violates state or federal food statutes or regulations;
- f. the proper amount of damages, including punitive damages;
- g. the proper amount of restitution;
- h. the proper scope of injunctive relief; and
- i. the proper amount of attorneys' fees.

210. These common questions of law and fact predominate over questions that affect only individual Class Members.

211. Plaintiff's claims are typical of Class Members' claims because they are based on the same underlying facts, events, and circumstances relating to Kroger's conduct. Specifically, all Class Members, including Plaintiff, were subjected to the same misleading and deceptive conduct when they purchased the Product, and suffered economic injury because the Product is misrepresented. Absent Kroger's business practice of deceptively and unlawfully labeling the Product, Plaintiff and Class Members would not have purchased the Product.

212. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class, has no interests incompatible with the interests of the Class, and has retained counsel competent and experienced in class action litigation, and specifically in litigation involving the false and misleading advertising of foods.

213. Class treatment is superior to other options for resolution of the controversy because the relief sought for each Class Member is small, such that, absent representative litigation, it would be infeasible for Class Members to redress the wrongs done to them.

214. Kroger has acted on grounds applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive and declaratory relief concerning the Class as a whole.

215. As a result of the foregoing, class treatment is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a), 23(b)(2), and 23(b)(3).

CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of the Unfair Competition Law,

Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*

216. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set forth in full herein.

217. The UCL prohibits any “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice.” Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.

218. The acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and non-disclosures of Kroger as alleged herein constitute business acts and practices.

Fraudulent

219. A statement or practice is fraudulent under the UCL if it is likely to deceive the public, applying an objective reasonable consumer test.

220. As set forth herein, Kroger’s claims relating to Simple Truth Coconutmilk are likely to deceive reasonable consumers and the public.

Unlawful

221. The acts alleged herein are “unlawful” under the UCL in that they violate at least the following laws:

- a. The False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500 *et seq.*;
- b. The Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 *et seq.*;
- c. The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. §§ 301 *et seq.*; and
- d. The California Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law, Cal. Health & Safety Code §§ 109875 *et. seq.*

Unfair

222. Kroger's conduct with respect to the labeling, advertising, and sale of Simple Truth Coconutmilk was unfair because Kroger's conduct was immoral, unethical, unscrupulous, or substantially injurious to consumers, and the utility of its conduct, if any, does not outweigh the gravity of the harm to its victims.

223. Kroger's conduct with respect to the labeling, advertising, and sale of Simple Truth Coconutmilk was and is also unfair because it violates public policy as declared by specific constitutional, statutory or regulatory provisions, including but not necessarily limited to the False Advertising Law, portions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and portions of the California Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law.

224. Kroger's conduct with respect to the labeling, advertising, and sale of Simple Truth Coconutmilk was and is also unfair because the consumer injury was substantial, not outweighed by benefits to consumers or competition, and not one consumers themselves could reasonably have avoided. Specifically, the increase in sales and profits obtained by Kroger through the misleading labeling and advertising does not outweigh the harm to Class Members who were deceived into purchasing Simple Truth Coconutmilk believing it was healthful when in fact it detracts health.

225. Kroger profited from the sale of the falsely, deceptively, and unlawfully advertised Simple Truth Coconutmilk to unwary consumers.

226. Plaintiff and Class Members are likely to continue to be damaged by Kroger's deceptive trade practices, because Kroger continues to disseminate misleading information. Thus, injunctive relief enjoining Kroger's deceptive practices is proper.

227. Kroger's conduct caused and continues to cause substantial injury to Plaintiff and other Class Members. Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact as a result of Kroger's unlawful conduct.

228. In accordance with Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, Plaintiff seeks an order enjoining Kroger from continuing to conduct business through unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent acts and practices, and to commence a corrective advertising campaign.

229. Plaintiff and the Class also seek an order for the restitution of all monies from the sale of the Product, which was unjustly acquired through acts of unlawful competition.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of the False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500 *et seq.*

230. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set forth in full herein.

231. The FAL provides that “[i]t is unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or association, or any employee thereof with intent directly or indirectly to dispose of real or personal property or to perform services” to disseminate any statement “which is untrue or misleading, and which is known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading.” Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500.

232. It is also unlawful under the FAL to disseminate statements concerning property or services that are “untrue or misleading, and which is known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading.” *Id.*

233. As alleged herein, the advertisements, labeling, policies, acts, and practices of Kroger relating to Simple Truth Coconutmilk misled consumers acting reasonably as to the healthfulness of the Product.

234. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact as a result of Kroger’s actions as set forth herein because Plaintiff purchased Simple Truth Coconutmilk in reliance on Kroger’s false and misleading marketing claims stating or suggesting that the Product, among other things, is healthy.

235. Kroger’s business practices as alleged herein constitute unfair, deceptive, untrue, and misleading advertising pursuant to the FAL because Kroger has advertised Simple Truth

Coconutmilk in a manner that is untrue and misleading, which Kroger knew or reasonably should have known, and omitted material information from the Product's labeling and advertising.

236. Kroger profited from the sale of the falsely and deceptively advertised Product to unwary consumers.

237. As a result, Plaintiff, the Class, and the general public are entitled to injunctive and equitable relief, restitution, and an order for the disgorgement of the funds by which Kroger was unjustly enriched.

238. Pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17535, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Class, seeks an order enjoining Kroger from continuing to engage in deceptive business practices, false advertising, and any other act prohibited by law, including those set forth in this Complaint.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of the Consumer Legal Remedies Act,

Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 *et seq.*

239. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set forth in full herein.

240. The CLRA prohibits deceptive practices in connection with the conduct of a business that provides goods, property, or services primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

241. Kroger's false and misleading labeling and other policies, acts, and practices were designed to, and did, induce the purchase and use of Simple Truth Coconutmilk for personal, family, or household purposes by Plaintiff and Class Members, and violated and continue to violate the following sections of the CLRA:

a. § 1770(a)(5): representing that goods have characteristics, uses, or benefits which they do not have;

b. § 1770(a)(7): representing that goods are of a particular standard, quality, or grade if they are of another;

c. § 1770(a)(9): advertising goods with intent not to sell them as advertised; and

d. § 1770(a)(16): representing the subject of a transaction has been supplied in accordance with a previous representation when it has not.

242. Kroger profited from the sale of the falsely, deceptively, and unlawfully advertised Product to unwary consumers.

243. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 1782, on or around February 22, 2019, Plaintiff sent written notice of her claims and Kroger's particular violations of the Act to Kroger by certified mail, return receipt requested. At this time, Plaintiff only seeks restitution and injunctive relief under Civil Code § 1782(d) on behalf of herself and the Class.

244. In compliance with Cal. Civ. Code § 1780(d), Plaintiff's affidavit of venue is being filed concurrently herewith.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Breaches of Express Warranties,

Cal. Com. Code § 2313(1)

245. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set forth in full herein.

246. Through the following claims on the Product's labeling, Kroger made affirmations of fact or promises, or description of goods that the Product is "healthful" through the following labeling statements:

a. "Each serving of Simple Truth Coconutmilk is full of great flavor and healthy for you too. Made from real coconuts, it's an excellent source of calcium"; and

b. "It's also 100% free of . . . cholesterol" "Cholesterol Free Food".

1 255. As an actual and proximate result of Kroger's conduct, Plaintiff and the Class
 2 did not receive goods as impliedly warranted by Kroger to be merchantable in that they did
 3 not conform to promises and affirmations made on the container or label of the goods.

4 256. Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages as a proximate result of the
 5 foregoing breach of implied warranty in the amount of the Product's purchase price.

6 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

7 257. Wherefore, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself, all others similarly situated and the
 8 general public, prays for judgment against Kroger as to each and every cause of action, and
 9 the following remedies:

10 a. An Order declaring this action to be a proper class action, appointing
 11 Plaintiff as class representative, and appointing undersigned counsel as class counsel;

12 b. An Order requiring Kroger to bear the cost of class notice;

13 c. An Order compelling Kroger to conduct a corrective advertising
 14 campaign;

15 d. An Order compelling Kroger to destroy all misleading and deceptive
 16 advertising materials and product labels, and to recall all offending Products;

17 e. An Order requiring Kroger to disgorge all monies, revenues, and profits
 18 obtained by means of any wrongful act or practice;

19 f. An Order requiring Kroger to pay restitution to restore all funds acquired
 20 by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be an unlawful, unfair, or
 21 fraudulent business act or practice, or untrue or misleading advertising, plus pre-and
 22 post-judgment interest thereon;

23 g. An Order requiring Kroger to pay compensatory damages as permitted by
 24 law;

25 h. An award of attorneys' fees and costs; and

26 i. Any other and further relief that Court deems necessary, just, or proper.
 27
 28

JURY DEMAND

258. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: March 6, 2019

/s/ Paul K. Joseph

THE LAW OFFICE OF PAUL K. JOSEPH, PC

PAUL K. JOSEPH

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San Diego, CA 92110

Phone: (619) 767-0356

Fax: (619) 331-2943

Counsel for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

EVA GRAUSZ, on behalf of herself, all others similarly situated, and the general public

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff SAN DIEGO

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) The Law Office of Paul

K. Joseph, PC; 4125 W. Point Loma Blvd., No. 309; San Diego, CA

92110; (619) 767-0356

DEFENDANTS

THE KROGER CO.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

'19CV449 JLS AGS

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☒ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

28 U.S.C.S. 1332(d)(2) (the Class Action Fairness Act)

Brief description of cause: False Advertising (Violation of California UCL, FAL, and CLRA) and Breach of Warranties

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☒ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

3/6/19

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ Paul K. Joseph

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
 - (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
 - (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
- United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
- Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
- Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
- Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
- Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
- Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
- Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
- Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
- Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
- Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

1 **THE LAW OFFICE OF**
2 **PAUL K. JOSEPH, PC**
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5 4125 W. Pt. Loma Blvd., No. 309
6 San Diego, CA 92110
7 Phone: (619) 767-0356
8 Fax: (619) 331-2943
9 ***Counsel for Plaintiff and the Proposed***
10 ***Class***

11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
12 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

13 EVA GRAUSZ, on behalf of herself, all others
14 similarly situated, and the general public,

15 Plaintiff,

16 v.

17 THE KROGER CO.,
18 Defendant.

'19CV449 JLS AGS

**CONSUMERS LEGAL REMEDIES
ACT VENUE AFFIDAVIT [Cal. Civ
Code § 1780(d)]**

1 I, Eva Grausz, declare as follows:


2 1. I am the Plaintiff in this action. I make this affidavit as required by California
3 Civil Code § 1780(d).

4 2. The Complaint in this action is filed in a proper place for the trial of this action
5 because I reside in San Diego County.

6 3. The Complaint in this action is further filed in a proper place for the trial of this
7 action because the transactions that are the subject of the action, the purchase of Simple Truth
8 Coconutmilk, occurred in San Diego County, California.

9 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing
10 is true and correct.

11 Executed this 6th day of March, 2019, at San Diego, California.

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14 Eva Grausz
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ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Kroger's Simple Truth Coconutmilk Not as Healthy as Advertised, Class Action Claims](#)
