



# Public Opinion on Food

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CPSS340



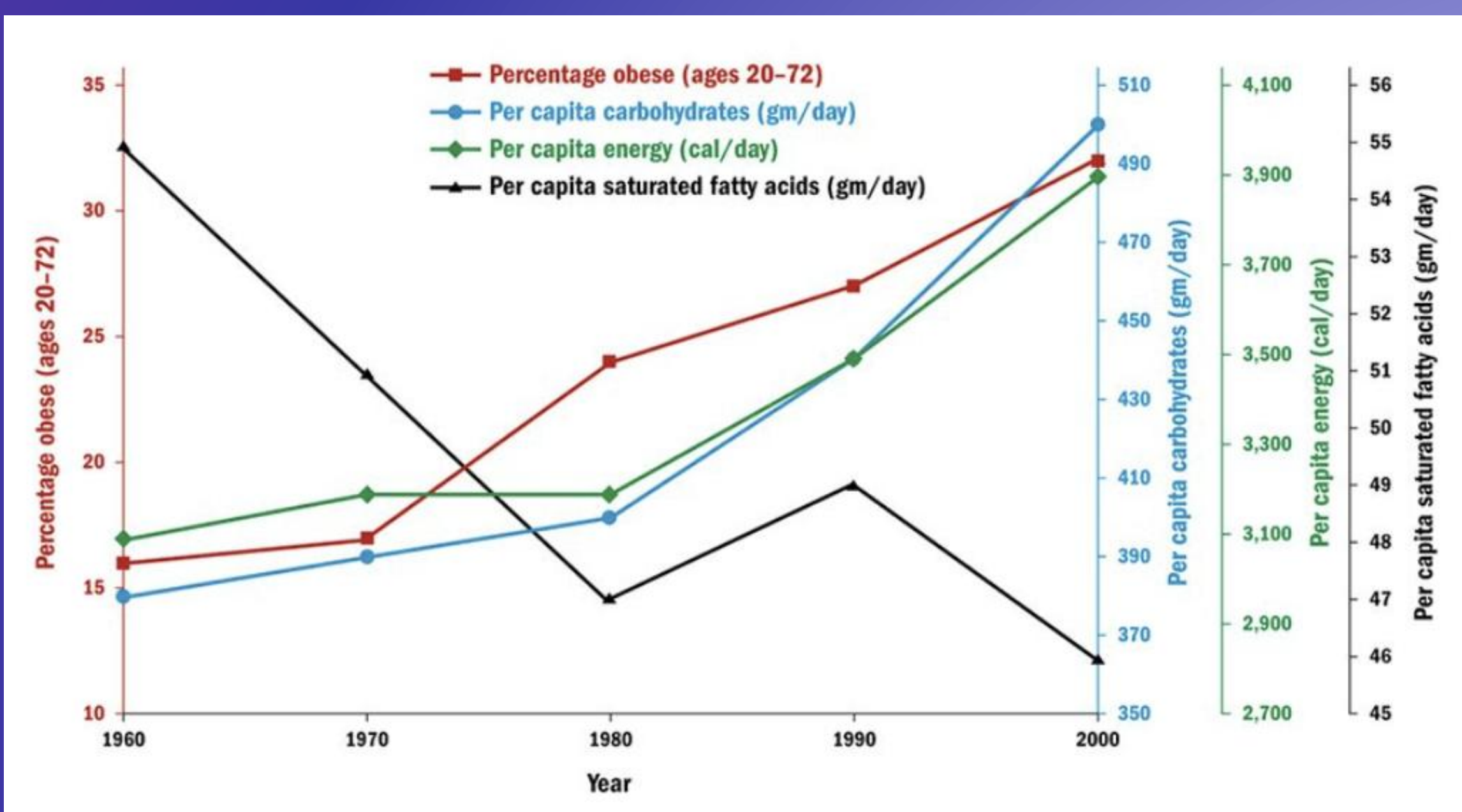
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## Introduction

For my practicum project, I took CPSS340, a course dedicated to the infrastructure and societal makeup of The United States. This semester, the content of the course was presented through the lens of food, which was used as the foundation through which we came to a greater understanding of infrastructural issues such as healthcare, rural planning, energy conservation, etc.

## Personal Project:

In concurrence with our lecture schedule, we each had the opportunity to research a topic that interested us. My research centered around the various ways in which powerful institutions have coerced public opinion surrounding American meals. My research included an interview with a member of the University of Maryland Marketing Department and an examination of a local religious institution who had ties to a prolific cereal institution in the 1920's.



Graph from the CATO Institute demonstrating how public opinion on different nutritional aspects of food has affected public health: <https://www.cato.org/policy-analysis/why-does-federal-government-issue-damaging-dietary-guidelines-lessons-thomas>

## The Researches' impact on myself:

This project recontextualized many of the opinions I've held surrounding food for my entire life. I always believed there was an objective truth behind much of the 'household knowledge' around the American meal, but there have been a myriad of commercial, militaristic, and even religious organizations that have shaped how the American populous views the food they eat, when they do so, and their demeanor while doing so.

## Site Information:

Name of Site: Cambridge Community Center

Address: 4232 Farm Drive, College Park, MD 20742

Your supervisor: Dr. Nicole Mogul

Goal of the class: Gain a deeper understanding of the infrastructure that allows our country to function.

My research topic: Corporate coercion of public opinion on food.

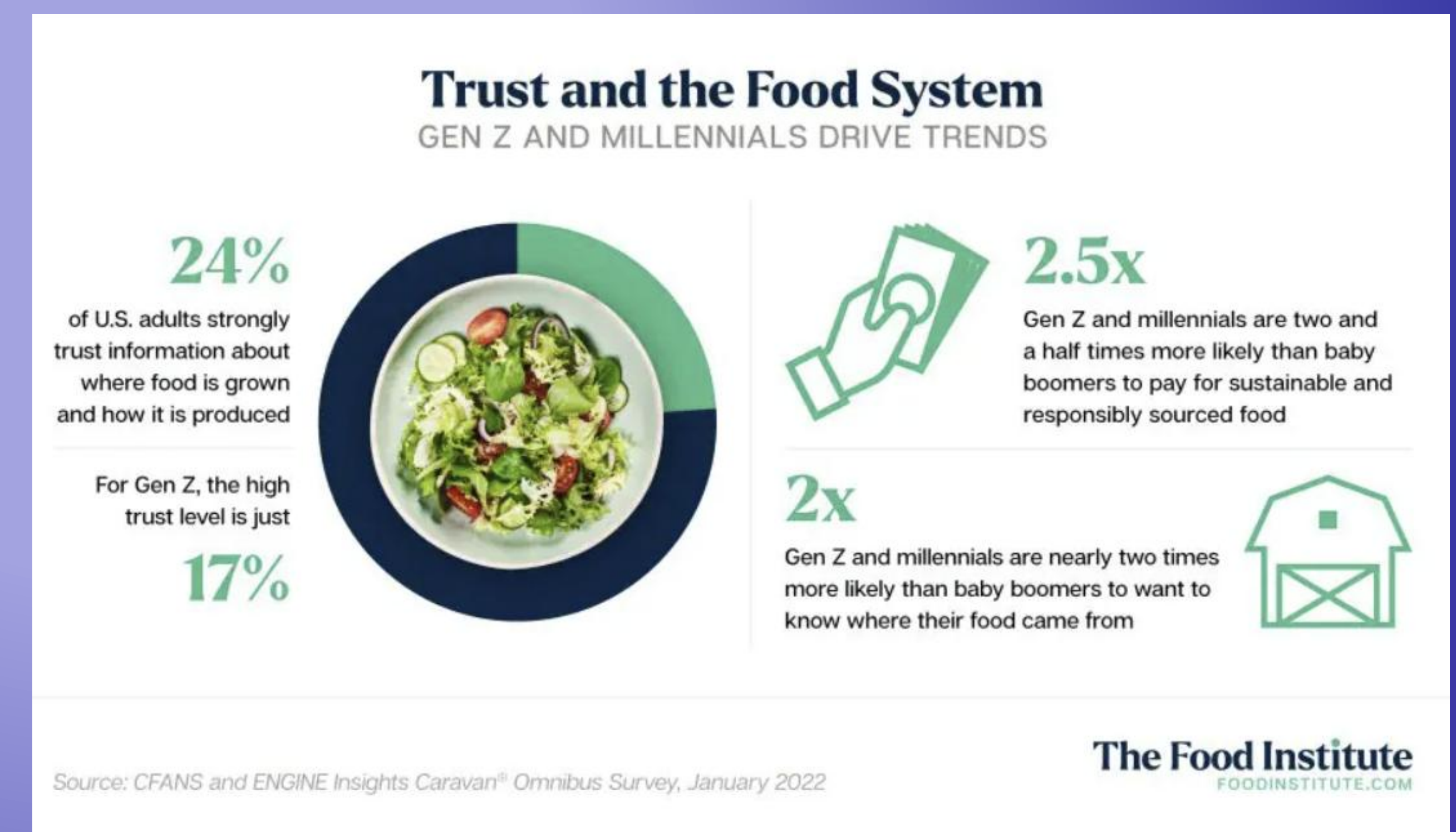


Chart from The Food Institute, using data from a publically funded study: <https://foodinstitute.com/consumerinsights/poll-most-americans-have-trust-gap-over-food-source-information/>

## Issues Encountered During Research:

The main issue I encountered during research was the lack of concrete data surrounding many of my arguments. Most of the studies I found were financed and twisted by corporate entities to push a certain agenda and sell a certain product.

## Future Work:

Using the knowledge I've accrued over the course of the project, I can better inform others about the objective truths behind the food we eat. The research has allowed me to strip away the outside influences that have controlled food health and safety for generations, giving me a more stable foundation of information that can improve my quality of life and, if I can reach enough people, can improve public health altogether.

## Acknowledgments:

I'd like to thank Dr. Holtz and Dr. Merck for all the work they've put into the Science and Global Change Program. I'd also like to give a special acknowledgement to Dr. Nicole Mogul, who fostered an environment of open creativity that brought out my best work during this project.

