HYGIENIC PRACTICES BY VENDORS OF THE STREET FOOD
“DOUBLES” AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF VENDING
PRACTICES IN TRINIDAD, WEST INDIES

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the hygienic practices by vendors of street food
“doubles” and the public perception of these practices. Doubles is an East
Indian-originated food comprised of two “baras” with a filling of curried
“channa”/chickpea (Cicer arietinum). A structured questionnaire was admin-
istered to 120 street vendors and 115 public members in Trinidad, West Indies. 
Most vendors are male (61.7%), had been vending for 5 years (81.7%) and
received primary level of education (72.5%). Preparation of doubles was
mainly by family (84.2%) in the morning of vending (81.7%). Vendors were
appropriately dressed (99.2%), used forks/spoons (100%) and tongs (81.7%)
for serving. At vending sites, containers with faucets supplied water (85.7%)
and toilets were not close (97.5%). Most respondents (86.1%) consumed
doubles. Some (30.6%) felt ill from eating doubles, but only 2.7% reported to
a medical doctor/health authority. Significant associations were found for
vending practices and sanitation of vending environment.