

**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 administered 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.*