

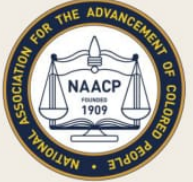
The Paradox of Public Health

Evidence, incentives and ethics in the FDA

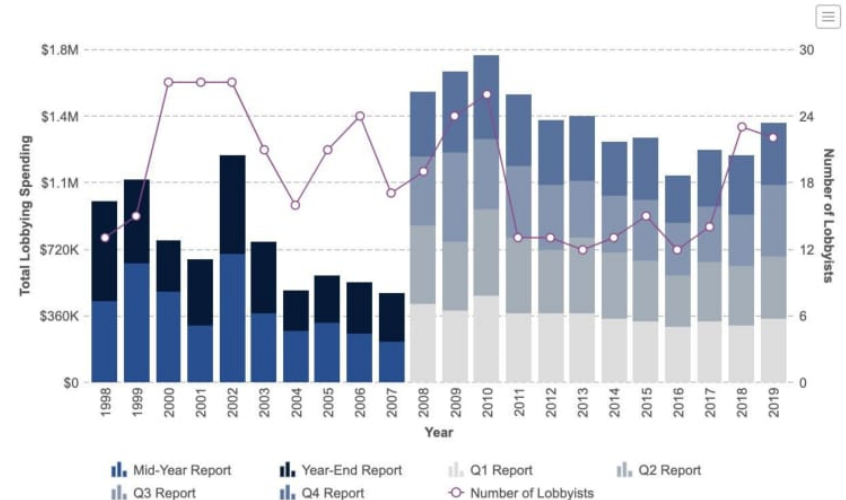
Jeffrey Lin

What is lobbying?

- Companies use lobbying agencies to push issues known as “Special Interests” in Congress
- Used to combat laws that hinder business practices or contract markets
- Can include donations to political groups, game tickets for certain politicians, funding for biased research, or just cash.

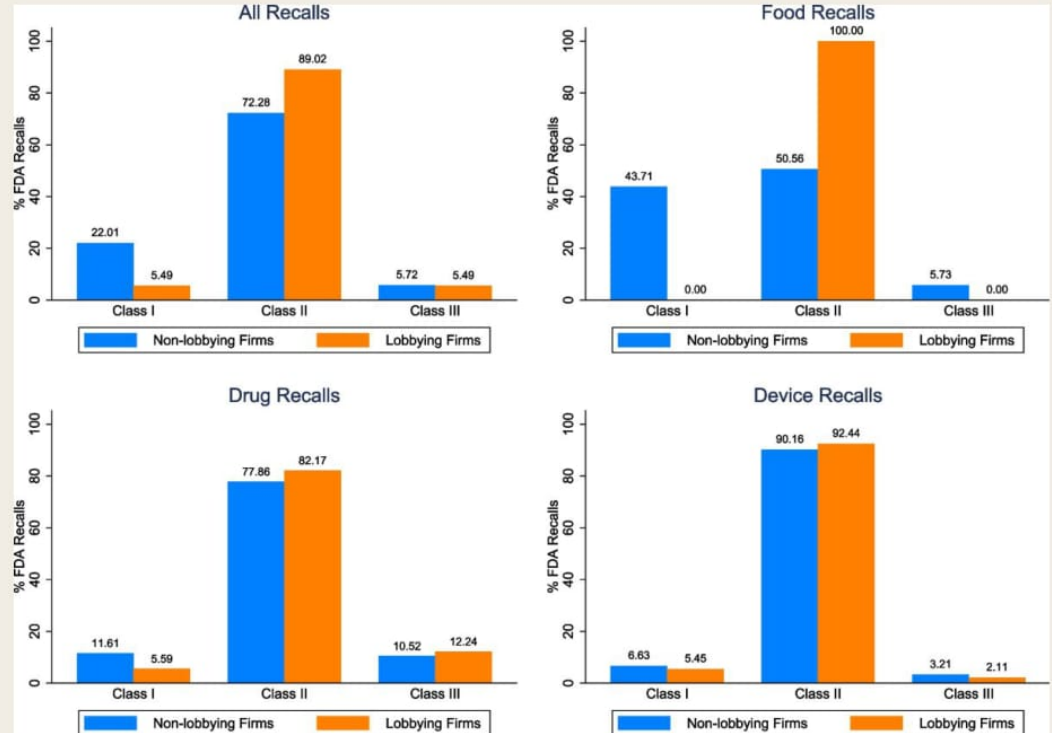


Annual Lobbying by Cargill Inc



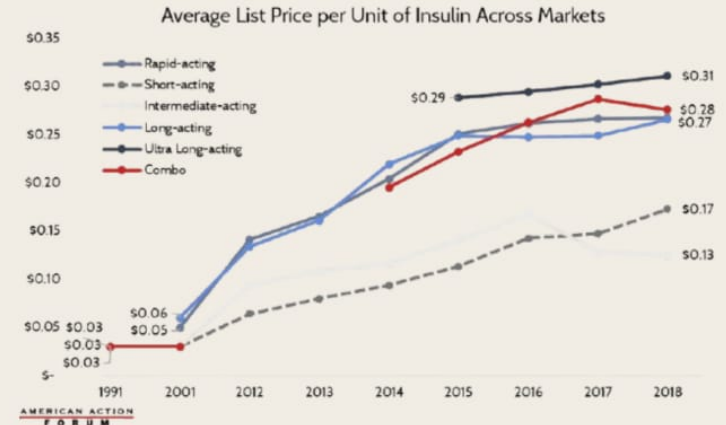
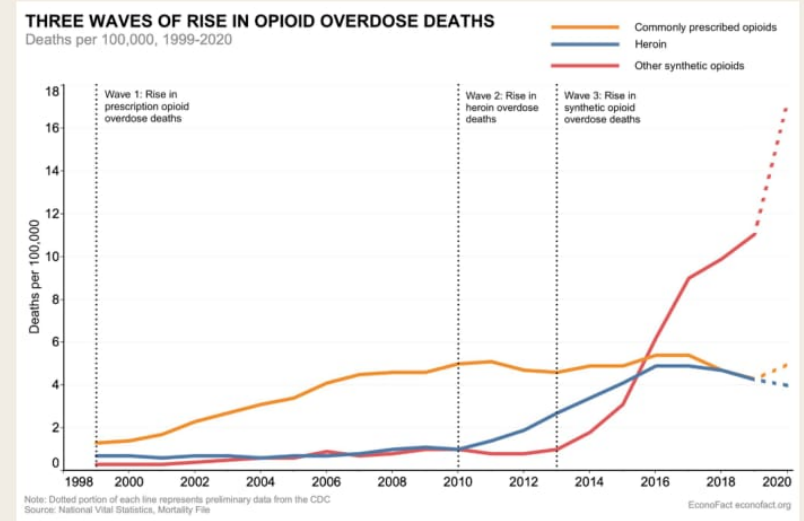
Lobbying and the FDA

- The industry that is lobbied the most is pharmaceuticals and health products, with over \$341,316,466 received in 2025
- And the health sector, including in industry, and the public and private sectors received \$653,233,604 in 2025.
- The FDA, the biggest governing body in the health industry, is currently being lobbied by 1,166 independent groups



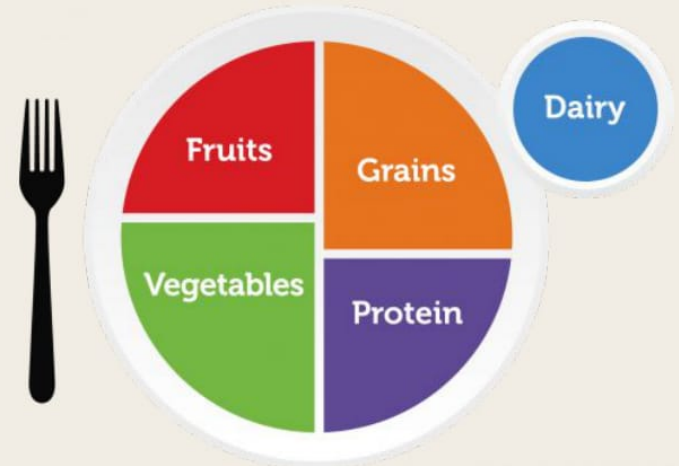
Impacts of lobbying

- Although lobbying does work to further specific targeted interests, there are significant drawbacks
 - Purdue pharma opiate crisis
 - Zyprexa diabetes risk scandal
 - Intellectual property on drug production
 - Tobacco playbook
 - And U.S. Nutrition labeling and regulations



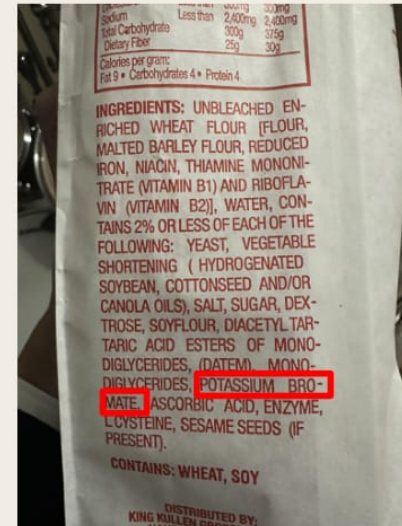
There are a few areas of concern related to U.S. food safety

- U.S. Sweetener & weight loss scandal
- U.S. food companies lobbied to have the FDA mess with scientifically backed nutritional recommendations
 - increase recommendations for caloric intake
 - Lessen emphasis on reduced fat consumption
 - Remove concerns placed by the W.H.O. regarding sugars
 - Put out biased studies with dubious evidence ethics by funding specific research organizations
 - pressured U.S. Politicians to extort the W.H.O. over 400 million dollars in funding to retract their statements about sugar



Continuing problems

- Similar problems are currently happening with food additives as well, where many livestock modulators, agricultural chemicals, and food additives available in the U.S. are banned in the EU.
- programs to reintroduce consumer freedoms over food safety are feeding more questionable research into the US nutrition scene.

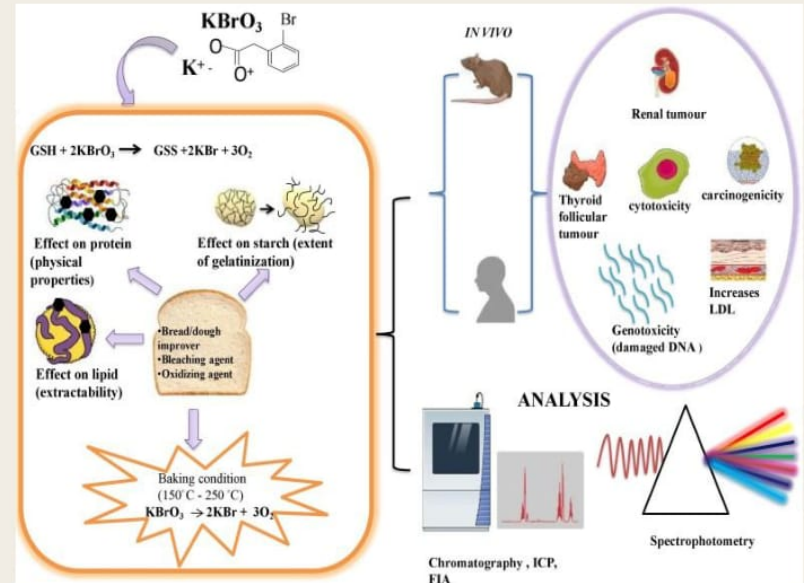


Public health and biomedical research

This is why I want to go into the field of biomedical research

- I completed multiple published and presented studies on the food additive potassium bromate
- And I have presented political science research in U.S. domestic lobbying and international political issues

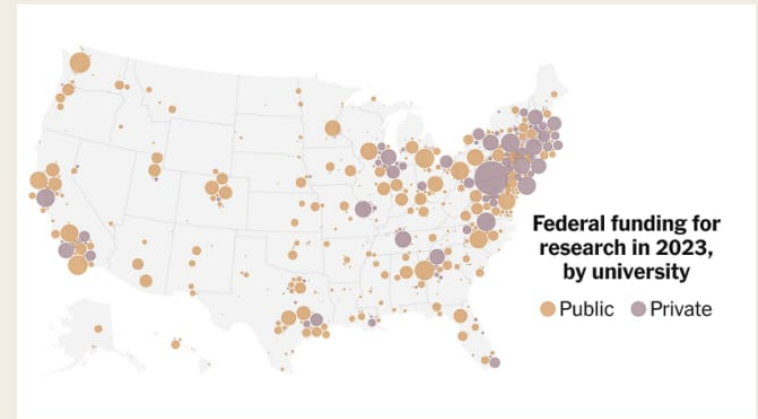
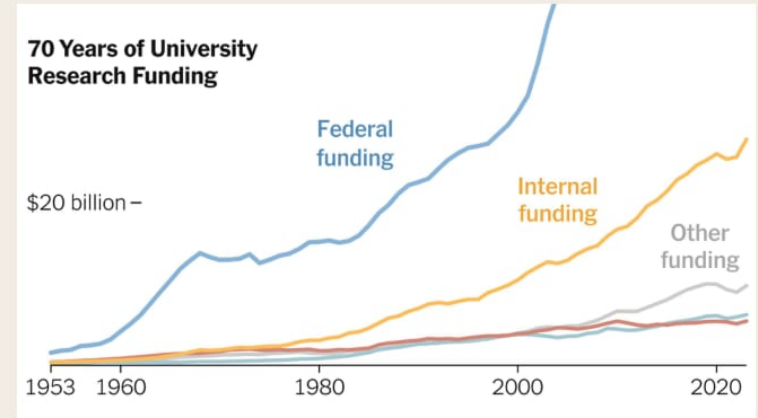
I hope to encourage transparent, independent research with reformation to US food policy.



Graphical summary of the effects and origin of potassium bromate. (figure by Shanmugavel et. al. 2019)

What I hope to do

- Large universities fund their research through a combination of federal funding and private endowments
- They represent the largest strongholds of somewhat independent research left in the U.S.
- I hope to continue my research in the public health field as an undergraduate and graduate student, adding impactful research to public policy decisions.



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