

HAINES





Starting weight

# THE GLP-1 PLAYBOOK

HOW TO THRIVE IN FOOD & DRINK WHEN APPETITE DISAPPEARS





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# WHAT'S IN THIS DOCUMENT?

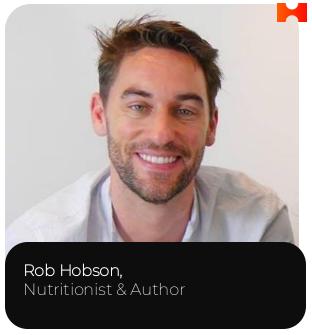
GLP-1

ADOPTION & EFFECTS

THE **CULTURAL CONTEXT** 

KEY IMPLICATIONS FOR CPG BRANDS













# THE APPETITE REVOLUTION HAS BEGUN

Glp-1 is rewiring how our society thinks about hunger, health and control – reshaping not just our diets, but the way we interact with both food, drink and each other.



# THE BIG QUESTION FOR BRANDS

HOW DO YOU PREPARE NOW - BEFORE DISRUPTION SCALES?

\$50BN

Global market in 2024, expected to triple by 2030

1 in 8

Of US adults have used GLP-1 drugs (12%)

2x

As many UK adults are using GLP-1 drugs in 2025 vs. 2024 (8%)

Source: Mintel





# BUT WHAT HAS LED US TO THE TIPPING POINT?

GLP-1 drugs aren't a new phenomenon. Originally formulated for diabetes treatment, GLP-1 has entered the cultural zeitgeist as a weight loss drug for those struggling with obesity.

### **OBESITY EPIDEMIC**

Rates of obesity have tripled since 1975 and this has become the defining public health concern of modern life – with both brands and governments aiming to tackle the issue.



### **WELLNESS CULTURE**

Influenced by a rising focus on health and a sense of control, consumers are taking their health into their own hands and moving from reactive medicine to proactive living.



## **SELF-OPTIMISATION**

Coined as the 'cult of self-discipline', modern culture celebrates morning routines, micro-habits and biohacking as status and identity markers.



# AESTHETIC OF RESTRAINT

From stricter routines to smaller plates, thin ideals are resurging on platforms like TikTok where stricter diet norms are amplified and supplements promise smaller appetites.



# SHIFTS IN BODY POSITIVITY

Size inclusivity has plateaued, with the number of fashion looks using plus-size models dropping sharply - from 0.8% in Spring/Summer 2025 to 0.3% by Autumn/Winter.







# GLP-1 USERS CONNECT WITH FOOD IN A DIFFERENT WAY

What do GLP-1 injections actually do to the body?



CONSUMERS ARE TYPICALLY LOOKING FOR LIGHTER FLAVOURS BECAUSE HEAVIER FLAVOURS AND TEXTURES CAN BE TOO HEAVY ON THEIR SYSTEMS

Caroline Withers, Product Experience Leader, Britvic





# **REDUCES FOOD NOISE**

GLP-1 quietens the constant mental chatter about eating and food fades into the background

# MINIMISES CONSUMPTION

Users eat slower, smaller and less often

# **LOWERS CRAVINGS**

Turns off the urge to seek and snack, with appetite coming optional and not instinctive

## **CHANGES TASTE**

Alters flavour perception, with rich, sugary and fatty foods losing their appeal in favour of fresh, protein-dense alternatives

# REWIRES EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

Weakens the link between food and comfort, with eating feeling more functional than emotional





# BUT LOW APPETITE LIVING COULD BECOME THE NORM FOR THE MANY, NOT THE FEW

GLP-1 drugs are only one expression of a much broader shift toward low-appetite lifestyles spanning medicine, wellness, and mindset.



# Appetite-suppressing wellness aids

"Natural GLP-1 mimics" are booming across TikTok and the wellness market, such as Kourtney Kardashian's brand Lemme launching GLP-1 vitamin supplements

# Intermittent fasting

Nearly 1 in 5 U.S. adults now practice some form of fasting, positioning restraint as a normalised daily behaviour

# Alternative eating movements

From the carnivore diet's radical simplicity to plant-based minimalism and clean-label eating, trending diets all orbit around discipline, control, and "less"

Sources: Cleveland Clinic | Yahoo Life





# LEADING TO A POPULATION OF USERS WITH SPLIT MOTIVATIONS

As adoption grows and culture amplifies the lifestyle and identity benefits of rapid weight loss, we see two distinct groups emerging: those driven by **longevity** and those driven by **image**.

This divergence creates both risk and responsibility for brands.

Brand must shape the narrative, not chase it – guiding behaviour with credibility, empathy and education to support a positive narrative for consumers.



YOUNGER PEOPLE 18–
34 ARE TWICE AS
LIKELY TO BE ON GLP-1
BUT STATISTICALLY
MUCH LESS LIKELY TO
BE OBESE. IT IS
ACTUALLY A LOT ABOUT
LOOKS AND GETTING
THAT BEACH BODY

Jonny Forsyth, Food & Drink Analyst, Mintel



# LIFESPAN & DISEASE PREVENTION

VS.

LIFESTYLE & AESTHETICS





# "THIS COULD BE THE MOST DISRUPTIVE EVENT FOOD & DRINK HAS EVER EXPERIENCED, BUT THAT'S A BIG IF."

JONNY FORSYTH, FOOD & DRINK ANALYST, MINTEL

Considering market dynamics and cultural nuance is important.

Whilst GLP-1 is rapidly expanding in the US, stricter regulations may slow down the roll out across Europe.





# GLP-1 MIGHT BE RE-DEFINING THE GAME...

BUT THIS OPENS
UP THE FIELD
FOR BOLD BRANDS
TO EVOLVE AND WIN.





# WE SEE 4 BIG SHIFTS HITTING THE FOOD & DRINK INDUSTRY

# FLAVOUR & INDULGENCE RE-WIRED

With users drawn to freshness, lightness, and different flavours - pleasure is no longer about excess; it's about precision.

## **FUELING GATHERINGS**

As appetite fades, the rituals that create joy, ritual and belonging take new forms.

## FRAGMENTED MEALTIMES

Traditional meal occasions are dissolving into smaller, more functionally-driven eating moments.

# **LOST IDENTITIES**

Consumers who once identified as 'foodies' are not only turning to new categories - but searching for fresh meaning.













DEPENDENT ON THE SCALE AND DISRUPTION OF GLP-1 IN YOUR CATEGORY, YOUR STRATEGY SHOULD VARY. 01



02 EVOLVE

**ADAPTIVE EVOLUTION** 

Mindset: Stay true to your brand through small, smart innovations and flexible pipelines.

02



03
REIMAGINE

**PROACTIVE GROWTH** 

Mindset: Lead the narrative on what eating, drinking and indulgence mean in a world of low appetite.



OI DEFEND

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Mindset: Be proactive, but not panicked. Watch and adapt to the signals.







## GOAL

Protect brand equity, emotional relevance and shortterm performance while the market is still developing.



- Double down on emotional branding, defending occasions, joy and connection that GLP-1 threatens to shrink
- Ensure core SKUs remain relevant to lighter or mindful consumption
- Begin to own the health narrative by educating around mindful eating
- Set up consumer listening and feedback loops to track category adoption closely

# O2 | EVOLVE

## GOAL

Evolve your core portfolio and comms to meet emerging needs.

## TACTICS

- Re-think consumption occasions, from meals and snacks to nutrient-dense mini meals
- Re-balance portfolios toward satiety, hydration and mindful indulgence
- Innovate within your core lighter formats, aerated textures, flavours that combat side-effects i.e. mint, cucumber, umami



## GOAL

Create new sources of growth as the category reshapes.



- Explore new business models -M&A or partnerships in nutrition, pharmaceutical or functional health companies
- Define your strategy to re-define indulgence and social food culture
- Lead on education and health equity, helping consumers make the most of eating less
- Build the future category through functional formats, smaller packs, and nutrient dense innovation



# GLP-1 PLAYBOOK ACTION SESSION

Understanding how you can act on these shifts is key to winning in a changing market.

We've deep-dived into each key shift and developed actionable guidance on how to respond to key CPG shifts caused by GLP-1.

We'll tailor our DEFEND, EVOLVE, REIMAGINE framework to help you and your team feel ready for the future of your category.

# **DEFEND - EVOLVE - REIMAGINE**













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