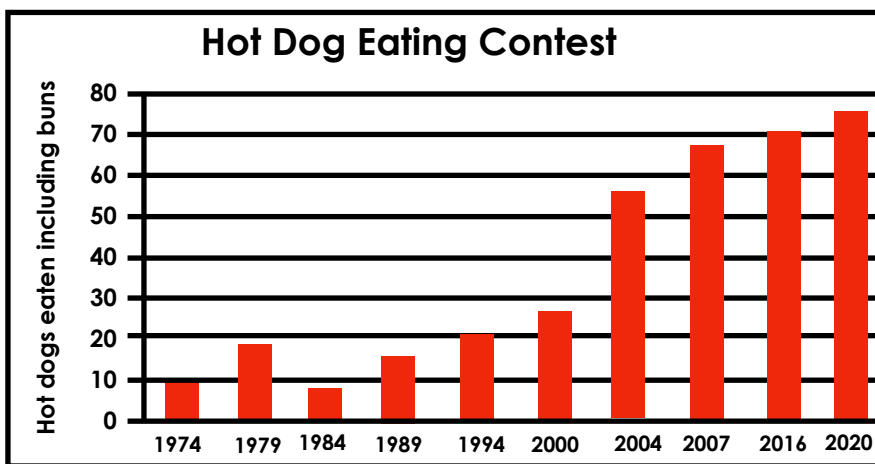


HOT DOG EATING CONTESTS

When the average person indulges in a few hot dogs for dinner, they have one, two, or maybe three at the most. Imagine, if you will, eating 75 franks and buns in a mere ten minutes. It might sound preposterous, but that is exactly what competitive eating titan and men's champion, Joey Chestnut, did at the famous hot dog eating contest. They don't call him Joey "Jaws" Chestnut for nothing.



This particular hot dog eating contest is held every year on July 4th on Coney Island, a neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. The promoter, Mortimer Matz, claimed that in 1916, four immigrants held the first contest in an attempt to see who was the most patriotic.

The contestants stand on a raised platform behind a long table with the world famous hot dogs, buns, and drinks to wash the franks down. Water is the drink of choice for many, but other beverages have been consumed as well. Condiments are permitted but typically are not used, and the hot dogs are allowed to cool prior to consumption, so the contestants don't burn their mouths.

Competitors have it down to a science, and the competition is serious with penalty cards for messy eating and "reversal of fortune" — a diplomatic way of describing an unfortunate, but frequent, occurrence. The men's league winners get to take home a condiment-yellow belt, and the women's league winner earns a pink one, appropriately sponsored by a pink-branded antacid company. They also win \$10,000 each; not too bad for ten minutes of "work"!

