

Economics of Obesity Special Interest Group Newsletter December 2022

Here is our brief update on economics of obesity related activities from around our regions.

IHEA CONFERENCE CAPE TOWN

You'll all be aware that abstracts have closed for IHEA Conference Cape Town – I know that many abstracts and at least one organized session were submitted from our SIG. The theme of the conference is Diversity in Health Economics, and it is taking place from **July 8-12, 2023** in Cape Town. Its looking to be a great conference. There will be an opportunity to meet other SIG members at the Conference – watch this space for more details.

NEWS FROM UK

Value of green and blue space

The Centre for Economics of Obesity (CEO) hosted an **ESRC Festival of Social Science** event at the Exchange in Birmingham (UK) on Saturday 5th November.

Community members engaged in group discussions and contributed their ideas and diverse experiences on enablers and barriers to using green and blue spaces for physical activity.

Members of the CEO **Emma Frew**, **Lin Fu** and **Irina Pokhilenko** were joined by Eva Bennet from our CEO Public Advisory Group in facilitating the group discussions. The event was organised by **Nafsika Afentou Humera Sultan** and **Hanna Wride** from the CEO. Special thanks to **Hamideh Mohtashami Borzadaran** (CEO) for photos of the event's highlights.

We plan to collate the identified themes in a report that will be shared with the participants and available on our CEO website <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/centre-for-the-economics-of-obesity/index.aspx>.



NEWS FROM USA

In the US, the White House hosted a Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in September 2022, which led to the administration releasing a national strategy on hunger, nutrition, and health that included policy ideas and public/private partnerships that have the potential to influence obesity (and hunger, nutrition, physical activity, and health). This is only the second conference like

this; the first happened over 50 years ago and was influential in expanding food assistance programs and setting the agenda for food policy. More information about this conference is available at: <https://health.gov/our-work/nutrition-physical-activity/white-house-conference-hunger-nutrition-and-health>

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

The International Congress of Obesity was hosted in Melbourne in October this year, with over 1000 delegates. Sadly, economics did not have a very high profile, but it was a very good conference and for many Australians this was their first face to face conference since the pandemic.

Some Recent Australian publications

- Robinson E, Parker C, Carey R, Foerster A, Blake MR, Sacks G. Integrating nutrition and obesity prevention considerations into institutional investment decisions regarding food companies: Australian investment sector perspectives. *Global Health*. 2022 Nov 8;18(1):93. doi: 10.1186/s12992-022-00885-7. PMID: 36348484; PMCID: PMC9640902.
- Killedar A, Wen LM, Tan EJ, Marshall S, Taki S, Buchanan L, Rissel C, Xu H, Baur LA, Hayes A. Economic evaluation of the Communicating Healthy Beginnings Advice by Telephone trial for early childhood obesity prevention. *Obesity (Silver Spring)*. 2022 Nov;30(11):2256-2264. doi: 10.1002/oby.23547. Epub 2022 Sep 27. PMID: 36168138.
- Ananthapavan J, Tran HNQ, Morley B, Hart E, Kennington K, Stevens-Cutler J, Bowe SJ, Crosland P, Moodie M. Cost-effectiveness of LiveLighter® - a mass media public education campaign for obesity prevention. *PLoS One*. 2022 Sep 21;17(9):e0274917. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0274917. PMID: 36129952; PMCID: PMC9491524.
- Carvalho N, Sousa TV, Mizdrak A, Jones A, Wilson N, Blakely T. Comparing health gains, costs and cost-effectiveness of 100s of interventions in Australia and New Zealand: an online interactive league table. *Popul Health Metr*. 2022 Jul 27;20(1):17. doi: 10.1186/s12963-022-00294-3. PMID: 35897104; PMCID: PMC9327210.
- Maple JL, Ananthapavan J, Ball K, Teychenne M, Moodie M. Economic evaluation of an incentive-based program to increase physical activity and reduce sedentary behaviour in middle-aged adults. *BMC Health Serv Res*. 2022 Jul 19;22(1):932. doi: 10.1186/s12913-022-08294-7. PMID: 35854379; PMCID: PMC9297637.
- Dona SWA, Angeles MR, Nguyen D, Gao L, Hensher M. Obesity and Bariatric Surgery in Australia: Future Projection of Supply and Demand, and Costs. *Obes Surg*. 2022 Sep;32(9):3013-3022. doi: 10.1007/s11695-022-06188-5. Epub 2022 Jul 8. PMID: 35804237; PMCID: PMC9392713.
- Lane C, Nathan N, Reeves P, Sutherland R, Wolfenden L, Shoesmith A, Hall A. Economic evaluation of a multi-strategy intervention that improves school-based physical activity policy implementation. *Implement Sci*. 2022 Jun 28;17(1):40. doi: 10.1186/s13012-022-01215-6. PMID: 35765018; PMCID: PMC9238093.