

Economics of Obesity Special Interest Group Newsletter

July 2024

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

HEALTH ECONOMICS/OBESITY CONFERENCES

- **European Congress on Obesity (Venice Italy, May 2024).** The 31st European Congress on Obesity was held 12-15 May, and attracted a record number of conference delegates. A highlight of the conference was an excellent plenary lecture by Assoc Prof David Bann from UCL on socioeconomic position and obesity. There were several economics of obesity related presentations included and abstract session on Obesity Costs and Inequalities. This session focused on new obesity management pharmaceuticals.
- **World Public Health Nutrition Congress (London, UK, June 2024).** The four-day congress, themed 'Questioning the Solutions: has the Decade of Nutrition delivered' was attended by over 600 delegates. The corporate determinants of health and ultra-processed foods were prominent topics.

Look out for the following presentations:

- **The European Health Economics Association (EuHEA)** will have their annual conference 30th June-3rd July, in Vienna https://euhea.eu/welcome_conference_2024 A number of Economics of Obesity SIG members will be presenting

Parallel session 1: Experimental health economics, miscellaneous topics, Room TC4.12. 1 July. 10.30-12.00

- Hamideh Mohtashami Borzadaran: Healthy choices at your fingertips: The impact of nutritional labels on online shopping decisions
- Nafsika Afentou: What's for lunch? Eliciting preferences for food on university campus

Parallel session 4. Prevention Topics. TC.4.12. 1 July. 5.00pm – 6pm

- Nafsika Afentou: Bringing research into policy: A collaborative approach to informing investment prioritisation for promoting physical activity in natural environments.

Parallel session 5: Environmental and nutritional determinants of health. TC 4.12, 2 July. 0830-1000am

- Bisolo Osifowora: Cost-benefit analysis of expanding access to Affordable School Meals in the West Midlands, England
- Lin Fu: Economics evidence on food system interventions: A systematic review of reviews

Parallel session 5: Regulations and commitments. TC 4.03, 2 July. 0830-10.00am

- Humera Sultan: Stakeholder consultation and local government decision making – an example of using an academic partnership role to facilitate engagement and gain access to LA data for health economic modelling
- **The American Society of Health Economists** annual conference was in June in San Diego, California (<https://www.ashecon.org/2024-san-diego/>). The conference included sessions on a variety of topics related to health economics, including 6 sessions on food and nutrition and papers related to health care financing, health equity, the organization of care, and child and infant health that are relevant to the economics of obesity. Presentations by members of the Economics of Obesity SIG addressed topics related to the influence of changes in BMI on changes in later-life health care costs and utilization and the influence of calorie information on consumer behavior.
- **The Australian Association of Health Economics (AHES)** annual meeting will take place in Sydney, 19-20th September. <https://ahes.org.au/ahes-conference-2024/> We would love to catch up with Economics of Obesity SIG members and will organize an informal gathering closer to the date.

Updates from Centre of Economics of Obesity (CEO) (Birmingham, UK)

Stakeholder advisory group meeting.

The CEO held their annual advisory group meeting with their stakeholder advisory group on 5 June 2024. It was a great day with productive discussions and feedback from the range of stakeholders including local and regional government as well as Sport England, the University, and PPI representatives.



The CEO were also delighted to host Dr Jaithri Ananthapavan who leads the Economics of Obesity team at Deakin University on a research visit to the UK. Jaithri joined us for our team meeting along with a series of 1-2-1 meetings with all the staff. Plenty of opportunities for collaboration!



PUBLICATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Australia

Lung, T., Killedar, A., Taki, S. *et al.* Differences in weight status among Australian children and adolescents from priority populations: a longitudinal study. *Int J Obes* **48**, 702–708 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41366-024-01471-0>

Laws RA, Zheng M, Brown V, Lymer S, Campbell KJ, Russell CG, Taki S, Litterbach E, Ong KL, Denney-Wilson E. The impacts of an mHealth intervention targeting parents on health service usage and out-of-pocket costs in the first 9 months of life: The Growing healthy app. *Matern Child Nutr.* 2024 May 28:e13662. doi: 10.1111/mcn.13662. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38804571.

Evaluations of Obesity-Targeted Sugar-Sweetened Beverage (SSB) Taxes-A Review to Identify Methodological Issues. *Health Policy.* 2024 Jun;144:105076. doi: 10.1016/j.healthpol.2024.105076. Epub 2024 Apr 22. PMID: 38692186.

Tran HNQ, Al Subhi M, Ward N, Nguyen P, Sultana M, Ananthapavan J, Brown V. How much is invested in obesity prevention in Australia? An analysis of major research and Federal Government funding, 2013–2022. *Public Health Res Pract.* 2024;34(1):e3412404.

Tran HNQ, Krattli S, Ward N, Ananthapavan J. Australian hospital healthy retail policies – an analysis and scoping review of potential impacts on dietary behaviours. *Public Health Res Pract.* 2024;34(1):e3412406.

UK/Europe

Hoogendoorn M, Galekop M, van Baal P. The lifetime health and economic burden of obesity in five European countries: what is the potential impact of prevention? *Diabetes Obes Metab.* 2023 Aug;25(8):2351-2361. doi: 10.1111/dom.15116. Epub 2023 May 24. PMID: 37222003.

Harron K, Cavallaro FL, Bunting C, Clery A, Kendall S, Cassidy R, Atkins J, Saloniki EC, Bedford H, Woodman J. Study protocol: evaluation of the 0-5 public health investment in England - a mixed-methods study integrating analyses of national linked administrative data with in-depth case studies. *BMJ Open.* 2023 Apr 5;13(4):e073313. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-073313. PMID: 37019495; PMCID: PMC10083857.

USA/Canada

Du M, Griecci CF, Cudhea F, Eom H, Wong JB, Wilde P, Kim DD, Michaud DS, Wang YC, Mozaffarian D, Zhang FF; Food-PRICE Project. What is the cost-effectiveness of menu calorie labelling on reducing obesity-associated cancer burdens? An economic evaluation of a federal policy intervention among 235 million adults in the USA. *BMJ Open.* 2023 Apr 18;13(4):e063614. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2022-063614. PMID: 37072239; PMCID: PMC10186398.

Olivieri, AV., Muratov, S., Larsen, S. *et al.* Cost-effectiveness of weight-management pharmacotherapies in Canada: a societal perspective. *Int J Obes* **48**, 683–693 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41366-024-01467-w>

Nagi, M.A., Ahmed, H., Rezaq, M.A.A. *et al.* Economic costs of obesity: a systematic review. *Int J Obes* **48**, 33–43 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41366-023-01398-y>