

Centre for Health Economics presents

TAXES ON ENERGY-DENSE FOODS

Presenter: Prof John Cawley, Cornell University
Date: Thursday 21 July 2016
Time: 11.00am - 12.00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
Centre for Health Economics



Abstract:

Perhaps the most commonly-proposed policy to prevent and reduce obesity is a tax on energy-dense (i.e. high-calorie and generally low-nutrient) food. In this seminar, John Cawley discusses the economic rationale for such taxes, and presents results from two related studies. The first examines the extent to which the tax on sugar-sweetened beverages in Berkeley, California (the first U.S. jurisdiction to tax energy-dense drinks for public health reasons) was passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices. The second study is a randomized controlled field experiment that estimates the extent to which consumers respond to changes in the relative price of nutritious versus less nutritious foods. Together, the two studies provide important information about the effects of taxes on energy-dense foods.

Presenter:

John Cawley is a Professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and John Cawley PictureManagement, and the Department of Economics, at Cornell University, where he co-directs the Institute on Health Economics, Health Behaviors and Disparities. John is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Sydney, an Honorary Professor at the National University of Ireland, Galway, and a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).

John's primary field of research is the economics of risky health behaviors, with a focus on the economics of obesity. He studies the economic causes of obesity, the economic consequences of obesity, and economic approaches to obesity treatment and prevention.

John serves as an Editor of the Journal of Health Economics, an Associate Editor of Health Economics, and on the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Health Economics.

John is the recipient of the Investigator Award in Health Policy Research from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the John D. Thompson Prize for Young Investigators from the Association of University Programs in Health Administration and the Charles C. Shepard Science Award in Prevention and Control from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME

The seminar is free of charge. For further information please phone 9905 0733 or email Clare.Austin@monash.edu

Over 25 Years of Health Economics at Monash University