

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: **Do low prices for foods and beverages increase children's weight?**

Type of Report
(ERR, EIB, EB)

ERR

Influential Scientific Information

Agency:

Economic Research Service
USDA

Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact:

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Subject of Review:

The rate of overweight among children has tripled over the past 30 years. Michelle Obama's *Let's Move* campaign highlights the growing public interest in finding ways to reduce the trend. Identifying economic factors that contribute to the obesity phenomenon is essential in designing appropriate policies to combat this epidemic. To investigate the effect of food prices for select health/unhealthy foods on children's BMI, this study linked panel data on children's BMI, demographic and household characteristics from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey Kindergarten cohort to average retail food prices from the Quarterly Food-at-Home Price Database. BMI was regressed on lagged prices (one quarter and one year lags) using fixed effects regressions to control for unobserved factors that are likely correlated with BMI. Alternative specifications included price changes over the previous quarter and previous year. Regressions were conducted on the full sample and also separately for boys and girls. Quantile regressions were used to explore whether heavier children have different responses to prices than thinner children.

Purpose of Review:

The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review:

Panel Review

Individual Reviewers

Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.):

Start: 12/03/10 End: 01/18/11 Completed: 03/10/11

Number of Reviewers:

3 or fewer

4 to 10

More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by:

Agency

Designated Outside
Organization

Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment?

Yes

No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?

Yes

No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?

Yes

No

