

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Association between Restaurant Menu Label Use and Caloric Intake

Type of Report
(ERR, EIB, EB,
TB, SOR,)

ERR

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Cindy Nickerson, cnickerson@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: Using cross-sectional data from the 2007-08, 2009-10, and 2013-14 Flexible Consumer Behavior Survey module of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, we analyze the association between restaurant menu label use and total and source-specific daily caloric intakes among U.S. adults aged 20 and older who saw nutrition information on a menu the last time they visited a fast-food or sit-down restaurant. In a regression analysis that controls for a rich set of demographic characteristics and other factors, we find that restaurant menu label users consume significantly fewer total calories per day than do nonusers. Fast-food and sit-down restaurant menu label use are both significantly associated with lower total daily caloric intake and the associations are estimated to be of similar magnitudes. The total daily calorie consumption difference between restaurant menu label users and nonusers is mainly driven by restaurant menu label users' lower intake of calories from the restaurants in which the nutrition information was observed. Taken together, the results in this report suggest that nutrition information on restaurant menus may be helping some consumers to align their orders according to their demand for lower restaurant calories which, in turn, is also helping them to keep their total daily caloric intake lower relative to other consumers who see but do not use the information.

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 [X] Individual Reviewers

[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 12/7/17 Completed: 05/09/18 Withdrawn: XX/XX/XX

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [x] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization

Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No

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

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No