The Economics of Obesity

A Workshop Organized by the Economic Research Service, USDA, the Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, and the George J. Stigler Center for the Study of the Economy and the State, University of Chicago

Waugh Auditorium, 3rd Floor
Economic Research Service, USDA
1800 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-5831

8:00–8:30 a.m.
Continental Breakfast

8:30–9:00 a.m.
Welcome and Introduction
Betsey Kuhn .................................................. Director
Food & Rural Economics Division, ERS, USDA
Susan Offutt .................................................. Administrator
ERS, USDA
Tomas Philipson .............................................. University of Chicago

9:00–10:30 a.m.
Causes of the Growth in Obesity
Fred Kuchler .................................................. Moderator
ERS, USDA

Why Have Americans Become More Obese?
David M. Cutler .............................................. Harvard University
The Growth of Obesity and Technological Change
Tomas Philipson .............................................. University of Chicago
Pauline Ippolito ............................................. Discussant
Federal Trade Commission

10:30–10:45 a.m.
Coffee Break

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
Causes of the Growth in Obesity
Betsy Frazao .................................................. Moderator
ERS, USDA

An Economic Analysis of Adult Obesity: Results from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
Michael Grossman ......................................... National Bureau of Economic Research
Maternal Employment and Overweight Children
Patricia Anderson ........................................... Dartmouth College
Alok Bhargava ................................................ Discussant
University of Houston

12:15–1:15 p.m.
Lunch
1:15–2:45 p.m.
Consequences of the Growth in Obesity
Biing Hwan-Lin ................................................................. Moderator
ERS, USDA
The Labor Market Impacts of Obesity
John Cawley ................................................................. Cornell University
Health Insurance: Obesity and its Economic Costs
Jay Bhattacharya ............................................................ Stanford University
Darius Lakdawalla .......................................................... Discussant
RAND Institute for Civil Justice

2:45–3:00 p.m.
Coffee Break

3:00–4:30 p.m.
Implications for Theory and Practice
Craig Gundersen ............................................................ Moderator
ERS, USDA
Obesity and Nature’s Thumbprint: How Modern Waistlines Can Inform Economic Theory
Trent Smith ................................................................. University of Bonn
Methods of Surveying Diet and Physical Activity
Richard Forshee ............................................................ Virginia Tech University
Parke Wilde ................................................................. Discussant
ERS, USDA

4:30–5:00 p.m.
Federal Role and Future of Obesity Research
David Smallwood ............................................................ Moderator
ERS, USDA
Jay Variyam ................................................................. Discussant
ERS, USDA
Pauline Ippolito ............................................................. Discussant
Federal Trade Commission
Tomas Philipson ............................................................ Discussant
University of Chicago

5:00 p.m.
Conclusion