



HSRAANZ Webinar Series

Real World Cost Effectiveness of Mandatory Folic Acid Fortification of Bread Making Flour in Australia

Sopany Saing, Research Fellow at Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) - Early career researcher winner 2019 HSRAANZ Best Health Services & Policy Research Paper

Thursday 7 May 2020 at 11.30am AEST

There is no cost to attend the Webinar but registration is essential. Please register at: https://utsmeet.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3Zy0Ns7NQ0CmZr4aCTltew

The Webinar will be about 40 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for Q and A.

Abstract

Using real-world data, this study provides the first ex-post evaluation of the cost effectiveness of mandatory folic acid fortification of bread-making flour in Australia. A decision tree model was developed to compare different fortification strategies and used registry data to quantify the change in neural tube defect rates due to the policy. A societal perspective was adopted that included costs to industry and government as well as healthcare and broader societal costs. Mandatory folic acid fortification improved health outcomes and we found 32 fewer neural tube defects per year in the post-mandatory folic acid fortification period. Despite the high up-front cost to flour millers and bakers, the total cost of the policy was low per capita. Overall, mandatory folic acid fortification was highly cost effective. The study proves it is extremely likely mandatory fortification has improved health and reduced healthcare costs for the Australian population. This policy showcases the benefits of the healthcare system working with government and industry in delivering a public health approach.

Biography

Ms Sopany Saing is a Research Fellow at CHERE and has completed a Master in Public Health (health economics and health policy) at the University of Sydney. Sopany has completed a Bachelor of Commerce (Business Economics) and a Bachelor of Science (Honours Class I Medical Microbiology and Immunology) from the University of New South Wales. She is currently completing a PhD at CHERE in Health Technology Assessment methodologies. Since joining CHERE she has reviewed and conducted evaluations for Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and the Medical Services Advisory Committee. She has received a Faculty of Business grant looking at the cost-effectiveness of infant sleep programs. She has also completed a number of commissioned projects for FSANZ and NSW Health.