

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

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ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	How prices and income influence global patterns in saturated fat intake by age, sex, and world region: a cross-sectional analysis of 160 countries
AUTHORS	Ahles, Amelia; MUHAMMAD, ANDREW; Yenerall, Jacqueline; Reedy, Julia; Shi, Peilin; Zhang, Jianyi; Cudhea, Frederick; Erndt-Marino, Josh; Miller, Victoria; Mozaffarian, Dariush

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Carla Enes Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Campinas
REVIEW RETURNED	05-Jun-2023

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>Dear authors,</p> <p>This study brings an interesting approach to the effect of price and income on the demand for saturated fat and its results provide important support for fiscal policies that have gained importance worldwide in promoting healthy eating. The manuscript is well written, and the methods adequately describe how the study was conducted. The study presents an analysis that encompasses 160 countries, with different incomes and different demands for food sources of saturated fat. Below are some suggestions for improving the manuscript.</p> <p>Abstract in the abstract, no results were presented regarding the differences between genders.</p> <p>Introduction I suggest including initiatives around the world with the taxation of sweetened beverages, showing the strength that fiscal policies have gained in recent years in an attempt to promote healthy and adequate food</p> <p>Methods Why was possible to include only 160 countries in the study? I suggest explaining this in the text.</p> <p>Discussion I think it is important to include as a limitation of the study the fact that the consumption of ultra-processed foods was not included in the analyzes, which often have a high content of saturated fat and for some countries can represent more than 50% of all calories consumed daily.</p>
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Response to Reviewer:

This study brings an interesting approach to the effect of price and income on the demand for saturated fat and its results provide important support for fiscal policies that have gained importance worldwide in promoting healthy eating. The manuscript is well written, and the methods adequately describe how the study was conducted. The study presents an analysis that encompasses 160 countries, with different incomes and different demands for food sources of saturated fat. Below are some suggestions for improving the manuscript.

Abstract

in the abstract, no results were presented regarding the differences between genders.

This has been added to the Abstract.

Introduction

I suggest including initiatives around the world with the taxation of sweetened beverages, showing the strength that fiscal policies have gained in recent years in an attempt to promote healthy and adequate food.

Thank you for the comment, we have expanded the introduction to discuss recent studies investigating the efficacy of economic intervention policies for SSBs and caloric-dense foods. New information can be found on page 3.

Methods

Why was possible to include only 160 countries in the study? I suggest explaining this in the text.

As stated on lines 131-132 “The analysis was limited to the 160 countries represented in all three databases (GDD, ICP, and WDI)” and expanded upon on lines 139-140 “Countries where data was unavailable for any of the three databases (GDD, ICP, WDI) were not able to be included in our analysis.”

I think it is important to include as a limitation of the study the fact that the consumption of ultra-processed foods was not included in the analyzes, which often have a high content of saturated fat and for some countries can represent more than 50% of all calories consumed daily.

Thank you for your comment, we’ve addressed this on lines 314-319. We would like to highlight that our saturated fat dependent variable is inclusive of all daily SF intake which includes ultra-processed foods. This is not made clearer in the study. However, the lack of available global and country data on ultra-processed foods pricing limits our ability to analyze specifics of ultra-processed food pricing on saturated fat intake in the context of our global study. Thus, the price effects reported in this study measure how changes in the price of meat (e.g.) affect total SF intake, not just SF intake from meat.