Press Release

The Economic Costs of Poor Nutrition

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Poor nutrition is more than a health care concern; it also has tremendous, multifaceted economic implications. In new research, Director of Human Welfare Policy Tara O'Neill Hayes and Rakeb Asres estimate the economic costs of the four most common nutrition-related chronic diseases among the working-age population.

Key points:

- *Poor nutrition is a key risk factor for numerous chronic diseases, most notably obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and as many as 13 types of cancer.*
- *These diseases reduce a person's likelihood of working, and those who do work are less likely to work full-time and as productively as their peers without chronic disease.*
- *The economic implications of nutrition-related chronic disease are primarily reduced wages, higher employment costs, and reduced government revenue.*
- ***This analysis estimates the economic cost of the four nutrition-related chronic diseases among 18 to 64-year-olds at $16 trillion from 2011-2020 (or nearly 9 percent of gross domestic product annually)** after accounting for direct health care costs, lost productivity, and lost wages.*

Read the analysis