



UCD Institute of Food and Health

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UCD GEARY INSTITUTE

Policy Seminar Series

MAPPING FOOD AND HEALTH TO THE PUBLIC POLICY LANDSCAPE

Fat and sugar taxes: Will they solve the problem?



The **UCD Institute of Food and Health**, which brings together leading researchers in food and health within UCD, is hosting a series of high level workshops aimed at contributing to policy development and identifying research needs in key areas relating to food and health.

Our fifth seminar, held in conjunction with the **UCD Geary Institute**, will explore whether or not fiscal interventions, such as the imposition of fat and sugar taxes, will in fact impact on Public Health.

Programme

Date: Friday 8th June 2012

Venue: William Jefferson Clinton Auditorium, UCD Global Irish Institute

8.30 am Registration

9.00 am Introduction and workshop Chair

Professor Cecily Kelleher, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health and Head of UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science

9.15 am Obesity and food patterns in Ireland

Dr Anne Nugent, Lecturer in Human Nutrition, UCD Institute of Food and Health

In 2011, the National Adult Nutrition Survey (NANS) collected detailed information on food intake and bodyweight status in a representative sample of Irish adults. This paper will set the scene in relation to the adverse health effects of obesity and using data from NANS examine changes in the prevalence of obesity and patterns of food intake in Ireland.

9.55 am The economics of fat taxes - an overview

Dr Kevin Denny, Senior Fellow in Economics, UCD Geary Institute

In this overview presentation we examine some of the key economic reasons behind why we might be concerned about obesity, and hence discuss the literature which motivates the introduction of a tax or some form of price control, and what justification there is for government intervention. We discuss how food is currently taxed and the various ways in which a 'fat tax' might be introduced, focusing on the relative pros and cons of alternative approaches and the potential implementation issues to be faced.

10.40 am Coffee and networking

11.00 am Obesity: Down a road less travelled

Professor Mike Gibney, Director, UCD Institute of Food and Health

The issue of nature and nurture in relation to obesity and the role of physical activity will be discussed. The methodological problems in measuring food intake amongst the obese will also be examined.

11.40 am The distributional impact of a 'fat' tax

Professor David Madden, Associate Professor of Economics, UCD School of Economics

This paper will outline a methodology which can be used to evaluate the impact of tax changes on poverty. This methodology can be applied to Irish household budget data to investigate the impact of a possible fat tax on poverty. The methodology also permits the estimation of what sum of money would be needed to compensate poor households for the poverty impact of a fat tax.

12.20 pm Forum discussion

1.00 pm Close and lunch

RSVP: Dr Geraldine Quinn

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by Wednesday 30th May, 2012

William Jefferson Clinton Auditorium, UCD, 8th June 2012

Investing in your future

