

1 **Considering Consumer Choice in the Economic Evaluation of**
2 **Mandatory Health Programmes: A Review**

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19 **Abstract**

20 **Objective:** Governments are increasing their focus on mandatory public health
21 programmes following positive economic evaluations of their impact. This review
22 aims to examine whether loss of consumer choice should be included in economic
23 evaluations of mandatory health programmes (MHP).

24 **Method:** A systematic literature review was conducted to identify economic
25 evaluations of MHP, whether they discuss the impact on consumer choice and any
26 methodological limitations.

27 **Results:** Overall 39 economic evaluations were identified, of which ten discussed the
28 loss of consumer choice and six attempted to place a value on the loss of consumer
29 choice. Methodological limitations included: measuring the marginal cost of
30 compliance, unavailability of price elasticity estimates, the impact of income effects,
31 double counting health impacts, biased willingness-to-pay responses, and “protest”
32 responses. Overall it was found that the inclusion of the loss of consumer choice
33 rarely impacted on the final outcome of the study.

34 **Conclusion:** The impact of MHP on the loss of consumer choice has largely been
35 ignored in economic evaluations. Its importance remains uncertain due to its
36 infrequent inclusion and significant methodological limitations. Further research
37 regarding which methodology is best for valuing loss of choice and whether it is
38 importance to the final implementation decision is warranted.

39 Key words: Mandatory Programs, Economics, Public Opinion, Consumer Choice,
40 Cost-Benefit Analysis

41 Word count: 199 (abstract), 4175 (text, excluding tables and references).

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43 **1. Introduction**

44 Governments are increasing their focus on preventative public health programmes to
45 contain rising health costs caused by population ageing and the availability of more
46 effective but costly technologies. Public health programmes can be introduced on
47 either a voluntary or mandatory basis. Voluntary programmes give consumers the
48 option (or ‘choice’) of adhering to a particular programme and impose no penalties for
49 non adherence. Mandatory health programmes (MHP) require government legislation,
50 but are appealing because there are significant savings in terms of enforcement and
51 promotion costs in addition to being the most effective method of ensuring population
52 compliance [1].

53 Recently some Governments have commissioned economic evaluations of MHPs to
54 ascertain whether they result in a net gain to society [2-4]. The evaluation of MHPs,
55 such as fortification and immunisation programmes, involves balancing two essential
56 factors – benefits and risks – in the population. That is to say, the potential societal
57 benefits (such as improved compliance) must be balanced against the risks, and
58 potential harms, to individuals and communities [5]. While some people will benefit
59 from MHPs, not all people will benefit and a small minority may experience harm, for
60 example through adverse events.

61 Regardless of whether the programme enforces or bans consumption of a good, MHPs
62 restrict personal choice and deny consumers the ability to readily substitute particular
63 goods or services. For example, some people may value the loss of the availability of
64 a good (such as folate-free bread or iodine-free salt), incur the cost of buying a more
65 expensive alternative (such as fluoride-free bottled water), prefer to not be vaccinated
66 on the basis of religious, medical or social reasons [6], have a high risk aversion to
67 adverse events (whereas the government is risk neutral), or simply prefer to exercise
68 free choice in deciding what to consume. The ‘restriction’ on choice represents a loss
69 in consumer welfare or more specifically consumer surplus – a measure of the net

70 benefit of consumption (i.e. the difference between the consumer actually pays and
71 the amount the consumer is willing to pay)¹.

72 The aim of this paper is to review the literature on the measurement and inclusion of
73 the loss of consumer choice in economic evaluations of MHPs, and to discuss the
74 potential policy implications of excluding consumer choice from economic
75 evaluations.

76 **2. Methods**

77 A literature review was conducted to ascertain whether economic evaluations of
78 MHPs include loss of consumer choice, and if so what methodology was used to
79 quantify the loss of consumer surplus. The review focussed on finding examples of
80 MHP economic evaluations that either mandatorily enforced, or banned, the
81 consumption of a good. The search was conducted in Medline, EMBASE, EconLit
82 and NHS EED databases. The review also included grey literature searches of
83 published Government reports known to the authors. Search terms utilised were
84 fortification or folate or folic or iodine or vaccination and (compulsory or mandatory)
85 or fluoridation or trans-fat\$ or (smoking near public) or cannabis or (food and
86 (unhealthy or junk) and school\$) or SunSmart or (bicycle and helmet) in combination
87 with the search terms cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness or cost-utility or (economic
88 and evaluation). The bibliographies of all retrieved publications were hand-searched
89 for any relevant references missed in the database search.

90 The search was limited to publications published in English. In EconLit the subject
91 was limited to health. Papers were included if they compared health outcomes to the
92 costs of the MHP. Papers were excluded if the mandatory programme preserved
93 consumer choice. For example, mandatory nutritional labelling, smoking warnings on
94 cigarette packets and banning of junk food advertising.

¹ In addition to restricted choice, consumers may also face increased prices for these goods or services due to increased demand or higher manufacturing costs. However this amount is distinguished from the cost of reduced choice.

95 The following information was extracted from each study: country, perspective of the
96 analysis, methodology, primary measure of benefit, inclusion of adverse events and
97 productivity impacts, and estimate of loss of consumer choice.

98 **3. Results**

99 The search for MHP economic evaluations identified 30 relevant articles [7-36]. Four
100 additional government reports were identified [2-4, 37] and another nine articles were
101 identified through pearling of references [38-46]. Overall 43 relevant articles were
102 identified (see Table 1), representing 39 economic evaluations.

103 The most common methodology used in the economic evaluations was cost-
104 effectiveness analysis (24 studies), followed by cost analysis (13 studies), cost-benefit
105 analysis (7 studies), and cost-utility analysis (4 studies). Several studies used a range
106 of methods to analyse the impact of the MHPs. The perspective of the evaluation was
107 reported in only 10 studies, of which 9 claimed to use a societal perspective. Often the
108 perspective was not discernable on the basis of the cost categories included in the
109 evaluations. Health care costs were not included in ten studies. Given that they are
110 economic evaluations of MHPs the exclusion of health care costs may have a
111 significant impact on the final conclusion of these studies². Adverse events associated
112 with the MHP were included in six studies. For some MHPs, such as banning
113 smoking in public places and mandatory bicycle helmet use, it is appropriate to not
114 include adverse events. However for other MHPs, such as folate fortification, the
115 omission of both treatment costs and pain and suffering caused by adverse events may
116 have a significant impact on the final conclusion of the study. Productivity impacts
117 incurred by individuals³ were explored in 12 studies and one included the productivity
118 losses due to compliance with the legislation [37]. Exclusion of productivity impacts
119 would be appropriate if the study took a health system or payer approach. However in
120 three cases the authors stated that the study took a societal perspective but excluded
121 productivity impacts. Again this may have a significant impact on the final conclusion
122 of these studies.

² This is not an issue for the WTP studies where health care costs are included implicitly.

³ Productivity impacts incurred by health workers were considered a health care cost.

123 *Insert Table 1 here*

124 Of the 39 MPH economic evaluations identified, five studies(7 articles)⁴ attempted to
125 value loss of consumer choice [2, 16, 31-33, 37, 47] while a further four studies
126 mentioned that the introduction of a MHP would result in a loss of consumer choice
127 [3, 4, 11, 34]. One additional study did not mention consumer choice directly, but
128 estimated the loss in terms of people who quit cycling as a consequence of the
129 introduction of mandatory helmet wearing legislation [28] (see Table 2). These
130 articles are discussed below.

131 *Insert Table 2 here.*

132 Several methods have been suggested for valuing loss of consumer choice, these
133 include: the cost of compliance, price elasticities, lost productivity and contingent
134 valuation. The relative merits of each are discussed below.

135 ***The cost of compliance***

136 Two studies that evaluated the cost-effectiveness of mandatory bicycle helmet
137 legislation assumed that the maximum value of loss of consumer choice, to people
138 who subsequently quit cycling, was the cost of complying with the regulation (i.e. the
139 cost of a helmet) [16, 28]. The use of the Marshallian demand curve is appropriate in
140 the case of bicycle helmet legislation as the income effect of a once-off purchase of a
141 helmet is likely to be small. This is because the Hicksian compensated demand curve
142 approaches the Marshallian demand curve as the income effect approaches zero [48].
143 However the methodology utilised overestimates the loss of consumer surplus – if it is
144 assumed that the value each person places is uniformly distributed between zero and
145 the cost of the helmet, thus the demand curve is linear and the loss of consumer
146 surplus is a triangle, a closer approximation to the loss of consumer choice would be
147 halve this number. However if the demand curve is convex to the origin, the loss of
148 consumer surplus would remain overestimated.

⁴ One study assumed a value of the loss of consumer choice due to folate fortification of bread products to be \$1 per person per year for each person not in the target population (women aged between 18 and 45 years) [2, 20]. This assumption was not based on any evidence and consequently will not be discussed further in the report.

149 A similar methodology was applied in an economic evaluation of restrictions on
150 smoking in workplaces [37]. It was assumed the maximum value of loss of consumer
151 choice to people who subsequently quit smoking was half their total expenditure on
152 cigarettes forgone (assumed to be 20 cigarettes a day). In the cycle helmet example,
153 this is akin to measuring the loss of consumer choice to cyclists on the basis of the
154 cost of the bike rather than the helmet. Thus in the case of smoking, a more
155 appropriate proxy would be the inconvenience of finding a designated smoking area
156 or the value of cigarettes not consumed during working hours. The authors note that
157 those who choose to stop altogether may welcome the ban as a cessation aid.
158 Consequently their loss of consumer choice is likely to be much lower. Importantly,
159 the methodology of estimating the cost of compliance does not consider the loss in
160 consumer choice incurred by individuals who face no other alternatives (such as
161 compulsory vaccination).

162 *Price Elasticities*

163 An alternative approach used to estimate the loss of consumer choice in continuing
164 smokers was to multiply the reduction in cigarettes consumed at work by the price
165 increase that would lead to the same change in behaviour, using price elasticities
166 reported in the literature, multiplied by half [37]. This methodology estimates the loss
167 of consumer choice using the Marshallian demand curve and assumes that the income
168 effect of banning smoking in workplaces is small. This is a strong assumption since
169 expenditure on cigarettes can be over a fifth of total income in the lowest
170 socioeconomic group [49]. Furthermore price elasticity estimates based on small
171 changes in taxation may not be appropriate for extreme policy changes (such as
172 banning or forced consumption). Price elasticity estimates are often based on surveys
173 or natural experiments involving people who voluntarily consume a good, not those
174 for whom consuming a good gives them a negative utility. Consequently this
175 methodology may underestimate the loss of consumer choice from forcing
176 consumption. Finally, this methodology relies on the availability of price elasticity
177 estimates, which may be problematic in circumstances when the good is not normally
178 traded in the market place (such as fluoridated water).

179 *Lost Productivity*

180 Another alternative was to estimate drivers of the loss of consumer choice separately.
181 For example, one study estimated the additional inconvenience incurred by smokers
182 in terms of the lost productivity associated with time required to find a designated
183 smoking area during work hours [37]. However, this cost may be incurred (partially or
184 fully) by the employer rather than the employee and thus is not an accurate estimate of
185 inconvenience. Furthermore this methodology does not value other factors driving
186 loss of consumer surplus, such as the inconvenience to the smoker of standing outside
187 in the cold wet weather.

188 *Contingent valuation*

189 Stated preference methods have been used to value loss of consumer choice. For
190 example, a study may ask individuals hypothetical questions regarding their
191 willingness to pay (WTP) for the introduction of a MHP or willingness to accept
192 (WTA) compensation for not introducing a MHP⁵ to estimate their compensating or
193 equivalent variation, respectively [50, 51].

194 Contingent valuation was used by one study which examined the impact of
195 introducing fluoridated tap water into a community in the United Kingdom [31, 33].
196 After determining whether respondents were for or against the programme,
197 respondents were asked either a) how much compensation would be required if they
198 were willing to accept an annual tax rebate as compensation for fluoridation being
199 implemented or b) how much they would be willing to contribute in extra annual
200 taxation to have a device fitted to their water supply which would remove the fluoride
201 from their drinking water. Two respondents gave a zero WTP stating that they could
202 not afford to pay. The main reasons that people were willing to pay (or accept
203 compensation) were violation of freedom of choice and the desire to have pure water.
204 The study also identified a group of respondents, referred to as “protesters”, who
205 refused to provide information regarding their WTP for water fluoridation, citing that
206 they were “paying enough taxes/water rates already” or “the water companies should

⁵ Where people incur a loss from the introduction of a programme the questions should be phrased in terms of willingness to pay to avoid the introduction of a programme (equivalent variation), or willingness to accept compensation for introducing a programme (compensating variation).

207 pay” (against taxation in general), or no amount of money would be sufficient to
208 compensate for fluoride being added to the drinking water.

209 Another study used contingent valuation to examine the impact of introducing folate
210 fortification of flour. However, the study only explored the WTP for the introduction
211 of the programme and not the WTP to avoid the introduction of the programme [32].
212 The study identified a group of respondents, referred to as “protesters” or “zeros”,
213 who refused to provide information regarding their WTP for folate fortification.
214 Reasons cited by these respondents included “manufacturers should pay or simply
215 increase the price of food” (against taxation in general), or “there are other issues that
216 I feel more strongly about” (awareness of opportunity cost), the respondent was too
217 poor to pay any money (income bias), “it would only benefit pregnant women and not
218 all society” or “because I don’t need it personally” (irrelevance or non-altruistic
219 reasons), “people should know about folic acid already” and “people already have
220 good access to information, it is generally available” (individual responsibility), “it is
221 not necessary at the current time” or “I would want to know the outcome of further
222 research” (lack of information), and “I am against universal additives in principle”
223 (distrust of additives). It should be noted that some individuals, although against
224 folate fortification, were willing to pay for fortification on the basis of altruism [32].

225 In some cases the existence of “protesters” would result in an underestimation of the
226 WTP to avoid (or WTA compensation to allow) the MHP and thus lead to an
227 underestimation of the loss of consumer choice. However the extent of
228 underestimation depends on the specific MHP being evaluated and the reasons
229 provided by respondents for not providing an estimate of their WTP or WTA. For
230 example, if the key reason is ‘irrelevance’ the impact may be less than if the key
231 reason is ‘no amount of money would be sufficient to compensate the individual’.

232 Contingent valuation studies enable the valuation of aspects of a MHP not captured by
233 other measures, such as quality adjusted life years (QALYs), and enable the
234 estimation of value placed by all people from forcing consumption, unlike the price
235 elasticity approach which is based on voluntary consumers only. On the other hand
236 contingent valuation studies suffers from problems surrounding the hypothetical
237 nature of the survey questions, the impact of different payment vehicles resulting in
238 different valuations, and the association of WTP with ability to pay [50-52]. Protest

239 responses are a key limitation in the use of contingent valuation studies; in particular
240 the ability to identify a realistic payment vehicle in countries where the public rarely
241 face costs is difficult. Consequently respondents may ignore costs as they assume they
242 are not borne by them directly [51, 52]. This is less of an issue in countries where
243 health care co-payments are widespread, or equivalently surcharges and grants are
244 common within the tax system. Another key issue with contingent valuation studies is
245 responder bias. For example, if the responder believes the survey is gathering
246 information to inform priority setting, but they will not incur any costs, they may
247 over-estimate their WTP for programmes they value (and vice versa for programmes
248 they place a negative value on). On the other hand if the respondent believes the
249 survey is to inform fee setting then they may under-estimate their WTP.

250 Importantly, WTP methodology values MHPs as a whole [53], including the health
251 benefits and harms. If the benefits and harms are excluded the responder may infer the
252 level of benefits and harms incorrectly. Consequently, in the case of MHPs, WTP
253 methodology suffers from the potential to double-count the value placed on negative
254 aspects of the programme, such as the risk of adverse events, which are explicitly
255 taken into account in economic evaluations. The methodology also provides no
256 indication of the key drivers of disvalue of the MHPs which may be mitigated by the
257 design of the programme. One alternative would be to consider these values as a
258 stand-alone study during the decision making process.

259 In summary, the inclusion of loss of consumer choice only influenced the final
260 outcome of one study. However loss of consumer choice was rarely and often
261 inappropriately measured, consequently the relevance of this parameter during
262 economic evaluation is uncertain.

263 *Insert table 2 here*

264 **4. Discussion**

265 The impact of MHPs on the loss of consumer choice has largely been ignored during
266 economic evaluations. In some cases the lack of an estimate of the loss of consumer
267 choice may not be an oversight, but rather a reflection of the perspective taken by the
268 evaluators. For example, if a public health system perspective is adopted [54] then it
269 would not be appropriate to include an estimate of the loss of consumer choice.

270 However, for many health programmes choosing a health system perspective is too
271 restrictive to capture all benefits and costs and consequently may lead to inefficient
272 allocation of resources. Therefore a broader societal perspective may be preferred, in
273 which case including loss of consumer choice would be justified. This is important
274 because a recent review of health care economic evaluations guidelines found that, of
275 a total of 26 guidelines reviewed, a societal perspective is preferred in six countries
276 (Cuba, Finland, France, The Netherlands, Portugal, and Sweden) and another five⁶
277 countries preferred both a health system and societal perspectives (Austria, Ireland,
278 Italy, Russia, and Spain) [55, 56].

279 Many MHPs may involve the use of resources that are not typically provided by a
280 public health system (such as water treatment facilities or enforcement costs).
281 Furthermore many MHPs are often evaluated by public health or non-health
282 Government departments. Consequently, a whole-of-government or a societal
283 perspective is the most appropriate. Guidelines for conducting economic evaluations
284 by non-health Government departments suggest taking a societal perspective. For
285 example, the UK Treasury suggests that [57]:

286 *“In principle, appraisals should take account of all benefits to the UK.*
287 *This means that as well as taking into account the direct effects of*
288 *interventions, the wider effects on other areas of the economy should also*
289 *be considered. These effects should be analysed carefully as there may be*
290 *associated indirect costs, such as environmental costs, which would also*
291 *need to be included in an appraisal. In all cases, these wider effects*
292 *should be clearly described and considered.”*

293 Similarly the Office of Best Practice Regulation in Australia suggests that[58]

294 *“...the costs and benefits to all people residing in Australia should be*
295 *counted, as far as practical.”*

296 When a societal perspective is appropriate, the loss of consumer choice should be
297 included in the analysis. Although it is worth noting that the inclusion of the loss of

⁶ Note that the latest Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee guidelines for Australia suggest that PBAC prefers a health system perspective over a societal perspective.

298 consumer choice in all economic evaluations may raise equity issues. For example,
299 there may be an increased probability that MHPs that largely affect low
300 socioeconomic groups (e.g. smoking in public places) would be more likely to be
301 cost-effective compared to those that largely affect high socioeconomic groups (i.e.
302 cycling), all else being equal. This is because the ‘ability-to-pay’ effect would
303 decrease the relative loss of consumer choice in the former group. This equity
304 implication may or may not be acceptable to policy makers.

305 When loss of consumer choice has been included in the economic evaluation of MHPs
306 there have been significant limitations in the methodologies used. These include: the
307 methodology used to estimate of the marginal cost of compliance; the unavailability
308 of measures of price elasticity; the impact of income effects of the programme and
309 consequently whether the Marshallian demand curve would be an acceptable proxy
310 for the Hicksian demand curve; double counting of the health impacts; and biased
311 responses and “protest” responses in contingent valuation studies. In particular,
312 double-counting of negative health impacts, such as adverse events, is a key issue
313 since this would bias the economic evaluation against the MHP, and vice versa. To
314 avoid this issue, decision makers could use estimates of the loss of consumer choice
315 as an additional, but distinct, piece of evidence along with the economic evaluation.
316 However if this approach was chosen the decision maker would need to decide how
317 much weight should be applied to each piece of evidence.

318 None of the papers used discrete choice experiments (DCE) to estimate loss of
319 consumer choice due to MHPs. According to Lancaster’s economic theory of value,
320 individuals derive utility from the underlying attributes of a good and that preferences
321 (and thus utility) across goods are revealed through their consumption choices [59].
322 On the basis of this theory, in a DCE respondents choose their preferred alternative
323 from a choice set. Each alternative is described by a bundle of attributes, including
324 cost, with each attribute described using a different level (i.e. \$0, \$20, \$100 etc). The
325 respondents repeatedly choose their preferred alternative from a series of hypothetical
326 choice sets where the levels of each attribute differs [53].

327 The strength of the DCE approach is that choosing between bundles of goods is an
328 easily comprehended task for respondents and there is evidence that it is both
329 consistent with welfare theory [60, 61] and consistent with that observed in practice

330 [62]. DCEs also enable the measurement in monetary terms of the marginal value
331 placed on each attribute by including cost as one of the attributes. Thus DCEs are
332 capable of directly measuring the compensation [61] required for introducing a MHP,
333 while holding the health impacts constant. Unlike contingent valuation studies, this
334 avoids the risk of double-counting the impact of the MHP on health and adverse
335 events which have been considered explicitly in the economic evaluation. The
336 problem of protest responders may be minimised if these responders simply ignore the
337 cost variable, thus increasing the uncertainty but not necessarily biasing the results.
338 Furthermore the estimated compensation can be directly incorporated into an
339 economic evaluation, avoiding the need for decision makers to decide how much
340 weight should be placed on each piece of evidence as with contingent valuation
341 studies.

342 DCEs have the advantage of being able to disentangle the drivers of loss of choice in
343 MHPs, since it is unlikely that loss of consumer choice will equate to a single
344 universal value. The valuation is likely to vary by programme depending on the
345 following: whether consumption of the good is being made compulsory or banned; the
346 strength of opposition to mandatory programme; the proportion of people who
347 voluntarily consume the health good without government intervention; and how
348 strongly people care about deviations away from their voluntary level of consumption;
349 the level of individual benefit and strength of altruism towards others. The latter point
350 is interesting because this is likely to depend on who the others are and what they are
351 gaining or losing. For example, evidence suggests that people value gains in health
352 more highly for people with a low quality of life or short life expectancy before
353 treatment, if there is no other treatment available, and if the individual is young [63].
354 Unfortunately some issues faced with contingent valuation, such as the association of
355 WTP with ability to pay, would still be encountered in DCEs [64].

356 Due to the limitations identified in the literature it is uncertain whether the inclusion
357 of the loss of consumer choice in the economic evaluations would change the
358 conclusion of these studies. Further research regarding the most appropriate method to
359 measure the loss of consumer surplus, including the viability of using DCEs which is
360 yet to be explored, and whether its inclusion would make a difference to the final
361 implementation decision is warranted.

362 This paper raises the issue that loss of consumer choice, which has been identified by
363 the general public as a key argument against the introduction of MHP, has largely
364 been ignored by the literature. When it has been considered there are significant
365 limitations with the approaches taken to date. Even so, incorporation of the loss of
366 consumer choice into future economic evaluations of MHPs does not address key
367 ethical issues with MHPs. For example, if education campaigns regarding the risk of
368 certain behaviours on health fail are Governments justified in intervening with
369 mandatory legislation or should the responsibility continue to lie with the individual?
370 [65] It is generally accepted that the Government intervenes if individuals are directly
371 harmed by other people's actions, such as with violence. However how far does this
372 responsibility extend? For example, the failure to immunise children puts other
373 children at risk consequently does this justify compulsory vaccination, despite
374 significant risks of adverse events to some children? Is it more acceptable to ban
375 smoking in workplaces due to second-hand smoke or due to concern for the health of
376 the smoker? [66] Is Government intervention more justifiable if individuals are less
377 able to make rational decisions for themselves, thus justifying banning junk food in
378 schools or SunSmart for kids? Finally, are Government's more justified in using
379 MHPs if they incur a majority, of not all, of the health costs? These questions cannot
380 be answered directly by economic evaluations.

381 **5. Conclusions**

382 The impact of MHP on the loss of consumer choice has largely been ignored in
383 economic evaluations. The importance of loss of consumer choice remains uncertain
384 due to its infrequent inclusion. There are also significant methodological limitations
385 for estimating the appropriate value. DCEs may provide an improved methodology to
386 estimate the loss of consumer choice and avoid double counting in economic
387 evaluations. Further research regarding the suitable methodologies, including DCEs,
388 and the importance of the loss of consumer choice to the final implementation
389 decision is warranted.

390 **6. Acknowledgements**

391 We gratefully acknowledge the helpful comments and suggestions that we received
392 from an anonymous reviewer. This project was funded by a Faculty of Business
393 Grant, University of Technology Sydney.

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Table 1: Literature review of mandatory health programmes

MHP	Medline*	Search Results			Relevant Articles	
		EMBASE*	EconLit**	NHS EED* *	Economic Evaluations	Includes estimate of loss of consumer choice
Compulsory Consumption						
Compulsory vaccination	18	33	3	2	2	
Folate or iodine fortification	200	813	50	48	14	3
Fluoridation of tap water	86	23	1	7	19	2
Sunsmart (no hat, no play)*	23	2	0	1	0	
Bicycle helmets use	12	8	3	4	5	2
Banning Consumption						
Trans fats	3	4	7	0	0	
Smoking in public places	19	21	57	47	3	1
Cannabis use	9	115	153	3	0	
Unhealthy food in schools	2	2	5	0	0	
Total	382	1021	287	112	43 articles 39 evaluations	8 articles 6 evaluations

* Search terms utilised were fortification or folate or folic or iodine or vaccination and (compulsory or mandatory) or fluoridation or trans-fat\$ or (smoking near public) or cannabis or (food and (unhealthy or junk) and school\$) or SunSmart or (bicycle and helmet) in combination with the search terms cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness or cost-utility or (economic and evaluation).

** Search terms utilised were fortification or folate or folic or iodine or vaccination and (compulsory or mandatory) or fluoridation or trans-fat\$ or (smoking near public) or cannabis or (food and (unhealthy or junk) and school\$) or SunSmart or (bicycle and helmet).

Table 2: Details of economic evaluations of mandatory health programmes

Study	Health programme	Country	Methodology, Primary Measure of Benefit	Evaluation Perspective	Health Care Costs Included	Adverse Events Included	Productivity Impacts Included	Estimate loss of consumer choice
Department of Health (2005)[37]	Banning smoking in workplaces and public places	UK	CBA: increased life expectancy (valued using the value of a statistical life lost used by the UK Department of Transport)	Not stated	Yes	N/A	Productivity gains due to smokers quitting and increased life expectancy, and losses from smokers complying with legislation	<p>Losses to continuing smokers and quitters was estimated by comparing the impact of bans on reduced smoking compared to price increases that would lead to the same change in behaviour. Additional lost productivity time due to leaving work to smoke was also estimated. In comparison the Overall the decision to implement the programme would be unchanged regardless of including the impact on consumer choice:</p> <p>£2,700m to £3,100m total benefits- £155m for continuing smokers - £550m for quitters - £430m for productivity impact = £1565m to £1965m</p>
Dixon (1999) and Shackley (2000)[31, 33]	Fluoridation of tap water to prevent dental caries among children and adults	UK	WTP	Not stated	No	Small white patches on teeth	No	<p>WTP and WTA compensation (n=100 surveyed, of which 53 answered the WTP/WTA question). Of the 13 that were against the programme, 8 were asked how much they were WTP to avoid, and 5 were asked how much they were WTA compensation. Overall the decision to implement the programme would be changed by including the impact on those against the programme:</p> <p>40 in favour/53* WTP=£12.63 – 8 against/53 * WTP=£29.38 – 5 against/53 * WTA=£76. = -£2.07</p>
Dixon (2003)[32]	Folate fortification to reduce NTDs	UK	WTP	Not stated	No	Masking of vitamin B ₁₂ deficiency	No	<p>WTP (n=76 surveyed, of which 40 answered the WTP question). Of the 15 that were against the programme, all were asked how much they were WTP to avoid, of which 7 refused to answer. Overall the decision to implement the programme would be unchanged regardless of including the impact on those against the programme:</p> <p>32 in favour/40*£22.8 - 8 against/40* WTP= £11.9 = £15.86</p>
Hansen (1995)[16]	Bicycle helmets use to prevent head injuries in children and adults	New Zealand	CEA: LYG or hospitalisations avoided	Not stated	No	N/A	No	<p>Maximum value of cycling to irregular cyclists who subsequently quit cycling is assumed to be the cost of complying with the regulation i.e. the cost of a helmet. Overall the decision to implement the programme would be unchanged regardless of including the impact on those who quit cycling.</p> <p>Cost/LYG without lost to quitters = \$83,857 to \$107,924 for 5 to 12 year olds, \$672,256 to \$792,234 for 13 to 18 year olds, and \$862,138 to \$983,034 for 19+ year olds.</p>

Study	Health programme	Country	Methodology, Primary Measure of Benefit	Evaluation Perspective	Health Care Costs Included	Adverse Events Included	Productivity Impacts Included	Estimate loss of consumer choice
								Cost/LYG with lost to quitters = \$88379 to \$113,744 for 5 to 12 year olds, \$694,013 to \$817,874 for 13 to 18 year olds, and \$890,041 to \$1,014,850 for 19+ year olds).
Segal (2007)[2, 47]	Folate fortification of bread products to reduce NTDs	Australia	CEA: NTDs and DALYs avoided	Not stated	Yes	No	No	Assumed \$1 per person per year for each person not in the target population (women aged between 18 and 45 years).
Taylor (2002)[28]	Bicycle helmets use	New Zealand	CBA and CEA: WTP and head injuries averted	Societal	Yes	N/A	Value of avoiding an injury requiring short stay hospital treatment or long stay hospital treatment was based on a WTP survey which included productivity costs, property damage, legal and court costs, and some medical costs.	Loss associated with people who quit cycling were assumed to incur 1) no cost, 2) cost equal to the cost of the helmet, and c) an additional \$30 societal cost on top of the cost of the helmet to account for reduced exercise and increased motorcar use. Overall the decision to implement the programme would be unchanged regardless of including the impact on those who quit cycling. Benefit:cost ratios (assuming all scenarios involves quitters and the same value of benefits): 1) 13.5 for children aged 5-12 years, 5.9 for children aged 13-18 years, 2.6 for adults. 2) 12.6 for children aged 5-12 years, 5.5 for children aged 13-18 years, 2.5 for adults. 3) 6.6 for children aged 5-12 years, 2.9 for children aged 13-18 years, 1.8 for adults.

WTP=Willingness-to-pay, WTA = Willingness-to-accept, CBA = cost-benefit analysis, CEA = cost-effectiveness analysis, CUA = cost utility analysis, DMFT = decay, loss, and filled teeth, NTD = neural tube defects, QALYs = Quality adjusted life years, DALYs = Disability Adjusted Life Years, LYG = life years gained.

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