



# SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE WORKABILITY AND SUSTAIN HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS: OECD FRAMEWORK

Marion Devaux  
OECD, Health Division



# OECD Economics of Prevention

---

- Developing a framework for the economics of prevention of chronic diseases
  - Understanding the mechanisms through which chronic diseases are generated
  - Discussing the scope, potential and incentives for intervention
  - Devising methods for assessing prevention programmes
- Application to key behavioural risk factors, so far: Unhealthy diets, Sedentary lifestyles, Obesity and Harmful Alcohol Use.



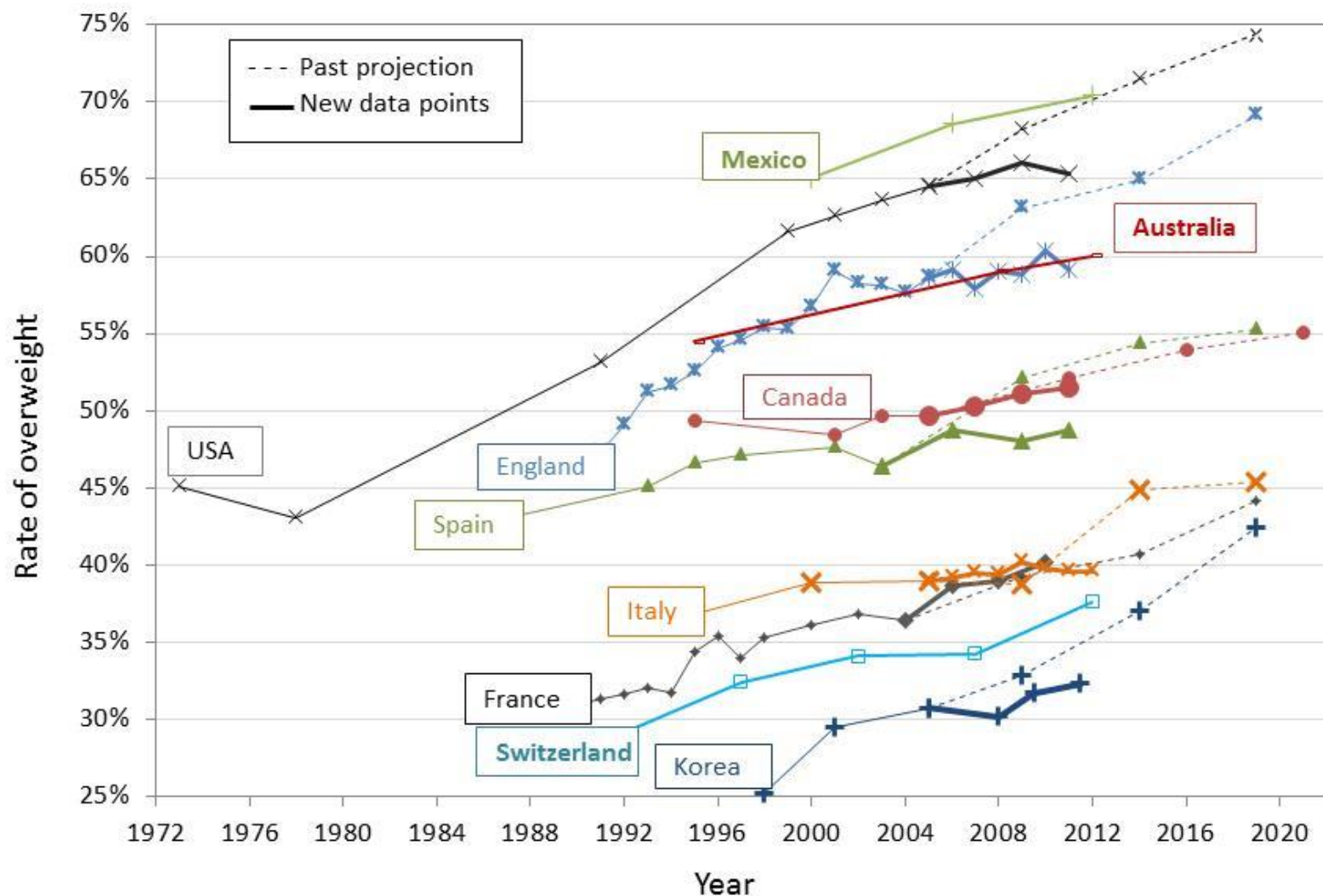
# Analysis of Trends and Social Disparities

---

- Obesity rates have increased in the last few decades, with signs of a slowdown in recent years in a few countries



# Trends and Projections for Overweight Adults





# Analysis of Trends and Social Disparities

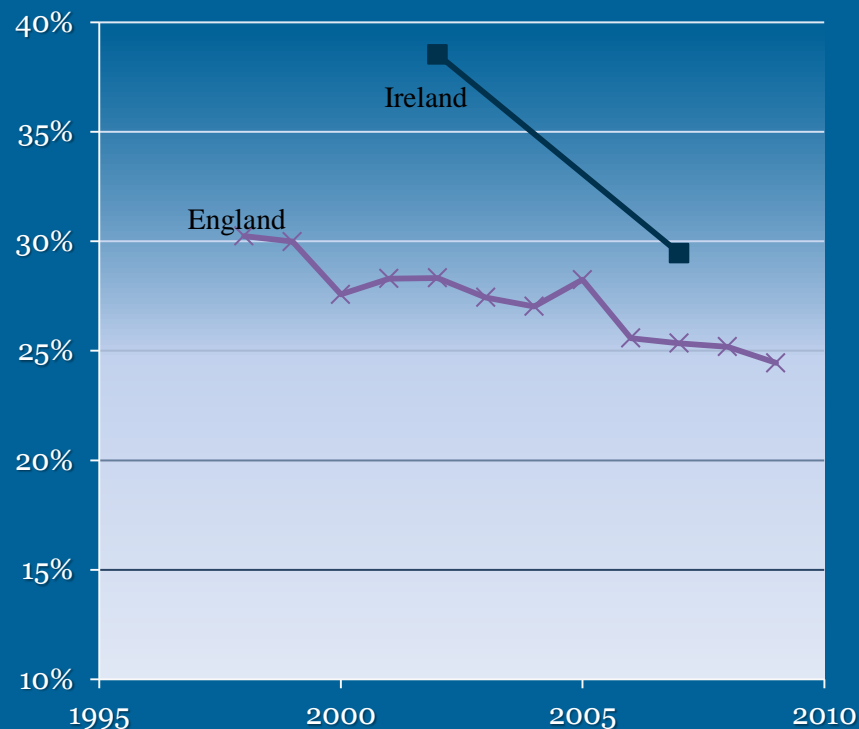
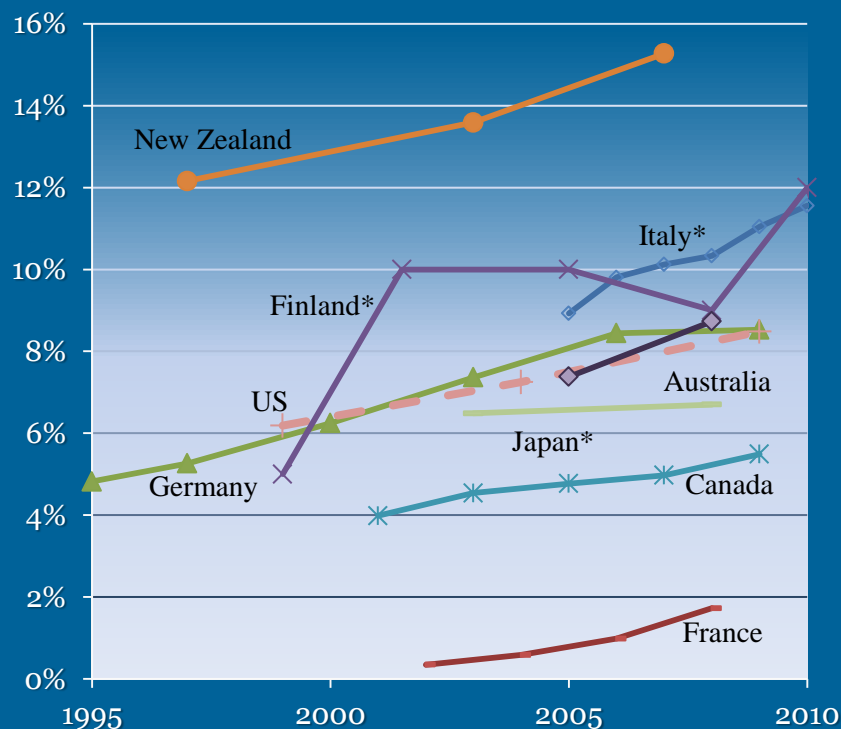
---

- Harmful use of alcohol has increased in young people and especially in women



# Heavy episodic drinking has increased in young women

Women aged 18-24



HED at least once a month in Japan and once a year in Italy; crude weighted rates in Finland (age-standardised elsewhere)  
Source: OECD estimates on national survey data.



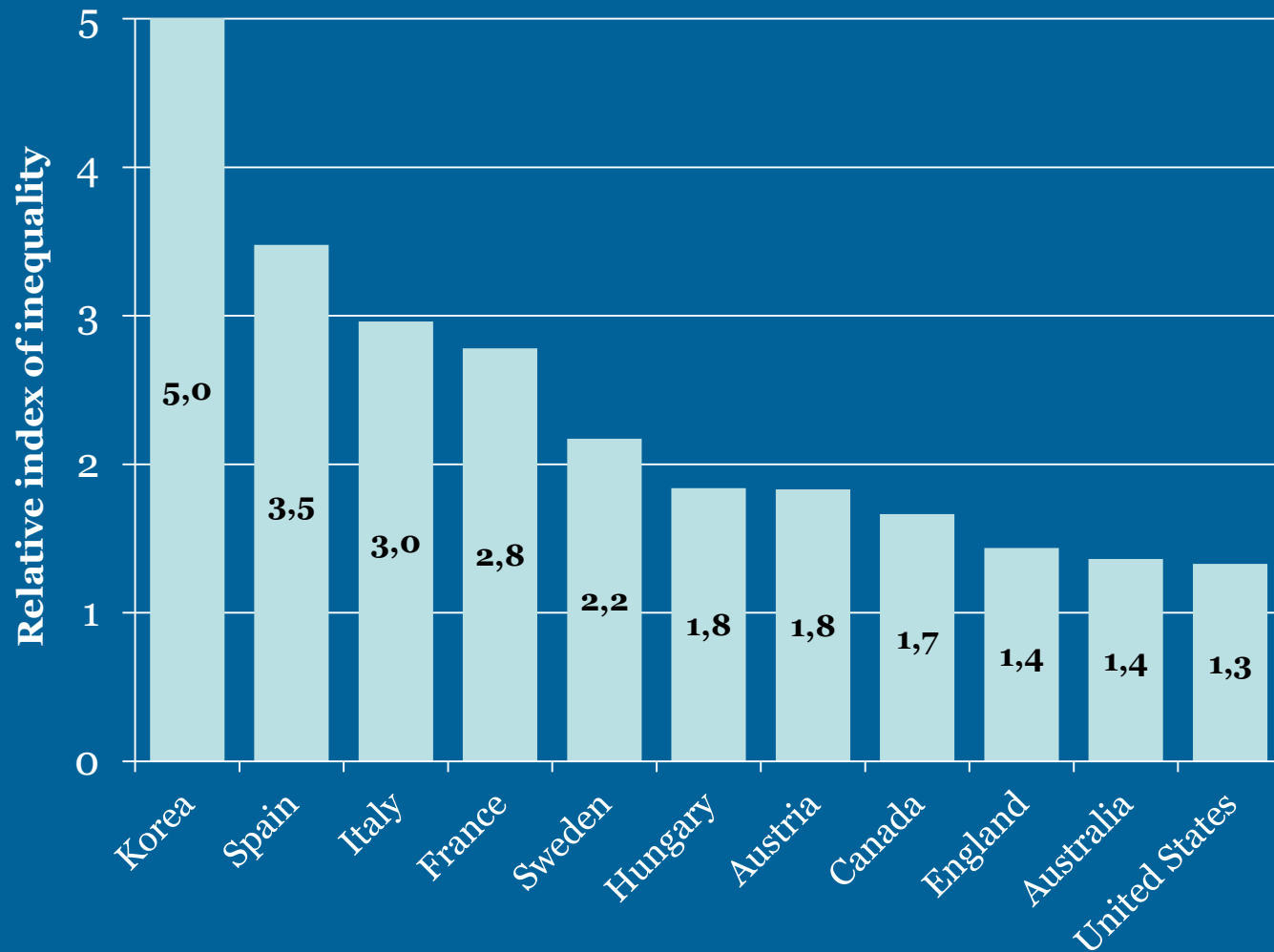
# Analysis of Trends and Social Disparities

---

- Social disparities in obesity are marked in women



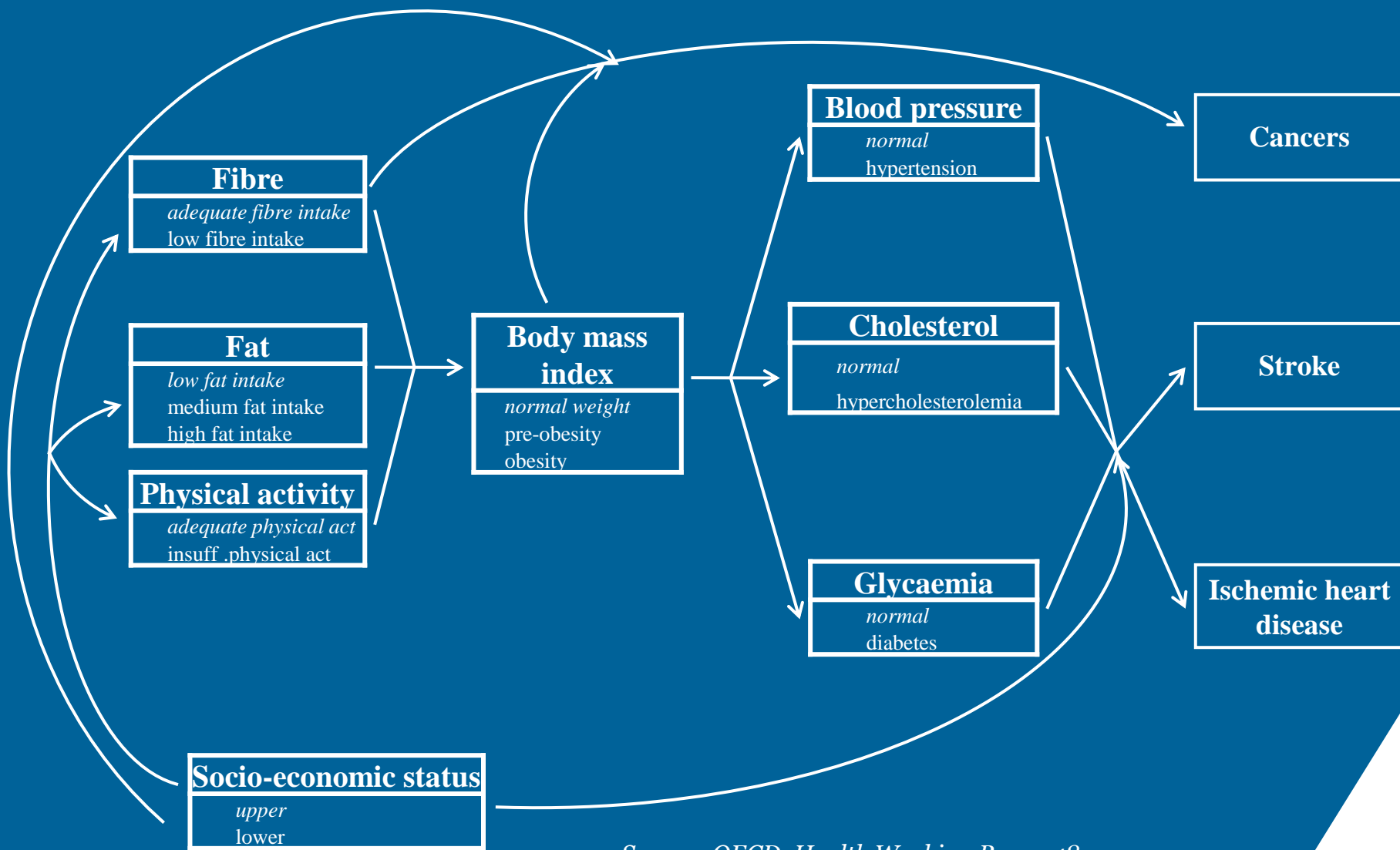
# Women with lower education level are more likely to be overweight







# Assessment of Policy Outcomes with the OECD/WHO CDP Model





# Assessment of Policy Outcomes

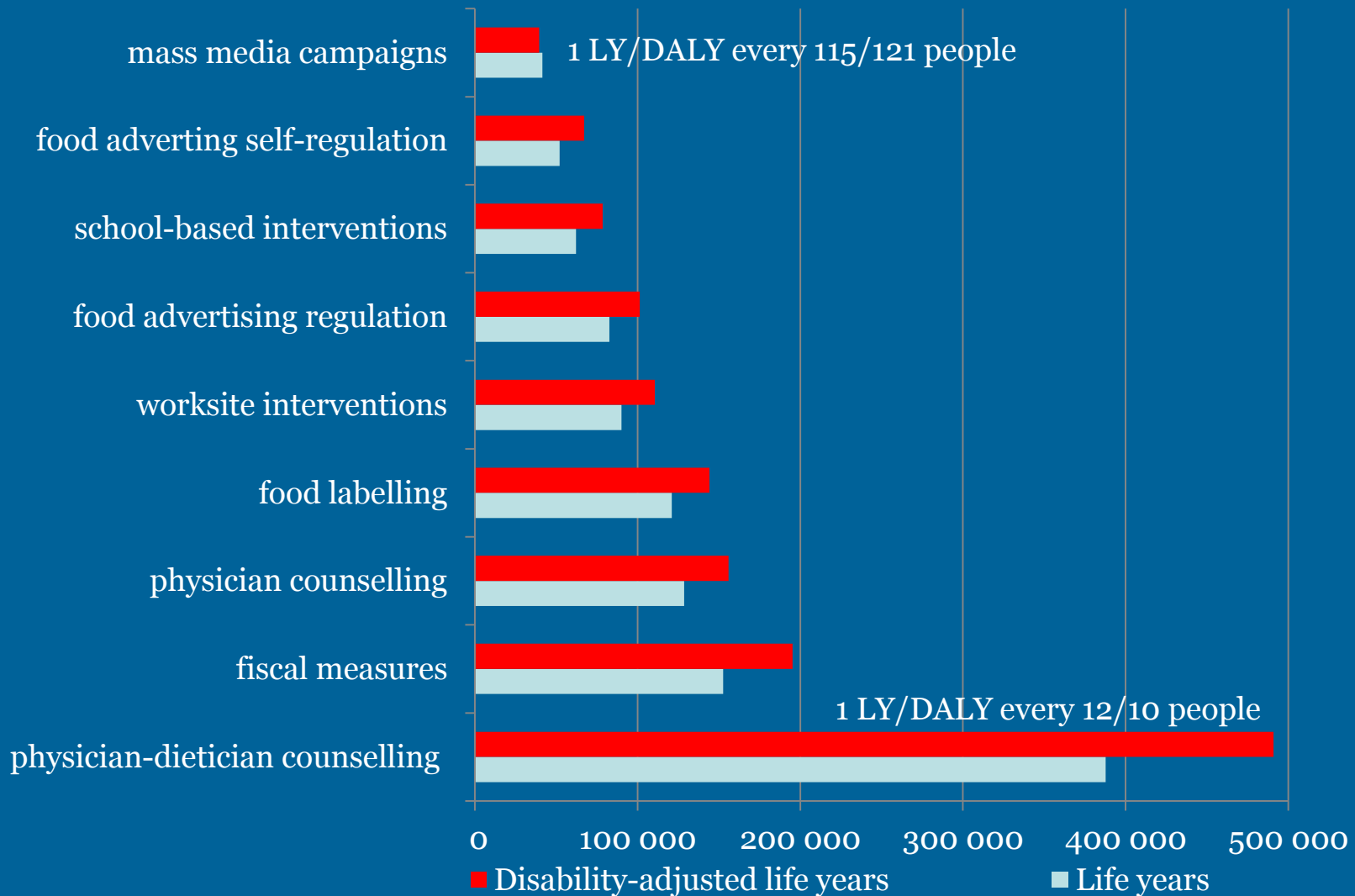
---

- Prevention policies improve health



# Health Outcomes of Obesity Prevention (LY & DALY)

Average effects per year, in West-central Europe

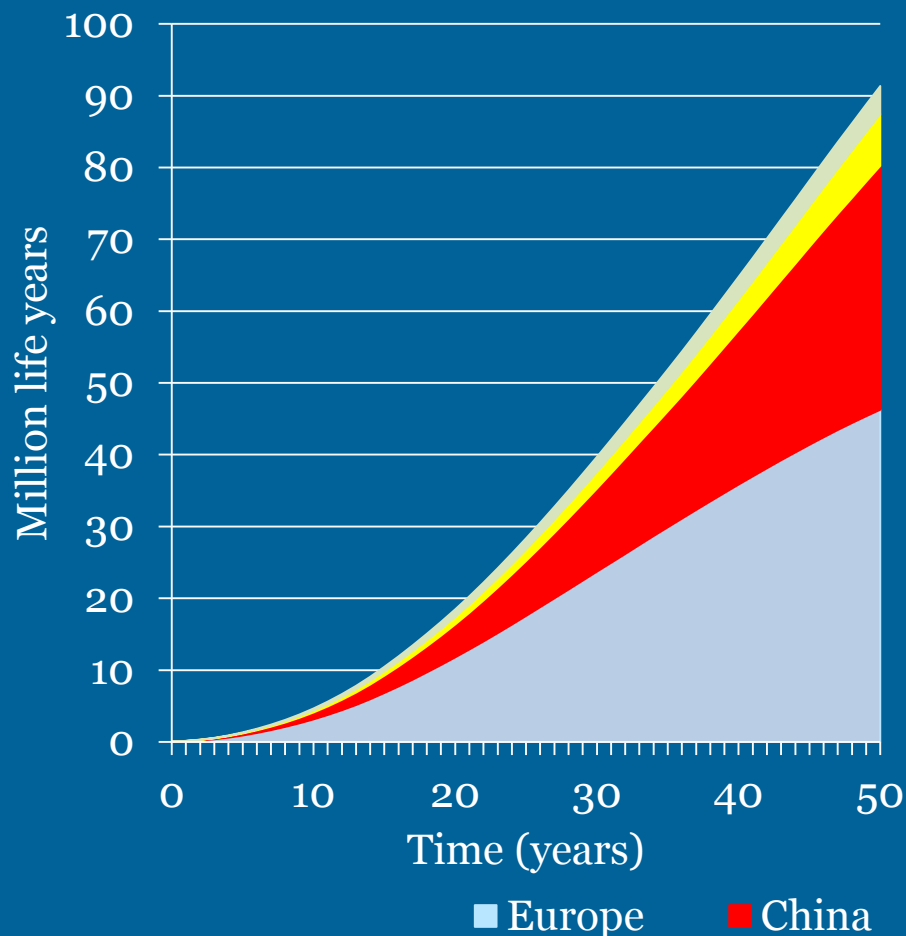




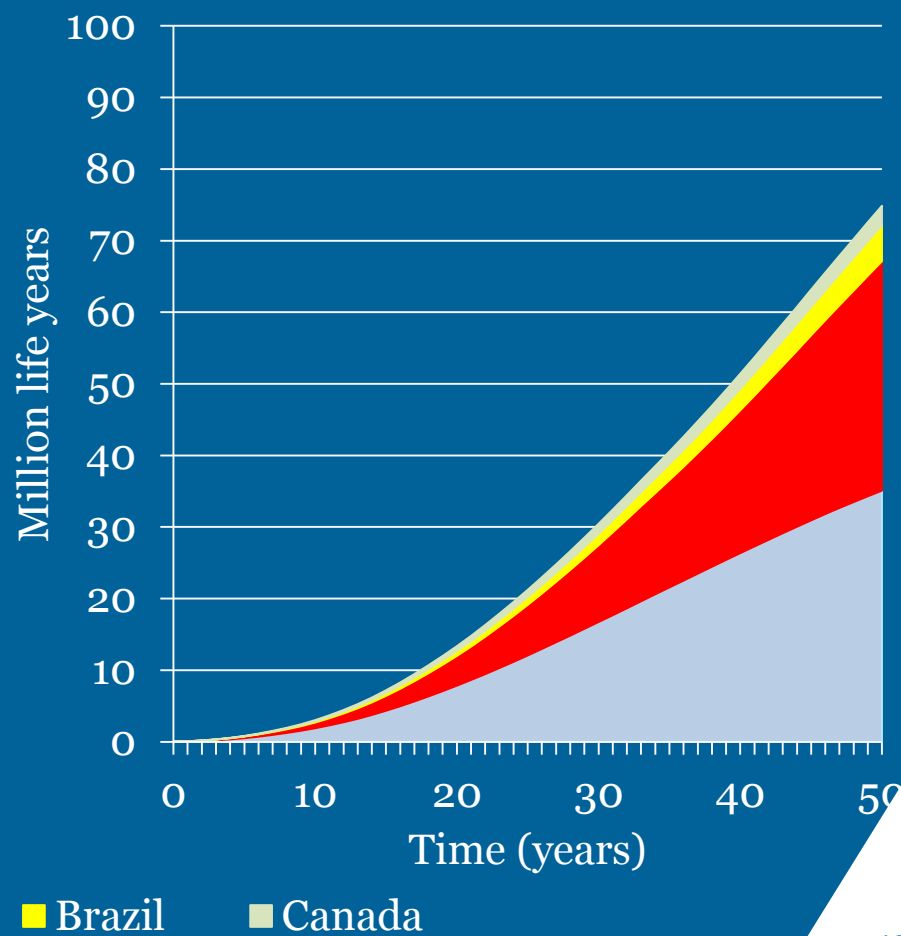
# Health Outcomes Over Time (Diseases)

## Years of Life Free of NCDs

### Cancers (lung, colorectal, breast)



### Cardiovascular diseases

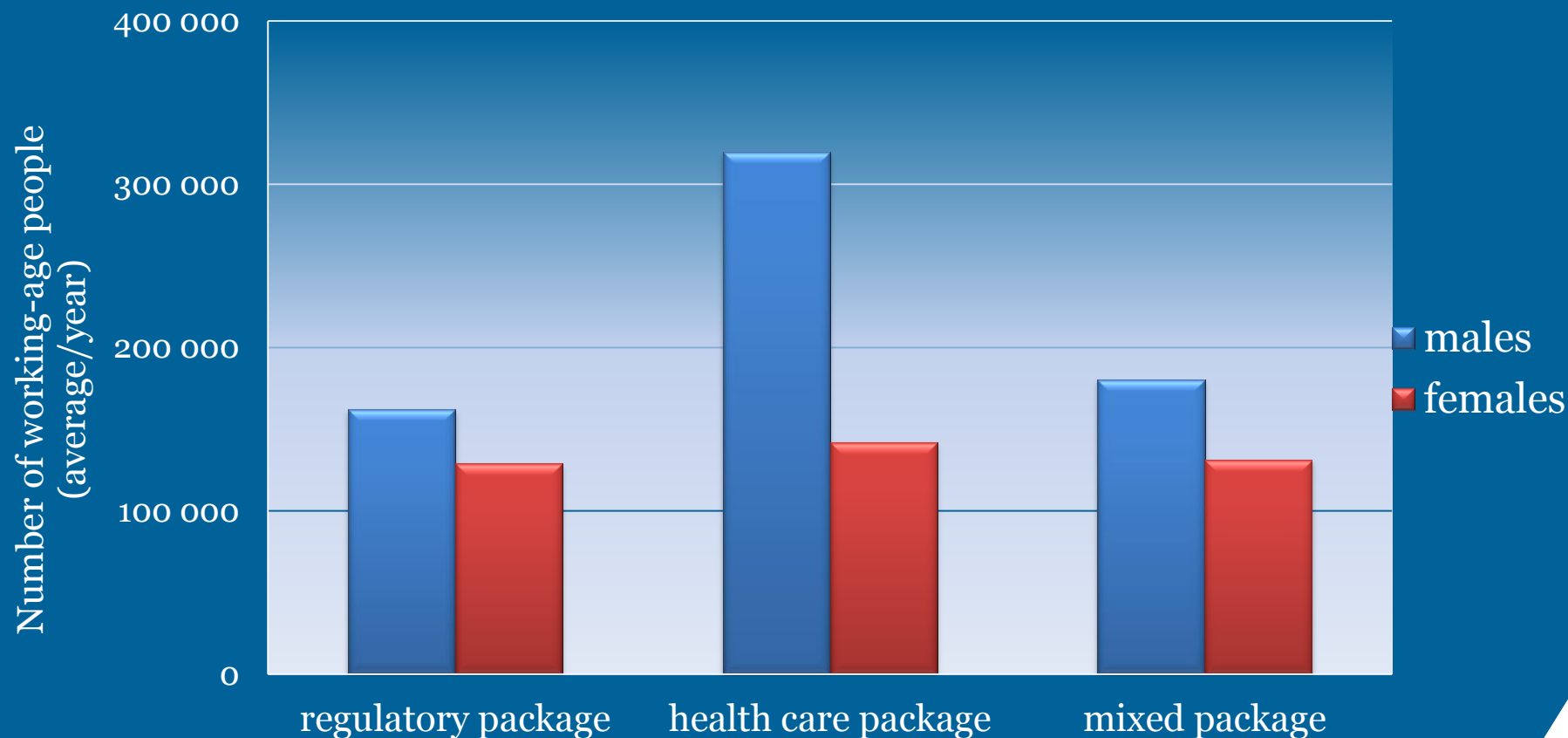


■ Europe ■ China ■ Brazil ■ Canada



# Health Gains from Alcohol Prevention in Working-Age population

Number of working-age people freed of alcohol-related diseases  
Average per year, Germany



regulatory package  
health care package  
mixed package

Tax incr, drink-dr restr, treatm depend, open hrs reg  
Brief int, treatm depend  
Tax incr, open hrs reg, advert reg



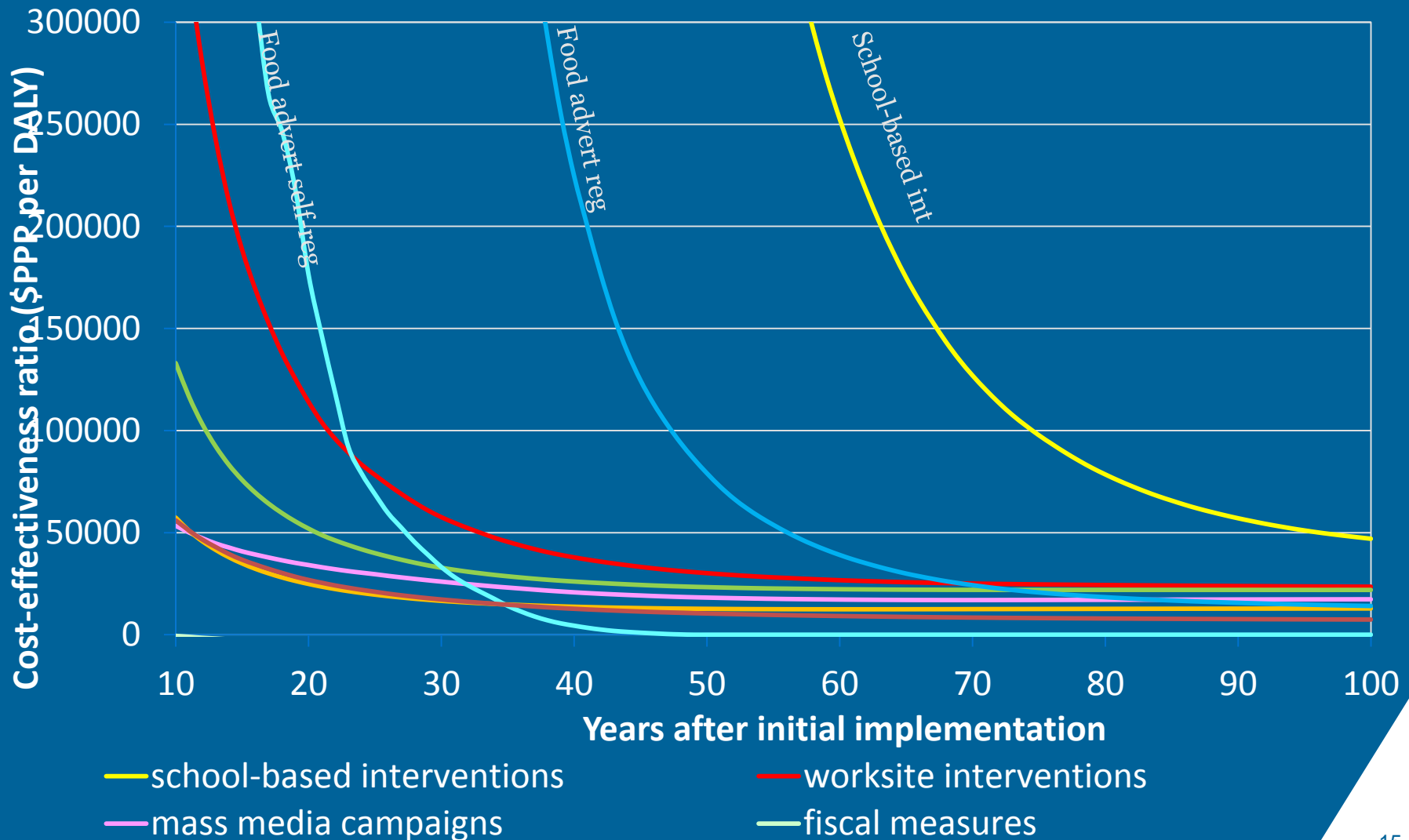
# Assessment of Policy Outcomes

---

- Prevention policies do not always save money, but are in most cases cost-effective



# Cost-Effectiveness of Preventing Obesity-related diseases (Western-Europe)





# An affordable and cost-effective solution

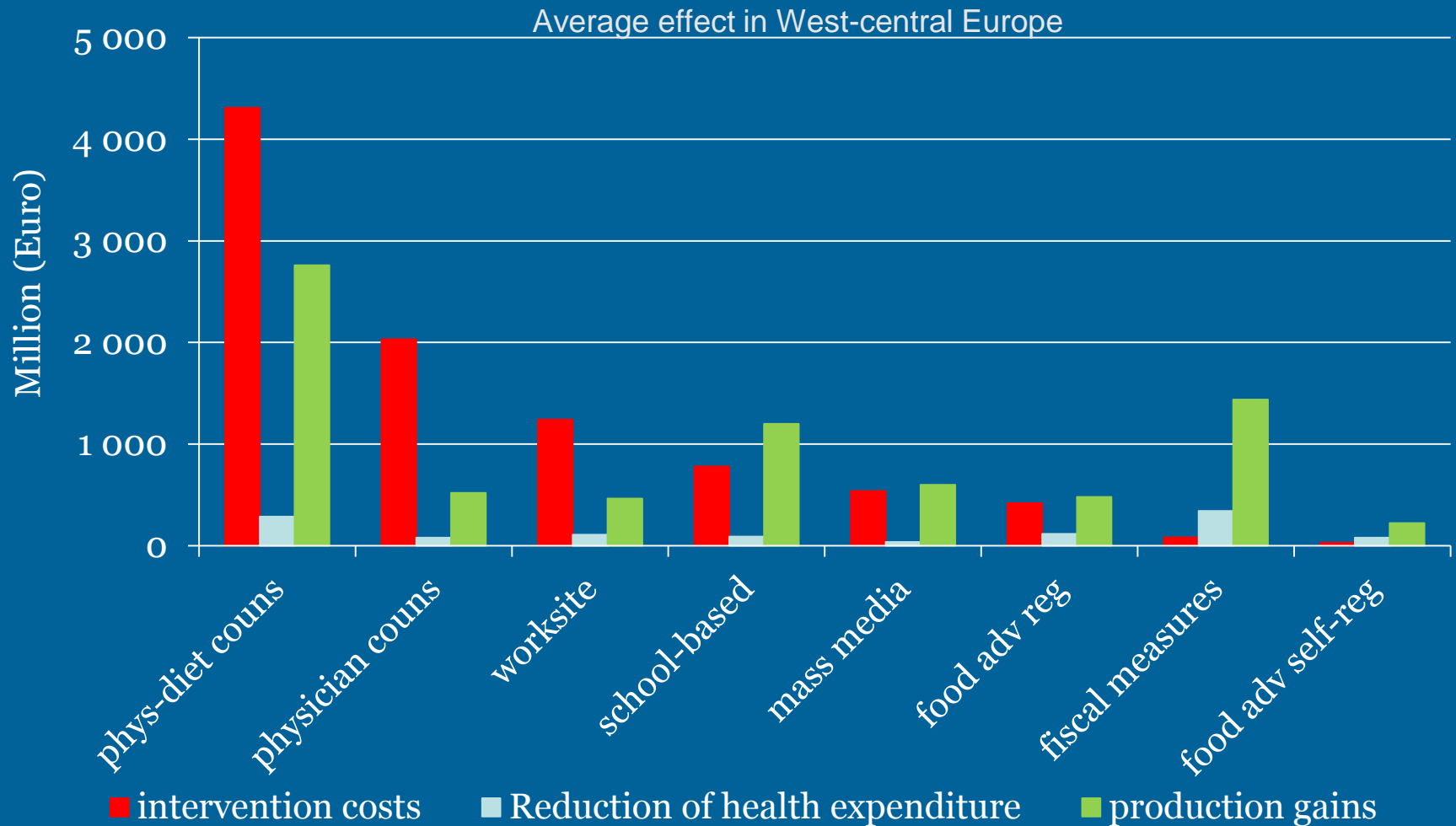
---

- A comprehensive policy package to tackle obesity could :
  - Gain a year of life in good health every year for 1 in 8 people in Europe
  - For a cost of 17 € per capita per year





# Economic Effects of Obesity Prevention





# Key Policy Implications

---

- Prevention is an effective and cost-effective way to improve population health
- Prevention can decrease health expenditure and reduce inequalities, but not to a major degree
- Policy packages combining population and individual approaches provide best results
- Prevention can improve labour market outcomes
- Prevention can alleviate the economic burden of chronic diseases on society

# Key Published Documents

- OECD health working papers  
HWP 32, 45, 46, 48
- Paper in Lancet series on  
chronic diseases
- “Best buys” paper for the UN  
Summit on NCDs
- OECD/Euro Observatory book
- Takling Harmful Alcohol Use ,  
*Forthcoming*

