

Valuing Mortality Risk Reductions in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Addressing Data Gaps and Inconsistencies

Abstract: In benefit-cost analysis, reductions in mortality risks are typically valued using estimates of the value per statistical life (VSL). These estimates are derived from studies of individuals' willingness to pay for small changes in their own mortality risks. However, few such studies address low- and middle-income countries, raising issues related to how to best estimate VSL in these contexts. While some issues are positive and could be resolved through more primary research, others are normative and require applying value judgments. This panel brings together several researchers who have developed approaches for estimating VSL in these countries to discuss related issues.

Chair: Lisa A. Robinson, Harvard University (Center for Risk Analysis and Center for Health Decision Science)

Speakers:

- James K. Hammitt, Harvard University (Center for Risk Analysis and Center for Health Decision Science)
- Nils Axel Braathen, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- Urvashi Narain, The World Bank
- Maureen Cropper, University of Maryland
- Alan Krupnick, Resources for the Future
- W. Kip Viscusi, Vanderbilt University

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Links to Key Studies

- Hammitt et al.:
 - *The Income Elasticity of the Value per Statistical Life: Transferring Estimates Between High and Low Income Populations*: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-benefit-cost-analysis/article/the-income-elasticity-of-the-value-per-statistical-life-transferring-estimates-between-high-and-low-income-populations/3AE5B0BB1034B7D898E2C9B3C1507794>
- OECD:
 - Stated preference meta-analysis: <http://www.oecd.org/env/tools-evaluation/env-value-statistical-life.htm>
 - *The Cost of Air Pollution: Health Impacts of Road Transport*: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264210448-en>
 - *The Cost of Air Pollution in Africa*: www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/oecd-development-centre-working-papers.
- World Bank:
 - *Methodology for Valuing the Health Impacts of Air Pollution: Discussion of Challenges and Proposed Solutions*: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/24440>
 - *The Cost of Air Pollution: Strengthening the Economic Case for Action*: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/25013>
- The Lancet:
 - The Lancet Global Commission on Pollution and Health (forthcoming)
- Krupnick et al.:
 - *The Willingness to Pay for Mortality Risk Reductions in Mongolia*: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0928765512000218>
- Viscusi et al.:
 - *Anchoring Biases in International Estimates of the Value of a Statistical Life*: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2896954>)