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.:

• OECD:
  – *The Cost of Air Pollution: Health Impacts of Road Transport*: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264210448-en](http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264210448-en)

• World Bank:

• The Lancet:
  – The Lancet Global Commission on Pollution and Health (forthcoming)

• Krupnick et al.:

• Viscusi et al.: