Author’s response to reviews

Title: The potential impact of food taxes and subsidies on cardiovascular disease and diabetes burden and disparities in the United States

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Szyszka,

Please find below our response to the Reviewer and Editorial comments. We hope that with this new revision the manuscript will be published in BMC Medicine. We believe our results are important and timely given the current debate on the use of economic measures to tackle the burden of chronic diseases.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any other clarification. I am looking forward to your positive answer.
Sincerely,

Jose L Penalvo

[Response to the additional comments by Editors and Reviewers]

In choosing the study of Green et al. as the source of information for elasticities by income level, we considered that this meta-analysis used random effects to account for multiple estimates coming from the same study and also to account for multiple studies coming from the same country, which accounts for countries with different income levels. Thus, the meta-analysis comparing people in the highest income category with those in the lowest income category assessed whether the price-demand relation was different for different income groups within the same country, rather than comparing income groups across countries.

We have clarified this point in materials and methods: Lines 100-102: “We analyzed a “low gradient” scenario based on a meta-analysis that compared low- vs high-income households within different countries, which found an overall 18.2% higher…”