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Communicable and non-communicable disease burden at community-based HIV Counselling and testing sites, South Africa

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Prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is worsening within sub-Saharan Africa. In South Africa, the prevalence of hypertension and obesity is 78% and 32% respectively. HIV infection contributes to metabolic and inflammatory changes, making HIV-infected individuals at higher risk for NCDs. Screening for NCDs is not routine within primary health care services. Community-based HCT (CBHCT) services provides opportunities to integrate screening of NCDs into CBHCT. This study conceptualizes burden of disease among individuals self-referred for CBHCT. Desmond Tutu TB centre partners with non-governmental organisations. CBHCT centres established in five high disease burden areas around Cape Town. HCT services included HIV rapid testing, point of care CD4 testing (POC), screening for NCDs; BMI (≥ 24 vs < 24), hypertension ($> 140/90$ vs $< 140/90$) & abdominal circumference (AC) (Males > 102 cm; Females > 88 cm), referral & linkage to care (LTC). Data was collected between January 2014 and June 2015.

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Title: Food Addiction and the Controversial Results of the Food-Tax

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The global food scenario has changed a lot in recent years. The food industry, in fact, develops ceaselessly formulas to increase the organoleptic attractiveness of the foods and their compulsive consumption. These are known as "*hyperpalatable foods*", generally obtained through sophisticated processes ("*highly processed food*") and containing abnormal amounts of sugar, fat and salt (in full: "*junk food*"). These foods are supposed to be one of the reason of widespread food-addiction, not to mention the pervasive obesity epidemic.

The paper proposes, in its first part, a phenomenology of food addiction, and then tackles the topic of controversial "*food taxes*" (tax on foods with contents of fat, sugar, salt above certain thresholds), recently applied in several European countries (Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary), in order to cope with alarming phenomena of obesity, overweight and compulsive consumption of *junk food*.

Over the past 15 years, the debate over them is greatly animated, creating sometimes opposing barricades.

The issues - ethical, legal and technical - related to the implementation of a food-tax are numerous and thorny, not to mention the fact that the effectiveness of such a policy is still far to be proved.

Empirical data show fairly limited results of food-tax policies to date.

The paper, through a comprehensive analysis of data and literature available, outlines the key socio-economic reasons for this failure and possible corrections to be made.

Key-words: Food-addiction, health-policies, food-tax, hyper-palatable, highly-processed food.

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