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Valuing the Health Benefits of Food Safety: A Proceedings

Compiled by Fred Kuchler

Abstract

Because Federal agencies use different valuation methods to estimate the costs of illness, it is difficult to compare programs across agencies. If there were a consensus approach to assigning values to risk reductions and each agency used it, risk managers could more readily compare the different agencies' programs. Those comparisons would provide risk managers with information to help them choose food safety programs that reduce both foodborne illness and public costs. As a first step toward generating a consensus on the current state of knowledge and deciding on a common approach, several agencies planned this conference, held September 14-15, 2000, at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA. The outcome of the conference will serve as guidance for a consensus approach.

Keywords: Foodborne illness, risk, value of statistical life, valuing pain and suffering, valuation methods, pathogenic risks, willingness to pay

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