

Event Report: Advancing Public Health Advocacy for Clean Cooking

Capacity Building Webinar

The webinar, "Advancing Public Health Advocacy for Clean Cooking" convened health experts, researchers, advocacy and communication specialists to discuss the health and environmental risks associated with gas cooking. The event, hosted by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), aimed to raise awareness of these issues and explore strategies for promoting the transition to cleaner cooking alternatives.

Key presentations

Research Insights

- **Health and Economic Costs of Gas Cooking:** Dr. Juana Maria Delgado-Saborit presented findings on the significant health and economic burdens associated with gas cooking. The research revealed that gas cooking contributes to premature deaths, respiratory hospital admissions, and childhood asthma. The economic costs associated with these health impacts were estimated to be substantial, with countries like Italy and Poland bearing the highest burdens.
- **The Importance of Framing:** Lorien Perryfrost and Callum Weir from Opinium discussed the importance of effective framing in communicating the risks of gas cooking. Their research highlighted the need to focus on the health implications for children, use credible spokespeople, and avoid overly negative or sensational messaging.

Advocacy Strategies

- **Building a Movement:** Frazer Goodwin from EPHA emphasized the importance of building a coordinated advocacy movement to promote the transition to clean cooking. He drew parallels to the successful campaign for lead-free petrol, highlighting the need for a targeted approach that engages policymakers, consumers, and healthcare professionals.
- **Advocacy Techniques:** Fraser Goodwin provided an overview of advocacy techniques, including media engagement, grassroots mobilization, and policy advocacy. He emphasized the importance of tailoring advocacy strategies to the specific context and target audience.
- **Case Study: Poland:** Karol Witte from GSCC Cee shared insights from Poland on effective media engagement strategies. He discussed the challenges and opportunities for promoting clean cooking in Poland and offered practical advice for other countries.

Discussion and Q&A

A lively Q&A session followed the presentations, allowing participants to delve deeper into the issues and exchange ideas. Key points raised during the discussion included:

- **Cost Considerations:** Participants discussed the challenges of overcoming the cost barrier for consumers transitioning to clean cooking. It was suggested that policymakers could provide incentives or subsidies to make clean cooking options more affordable.
- **Policy Implications:** The webinar highlighted the need for stronger regulations and policies to promote the adoption of clean cooking technologies. Participants discussed the potential role of the European Union in setting standards and providing guidance to member states.
- **Public Awareness:** The importance of raising public awareness about the health and environmental risks of gas cooking was emphasized. Participants discussed the role of media, social media, and community outreach in promoting awareness and behavior change.

Conclusion

The webinar provided valuable insights into the health and environmental consequences of gas cooking and the importance of effective advocacy strategies. The research presented highlighted the need for policymakers and consumers to prioritize clean cooking options. A well-organized and targeted advocacy movement can drive significant change.

Recommendations

Based on the discussions and presentations, the following recommendations were made:

- **Policymakers:** Implement regulations to promote the adoption of clean cooking technologies and phase out gas cooking. Provide incentives or subsidies to make clean cooking options more affordable for consumers.
- **Consumers:** Consider switching to electric or induction cooking to reduce their exposure to harmful pollutants.
- **Advocacy Organizations:** Develop and implement targeted advocacy campaigns to raise awareness of the risks of gas cooking and promote the benefits of clean cooking alternatives.
- **Researchers:** Conduct further research to quantify the health and economic impacts of gas cooking and to evaluate the effectiveness of different policy interventions.

Note: This report summarizes the key points from the webinar and does not include all the details of the presentations and discussions. For more information, please refer to the [full recording](#) of the event.

