

Causal effect of health on labor market outcomes: Experimental evidence

Duncan Thomas, UCLA
Elizabeth Frankenberg, UCLA
Jed Friedman, The World Bank
Jean-Pierre Habicht, Cornell University
Mohammed Hakimi, University of Gadjah Mada
Nicholas Ingwersen, UCLA
Jaswadi, University of Gadjah Mada
Nathan Jones, Centers for Disease Control
Christopher McKelvey, University of Maryland
Gretel Pelto, Cornell University
Bondan Sikoki, RAND and SurveyMETER
Teresa Seeman, UCLA
James P. Smith, RAND
Cecep Sumantri, SurveyMETER
Wayan Suriastini, SurveyMETER
Siswanto Wilopo, University of Gadjah Mada

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Abstract

Iron deficiency is widespread throughout the developing world. We provide new evidence on the effect of iron deficiency on economic and social prosperity of older adults drawing on data from a random assignment treatment-control design intervention. The Work and Iron Status Evaluation is an on-going study following over 17,000 individuals in Central Java, Indonesia. Half the respondents receive a treatment of 120 mg of iron every week for a year; the controls receive a placebo. Compliance is monitored carefully. Results from the first six months of the intervention are presented for adults age 30 through 70 years. Males who were iron deficient prior to the intervention and who are assigned to the treatment are better off in terms of physical health, psycho-social health and economic success. These men are more likely to be working, sleep less, lose less work time to illness, are more energetic, more able to conduct physically arduous activities and their psycho-social health is better. There is evidence that economic productivity of these males also increased. Among iron-deficient males assigned to the treatment who were also self-employed prior to the baseline, hourly earnings rose substantially and so they earned more on a monthly basis. Benefits for women are in the same direction but the effects are more muted. The results provide unambiguous evidence in support of the hypothesis that health has a causal effect on economic prosperity of males during middle and older ages.

1. Introduction

There is a strong positive association between health and economic prosperity (Marmot et al, 1997). The association, which is observed in both micro-level and macro-level data, has been documented for a wide array of health indicators, for many different dimensions of economic prosperity and across a broad spectrum of demographic, social and economic contexts. However, identifying the causal underpinnings of these relationships has proven to be extremely difficult. (See Strauss and Thomas, 1998, Smith, 1999, and Goldman, 2001, for reviews of the literature.)

It seems reasonable to suppose that causality runs in both directions. Many studies have documented that higher income individuals invest more in human capital, including health. As income grows, individuals invest in higher quality diets, improved sanitation practices and better health care, suggesting that higher income leads to better health. Evidence on the relationship between income innovations and health is more ambiguous. On the one hand, studies suggest some investments in health and health services are particularly responsive to income innovations while other studies indicate that health is protected at times of negative income shocks, (Behrman and Deolalikar, 1988; Case, Lubotsky and Paxson, 2003; Frankenberg and Thomas, 2003; Stillman and Thomas, 2003.) On the other hand, evidence on the effect of health on economic well-being suggests that declines in health are associated with reduced labor supply, earnings from work and wealth (Pitt and Rosenzweig, 1986; Thomas and Strauss, 1998; Smith, 1999). A key stumbling block in this literature has been parsing out that part of the observed correlation between health and economic prosperity that is due to health causing income, that which is due to income causing health, and that which is driven by common unobserved characteristics.

Thinking of health as one dimension of human capital, it is plausible that improvements in health will yield returns in the labor force. If a healthier worker is less susceptible to disease, is more alert and has more energy, then he or she will probably be a more productive worker and command higher hourly earnings. Establishing this link is not straightforward. It is, however, very important. If health does affect economic prosperity then evaluations of health interventions that do not take this into account will tend to understate their benefits to individuals and to society.

This paper presents results from an on-going study which seeks to measure the causal effect of one dimension of health -- iron deficiency -- on economic and social success broadly defined. Iron deficiency is widespread through many parts of the developing world. The Work and Iron Status Evaluation (WISE) randomly assigns a weekly iron supplement to half the subjects with the rest being given a placebo. Iron supplementation continued for a year; we report results on labor market outcomes from the first six months of the intervention. The social and economic benefits of health improvements are likely to take time to manifest themselves, and so we view the evidence presented below as indicative of the immediate benefits of reducing iron deficiency. By focusing on the immediate impacts, we can put aside behavioral responses to the intervention which render assessment of its impact significantly more complex. Measurement of the longer-term impact of iron supplementation is part of our future research program.

We focus on adults age 30 through 70 at the time of the baseline. Iron supplementation results in elevated blood iron levels, as measured by hemoglobin, for both males and females in this age group. These benefits are concentrated among those who are iron deficient prior to the intervention. After six months of supplementation, there is evidence that iron-deficient older adults who received the treatment are better off in terms of physical health, psycho-social health and economic success. Relative to the control group, males who were iron deficient prior to the intervention and received the treatment are more likely to be working, earn more and lose less work time to illness. These men are also more energetic, sleep less, they are more able to conduct physically arduous activities and their psycho-social health is better. The effects for females are generally in the same direction but tend to be more muted. Treated females who were iron deficient at baseline are more likely to be working, have higher hourly earnings if they earn income and tend to have better physical and psycho-social health. The results provide unambiguous evidence in support of the hypothesis that health has a causal effect on economic and social prosperity of adults during middle and older ages.

2. Relationship between health and economic or social prosperity

The literature suggests that income has a causal impact on health and nutrition. Evidence at the household level indicates that increases in economic resources are invested in improved diet, better sanitation and health practices, increased use of health services and, possibly, more effective use of these services. Rising incomes are associated with lower rates of mortality and reduced nutrition deficiencies. (See Behrman and Deolalikar, 1988; and Strauss and Thomas, 1995, for discussions of the evidence at the micro level. Ruger, Jamison and Bloom, 2001, summarize the macro literature. See also the 1993 World Development Report and 1999 World Health Report.) An important body of evidence demonstrates that, over the long run, there is a positive association between economic prosperity and health of a population as measured by morbidity, mortality or nutritional status. (See, for example, Preston, 1975; Fogel, 1992, 1994, 1999; Steckel, 1995.) Attained stature of adults in the United States, Europe and in developing countries today has been combined in creative ways with information on indicators of economic status by Fogel, his students and his collaborators to yield important insights into the effects of income -- and income shocks -- on nutritional outcomes.

Nutrition has played a prominent role in the literature linking health and economic prosperity at least since Liebenstein (1957). Improved nutrition is one of the leading public health accomplishments cited by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that contributed to the greatly improved longevity and quality of life in the United States in the 20th century. This was achieved in part through food fortification which virtually eliminated rickets, goiter, and pellagra in the United States, and reduced the incidence of iron deficiency anemia, neural tube defects, and other conditions. In contrast, malnutrition remains a widespread and debilitating problem throughout many parts of the developing world. Moreover, the literature indicates that, along with genotype and environmental influences, diet plays a role in the etiology of many chronic diseases.

In recent years, substantial strides have been made in understanding the links between nutrition and health in low-income settings. In earlier decades, it was widely believed that poor nutrition arose primarily because of inadequate energy or protein, and effort was focused on increasing energy intakes among the poor. As it became apparent that protein-energy malnutrition was only one element in improving the nutritional status of people in low-income settings, the focus shifted towards also understanding the

influence of micro-nutrients such as iron, iodine, zinc, calcium and several key vitamins on health and nutrition. In the research reported here we place the spotlight on one micro-nutrient: iron.

Iron deficiency is thought to be the most common nutritional deficiency in the world today. It is estimated that over 2 billion people worldwide are iron deficient. The effects of iron deficiency include reduced immune response, delayed cognitive and physical development, fatigue and reduced work capacity, and, in extreme situations, death. The vast majority of the literature on iron deficiency has focused on women of reproductive age and on young children. However, these are not the only population groups that are at risk of iron deficiency. Figure 1 presents evidence on iron deficiency in Indonesia based on hemoglobin measured in 1997 in the second wave of the Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS).¹ Hemoglobin (Hb) is one indicator of levels of iron in the blood and low levels of hemoglobin indicate iron-deficiency. The top panel of the figure presents mean Hb levels for males and females age 15 through 80. The lower panel reports the fraction of the population with Hb<12g/dl which is one cut-off below which an adult is considered iron deficient. (The cut-off applies to adult males and non-pregnant females; Hb levels are lower among pregnant females.)

About one-third of females age 15 to 50 have Hb<12g/dl; among older females, the fraction with low Hb rises steadily with age and over half the women in their late 70s are iron deficient according to this indicator. While Hb levels of males are higher than those of females at each age, it is not the case that only women (and children) suffer from low Hb. After age 30, hemoglobin levels of men decline with age and among those in their 70s, about one-third are iron deficient. Clearly, low levels of Hb are prevalent not only among reproductive-age women and children but are common among older women and among older men in Indonesia. Precisely why older adults in Indonesia have lower levels of Hb is unclear. Lower Hb levels likely reflect the combination of a diet that has little by way of animal proteins (a primary source of iron that is absorbed well) and is high in rice (which retards iron absorption) as well as lower absorption capacity (which is reduced by disease insults), possibly the presence of worms, and loss of blood.² Although all ages

¹Blood hemoglobin levels are measured by pricking the finger of the respondent in the home and immediately analyzing the blood with a Hemocue portable photometer. IFLS2 was fielded in September 1997-January 1998 and is representative of 83% of the population of Indonesia. (The more remote islands were not included in the sample for cost reasons.) There are slightly fewer than 19,000 respondents aged between 15 and 80 whose Hb was measured in the survey.

²Low Hb may be a reflection of the presence of malaria infections or high levels of inflammation (Asobayire et al,

are included in the WISE study design, the research reported below will focus on older adults (ages 30 through 70).

There is evidence that iron status and labor market success are positively correlated in low-income settings (Thomas and Frankenberg, 2002). Using data from the pre-baseline wave of WISE, the relationship between $\ln(\text{earnings})$ and Hb is presented below for adult males. Controlling age (in a flexible way), there is a positive and significant correlation between Hb and earnings throughout the Hb distribution (although it is slightly larger at low levels of Hb). While it might be tempting to conclude that improvements in Hb status will result in higher income and faster economic growth, such a conclusion would be premature. Not only may causality run in the opposite direction, but the correlation between earnings and current Hb levels may be confounded by other characteristics that also affect labor market outcomes.

ln(earnings) of males age 30-70 and nutritional status

| | <i>Spline in Hb</i> | | <i>Height</i> | <i>Education</i> | <i>BMI</i> |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | <i>Hb < 12g/dl</i> | <i>Hb >= 12g/dl</i> | | | |
| Controls: | β_1 | β_2 | β_3 | β_4 | β_5 |
| [1] Age (splines) | 0.092 (0.034) | 0.062 (0.020) | . | . | . |
| [2] + Height, education, & location | 0.071 (0.032) | 0.029 (0.019) | 0.012 (0.004) | 0.099 (0.006) | . |
| [3] + BMI | 0.069 (0.032) | 0.014 (0.019) | 0.013 (0.004) | 0.091 (0.001) | 0.045 (0.008) |

(Standard errors in parentheses)

Source: WISE -04 month wave

2002). The study site for this project, which is described in more detail below, was selected because malaria is not present. Hb levels in the study site mirror those reported for the Indonesian population in IFLS suggesting the estimates for the entire population are not driven by these infections. We have explored inflammation on a sub-sample of the WISE respondents with C-Reactive Protein (CRP) measured from dried blood spots. Among adults age 30 through 70, inflammation rates in the Indonesian population are very similar to those in the United States population. Importantly, within this age group, the relationship between age and CRP in Indonesia is relatively flat and cannot account for the association between age and Hb in Figure 1 suggesting that relationship is not driven by a hemoglobinopathy associated with inflammation (Crimmins et al, 2006). Vitamins A, B-2, B-6, Folate and B-12 all play a role in hematological formation. Deficiencies in these micronutrients may result in the co-existence of low levels of Hb and high iron stores (Fishman et al, 2000). Transferrin receptors (TfR) indicate levels of iron stores and are little influenced by inflammation, malaria infection or deficiencies in micronutrients other than iron. TfR has been measured from dry blood spots collected as part of the study. Those results, which are reported below, indicate that low Hb in this study indicates low levels of iron in the blood in the vast majority of cases.

In the second row, two standard controls for human capital, height and years of education, are added to the regression in conjunction with controls for province and urban/rural location. Both education and height are positively correlated with earnings. There is a large decline in the coefficient on $Hb \geq 12g/dl$ which is no longer significant. The coefficient on low Hb is reduced by nearly a quarter but remains significant. The results suggest that part of the correlation between Hb and earnings can be attributed to other dimensions of human capital particularly at higher levels of Hb. Since height and education are largely predetermined for adults, it may be that Hb is reflecting the effect of concurrent variation in nutritional status. To explore this hypothesis, body mass index (BMI, which is weight divided by height squared) is also added to the regression, recognizing that BMI, like Hb, is potentially correlated with unobserved characteristics that affect earnings. The results of the extended regression are reported in the third row. BMI is positively correlated with earnings and the association is apparently unrelated to low Hb, height or education since the coefficients on those covariates are little changed. Clearly, higher-earning males tend to be taller, heavier, better educated and eat higher quality diets. A key issue that this research will address is whether the relationship between Hb and earnings can be given a causal interpretation.

The decision to design this intervention study around iron was motivated not only by the prevalence of iron deficiency in low income settings and the evidence suggesting iron status and earnings are positively related. The decision was also motivated by the fact that there is a very large literature in health, nutrition and biochemistry which provides a solid scientific foundation for understanding the biomedical consequences of iron deficiency. (See Haas and Brownlie, 2001, for an excellent review.) Iron plays an essential role in oxidative energy production. Iron deficient anemia (IDA) -- that is low levels of hemoglobin (Hb) in combination with abnormal levels of other iron indicators -- is associated with, *inter alia*, greater susceptibility to disease, fatigue and reduced child development. In severe cases, it is associated with elevated infant and maternal mortality. Iron deficiency affects physical activity through primarily two pathways. First, as hemoglobin levels decline, the maximum amount of oxygen that the body can use (aerobic capacity) declines. Second, as iron stores are depleted, the amount of oxygen available to muscles declines which results in reduced endurance, and the heart works harder to produce the same amount of activity.

Rigorous studies of both animals and humans have demonstrated a causal relationship between iron deficiency and reduced maximum aerobic capacity ($VO_2\text{max}$). For example, studies indicate that experimentally induced anemia results in about a 30% decline in $VO_2\text{max}$ whereas iron supplementation for around 12 weeks produces about a 25% increase in $VO_2\text{max}$ (Celsing et al., 1986; Li et al., 1994; Woodson et al. 1978). There is also evidence that IDA is associated with reduced endurance at below maximal work rates. In contrast, iron-deficient (but non-anemic) individuals -- individuals with normal Hb but depleted iron stores as evidenced by, for example, low transferrin saturation or elevated levels of transferrin receptors (TfR) -- may also suffer from fatigue, but there is little evidence that for these individuals iron status has any effect on $VO_2\text{max}$ or endurance, (Scrimshaw, 1991; Haas and Brownlie, 2001).

Demonstrating that maximal capacity and endurance are impeded by iron deficiency does not necessarily inform us about the economic consequences of iron deficiency in daily life. Those consequences may be more closely aligned with energy efficiency which is the amount of physiological energy required to perform a given task and is usually assessed by indirect calorimetry. Laboratory studies indicate that iron deficiency impairs energetic efficiency (Zhu and Haas, 1998; Li et al. 1994). Li and collaborators, for example, conducted a randomized treatment-control study of Chinese female cotton mill workers. After 12 weeks of iron supplementation, they found a 5% increase in gross and net energetic efficiencies among the treatments relative to the controls. They also observed a significant reduction in heart rates and a 17% increase in the production efficiency of women who received the treatment. There was no increase in work output (which was constrained by the technology of the mill) but time spent on leisure activities, housework and marketing activities increased among the treated as did energy expenditure in these activities. A similar finding is reported by Edgerton et al. (1979): iron supplementation of Sri Lankan female tea plantation workers is associated with increased voluntary activity. These results are important because they suggest iron deficiency affects how time is allocated by an individual.

Whereas causal effects of iron status on aerobic capacity and endurance have been extremely well-documented in both animals and humans, the link with economic and social success is less well established. Obviously experimental studies that examine the relationship between iron deficiency and work output or productivity are limited to a field setting. The strongest evidence is provided by a longitudinal study of nearly 400 male rubber tree tappers and weeders in Indonesia (Basta et al., 1979). Baseline health measures

indicated that 45% of the study population was anemic (Hb<13g/dl). It is likely that hookworm explains a good part of the high levels of anemia (with examination of stools of a 10% sub-sample indicating that worms were present in 88% of the men). Among the anemic, baseline productivity (measured by kilograms of latex collected by tappers per day and the area of trenches dug by weeders per day) was about 20% lower than the productivity of non-anemic workers. In the experiment, workers were randomly assigned to one of two groups (irrespective of their anemia status). The treatments were given a daily iron supplement (100 mg ferrous sulphate) for 60 days; the controls were given a placebo. Workers received an incentive payment to take the pills as scheduled. At the end of the period, blood hemoglobin, aerobic capacity (measured by the Harvard step test) and output of those who were initially anemic, and received the treatment, increased to nearly the levels of the non-anemic workers (whose biological indicators did not change). Among those in the control group who were anemic, productivity and blood hemoglobin levels also rose, although the increase was substantially smaller than among those in the treatment group. (This is attributed by Basta et al. to the effect of the incentive payment, a claim which is corroborated by a comparison of dietary intakes before and after the experiment: they point out that, during the experiment, anemics in the control group spent more on leafy greens as well as other foods which provide higher amounts of iron.)

The results suggest that the output of workers who are IDA can be raised by around 20% through supplementation. This is a very large effect. An issue that is not addressed in the Basta et al. study is the possibility of selective attrition. Although the study involved a sample of 156 tappers, the final analytical sample included only 77 of those workers. If those who attrited from the study were not random with regard to productivity (and productivity change), then the advantages of the experimental design will be dissipated.

In fact, two other studies suggest the effects of iron supplementation may be considerably smaller. Edgerton et al. (1979) report supplementation had small effects on the amount of tea picked by female pickers in Sri Lanka and Li et al. (1994) found small increases in output of female cotton mill workers in China although, as noted above, energy efficiency among these workers did increase significantly and technology impeded productivity improvements at the cotton mills.

Implementation of these kinds of focused studies is not without potential pitfalls. First, if treatments benefit from the intervention and controls do not, there are reasons to expect attrition to be selective. Failure to take that into account can unravel the key advantages of an experimental evaluation. Second, interventions

have tended to be targeted at specific individuals. If individuals share the benefits of the intervention with other household and family members, then the effects of the intervention on the subjects will be underestimated because of these spillover effects. This might arise, for example, if tea pickers or rubber tappers who received a supplement ate less food at home, to make room for other household members. This raises the more general issue that there may be behavioral responses to health interventions and that responses of households may be quite complex. Third, it may be difficult to detect the effects of supplementation in some types of work or institutional settings. As an example, the scope for Chinese cotton mill workers to increase output is limited by the technology of production and the speed with which their co-workers operate. The immediate effects of supplementation on work output among these workers are likely to be muted. However, workers who receive supplementation might reap the benefits of elevated productivity by moving to other tasks, other factories or other jobs in which case short-term studies will tend to miss the benefits of supplementation. Of course, if subjects who move (or change jobs) are not followed then these effects will be missed altogether. The Chinese study also suggests that focusing on productivity effects may miss an important part of the link between health and prosperity. In addition to changes in hours worked and type of work, it is possible that healthier workers will allocate more time to non-work activities including leisure and home production. This will likely result in increased levels of well-being (and possibly even indirect benefits on productivity through elevated levels of functioning). Enhanced productivity at home may also provide benefits for the next generation if, say, parents invest more in their children. WISE is designed to study all of these potential pathways through which health improvements may affect the well-being of individuals and their families.

3. Research design

WISE is an on-going iron supplementation intervention that is being conducted in Central Java, Indonesia. The study site, Purworejo district, is located east of Yogyakarta on the southern coast of Java and is home to about one million people. The area is primarily agricultural. Rice, the dominant crop in the area, is the main crop for around three-quarters of the farmers and there are typically three harvests per year. Oranges and groundnuts are also widely grown, often in conjunction with rice.

The Community Health and Nutrition Research Laboratory (CHN-RL) at the University of Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, has been conducting a surveillance study of 16,000 households in Purworejo since 1996. Study households were randomly selected to be representative of the district and have been interviewed at least once a year since the inception of the surveillance study. For this study, four of the fifteen *kecamatan*s in Purworejo were excluded (because there is a risk that malaria is present in these upland, wooded areas and iron supplementation may have a deleterious effect on people infected with malaria). Seventy of the 148 enumeration areas in the CHN-RL study sample were randomly selected and, after excluding households that were participating in other, co-incident CHN-RL intensive studies, all 5,570 households living in those enumeration areas were included in the WISE screener survey. Because surveillance studies do not track respondents who move out of the community, a refreshment sample was added. Using the household listing from the 2000 Census conducted by the Badan Pusat Statistik, Indonesia, 80 enumeration areas were randomly selected from the same eleven *kecamatan*s selected from the CHN-RL rosters. Fifty-five households were randomly selected in each enumeration area for the WISE screener survey

The WISE screener survey was conducted during October-December 2001. Questions were asked about socio-demographics, health and work. Blood was taken using a finger prick to measure hemoglobin (with the Hemocue photometer). Over 37,000 respondents living in 9,500 households were screened.³

The WISE study sample was then selected. All screened subjects were pooled and a sample of individuals was drawn. Once an individual was drawn, the entire household was included in the study sample. Each individual was assigned a probability weight which reflected the key goals of this study: measurement of the effect of iron supplementation on economic and social productivity of older adults. Since the biomedical evidence demonstrates that the benefits of iron supplementation accrue primarily (and possibly only) to those who are iron deficient, males age 25 through 75 and females age 40 to 75 with low Hb in the screener were over-sampled. Slightly over 17,500 respondents living in 4,300 households were included in the WISE study sample.

³9,435 households were interviewed in the screener; in each of 152 of the listed households, all members from the household had combined with another screener household. Thus, 96.2% of the target households were interviewed. All household members had died in 22 (0.2%) households, 22 households (0.2%) refused to be interviewed, 107 households (1%) were ineligible (because they were not in the original CHN-RL sample or were duplicated households in the Census); 175 households had moved out of the enumeration area (1.8%) and 56 households (0.6%) could not be found in the enumeration area.

Detailed individual and household interviews have been conducted every four months for three years, starting immediately after the completion of the screener survey which took place between September and December 2001. The pre-baseline (-4 month) survey, conducted between January and April 2002, was followed by the baseline (0 month) survey between May and September 2002. The iron supplementation was started in August 2002 and lasted for 14 months. The start of the intervention was staggered across enumeration areas so that some areas began the intervention in early October 2002. During the intervention, surveys were conducted between late September and December 2002 (04 month interview), January through April, 2003, (08 month), May through August, 2003 (12 month) and September through December 2003 (16 month). The interviews and intervention were timed so that all respondents would be receiving the intervention at the time of the 12 month interview and have stopped by the time of the 16 month interview. After the intervention ended, follow-up interviews were conducted in January through April, 2004, (20 month), May through August, 2004 (24 month) and September through December 2004 (28 month). All respondents were interviewed once during 2005 and will be interviewed again in 2007. Appendix Table 1 summarizes the study schedule.

CHN-RL has been conducting intervention-based studies in this area since the inception of the surveillance site. Prior to the beginning of WISE, all respondents were invited to local meetings to explain the goals of the study, to provide answers to all questions that respondents might have and, thereby, serve as vehicle to help motivate participation in the study. The meetings were conducted by the local public health service providers and local community leaders in collaboration with the study team.

Households were randomly assigned to either receive the treatment (120 mg iron tablets in the form of ferrous sulphate for subjects older than 5 years old or an orange flavored syrup for children age 5 or less) or a placebo (which is identical in appearance). The decision to assign treatment/control status at the household was motivated by two concerns. First, if iron supplementation yields benefits and household members can observe those benefits, then it is possible that, if one household member benefits from the pill while another does not, household members may share their pills. This sort of behavioral response to the intervention has been observed in several nutrition-based interventions and has contaminated interpretation of those results. Since randomization is at the household level, this kind of sharing will not affect who receives the treatment and who receives the placebo. Second, at a more pragmatic level, many of the older

respondents in the study have limited literacy and there was a concern that it may be difficult for the respondents to keep track of which pills were to be taken by whom. (Study participants are encouraged to take their pills together at meal time on Friday of each week.) All tablets are identical: they are small and colored purple (which distinguishes them from other pills that are common in the community). The tablets are packaged in blister packs of four tablets and distributed to respondents once every four weeks by a health facilitator who was recruited from the local community. The syrup is distributed in a small bottle containing four doses. Every four weeks, households are provided with boxes which contain the tablet and syrup supply for the following four weeks.

A local facilitator was recruited in each of the WISE enumeration areas. Typically the facilitator lives in the area and is often active in the local community. During the first months of the intervention, the facilitator visited each household in his or her area two times a week in order to encourage (or remind) respondents to take the tablets, answer any questions and deal with any problems or side effects. If a respondent complained about a side effect, a local health professional (usually the *bidan desa* in the village) would be called and would visit the respondent. After the first four weeks, the frequency of visits was reduced to once per week if there were no problems and compliance was high. After 12 weeks, visits were reduced to bi-weekly for respondents without problems.

At each household visit, the number of pills remaining in the blister pack (and the amount of syrup remaining) is recorded by the facilitator. Those records are reported to the field supervisor for the area; the field supervisor visits all households in his or her area who report concerns regarding the study and also all households whose compliance is low. The health facilitator records are also punched using a computer-assisted field editing data entry package. The punched data are sent to Yogyakarta and to Los Angeles weekly and are one of the tools used to monitor compliance. At the end of each four week period, the facilitator provides each household member with a new blister pack of four tablets (or bottle of syrup) and the old supply is collected and returned to the base in Purworejo. The number of pills remaining is recorded at that time. All study households were given a 14 month calendar with the day that the tablet should be taken (Friday) colored purple. These protocols were developed after extensive testing in two pilot studies which were completed in the study area prior to the intervention.

A plausible explanation for low iron blood levels in the study population may be that helminth infections are prevalent. A study by CHNRL in Purworejo suggested that helminth infections were not uncommon but worm loads were low among infected individuals. At the time that the intervention began, we selected 200 adults living in areas that are adjacent to three WISE study enumeration areas and obtained fecal samples which were inspected for helminth infections. (These adults are not in the WISE study sample because of concern that they may refuse to participate in the study. Since helminth infections tend to be clustered in communities, measuring worm loads in respondents living close to the study area should provide a good indicator of the worm loads prevalent in the WISE study sample.) Those measurements confirmed the earlier CHNRL results: few adults have helminth infections and, among those that are infected, worm loads are low.⁴ Nonetheless, in order to address the possibility that helminth infections might retard the absorption of iron into the blood, treatments were given 400mg of Albendazole within one month of receiving iron tablets and again six months later; placebos were administered to the control sample. (Pregnant and lactating women were not included in the administration of the anti-helminthes or their associated placebos.)

All of the blister packs of tablets and syrup (treatment and placebo) were prepared by the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Gadjah Mada. The content of the iron tablets, Albendazole and the placebo has been measured by an independent laboratory (West Coast Analytical Services, California) and confirmed to be correct. All tablets and syrup are labelled either "A" or "B". None of the field staff knows whether A is treatment or control. The assignment is known only to the pharmacist who prepared the tablets and syrup and two people working on the study (a co-PI who was based in the United States during the study, Wayan Suriastini, and the LA-based programmer). In the research reported below, we will refer to groupX as treatment/control; the assignment of groupX was done by the LA-based programmer after a coin

⁴50 adults between the age of 30 and 70 were selected in each of 4 *desas* which are adjacent to WISE enumeration areas. Half the adults are male. The average age is 45. No worms were detected in 70% of the fecal samples. 15% contained low worm loads (<100 larvae), 12% had moderate loads (100-1000 larvae) and 3% had heavy loads (>1000 larvae). Three helminth infections were detected: *Trichuris trichiura* (in 16% of the sample), hookworm (16%) and *Ascaris lumbricoides* (6%). The presence of worms and worm loads are unrelated to gender (t statistics=0.05 and 1.44 respectively); presence of worms is not associated with age although, conditional on having worms, there is suggestive evidence that older adults have higher loads. (This effect is not significant.)

toss and there is no link from it to the field designation of "A" and "B". The study will remain double-blind until all fieldwork is completed.

The research reported below compares health and socio-economic indicators for adults measured in the pre-baseline (-04 month) interview, conducted in early 2002, with indicators measured for the same people 12 months later in early 2003 (in the 08 month interview). Some results from the 12 and 16 month interviews are also reported.⁵

Of the target 4,362 households selected to be included in WISE after the screener had been completed, 99.6% were re-interviewed in the -04 month pre-baseline survey. Movers (including "split-offs", that is, household members who move away from the target household) are followed if they remain in Java, which added 320 households to the WISE study sample. There were 17,000 members living in the target households at the time of the screener; of those people 96.3% were included in the pre-baseline survey. Nearly 1,000 new household members were added to the study sample at the time of the pre-baseline either because new people entered target households or because split-offs were living with new people.⁶ There are, therefore, almost 18,000 study subjects in WISE.

Attrition from the survey from the pre-baseline (-04 month) to the tenth (28 month) interview is reported in Appendix Table 2. Panel A reports overall attrition for all subjects (in columns 1 and 2) and for subjects age 30 through 70 at the time of the pre-baseline (in columns 3 and 4). Between the pre-baseline and baseline, attrition was 2%. A year later, at the end of the intervention it was slightly below 4% and two years after the baseline (at the 28 month interview), 6% of all the subjects who were interviewed in the pre-baseline (and who had not died) were re-interviewed. Thus, nearly 94% of all the target respondents were re-interviewed at the 10th wave of the study. Individuals who moved were followed as long as they stayed in

⁵Interviews are conducted in the home with pencil and paper. The following day, they are edited with a computer-assisted field editing, CAFE, and data entry package designed for this study. The electronic and hardcopy data are sent from Purworejo to Yogyakarta each week where they are cross-checked. The data are transferred electronically to the United States. On average, electronic data are available approximately two weeks after an interview is completed, which provides opportunities to conduct extensive and intensive monitoring of data quality and survey completeness.

⁶Seven households (0.16%) refused to participate; all household members had died in fewer than 0.1% households and all members of 0.1% of households had moved but were not found in their new location. Eighty people (0.5%) died between the screener and the pre-baseline and 3.9% moved but were not relocated.

Java and split offs who formed new households were followed. All new entrants to any study household were interviewed. In the 28 month wave, information was collected on over 20,000 individuals.

Very few people have refused to participate in the study and so attrition is largely a reflection of geographic mobility which is greatest in early adulthood. Thus, among adults age 30 through 70 -- the age group of primary interest in this paper -- attrition is even lower: less than 4% of subjects were not interviewed at the 10th (28 month) wave.

Panel B of the table provides attrition rates for each of these interviews for adults age 30 through 70 at the time of the pre-baseline (-04 month), distinguishing males from females. Attrition is slightly (but not significantly) higher for males. While it is comforting that attrition in the study is low, a critical scientific issue revolves around whether attrition is related to the intervention. Attrition among treatments is reported in row (i), among controls in row (ii) and the difference is in row (iii). In each case the difference between treatments and controls is small (<0.5%) and it is not significant.

Appendix Table 3 presents regressions relating the probability a subject attrited between the -04 and +28 month interviews to observed characteristics. Results are reported separately for males (in panel A) and females (in panel B). On the one hand, if subjects who receive iron supplements benefit from supplementation and if there are no benefits for subjects who receive the placebo, then it is possible that controls will be more likely to attrit than treatments. On the other hand, if the treatment results in side-effects, and those people drop out of the study, then it is the treatments who are more likely to attrit. If attrition is due to geographic mobility, and if the treatment results in an increase in productivity, then treated subjects may be more likely to move in search of new economic opportunities. In this case, treatments would be more likely to attrit. As shown in the last column of Appendix Table 2B, and repeated in the first column of each panel of Appendix Table 3, there is no evidence that attrition is related to treatment-control status.

Respondents with low Hb levels at baseline are more likely to benefit from the treatment (and they are also less likely to have any side effects). The second column in each panel adds indicator variables for baseline levels of Hb as well as age and education. Hb at baseline is related to attrition but this is driven by individuals who had higher Hb at baseline (and are therefore unlikely to be affected by the treatment). Whereas higher Hb males are more likely to not be followed up, the reverse is true for higher Hb females who are less likely to be followed up.

The final two columns of each panel report a regression that includes an interaction between treatment status and each of the covariates in the second regression. The main effects are reported in the third column and the interactions in the fourth column. Taken together, the interactions with treatment-control status are not jointly significant for either males or females. (F tests are reported at the foot of the table.) We conclude that attrition is not a serious concern for interpreting the effects of iron supplementation on subjects in this study.

4. Results

Attention in this paper is focused on adults age 30 to 70 at the time of the pre-baseline interview conducted in the first four months of 2002. We restrict attention to those subjects who were re-interviewed in the 08 month interview a year later. Sample characteristics of the 7,600 respondents are reported in Table 1. Around 20% of males and 50% of females are iron deficient ($Hb < 12g/dl$) at baseline and while this fraction falls slightly during the twelve month hiatus between the two surveys, the decline is small. Average Hb is not significantly different in the two waves for males (it declines slightly), and Hb rises a little for females. As will become clear below, this reflects the combination of two opposing effects. On the one hand, Hb levels declined (possibly because of the lower rainfall in Purworejo in the second half of 2002). On the other hand, iron supplementation offset this effect. Clearly supplementing everyone and then relying on changes over time to measure the effect of supplementation would result in misleading inferences; this underscores the value of the treatment-control design used in this study.

Compliance

By the time of the 08 month interview, 95% of respondents had been in the intervention for at least 24 weeks. One measure of compliance is a count of the number of tablets that have been removed from the used blister packs when they are collected at the end of each 4 week period. This is an upper bound on the number of pills actually consumed. Results are reported in Table 2. The average subject has taken 92% of the 24 tablets (or 22 tablets). Compliance is the same for treatments and controls and slightly higher for female adults. Since iron is stored in the body, the key is that iron deficient subjects ingest sufficient iron over time to become iron replete. How much iron is needed for a subject to become replete will depend on the level of iron at baseline, the extent to which iron is absorbed by the subject, and whether there are

mitigating factors such as intestinal blood loss from parasites or ulcers. If a deficient adult needs 1.2 g of iron to become replete, then taking 16 tablets should be sufficient to become replete (Ekstrom et al, 2002; see also National Academies of Sciences, 2002). 94% of respondents achieved this level of compliance by the sixth month of the intervention.

The relationship between number of tablets removed from the blister pack and change in Hb is displayed in Appendix Figure 1. There is a significant increase in Hb among those respondents who have removed at least 16 tablets and there is no evidence of additional benefit after achieving that level. This is consistent with predictions from the nutrition biochemistry literature.

Modelling compliance is not straightforward since it involves behavioral choices which are likely to be individual- and family-specific and possibly location-specific, and those choices may well be related to unobserved characteristics that affect nutrition and socio-economic success. Moreover, the number of pills removed from the blister packs is a potentially noisy measure of compliance. We start, therefore, with measurement of intent-to-treat effects, that is a comparison of outcomes among subjects assigned to the treatment group relative to outcomes among subjects assigned to the control group. Throughout the following tables, results are reported separately for males and females.

Intent to treat effects on hemoglobin levels

An advantage of the WISE study design is our ability to sidestep concerns about measurement of compliance by directly measuring whether the intervention has resulted in higher iron blood levels. Table 3 reports results for one dimension of iron status, Hb, which is a current indicator of iron in the blood. The first column of the table reports Hb at 08 months for subjects assigned to the treatment, θ_8^T ; controls are reported in the second column, θ_8^C . The difference, $\theta_8^T - \theta_8^C$, is reported in the third column. The first panel reports levels of Hb (in g/dl). For both men and women, Hb of the treatment group is significantly higher than that of controls after 24 weeks of the intervention. The difference between the treatments and the controls 12 months earlier ($\theta_{-4}^T - \theta_{-4}^C$ at the -4 month interview) is reported in the fourth column. There is no difference between the treatments and controls prior to the start of the intervention, which is as it should be since assignment to treatment and control status was random. The difference-in-difference between treatments and controls after the intervention, relative to before its start, $(\theta_8^T - \theta_8^C) - (\theta_{-4}^T - \theta_{-4}^C)$ is reported in the fifth column. For both males and females, there has been a significant increase in Hb among treatments, relative

to controls. Estimates adjusted for the age of the subject are reported in the sixth column; the adjustment makes little difference to the estimated average impact of supplementation.

The biomedical evidence suggests that the benefits of iron supplementation should accrue primarily to those with low Hb prior to the intervention. Estimates of average intent-to-treat effects will, therefore, provide a downward biased estimate of the benefits of a targeted iron supplementation program. In column 7, attention is restricted to those subjects whose Hb was low at the pre-baseline interview (Hb<12.5g/dl); the (adjusted) difference-in-difference in Hb, $[(\theta_8^T - \theta_8^C) - (\theta_{-4}^T - \theta_{-4}^C) |_{\text{Hb}<12.5\text{g/dl at } -4}]$, is reported in the table. It is 0.4 g/dl for low Hb males -- which is over twice the magnitude of the average effect for all males -- and 0.2 g/dl for low Hb females which is almost twice the average effect for all female subjects. Column 7 provides our first estimate of the intent-to-treat effect of iron supplementation on the population at greatest risk of benefitting from the supplement.⁷

Column 8 restricts attention to subjects whose Hb was high at the pre-baseline interview (Hb \geq 12.5g/dl) and reports the (adjusted) difference-in-difference, $[(\theta_8^T - \theta_8^C) - (\theta_{-4}^T - \theta_{-4}^C) |_{\text{Hb}\geq 12.5\text{g/dl at } -4}]$. It is positive and significant for males suggesting that blood iron levels do increase with supplementation for them. For females, the effect is zero. It is possible that there are unobserved changes in the social, economic or health environment which affects treatments differently from controls. In that case, as long as these changes did not discriminate between subjects who were low and high Hb at pre-baseline, it is possible to purge the estimates of contamination due to those unobserved changes by comparing the difference-in-difference among low Hb subjects with the difference-in-difference among high Hb subjects. That (adjusted) difference-in-difference-in-difference,

$$[(\theta_8^T - \theta_8^C) - (\theta_{-4}^T - \theta_{-4}^C) |_{\text{Hb}<12.5\text{g/dl at } -4}] - [(\theta_8^T - \theta_8^C) - (\theta_{-4}^T - \theta_{-4}^C) |_{\text{Hb}\geq 12.5\text{g/dl at } -4}]$$

is reported in the ninth and final column of the table. It provides a second estimate of the effect of iron supplementation on low iron subjects which is purged of unobserved heterogeneity due to environmental change that differentially affects treatments, relative to controls. These effects are significant for males and females.

⁷Since Hb is likely to be measured with error, the Hb of those who were measured as having low Hb at pre-baseline is likely to increase simply because of regression to the mean. This effect should not be different for treatments, relative to controls, and so it should be swept out of the estimates by contrasting changes in treatments with changes in controls.

The second and third panels of the table focus on iron deficient subjects. The probability a subject has $Hb < 11 \text{ g/dl}$ is reported in the second panel. Over 8% of males and nearly 25% of females fell below this cut-off at pre-baseline. Around one-quarter of deficient subjects were elevated above the cutoff during the first 24 weeks of the supplementation. Between 6 and 7% of subjects who were low Hb at pre-baseline were no longer below the cutoff at the 08 month interview. Hb was below 12 g/dl at pre-baseline for 20% of males and 50% of females; these percentages decline by 3 and 4 percentage points respectively and about 4% of those with low Hb at pre-baseline had sufficient increases to bring them above 12 g/dl . While the increase in Hb among treatments is significant, comparing the results for the two cut-off points suggests that during the first 24 weeks of the intervention, proportionately more of those subjects with Hb below 11 g/dl have moved above that cut-off than those below 12 g/dl .

Figures 2 and 3 provide a graphical summary of the results. Figure 2 presents non-parametric estimates of the relationship between Hb at the -04 month interview and Hb at other interviews for males.⁸ The top left panel in the figure relates Hb at the -04 month interview with Hb at baseline (0 month interview) for the same male subjects, distinguishing treatments and controls. There are no differences between the two groups. The lower left panel relates Hb at -04 months and +08 months. The increase in Hb among low Hb treatments is clear. The lower right-hand panel provides a smoothed estimate of the difference between treatments and controls with similar levels of Hb at pre-baseline. It is clear that the benefits of iron supplementation are greatest (2.5 g/dl) for the lowest Hb subjects ($Hb = 8 \text{ g/dl}$); the benefits are negligible for males with $Hb > 12 \text{ g/dl}$ at pre-baseline. Non-parametric estimates for females, presented in Figure 3, paint a similar picture although the increase in Hb is smaller for females and is concentrated among females whose pre-baseline Hb is below 10 g/dl .

Effects on other indicators of iron in the blood

As noted above, in addition to Hb, a current indicator of iron in the blood, it is useful to measure iron stores with either transferrin receptors (TfR) or ferritin. Transferrin serves as the iron transport protein and the dominating mechanism for iron delivery is the internalisation of the transferrin receptor-diferic transferrin complex. The serum concentrations of serum transferrin receptors correlate with erythropoeitic

⁸Locally weighted smoothed scatterplots (LOWESS) estimates (Cleveland, 1988) are reported. Bandwidths are between 10 and 15% and were selected after visual inspection of the estimates.

activity and tissue iron demands.⁹ In addition to being an indicator of iron stores, a key advantage of TfR is that it is not affected by inflammation (in contrast with Hb). However, unlike Hb which can be measured in the home in a survey setting, measurement of TfR is substantially more complex. Specifically, TfR can be measured with venous blood and, recent research in nutritional biochemistry has demonstrated that it is feasible to measure TfR by dissolving blood from a dry blood spot using the ELIZA method (McDade and Shell-Duncan, 2002).

We have been collecting dry blood spots from each study subject since the beginning of the project. Blood from a pin prick is placed on a capillary to measure Hb with the Hemocue photometer and then each respondent is asked to place his or her finger on a disc of filter paper in order to collect the blood which is then air dried and stored in vacuum packs with desiccants and then frozen. It has turned out to be extremely difficult to implement the protocols for TfR analysis in a replicable way in the laboratory that we have developed in Yogyakarta. After extensive testing and after achieving satisfactory replicability, we began analysis of the dry blood spots in mid 2003. Results from blood spots collected from respondents in the 16 month survey, which is when the intervention was coming to the end, are reported in the top panel of Table 4. (Spots that had been collected prior to then had deteriorated sufficiently that they cannot be analyzed and so we can only compare treatments with controls after the intervention.)

Since high TfR saturation levels indicate iron deficiency, TfR levels should be lower for treatments relative to controls at the end of the intervention. They are. For males, TfR is about 0.3 mg/L lower among treatments, relative to controls; among females, the difference is 0.2 mg/L. Both differences are significant. The difference is larger among male and female subjects who had low Hb levels at baseline (Hb<11.5 g/dl). While there is no difference in TfR levels among females whose Hb was higher at baseline, treated males with higher Hb at baseline also experience a decline in TfR.¹⁰

⁹There are two known transferrin receptors; we are measuring so-called Transferrin Receptor 1 and not the recently discovered Transferrin Receptor 2.

¹⁰The gap in TfR between treatments and controls is the same for males and females. Between the 8 and 16 month interviews, the difference in Hb levels of males who were treated, relative to controls did not change indicating that treated males were replete by the 8 month interview. This is consistent with the predictions of Ekstrom et al, (2003). (To be precise, the benefits of supplementation in terms of elevated Hb had been fully realised for males by the 8 month interview.) As suggested by Ekstrom et al, that is not true for females. Hb levels for treated females continued to rise and by the 16 month interview, the difference in difference between Hb at the end of the intervention and Hb pre-baseline for low Hb treatments at baseline, relative to similar controls, is the same for males and females.

Effects on work capacity

Prior research involving randomized trials in laboratory settings has demonstrated that iron supplementation results in elevated work capacity among iron deficient subjects. We have sought to replicate this result with our subjects using a bicycle ergometer. Since the ergocycle needs to remain stable, it cannot be taken to households. We randomly selected 100 male respondents age 30 through 70 from the WISE study sample and transported them to a physiology laboratory in Yogyakarta in October 2004, at the end of the intervention. At the laboratory, each respondent participated in a timed stationary bicycle ergometer test in which the subject cycled until exhaustion up to a limit of 18 minutes with weights increased every six minutes. Each subject was monitored by trained laboratory technicians with blood pressure, pulse and EKG monitors. It is thus possible to measure work done (energy expended) and, thereby, work capacity (VO_2 max). The time cycled is reported for low Hb and high Hb treatments and controls in the lower panel of Table 4. Whereas there are no differences for those subjects who had higher levels of Hb at baseline, subjects who were at low Hb at baseline and received the supplement were able to cycle for 2.7 minutes longer than similar low-Hb controls who did not receive the supplement. We conclude that we have increased iron blood levels and work capacity among the treatments who had low levels of Hb at baseline.

Effects on other dimensions of health, economic and social prosperity

Detailed interviews are conducted with respondents every 4 months. The interviews include detailed questions about consumption (that is purchases and consumption from own production) at the household level, family farm businesses (including crops grown, input usage including family and non-family labor, output, sales and profits as well as capital stock), non-farm businesses (in similar detail) and wealth. All individuals are also interviewed. Adults are asked about earnings and labor supply; health and health-seeking behaviors including psycho-social health; food intake, time allocation and transfers with non-co-resident family and friends. In this paper, we focus on individual reports of labor and health outcomes. On-going research examines other individual-specific outcomes as well as models of the more complicated interactions between family members that are likely to emerge with iron supplementation, particularly since, in many households with members who are iron deficient, there are other members who are not iron deficient.

Effects on work and earnings

Table 5 presents estimates of intent to treat effects for labor outcomes of men and women. Difference-in-difference estimates (of the change in each outcome for treatments between -08 and 04 month interviews, relative to the change in outcome for controls) are reported in the first column for subjects whose Hb was low at pre-baseline. Difference-in-difference estimates for high Hb subjects are in the second column: those effects are expected to be zero. The third column reports the difference between the first two columns -- the difference-in-difference-in-difference estimates. If supplementation benefits high Hb subjects, then the triple differences will understate the gains associated with supplementation. The columns in the table parallel the last three columns of Table 3.

Among low Hb males, treatments are significantly more likely to be working at the time of the 8 month survey, halfway through the intervention. The effect is estimated to be 3.6% which is large since only 5% of low Hb males in this age group were not working at the time of the pre-baseline survey. The effect for females is smaller, but since high Hb females were less likely to be working in the 08 month wave, the difference-in-difference-in-difference is significant: among treatments, around one-third of low Hb women who were not working at pre-baseline had started working by the 8 month interview.

Relative to their income a year earlier, males and females who had low Hb at pre-baseline and received the treatment earned significantly more income during the 4 months prior to the 08 month survey than low Hb controls (at a 10% size of test). Panel 2 of the table reports the effect of supplementation on the quartic root of earnings for the prior 4 month period.¹¹ For males, the estimate implies that the income of the treatments was about 15% higher than it would have been without supplementation, which translates into an additional Rp 80,000 in earnings. (The median low Hb male in the study earned about Rp 500,000 during the four months prior to baseline.) For females, the effect is substantially more muted and translates into 6% higher earnings (<Rp 30,000).

¹¹Earnings for the last month are likely to be a noisy measure of resources in the study site. The majority of households are rural farmers for whom earnings are concentrated around harvest time. Rice is the dominant crop in the area and since there are three rice harvests per year, we have chosen to use income for the prior 4 months. The distribution of earnings is not symmetric and some subjects report non-positive earnings so that it is not possible to use a logarithmic transformation for earnings; a quartic root mimics the logarithmic function reasonably well for positive numbers. The table reports the effect of supplementation on the quartic root of the absolute value of earnings multiplied by sign(earnings).

As shown in panel 3, hours of work of low Hb subjects were not influenced by the treatment.¹² Thus, the impact on earnings operates primarily through higher hourly earnings and may be interpreted as indicative of an increase in productivity (panels 4 and 5). A respondent who is paid a wage per unit time is unlikely to reap the benefits of any productivity increase, at least in the short run. In the longer run, the person's time wage may be increased or the person may move to a new job. In contrast, for those who are self-employed there is greater scope for raising hourly earnings which should better reflect productivity. Thus, if the benefits of the treatment are realized through productivity gains, they should be concentrated among the self-employed.

Panels 6 and 7 of the table restrict attention to respondents whose primary job was self-employed in both waves of the survey. (There was very little movement between sectors during the study period.) Approximately half the males in the sample are self-employed. The estimated effect of the treatment on both self-employment earnings and hourly self-employment earnings is about twice the magnitude of the effect on all earnings and significant (at 1% size of test). Thus, during the study period, a low Hb male who was treated had a 30% increase in hourly earnings relative to a low Hb male control. This is a very substantial impact. There was essentially no effect on time wage workers. For females, the estimated effects for self-employment and time wages are the same and because only one-quarter of females are self-employed, the standard errors are large and none of the estimates is significant.

Effects on time allocation

Each respondent in the survey completed a 24 hour time allocation calendar based on recalling activities during the previous day. Primary and secondary activities were listed for each 15 minute interval. As shown in the first panel of Table 6, there is no evidence that time spent working was affected by the treatment. This is consistent with the results for hours of work discussed above. However, low Hb males who were in the treatment sample slept 20 minutes less than controls. They appear to have substituted almost all of this time for leisure activities (although the effect of treatment on leisure time is not significant). This

¹²For each job, the respondent is asked to report hours of work in the average week in the last month and the number of weeks worked in the month. The questions are repeated for each of the last four months. Hours of work over the last month is the product of hours in the average week and the number of weeks worked, summed over all jobs. Aggregating over the last four months yields hours in the last four months. Estimates of effects of the treatment on hours worked in the last month on low Hb treatments are -0.5 hours for males and 0.8 hours for females.

effect is concentrated entirely among wage workers (who substituted 40 minutes from sleep to leisure activities) and there is no effect on time allocation of self-employed males.

The last panel of the table reports the effect of being assigned to the treatment on the number of days in the last month that the respondent was unable to work because of health problems. Among low Hb males, there was a significant decline of 0.8 lost work days.

Effects on physical health

In Table 7, we turn to self-reported indicators of physical health status. We find no evidence of any impact of the treatment on general health status. However, respondents were asked about a battery of activities of daily living. As shown in the first panel, assignment to the treatment group results in a significant reduction in the number of males who say they are unable to carry a heavy load. Since only 5% of low Hb males report difficulty carrying a heavy load, the estimated effect is very large and suggests that the treatment enables men to undertake more physically arduous work.

Iron deficiency is associated with fatigue and lower energy efficiency. Low Hb males who were assigned to the treatment are slightly more likely to report they had more energy than usual and 4% less likely to report they had less energy than usual (with the latter being significant). Respondents are also asked about a long battery of morbidities which include headaches, joint pain, fatigue, nausea and dizziness. In spite of the fact that males reported having increased levels of energy, neither male nor female treatments reported a change in feeling fatigued relative to the controls. Apparently, specific questions asking respondents to compare energy levels at the time of the survey with levels in the past are better able to capture change in energy than general questions about the incidence of fatigue. There is evidence that, to some extent, male treatments and, to a large extent, female treatments reported substantially lower incidence of dizzy spells (which afflict about one-third of the females in the study population). The effect on females is significant.

Effects on psycho-social health

If supplementation results in greater levels of energy and increased energy efficiency, thus enabling a person to achieve more, it seems reasonable to suppose that iron deficiency will be associated with improvements in psycho-social well-being. This hypothesis is explored in the final table.

Around one in six low-Hb males reported finding their normal tasks an effort at pre-baseline. This proportion was reduced by about half among those assigned to the treatment indicating, again, that energy levels have been elevated for this group. Recall, also, that the amount of time males spent sleeping declined with the treatment. Low Hb males assigned to the treatment also report a 10% reduction in the probability that he had difficulty sleeping. There is no evidence that women's energy levels have improved as a result of the treatment although women assigned to the treatment report lower levels of anxiety. Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about their lives. One question asked the respondent whether he or she thinks much about the future. The final panel in the table shows that assignment to the treatment group increases the probability a low-Hb male does not think about the future. We interpret this as indicating these men are less worried about the future presumably because they feel better from an economic, physical and psychological point of view.

5. Conclusions

WISE is a treatment-control design iron supplementation study that seeks to pin down the causal effect of health on economic and social prosperity. The evidence presented here is based on the first six months of the iron supplementation intervention, prior to likely behavioral responses to the intervention itself. Supplementation has resulted in increases in iron levels in the blood for older adults who were iron deficient prior to the supplementation. There are clear economic benefits to low-Hb males who were assigned to the treatment group: they are more likely to be working, they have higher hourly earnings and, since hours of work do not change, they have higher monthly incomes. Hb males assigned to the treatment group also lose less work time due to illness, sleep less and appear to spend more time on leisure activities, they are more energetic, more able to conduct physically arduous activities and their psycho-social health is improved. While the effects on time allocation and health status are observed for all low Hb males assigned to the treatment, the effects on hourly earnings are concentrated almost exclusively among the self-employed. Time wage workers are not likely to reap immediate benefits from elevated levels of energy and productivity in terms of higher wages. For these men, additional energy is channeled towards increased leisure activities. While there is some evidence that low Hb females assigned to the treatment have higher earnings and improved levels of health, the benefits to them of iron supplementation are more muted at this

point in the study. In part, this reflects the fact that females need greater amounts of iron than males in order to be iron replete. Overall, we conclude that there is unambiguous evidence nutritional status has a causal effect on economic and psycho-social success.

Iron deficiency is an important nutritional deficiency. Whereas it is very rare in the developed world (in part because iron fortified cereals are commonplace), iron deficient anemia is widespread in many parts of the developing world. Prevalence is particularly high in those areas where rice is the main staple (since rice retards iron absorption) and where animal protein is not an important component in the diet (since iron from animal sources is better absorbed than from vegetable sources). While iron supplementation through provision of tablets is standard practice throughout the world for pregnant women and, in some places, for young children, it is not common for males to receive iron supplements. Distribution of iron through tablets is likely to be an expensive means of reducing iron deficiency in many low income settings. However, several recent studies have demonstrated that it is feasible to reduce iron deficiency in populations at very low cost through simple iron-fortification technologies.

For example, in China, preliminary results from a study of iron-fortified soy sauce indicated dramatic reductions in iron deficiency (from 50% to 10% in one year among young women). Iron-fortified fish sauce has been tested in Vietnam where its introduction saw a 33% reduction in anemia among women over the course of six months. Fortification of salt with both iodine and iron is currently being tested in South Asia.

The cost of iron fortification is low: it is estimated that the marginal cost of fortifying fish sauce is about US\$6 per person per year. Recall that the earnings over 4 months of low Hb self-employed males in WISE are predicted to rise by around Rp 150,000 over 4 months which translates into about \$40 over a year. Clearly, for these people, fortification more than pays for itself. Taking into account the physical and psycho-social health benefits of reduced iron deficiency tilts the balance more in favor of fortifying the food sources. On the other side of the scale, however, is the fact that food fortification may be a blunt instrument on two counts. First, around 20% of the Indonesian population is estimated to be iron deficient; fortification of food for the entire population would cost five times as much as it would to fortify foods consumed by only the iron deficient. Second, it may take an extended period of time for an iron-deficient population to

become replete because levels of iron in foods that are good candidates for fortification, such as noodles, are relatively low (Yip, 1998).

Two key open questions remain. First, if the benefits of iron supplementation outweigh the (negligible) costs, why do iron-deficient people not consume more iron-rich foods or take iron supplements (which are available for free in health centers throughout Indonesia)? Second, as iron deficiency is removed as a barrier to making socio-economic progress, are there other critical micro-nutrients that become binding constraints for people to achieve their full potential?

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Table 1: Sample characteristics
 Socio-demographics and hemoglobin levels of 30-70 year olds

| | Male | | Female | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | -04 mth interview | 08mth interview | -04mth interview | 08mth interview |
| Age (at -04 mth ivw) | 48.90 [0.19] | | 48.26 [0.17] | |
| Years of education | 7.36 [0.07] | | 5.54 [0.06] | |
| Sample size | 3,563 | | 4,063 | |
| Hemoglobin Level (g/dl) | 13.26 [0.03] | 13.22 [0.03] | 11.83 [0.02] | 11.90 [0.02] |
| % <11g/dl | 8.53 [0.47] | 7.30 [0.44] | 24.05 [0.67] | 22.30 [0.65] |
| % <12g/dl | 20.24 [0.67] | 19.00 [0.66] | 50.70 [0.78] | 48.31 [0.78] |
| % <13g/dl | 39.99 [0.82] | 41.12 [0.82] | 78.10 [0.65] | 78.02 [0.65] |

Standard errors in parentheses

Table 2: Compliance rates after 24 weeks of intervention

A. All subjects

| Indicator | All | Treatments | Controls | Difference |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| % Treatment | 49.95 [0.54] | | | |
| % living in Enumeration Area where at least 24 weeks of intervention completed by 8 month survey | 94.64 [0.24] | | | |
| At 24 weeks | | | | |
| Compliance rate | 92.15 | 92.27 | 92.08 | 0.19 |
| % (pills/24) | [0.19] | [0.26] | [0.27] | [0.38] |
| Average # pills taken | 22.12 [0.05] | 22.14 [0.06] | 22.10 [0.07] | 0.05 [0.09] |
| % taken at least 16 pills | 93.63 [0.27] | 93.83 [0.37] | 93.49 [0.38] | 0.34 [0.53] |
| % taken at least 20 pills | 88.24 [0.35] | 88.26 [0.50] | 88.28 [0.49] | -0.02 [0.70] |
| % taken all 24 pills | 62.64 [0.53] | 62.37 [0.75] | 62.97 [0.74] | -0.60 [1.05] |

B. By gender

| | MALES | | | FEMALES | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Treatments | Controls | Difference | Treatments | Controls | Difference |
| Compliance rate | 91.68 [0.40] | 91.80 [0.41] | -0.12 [0.57] | 92.80 [0.34] | 92.33 [0.36] | 0.47 [0.50] |
| Average # pills taken | 22.00 [0.10] | 22.03 [0.10] | -0.03 [0.14] | 22.27 [0.08] | 22.16 [0.09] | 0.11 [0.12] |
| % taken at least 16 pills | 93.01 [0.57] | 93.16 [0.57] | -0.16 [0.80] | 94.58 [0.48] | 93.79 [0.51] | 0.80 [0.70] |
| % taken at least 20 pills | 87.41 [0.74] | 87.53 [0.74] | -0.12 [1.05] | 89.03 [0.66] | 88.95 [0.66] | 0.08 [0.94] |
| % taken all 24 pills | 61.04 [1.09] | 62.29 [1.09] | -1.25 [1.54] | 63.57 [1.02] | 63.56 [1.01] | 0.01 [1.44] |

Standard errors in parentheses

Table 3
Hemoglobin status: Intent to treat effects

| Indicator | Sample | Status at 8 mths | | | -4 mths Diff T-C (4) | 8 - (-4)mths | | Low Hb @baseline DinD (7) | High Hb @baseline DinD (8) | Low-High Hb@base DinDinD (9) |
|--------------------|--------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | Treat -ment (1) | Control (2) | Diff T-C (3) | | Diff-in Diff (5) | Adj Diff -in-diff (6) | | | |
| Hemoglobin | Male | 13.250 [0.040] | 13.127 [0.040] | 0.123 [0.057] | -0.059 [0.059] | 0.183 [0.057] | 0.181 [0.057] | 0.399 [0.109] | 0.101 [0.064] | 0.297 [0.126] |
| | Female | 11.974 [0.033] | 11.819 [0.033] | 0.156 [0.046] | 0.040 [0.048] | 0.116 [0.048] | 0.117 [0.048] | 0.203 [0.057] | -0.022 [0.081] | 0.225 [0.099] |
| Hemoglobin <11g/dl | Male | 0.069 [0.006] | 0.078 [0.006] | -0.009 [0.009] | 0.009 [0.010] | -0.017 [0.011] | -0.017 [0.011] | -0.066 [0.021] | 0.000 [0.012] | -0.066 [0.024] |
| | Female | 0.195 [0.009] | 0.249 [0.009] | -0.054 [0.013] | -0.012 [0.014] | -0.041 [0.016] | -0.041 [0.016] | -0.072 [0.019] | 0.017 [0.027] | -0.089 [0.033] |
| Hemoglobin <12g/dl | Male | 0.179 [0.009] | 0.206 [0.009] | -0.027 [0.013] | -0.004 [0.014] | -0.023 [0.015] | -0.023 [0.015] | -0.046 [0.030] | -0.013 [0.017] | -0.033 [0.034] |
| | Female | 0.461 [0.011] | 0.499 [0.011] | -0.038 [0.016] | -0.024 [0.016] | -0.014 [0.019] | -0.014 [0.019] | -0.036 [0.022] | 0.020 [0.032] | -0.056 [0.039] |
| Sample size | Male | 1,804 | 1,759 | 3,563 | 3,563 | 3,563 | 3,563 | 899 | 2,664 | 3,563 |
| | Female | 2,021 | 2,042 | 4,063 | 4,063 | 4,063 | 4,063 | 2,710 | 1,353 | 4,063 |

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. (3)=(2)-(1); (5)=(4)-(3); (6) adjusts for age (10 year splines); (9)=(8)-(7); Low Hb is Hb<12.5g/dl at baseline; High Hb is Hb≥12.5g/dl at baseline)

Table 4: Differences between treatments and controls
Iron stores and work capacity

| Indicator | Treatments (1) | Controls (2) | Difference (3) |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <i>Transferrin Receptors</i> | | | |
| (mg/L measured at end of intervention) | | | |
| Males | | | |
| All subjects | 8.03 (0.06) | 8.33 (0.06) | -0.30 (0.08) |
| Conditional on low Hb at baseline | | | -0.71 (0.21) |
| Conditional on high Hb at baseline | | | -0.19 (0.09) |
| Females | | | |
| All subjects | 8.36 (0.06) | 8.58 (0.06) | -0.22 (0.08) |
| Conditional on low Hb at baseline | | | -0.43 (0.15) |
| Conditional on high Hb at baseline | | | -0.01 (0.09) |
| <i>Ergocycle</i> | | | |
| (Time cycled to exhaustion, in minutes Measured at end of intervention) | | | |
| Males | | | |
| Low Hb at baseline | 9.1 (1.0) | 6.5 (1.0) | 2.7 (1.35) |
| High Hb at baseline | 11.1 (0.8) | 11.3 (0.6) | -0.2 (0.8) |

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. Transferrin receptor analyses are based on dry blood spots collected at the end of intervention (during the 16 month interview). Thus far, blood spots have been analyzed for 3,651 males and 4,177 females age 30 through 70. Ergocycle measurement is based on 100 males age 30 through 70 who were randomly selected to be transported to a laboratory in Yogyakarta where they cycled for as long as possible on an ergocycle. The load on the cycle was increased every 6 minutes.

Table 5: Intent to treat effects on subjects stratified by Hb status at baseline
Work, earnings and hours of work

| Indicator | Sample | Change in Treatments - Change in Controls | | |
|--|--------|---|--|--|
| | | If low Hb @baseline DinD (1) | If high Hb @baseline DinD (2) | Low-High Hb @baseline DinDinD (3) |
| 1. Pr(not working in month of survey interview) | Male | -0.036 [0.012] | -0.003 [0.007] | -0.033 [0.014] |
| | Female | -0.020 [0.014] | 0.029 [0.020] | -0.049 [0.024] |
| 2. $\sqrt[4]{}$ Earnings (Rp 000) (last 4 months) | Male | 0.576 [0.299] | -0.012 [0.173] | 0.582 [0.346] |
| | Female | 0.163 [0.091] | 0.033 [0.127] | 0.130 [0.156] |
| 3. Hours spent working (last 4 months) | Male | -12.968 [36.368] | -44.185 [21.027] | 31.217 [42.013] |
| | Female | 9.644 [15.264] | 30.137 [21.425] | -20.493 [26.309] |
| 4. $\sqrt[4]{}$ Hrly earnings (Rp 000) (last 4 months) | Male | 0.126 [0.066] | 0.007 [0.038] | 0.119 [0.076] |
| | Female | 0.034 [0.025] | -0.009 [0.035] | 0.043 [0.043] |
| 5. $\sqrt[4]{}$ Hrly earnings (Rp 000) conditional on being non zero (last 4 months) | Male | 0.113 [0.069] | -0.006 [0.040] | 0.119 [0.080] |
| | Female | 0.056 [0.026] | -0.021 [0.037] | 0.077 [0.046] |
| 6. $\sqrt[4]{}$ Earnings (Rp 000) if self-employed (last 4 months) | Male | 1.091 [0.445] | -0.386 [0.285] | 1.477 [0.528] |
| | Female | 0.177 [0.214] | 0.101 [0.305] | 0.076 [0.373] |
| 7. $\sqrt[4]{}$ Hrly earnings (Rp 000) if self-employed (last 4 months) | Male | 0.230 [0.093] | -0.078 [0.059] | 0.308 [0.110] |
| | Female | 0.031 [0.052] | -0.036 [0.074] | 0.067 [0.090] |

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. Columns 1, 2 and 3 in this table correspond with Table 3 columns 7, 8 and 9, respectively. See Table 3 for sample sizes for all rows 1 through 3. Estimates in row 4 are based on 3,350 males and 2,999 females; 3,102 males and 1,878 females in row 5 and 1,835 males and 746 females in rows 6 and 7.

Table 6: Intent to treat effects on subjects stratified by Hb status at baseline
Time allocation

| Indicator | Sample | Change in Treatments - Change in Controls | | |
|--|--------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | If low Hb @baseline DinD (1) | If high Hb @baseline DinD (2) | Low-High Hb @baseline DinDinD (3) |
| During prior day, number of hours spent on | | | | |
| 1. Work | Male | 0.076 [0.265] | -0.083 [0.155] | 0.159 [0.307] |
| | Female | 0.087 [0.151] | -0.112 [0.214] | 0.199 [0.261] |
| 2. Sleep | Male | -0.343 [0.165] | -0.026 [0.096] | -0.317 [0.191] |
| | Female | 0.059 [0.079] | 0.231 [0.111] | -0.172 [0.136] |
| 3. Leisure activities | Male | 0.280 [0.296] | 0.042 [0.173] | 0.238 [0.342] |
| | Female | -0.095 [0.168] | 0.145 [0.238] | -0.241 [0.291] |
| 4. Housework | Male | 0.068 [0.174] | 0.021 [0.101] | 0.047 [0.201] |
| | Female | -0.236 [0.161] | 0.151 [0.227] | -0.387 [0.278] |
| 5. Family care | Male | -0.001 [0.107] | 0.012 [0.062] | -0.013 [0.124] |
| | Female | -0.080 [0.106] | 0.045 [0.150] | -0.125 [0.184] |
| 6. Number of days work lost (in last month) | Male | -0.818 [0.382] | 0.061 [0.223] | -0.879 [0.443] |
| | Female | -0.110 [0.217] | -0.163 [0.306] | 0.053 [0.375] |

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. See Table 3 for sample sizes.

Table 7: Intent to treat effects on subjects stratified by Hb status at baseline
Physical health: Intent to treat effects

| Indicator | Sample | Change in Treatments - Change in Controls | | |
|---|--------|---|--|--|
| | | If low Hb @baseline DinD (1) | If high Hb @baseline DinD (2) | Low-High Hb @baseline DinDinD (3) |
| 1. Pr(Unable carry heavy load) self reported | Male | -0.032 [0.015] | 0.002 [0.008] | -0.034 [0.017] |
| | Female | -0.008 [0.014] | -0.018 [0.019] | 0.009 [0.023] |
| 2. Pr(Has more energy) self reported | Male | 0.026 [0.021] | 0.001 [0.013] | 0.025 [0.025] |
| | Female | 0.011 [0.012] | -0.008 [0.017] | 0.019 [0.020] |
| 3. Pr(Has less energy) self reported | Male | -0.032 [0.012] | 0.010 [0.007] | -0.041 [0.014] |
| | Female | 0.009 [0.008] | -0.009 [0.011] | 0.017 [0.014] |
| 4. Pr(Felt fatigued) (in last month) | Male | -0.040 [0.043] | -0.050 [0.025] | 0.010 [0.049] |
| | Female | -0.007 [0.025] | -0.013 [0.036] | 0.006 [0.044] |
| 5. Pr(Felt dizzy) (in last month) | Male | -0.043 [0.037] | -0.023 [0.022] | -0.020 [0.043] |
| | Female | -0.056 [0.024] | 0.016 [0.033] | -0.072 [0.041] |

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses; see Table 3 for sample sizes.

Table 8: Intent to treat effects on subjects stratified by Hb status at baseline
 Psychological health: Intent to treat effects

| Indicator | Sample | Change in Treatments - Change in Controls | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | If low Hb @baseline DinD (1) | If high Hb @baseline DinD (2) | Low-High Hb @baseline DinDinD (3) |
| 1. Pr(finds normal tasks an effort) | Male | -0.073 [0.029] | -0.009 [0.017] | -0.064 [0.034] |
| | Female | 0.026 [0.019] | 0.011 [0.027] | 0.015 [0.033] |
| 2. Pr(has difficulty sleeping) | Male | -0.102 [0.036] | 0.007 [0.021] | -0.109 [0.042] |
| | Female | 0.032 [0.022] | 0.018 [0.031] | 0.014 [0.038] |
| 3. Pr(feels anxious) | Male | -0.018 [0.023] | 0.003 [0.013] | -0.021 [0.027] |
| | Female | -0.020 [0.017] | 0.042 [0.024] | -0.062 [0.029] |
| 4. Pr(does not think about future) | Male | 0.074 [0.023] | -0.004 [0.013] | 0.078 [0.027] |
| | Female | -0.006 [0.014] | 0.034 [0.020] | -0.040 [0.025] |

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses; see Table 3 for sample sizes.

Appendix Table 1: WISE schedule

| | Date | Surveys | Intervention |
|------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 2001 | September | Screener | |
| | October | (-8 mth) | |
| | November | | |
| | December | ⊥ | |
| 2002 | January | <i>Prebaseline</i> | |
| | February | (-4 mth) | |
| | March | | |
| | April | ⊥ | |
| | May | Baseline | |
| | June | (0 mth) | |
| | July | | |
| | August | ⊥ | |
| | September | 1st during interven | Fe supplementation |
| | October | (4 mth) | |
| | November | | Albendazole |
| | December | ⊥ | |
| 2003 | January | <i>2nd during interven</i> | |
| | February | (8 mth) | |
| | March | | Albendazole |
| | April | ⊥ | |
| | May | 3rd during interven | |
| | June | (12 mth) | |
| | July | | |
| | August | ⊥ | |
| | September | 1st post interven | |
| | October | (16 mth) | |
| | November | | |
| | December | ⊥ | |
| 2004 | January | 2nd post interven | |
| | February | (20 mth) | |
| | March | | |
| | April | ⊥ | |
| | May | 3rd post interven | |
| | June | (24 mth) | |
| | July | | |
| | August | ⊥ | |
| | September | 4th post interven | |
| | October | (28 mth) | |
| | November | | |
| | December | ⊥ | |
| 2005 | Jan-Oct | 5th post interven | |
| 2007 | Jan-Oct | 6th post interven | |

Appendix Table 2: WISE attrition rates from the survey
Between -04 month and 28 month interview

| | All ages | | Age 30-70 at pre-baseline | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | Number of subjects (1) | % attrited (2) | Number of subjects (3) | % attrited (4) |
| A. Survey attrition | | | | |
| <i>Respondents</i> interviewed at 1st interview (-04 mth) | 17,998 | | 8,721 | |
| Respondents still alive at 2nd ivw (00 mth) | 17,928 | | 8,687 | |
| # resps interviewed at 2nd ivw (00 mth) | 17,567 | 2.0 % | 8,581 | 1.2 % |
| Respondents still alive at 5th ivw (12 mth) | 17,732 | | 8,601 | |
| # resps interviewed at 5th ivw (12 mth) | 17,053 | 3.8 % | 8,389 | 2.5 % |
| Respondents still alive at 9th ivw (24 mth) | 17,590 | | 8,535 | |
| # resps interviewed at 9th ivw (24 mth) | 16,520 | 6.1 % | 8,207 | 3.8 % |
| Respondents still alive at 10th ivw (28 mth) | 17,530 | | 8,508 | |
| # resps interviewed at 10th ivw (28 mth) | 16,473 | 6.0 % | 8,185 | 3.8 % |
| B. Survey attrition rates for male and female treatments and controls age 30-70 | | | | |
| Survey wave: | 00 mth (1) | 12 mth (2) | 24 mth (3) | 28mth (4) |
| <i>Male subjects age 30-70</i> | 1.28 % | 2.69 % | 4.22 % | 4.13 % |
| i. Treatments | 1.16 % | 2.82 % | 4.37 % | 4.19 % |
| ii. Controls | 1.41 % | 2.55 % | 4.06 % | 4.08 % |
| iii. Difference (standard error) | -0.25 % (0.35) | 0.27 % (0.51) | 0.31 % (0.63) | 0.11 % (0.63) |
| <i>Female subjects age 30-70</i> | 1.16 % | 2.26 % | 3.51 % | 3.49 % |
| i. Treatments | 1.06 % | 2.05 % | 3.26 % | 3.47 % |
| ii. Controls | 1.26 % | 2.47 % | 3.72 % | 3.51 % |
| iii. Difference (standard error) | -0.20 % (0.32) | -0.42 % (0.44) | -0.43 % (0.55) | 0.04 % (0.55) |

Appendix Table 3: Relationship between attrition and characteristics of subjects at baseline
Adults age 30-70

| | A. Males | | | | B. Females | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| | Treat- ment (1) | Adjusted (2) | Main effect (3) | Inter- -action (4) | Treat- ment (1) | Adjusted (2) | Main effect (3) | Inter- -action (4) |
| (1) if treatment | -0.11 [0.63] | -0.06 [0.54] | -0.76 [2.60] | -0.76 [2.60] | 0.04 [0.55] | 0.43 [0.48] | 0.77 [1.43] | 0.77 [1.43] |
| (1) if 11<=Hb<12 g/dl | | -0.88 [1.25] | -1.28 [1.79] | 0.77 [2.50] | | -0.10 [0.68] | -0.36 [0.95] | 0.52 [1.37] |
| (1) if 12<=Hb<13 g/dl | | -0.47 [1.14] | -1.95 [1.67] | 3.01 [2.29] | | 0.12 [0.68] | -0.73 [0.95] | 1.76 [1.35] |
| (1) if 13<=Hb<14 g/dl | | -0.88 [1.12] | -1.87 [1.65] | 1.95 [2.26] | | -1.37 [0.77] | -1.27 [1.11] | -0.10 [1.55] |
| (1) if 14<=Hb<15 g/dl | | -1.42 [1.14] | -1.96 [1.65] | 1.04 [2.29] | | -1.05 [1.23] | -2.78 [1.77] | 3.40 [2.46] |
| (1) if 15<=Hb<13 g/dl | | -2.46 [1.21] | -1.71 [1.77] | -1.50 [2.42] | | 2.42 [2.72] | 1.83 [3.25] | 0.91 [6.01] |
| (1) if age 30-39 | | -2.63 [0.84] | -2.96 [1.20] | 0.73 [1.67] | | -1.46 [0.80] | -1.31 [1.11] | -0.23 [1.60] |
| (1) if age 40-49 | | 0.72 [0.77] | 1.68 [1.10] | -1.91 [1.55] | | 0.59 [0.73] | 0.82 [1.02] | -0.36 [1.45] |
| (1) if age 50-59 | | -0.68 [0.81] | -0.33 [1.14] | -0.59 [1.61] | | 1.72 [0.76] | 1.87 [1.07] | -0.21 [1.52] |
| (1) if 0-6 yrs of educ | | -0.60 [1.07] | -0.88 [1.51] | 0.57 [2.14] | | 0.08 [0.72] | 0.73 [1.00] | -1.44 [1.43] |
| (1) if 7-12 yrs of educ | | -1.09 [1.13] | -1.03 [1.59] | -0.19 [2.25] | | -1.13 [0.84] | -0.55 [1.18] | -1.23 [1.69] |
| (1) if 13-18 yrs of educ | | -1.83 [1.45] | -0.90 [2.07] | -1.90 [2.91] | | -2.59 [1.40] | -4.37 [1.92] | 3.77 [2.81] |
| R ² | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | |
| F(all covariates) | 0.03 | 3.22 | 2.19 | | 0.01 | 3.48 | 2.21 | |
| (p value) | (0.86) | (0.00) | (0.00) | | (0.94) | (0.00) | (0.00) | |
| F(treatment effects) | | | 0.97 | | | | 0.81 | |
| (p value) | | | (0.48) | | | | (0.64) | |

Notes: Dependent variable is (100) if subject interviewed at -04 months but not interviewed at +28 months. [Standard errors] below coefficient estimates. Columns 3 and 4 presents results from one regression with main effects (column 3) and all covariates interacted with treatment effect (column 4). Covariates are categorical. Excluded categories are Hb<11g/dl; age>60; education=0 years.

Appendix Table 4A: Indicators of well-being of males age 30-70

| | All males | | Low hemoglobin at baseline | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | -4mth ivw | 8mth ivw | -4 mth | | 8 mth | |
| | | | Treatment | Control | Treatment | Control |
| Pr(not working) | 3.70 [0.32] | 4.32 [0.34] | 4.16 [0.93] | 5.43 [1.08] | 3.95 [0.91] | 7.92 [1.29] |
| Earnings (Rp000) (Last 4 mths) | 1498.73 [130.81] | 1412.55 [53.25] | 946.54 [107.31] | 967.25 [76.07] | 936.20 [157.10] | 791.17 [93.32] |
| Hourly earnings (Rp000) (Last 4 mths) | 2.06 [0.15] | 2.07 [0.08] | 1.66 [0.20] | 1.44 [0.12] | 1.76 [0.30] | 1.33 [0.22] |
| Hours worked (Last 4 mths) | 744.07 [7.11] | 695.26 [7.13] | 687.05 [18.83] | 686.31 [19.70] | 604.77 [17.68] | 631.47 [19.69] |
| Prior 24 hours, time spent on Work | 5.89 [0.06] | 5.58 [0.06] | 5.82 [0.17] | 5.66 [0.16] | 5.50 [0.15] | 5.27 [0.16] |
| Sleep | 7.40 [0.03] | 7.36 [0.03] | 7.66 [0.10] | 7.50 [0.09] | 7.40 [0.09] | 7.60 [0.10] |
| Leisure | 9.08 [0.06] | 9.62 [0.06] | 8.98 [0.16] | 9.29 [0.17] | .74 [0.17] | 9.74 [0.16] |
| Housework | 1.39 [0.04] | 1.29 [0.03] | 1.37 [0.09] | 1.26 [0.09] | 1.35 [0.11] | 1.20 [0.09] |
| Family care | 0.41 [0.02] | 0.35 [0.02] | 0.36 [0.06] | 0.26 [0.05] | 0.32 [0.08] | 0.24 [0.06] |
| Days work lost (in last mth) | 1.42 [0.07] | 1.64 [0.08] | 1.95 [0.22] | 1.60 [0.21] | 172.59 [21.30] | 220.14 [27.06] |
| % have less energy | 2.13 [0.24] | 1.46 [0.20] | 3.06 [0.81] | 1.36 [0.55] | 1.75 [0.62] | 2.94 [0.80] |
| % unable carry heavy load | 3.26 [0.30] | 3.48 [0.31] | 5.03 [1.02] | 4.75 [1.01] | 4.17 [0.94] | 7.01 [1.22] |
| % have headache | 21.87 [0.69] | 20.86 [0.68] | 24.73 [2.02] | 25.11 [2.07] | 21.71 [1.93] | 22.40 [1.99] |
| % feel fatigue | 44.50 [0.83] | 34.29 [0.80] | 49.02 [2.34] | 44.34 [2.37] | 35.31 [2.24] | 35.52 [2.28] |
| % have dizzy spells | 28.78 [0.76] | 25.47 [0.73] | 32.60 [2.20] | 29.41 [2.17] | 26.75 [2.08] | 28.05 [2.14] |
| % have difficulty sleeping | 25.96 [0.74] | 24.85 [0.73] | 32.89 [2.21] | 24.89 [2.07] | 24.33 [2.03] | 26.57 [2.14] |
| % feel anxious | 6.57 [0.43] | 8.12 [0.46] | 5.96 [1.11] | 6.85 [1.21] | 6.03 [1.13] | 9.56 [1.42] |
| % normal tasks an effort | 12.09 [0.56] | 11.37 [0.54] | 16.56 [1.75] | 13.93 [1.66] | 10.04 [1.42] | 14.69 [1.71] |
| % not think about future | 10.30 [0.51] | 4.83 [0.36] | 10.94 [1.46] | 16.97 [1.79] | 7.22 [1.21] | 5.43 [1.08] |

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. See Tables 3 and 4 for sample sizes.

Appendix Table 4B: Indicators of well-being of females age 30-70

| | All females | | Low hemoglobin at baseline | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | -4mth ivw | 8mth ivw | -4 mth | | 8 mth | |
| | | | Treatment | Control | Treatment | Control |
| Pr(not working) | 17.06 [0.59] | 18.85 [0.61] | 17.54 [1.04] | 16.21 [0.99] | 17.99 [1.05] | 19.20 [1.06] |
| Earnings (Rp000) (Last 4 mths) | 582.77 [32.35] | 595.59 [23.91] | 518.57 [37.55] | 607.09 [43.67] | 569.37 [44.69] | 556.53 [35.44] |
| Hourly earnings (Rp000) (Last 4 mths) | 1.23 [0.08] | 1.35 [0.08] | 1.03 [0.08] | 1.35 [0.20] | 1.46 [0.18] | 1.38 [0.13] |
| Hours worked (Last 4 mths) | 491.18 [7.56] | 440.87 [7.10] | 479.27 [12.68] | 495.35 [13.14] | 432.44 [12.11] | 438.68 [12.37] |
| Prior 24 hours, time spent on Work | 3.55 [0.06] | 3.39 [0.06] | 3.52 [0.10] | 3.66 [0.11] | 3.30 [0.10] | 3.34 [0.10] |
| Sleep | 7.67 [0.03] | 7.79 [0.03] | 7.65 [0.04] | 7.69 [0.04] | 7.75 [0.04] | 7.73 [0.04] |
| Leisure | 8.08 [0.06] | 8.62 [0.06] | 8.04 [0.10] | 7.95 [0.10] | 8.65 [0.10] | 8.68 [0.10] |
| Housework | 5.82 [0.06] | 5.07 [0.06] | 5.98 [0.11] | 5.74 [0.11] | 5.17 [0.10] | 5.16 [0.10] |
| Family care | 1.44 [0.05] | 1.06 [0.04] | 1.57 [0.08] | 1.37 [0.08] | 1.23 [0.08] | 1.13 [0.07] |
| Days work lost (last mth) | 154.96 [6.76] | 144.90 [6.29] | 158.85 [11.78] | 166.86 [12.30] | 142.28 [10.33] | 170.19 [12.11] |
| % have less energy | 2.04 [0.22] | 2.39 [0.24] | 2.02 [0.39] | 2.47 [0.42] | 2.62 [0.44] | 2.76 [0.44] |
| % unable carry heavy load | 10.63 [0.48] | 7.19 [0.41] | 10.72 [0.85] | 11.05 [0.85] | 6.52 [0.68] | 7.49 [0.71] |
| % have headache | 30.77 [0.72] | 28.29 [0.71] | 32.41 [1.28] | 30.89 [1.25] | 28.34 [1.23] | 29.89 [1.23] |
| % feel fatigue | 52.14 [0.78] | 39.33 [0.77] | 52.96 [1.37] | 54.72 [1.34] | 39.06 [1.34] | 41.53 [1.33] |
| % have dizzy spells | 41.83 [0.77] | 34.77 [0.75] | 43.74 [1.36] | 41.21 [1.33] | 33.96 [1.30] | 36.95 [1.30] |
| % have difficulty sleeping | 33.27 [0.75] | 31.45 [0.73] | 32.28 [1.31] | 37.08 [1.33] | 33.16 [1.29] | 35.04 [1.29] |
| % feel anxious | 11.29 [0.50] | 14.45 [0.56] | 11.46 [0.88] | 11.09 [0.85] | 14.43 [1.00] | 15.99 [0.99] |
| % find normal tasks an effort | 15.40 [0.57] | 16.76 [0.60] | 14.33 [0.96] | 16.72 [1.01] | 16.99 [1.07] | 17.01 [1.02] |
| % do not think about future | 9.89 [0.47] | 6.42 [0.38] | 9.67 [0.81] | 9.96 [0.81] | 5.55 [0.63] | 6.69 [0.67] |

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. See Tables 3 and 4 for sample sizes.

Figure 1: Hemoglobin levels in the Indonesian population

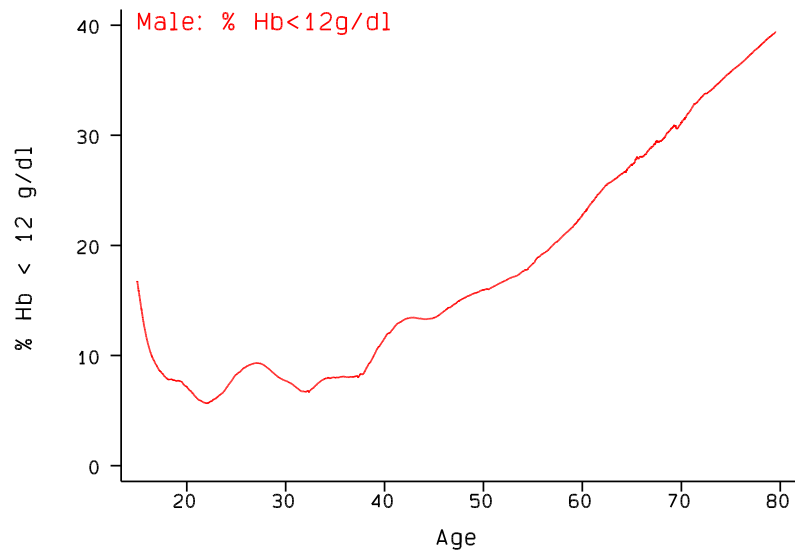
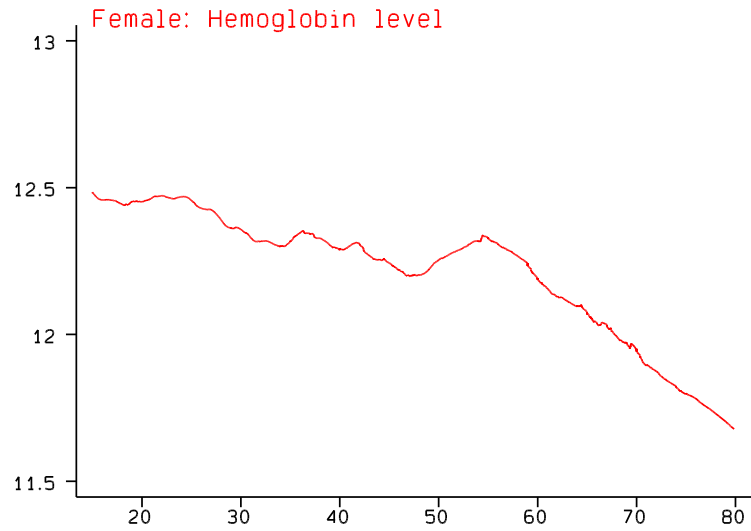
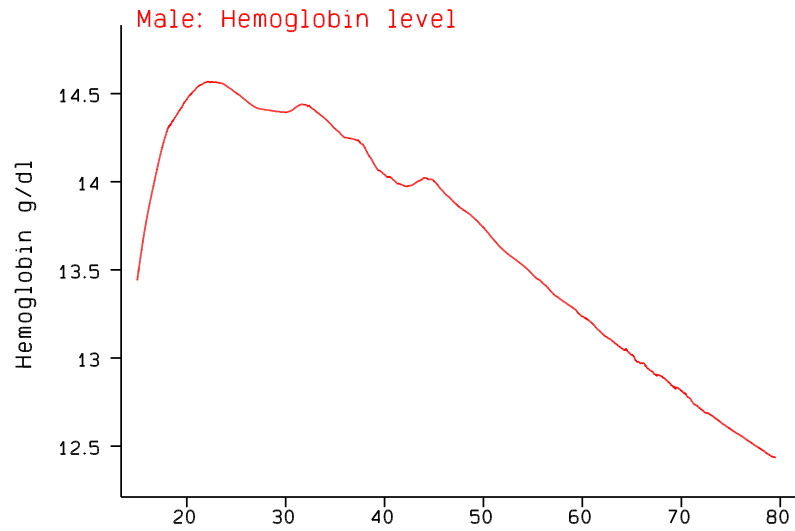


Figure 2: Hemoglobin level of males age 30-70

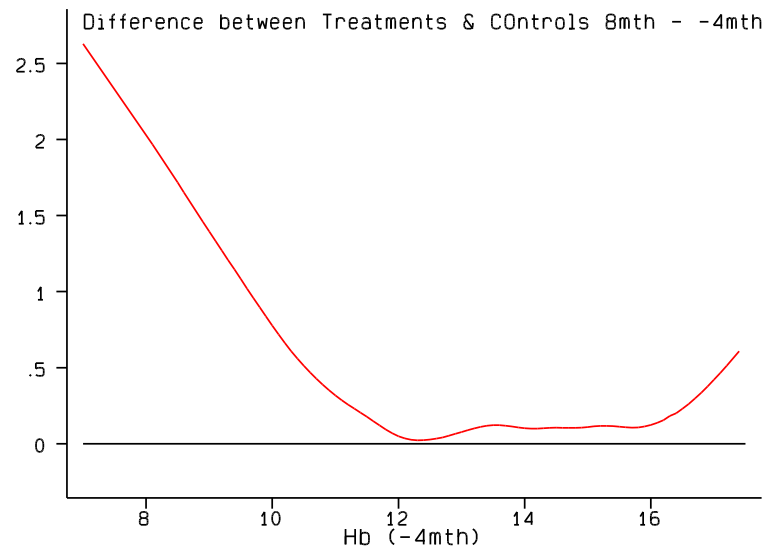
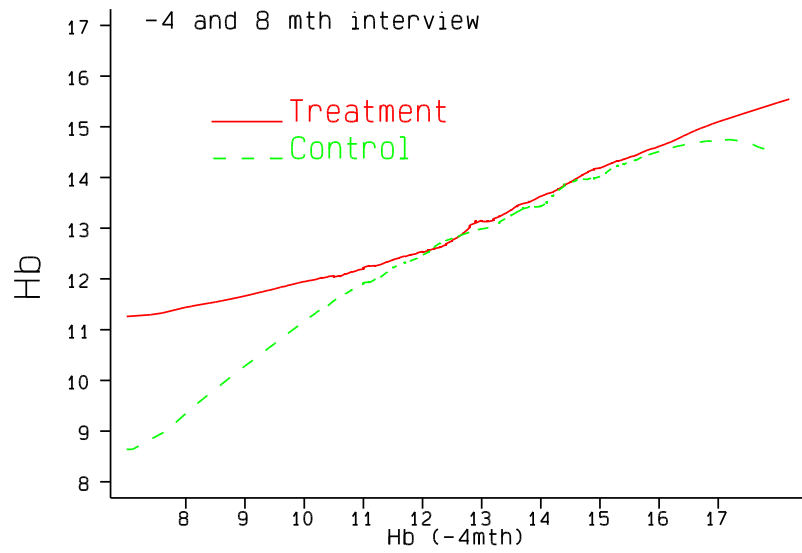
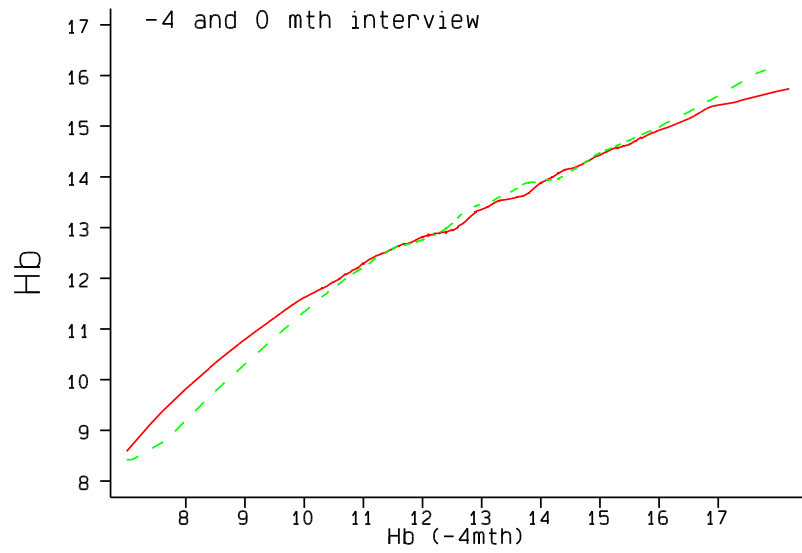


Figure 3: Hemoglobin level of females age 30-70

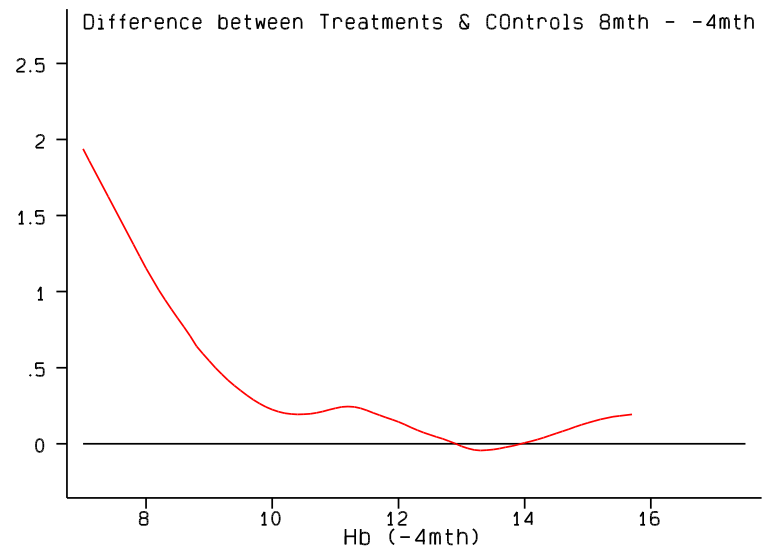
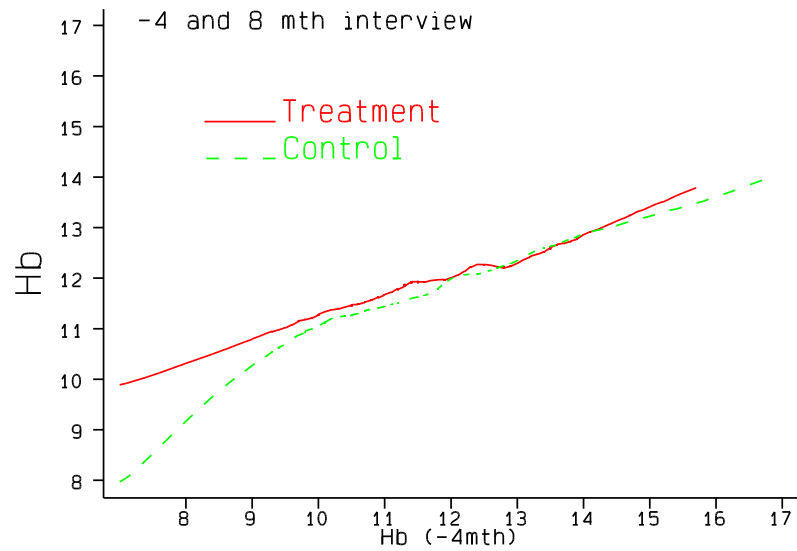
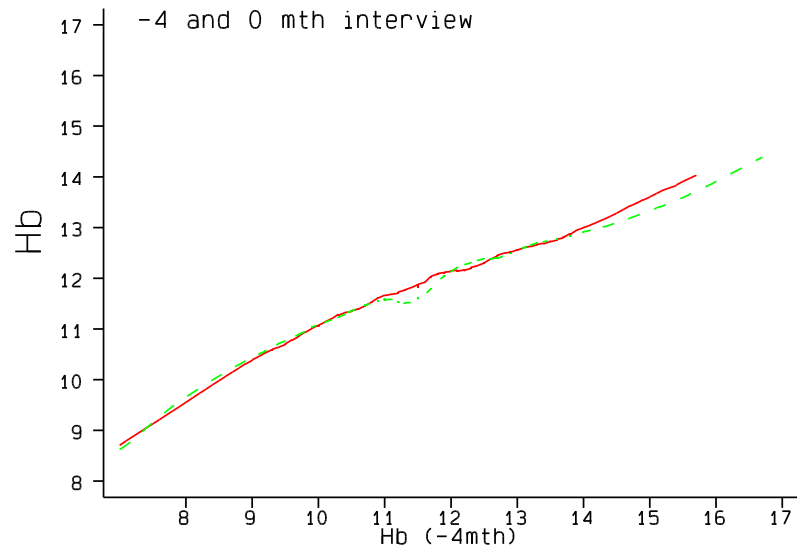
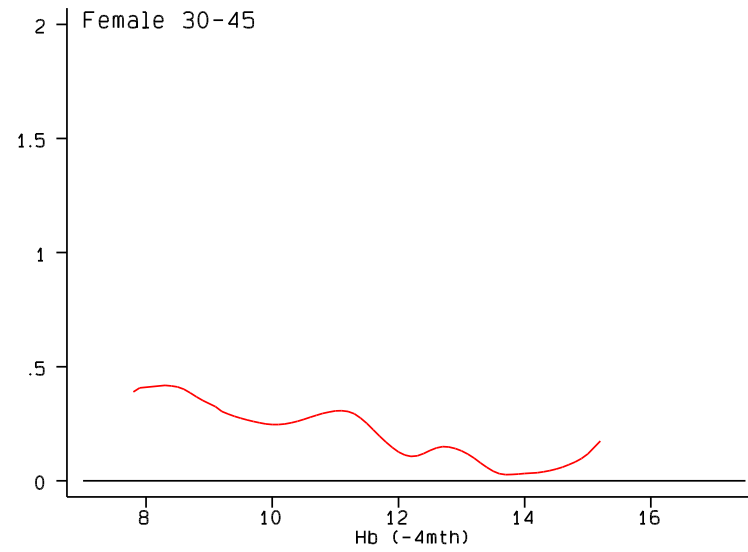
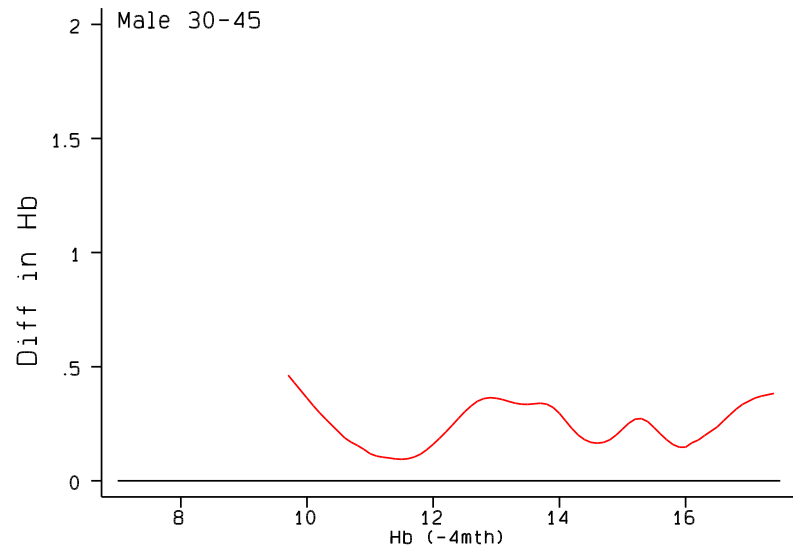
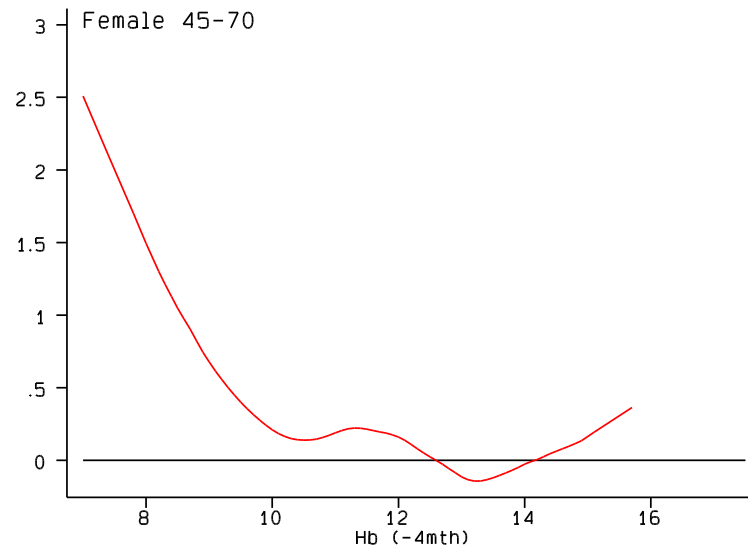
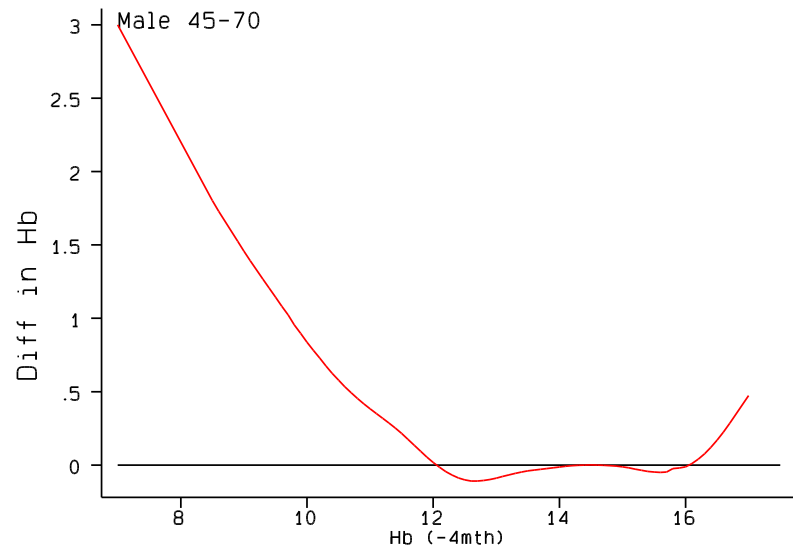


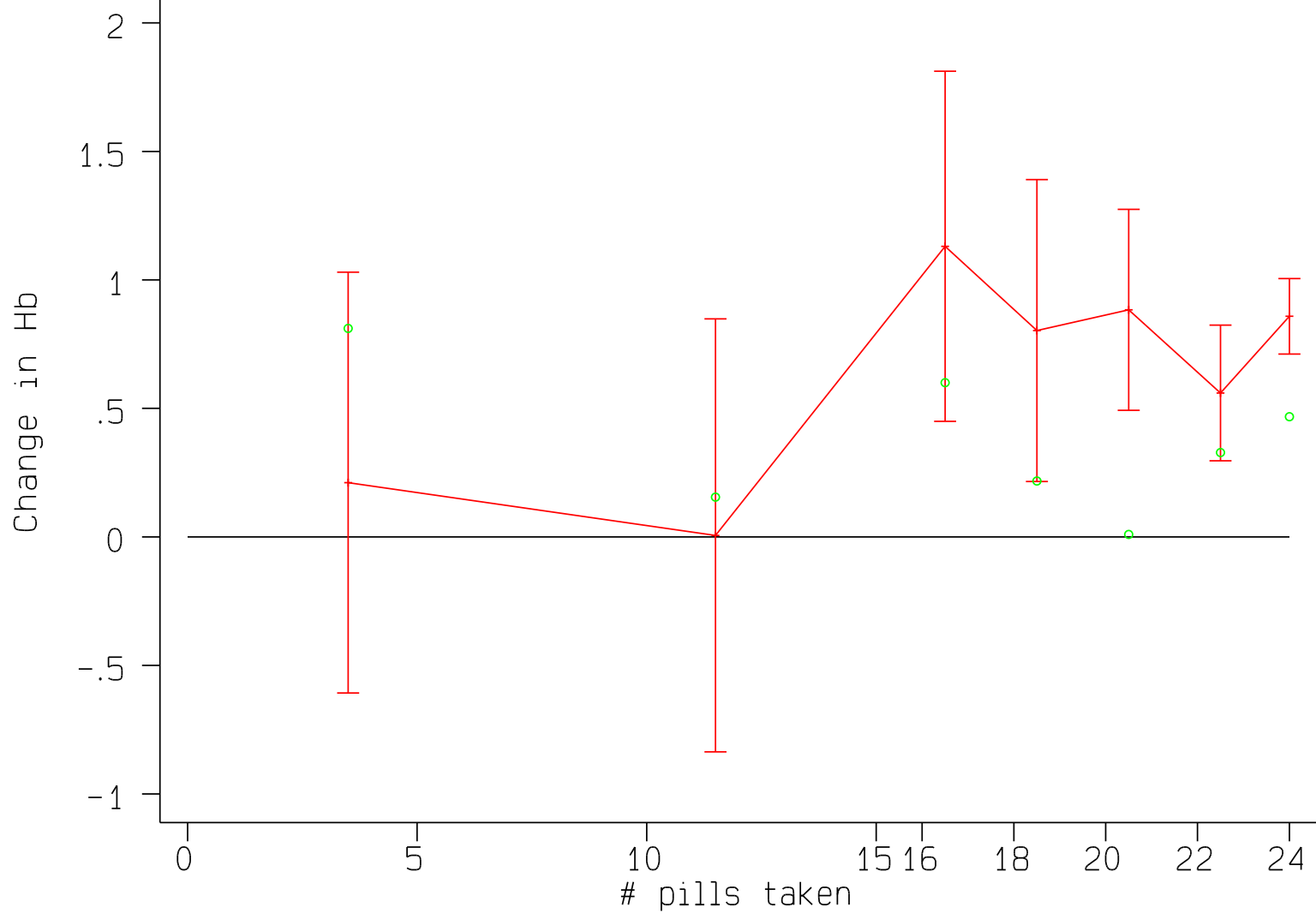
Figure 4: Difference between Treatments & Controls 8mth - -4mth



Appendix Figure 1

Change in Hb and compliance rate: Males 30-70

Treatments=+ (with 95% confidence intervals) & Controls=0



Appendix Figure 2: Distribution of Hb
At -4 and 8 mth interviews

