



HOW THE AMERICAS COMPARE TO THE REST OF OECD COUNTRIES AND COMMON LESSONS

Michele Cecchini
Principal Administrator (Public Health)
OECD



COVID-19 Has Impacted Drinking Behaviours And Correlated Harm



Modifications in **patterns** of alcohol consumption



Some population **groups** were most affected



Modifications in **volume** of alcohol consumption



At least in Europe, calls about **domestic violence** raised

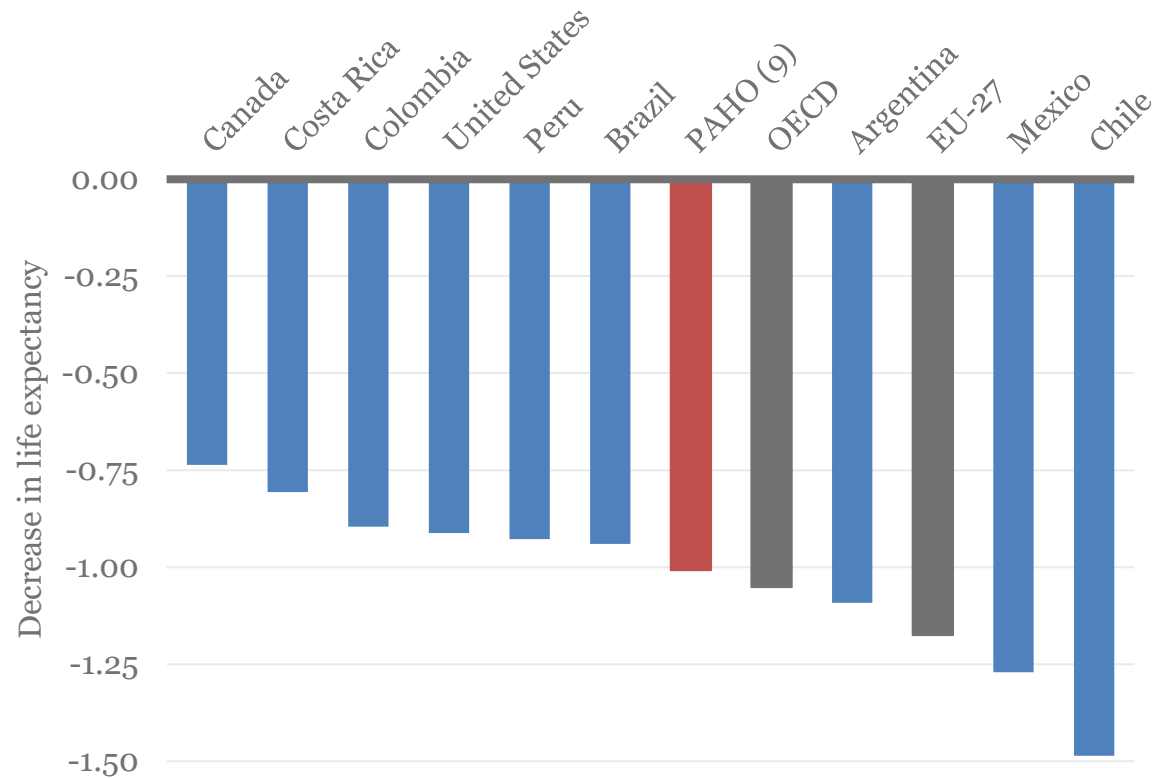


Modifications in **places** of purchase and consumption

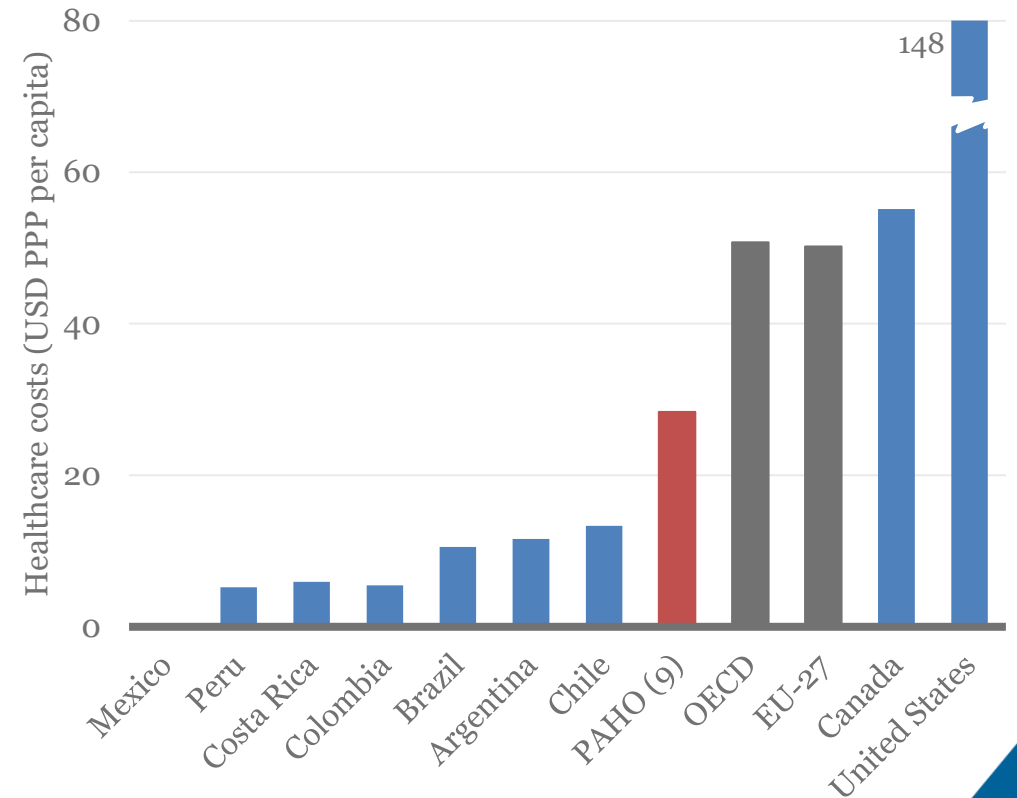


COVID-19 May Produce a Long-term Impact On An Already High Burden Of Harmful Alcohol Consumption

In PAHO (9), over the next 30 years, life expectancy will be 1 year lower than it would be otherwise, due to harmful alcohol consumption



Healthcare expenditure will be 28.4 USD PPP per capita per year higher than it would be otherwise





Conditions Caused by Harmful Alcohol Consumption Carry A Significant Economic Burden For Countries and Individuals

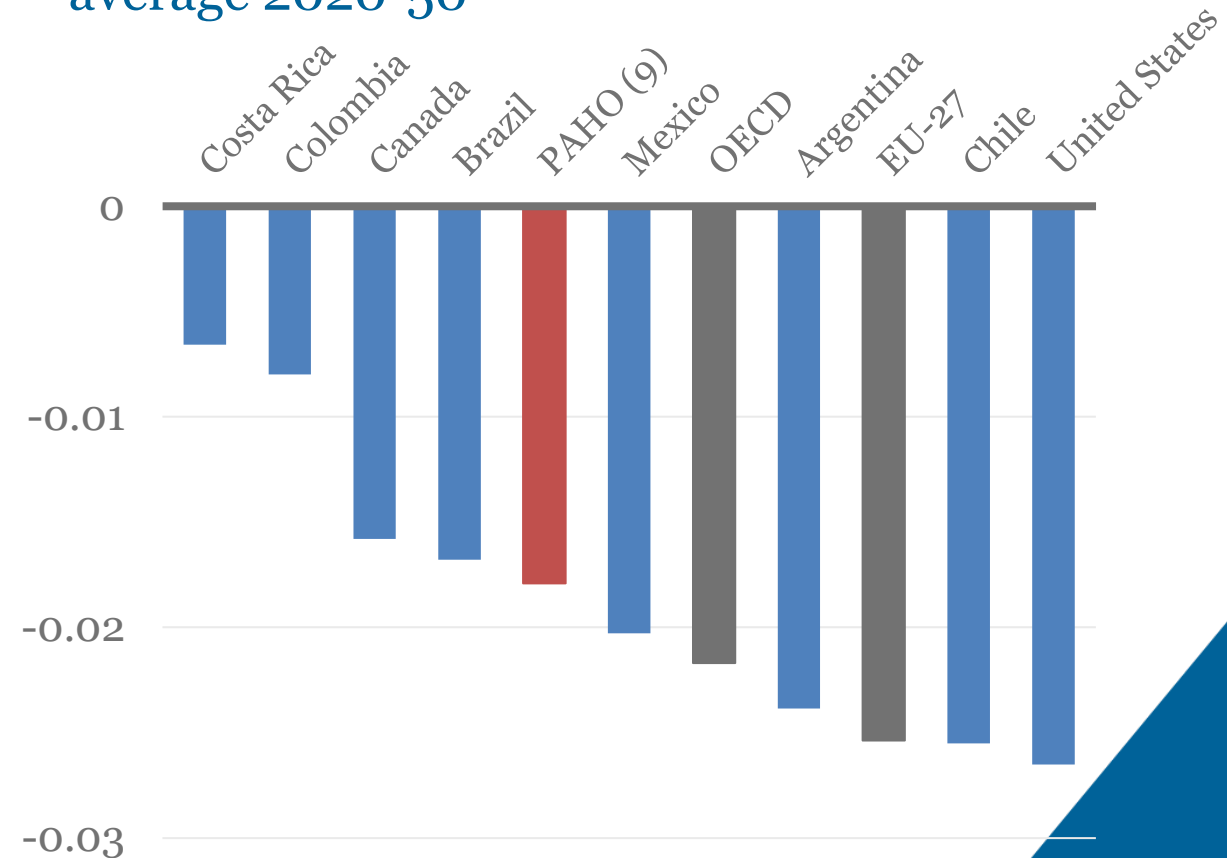


Diseases caused by harmful alcohol consumption will affect workforce employment and productivity, lowering outputs by the equivalent of **285 USD PPP per capita per year** [48 USD PPP in MEX to 1278 USD PPP in USA]



Diseases caused by harmful alcohol consumption cause an equivalent tax increase of **174 USD PPP per capita per year** in PAHO (6) [17 USD PPP in ARG to 650 USD PPP in USA]

Percentage difference in GDP due to diseases caused by harmful alcohol consumption, average 2020-50





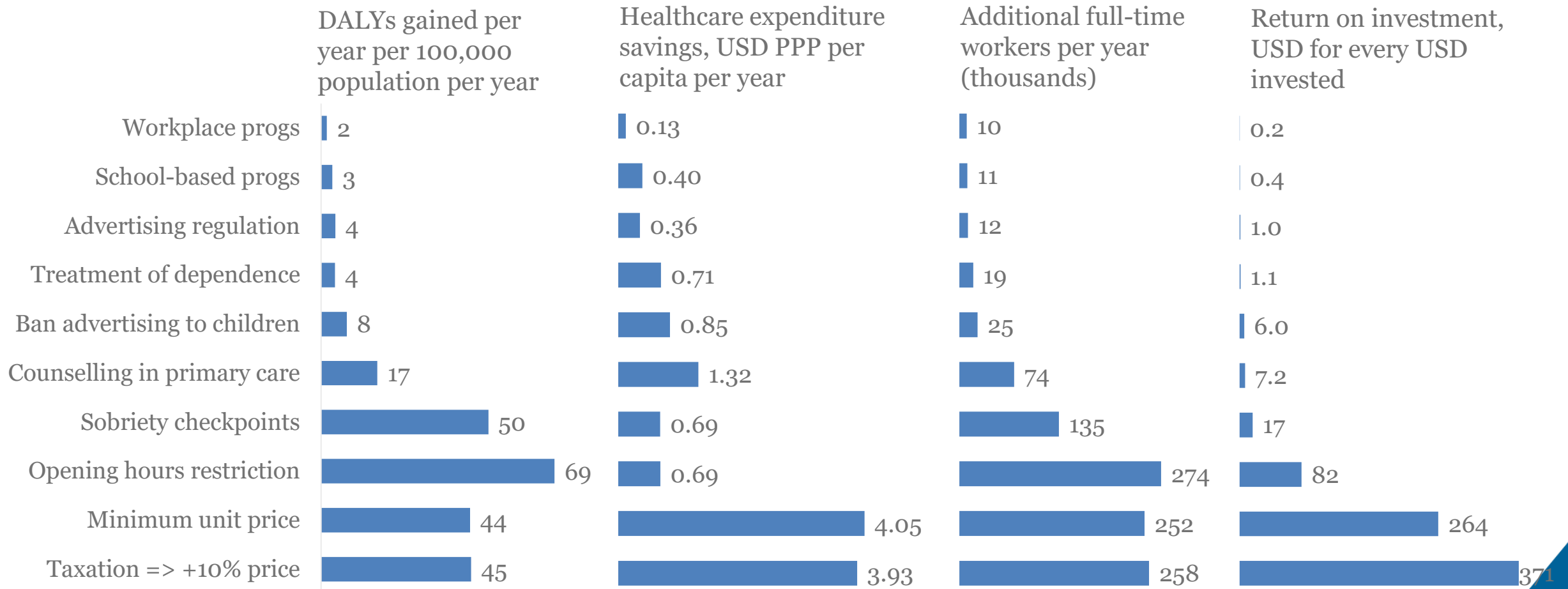
Gaps Remain In Strategies To Tackle Harmful Alcohol Consumption

WHO data and evidence in the literature identifies some gaps in the policy action to tackle harmful use of alcohol. Key gaps include:

- Only 37% of the 52 countries included in the analysis have a **written national policy** and an **action plan**, including only **2 countries in PAHO (9)**;
- 74% of countries **do not** automatically **adjust** alcohol taxes **for inflation**, including at least **5 countries in PAHO (9)**;
- The **majority** of countries does **not have** the most effective **regulation of advertising**, particularly in the case of social media;
- In Europe and the United States, **less than 10%** of those potentially benefitting from **screening and brief intervention in primary care** are covered by this intervention.



Tackling Harmful Alcohol Consumption Keeps Healthy, Decreases Healthcare Expenditure and Increases Labour Force Productivity



Note: All figures are annual average over 2020-2050, total for PAHO (7): BRA, CAN, CHL, COL, CRI, MEX, USA.

Source: OECD (2021) Preventing harmful alcohol use – oe.cd/alcohol2021



A PPPP Approach Is An Excellent Investment and Addresses Many Of The Current Policy Gaps

A comprehensive prevention package

Police enforcement to limit alcohol-related injuries and violence;

Protecting children from alcohol promotion;

Primary care to help patients with harmful drinking patterns;

Pricing policies to limit the affordability of cheap alcohol.

In PAHO (7) countries, over 2020-50



1.8 million

Cases of alcohol-related conditions avoided per year



USD 16.4 billion

saved every year due to reduced healthcare expenditure (\approx health budget of Chile)



791 000

additional full-time workers per year due to increased productivity



16:1

USD 16 returned in economic benefit for each dollar invested, excluding the impact on alcohol industry



Investing in the PPPP Approach Becomes Even More Important During Covid To Promote Resiliency and Re-start of the Economy



Protecting young people from alcohol promotion, particularly through internet and social media which have been widely used during the pandemic;



Strengthening primary care to help patients with harmful patterns of alcohol consumption, which is a common response to cope with high levels of stress;



Tackling cheap alcohol, which is disproportionately consumed by individuals with harmful patterns of alcohol consumption; minimum unit price can have a positive effect on income of bars and restaurants.



Preventing Harmful Alcohol Use



Do you have questions? Contact us at: Michele.Cecchini@oecd.org

Data, graphs, country notes and much more at: oe.cd/alcohol2021



Follow us on Twitter: [@OECD_social](https://twitter.com/OECD_social)