

Workshop: Alcohol Taxation in Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico

31st October 2024 PAHO HQ – Room C, Washington, DC

Co-hosts: Pan American Health Organization, Vital Strategies, and Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Alcohol consumption is one of the risk factors for non-communicable diseases. Excise taxes on alcoholic beverages are one of the most cost-effective tools to reduce consumption. Alcohol taxes contribute to reducing the affordability and consumption of alcoholic beverages and related harms. This workshop aims to bring together experts on alcohol taxation policies and policymakers from the finance and health sectors to discuss the evidence on the effects of alcohol taxes in reducing consumption, improving health outcomes, and increasing revenue.

The meeting will provide a space for technical discussions on the rationale for using alcohol taxes, their impact on consumption, public health and revenues, best practices on alcohol taxation, and countering myths surrounding this policy. This will be a technical meeting for evidence-based discussions to enhance actions on alcohol tax policies in prioritized countries by the RESET initiative.

OBJECTIVES

Present and discuss the evidence on alcohol taxation

PARTICIPANTS AND PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

- Focal points of ministries of health responsible for alcohol control programs.
- Focal points of ministries of finance responsible for the design of excise taxes.
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Mexico

AGENDA

Time	Activity
9:00 – 9:30	Introduction and Welcome <i>Rosa Sandoval, PAHO/WHO; Adam Karpati, Vital Strategies</i>
9:30 – 9:50	Session 1 – Justification for raising taxes Presentation by <i>Norman Maldonado, World Bank (20min)</i>
9:50 – 10:00	Questions & Answers
10:00 – 10:30	Session 2 – The burden of alcohol The epidemiology of alcohol harms <i>Carlos Guerrero, Johns Hopkins University (15min)</i> The economic cost of alcohol use Presentation by <i>Alexa Segal, OECD (15 min)</i>
10:30 – 10:40	Questions & Answers
10:40 – 10:45	Foto (auditorium)
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:20	Session 3 – Demand analysis Presentation by <i>Jeff Drope, Johns Hopkins University (20min)</i>
11:20 – 11:30	Questions & Answers
11:30 – 12:40	Session 4 – Country Insights <i>Facilitators: Rosa Sandoval; PAHO/WHO</i> Key findings for alcohol tax policy (tax structure) Presentation by <i>Germán Rodríguez-Iglesias, Johns Hopkins University (20min)</i> Country presentations by delegates of Ministries of Finance & Ministries of Health (<i>15min each country</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current situation on alcohol consumption • Status of alcohol tax policy • Progress and challenges
12:40 – 13:00	Discussion
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:40	Session 5 – Debunking Industry Myths Countering industry arguments: employment, regressivity, unrecorded alcohol, Presentation by <i>Guillermo Paraje, Universidad Adolfo Ibanez (20 min)</i> The case of Brazil on alcohol tax policy , Presentation by <i>Taina de Almeida Costa, Vital Strategies BRA (15min)</i>
14:40 – 14:50	Questions & Answers
14:50 – 15:30	Session 6 – Shaping the Future: Strategic Pathways for Alcohol

	<p>Taxation <i>Facilitators: Jeff Drope, Johns Hopkins University; Bert Brys, OECD</i></p> <p>Modelled Scenarios for Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico, Presentations by <i>Oswaldo Candido, UCB Alejandra Macias, CIEP Norman Maldonado, World Bank</i></p> <p>Panel: Comments and reflections <i>Ministry of Finance, Brazil</i> <i>Ministry of Finance, Colombia</i> <i>Ministry of Finance, Mexico</i></p> <p>Questions & Answers</p>
15:30 – 15:40	Coffee break
15:40 – 15:55	Session 7: PAHO/WHO data collection efforts
15:55 – 16:15	<i>Overview by Itziar Belausteguigoitia, PAHO/WHO</i>
16:15 – 16:45	<p>Session 8 – Needs, Available support, and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presentations by country delegates, Mexico, Colombia and Brazil</i> • <i>Overview by representatives from Vital Strategies, PAHO/WHO, World Bank, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.</i>
16:45 – 17:00	<p>Session 9 – Closing Remarks <i>Rosa Sandoval, PAHO and Adam Karpati, Vital Strategies</i></p>

*Sessions will have simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.