

## Spotlight: Colombia's New Beverage Taxes

### Sources:

In 2012, Latin America became the world's leading consumer of sugar-sweetened beverages.

—Basu S, McKee M, Galea G, Stuckler D. Relationship of soft drink consumption to global overweight, obesity, and diabetes: a cross-national analysis of 75 countries. *Am J Public Health*. 2013;103(11):2071–7. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23488503/>

In Colombia, three out of four children and young people drink at least one sugary drink every day.

—“Overview of Schoolchildren's Health in Colombia” Ministerio de Salud y Protección Social, Nov. 19, 2018 <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/English/Paginas/Overview-of-Schoolchildrens-Health-in-Colombia.aspx>

Also: <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/colombia-votes-to-tax-junk-food-and-sugary-drinks/>

People who regularly consume sugar-sweetened drinks—1 to 2 cans a day or more—have a 26% greater risk of developing Type 2 diabetes than people who rarely consume such drinks.

—Malik VS, Popkin BM, Bray GA, Despres JP, Willett WC, Hu FB. Sugar- sweetened beverages and risk of metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes: a meta-analysis. *Diabetes Care*, 2010;33:2477-83. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20693348/>

Evidence shows that a tax on sugar-sweetened drinks that raises prices by 20% can lead to a reduction in consumption of around 20%. In Mexico, two years after the introduction of a tax on sugar-sweetened drinks, households reduced their purchases of those products by 7.6% and households with the fewest resources reduced their purchases by 11.7%.

—World Health Organization. “Taxes on Sugary Drinks: Why Do It?” 2017 <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/260253/WHO-NMH-PND-16.5Rev.1-eng.pdf>