

Taxing Alcohol Leads to Safer Streets

Driving under the influence of alcohol dramatically increases the risk of fatal road crash.

Drinking and driving kills more than one person every hour on Brazil's roads, or nearly 11,000 people annually.¹

In 2016, 1.3 million people died around the world because of road crashes. A third of those deaths (370,000) were attributable to alcohol use.²

Policies on drinking and driving have evolved in Brazil in the last 20 years, but many gaps persist.³

In 2010, new legislation on drinking and driving was approved. The legislation decreased the legal amount of blood alcohol concentration while driving to zero and increased the number of random breath tests performed. This resulted in the annual number of deaths falling by more than 25%.⁴

Despite the progress, in 2019, 17% of Brazilians over the age of 18 reported having driven after consuming alcohol.⁵

KEY FACTS

- 96% of Brazilians said alcohol increases the risk of crashes and road injuries.⁶
- Yet, among people aged 25-39, 21% had driven after drinking, as well as 16% of those aged 18-24.⁷
- Drinking and driving is more frequent among men: 21% said they engaged in drink driving, compared to 8% of women.

Brazil's tax reform holds the potential to reduce the health and social burden of alcohol, including road traffic death and injuries if tax rates that are high enough to reduce consumption are put in place.

RESET Alcohol is led by Vital Strategies in collaboration with Brazilian partners, such as ACT Promoção da Saúde, Universidade Católica de Brasília (UCB), and global technical partners that include Johns Hopkins University Economics For Health, Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA), Movendi International, NCD Alliance and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Learn more about RESET at: <https://www.vitalstrategies.org/programs/alcohol-policy>

