

Research on Tobacco Taxation

Frank J. Chaloupka, University of Illinois at Chicago South Eastern Europe Tobacco Tax Workshop Warsaw, Poland, 10 May 2018

"**Sugar**, **rum**, and tobacco, are commodities which are no where necessaries of life, which are become objects of almost universal consumption, and which are therefore **extremely** proper subjects of taxation.





Taxes, Prices & Tobacco Use

- Aggregate demand studies
 - Variety of studies:
 - Pooled cross-sectional time-series studies
 - State, provincial, other subnational data
 - Time-series studies
 - Many countries, states
 - Alternative modeling of addiction
 - No accounting for addiction
 - Myopic addiction
 - Rational addiction



Taxes, Prices & Tobacco Use

- Aggregate demand studies
 - Modeling issues
 - Account for opportunities for tax avoidance and evasion
 - Use of tax paid sales data will overstate elasticity when significant opportunities exist
 - Control for other policies
 - Potential endogeneity of prices, policies
 - Functional form
 - Fixed/random effects models for CSTS data



Cigarette Prices and Cigarette Sales United States, 1970-2014



Source: Tax Burden on Tobacco, 2015, and author's calculations

Prețurile țigărilor ajustate la inflație și consumul de țigări pe cap de locuitor, România, 2001 – 2015



Taxes, Prices & Tobacco Use

Individual/household demand studies

- Variety of data:
 - Cross-sectional data on prevalence, frequency, consumption
 - Repeat cross-sectional data
 - Retrospective data
 - Cohort/longitudinal data
 - Expenditure data
- Alternative modeling of addiction
 - No accounting for addiction
 - Myopic addiction
 - Rational addiction



Compensatory Model of Price Effects



Taxes, Prices & Tobacco Use

Individual/household demand studies

- Modeling issues
 - Price data
 - Matched from external sources; less concern about endogeneity
 - From self-report endogeneity of price a problem
 - Treatment of opportunities for tax avoidance and evasion
 - Use of external price data will understate elasticity when significant opportunities exist
 - Consider impact on multiple behaviors
 - Prevalence, frequency, intensity, initiation, cessation, substitution, brand choice, purchase behavior, tax avoidance......
 - Examine impact in different populations
 - By age, gender, race/ethnicity, SES.....



Cigarette Prices and Adult Smoking Prevalence United States, 1970-2014



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Source: NHIS, *Tax Burden on Tobacco*, 2015, and author's calculations Note: green data points for prevalence are interpolated assuming linear trend



Cigarette Prices and Cessation US States & DC, 2009



Source: BRFSS, Tax Burden on Tobacco, 2010, and author's calculations

Cigarette Price and Youth Smoking Prevalence Seniors, United States, 1991-2014



Source: MTF, *Tax Burden on Tobacco*, 2015, and author's calculations

Taxes, Prices and Health: US, 1980-2005



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Prices and Tobacco Use

- Similar evidence for variety of other tobacco products
 - Generally see evidence of greater elasticity for non-cigarette tobacco products
 - Substitution among similar products, particularly combustible products
 - Some complementarity among combustible and non-combustible products



Reusable ENDS Sale Volume and Price, US 2010 - 2014



E-Cigarette Prices & Sales

- Stoklosa, Drope & Chaloupka (2016)
 - 2011-2014 monthly Nielsen data on e-cigarette sales in six EU countries (Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, and UK)
 - Own price elasticities range from -0.83 to -0.87
 - E-cigarette sales generally positively associated with cigarette prices, but mostly not statistically significant





Notes: Relative income price is the percentage of annual per capita GDP required to buy 100 packs of most popular brand of cigarettes. Source: WHO 2017

Affordability & Tobacco Use Adult Smoking Prevalence, Indonesia, 2001-2014



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Increasing Elasticity with Increasing Price



TUS-CPS Prevalence & Consumption

State tax-paid sales

Tobacco Taxes and Revenues

South Africa, 1961-2012





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State Tobacco Control Program Funding and Youth Smoking Prevalence, United States, 1991-2009



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Potential Impact

- \$1.50 Increase in cigarette excise tax in Oklahoma would:
 - Raise \$183.9 million in *new* tax revenue
 - Prevent 28,200 kids from taking up smoking
 - Encourage 30,400 adult smokers to quit
 - Prevent 16,700 premature deaths from smoking
 - Reduce smoking-complicated pregnancies and births by 4,900 in first 5 years
 - Save \$3.9 million in Medicaid spending in first 5 years



Estimated Future Cigarette Tax Revenues Oklahoma

■Without Increase ■With \$1.50 Increase



Source: CTFK, ACS-CAN & Tobacconomics, 2017

Health Impact of Tax Increases: Philippines

	50% of price accounted for by uniform tax	Uniform specific tax of 28.3 pesos per pack (current maximum)	Uniform specific tax of 30 pesos per pack
New average cigarette tax	23.8	28.3	30.0
New average cigarette pack price	47.6	52.6	54.5
Cigarette excise tax as a percentage of price	50.0%	53.8%	55.0%
	3.20	4.05	4.37
Reduction in number of current smokers (millions)			
Reduction in number of future smokers (millions)	3.35	4.24	4.57
Total reduction in number of smokers (millions)	6.55	8.29	8.95



Health Impact of Tax Increases: Philippines

	50% of price accounted for by uniform tax	Uniform specific tax of 28.3 pesos per pack (current maximum)	Uniform specific tax of 30 pesos per pack
Reduction in Premature Deaths Caused by Smoking	1.12	1.42	1.53
among Current Smokers (Millions)			
Reduction in Premature Deaths Caused by Smoking	1.67	2.12	2.29
among Future Smokers (Millions)			
Total Reduction in Premature Deaths Caused by	2.79	3.54	3.82
Smoking (millions)			
Percentage of premature deaths in current and future	19.3%	24.4%	26.4%
smokers averted by higher taxes			
Additional Excise Tax Revenues (PhP billions)	52.6	53.8	53.3



Figure 5: Excise tax structure: Specific and mixed relying more on the specific component tend to lead to higher prices



■ Retail price, PPP ■ Other taxes, PPP

Excise tax, PPP

Source: WHO 2017 GTCR data; unpublished figure.

Notes: Averages are weighted by WHO estimates of number of current cigarette smokers ages 15+ in each country in 2015; Prices are expressed in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) adjusted dollars or international dollars to account for differences in the purchasing power across countries. Based on prices as of July 2016 for 53 high-income, 100 middle-income and 27 low-income countries with data on prices of most sold brand, excise and other taxes, and PPP conversion factors.

Excise Tax Structure and Price Variability



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Oppositional Arguments

Figure 6 - State Cigarette Excise Tax Rates, United States, April 2015





Figure 7. State Cigarette Importing/Exporting Shares, 2010-2011

Note: "Importing states" are those where some consumers avoid or evade taxes by obtaining their tobacco products from states or federal tribal lands where taxes are lower. "Exporting states" are those where some tobacco products intended for consumption within that state are purchased by consumers from outside of the state to avoid or evade their "home" taxes.

Source: Created from data in National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, 2015.

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Tax Avoidance & Evasion Do NOT Eliminate Health Impact of Higher Taxes





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Tax Avoidance & Evasion Do NOT Eliminate Revenue Impact of Higher Taxes

Cook County Cigarette Tax and Tax Revenues - FY01-FY06



Tax Avoidance/Evasion & Tax Revenues



July 2011 - June 2012 July 2012 - June 2013



Illicit Cigarette Market Share & Cigarette Prices, 2012



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Source: NCI/WHO, 2016

Drivers of Illicit Tobacco

- Corruption
- Weak tax administration
- Poor enforcement
- Presence of informal distribution
 networks
- Presence of criminal networks
- Access to cheaper sources



Sources: NRC/IOM 2015; NCI/WHO 2016

Smuggling and Corruption, 2011



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Figure 12 – Estimated Volumes of Cigarettes Consumed in the U.K. – Duty paid, illicit, and crossborder shopping, 2000-01 – 2013-14

Billions



Source: HM Revenue & Customs, 2014



California's Encrypted Cigarette Tax Stamps 20 2005-2010 **CALIFORNIA TAX PAID** CALIFONIA THE GOLDEN STATE CALIFORNIA TH GOLDEN STATE CALIFORNIA THE GOLDEN STATE 2011-present **Stamp Front View** Stamp Angled View (ink appears blue) (ink appears green) G95ke

Cigarette Tax Stamps Sold – projected and actual, California, 2000 - 2013



Source: CDC/Chaloupka et al., 2015

Who Pays& Who Benefits Impact of Federal Tax Increase, U.S., 2009



Impact on the Poor

- Need to consider overall fiscal system
 - Key issue with tobacco taxes is what's done with the revenues generated by the tax
 - Greater public support for tobacco tax increases when revenues are used for tobacco control and/or other health programs
 - Net financial impact on low income households can be positive when taxes are used to support programs targeting the poor
 - Concerns about regressivity offset by use of revenues for programs directed to poor



Tobacco Taxes and Small Businesses

- More recent argument that higher taxes will harm convenience stores
- Huang & Chaloupka (2012)
 - Number of convenience stores, by state, 1997-2009
 - State cigarette tax rates and smoke-free air policies
 - Economic conditions (income, unemployment, gas prices)
 - Multivariate, fixed effects econometric models
 - Find that higher taxes associated with *increase* in convenience store business
 - Likely due to spending on other products, overshifting of taxes





Summary and Potential Impact of Tax Increase

Bridging the Gap



www.bridgingthegapresearch.org

Bridging the Gap - Tobacco

State and National

Annual collection of state policies and commercial data (UIC)

Local and Community

Past and potential future annual community data collection (UIC)



THE ITC PROJECT: EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF FCTC POLICIES IN...

25+ countries • >50% of the world's population • >60% of the world's smokers • >70% of the world's tobacco users





About Us Topics Research Updates 💟 🔍

We are devoted to improving access to economic research and information that can impact and inform tobacco policy. As a program of the University of Illinois at Chicago, Tobacconomics is not affiliated with any tobacco manufacturer.

NEARLY 80%

of the world's smokers live in low- and middle-income countries

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LEGACY.

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RECENT & FEATURED RESEARCH

DECEMBER 2015

Preventing and Reducing Illicit Tobacco Trade in the United States »

Topics: Supply-side issues and interventions / Tax avoidance and evasion

NOVEMBER 2015

Cigarette Pricing Lowest in Black Neighborhoods: 2010–2012 »

Topic: Tax and price

NOVEMBER 2015

Global Hazards of Tobacco and the Benefits of Smoking Cessation and Tobacco Taxes »

Topics: Prevalence and consumption / Tobacco use / Cost-effectiveness / Tobacco taxes revenues / Economic impact of tobacco control / Impact on the noor / Tobacco control policies and

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US Surgeon General's Reports







editors Prabhat Jha Frank Chaloupka



The World Bank



Curbing the Epidemic

Governments and the

Economics of Tobacco Control



IARC Cancer Control

Handbooks

IARC HANDBODKS OF CANCER PREVENTION		International Agency for Research on Cancer
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Methods for Evaluating	Tobacco Control	Volume 14
Tobacco Control Policies	International Agency for Research on Cancer World Health Organization Volume 13	Effectiveness of Tax and Price
MRC anno	Evaluating the Effectiveness of Smoke-free Policies	2011
	IARC	

IARC 2009



WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control





Guidelines for implementation of Article 6

Price and tax measures to reduce the demand for tobacco

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session (decision FCTC/COP6(5))

Online version available at http://www.who.int/fctc/treaty_instruments/Guidelines_article_6.pdf

Illicit Tobacco Trade



Characteristics, Policy Context, and Lessons from International Experiences

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

Preventing and Reducing Illicit Tobacco Trade

in the United States

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Office on Smoking and Health







The Economics of Tobacco and Tobacco Control

IN COLLABORATION WITH WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Executive Summary

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Bloomberg Initiative -UIC & Tobacconomics

Bloomberg Initiative

- Ongoing effort to support implementation of evidence based tobacco control measures in highest tobacco using low- and middle-income countries
- Partnership among multiple organizations:
 - World Health Organization
 - US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and CDC Foundation
 - Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
 - International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
 - Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
 - Vital Strategies
 - University of Illinois at Chicago
- Successful efforts on many policies, but little impact on tobacco taxes



SHARE OF THE WORLD POPULATION COVERED BY SELECTED TOBACCO CONTROL POLICIES, 2016



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Source: WHO, 2017

Bloomberg Initiative – UIC

- Engage with 'think tanks' in priority countries/regions to develop local evidence for tobacco tax reform and tax increases
 - Indonesia, Vietnam, Latin American, Bangladesh, Pakistan, South-Eastern Europe
- Engagement with high level decision makers to build technical capacity and political support for tobacco tax policy
- Develop/disseminate resources (policy briefs, white papers, etc.) on tobacco taxation to build knowledge and support for tobacco tax policy



Evidence Gaps

Regional/country specific evidence on economic impact of tobacco taxation

- Impact on demand for tobacco products
- Impact on tax revenues
- Impact on employment
- Impact on development



Evidence Gaps

Regional/country specific evidence on impact of tobacco taxes on poverty

- Progressivity/regressivity of tobacco tax increases
- Impact of tobacco use on poverty
- Effectiveness of tobacco taxation in reducing disparities in tobacco use and its health/economic consequences



Evidence Gaps

Regional/country specific evidence on illicit trade

- Extent of illicit trade
- Changes in illicit trade in response to tobacco tax increases
- Determinants of illicit trade
- Impact of measures to control illicit trade



For more information:

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