

Alcohol Taxes: An Evidence-Based Strategy

Federal, state, or local government enacts taxes on beer, wine, or distilled spirits

As price increases, alcohol consumption is reduced

Increased alcohol taxes improve public health & save lives



 Reduced rates of excessive alcohol consumption (including binge and underage drinking)

 Fewer motor vehicle crashes

 Lower rates of crime and violence

 Reduced rates of sexually-transmitted infections

Considerations in Implementing Alcohol Taxes as a Public Health Strategy



Alcohol excise taxes fall every year — in effect, a tax cut because the taxes don't keep up with inflation



Average cost of alcoholic beverages is low relative to other consumer goods



Costs to society and government of excessive alcohol use far outweigh current tax revenues



Strong public support, particularly if tax revenue is earmarked for social programs