

CHOICES Community of Practice September Coffee Chat Resource Round-up

This document compiles resources shared during the September 26, 2024 coffee chat: Investing in a Healthier Future: How a Sugary Drink Excise Tax Could Improve Health & Health Equity in Massachusetts. This coffee chat featured a discussion of the progressive health and health equity impacts of a sugary drink excise tax, highlighting recent findings from modeling a statewide tax in Massachusetts. [Recording](#) | [Presentation Slides](#)

Guest Speakers:

- **Sara Bleich**, Professor of Public Health Policy at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and inaugural Vice Provost for Special Projects at Harvard University
- **Steve Gortmaker**, Professor of the Practice of Health Sociology, Director of the Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity, and Director and Co-Principal Investigator of the CHOICES Project at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Resources shared during the coffee chat

Massachusetts Sugary Drink Excise Tax Report

The CHOICES team modeled implementation of a state excise tax on sugary drinks in Massachusetts. CHOICES cost-effectiveness analysis compared the costs and outcomes of implementing a tax with the costs and outcomes expected if the tax were not implemented over 10 years (2023-2032). The sugary drink excise tax on distributors is projected to be cost-saving, decrease sugary drink consumption, prevent over 62,000 of cases of obesity, and save \$937 million in health care costs. It is also projected that Black and Hispanic/Latinx Massachusetts residents will experience a greater than average reduction in obesity levels after the tax is implemented, leading to improved health equity.

<https://choicesproject.org/publications/report-sugary-drink-excise-tax-ma>

Boston, MA Sugary Drink Excise Tax Report

The CHOICES team modeled the impact of a statewide excise tax on sugary drinks on health outcomes among Boston residents. CHOICES cost-effectiveness analysis compared the costs and outcomes of implementing a tax with the costs and outcomes expected if the tax were not implemented over 10 years (2023-2032). The sugary drink excise tax on distributors is projected to be cost-saving, decrease sugary drink consumption, prevent more than 6,000 cases of obesity, and save \$91.2 million in health care costs. It is also projected that Black and Hispanic/Latinx Boston residents will experience a greater reduction in obesity rates compared with White, non-Hispanic/Latinx residents after the tax is implemented.

<https://choicesproject.org/publications/report-sugary-drink-excise-tax-bos>

- Learn more about the CHOICES Project's microsimulation model & methods:
 - CHOICES Microsimulation Model: <https://choicesproject.org/methods/choices-model>
 - Methods for Projecting Health Equity Impacts: <https://choicesproject.org/methods/healthequity>

“How sugar-sweetened beverage tax revenues are being used in the United States” [Peer-Reviewed Publication]

This paper investigates how revenues from sugar-sweetened beverage excise taxes in seven U.S. cities are allocated.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8141925>

- Citation: Krieger J, Magee K, Hennings T, Schoof J, Madsen KA. How sugar-sweetened beverage tax revenues are being used in the United States. *Prev Med Rep.* 2021 Apr 30;23:101388. doi: 10.1016/j.pmedr.2021.101388. PMID: 34040929; PMCID: PMC8141925.

“Philly Beverage Tax: Where the money goes” [City of Philadelphia]

This work is supported by The JPB Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U48DP006376). The findings and conclusions are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or other funders.

The Philadelphia Beverage Tax, passed by City Council and signed into law by Mayor Kenney on June 20, 2016, provides revenue the City is using to fund three critical anti-poverty programs: PHLpreK, Community Schools, and Rebuilding Community Infrastructure (Rebuild). Beginning on January 1, 2017, the City began collecting the Philly Bev Tax on the distribution of sweetened beverages.

<https://www.phila.gov/posts/kenney/2017-04-03-philly-beverage-tax-where-the-money-goes>

“City of Seattle: Promoting New Legislation” [Milepost]

Beginning in 2018, Seattle started taxing sugar-sweetened beverage products distributed within city limits.

The Sweetened Beverage Tax was designed to improve the health of Seattle residents by reducing the sale and consumption of sugary drinks. The tax revenue would then be used to support healthy food access and early learning programs across the city.

<https://engagemilepost.com/creative-portfolio/city-of-seattle-promoting-new-legislation>

“Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Reduction Policies: Progress and Promise” [Peer-Reviewed Publication]

This review presents a framework illustrating the various types of policies that have been used to reduce SSB exposure and consumption; policies are organized into four categories (financial, information, defaults, and availability) and take into consideration crosscutting policy considerations (feasibility, impact, and equity).

<https://www.annualreviews.org/content/journals/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-090419-103005>

- Citation: Krieger J, Bleich SN, Scarmo S, and Ng SW. Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Reduction Policies: Progress and Promise. *Ann Rev Public Health*. 2021 Apr 1;42:439-461. doi: 10.1146/annurev-publhealth-090419-103005. Epub 2021 Nov 30. PMID: 33256536.

ABOUT THE CHOICES COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The CHOICES Community of Practice is an initiative of the CHOICES Project at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The CHOICES Community of Practice includes people whose work focuses on advancing obesity prevention, healthy eating, and active living and want to learn more about how cost-effectiveness analysis can advance their efforts and address health equity. **Sign up to access tools and resources, connect with members, and more!** Learn more about CHOICES:

<https://choicesproject.org>

⇒ Learn more about the Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/prc>

⇒ Visit the CHOICES Community of Practice: <https://choicesproject.org/comm-of-practice>