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| **Impact of sugar-sweetened beverage taxes on consumption: Systematic review and meta-analysis** |
| **Background/Objectives**A growing number of jurisdictions have introduced taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) and evaluations of some of these taxes have now been published. The aim of this study was to conduct a systematic review of real-world SSB tax evaluations and examine the overall impact on beverage consumption by meta-analysis.**Methods**Medline, EconLit, Google Scholar and Scopus databases were searched up to June 2018. Conference abstracts and reference lists were also reviewed. Evaluations of SSB taxes from any formal jurisdiction were eligible if there was a comparison between taxed and untaxed groups. The consumption outcome in this study included sales, purchasing and intake (reported by volume or, if not available, then by energy or frequency). Study quality was assessed using a risk of bias tool. Taxed and untaxed beverage consumption outcomes were summarized by meta-analysis with adjustment for the size of each tax. Heterogeneity was examined by quality, peer review status, funding, study design, outcome type, jurisdiction, tax design and age-group. The study was registered at PROSPERO (CRD42018100620).**Results**There were 18 studies in nine jurisdictions that met the review criteria. Of these, there were 17 outcomes eligible for meta-analysis. A 10% tax was associated with an average decline in beverage consumption of 8.6% (95%CI: 4.6% to 12.4%, I2=96%). The extent of the decline differed significantly by jurisdiction and study. A 10% tax was also associated with a 5.5% increase (95%CI: -0.3% to 10.7%, n=6) in water consumption. **Discussion**SSB taxes introduced in jurisdictions around the world have reduced SSB consumption substantially. Policy-makers can be confident that SSB taxation is an effective tool to reduce SSB consumption. **Keywords**Excise, soft drinks, natural experiments, evaluation, tax, meta-analysis |