

# **That we should tax drinks based on the amount of sugar they contain.**

## **Junior Secondary Program: Round 3**

In recent years, many countries have started adopting taxes on sugary drinks. With a surge in the late 2010's, over 50 countries now have some form of sugar tax for beverages. Some medical associations are calling for Australia to follow suit, but the government has been firm in their stance against introducing such a tax.

The debate over taxing drinks based on sugar content revolves around concerns about public health and the economy. Supporters believe it can reduce consumption of sugary beverages and improve public health outcomes, while opponents argue it may be ineffective, unfair, and have negative economic consequences.

Always remember to bring arguments back to the topic at hand, teams should not spend too much time discussing the specifics of the tax although it may help to ground the debate.

### Questions

A couple of key ideas to consider:

- What are the health impacts of too much sugar?
- How much sugar do these drinks contain?
- Would taxing sugary drinks stop people from buying them?
- How would a sugar tax impact poorer people?
- Could a sugar tax lead to job losses in the beverage industry?
- Are there other effective ways to reduce sugar consumption besides taxing sugary drinks?
- How have other countries taxed sugar? What happened?
- How would the money made from a sugar tax be used?

WHO - Taxes on sugary drinks: Why do it?

<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/260253/WHO-NMH-PND-16.5Rev.1-eng.pdf>

Obedience Evidence Hub - Case for a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) in Australia

<https://www.obesityevidencehub.org.au/collections/prevention/the-case-for-a-tax-on-sweetened-sugary-drinks>

Think - Taxing soda won't end America's unhealthy obsession with sugary drinks. Better education might.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/taxing-soda-won-t-end-america-s-unhealthy-obsession-sugary-ncna910781>

Fat Chance: Why sugar taxes won't work

<https://www.apf.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=64190354-6a50-40bd-8ca1-6669f62cf333&subId=613022>