

Progress on NCD Risk Factors Prevention in the Americas

Addressing Prevention and Control of NCD Risk Factors in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Protecting Gains and Fostering Progress

Session 4 – PAHO Webinar Series on Tackling NCDs during COVID-19

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PAHO



Pan American
Health
Organization



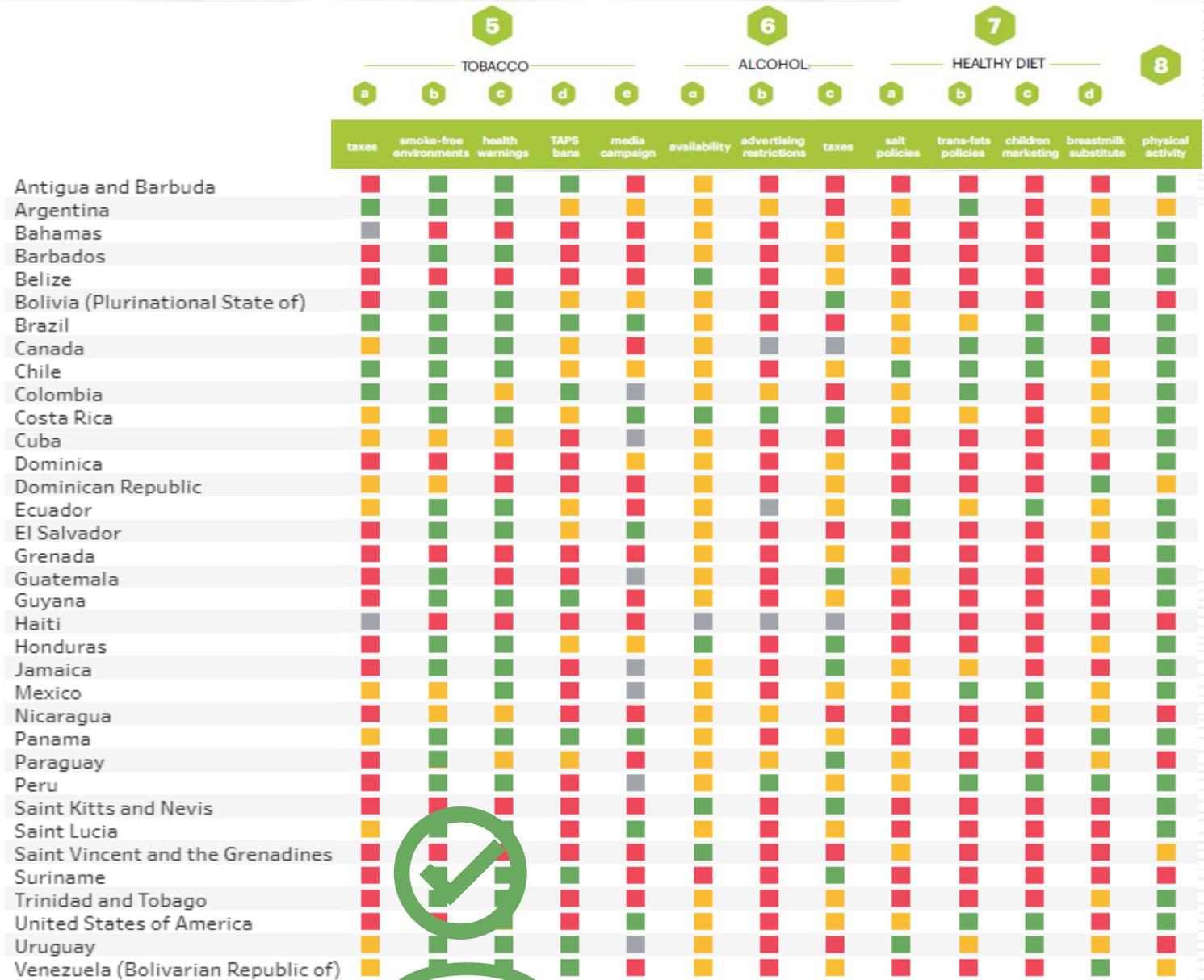
World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

Progress on NCD Risk Factors



Cut-off date:

- October 2020 for alcohol and healthy diet indicators
- December 2020 for tobacco indicators



Fully achieved	4	23	22	8	6	5	2	8	3	7	8	6	25
Partially achieved	10	5	5	9	5	28	4	16	13	5	0	14	4
Not achieved	19	8	9	18	17	1	26	9	19	23	27	15	6

Progress during COVID-19

- **No setbacks on tobacco control despite industry efforts**
 - Progress: all of **South America Smoke-Free** (BOL law Feb 2020 and PAR Decree Dec 2020)
- **Significant progress on front of package warning labels**
 - Uruguay joined 4 other countries in the Region (Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Mexico) by implementing FOPL in 2020
 - Colombia passed a law on 20 June 2021
 - Argentina: Senate approved a bill in late 2020 - final approval by the Congress is expected this year.
 - Caribbean: CROSQ is leading the final stages of a regional process to develop a FOPL standard.
- **Ongoing support for the implementation of the WHO SHAKE Package for the reduction of salt intake**
 - New Sodium Regional Targets



Progress on NCD Risk Factors



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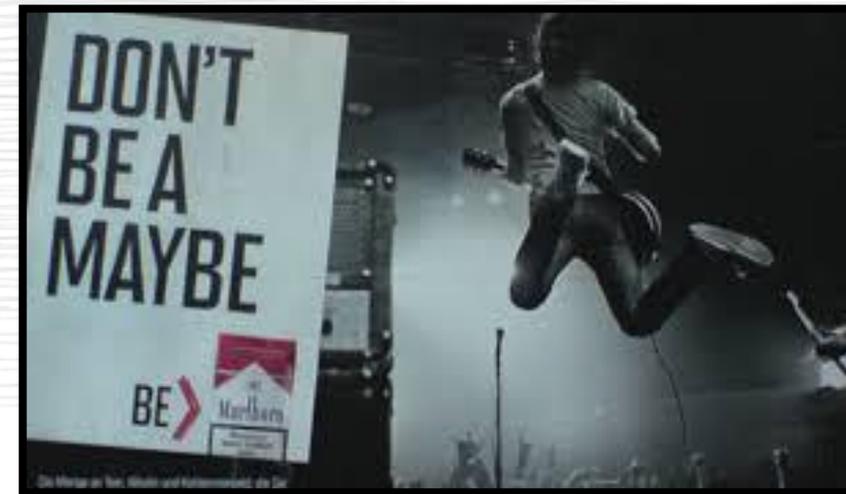
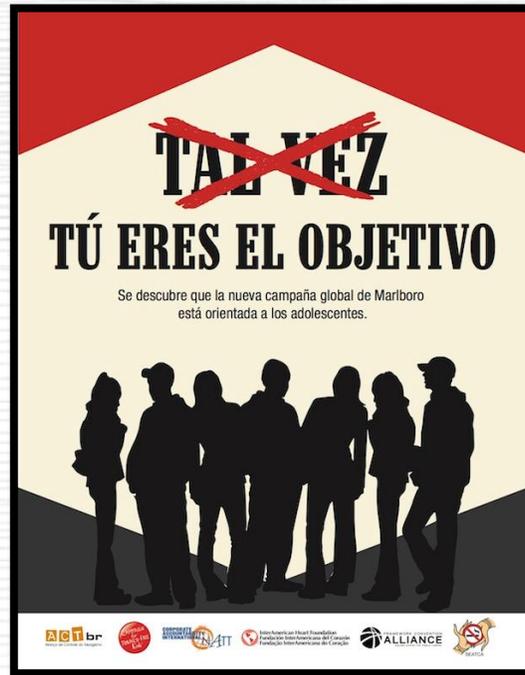
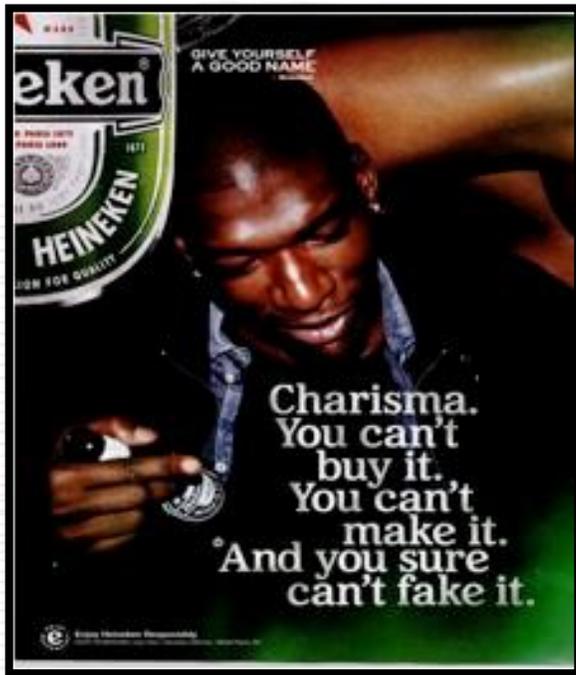
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Challenges

Few countries with bans on advertising and promotion of unhealthy products



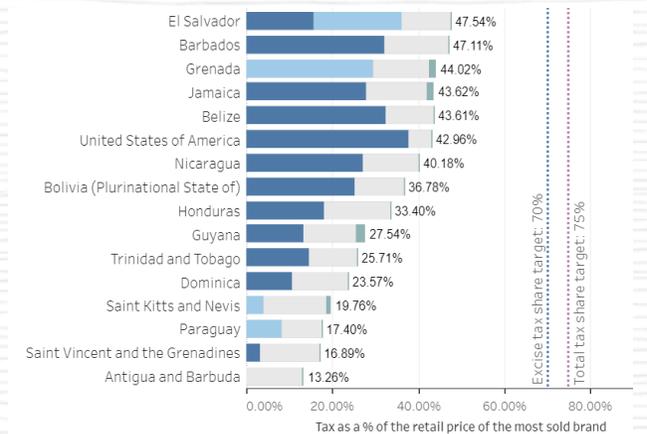
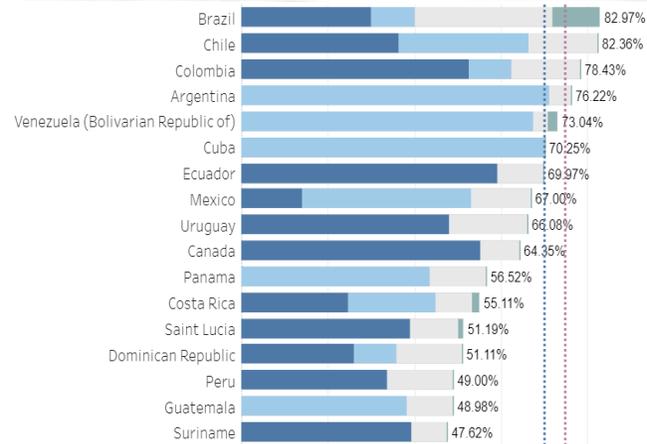
Challenges

Health taxes are underutilized

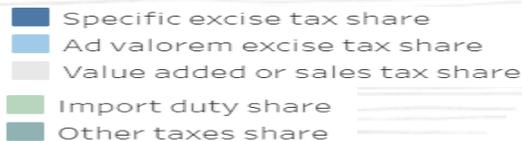
✓ Ample room to increase taxes on tobacco

✓ Many countries applied taxes on SBB already but not with a health perspective

✓ More attention need to alcohol taxes



Tobacco taxes as a % of retail price



Excise taxes applies on SSBs in the Americas



Take away messages

- **The pandemic led to** an increase in exposure to NCD risk factors such as smoking tobacco, drinking alcohol, unhealthy diets and insufficient physical activity.
- **Most progress** in implementing effective policy to address NCD risk factors has been achieved on smoke-free environments and mandatory large and graphic warnings on tobacco products. Implementation of front of package warning labels on food products has advanced significantly in the last few years.
- Critical to preserve the public health gains - Improve policies including fiscal measures on tobacco, alcohol and ultra processed food: **scale up the Best Buys**
 - **Ban & restriction on advertising, promotion and sponsorship of unhealthy products** must be widely adopted to protect the population in particular children and the youth
 - **Taxes on tobacco, alcoholic and sugary sweetened beverages** is a win-win-win policy: it not only saves lives, but it is also a source of immediate revenue that can then be spent on health and development priorities including covid 19 recovery plans.