

Review of: "[Commentary] Balancing the bio in a biopsychosocial model of hazardous drinking and alcohol use disorders"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The contribution of the authors in this Commentary is particularly salient. Understanding the context (external environment) of the individual experiencing alcohol use disorder (AUD) is of equal importance to understanding the internal environment (biological). As mentioned by the authors, the sociocultural factors have the potential to be modified by population/public health interventions. I also concur that the strong emphasis on biobehavioral approaches has not resulted in a commensurate degree of impact for the individual living with AUD, nor for society.

The authors specifically mention that the "commercial" environment and pricing strategies are under-utilized. The literature supports the impact of such strategies. Chaloupka et al. (2012) demonstrate that taxation of tobacco has effectively reduced tobacco use and improved health outcomes. The results of a systematic review by Wagenaar et al. (2010) support the assertion that alcohol taxes and prices impact drinking behavior, to the benefit of the individual and society. The U.S. Department of the Treasury acknowledged that increasing taxes on alcoholic beverages benefit our society, yet, in 2017 Congress made the decision to cut excise tax rates (2022, p. 54). Additionally, alcohol tax rates have been declining when adjusting for inflation, likely influenced by savvy industry advocates (Banchette et al., 2020). There is plenty of evidence to support adding effective population level strategies, as the authors posit.

Banchette, J. G., Ross, C. S., & Naimi, T. S. (2020). The rise and fall of alcohol excise taxes in U.S. States, 1933-2018. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 8(3), 331-338.

<https://doi.org/10.15288/jsad.2020.81.331>

Chaloupka, F. J., Yurekli, A., & Fong, G. T. (2012). Tobacco taxes as a tobacco control strategy *Tobacco Control*, 21, 172-180. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2011-050417>

U.S. Department of the Treasury. (2022, February). *Competition in the Markets for Beer, Wine, and Spirits*. <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Competition-Report.pdf>.

Wagenaar, A.C., Tobler, A.L., & Komro, K. A. (2010). Effects of alcohol tax and price policies on morbidity and mortality: A systematic review. *American Journal of Public Health*, 100(11), 2270-2278.

<https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2009.186007>

