

UQ research finds alcopops tax ineffective

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A University of Queensland research team have evaluated the effectiveness of the 'alcopops' tax by studying binge drinking-related admissions at the Gold Coast Hospital.

The 70% tax was introduced by the Federal Government in April 2008 in an attempt to reduce binge drinking in young people.

The team's findings, published today in *The [Medical Journal of Australia](#)*, demonstrate the tax did not affect the number of alcohol-related harms observed on the Gold Coast.

Methodology and key findings:

- The research team studied whether the number of people aged 15 to 29 who presented at hospital with conditions related to binge drinking fell following the increase in alcopops tax
- The research team looked at presentation to the Gold Coast [Emergency Department](#) two years prior to the tax increase in April 2008, and two years thereafter. They compared the number of younger and older people presenting with the same [health consequences](#) of [binge drinking](#), in addition to the number of young people presenting with other conditions
- The team found no reduction in alcohol-related health consequences following the tax

- Raising the price of just one type of drink may not reduce alcohol-related harms
- Without question, taxation is one of the most effective approaches to reduce [alcohol consumption](#). Our findings provide further evidence for a more comprehensive approach to alcohol control that includes taxing all drinks equally by alcoholic content .

More information: ["Effect of the increase in 'alcopops' tax on alcohol-related harms in young people: a controlled interrupted time series."](#) *The Medical Journal of Australia*. (DOI) 10.5694/mja10.10865

Provided by University of Queensland

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