

Sugary drinks more affordable across the globe

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(HealthDay)—Sugar-sweetened beverages have become more affordable worldwide, making the fight against obesity even more difficult, a new study suggests.

Researchers looked at data from 40 high-income and 42 low-income countries. Between 1990 and 2016, sugar-sweetened beverages such as cola became more affordable in 79 of those 82 countries.

Most often, the drinks were easier to afford because prices fell and people earned more money. The actual price of sugar-sweetened drinks went down in 56 of the countries, the study found.

"Overall in the countries we studied, a person in 2016 could buy 71 percent more sugar-sweetened beverages with the same share of their income than they could in 1990," said study co-author Jeffrey Drope, from the American Cancer Society.

"Sugary drinks became even more affordable in

developing [countries](#), where 2016's income could buy 89 percent more sugar-sweetened beverages than in 1990. That's essentially half-price," he noted in a cancer society news release.

And, the researchers don't expect this trend to stop. They said the affordability of these products will hinder efforts to combat the global obesity epidemic.

Governments need to raise taxes on [sugar-sweetened beverages](#) to reduce consumption, the researchers said.

The study was published May 4 in the journal *Preventing Chronic Disease*.

More information: Evan Blecher et al, Global Trends in the Affordability of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages, 1990–2016, *Preventing Chronic Disease* (2017). DOI: 10.5888/pcd14.160406

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourages you to [rethink your drink](#).

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