# Six Lessons from the U.S. Experience with Tobacco Taxes

Jason Furman
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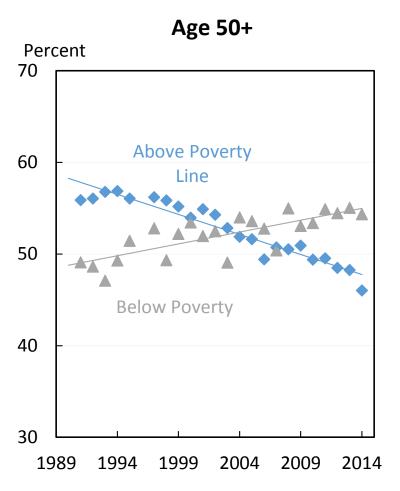


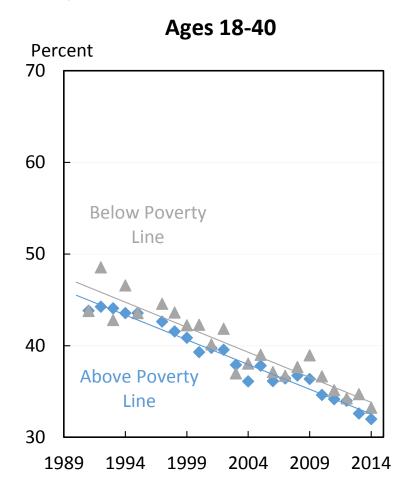
World Bank Group Conference: "Winning the Tax Wars: Global Solutions for Developing Countries"

May 24, 2016

# Lesson #1: Smoking Plays a Major Role Not Just in Mortality But in Inequality of Mortality

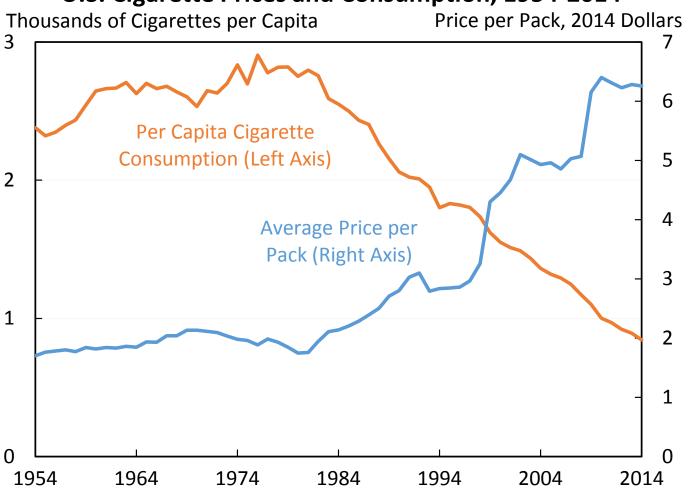
#### Percent that Ever Smoked by Poverty Status, 1991-2014



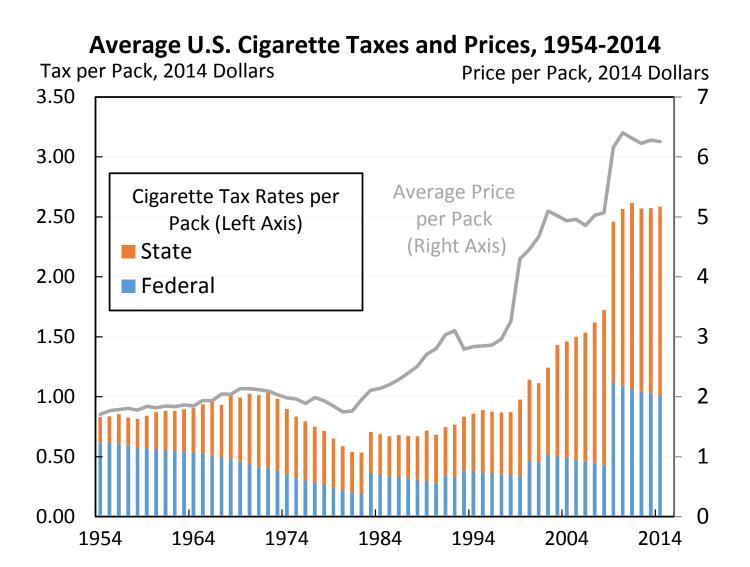


### **Lesson #2: Price Plays an Important Role in Smoking**



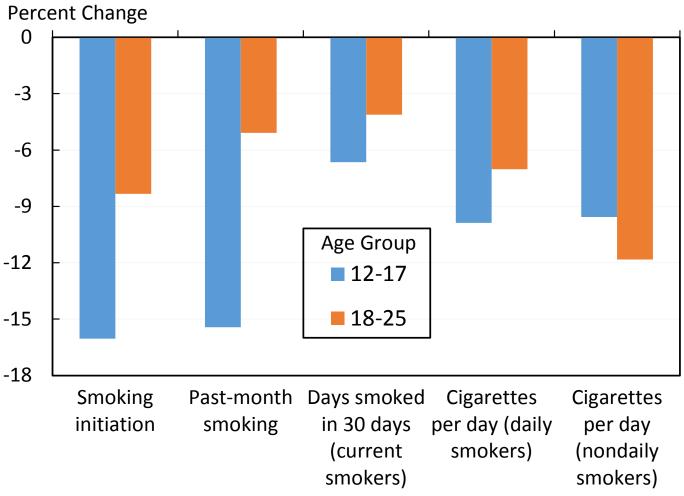


### Lesson #3: Cigarette Taxes Play an Important Role in Cigarette Prices



# Lesson #4: Cigarette Taxes Have Large Aggregate Benefits for Public Health

#### **Changes in Smoking Behavior Due to 2009 Tax Increase**

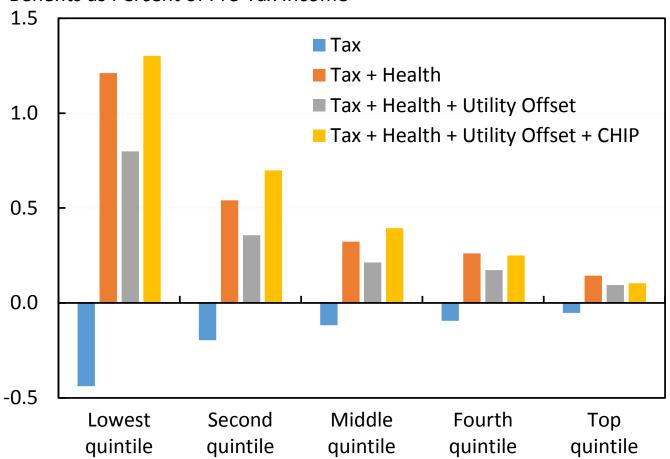


Source: van Hasselt at al. (2015).

## Lesson #5: Tobacco Taxes Disproportionately Benefit Lower-Income Households

#### Illustrative Distribution of the 2009 Tobacco Tax Increase

Benefits as Percent of Pre-Tax Income

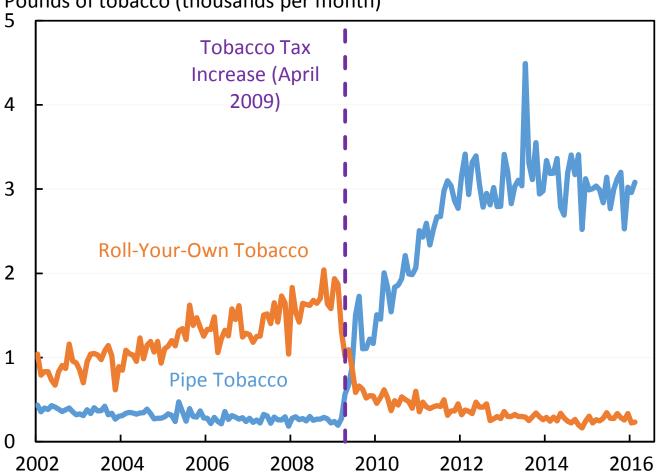


Source: CEA calculations.

## **Lesson #6: It is Really Important to Tax Similar Tobacco Products at Similar Rates**

### Sales of Roll-Your-Own and Pipe Tobacco, 2002-2016

Pounds of tobacco (thousands per month)



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