



Alejandro Ramos Carbajales

Personal data

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Education

- Master of Science in Economics - Iowa State University, USA 1979
- Economist – UDELAR (University of the Republic of Uruguay, School of Economics and Business Administration) 1974

Work experience. Present

- Researcher and consultant on economic impact of NCD and CVD health risks (tobacco, alcohol, overweight and obesity, air pollution, sedentary behavior).
- Researcher in tobacco taxation, demand for tobacco products, Illicit tobacco trade.
- Consultant for the World Health Organization (WHO) Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic. GTCR III, IV, V, VI, VII. July-Dec. 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018. Led data collection of cigarette and other tobacco taxes and retail prices, analyzed tax legislation and performed calculation of cigarette tax burden for 32 Latin American and Caribbean countries (AMRO region).
- Background in the economic evaluation of health policies and health sector reform and cost-effective analysis of health projects for the Interamerican Development Bank and the World Bank as a part-time consultant.
- Government work as advisor at the Ministry of Health of Uruguay, directing a World Bank project on Health Sector Strengthening Project.
- Government work at the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Office and Planning and Budget of Uruguay.

Consulting work on CVDs and NCDs and health risks

- Coordinator of a hub of researchers and academics in the area of fiscal and other economic policies to improve healthy nutrition (COLANSA, a community that helps promote health and healthy, sustainable and inclusive food policies in Latin America and the Caribbean). A five-country study in Latin America as part of a contract with the InterAmerican Heart Foundation (IAHF).
- Researcher in the Project "Scorecard and benchmarking study on non-communicable diseases (NCD and CVD) control policies in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)" (IAHF) (2017-2018 and 2021-2022). (Funded by the WHF).
- Wrote five reports and a Summary on NCD risks "Cost-effective strategies to reduce effects of unhealthy lifestyles in Latin America." (Interamerican Development Bank, 2003 unpublished). Revision of the medical scientific literature on cost-benefit and cost-effective health strategies to deal with overweight and obesity, diabetes, tobacco & alcohol abuse, sedentary lifestyles and other risk factors. The report included recommendations for government and health sector policy in Latin America. (In Spanish).

Consulting work on taxation, tobacco control and control of illicit trade of tobacco products

- Researcher and advisor to the Project "Colombia beyond FCTC2030" for the Anaas Foundation of Colombia, exploring best alternatives for Colombia to join the WHO's Protocol to Eliminate the Illicit trade in Tobacco. 2023-2024.
- Researcher in the illicit trade section of the Project: "Monitoring FCTC art.6 to encourage strengthening tobacco tax policy in Mexico". UABCS, Mexico (funded by Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Bloomberg Foundation). November 2020-December 2022.
- Advised the Ministry of Health and the government of Paraguay on tobacco tax reform (funded by a Union grant to Libre de Tabaco, a Paraguayan NGO, Jan-October 2019).
- Wrote a report for the World Bank on illicit trade control policy in Uruguay, April-July 2018.
- Led a team of researchers in an American Cancer Society sponsored study in Uruguay: "Tobacco illicit trade in MERCOSUR: challenges and opportunities" (Nov. 2016 –March 2017).
- Performed desk research work and wrote background papers on illicit trade in cigarettes in Canada, Ireland, Singapore and Malaysia for the World Bank (2014, unpublished) providing evidence to counteract tobacco industry's efforts to discredit tax increases (2015).
- Tobacco tax increases in Peru. Coordinated a team of economists doing demand for tobacco research and advising the Ministry of Finance and the Peruvian non-profit COLAT on tax policy and reform to increase tobacco taxes and prices (2013-2014).
- Tobacco Taxes and Tobacco Control policies in Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay, Research Project (2013). In charge of the Uruguay Section. Interamerican Heart Foundation of Mexico (FIC Mexico) and ACT-Brazil. Funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

- Coordinator of the Project “Raising tobacco taxes in selected countries of Central America”. Research and advocacy project funded by the IDRC in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador (2011-2013).
- Advised the Ministries of Finance of Paraguay and Guatemala on tobacco tax increases, tax reform, tobacco illicit trade (2009-2012); prepared draft tobacco tax legislation in both countries.
- Led a five country (Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Panama, and Guatemala) time series econometric study on the aggregate demand for tobacco products and simulation of new tax policies to raise prices, reduce affordability and demand (2009).
- Advised the Ministry of Health of Mexico on tobacco tax reform. Consultant to the Union against Tuberculosis and Respiratory diseases (The Union) (2009).
- Led a group of researchers from Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil in the first independent attempt to measure and understand illicit tobacco trade in the South American Region (Funded by the IDRC, 2007-2008).
- Researcher in the project “Economía del control del tabaco en los países del Mercosur y Estados Asociados: Uruguay” (Economics of Tobacco control in the Mercosur and Associated States: Uruguay). In charge of the study on demand and supply of tobacco products in Uruguay. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), 2003.

Previous consultancy work

Consultant to the Interamerican Development Bank (1990-1995), work in Panama, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Paraguay and Peru. Work consisted in preparation of loan requests (cost-effective investment in health infrastructure, health policy analysis and reform, strengthening of the public health sector).

Government work in Uruguay

Co-director of a Health Sector Strengthening Project at the Ministry of Health, funded by the World Bank, Montevideo, Uruguay. - 1995-2000

Economic Advisor to the Minister of Health - 1995-2000

Chief Financial Officer. City Government of Montevideo, Uruguay – 1995-2000

Chief Economic Advisors Division, Ministry of Economy and Finance - 1988-1995

Sub-director of Planning Division – Office of Planning and Budget of the Presidency - 1983-1984.

Credentials

- Member of the Finance and Audit Committee of the World Heart Federation (WHF). Jan 1st, 2023 - Dec 31st, 2024.
- Member of the Board of Directors (at large) of the WHF, Jan 1st, 2021 - Dec 31st, 2022.
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Framework Convention Alliance (FCA, currently Global Alliance for Tobacco Control, GATC) representing the Americas and the Caribbean (AMRO region, Jan. 1, 2016 - Dec.31, 2019).
- Member of the Board of Directors, Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón - Argentina (FIC Argentina). Jan. 1, 2017 – July, 2019.

Recent research & publications

“Confronting Illicit Tobacco Trade: A Global Review of Country Experiences” (Chapter 13: Uruguay. Tackling illicit tobacco trade.) The World Bank, 2018
<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/521371548435125816/WBG-Tobacco-IllicitTrade-Uruguay.pdf>

Ramos-Carbajales A, González-Rozada M, Vallarino H. La demanda de cigarrillos y el aumento de impuestos en El Salvador. *Rev Panam Salud Publica*. 2016;40(4):237-42.

Gonzalez-Rozada M, Ramos-Carbajales A. Implications of raising cigarette excise taxes in Peru. *Rev Panam Salud Publica*. 2016;40(4):250–5.

“Distributional effects of tobacco tax increases: evidence from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay.” Working paper with Martin Gonzalez Rozada (Argentina) and Belen Saenz de Miera (México). INSP, México 2014

Ramos Carbajales, A; Clemente, A; González Rozada, M. Impuestos al tabaco y políticas para el control del tabaco en Uruguay. Fundación Interamericana del Corazón, México 2013.
http://ficmexico.org/fictabaco/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/uruguay_web.pdf

World Health Organization (WHO) Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic. GTCR III, IV, V, VI, VII. July-Dec. 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018. Led data collection of cigarette and other tobacco taxes and prices, analyzed tax legislation and performed calculation of cigarette tax burden for 32 Latin American and Caribbean countries in the Americas (AMRO region).

“Avances y problemas en las políticas de aumentos de los impuestos a los productos de tabaco en los países de América Latina. Published by the Journal of INSP, México 2012
http://media.controltabaco.mx/content/productos/ETJ/SPT_Vol_I.pdf Pg. 166.

Liberman J, Blecher E, Ramos A, et al. Opportunities and risks of the proposed FCTC protocol on illicit trade. *Tob Control* 2011;20:6, 436-8.

Ramos, A Curti, D. Política fiscal, asequibilidad y efectos cruzados de precios en la demanda de productos de tabaco: el caso de Uruguay. *Revista del Instituto de Salud Pública de México*. Vol. 52 (2010) Suplemento 2.
<http://saludpublica.mx/index.php/spm/article/view/4971/4819>

Ramos, A Curti, D. Economía del control del tabaco en los países del Mercosur y Estados Asociados: Uruguay. Oficina Panamericana de la Salud (OPS, PAHO in English), Washington, D.C. 2006.
http://www.who.int/tobacco/research/economics/publications/mercosur_studies/en/index.

Ramos, A. “The illegal trade in tobacco in the Mercosur Countries”. Published in: *Trends Organized Crime* 2009;12:267-306. Another link in English:
http://www.fctc.org/images/stories/INB-3/INB3_report_illegal_trade_in_MERCOSUR.pdf. A synthesis in: <http://www.fctc.org/media-and-publications-20/fact-sheets/illicit-trade/278-inb3-fact-sheet-illicit-trade-in-mercosur>.