Afghanistan

How many people die from smoking in Afghanistan each year?
15,799

What is the economic cost of smoking and tobacco use in Afghanistan each year?
9,358,185,472 afghanis

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in Afghanistan

Tobacco use continues to be an epidemic in Afghanistan. Government complacency in the face of the tobacco epidemic protects the tobacco industry in Afghanistan as the death toll grows each year. Proponents of healthier societies must push for the implementation of evidence-based best practices in tobacco control to create change and reduce the negative effects of tobacco use.

Adult Smoking Prevalence in Afghanistan
15+ years old; 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adult smoking prevalence in Afghanistan is 10%.

Number of Adult Smokers in Afghanistan
15+ years old; 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>1,967,116</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>290,064</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of adult smokers in Afghanistan is 2,257,181.

Youth Smoking Prevalence in Afghanistan
10-14 years old; 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youth smoking prevalence in Afghanistan is 3%.

Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in Afghanistan
15+ years old; smokeless tobacco includes snus, chewing tobacco, gutkha, etc.; 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Both Men and Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both Men and Women</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in Afghanistan is 19%.
Deaths Caused by Tobacco in Afghanistan

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6% of all deaths in Afghanistan are caused by tobacco use.

Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in Afghanistan

Tobacco use harms both the public and fiscal health of Afghanistan, threatening efforts to improve equity, alleviate poverty, and protect the environment.

Societal Harms
The economic cost of smoking Afghanistan is 9,358,185,472 afghanis. This includes direct costs related to healthcare expenditures and indirect costs related to lost productivity caused by illness and premature death.

Harms Development
Tobacco spending diverts funds from the resources that families need to rise out of poverty. On average in Afghanistan, a smoker must spend 7.79% of GDP per capita to buy 100 packs of the most popular cigarettes in a year.

Environmental Harms
Cigarette butts are the most commonly discarded pieces of waste worldwide. It is estimated that 1,102,311 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in the world each year, equal to 416,667 female African elephants.

Harms Health Equity
The tobacco industry markets its products aggressively to lower-income populations and youth in Afghanistan.

Harms NCDs
Not only is smoking a major risk factor for the 4 largest noncommunicable diseases (cancer, heart diseases, respiratory diseases, and diabetes), but people living with mental illness are nearly 2x as likely to smoke as other individuals.

Learn more about Health Effects.
Impact of the Tobacco Supply Chain on Afghanistan

The tobacco industry profits significantly from producing and selling tobacco. At the same time, across the tobacco supply chain, there are significant negative health and economic repercussions for Afghanistan.

Tobacco Production
There were more than 5,000,000,000,000 cigarettes produced in the world in 2019, or nearly 2 cigarettes per person per day.

Tobacco Industry
The total revenue of the 6 largest tobacco companies in the world was USD 336 billion in 2019, about the same as Viet Nam’s Gross National Income (GNI), 5x Ghana’s GNI and 9x Paraguay’s GNI.

Tobacco Growing
Afghanistan is not a major producer of tobacco, but globally there were 3.1 million hectares of arable land dedicated to tobacco growing in 2021 which was nearly as much as the land dedicated to the world’s large orange crop.

Learn more about global Growing and Product Sales.

Ending the Tobacco Epidemic in Afghanistan

Fortunately, there are evidence-based -i.e. proven -solutions to the challenges posed by tobacco use. For several decades, governments around the world have been introducing a set of policies that address the demand for tobacco products, particularly among youth. These policies effectively reduce consumption and are cost-effective because they save governments enormous amounts of money in health care spending and increase economic productivity.

Current Tobacco Control Policies in Afghanistan

Designated Smoke-Free Areas in Afghanistan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthcare Facilities</th>
<th>Educational Facilities</th>
<th>Universities</th>
<th>Government Facilities</th>
<th>Indoor Offices</th>
<th>Restaurants</th>
<th>Pubs and Bars</th>
<th>Public Transport</th>
<th>All Other Indoor Public Places</th>
<th>Funds for Enforcement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Availability of Cessation Services in Afghanistan**

- **Quitting Resources**
  - NRT (Nicotine replacement therapy) and/or some cessation services (neither cost-covered)

- **National Quit Line**
  - No

Learn more about best practices in Cessation.

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**Tobacco Packaging Regulations in Afghanistan**

- **Quality of Tobacco Packaging Regulation**
  - None
  - Text warning label only
  - Graphic warning label only
  - Plain Packaging with graphic warning label

- **% of Pack Covered**
  - N/A

Learn more about best practices in Counter Marketing.

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**Tobacco Control Mass Media Campaigns in Afghanistan**

- **Ran a National Anti-Tobacco Campaign**
  - No

- **Part Of A Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program**
  - Not Applicable

- **Pre-Tested With The Target Audience**
  - Not Applicable

- **Target Audience Research Was Conducted**
  - Not Applicable

- **Aired On Television And/Or Radio**
  - Not Applicable

- **Utilized Media Planning**
  - Not Applicable

- **Earned Media/Public Relations Were Used To Promote The Campaign**
  - Not Applicable

- **Process Evaluation Was Used To Assess Implementation**
  - Not Applicable

- **Outcome Evaluation Was Used To Assess Effectiveness**
  - Not Applicable

Learn more about best practices in Mass Media.
Tobacco Tax Policies in Afghanistan

Using evidence-based international recommendations/best practices, the Tobacconomics Cigarette Tax Scorecard assesses four components of tax systems - price, change in affordability, tax share, and structure - on a scale of 0 to 5, where a higher score is preferred.

Overall Score 0

The overall score is an average of the four component scores.

Cigarette Price 0

Consumers respond to higher prices by decreasing consumption and some quit using tobacco.

Change in Affordability Over Time 0

In addition to price, change in affordability is critical. Cigarettes need to become less affordable for consumption to decline.

Tax Share of Price 0

Large tax shares of price are usually a good indicator that taxes are working.

Tax Structure 0

Best practices include relying more on uniform specific excise taxes that are adjusted regularly to outpace growth and inflation.

Learn more about the Scorecard in Afghanistan.

Regulations on Tobacco Advertising, Promotion, and Sponsorship (TAPS) in Afghanistan

Marketing is the key avenue that tobacco companies use to reach consumers, new and old. Restricting or eliminating marketing is key to tobacco control success.

Direct Bans 7 out of 7 direct bans implemented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulations on Tobacco Advertising, Promotion, and Sponsorship (TAPS) in Afghanistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National TV and radio Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International TV and radio Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International magazines and newspapers Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International magazines and newspapers Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billboard and outdoor advertising Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising at point of sale Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising on internet Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indirect Bans 6 out of 10 indirect bans implemented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulations on Tobacco Advertising, Promotion, and Sponsorship (TAPS) in Afghanistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free distribution in mail or through other means Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotional discounts Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-tobacco products identified with tobacco brand names Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brand name of non-tobacco products used for tobacco product Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearance in TV and/or films: tobacco brands (product placement) Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearance in TV and/or films: tobacco products No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed anti-tobacco ads required for any visual entertainment media product that depicts tobacco products, use or images No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete ban on sponsorship No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any form of contribution (financial or other support) to any event, activity or individual Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ban on the publicity of financial or other sponsorship or support by the tobacco industry of events, activities, individuals N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ad Ban Compliance 90%