Iraq

How many people die from smoking in Iraq each year?
30,263

What is the economic cost of smoking and tobacco use in Iraq each year?
1,361,284,431,872 Iraqi dinars

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in Iraq

Tobacco use continues to be an epidemic in Iraq. Government complacency in the face of the tobacco epidemic protects the tobacco industry in Iraq 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 Iraq
15+ years old; 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adult smoking prevalence in Iraq is 21%.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,401,980</td>
<td>461,422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of adult smokers in Iraq is 5,863,402.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youth smoking prevalence in Iraq is 7%.

Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in Iraq
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></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in Iraq is 0%.
Deaths Caused by Tobacco in Iraq
% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17% of all deaths in Iraq are caused by tobacco use.

Learn more about global **Prevalence**, Youth Smoking and Deaths.

Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in Iraq

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

**Societal Harms**
The economic cost of smoking Iraq is 1,361,284,431,872 Iraqi dinars. 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 Iraq, a smoker must spend 0.99% 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 10,982 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in Iraq each year, equal to 3,138 female African elephants.

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

**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 Iraq

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 Iraq.

**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**
There were 2340 tons of tobacco produced in Iraq in 2019 on 2795 hectares of quality agricultural land that could have been used to grow food.

Learn more about global Growing and Product Sales.

Ending the Tobacco Epidemic in Iraq

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 Iraq

**Designated Smoke-Free Areas in Iraq**

<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>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Availability of Cessation Services in Iraq

Quit Resources
NRT and/or some cessation services (at least one of which is cost-covered)

National Quit Line
No

Learn more about best practices in Cessation.

Tobacco Packaging Regulations in Iraq

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

% of Pack Covered
40%

Learn more about best practices in Counter Marketing.

Tobacco Control Mass Media Campaigns in Iraq

Ran a National Anti-Tobacco Campaign
Yes

Part Of A Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program
Yes

Pre-Tested With The Target Audience
No

Target Audience Research Was Conducted
Yes

Aired On Television And/Or Radio
Yes

Utilized Media Planning
Yes

Earned Media/Public Relations Were Used To Promote The Campaign
Yes

Process Evaluation Was Used To Assess Implementation
Yes

Outcome Evaluation Was Used To Assess Effectiveness
No

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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Score</th>
<th>Cigarette Price</th>
<th>Change in Affordability Over Time</th>
<th>Tax Share of Price</th>
<th>Tax Structure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consumers respond to higher prices by decreasing consumption and some quit using tobacco. In addition to price, change in affordability is critical. Cigarettes need to become less affordable for consumption to decline. Large tax shares of price are usually a good indicator that taxes are working. 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 Iraq**.

---

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

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**

- National TV and radio: Yes
- International TV and radio: Yes
- International magazines and newspapers: Yes
- Billboard and outdoor advertising: Yes
- Advertising at point of sale: Yes
- Advertising on internet: Yes

7 out of 7 direct bans implemented.

**Indirect Bans**

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

9 out of 10 indirect bans implemented.

**Ad Ban Compliance**

65%