Uruguay

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in Uruguay

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

Men: 31%
Women: 23.1%

Adult smoking prevalence in Uruguay is 27%.

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

Men: 390,614
Women: 302,466

Number of adult smokers in Uruguay is 693,081.

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

Boys: 7.1%
Girls: 10.3%

Youth smoking prevalence in Uruguay is 9%.

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

Both Men and Women: 0%

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in Uruguay is 0%.

How many people die from smoking in Uruguay each year?
5,423

What is the economic cost of smoking and tobacco use in Uruguay each year?
41,091,010,560 peso uruguayo
Deaths Caused by Tobacco in Uruguay

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16% of all deaths in Uruguay are caused by tobacco use.

Learn more about global Prevalence, Youth Smoking and Deaths.

Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in Uruguay

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

Societal Harms
The economic cost of smoking Uruguay is 41,091,010,560 peso uruguayo. 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 Uruguay, a smoker must spend 2.77% 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 399 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in Uruguay each year, equal to 114 female African elephants.

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

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 Uruguay

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 Uruguay.

Tobacco Production
There were approximately 7 billion cigarettes produced in Uruguay in 2016.

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 3307 tons of tobacco produced in Uruguay in 2019 on 817 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 Uruguay
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 Uruguay

Designated Smoke-Free Areas in Uruguay

<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>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Uruguay

Availability of Cessation Services in Uruguay
Quitting 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 Uruguay
Quality of Tobacco Packaging Regulation
None
Text warning label only
Graphic warning label only
✓ Plain Packaging with graphic warning label
% of Pack Covered
80%

Learn more about best practices in Counter Marketing.

Tobacco Control Mass Media Campaigns in Uruguay
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 Uruguay

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>Component</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Score</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarette Price</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Affordability Over Time</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Share of Price</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Structure</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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**Learn more about the Scorecard in Uruguay.**

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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Bans</th>
<th>7 out of 7 direct bans implemented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National TV and radio</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International TV and radio</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International magazines and newspapers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International magazines and newspapers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billboard and outdoor advertising</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising at point of sale</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising on internet</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indirect Bans</th>
<th>9 out of 10 indirect bans implemented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free distribution in mail or through other means</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotional discounts</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-tobacco products identified with tobacco brand names</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brand name of non-tobacco products used for tobacco product</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearance in TV and/or films: tobacco brands (product placement)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearance in TV and/or films: tobacco products</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed anti-tobacco ads required for any visual entertainment media product that depicts tobacco products, use or images</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete ban on sponsorship</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any form of contribution (financial or other support) to any event, activity or individual</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ban on the publicity of financial or other sponsorship or support by the tobacco industry of events, activities, individuals</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ad Ban Compliance**

90%