Colombia



How many people die from smoking in Colombia each year?

20,281

What is the economic cost of smoking and tobacco use in Colombia each year?

4,593,086,365,696

Colombian pesos

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in Colombia

Tobacco use continues to be an epidemic in Colombia. Government complacency in the face of the tobacco epidemic protects the tobacco industry in Colombia 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 Colombia

15+ years old; 2019

14.7%

Women

9.7%

Adult smoking prevalence in Colombia is 12%.

Number of Adult Smokers in Colombia

15+ years old; 2019

Men Women

2,632,059 1,858,601

Number of adult smokers in Colombia is 4,490,661.

Youth Smoking Prevalence in Colombia

10-14 years old; 2019

Boys

Girls

4%

3.9%

Youth smoking prevalence in Colombia is 4%.

Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in Colombia

15+ years old; smokeless tobacco includes snus, chewing tobacco, gutkha, etc.; 2019

Both Men and Women

0%

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in Colombia is 0%.

Deaths Caused by Tobacco in Colombia

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2019

Men

Women

9.4%

6.8%

8% of all deaths in Colombia are caused by to bacco use.

Learn more about global Prevalence, Youth Smoking and Deaths.

Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in Colombia

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



Societal Harms

The economic cost of smoking Colombia is 4,593,086,365,696 Colombian pesos. 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 Colombia, a smoker must spend 2.60% 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 2,318 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in Colombia each year, equal to 662 female African elephants.



Harms Health Equity

The tobacco industry markets its products aggressively to lower-income populations and youth in Colombia.



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 Colombia

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 Colombia.



Tobacco Production

There were approximately 7 billion cigarettes produced in Colombia 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 10437 tons of tobacco produced in Colombia in 2019 on 5449 hectares of quality agricultural land that could have been used to grow food.

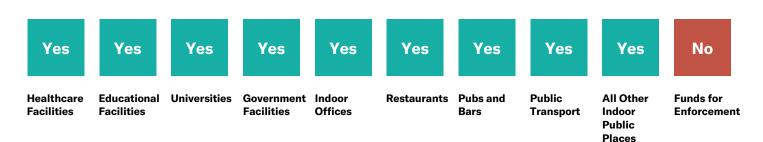
Learn more about global Growing and Product Sales.

Ending the Tobacco Epidemic in Colombia

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 Colombia

Designated Smoke-Free Areas in Colombia



Availability of Cessation Services in Colombia

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 Colombia

Quality of Tobacco Packaging Regulation

None

Text warning label only

✓ Graphic warning label only

Plain Packaging with graphic warning label

% of Pack Covered

30%

Learn more about best practices in Counter Marketing.

Tobacco Control Mass Media Campaigns in Colombia

Ran a National Anti-Tobacco Campaign	Yes
Part Of A Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program	No
Pre-Tested With The Target Audience	No
Target Audience Research Was Conducted	No
Aired On Television And/Or Radio	No
Utilized Media Planning	No
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	Yes

Learn more about best practices in Mass Media.

Tobacco Tax Policies in Colombia

Using evidence-based international recommendations/best practices, the Tobaccononomics 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 The overall score is an average of the four

component scores.

Cigarette Price

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

Change in Affordability Over Time

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

Tax Share of Price

3.5

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

Tax Structure

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 Colombia.

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

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	Indirect Bans	7 out of 10 indirect bans implemented
National TV and radio	Yes	Free distribution in mail or through	other means Yes
International TV and radio	Yes	Promotional discounts	Yes
International magazines and newspa	apers Yes	Non-tobacco products identified w names	ith tobacco brand Yes
International magazines and newspa	apers Yes	Brand name of non-tobacco product	ets used for tobacco Yes
Billboard and outdoor advertising	Yes	Appearance in TV and/or films: tob placement)	acco brands (product Yes
Advertising at point of sale	Yes	Appearance in TV and/or films: tob	acco products Yes
Advertising on internet	Yes	Prescribed anti-tobacco ads requir entertainment media product that of products, use or images	
		Complete ban on sponsorship	No
Ad Ban (Compliance	Any form of contribution (financial any event, activity or individual	or other support) to No
3	30%	Ban on the publicity of financial or support by the tobacco industry of individuals	