

Costa Rica



How many people die from smoking in Costa Rica each year?
2,371

What is the economic cost of smoking and tobacco use in Costa Rica each year?
174,134,444,032
Costa Rican colons

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in Costa Rica

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

Men	Women
15.3%	7.2%

Adult smoking prevalence in Costa Rica is 11%.

Number of Adult Smokers in Costa Rica
15+ years old; 2019

Men	Women
270,390	136,240

Number of adult smokers in Costa Rica is 406,631.

Youth Smoking Prevalence in Costa Rica
10-14 years old; 2019

Boys	Girls
5.7%	5.7%

Youth smoking prevalence in Costa Rica is 6%.

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

Both Men and Women
0%

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in Costa Rica is 0%.

Deaths Caused by Tobacco in Costa Rica

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2019

Men

12.4%

Women

6.3%

10% of all deaths in Costa Rica are caused by tobacco use.

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

Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in Costa Rica

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



Societal Harms

The economic cost of smoking Costa Rica is 174,134,444,032 Costa Rican colons. 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 Costa Rica, a smoker must spend 3.26% 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 314 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in Costa Rica each year, equal to 90 female African elephants.



Harms Health Equity

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



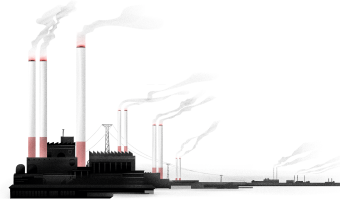
Harms NCDs

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 Costa Rica

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 Costa Rica.



Tobacco Production

There were approximately 1 billion cigarettes produced in Costa Rica in 2016.



Tobacco Growing

There were 18 tons of tobacco produced in Costa Rica in 2019 on 9 hectares of quality agricultural land that could have been used to grow food.



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.

Learn more about global **Growing** and **Product Sales**.

Ending the Tobacco Epidemic in Costa Rica

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 Costa Rica

Designated Smoke-Free Areas in Costa Rica

Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Healthcare Facilities	Educational Facilities	Universities	Government Facilities	Indoor Offices	Restaurants	Pubs and Bars	Public Transport	All Other Indoor Public Places	Funds for Enforcement

Availability of Cessation Services in Costa Rica

Quitting Resources

National quit line, and both NRT and some cessation services cost-covered

National Quit Line

Yes

Learn more about best practices in [Cessation](#).

Tobacco Packaging Regulations in Costa Rica

Quality of Tobacco Packaging Regulation

None

Text warning label only

✓ **Graphic warning label only**

Plain Packaging with graphic warning label

% of Pack Covered

50%

Learn more about best practices in [Counter Marketing](#).

Tobacco Control Mass Media Campaigns in Costa Rica

Ran a National Anti-Tobacco Campaign	Yes
Part Of A Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program	Yes
Pre-Tested With The Target Audience	Yes
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	Yes

Learn more about best practices in [Mass Media](#).

Tobacco Tax Policies in Costa Rica

Using evidence-based international recommendations/best practices, the Tobacco Economics 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	Cigarette Price	Change in Affordability Over Time	Tax Share of Price	Tax Structure
2.25	3	0	2	4
The overall score is an average of the four component scores.	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 Costa Rica](#).

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

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	No
International TV and radio	Yes	Promotional discounts	No
International magazines and newspapers	Yes	Non-tobacco products identified with tobacco brand names	Yes
International magazines and newspapers	Yes	Brand name of non-tobacco products used for tobacco product	Yes
Billboard and outdoor advertising	Yes	Appearance in TV and/or films: tobacco brands (product placement)	Yes
Advertising at point of sale	Yes	Appearance in TV and/or films: tobacco products	Yes
Advertising on internet	Yes	Prescribed anti-tobacco ads required for any visual entertainment media product that depicts tobacco products, use or images	N/A
Ad Ban Compliance 60%		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