

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



How many people die from smoking in the United Kingdom each year?

124,908

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

42,092,331,008

pound sterling

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in the United Kingdom

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

15+ years old; 2019

Men	Women
21.7%	18.1%

Adult smoking prevalence in the United Kingdom is 20%.

Number of Adult Smokers in the United Kingdom

15+ years old; 2019

Men	Women
5,536,891	4,819,115

Number of adult smokers in the United Kingdom is 10,356,007.

Youth Smoking Prevalence in the United Kingdom

10-14 years old; 2019

Boys	Girls
3.3%	5%

Youth smoking prevalence in the United Kingdom is 4%.

Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in the United Kingdom

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

Both Men and Women
1%

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in the United Kingdom is 1%.

Deaths Caused by Tobacco in the United Kingdom

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2019

Men

22.3%

Women

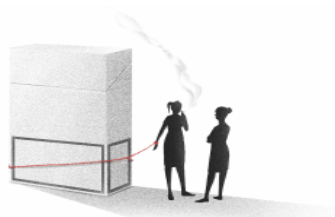
17.9%

20% of all deaths in the United Kingdom are caused by tobacco use.

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

Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in the United Kingdom

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



Societal Harms

The economic cost of smoking the United Kingdom is 42,092,331,008 pound sterling. 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 the United Kingdom, a smoker must spend 3.36% 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 6,296 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in the United Kingdom each year, equal to 1,799 female African elephants.



Harms Health Equity

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



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 the United Kingdom

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 the United Kingdom.



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 Production

There were approximately 34 billion cigarettes produced in the United Kingdom in 2016.



Tobacco Growing

the United Kingdom 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 the United Kingdom

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 the United Kingdom

Designated Smoke-Free Areas in the United Kingdom

Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
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 the United Kingdom****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
the United Kingdom****Quality of Tobacco Packaging Regulation**

None

Text warning label only

Graphic warning label only

✓ Plain Packaging with graphic warning label

% of Pack Covered**65%**

Learn more about best practices in **Counter Marketing**.

**Tobacco Control Mass Media
Campaigns in the United Kingdom****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 the United Kingdom

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

4.38

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

Cigarette Price

5

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

Change in Affordability Over Time

3

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

Tax Share of Price

4.5

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

Tax Structure

5

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 the United Kingdom](#).

Regulations on Tobacco Advertising, Promotion, and Sponsorship (TAPS) in the United Kingdom

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.

Ad Ban Compliance

100%