

United States of America



How many people die from smoking in the United States each year?  
**549,585**

What is the economic cost of smoking and tobacco use in the United States each year?  
**623,366,701,056**  
US dollars

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in the United States

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

Men	Women
19.9%	15.3%

Adult smoking prevalence in the United States is 18%.

Number of Adult Smokers in the United States  
15+ years old; 2019

Men	Women
25,016,434	20,063,302

Number of adult smokers in the United States is 45,079,736.

Youth Smoking Prevalence in the United States  
10-14 years old; 2019

Boys	Girls
7.4%	6.1%

Youth smoking prevalence in the United States is 7%.

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

Both Men and Women
3%

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in the United States is 3%.

### Deaths Caused by Tobacco in the United States

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2019

Men

20.4%

Women

16.7%

19% of all deaths in the United States are caused by tobacco use.

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

### Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in the United States

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



#### Societal Harms

The economic cost of smoking the United States is 623,366,701,056 US dollars. 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 States, a smoker must spend 1.16% of GDP per capita to buy 100 packs of the most popular cigarettes in a year.



#### Harms Health Equity

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



#### Environmental Harms

Cigarette butts are the most commonly discarded pieces of waste worldwide. It is estimated that 46,988 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in the United States each year, equal to 13,425 female African elephants.



#### 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**.

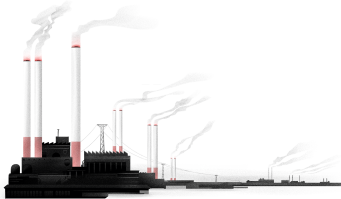
Impact of the Tobacco Supply Chain on the United States

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 States.



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 270 billion cigarettes produced in the United States in 2016.



Tobacco Growing

There were 212260 tons of tobacco produced in the United States in 2019 on 91910 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 the United States

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 States

Designated Smoke-Free Areas in the United States

No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	N/A	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 States

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  
the United States

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 the United States

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 States

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	3	0	1	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 the United States.

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

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	1 out of 7 direct bans implemented	Indirect Bans	0 out of 10 indirect bans implemented
National TV and radio	Yes	Free distribution in mail or through other means	No
International TV and radio	No	Promotional discounts	No
International magazines and newspapers	No	Non-tobacco products identified with tobacco brand names	No
International magazines and newspapers	No	Brand name of non-tobacco products used for tobacco product	No
Billboard and outdoor advertising	No	Appearance in TV and/or films: tobacco brands (product placement)	No
Advertising at point of sale	No	Appearance in TV and/or films: tobacco products	No
Advertising on internet	No	Prescribed anti-tobacco ads required for any visual entertainment media product that depicts tobacco products, use or images	No
Ad Ban Compliance N/A		Complete ban on sponsorship	No
		Any form of contribution (financial or other support) to any event, activity or individual	No
		Ban on the publicity of financial or other sponsorship or support by the tobacco industry of events, activities, individuals	No