

Sierra Leone



How many people die from smoking in Sierra Leone each year?

1,964

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

192,150,963,663

leones

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in Sierra Leone

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

15+ years old; 2022

Men

16.4%

Women

3.6%

Adult smoking prevalence in Sierra Leone is 9.9%.

Number of Adult Smokers in Sierra Leone

15+ years old; 2022

Men

411,001

Women

94,548

Number of adult smokers in Sierra Leone is 508,111.

Youth Smoking Prevalence in Sierra Leone

10-14 years old; 2019

Boys

15.6%

Girls

16.5%

Youth smoking prevalence in Sierra Leone is 16%.

Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in Sierra Leone

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

Both Men and Women

8%

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in Sierra Leone is 8%.

Deaths Caused by Tobacco in Sierra Leone

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2021

Men

3.4%

Women

1.4%

2.5% of all deaths in Sierra Leone are caused by tobacco use.

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

Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in Sierra Leone

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



Societal Harms

The economic cost of smoking Sierra Leone is 192,150,963,663 leones. 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.



Environmental Harms

Cigarette butts are the most commonly discarded pieces of waste worldwide. It is estimated that 1,102,311 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in the world each year, equal to 416,667 female African elephants.



Harms Health Equity

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



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 Sierra Leone

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 Sierra Leone.



Tobacco Production

There were more than 5,000,000,000,000 cigarettes produced in the world in 2019, or nearly 2 cigarettes per person per day.



Tobacco Growing

There were 50 tons of tobacco produced in Sierra Leone in 2022 on 103 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 362 billion in 2022, about the same as Pakistan's Gross National Income (GNI), 5x Panama's GNI and 9x Paraguay's GNI.

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

Ending the Tobacco Epidemic in Sierra Leone

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 Sierra Leone

Designated Smoke-Free Areas in Sierra Leone

No	No	No	No	No	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 Sierra Leone

Quitting Resources
None

National Quit Line
No

Learn more about best practices in **Cessation**.

Tobacco Packaging Regulations in Sierra Leone

Quality of Tobacco Packaging Regulation
 ✓ None
 Text warning label only
 Text warning label with graphic warning label
 Plain Packaging with text/graphic warning label

% of Pack Covered
Not applicable

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

Tobacco Control Mass Media Campaigns in Sierra Leone

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 Sierra Leone

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.

Overall Score	Cigarette Price	Change in Affordability Over Time	Tax Share of Price	Tax Structure
<p>Insufficient data</p> <p>The overall score is an average of the four component scores.</p>	<p>Insufficient data</p> <p>Consumers respond to higher prices by decreasing consumption and some quit using tobacco.</p>	<p>3.00</p> <p>In addition to price, change in affordability is critical. Cigarettes need to become less affordable for consumption to decline.</p>	<p>Insufficient data</p> <p>Large tax shares of price are usually a good indicator that taxes are working.</p>	<p>Insufficient data</p> <p>Best practices include relying more on uniform specific excise taxes that are adjusted regularly to outpace growth and inflation.</p>

Learn more about the [Scorecard in Sierra Leone](#).

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

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	0 out of 7 direct bans implemented	Indirect Bans	0 out of 10 direct bans implemented
National TV and radio	No	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
<p>Ad Ban Compliance</p> <p>N/A</p>		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