

China



How many people die from smoking in China each year?

2,667,104

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

2,202,669,749,742

yuan renminbis

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in China

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

15+ years old; 2022

Men 47.3% Women 2.0%

Adult smoking prevalence in China is 24.9%.

Number of Adult Smokers in China

15+ years old; 2022

Men 281,319,701 Women 11,612,026

Number of adult smokers in China is 292,664,024.

Youth Smoking Prevalence in China

10-14 years old; 2022

Boys 1.2% Girls 0.9%

Youth smoking prevalence in China is 1.0%.

Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in China

15+ years old; smokeless tobacco includes snus, chewing tobacco, gutkha, etc.; 2018

Both Men and Women 1%

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in China is 1%.

Deaths Caused by Tobacco in China

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2021

Men

31.8%

Women

10.1%

22.8% of all deaths in China are caused by tobacco use.

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

Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in China

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



Societal Harms

The economic cost of smoking China is 2,202,669,749,742 yuan renminbis. 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 China, a smoker must spend 1.9% 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 China.



Environmental Harms

Cigarette butts are the most commonly discarded pieces of waste worldwide. It is estimated that 488,550 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in China each year, equal to 180,944 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 China

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 China.



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.



Tobacco Production

There were approximately 2,442,750,000,000 cigarettes produced in China in 2023.



Tobacco Growing

There were 2,189,489 tons of tobacco produced in China in 2022 on 1,005,336 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 China

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 China

Designated Smoke-Free Areas in China

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| No | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | Yes | 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 China

Quitting Resources
NRT (Nicotine replacement therapy) and/or some cessation services (neither cost-covered)

National Quit Line
No

Learn more about best practices in Cessation.

Tobacco Packaging Regulations in China

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
35%

Learn more about best practices in Counter Marketing.

Tobacco Control Mass Media Campaigns in China

| | |
|---|-----|
| 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 | No |
| 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 China

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 |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| 0.88 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 1.50 | 1.00 |
| 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 China](#).

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

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 | 1 out of 10 direct 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 | No |
| International magazines and newspapers | Yes | Brand name of non-tobacco products used for tobacco product | No |
| 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 | No |
| Advertising on internet | Yes | Prescribed anti-tobacco ads required for any visual entertainment media product that depicts tobacco products, use or images | No |
| Ad Ban Compliance 89% | | 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 |
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