

Lao People’s Democratic Republic



How many people die from smoking in Lao PDR each year?

6,503

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

2,240,976,130,992

kips

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in Lao PDR

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

15+ years old; 2022

Men	Women
43.2%	4.4%

Adult smoking prevalence in Lao PDR is 23.8%.

Number of Adult Smokers in Lao PDR

15+ years old; 2022

Men	Women
1,141,532	118,666

Number of adult smokers in Lao PDR is 1,270,775.

Youth Smoking Prevalence in Lao PDR

10-14 years old; 2022

Boys	Girls
7.1%	2.5%

Youth smoking prevalence in Lao PDR is 4.8%.

Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in Lao PDR

15+ years old; smokeless tobacco includes snus, chewing tobacco, gutkha, etc.; 2015

Both Men and Women
4%

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in Lao PDR is 4%.

Deaths Caused by Tobacco in Lao PDR

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2021

Men

17.8%

Women

6.3%

12.8% of all deaths in Lao PDR are caused by tobacco use.

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

Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in Lao PDR

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



Societal Harms

The economic cost of smoking Lao PDR is 2,240,976,130,992 kips. 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 Lao PDR, a smoker must spend 2.5% 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 839 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in Lao PDR each year, equal to 240 female African elephants.



Harms Health Equity

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



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 Lao PDR

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 Lao PDR.



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 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 Growing

There were 23,840 tons of tobacco produced in Lao PDR in 2022 on 3,780 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 Lao PDR

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 Lao PDR

Designated Smoke-Free Areas in Lao PDR

Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	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 Lao PDR

Quitting Resources
None

National Quit Line
No

Learn more about best practices in Cessation.

Tobacco Packaging Regulations in
Lao PDR

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
75%

Learn more about best practices in Counter Marketing.

Tobacco Control Mass Media
Campaigns in Lao PDR

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 Lao PDR

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

0.25

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

Cigarette Price

0.00

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

Change in Affordability Over Time

0.00

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

Tax Share of Price

0.00

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

Tax Structure

1.00

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 [Lao PDR](#).

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

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.

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