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

en Women

16.4% 3.6%

Adult smoking prevalence in Sierra Leone is 9.9%.

Number of Adult Smokers in Sierra Leone

15+ years old; 2022

Men Women 411,001 94,548

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

Youth Smoking Prevalence in Sierra Leone

10-14 years old; 2022

oys Girls

14.0% 15.7%

Youth smoking prevalence in Sierra Leone is 14.9%.

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

Women

3.4%

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 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 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.

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 goverments 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





Facilities



No



Restaurants Pubs and **Bars**



Public **Transport**



All Other Indoor **Public** Places



Funds for **Enforcement**

Availability of Cessation Services in Sierra Leone

Quitting Resources

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.

Overal	

Insufficient data

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

Cigarette Price

Insufficient data

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

Change in Affordability Over Time

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

Tax Share of Price

Insufficient data

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

Tax Structure

Insufficient data

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 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	O out of 10 direct bans im	plemented	
National TV and radio	No	Free distribution in mail or through other means		No	
International TV and radio	No	Promotional discounts	No	D	
International magazines and newspap	ners No	Non-tobacco products identified names	with tobacco brand No.	D	
International magazines and newspap	ers No	Brand name of non-tobacco prod product	ucts used for tobacco N	0	
Billboard and outdoor advertising	No	Appearance in TV and/or films: to placement)	obacco brands (product N	o	
Advertising at point of sale	No	Appearance in TV and/or films: to	obacco products N	0	
Advertising on internet	No	Prescribed anti-tobacco ads requentertainment media product that products, use or images		o O	
		Complete ban on sponsorship	N	D	
Ad Ban C	ompliance	Any form of contribution (financi any event, activity or individual	al or other support) to N	D	
N	I/A	Ban on the publicity of financial of support by the tobacco industry of individuals		0	