

Botswana



How many people die from smoking in Botswana each year?

1,226

What is the annual cost-of-illness attributable to smoking in Botswana each year?

1,500,073,189

pulas

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in Botswana

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

15+ years old; 2025

Men

18.20%

Women

2.00%

Adult smoking prevalence in Botswana is 10.10%.

Number of Adult Smokers in Botswana

15+ years old; 2022

Men

227,000

Women

28,000

Number of adult smokers in Botswana is 255,000.

Youth Smoking Prevalence in Botswana

10-14 years old; 2023

Boys

14.9%

Girls

9.92%

Youth smoking prevalence in Botswana is 12.43%.

Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in Botswana

15+ years old; smokeless tobacco includes snus, chewing tobacco, gutkha, etc.; 2017

Both Men and Women

4.30%

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in Botswana is 4.30%.

Deaths Caused by Tobacco in Botswana

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2023

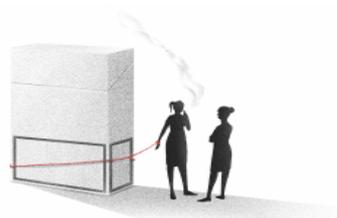


7.18% of all deaths in Botswana are caused by tobacco use.

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

Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in Botswana

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



Societal Harms

The annual cost-of-illness attributable to smoking in Botswana is 1,500,073,189 pulas. 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 Botswana, a smoker must spend 5.01% 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 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 Botswana.



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 Botswana

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 Botswana.



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

Botswana is not a major producer of tobacco, but globally there were 3.2 million hectares of arable land dedicated to tobacco growing in 2023 which was nearly as much as the land dedicated to the world's large orange crop.



Tobacco Industry

The total revenue of the 6 largest tobacco companies in the world was USD 364 billion in 2023, 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 Botswana

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 Botswana

Designated Smoke-Free Areas in Botswana

No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	NA	NA
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 Botswana

Quitting Resources
 NRT and/or some cessation services (at least one of which is cost-covered)

National Quit Line
No

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

Tobacco Packaging Regulations in Botswana

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
NA

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

Tobacco Control Mass Media Campaigns in Botswana

Ran a National Anti-Tobacco Campaign	Not applicable
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 Botswana

Using evidence-based international recommendations/best practices, the Economics for Health 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.



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

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

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	5 out of 7 direct bans implemented	Indirect Bans	1 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	Yes	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	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
<div style="background-color: #e0f2f1; padding: 20px; text-align: center;"> <h2>Ad Ban Compliance</h2> <h1>100%</h1> </div>		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