

## China



How many people die from smoking in China each year?

**2,380,742**

What is the annual cost-of-illness attributable to smoking 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; 2025

**Men**  
**34.80%**

**Women**  
**1.10%**

Adult smoking prevalence in China is 18.00%.

#### Number of Adult Smokers in China

15+ years old; 2022

**Men**  
**280,643,000**

**Women**  
**11,837,000**

Number of adult smokers in China is 292,481,000.

#### Youth Smoking Prevalence in China

10-14 years old; 2023

**Boys**  
**1.21%**

**Girls**  
**0.86%**

Youth smoking prevalence in China is 1.05%.

#### Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in China

15+ years old; smokeless tobacco includes snus, chewing tobacco, gutkha, etc.; 2022

**Both Men and Women**  
**1.10%**

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in China is 1.10%.

**Deaths Caused by Tobacco in China**

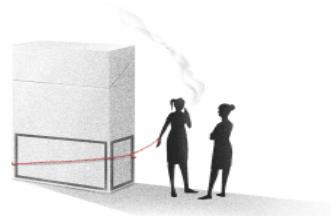
% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2023



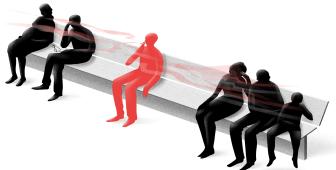
22.33% of all deaths in China are caused by tobacco use.

**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 annual cost-of-illness attributable to smoking in China is 2,202,669,749,742 yuan renminbi. 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 1.93% 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 489,902 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in China each year, equal to 181,445 female African elephants.

**Harms Health Equity**

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

**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 Production

There were approximately 2,465,460,000,000 cigarettes produced in China in 2024.



#### Tobacco Growing

There were 2,296,748 tons of tobacco produced in China in 2023 on 1,052,685 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 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 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	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 China****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 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****No****Target Audience Research Was Conducted****Yes****Aired On Television And/Or Radio****Yes****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 **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.

Overall Score	Cigarette Price	Change in Affordability Over Time	Tax Share of Price	Tax Structure
<b>1.12</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.00</b>
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

National TV and radio

Yes

International TV and radio

Yes

International magazines and newspapers

Yes

International magazines and newspapers

Yes

Billboard and outdoor advertising

Yes

Advertising at point of sale

Yes

Advertising on internet

Yes

#### Ad Ban Compliance

90%

#### Indirect Bans

1 out of 10 indirect bans implemented

Free distribution in mail or through other means

No

Promotional discounts

No

Non-tobacco products identified with tobacco brand names

No

Brand name of non-tobacco products used for tobacco product

No

Appearance in TV and/or films: tobacco brands (product placement)

Yes

Appearance in TV and/or films: tobacco products

No

Prescribed anti-tobacco ads required for any visual entertainment media product that depicts tobacco products, use or images

No

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