

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

Men

31.56%

Women

10.18%

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 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 1.93% 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 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.



**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.

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

1.12

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

Cigarette Price

2.00

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

1.50

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 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 indirect 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		
<div>Ad Ban Compliance</div> <div>90%</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		