

## Democratic Republic of the Congo



How many people die from smoking in Democratic Republic of the Congo each year?

**20,038**

What is the annual cost-of-illness attributable to smoking in Democratic Republic of the Congo each year?

**409,530,149,626**

Congolese franc

### Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in Democratic Republic of the Congo

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

15+ years old; 2025

Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>8.20%</b>	<b>0.20%</b>	<b>4,091,000</b>	<b>354,000</b>

Adult smoking prevalence in Democratic Republic of the Congo is 4.20%.

#### Number of Adult Smokers in Democratic Republic of the Congo

15+ years old; 2022

Men	Women
<b>4,091,000</b>	<b>354,000</b>

Number of adult smokers in Democratic Republic of the Congo is 4,445,000.

#### Youth Smoking Prevalence in Democratic Republic of the Congo

10-14 years old; 2023

Boys	Girls
<b>3.6%</b>	<b>1.44%</b>

Youth smoking prevalence in Democratic Republic of the Congo is 2.54%.

#### Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in Democratic Republic of the Congo

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

Both Men and Women
<b>NA</b>

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in Democratic Republic of the Congo is NA.

### Deaths Caused by Tobacco in Democratic Republic of the Congo

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2023



2.57% of all deaths in Democratic Republic of the Congo are caused by tobacco use.

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

### Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in Democratic Republic of the Congo

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



#### Societal Harms

The annual cost-of-illness attributable to smoking in Democratic Republic of the Congo is 409,530,149,626 Congolese franc. 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 Democratic Republic of the Congo, a smoker must spend 7.49% 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 Democratic Republic of the Congo.



#### 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 Democratic Republic of the Congo

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 Democratic Republic of the Congo.



### 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 more than 5,000,000,000,000 cigarettes produced in the world in 2019, or nearly 2 cigarettes per person per day.



### Tobacco Growing

There were 3,528 tons of tobacco produced in Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2023 on 7,827 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 Democratic Republic of the Congo

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 Democratic Republic of the Congo

#### Designated Smoke-Free Areas in Democratic Republic of the Congo

Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	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 Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Quitting Resources

None

National Quit Line

No

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

**Tobacco Packaging Regulations in Democratic Republic of the Congo**

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

50%

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

**Tobacco Control Mass Media Campaigns in Democratic Republic of the Congo**

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 Democratic Republic of the Congo

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>0.88</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>2.00</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 Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

### Regulations on Tobacco Advertising, Promotion, and Sponsorship (TAPS) in Democratic Republic of the Congo

**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

70%

#### Indirect Bans

8 out of 10 indirect bans implemented

Free distribution in mail or through other means

Yes

Promotional discounts

Yes

Non-tobacco products identified with tobacco brand names

Yes

Brand name of non-tobacco products used for tobacco product

Yes

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

Yes

Any form of contribution (financial or other support) to any event, activity or individual

Yes

Ban on the publicity of financial or other sponsorship or support by the tobacco industry of events, activities, individuals

Yes