

El Salvador



How many people die from smoking in El Salvador each year?

1,619

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

128,123,131

US dollars

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in El Salvador

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

15+ years old; 2025

Men

9.00%

Women

1.00%

Adult smoking prevalence in El Salvador is 5.00%.

Number of Adult Smokers in El Salvador

15+ years old; 2022

Men

331,000

Women

46,000

Number of adult smokers in El Salvador is 377,000.

Youth Smoking Prevalence in El Salvador

10-14 years old; 2023

Boys

6.54%

Girls

4.64%

Youth smoking prevalence in El Salvador is 5.62%.

Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in El Salvador

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

Both Men and Women

2.00%

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in El Salvador is 2.00%.

Deaths Caused by Tobacco in El Salvador

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2023

Men**4.22%****Women****2.58%****Learn more about global Prevalence,****Youth Smoking and Deaths.**

3.44% of all deaths in El Salvador are caused by tobacco use.

Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in El Salvador

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

**Societal Harms**

The annual cost-of-illness attributable to smoking in El Salvador is 128,123,131 US dollars. 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 El Salvador, a smoker must spend 6.24% 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 127 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in El Salvador each year, equal to 47 female African elephants.

**Harms Health Equity**

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

**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 El Salvador

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 El Salvador.



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 364 billion in 2023, about the same as Pakistan's Gross National Income (GNI), 5x Panama's GNI and 9x Paraguay's GNI.

Tobacco Growing

There were 1,817 tons of tobacco produced in El Salvador in 2023 on 894 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 El Salvador

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 El Salvador

Designated Smoke-Free Areas in El Salvador

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 El Salvador

Quitting Resources

National quit line, and both NRT (Nicotine replacement therapy) and some cessation services cost-covered

National Quit Line

Yes

[Learn more about best practices in Cessation.](#)

Tobacco Packaging Regulations in El Salvador

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 El Salvador

Ran a National Anti-Tobacco Campaign

Yes

Part Of A Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program

Yes

Pre-Tested With The Target Audience

Yes

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 El Salvador

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
1.88	3.00	0.00	1.50	3.00
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 El Salvador.](#)

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

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

6 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

No

Advertising on internet

Yes

Ad Ban Compliance

100%

Indirect Bans

5 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

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

Yes

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

NA

Complete ban on sponsorship

No

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

NA