

Sri Lanka



How many people die from smoking in Sri Lanka each year?

18,682

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

90,474,350,714

Sri Lanka rupees

Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in Sri Lanka

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

15+ years old; 2025

| Men    | Women |
|--------|-------|
| 11.40% | 0.00% |

Adult smoking prevalence in Sri Lanka is 5.70%.

Number of Adult Smokers in Sri Lanka

15+ years old; 2022

| Men       | Women  |
|-----------|--------|
| 1,393,000 | 14,000 |

Number of adult smokers in Sri Lanka is 1,407,000.

Youth Smoking Prevalence in Sri Lanka

10-14 years old; 2023

| Boys  | Girls |
|-------|-------|
| 3.09% | 0.68% |

Youth smoking prevalence in Sri Lanka is 1.9%.

Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in Sri Lanka

15+ years old; smokeless tobacco includes snus, chewing tobacco, gutkha, etc.; 2021

| Both Men and Women |
|--------------------|
| 17.50%             |

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in Sri Lanka is 17.50%.

### Deaths Caused by Tobacco in Sri Lanka

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2023

Men

14.65%

Women

5%

10.29% of all deaths in Sri Lanka are caused by tobacco use.

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

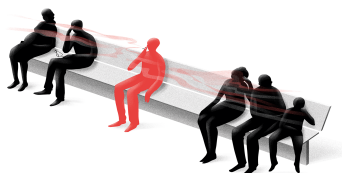
### Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in Sri Lanka

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



#### Societal Harms

The annual cost-of-illness attributable to smoking in Sri Lanka is 90,474,350,714 Sri Lanka rupees. 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 Sri Lanka, a smoker must spend 23.93% 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 490 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in Sri Lanka each year, equal to 182 female African elephants.



#### Harms Health Equity

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



#### 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 Sri Lanka

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 Sri Lanka.



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 8,623 tons of tobacco produced in Sri Lanka in 2023 on 937 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 Sri Lanka

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 Sri Lanka

Designated Smoke-Free Areas in Sri Lanka

|                       |                        |              |                       |                |             |               |                  |                                |                       |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes                   | Yes                    | Yes          | Yes                   | Yes            | No          | No            | 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 Sri Lanka

#### Quitting Resources

National quit line, and NRT and/or some cessation services (at least one of which is cost-covered)

#### National Quit Line

**Yes**

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

### Tobacco Packaging Regulations in Sri Lanka

#### 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

**80%**

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

### Tobacco Control Mass Media Campaigns in Sri Lanka

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Ran a National Anti-Tobacco Campaign                            | Yes          |
| Part Of A Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program                 | Yes          |
| Pre-Tested With The Target Audience                             | Not reported |
| Target Audience Research Was Conducted                          | No           |
| 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             | No           |

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



Tobacco Tax Policies in Sri Lanka

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   |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| 2.38  | 5.00  | 0.00   | 3.50   | 1.00  |
| 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 Sri Lanka](#).

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

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  | 6 out of 10 indirect bans implemented |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| National TV and radio                  | Yes                                | Free distribution in mail or through other means   | Yes                                   |
| International TV and radio             | No                                 | Promotional discounts  | Yes                                   |
| International magazines and newspapers | Yes                                | Non-tobacco products identified with tobacco brand names   | Yes                                   |
| 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  | Yes                                   |
| Advertising on internet                | Yes                                | Prescribed anti-tobacco ads required for any visual entertainment media product that depicts tobacco products, use or images | NA                                    |
| Ad Ban Compliance<br>82%               |                                    | 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 | Yes                                   |