# Uganda



**How many people die from smoking in Uganda each year?**

**5,215**

**What is the annual cost-of-illness attributable to smoking in Uganda each year?**

**449,445,373,599**

Ugandan shillings

## Current Rates of Smoking and Tobacco Use in Uganda

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

15+ years old; 2025

| Men | Women |
|---|---|
| 6.70% | 1.10% |

Adult smoking prevalence in Uganda is 3.90%.

### Number of Adult Smokers in Uganda

15+ years old; 2022

| Men | Women |
|---|---|
| 895,000 | 151,000 |

Number of adult smokers in Uganda is 1,047,000.

### Youth Smoking Prevalence in Uganda

10-14 years old; 2023

| Boys | Girls |
|---|---|
| 6.42% | 5% |

Youth smoking prevalence in Uganda is 5.73%.

### Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use in Uganda

15+ years old; smokeless tobacco includes snus, chewing tobacco, gutkha, etc.; 2023

| Both Men and Women |
|---|
| 1.50% |

Adult smokeless tobacco use prevalence in Uganda is 1.50%.

## Deaths Caused by Tobacco in Uganda

% deaths attributable to tobacco use in 2023

**Men**

**2.13%**

**Women**

**1.42%**

1.8% of all deaths in Uganda are caused by tobacco use.

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

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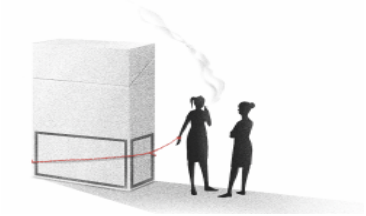
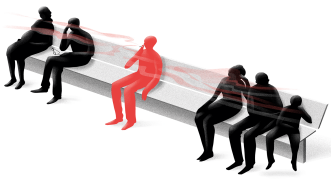
## Negative Effect of Tobacco Use in Uganda

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



### Societal Harms

The annual cost-of-illness attributable to smoking in Uganda is 449,445,373,599 Ugandan shillings. 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 Uganda, a smoker must spend 11.1% 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 369 tons of butts wind up as toxic trash in Uganda each year, equal to 137 female African elephants.



### Harms Health Equity

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



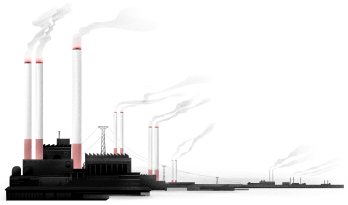
### Harms NCDs

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 Uganda

**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 Uganda.**



### 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 32,848 tons of tobacco produced in Uganda in 2023 on 23,313 hectares of quality agricultural land that could have been used to grow food.

**Learn more about global Growing and Product Sales.**

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## Ending the Tobacco Epidemic in Uganda

**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.**

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### Current Tobacco Control Policies in Uganda

**Designated Smoke-Free Areas in Uganda**

| 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 Uganda

**Quitting Resources**

**NRT (Nicotine replacement therapy) and/or some cessation services (neither cost-covered)**

**National Quit Line**

**No**

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

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## Tobacco Packaging Regulations in Uganda

**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**

**65%**

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

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## Tobacco Control Mass Media Campaigns in Uganda

| | |
|---|---|
| **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 Uganda

**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**

**0.5**

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

**Cigarette Price**

**1.00**

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**

**0.00**

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 Uganda.**

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### Regulations on Tobacco Advertising, Promotion, and Sponsorship (TAPS) in Uganda

**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 |

#### Indirect Bans

**9 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 | Yes |
| Prescribed anti-tobacco ads required for any visual entertainment media product that depicts tobacco products, use or images | NA |
| 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 |

#### Ad Ban Compliance

100%

Citation: Drope J, Hamill S, editors. 2025. Country profile: Uganda. . In The Tobacco Atlas. New York: Vital Strategies and Economics for Health.