

Compliance with Smoke-free Policies in Karachi, Pakistan

East and South District, Karachi

Fact Sheet

Background

In 2002, the Government of Pakistan passed the “Prohibition of Smoking in Enclosed Places and Protection of Non-smokers Health Ordinance”, which bans smoking inside any place of public work or use, and requires no-smoking signage be displayed at every place of public work or use.¹ The objective of this study was to assess smoke-free compliance in different public venues across the East and South Districts of Pakistan’s most populous city, Karachi.

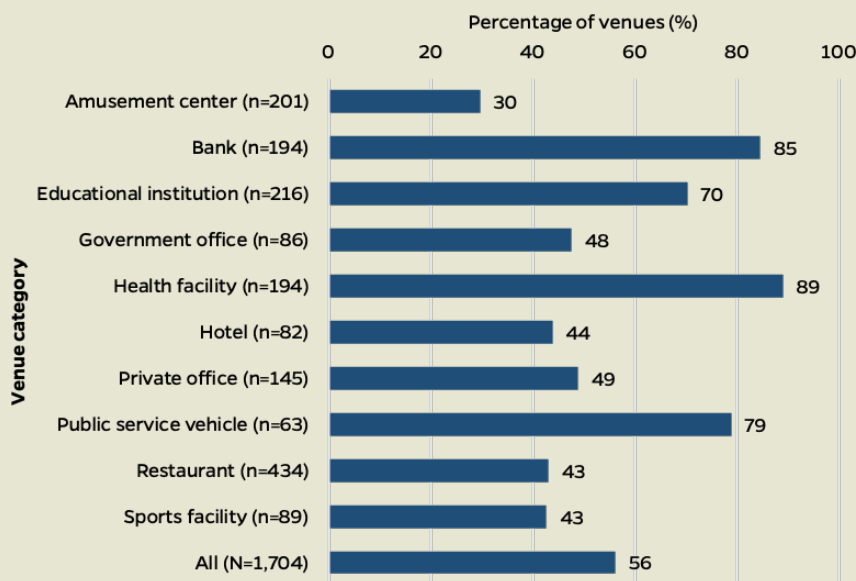
Methods

Staff and faculty from the Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC), Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, with partners from The International

Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) trained local data collectors hired by Gallup Pakistan to follow data collection protocols and conduct observations in each of the identified public venues. Data collectors used smartphones/tablets equipped with the Survey CTO application to support the observational data collection, which was conducted during business hours. Data collectors observed venues for instances of observed smoking, presence of cigarette butt litter, presence of ashtrays, and display of no-smoking signage. Data were collected between October - November 2019. Comprehensive lists were used to identify the public venues to be sampled, and a total of 1,704 venues were included in the final sample.

Results

Figure 1. Percentage of venues compliant with composite indicator assessing evidence of smoking - by venue category

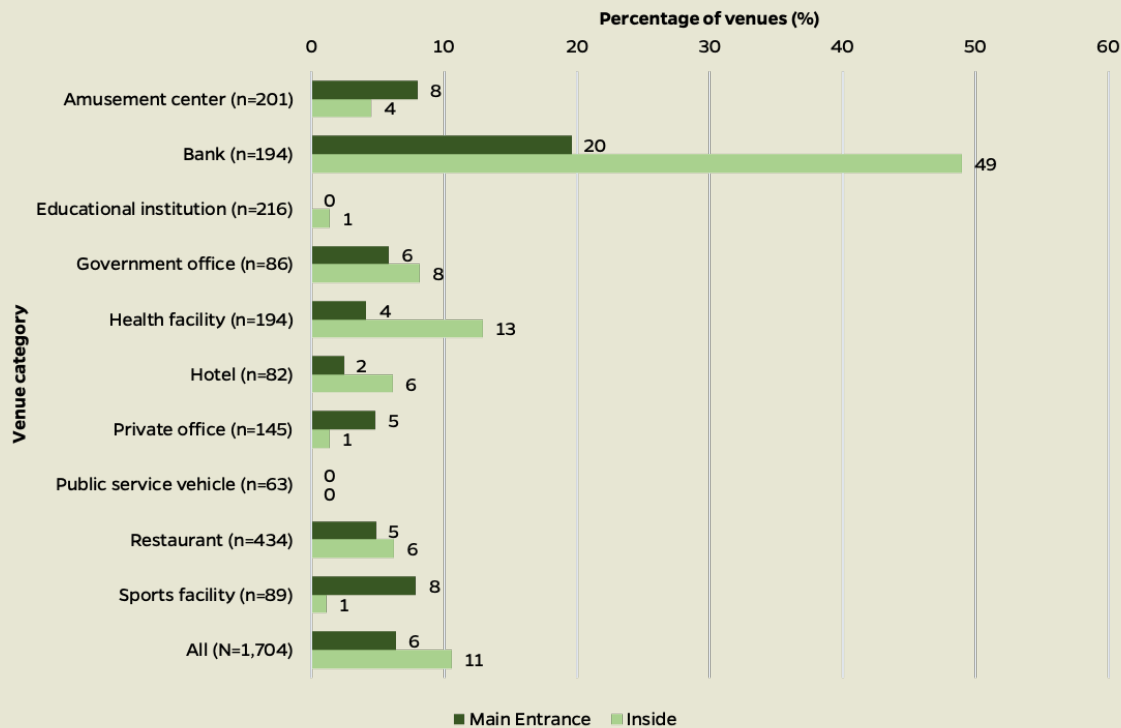


A venue was considered compliant with the composite indicator assessing evidence of smoking (“smoke-free compliant”) if all of the following criteria were met:

1. No one was observed smoking;
2. No cigarette butt litter was found and;
3. No ashtrays or other instruments used to hold cigarette ash/butts were present on venue premises.

- As seen in Figure 1, approximately half (56%) of all venues observed in both districts were smoke-free compliant
- Less than half of all amusement centers (30%), restaurants (43%), sports facilities (43%), and hotels (44%) were smoke-free compliant
- Approximately half of all government offices (48%) and private offices (49%) were smoke-free compliant
- The majority of banks (85%) and health facilities (89%) were smoke-free compliant

Figure 2. Percentage of venues with no-smoking signage displayed at conspicuous places



- As seen in Figure 2, the majority of venues did not have no-smoking signage displayed at the main entrance or inside
- The display of no-smoking signage was highest at banks; 20% had signage at the main entrance, and approximately half (49%) had signage displayed inside
- None (0%) of the public service vehicles observed had signage posted inside
- The two venue categories with the highest smoke-free compliance in Figure 1 (banks and health facilities) also had the highest compliance with no-smoking signage inside the venue (49% and 13% respectively)

Discussion

Enforcement agencies and venue managers, including drivers operating public service vehicles, are responsible for ensuring that all public places are complying with smoke-free provisions. As outlined in Sections 5, 6 and 10 of the 2002 Ordinance, venue managers must enforce smoking bans and display appropriate no-smoking signage on their venue premises.¹ Enforcement agencies must ensure they are conducting routine inspections of public places and monitoring smoke-free implementation across the city. Enforcement efforts concerning display of no-smoking signage should also be prioritized across all public venues. Clear instructions from concerned authorities on where to place the signs, and wider distribution of standardized no-smoking signs, are needed in order to improve compliance. Enhanced efforts by enforcement agencies can accelerate the establishment of comprehensive smoke-free public places in Karachi.

References:

1. Government of Pakistan. The Prohibition of Smoking in Enclosed Places and Protection of Non-smokers Health Ordinance, 2002. Available at <https://www.tobaccocontrolaws.org/legislation/country/pakistan/laws>