



**Baseline Report:**

Observational Survey on Compliance  
with the Smoke-free Policy at Priority  
Venues in Karachi, Pakistan

# Table of Contents

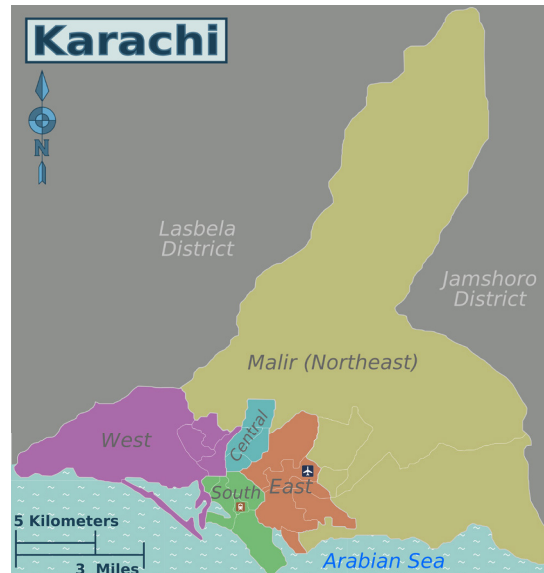
- Executive Summary ..... 2**
- Background ..... 5**
- Methodology ..... 6**
- Results ..... 7**
- All Venues ..... 9**
  - Restaurants .....13
  - Educational Institutions .....14
  - Health Facilities.....15
  - Government Offices .....16
  - Amusement Centers .....17
- Recommendations ..... 18**
- References ..... 18**

# Executive Summary

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In 2002, the Government of Pakistan passed the national tobacco control law, “Prohibition of Smoking in Enclosed Places and Protection of Non-smokers Health Ordinance”, which bans smoking in all places of public work and use.<sup>1</sup> The Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (JHSPH), in collaboration with the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), assessed compliance with this ordinance in Karachi, Pakistan. This baseline report summarizes the results at priority venues from the observational study and also includes recommendations on how to improve smoke-free compliance in Karachi.

The East and South districts in Karachi were selected as the study areas. Venues observed included amusement centers, banks, educational institutions, government offices, health facilities, hotels, private offices, public service vehicles, restaurants, and sports facilities. These venue types were chosen based on recommendations from The Union, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MNHSR&C), and previous smoke-free compliance studies conducted in Islamabad and Punjab.



**Smoke-free observations:** Observations were conducted in Karachi between October – December 2019. Trained data collectors observed 1,704 public venues across the East and South districts of Karachi for evidence of smoking (observed smoking, presence/absence of cigarette litter and presence/absence of ashtrays or similar accessories) as well as the presence, location and content of no-smoking signage. Data were analyzed by IGTC staff using descriptive statistics.

Evidence of smoking was found in all venue types observed across both districts. In both districts, compliance with the composite indicator assessing evidence of smoking (from now “evidence of smoking”) was lowest among amusement centers, which included amusement parks, cinemas, faculty of arts, shopping

centers, and snooker clubs. Only 30% of all amusement centers observed, in each district, were compliant. Among amusement centers in the East district, 34% of shopping centers and 15% of snooker clubs were compliant. Among amusement centers in the South district, 30% of shopping centers were compliant.

Compliance with the indicator evidence of smoking was also poor in restaurants, which included bakeries, cafes, pan/tea shops, and dine-in restaurants. Less than half of all restaurants in the East (36%) and South (48%) districts were compliant. In the East district compliance was especially low among cafes (17%) and pan/tea shops (14%). Similarly, only 26% of pan/tea shops in the South district were compliant.

Less than half of all government offices in the East (49%) and South (45%) districts were compliant. In the East district, none (0%) of the Union Council offices, half (50%) of the district courts and Ministry of Sindh offices, and less than half of all NADRA offices (38%) and post offices (40%) were compliant. In the South district, none (0%) of the district courts, half (50%) of all Government Official and Ministry of Sindh offices, and less than half of all police stations (33%) and post offices (42%) were compliant.

Among the public service vehicles observed, all taxis (100%) and 70% of buses were compliant. Across both districts, compliance with the indicator evidence of smoking was highest among banks and health facilities, at more than 80%, however efforts to make these venues completely smoke-free are still needed. Whilst educational institutions had higher than average compliance, compliance was still poor, with only 67% and 73% of educational institutions in the East and South districts respectively complying. This finding is of particular concern; measures to enforce strict smoke-free policies at educational institutions are crucial to protect the health of Pakistan's youth.

The display of no-smoking signage varied by venue type and was very low across all venue types. When assessing the display of no-smoking signage at the main entrance, only 6-7% of venues in each district had signage displayed. None (0%) of the educational institutions observed had signage displayed at the main entrance. When assessing the display of no-smoking signage inside the venue, only 10-12% of all venues types in each district had signage displayed. None of the observed public service vehicles had no-smoking signage displayed.

## Executive Summary

Despite the complete ban on designated smoking areas (DSAs) and designated smoking rooms (DSRs),<sup>1</sup> these were still observed. Designated smoking areas were observed in 4-9% of venues in each district, and designated smoking rooms were observed in 1% of venues in each district. Venues were also observed for any on-site sales of tobacco products; between 13-15% of venues in each district were selling tobacco products.

**Recommendations:** Enforcement agencies must ensure they are conducting routine inspections and monitoring of smoke-free implementation across all public places in their districts. There is a need to improve enforcement efforts in all venue types observed, particularly amusement centers, restaurants, hotels, and government offices. Enforcement efforts concerning the display of no-smoking signage at all public venues must also be prioritized, particularly educational and health facilities. Clear instructions from enforcement authorities on where to place the signs, and wider distribution of standardized no-smoking signs to venue managers/owners, are needed in order to improve compliance. To support the development of 100% smoke-free public places, enforcement agencies must also ensure the removal of designated smoking areas and designated smoking rooms from all venues.

Training workshops as well as social marketing campaigns can also complement the enhanced enforcement efforts by improving awareness about the importance of “smoke-free public places” among key stakeholders and the general population.

With such a concerted effort, it is possible to accelerate the establishment of 100% smoke-free compliant public places in the East and South Districts of Karachi, and help act as a driver for other districts in Karachi to strengthen their compliance with the smoke-free ordinance.



# Background

In 2002, the Government of Pakistan passed the “Prohibition of Smoking in Enclosed Places and Protection of Non-smokers Health Ordinance“, which is the national law governing tobacco control in Pakistan.<sup>1</sup> The 2002 Ordinance 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, as defined by Sections 1(d) and 1(g).<sup>1</sup>

**For the purpose of this baseline report, findings pertaining to the following sections outlined in the 2002 Ordinance will be presented:**

- 1. Section 5:** Prohibition of smoking and other tobacco use;
- 2. Section 6:** Prohibition of smoking in public service vehicles;
- 3. Section 10:** Display and exhibition of board.<sup>1</sup>



# Methodology

## Sampling Approach

The East and South districts of Karachi, Pakistan were selected as the study area. Nine types of public venues covered by the ordinance were selected based on recommendations made by The Union in consultation with their local partners.

Comprehensive venue lists in the East and South districts were obtained. If the total number of venues exceeded the predetermined cap, a random sampling approach was used. Otherwise, a census sampling approach was undertaken.

## Training

Staff and faculty from the Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC), Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), 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. Training was held between October 23, 2019 to October 25, 2019 for 20 data collectors at Gallup Pakistan's office in Karachi.

## Observations

Data collection took place between October 28, 2019 – December 20, 2019. Data were collected through direct observation in venues using an observation form that had been uploaded to a mobile data collection application (Survey CTO). The observation form included questions regarding the presence/absence of smoker(s); presence/absence of cigarette butts, and presence/absence of ashtrays (or other instruments used to hold cigarette ash). In addition, questions regarding the placement of no-smoking signage at the entrance and inside the venues were also included. A separate observation form was developed for public service vehicles, which included indicators such as whether or not the driver was smoking, evidence of cigarette butts and ashtrays, and the presence of a no-smoking sign inside the vehicle.

Observations were conducted during normal business hours when people were most likely to be present. For restaurants, for example, the data collectors were instructed to visit during lunch or dinner hours. For hospitals, data collectors conducted observations during visitor hours.

# Results

## Sample

Observations were conducted at a total of 1,641 venues including amusement centers, banks, educational institutions, government offices, health facilities, hotels, private offices, restaurants, and sports facilities across both districts (Table 1).

Public service vehicles (n=63) were also included in the final sample, however these were not categorized by district.

Venue	East District	South District
	n	n
Amusement center	107	94
Bank	79	115
Educational institution	91	125
Government office	55	31
Health facility	115	79
Hotel	42	40
Private office	66	79
Restaurant	181	253
Sports facility	70	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>835</b>





# Evidence of Smoking

**A venue was considered “compliant with the indicator evidence of smoking” 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.



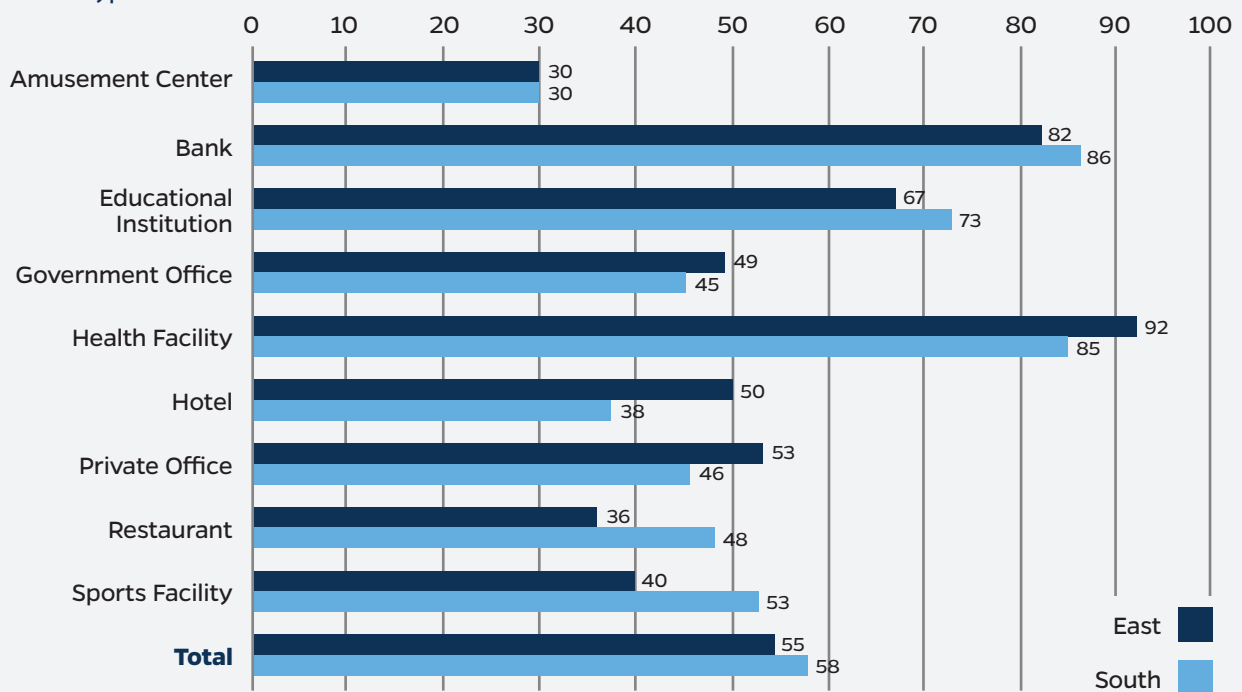
# All Venues

## Compliance with the indicator evidence of smoking in all venues

Figure 1 shows that the percentage of venues that were compliant with the indicator evidence of smoking.

- 55% of venues in the East district were compliant
- 58% of venues in the South district were compliant
- In both districts, compliance was poorest at amusement centers. Only 30% of amusement centers in each district were compliant

**Figure 1.** Percentage of venues compliant with the composite indicator assessing evidence of smoking by venue type.



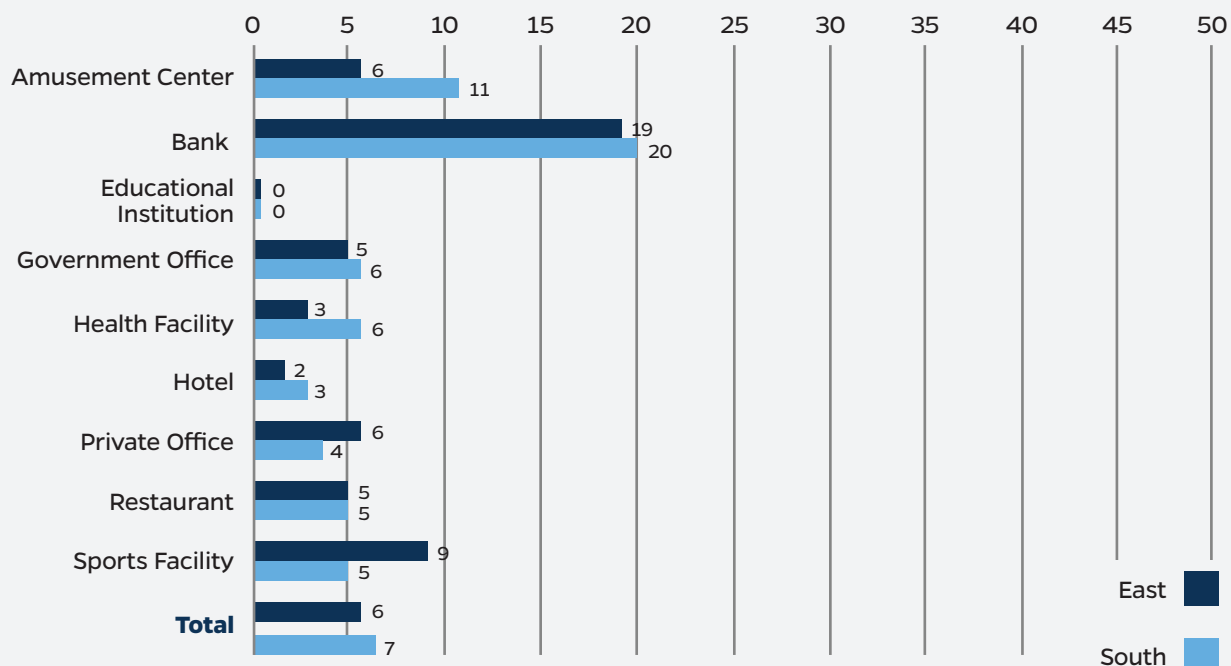
## Compliance with no-smoking signage in all venues

### Main Entrance: No-smoking signage display

The percentage of venues which displayed no-smoking signage at the main entrance is presented in Figure 2.

- Only 6% of venues in the East district had no-smoking signage displayed at the main entrance
- Only 7% of venues in the South district had no-smoking signage displayed at the main entrance
- None (0%) of the educational institutions had no-smoking signage displayed at the main entrance

**Figure 2.** Percentage of venues with no-smoking signage displayed at the main entrance

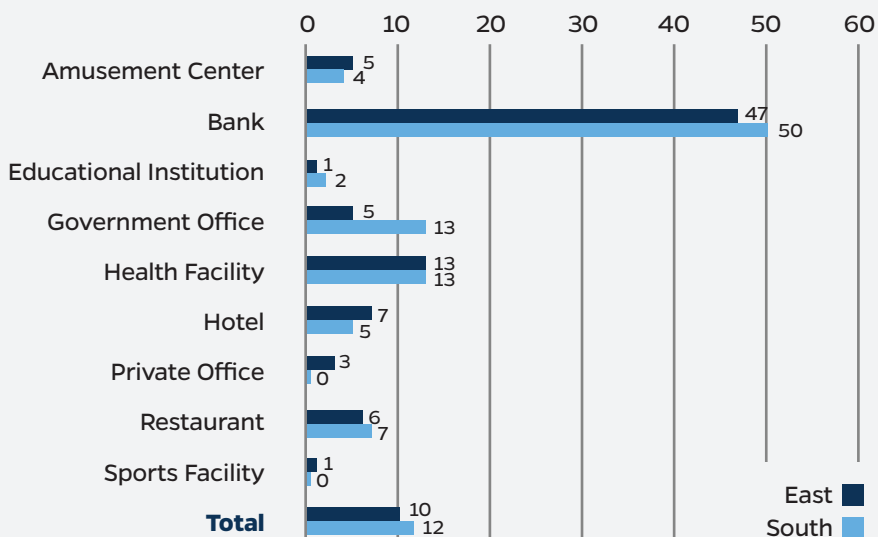


### Inside: No-smoking signage display

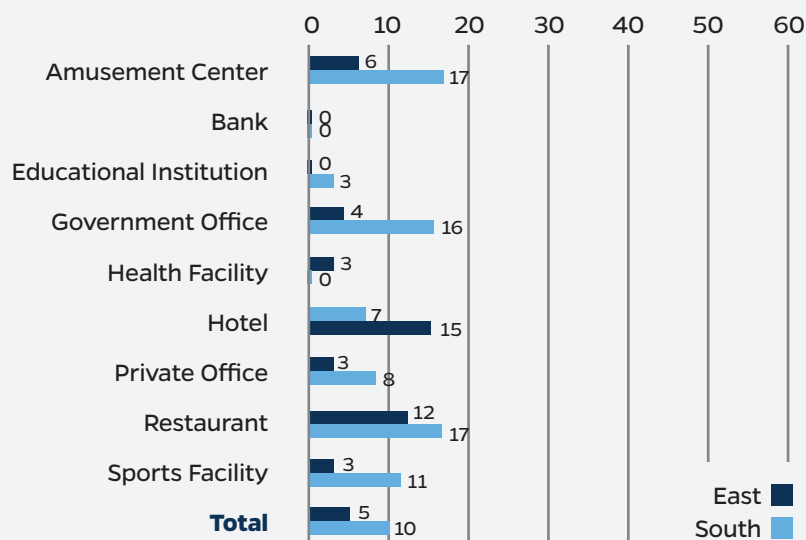
The percentage of venues which displayed no-smoking signage inside the venue is presented in Figure 3.

- Only 10% of venues in the East district had no-smoking signage displayed inside the venue
- Only 12% of venues in the South district had no-smoking signage displayed inside the venue

**Figure 3.** Percentage of venues with no-smoking signage displayed inside



**Figure 4.** Percentage of venues with designated smoking area (DSA) or designated smoking room (DSR)



### Compliance with the ban on designated smoking areas (DSAs) or designated smoking rooms (DSRs)s

The percentage of venues with designated smoking areas (DSAs) or designated smoking rooms (DSRs) is presented in Figure 4.

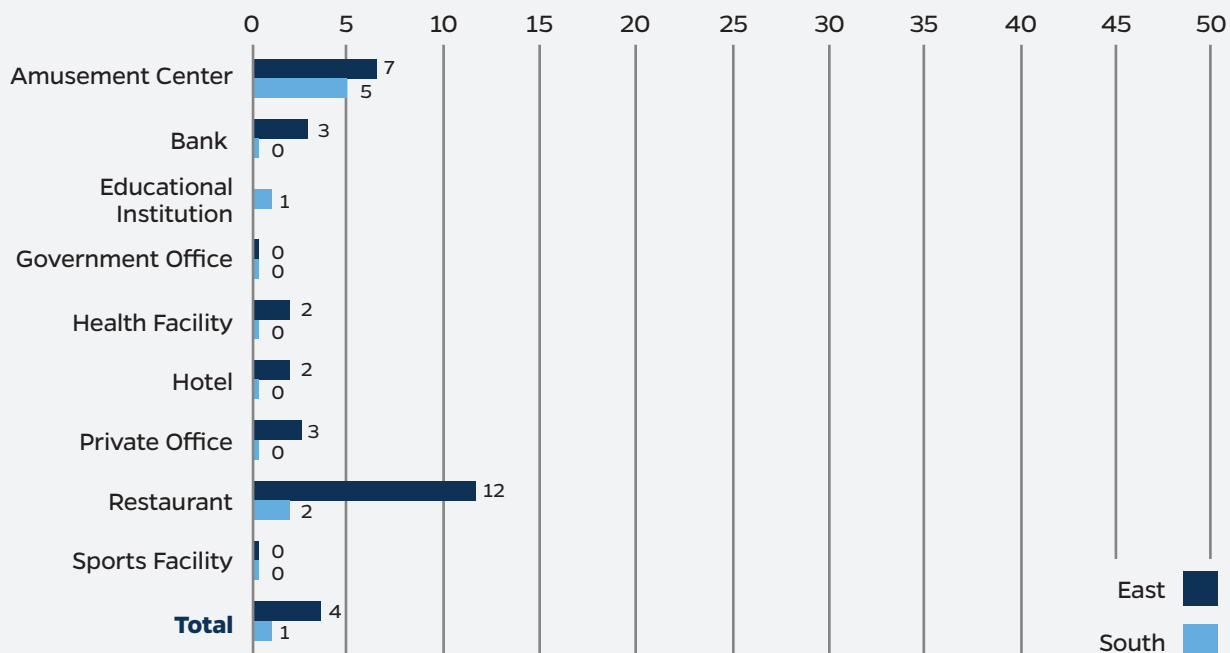
- 5% of venues in the East district had a DSA/DSR
- 10% of the venues in the South district had a DSA/DSR
- DSAs/DSRs were commonly observed at amusement centers, government offices, hotels, restaurants and sports facilities

### Compliance with the ban on tobacco advertisements

The percentage of venues with tobacco advertisements or signs displayed inside is presented in Figure 5.

- In both districts; tobacco advertisements or signage was prevalent at amusement centers
- 12% of restaurants in the East district had tobacco advertisements/signage displayed inside

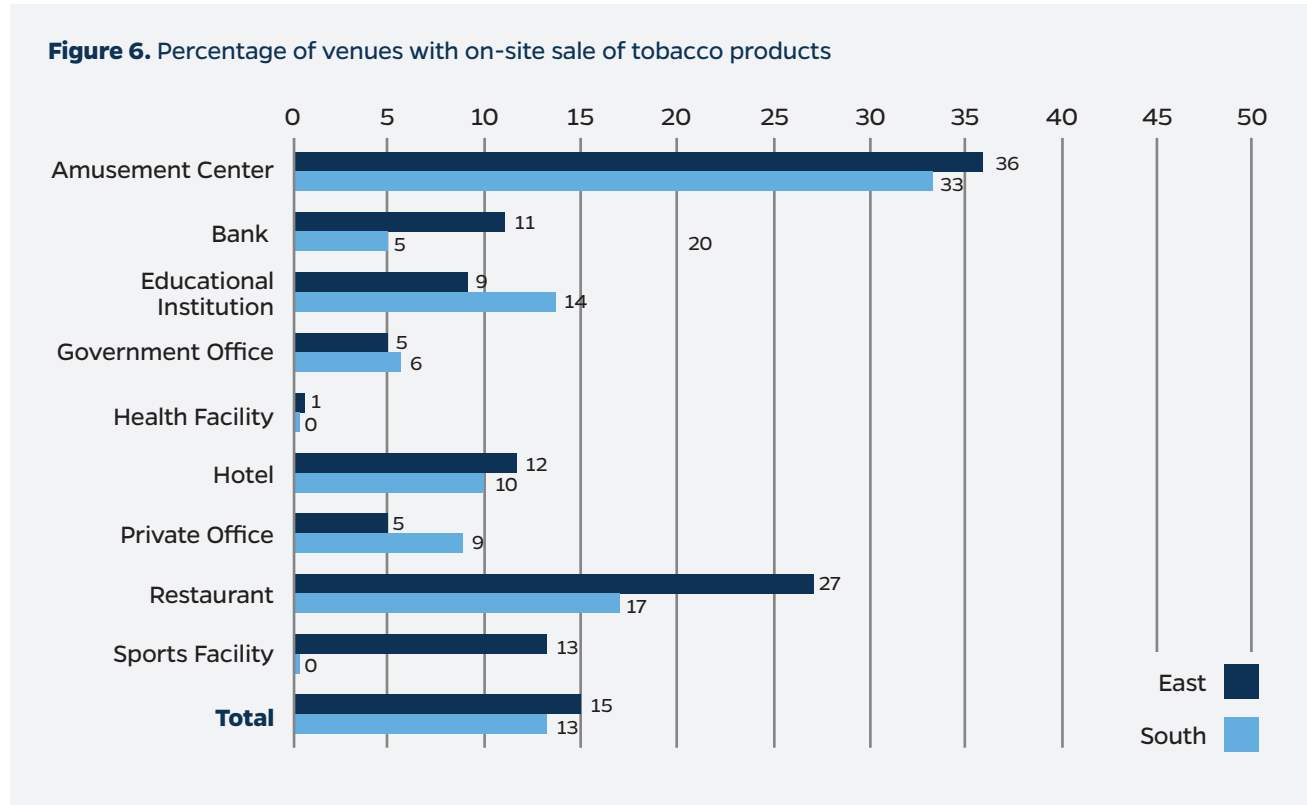
**Figure 5.** Percentage of venues with tobacco advertisements or signs displayed inside



## Compliance with the ban on sales of tobacco products

The percentage of venues with on-site sales of tobacco products is displayed in Figure 6.

- 15% of venues in the East district had on-site sales of tobacco products
- 13% of venues in the South district had on-site sales of tobacco products
- In both districts, on-site sales of tobacco products was most common at amusement centers



## Priority Venues

The following venue types were identified as high-priority venues, based on input from The Union, and the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination:

1. Restaurants
2. Educational institutions
3. Health facilities
4. Government offices
5. Amusement centers

The following section presents compliance among these high-priority venues.



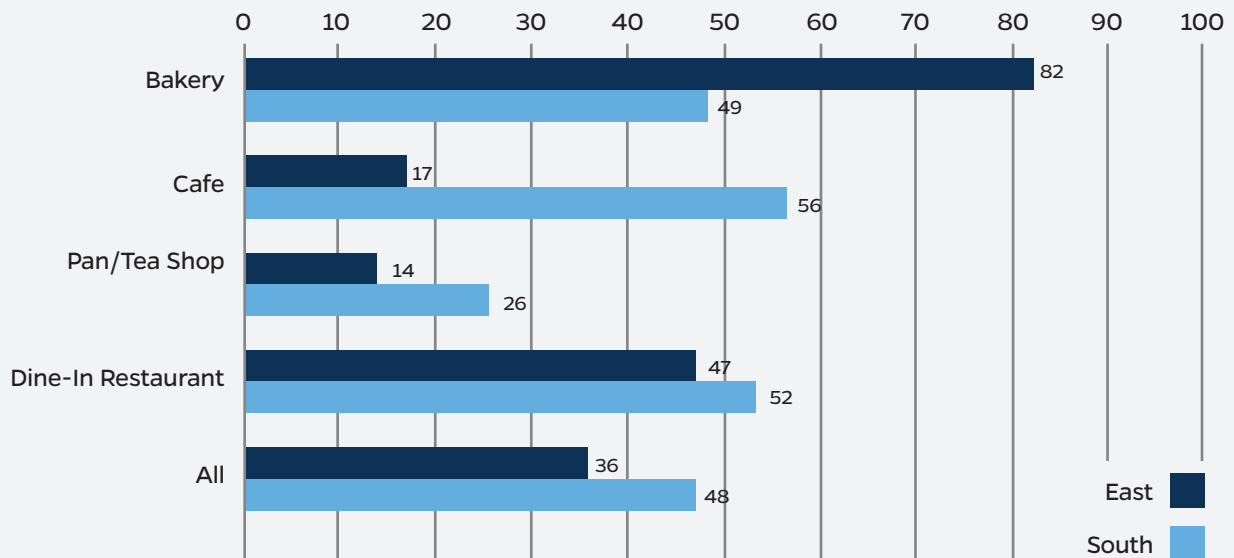
# Restaurants

## Compliance with the indicator evidence of smoking in restaurants

Compliance with the indicator across restaurants is presented in Figure 7.

- Only 36% of restaurants in the East district were compliant
- Only 48% of restaurants in the South district were compliant
- Compliance was poorest among pan/tea shops in both districts

**Figure 7.** Percentage of restaurants compliant with the indicator evidence of smoking





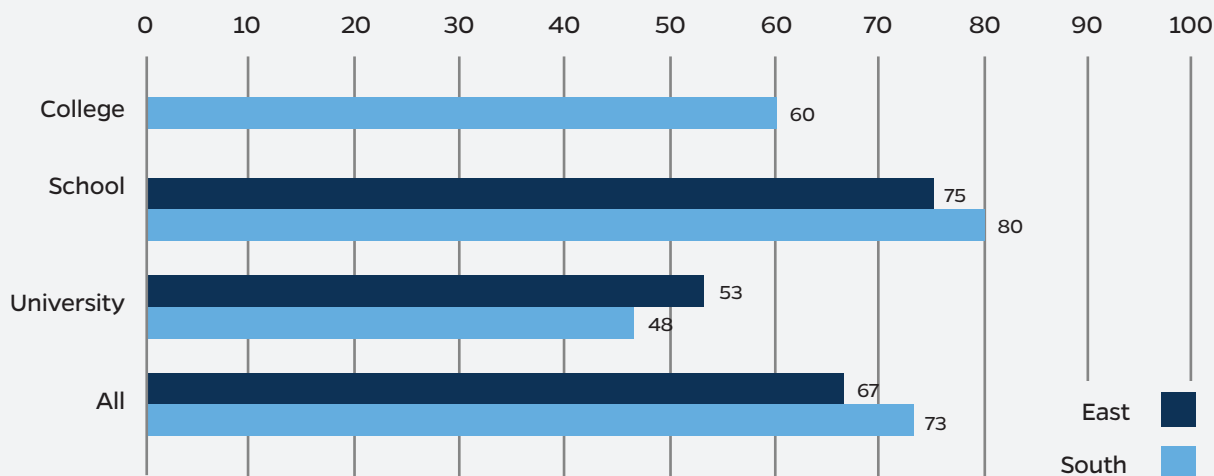
## Educational Institutions

### Compliance with the indicator evidence of smoking in educational institutions

Compliance with the indicator across educational institutions is presented in Figure 8. No colleges were observed in the East district.

- ▶ Two-thirds of all educational institutions in the East district were compliant
- ▶ Roughly three-quarters (73%) of all educational institutions in the South district were compliant
- ▶ In both districts, compliance was poorest at universities

**Figure 8.** Percentage of educational institutions compliant with the composite indicator assessing evidence of smoking



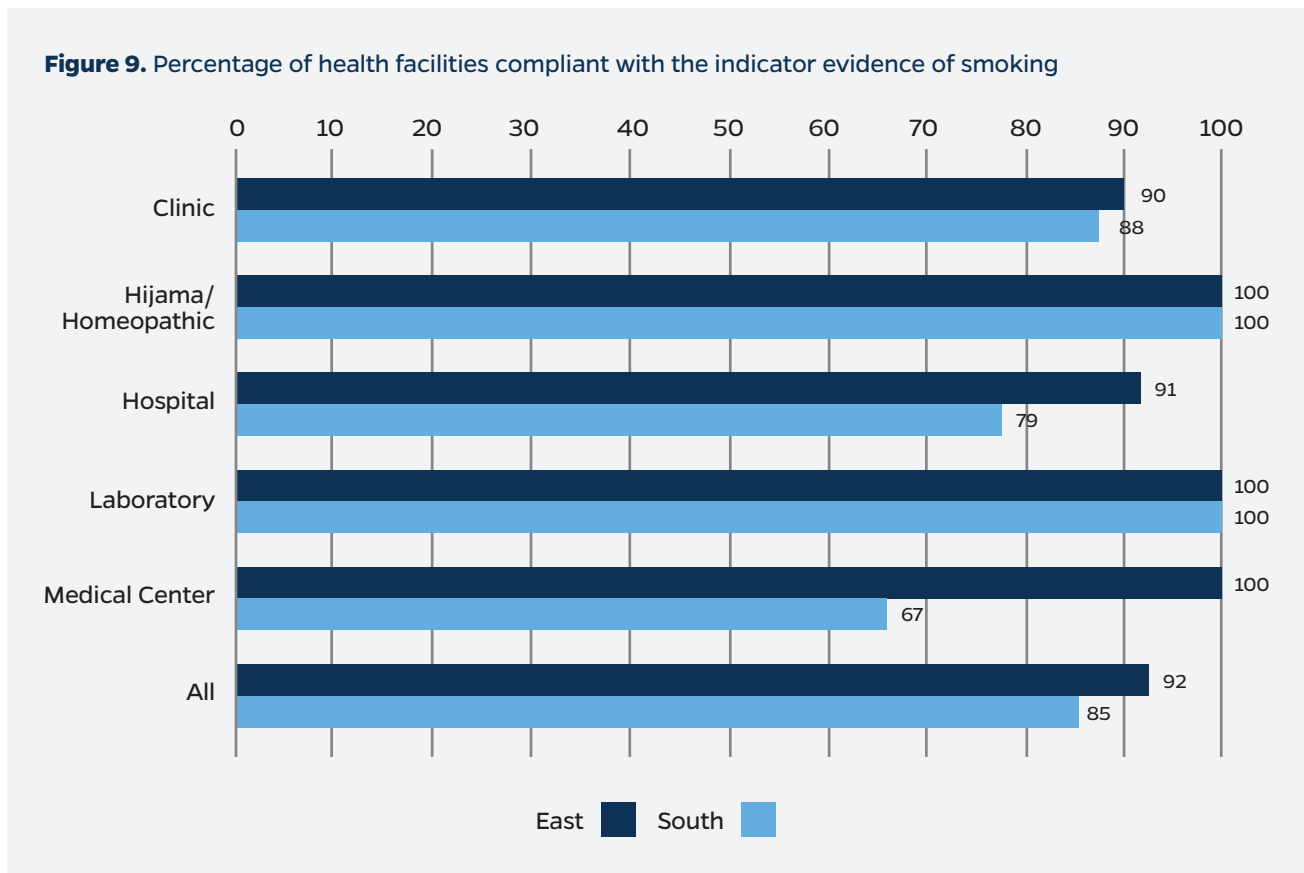


# Health Facilities

## Compliance with the indicator evidence of smoking in health facilities

Compliance with the indicator across health facilities is presented in Figure 9.

- 92% of all health facilities in the East district were compliant
- 85% of all health facilities in the South district were compliant
- Compliance was lower at hospitals and medical centers located in the South district







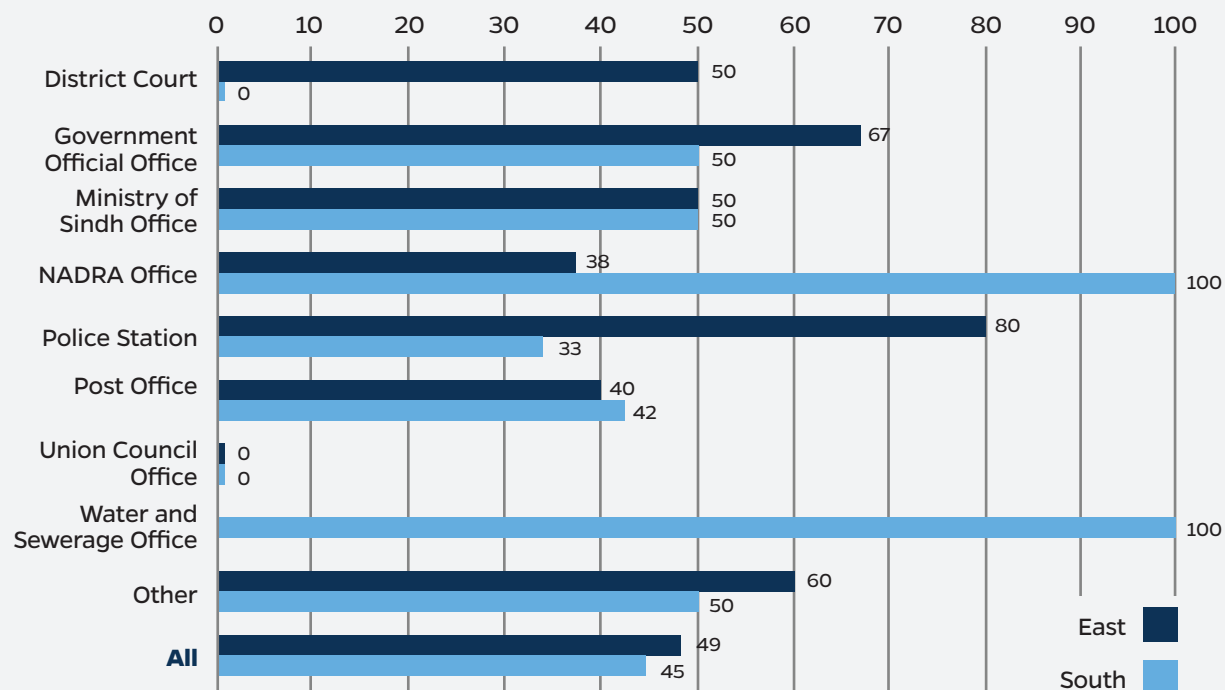
# Government Offices

## Compliance with the indicator evidence of smoking in government offices

Compliance with the indicator across government offices is presented in Figure 10. No Union Council offices were observed in the South district, and no Water & Sewerage offices were observed in the East district.

- Approximately half (49%) of all government offices in the East district were compliant
- 45% of all government offices in the South district were compliant

**Figure 10.** Percentage of government offices compliant with the indicator evidence of smoking



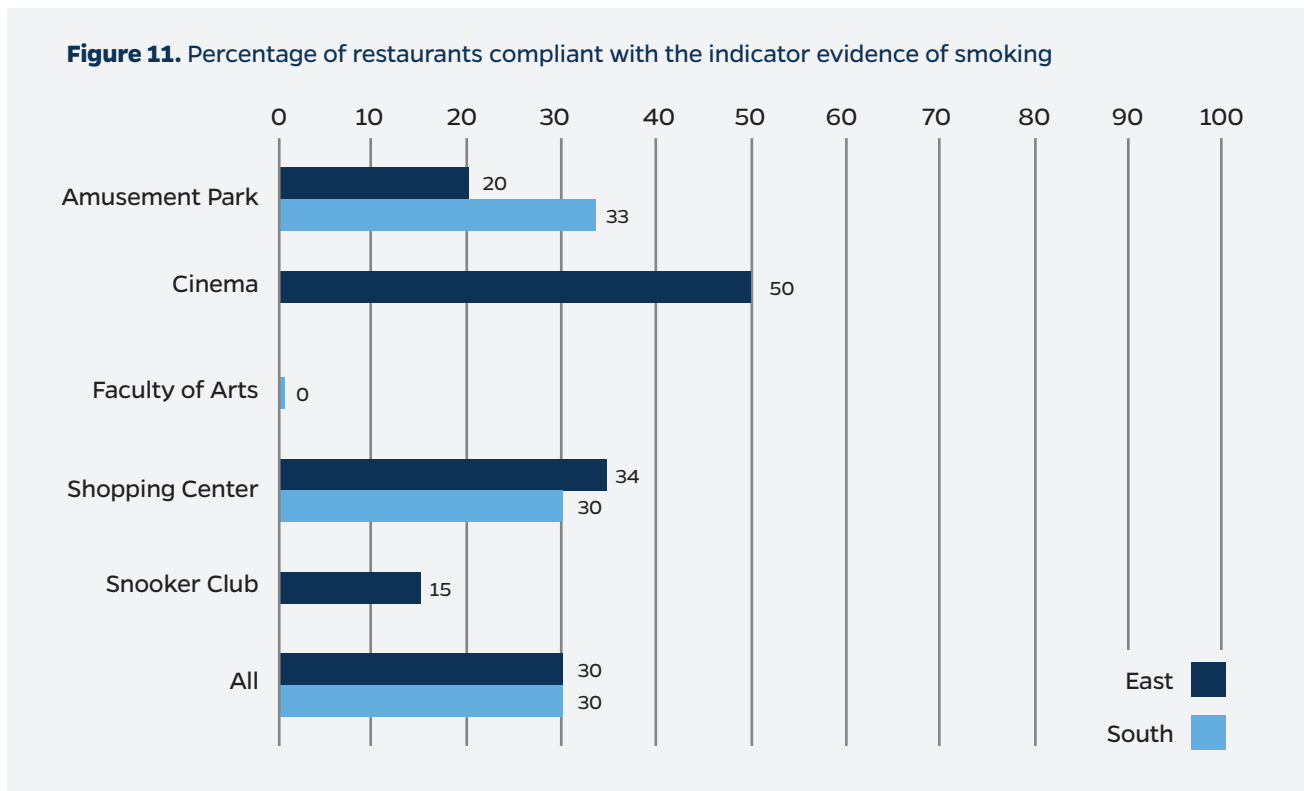


# Amusement Centers

## Compliance with the indicator evidence of smoking in amusement centers

Compliance with the indicator across amusement centers is presented in Figure 11. No cinemas were observed in the South district. No Faculty of Arts venue was observed in the East district

- Only 30% of all amusement centers, in each district, were compliant
- Compliance was poor among all types of amusement centers



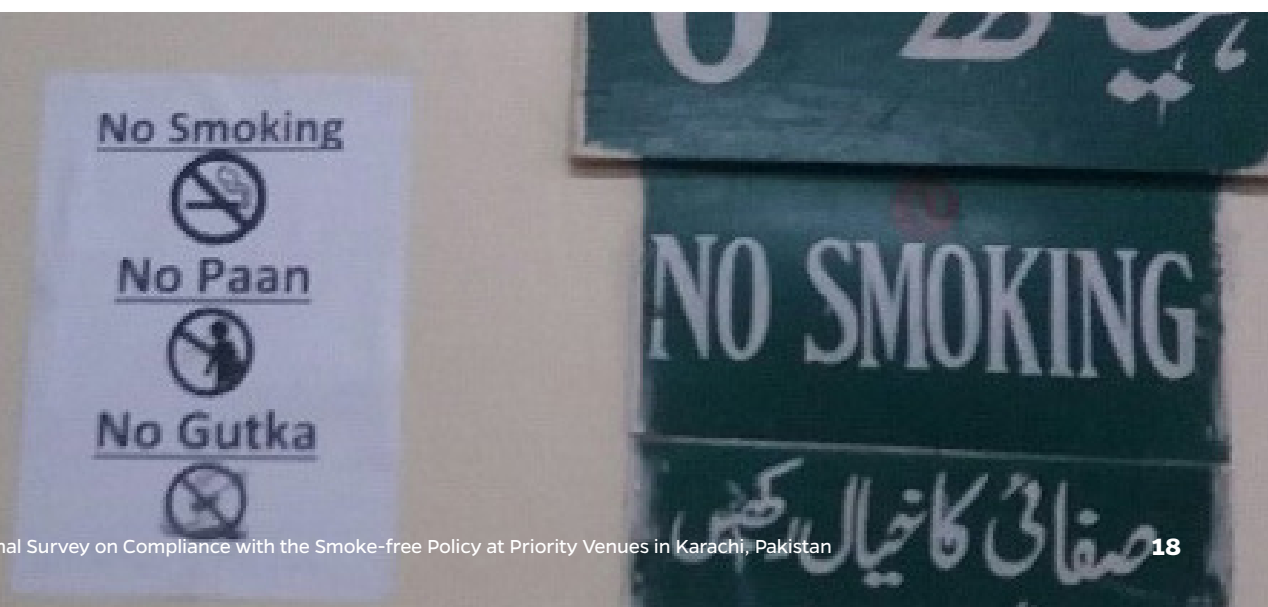
# Recommendations

1. It will be critical to increase the awareness of enforcement officers on the importance of smoke-free legislation and best practices associated with its implementation
2. Providing enforcement agencies with clear and standardized smoke-free guidelines may help these authorities to uniformly enforce the policy across all venue types
3. Clear instructions from enforcement authorities on where to place no-smoking signs, and wider distribution of standardized signs, are required to improve compliance of the display of no-smoking signage both at the main entrance and inside of the venues
4. The roles and responsibilities of venue managers when they observe violations need to be reinforced through awareness and education campaigns, capacity building and training workshops, including the issuance of fines as outlined in Section 11 of the Ordinance.<sup>1</sup> Training workshops for venue owners may enhance as well as reinforce these stakeholders' understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the smoke-free ordinance
5. Social marketing campaigns, when combined with the aforementioned strategies, may complement these efforts and improve the awareness of the importance of the smoke-free ordinance

Enhanced and consistent enforcement efforts by all enforcement agencies and venue managers are urgently needed to accelerate the establishment of comprehensive smoke-free public places in Karachi. With such a concerted effort, it is possible to establish 100% smoke-free compliant indoor public places in Karachi in the near future.

# References

1. Tobacco Control Cell Ministry of National Health, Services, Regulations and Coordination, Government of Pakistan: Prohibition of Smoking and Protection of Non-Smokers Health Ordinance 2002. Retrieved July, 30 2020 from <http://www.tcc.gov.pk/downloads.php>





**Produced August 2020 by:**

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**Acknowledgements:**

The Institute for Global Tobacco Control wishes to acknowledge the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease for providing feedback and background information, and Gallup Pakistan for supporting data collection efforts. This work was supported with funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies' Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use ([www.bloomberg.org](http://www.bloomberg.org)).

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**Suggested Citation:**

Institute for Global Tobacco Control. Baseline Report: Observational Survey on Compliance with the Smoke-free Policy at Priority Venues in Karachi, Pakistan. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; August 2020.



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