

Compliance with Smoke-free Policies in Karachi, Pakistan

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 South District of Pakistan’s most populous city, Karachi.

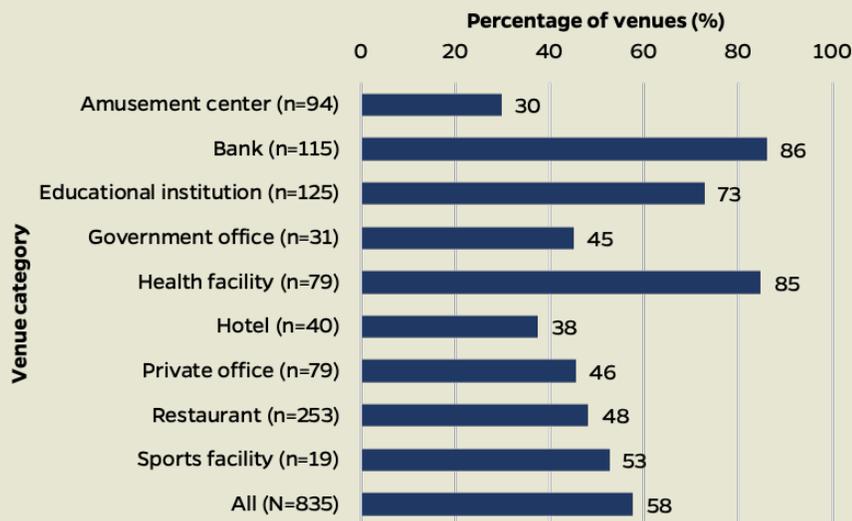
Methods

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 were collected between October - November 2019. Comprehensive lists were used to identify the public venues to be sampled, and a total of 835 venues were included in the final sample.

Results

Figure 1. Percentage of venues compliant with the composite indicator assessing evidence of smoking

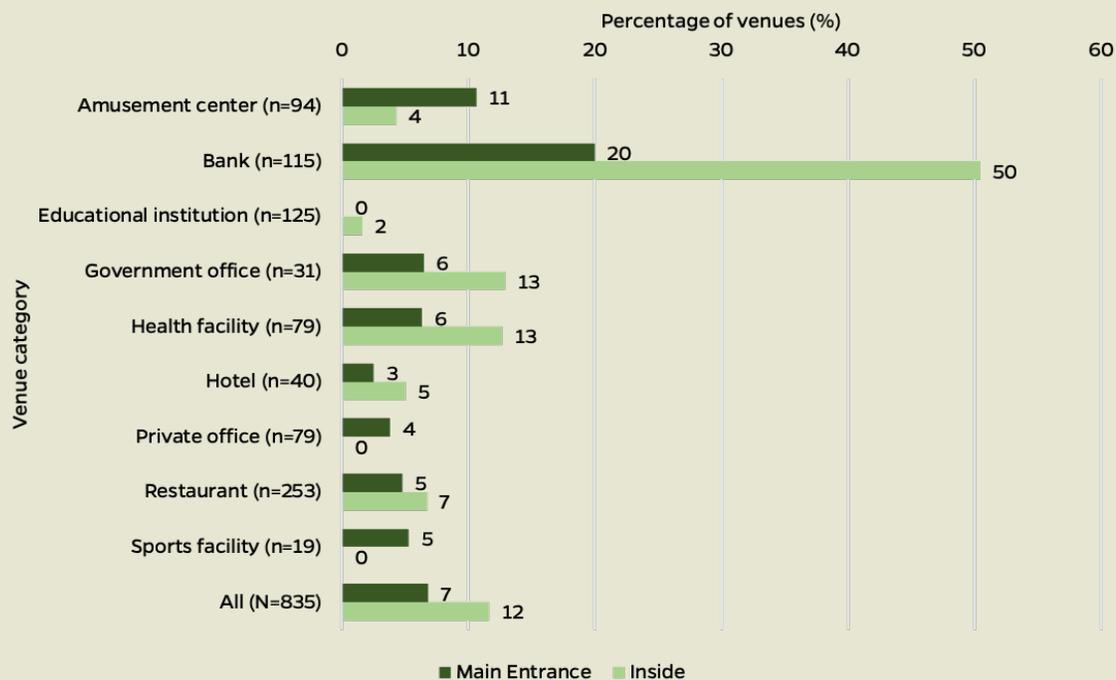


A venue was considered compliant with the composite indicator assessing evidence of smoking if all of the following criteria were met:

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.

- As seen in Figure 1, over half (58%) of all venues observed in the South District were smoke-free compliant
- Less than half of all amusement centers (30%), government offices (45%), hotels (38%), private offices (46%), and restaurants (48%) were smoke-free compliant
- The majority of banks (86%) and health facilities (85%) 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
- In addition to having the highest percentage of smoke-free compliant venues, the display of no-smoking signage was also highest at banks; 20% had signage displayed at the main entrance, and 50% had signage displayed inside
- The display of no-smoking signage was lowest at educational institutions; none (0%) had signage displayed at the main entrance, and 2% had signage displayed inside
- Among venues with the poorest smoke-free compliance (amusement centers); 11% had signage displayed at the main entrance, and 4% had signage displayed inside
- Despite the difference in smoke-free compliance between government offices (45%) and health facilities (85%), the display of no-smoking signage was similar among both venues; 6% had signage displayed at the main entrance, and 13% had signage displayed inside

Discussion

Implementing comprehensive smoke-free public places is necessary to protect the public from exposure to tobacco smoke, and to discourage tobacco consumption as a socially acceptable behavior in Pakistan. These findings indicate that measures to improve compliance with the smoke-free provisions outlined in the 2002 Ordinance need to be taken across all public venues in the South District of Karachi, particularly amusement centers (which include amusement parks, cinemas, shopping centers, and snooker clubs) and hotels.

Enforcement agencies and venue managers are responsible for ensuring that all public places are complying with smoke-free provisions. As outlined in Sections 5 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. 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>