

Study Overview

In December 2022, the Tobacco Control Data Initiative (TCDI) conducted a study to determine the level of compliance with smoke-free laws in 1,730 hospitality venues (HVs) in 10 cities in Ethiopia. The study also assessed the facilitators and barriers to compliance, monitoring, and enforcement of the smoke-free laws.

Key Findings

Compliance with Smoke-Free Laws in Indoor & Outdoor Spaces

- The average compliance rate for both indoor and outdoor facilities was 73.3%.
- The compliance rate was highest in Bahir Dar (85.81%) and lowest in Semera-Logia (70.11%).
- By venue, the compliance rate was highest in restaurants (76.48%) and lowest in bars (61.4%).

Compliance in Indoor Spaces

- The average compliance rate was 76.2%.
- The highest compliance rate was in Jigjiga (83.9%) and the lowest was in Dire Dawa (66.57%).
- By HV venue, the highest compliance rate was evident in cafés and restaurants (84%), while the lowest was seen in nightclubs/lounges (57.6%).
- Active smoking was observed in 32.2% of the indoor spaces of HVs. This was mainly cigarette smoking (97.5%).
- Shisha and smokeless tobacco use were observed in 4.8% and 2.9% of the indoor spaces.
- "No smoking" signage was evident in 35.2% of indoor spaces.

Compliance in Outdoor Spaces

- The average compliance rate was 70.5%.
- The compliance rate was highest in Bahir Dar (77.1%) and lowest in Harar (65.4%).
- By venue, the compliance rate was highest in cafes and restaurants (76.0%) and lowest in bars (57.1%).
- Active smoking was observed in 46.5% of the outdoor spaces of HVs.
- One third (33.1%) of the outdoor facilities of the HVs had 'No Smoking' signage posted.

Facilitators of and Barriers to Smoke-Free Law Compliance, Monitoring, and Enforcement

Facilitators

- Proclamation [1112/2019] provided the backbone for the monitoring and enforcement of Smoke Free Laws.
- Presence of strong political leadership and commitment from the government to the smoke-free laws.
- High involvement of governmental organizations, NGO's, and civil societies in smoke-free laws.

Barriers

- Absence of implementation guidelines in nearly all regions.
- No specific unit for the tobacco control program.
- Staff work overload undermined regulatory activities.
- Lack of resources (staff and budget).
- Knowledge gap regarding smoke-free laws among the community and law enforcement officers.
- Traditional smoking or use of smokeless tobacco is considered part of cultural practice in some regions.
- Political instability, social unrest, conflict, and COVID-19 pandemic prevented focus on the implementation of smoke-free laws.

Recommendations

- More effort needed to improve the enforcement of the existing Proclamation No. 1112/2019.
- Regional States and the cities should have their own implementation guidelines and budget for smoke-free legislation.
- The capacity of tobacco control law enforcement officers should be strengthened.
- Tobacco control stakeholders should actively participate in the implementation and enforcement of smoke-free tobacco control laws.
- Increase awareness among the hospitality on the benefits and requirements of smoke-free laws and the dangers of tobacco products.

