

# Compliance With Smoke-free Tobacco Legislation

## Observations of Smoking, Ashtrays, Cigarette Butts, and Smoking Signs in Indoor and Outdoor Public Places: A 12-city Study in Turkey

### Fact Sheet

Assessing the level of compliance with smoke-free legislation is key to reducing secondhand smoke exposure. In a previous report ([click here for report](#)), we provided the level of compliance with the smoke-free tobacco legislation in Turkey, which was enacted in 2008 and extended to hospitality venues in July 2009.

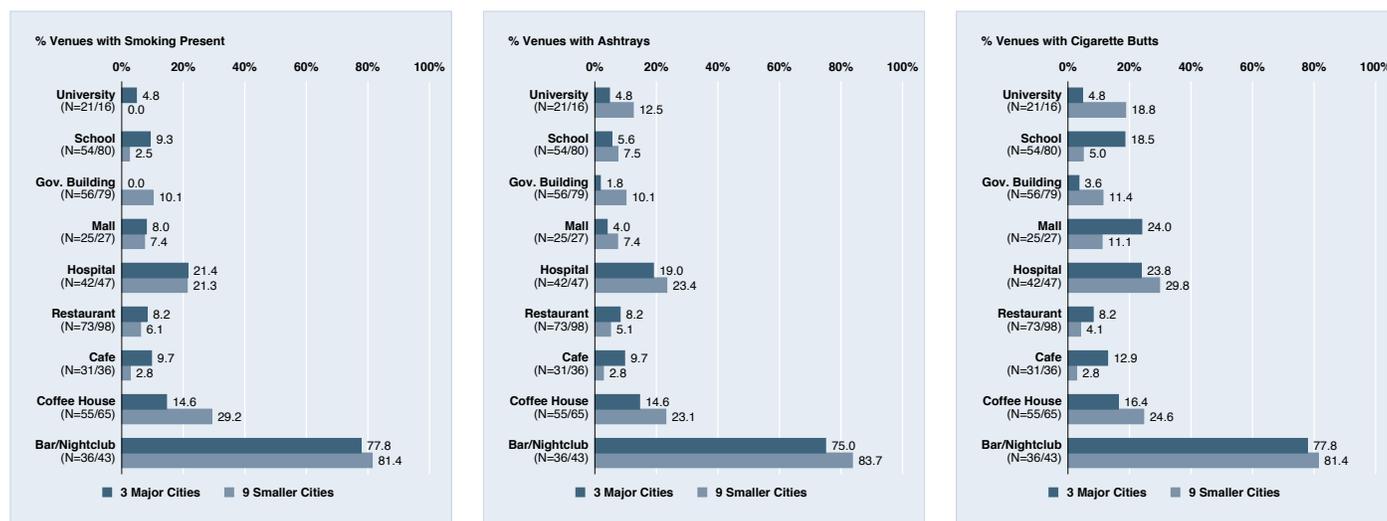
In the current report, we provide additional information on the presence of smoking, ashtrays, cigarette butts, and “No Smoking” signs in both indoor and outdoor areas by venue type and city size. The study was conducted between December 2012 and July 2013 to measure compliance with legislation in various public buildings. Researchers observed a total of 4,395 indoor locations and 1,610 outdoor locations in 12 cities in Turkey.

#### Indoor observations

There were large differences in the presence of smoking, ashtrays, and cigarette butts observed indoors by venue type, with no major differences by city size (Figure 1). There were also marked differences in the percentages of smoking, ashtrays, and cigarette butts observed in dining areas compared with non-dining areas in government buildings (21.7% vs. 3.0%) and hospitals (24.4% vs. 0%).

The presence of smoking observed indoors ranged overall from 2.7% in universities to 79.7% in bars/nightclubs. There were also large differences in the presence of ashtrays observed indoors by venue type, ranging overall from 5.8% in malls to 79.7% in bars/nightclubs. The presence of cigarette butts generally mirrored the presence of smoking and ashtrays, and cigarette butts were commonly found on the floor.

**Figure 1.** Presence of smoking, ashtrays and cigarette butts in indoor public places in 12 cities in Turkey



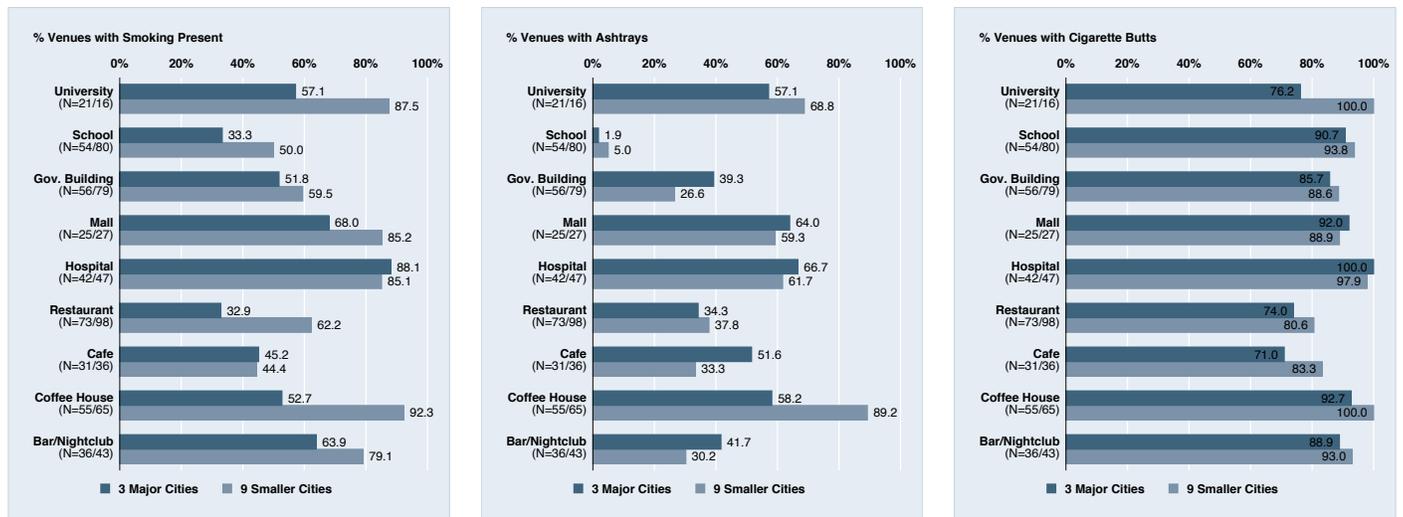
#### Presence of “No Smoking” signs

Overall, the level of compliance with the presence of “No Smoking” signs was low, ranging from 54.5% in schools to 85.8% in coffee houses. There were no statistically significant differences in the presence of “No Smoking” signs by city size, except in government buildings (81% in smaller cities vs. 60.7% in larger cities). For available signs, the level of visibility of the “No Smoking” signs was adequate in most venues, ranging from 86.4% in hospitals to 97.3% in schools. Most signs included the presence of fines, ranging overall from 86.4% in malls to 98.1% in bars and nightclubs.

## Outdoors observations

Overall, the presence of smoking outdoors ranged from 43.3% in schools to 86.5% in hospitals. The presence of ashtrays ranged from 3.7% in schools to 75% in coffee houses, and cigarette butt presence in outdoor areas was very high, ranging from 77.6% in cafes to 98.9% in hospitals. The high percentage of cigarette butts in outdoor areas compared with lower presence of outdoor ashtrays indicates that cigarettes were found predominantly on the ground.

**Figure 2.** Presence of smoking, ashtrays and cigarette butts in outdoor public places in 12 cities in Turkey



## Conclusions

- In indoor areas, smoking was relatively low in universities, schools, government buildings, malls, restaurants, cafes, and non-dining areas in hospitals (<10%). Smoking was common in traditional coffee houses and dining areas in hospitals (21-50%) and very common in bars and nightclubs (>50%).
- The presence of ashtrays was relatively low in universities, schools, government buildings, malls, restaurants, cafes and non-dining areas in hospitals (<10%), moderate in traditional coffee houses (10-20%), common in dining areas in hospitals (21-50%), and very common in bars and nightclubs (>50%).
- The presence of cigarette butts was relatively low in government buildings, restaurants, cafes and non-dining areas in hospitals (<10%), moderate in universities, schools, malls and traditional coffee houses (10-20%), common in dining areas in hospitals (21-50%) and very common in bars and nightclubs (>50%).
- The overall presence of “No Smoking” signs was <75% in universities, schools, government buildings, hospitals, restaurants, cafes, and bars and nightclubs, and <50% in dining areas of schools, government buildings, malls and hospitals. “No Smoking” signs indoors were more often visible in universities and schools (>95%), as well as government buildings, malls, restaurants, cafes and traditional coffee houses (>90%). They were less likely to be visible in hospitals and bars/nightclubs (<90%). The inclusion of fines or penalties in signage was generally very high in all types of hospitality venues (>95%), high in universities and government buildings (>90%), but lower in schools, malls and hospitals.
- The presence of smoking and cigarette butts at outdoor public places was common in all venues. The high presence of cigarette butts in many venues highlights an important environmental problem.

The study was conducted as a collaboration between investigators at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Kadir Has University, Hacettepe University, and Izmir Dokuz Eylul School of Medicine.

**The entire study report can be found at:**  
[www.globaltobaccocontrol.org/shelt](http://www.globaltobaccocontrol.org/shelt)



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