

HONG KONG: 2011- smoking prevalence

Country: Hong Kong SAR, China Daily smoking prevalence rates %. Aged 15+ Consumption and prevalence numbers								
Year	Prev Total	Prev Male	Prev Female	Per cap consumption	Number of daily smokers '000	Number E-cig Daily smokers	Number E-cig Ex-smokers	HK population millions
1982	23.3	39.7	5.6		888,400			5.239
1983	19.9	34.4	4.8		783,900			5.322
1984	18.7	32.8	4.1		744,500			5.394
1986	17.4	30.6	3.8		713,400			5.495
1988	16.8	30.0	2.9		723,900			5.592
1990	15.7	28.5	2.5		691,900			5.704
1993	14.9	27.2	2.7		687,100			5.992
1996	14.8	26.7	3.1		740,400			6.413
1998	15.0	27.1	2.9		805,100			6.550
2000	12.4	22	3.5		691,500			6.675
2003	14.4	26.1	3.6		812,200			6.745
2005	14.0	24.5	4.0		793,200			6.818
2008	11.8	20.5	3.6		679,500			6.951
2011	11.1	19.9	3.0		657,000			7.071
2012	10.7	19.1	3.1		645,000			7.154
2015	10.5	18.6	3.2		641,300	<1,000	<1,000	7.304

Sources: General or Thematic Household Surveys, Census and Statistics Dept, HK Government
 2015: E-cigarettes included for the first time (*however, the HK Customs and Excise data for excise tax paid cigarettes sold in Hong Kong versus 2014 were actually increasing:*

From: pc_tse@customs.gov.hk [mailto:pc_tse@customs.gov.hk] **On Behalf Of** customs_omsu_odca@customs.gov.hk
Sent: 09 March, 2016 10:53 AM
To: dynamco@netvigator.com
Cc: customsenquiry@customs.gov.hk
Subject: 轉寄: [Possible SPAM] Tobacco 2015

Dear Mr. Middleton, Thank you for your email of 4 March 2016.

The duty collected from tobacco products in 2015 is **HK\$ 6,297** millions. Please be informed that this Department does not possess the sales figures of cigarettes. According to our record, the duty-paid quantities of cigarettes in 2014 and 2015 are **3,149 million** sticks and **3,270 million** sticks respectively.

We hope the above information is useful to you.

P C TSE

Customs and Excise Department

	<u>HONG KONG: SUMMARY OF ACTION AND EVENTS</u>
Late 70s:	Government health education against smoking
1981/12	UICC Conference 'Cancer Education in Schools' Hong Kong
1982/12	Cancer Conference, Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society and Education Department, Hong Kong
1982/07	Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance No 58 of 1982 followed by 4 further amendments in 1983-1987) Part II: No smoking areas 3: public lifts, all single decker land public transport vehicle, except taxis and hired vehicles, lower deck of double decker land vehicles. 4: not < 50% of each class of seating in cinemas, concert halls, theatres, and of every public transport vehicle (incl ferries, trains) 5: Manager shall display prominent signs 6: Manager, etc, responsible for initial enforcement; if a problem, then s/he reports to the police 7: Fine of HK\$1,000 Part III: Sales of cigarettes and cigarette tobacco 8: single health warning on packets and advertisements 10: packets to carry tar group designation Part IV: Cigarette advertising 11: All advertisements must carry health warning & tar group (exemptions e.g. in-house journals, airline magazines, any local publication where <20% of its circulation is within HK) 12: Advertisements on radio
1982/08	Smoking (Public Health) (Regulations) L.N.311 of 1982 2: Tar group designations 8: Definitions of advertisement
1982/08	Smoking (Public Health) (Notices) Ordinance L.N.313 of 1982 Details of signs and health warnings
1983/02	Smoking (Public Health) (Notices) L.N.61 of 1983
1983	300% tobacco tax increase
1983	Administrative measures: Establishment of No-Smoking areas in schools, hospitals, clinics and food business premises, and in public waiting areas of Government Offices.
1983	Tobacco Institute of HK established (mark of success of anti-smoking campaign!)
1983/4	Major government health education campaign
1983/11	Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society and Education Department Seminar on 'Smoking and its Effects on Health'
1984/05	Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance, No 26 of 1984 Amendments to advertising bans
1984/09	Smoking (Public Health) (Specification of Newspaper Circulation) Notice 1984 Exemption for newspaper if <20% circulation or <10,000 copies in HK
1984+	Celebration of annual no-smoking day (now corresponding with WHO World No Tobacco Day)

1986/01	International Union Against Cancer/HK Anti-Cancer Society Conference: "Strategies for Smoking Control"
1986/11	Public Health and Municipal Services (Amendment) (no 2) Ordinance 1986. Redefines 'food' to include smokeless tobacco products
1987/01	Smokeless Tobacco Products (Prohibition) Regulations 1987 L.N. 9 of 1987. Ban on manufacture, importation and sale of smokeless tobacco (first in Asia)
1987/07	HK Council on Smoking and Health Ordinance 1987. Establishment of HK Council on Smoking and Health (first government-funded council in Asia)
1989	WHO TOH medal: Dr Judith Mackay
1990	Ban on tobacco advertising on TV and radio
1991/01	APACT 4th Executive Committee Meeting
1991	Significant tobacco tax increase, finally 100%
1992	2 new NGO anti-smoking groups established: PASS (People Acting for a Smokeless Society) ASH (Action on Smoking and Health)
1992/01	Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance 1992: 2: Amendment to Cap 371 to include any place of public entertainment under the Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance (Cap 172) while open to the public. 3: Prohibition of smoking in certain designated areas 4: Prohibition of smoking (with display of signs) in all public transport carriers 6: Ban on sales of cigarettes with tar > 20 mgs. 11: Ban on tobacco advertising by radio and visual images (previously only by regulation since 12/90). 11: Ban on tobacco advertising on cinemas. 12: Definition of cigarette advertisement: a) name of company associated with the manufacture of cigarettes or cigarette tobaccos; or b) any name identified with the trade name or brand name of any cigarette or cigarette tobacco, in association with any product not being tobacco, as the sponsor of an event or as congratulating another person or thing on the achievement of, or event relating to, such person or thing and which does not mention the words 'cigarette', 'cigarettes', 'smoking', 'tobacco', or 'tobaccos' shall be deemed not to be a cigarette advertisement. i.e. ban (does not cover company name/non-tobacco product). 8&13: Increase of penalties for various offences Smoking in a no-smoking area raised from HK\$1,000 to HK\$5,000. Selling cigarettes without health warning and tar group designation: maximum fine raised from HK\$5,000 to HK\$20,000. Failure to display warning in advertisements: raised from HK\$5,000 to HK\$15,000 and a further penalty of HK\$1,500 for each day the offence continues.

1992	<p>Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) (No.2) Order 199</p> <p>2: No smoking signs strengthened.</p> <p>3: Health warnings on cigarette packets: 4 rotating warnings, 20% area, on 2 largest surfaces - specifications for printing on packets</p> <p>4: Health warnings on advertisements: - 20% of area of advertisement - specifications for printing on advertisements - advertisement shall not be obstructed, by any other structure or otherwise - the particulars shall be no less visible, legible, prominent or illuminated than the remainder of the advertisement</p> <p>6: Tar group designation: Middle to high tar range repealed</p>
1992/08	<p>Enforcement of: Prohibition of cigarette advertising in cinemas. Extension of no-smoking in designated public areas and on all public transport. Requirement to display 'No smoking' sign in prescribed manner.</p>
1993/02	<p>Enforcement of: Prohibition of sales of cigarettes with tar content >20mg. Revised definition of cigarette advertising.</p>
1993/09	<p>Announcement of 1994 measures: Prohibition of sales to under 18. Requirement of restaurants to display sign as to whether or not they have a no-smoking area.</p>
1994/01	<p>Enforcement of: Restructuring of tar group. Stronger health warnings. Health warnings and tar grouping to be more clearly displayed on packs and advertising signs.</p>
1994	<p>WHO TOH medal: Cathay Pacific Airways (DG)</p>
1994	<p>Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 1994 15D Interpretation The object of this Bill is to amend the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance to: (a) prohibit the sale of certain tobacco products to persons under the age of 18 years, and the giving of such tobacco products to such persons as part of a promotion or advertisement exercise; (b) extend the restrictions on cigarette advertising to certain tobacco products; (c) require health warnings on packaging and advertisements of certain tobacco products; and (d) require restaurants to display signs indicating whether or not they have a no-smoking area. Clauses 8-14. This bill replaces 'cigarette' with 'tobacco' for most previous ordinances. Clause 15A. Prohibition on selling or giving tobacco products to minors (operational 28 April 1995) (1) No person shall sell cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, cigar or pipe tobacco to any person under the age of 18 years.</p>

	<p>(2) No person shall, for the purpose of promotion or advertisement, give any cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, cigar or pipe tobacco to any person under the age of 18 years.</p> <p>Clause 15B. Display of sign when offering tobacco products for sale, etc (operational 28 April 1995)</p> <p>(1) Any person offering for sale, or promoting the sale, purchase, smoking or use of, cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, cigar or pipe tobacco shall place and keep in place in a prominent position at his premises or on the place of promotion a sign in English and Chinese to indicate that no cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, cigar or pipe tobacco may be sold or given to any person under the age of 18 years.</p> <p>(2) A sign required by subsection (1) shall be of the prescribed description and shall be maintained in legible condition and good order by the person offering for sale, or promoting the sale, purchase, smoking or use of, cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, cigars or pipe tobacco.</p> <p>Clause 15C. Offences under Part IVA</p> <p>(1) Any person who contravenes section 15A or 15B commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of HK\$15,000.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and further definitions and explanation of terms.</p>
1994/10	<p>Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance 1994</p> <p>Clause 2. The Smoking (Public Health)(Notices) Order (Cap 371 sub.leg) is amended by adding cigars and pipe tobacco, so that the 4 health warnings must be borne by packets, containers, drums or wrappers of cigars and pipe tobacco. Where a cigar is sold individually, the health warning shall be printed on the surface of the drum or wrapper containing it.</p> <p>Clause 4B. Restaurant signs (description and size - [minimum size 15cm square])</p>
1995/05	World No Tobacco week celebrated
1995/06	Philip Morris sponsors 'The Phantom of the Opera'
1995/08	Goldlion announces cigarette production in China
1995	Recognition of cigarette brand names and logos by young children in Hong Kong. Tobacco Control 1995;4:150-155.
1995/10	Education Dept launches Anti-smoking teaching kit
1995/10	Governor Chris Patten's tennis shorts bear Marlboro logo
1995/10	"Cigarette Smoking in Hong Kong - How Many it Kills and How Much it Costs", The Hong Kong Practitioner, October 95, Vol 17, No 10, 482
1995/11	China factory produces 1997 Handover Commemorative cigarette
1995	Estimated Cost of In-patient Days in Hospital Authority Hospitals due to the three Major Smoking-Related Diseases, 1995: HK\$ 535 million (US\$ 70 million)
1996/03	Allen Carr Easyway Quit clinics open in HK
1996/04	Ban on smoking in government premises
1996/10	1996 South East Asia Regional Conference on Smoking and Health, Theme: Smoking and Health 2000
1996/11	Champagne Reception Launch of Marlboro Fine Art (Asia) Ltd. in the China Club. Many eminent persons attended the launch, including the British Trade Commissioner, Francis Cornish.
1997/03	<p>BAT China dinner in support of the HK Arts Festival.</p> <p>Attended by former director of Government Information Services Irene Yau, legislators Allen Lee and Philip Wong, Customs and Excise Commissioner Lawrence Li and his wife.</p>

1997	Clear the Air established
1997/06	<p>SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1997</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bans on display tobacco advertising, including outdoor billboards and ads on the whole sides of buildings - Bans on all print advertising - Bans on placing cigarette advertisement on Internet - Bans on cigarette brand name sponsorship - Bans on the use of cigarettes as promotional gifts - Bans on cigarette vending machines - Mandatory bans on smoking in public areas in department stores, shopping malls, supermarkets, banks - Mandatory no smoking areas of one third of seats in restaurants over 200 seats - Bans on packets of less than 20 cigarettes - Lowering of maximum tar level from 20 mgs to 17 mgs - Banning terms like 'mild' unless < 9 mgs tar (staggered implementation)
1997/11	Police survey: 47% males and 12% females smokers.
1997	4,411 fires attributable to careless smoking (1996: 5,485).
1998/04	Ban on vending machines
1998	Ban on placing tobacco advert on Internet
1998	WHO TOH medal: Professor TH Lam (DG)
1998	'Hong Kong Children's Charter: The Right to Freedom from the Harm of Tobacco' launched
1998/07	<p>SFA in all indoor areas open to the public in shopping malls, department stores, super-markets and banks</p> <p>Ban on giving of tobacco products to minors for the purposes of promotion</p>
1999/05	<p>Restaurants providing more than 200 seats required to designate not less than 1/3 of the area as statutory no-smoking area.</p> <p>Ban on sale of cigarettes in packets of less than 20 sticks.</p> <p>Ban on sale of cigarettes with a yield exceeding 17 mg.</p> <p>New requirements for warning labels to be printed on cigarette packs.</p>
1999/06	Ban on tobacco display advertisement
1999/12	Ban on tobacco advertisement in the printed media
2001	DOH Tobacco Control Office established
2006	WHO FCTC came into effect (via China)
2006	<p>Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance 2006, Hong Kong</p> <p>Ban on smoking in offices and restaurants</p> <p>6 pictorial health warnings (in effect 2007)</p>
2009	Tobacco tax 50% increase in Budget
2009	Ban on INDIVIDUALS smoking in bars, karaoke, bath houses, massage parlours but no patrol capability due to understaffing – act only 2-3 days later on telephone complaints
2010	Budget: ban on imported duty free cigarettes (max 19)
2011	Budget: Tax increase 41.5% excise now HK\$ 34 per pack only
2014	Budget: Tax increase only HK\$ 4 per pack – Total excise is now \$38 only

2015	Government received \$ 6.297 billion tobacco excise in 2015 but spent only \$ 160 million on Tobacco Control Office and of that sum, only \$ 22 million on COSH – Again the Financial Secretary (aka GOD) ignored the expert advice of a Government funded department – is that Value for Money ?
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COSH response to the tobacco control policies proposed by The Budget

2016.02.24 <http://smokefree.hk/en/content/web.do?page=news20160224>

Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) expressed disappointment for the decision of the Financial Secretary in The 2016-17 **Budget that the tobacco tax will not be raised.**

Mr Antonio KWONG, COSH Chairman reiterated, "Raising tobacco tax is one of the effective measures to lower the smoking prevalence and safeguard the public health in Hong Kong. A relative large increase in tobacco tax has proven significant in encouraging smoking cessation in the past. **Therefore, COSH has sent an open letter to the Financial Secretary to call for raising tobacco tax by 100%. Tobacco tax is again frozen this year which will further weaken the price effect on reducing tobacco consumption.**"

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), **raising tobacco tax is the single most effective measure to reduce tobacco use and encourage smoking cessation.** In Hong Kong, calls received by the Integrated Smoking Cessation Hotline of the Department of Health increased drastically after substantial increase in tobacco tax in the past. It was a solid evidence of the effectiveness of tobacco tax on motivating smoking cessation. The WHO's Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2015 recommended that raising tobacco tax to more than 75% of the retail price is among the most effective and cost-effective tobacco control intervention which costs little to implement and increases government revenues. Over 30 countries have raised tobacco tax to more than 75% of the retail price.

Cigarette price of the major brands in Hong Kong is about HK\$55 per pack. **Tobacco tax is accounted for about 69% only. It is also low when compared to other developed regions such as Australia (about HK\$124), New Zealand (about HK\$113), United Kingdom (about HK\$99) and Singapore (about HK\$81). According to Dr Hana ROSS, an international expert of tobacco control economics, the real price of Hong Kong cigarette in 2013 had increased by only 25% from 1989 after deducting inflation. Besides, the average income in Hong Kong also raised, meaning that the affordability on tobacco products of Hong Kong smokers had actually increased.**

COSH reaffirms that there is no causal link between tobacco tax increase and illicit cigarette smuggling. However, the tobacco industry and its supporting organizations continue to exaggerate the situation of smuggling in Hong Kong and express strong opposition against tobacco tax increase under the pretext that it will lead to a surge in illicit cigarette smuggling. WHO has already rejected the data of the organizations supported by the tobacco industry, e.g. International Tax and Investment Centre, which intended to undermine the tobacco tax and price policy. It is unreasonable and ineffective to solve the smuggling problem by freezing tobacco tax. The most effective measure to combat smuggling and illegal trade of tobacco products is strict enforcement.

Tobacco use is a huge burden to individuals as well as the whole society. Smoking not only causes about 7,000 loss of lives in Hong Kong every year, but also incurs considerable medical expenses and loss of productivity. COSH strongly advises the Government to formulate a proactive and long-term policy on raising tobacco tax. The Government should also strengthen the multi-pronged tobacco control measures, including allocating more resources on smoke-free education, smoking cessation services and enforcement to combat smuggling in order to reduce the smoking prevalence to single digit and achieve a smoke-free Hong Kong as soon as possible.
