

Compliance with Smoke-free Policies in Public Venues

Qingdao, China

Fact Sheet

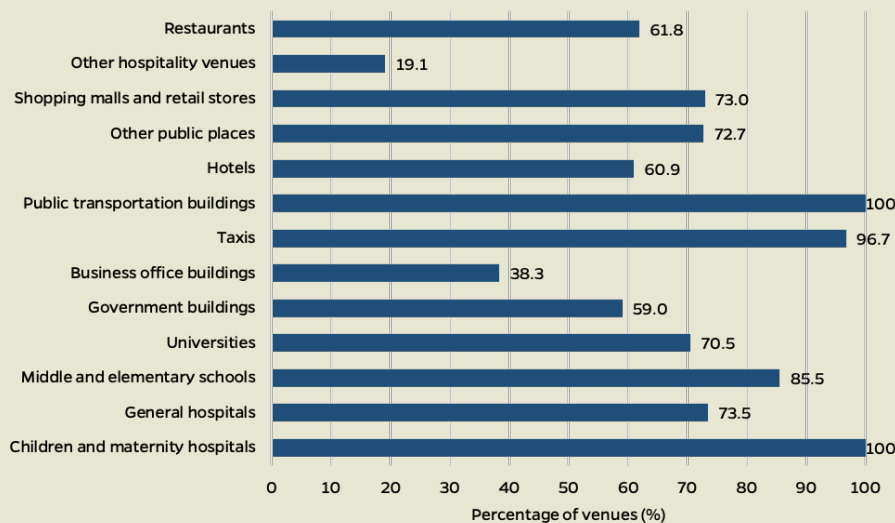
Background

China has made some progress in developing and implementing tobacco control policies especially in establishing smoke-free areas. Despite the absence of a national smoke-free law, a number of subnational jurisdictions in China have developed and enforced smoke-free laws. Qingdao, for example, has a municipal legislation that went into effect on September 1, 2013 that completely bans indoor smoking in all public places. The objective of this study was to assess smoke-free compliance in different public places across five districts in Qingdao.



Results

Figure 1. Percentage of venues that are compliant with the composite indicator assessing “evidence of smoking” - by venue category

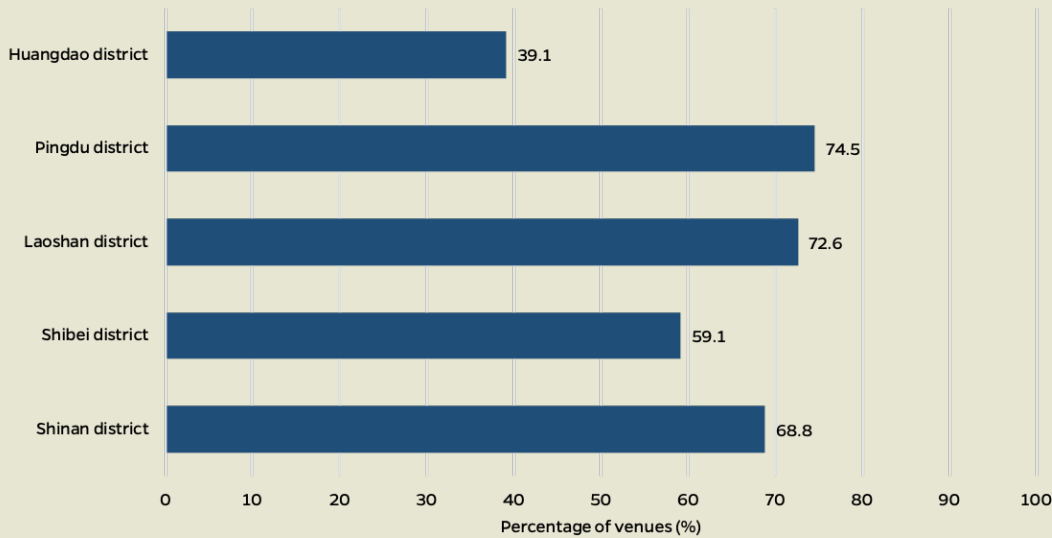


A venue was considered compliant with the composite indicator assessing “evidence of smoking” if it met the following criteria:

1. No one is observed smoking inside
2. No cigarette butts found inside
3. No ashtrays or other instruments used to hold cigarette ash found inside

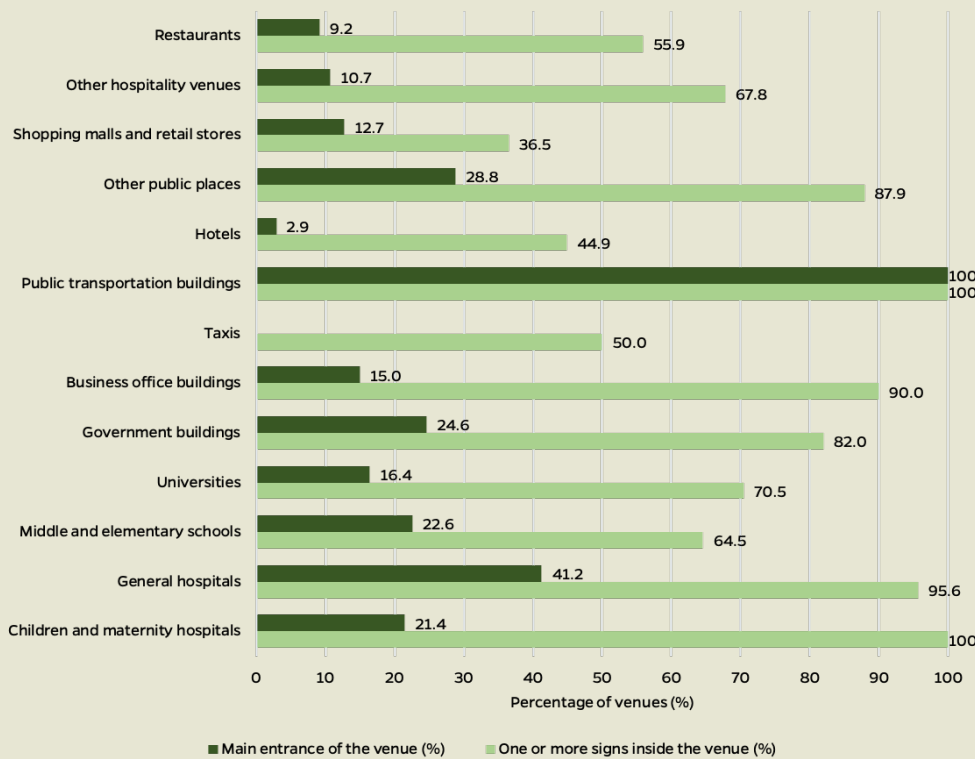
- All (100%) children’s and maternity hospitals, and the single public transportation building (airport) observed, were compliant with the composite indicator assessing evidence of smoking
- Only 19% of the “other hospitality venues” (which includes pubs/bars, internet cafes, game rooms, billiard rooms, clubs and karaoke) were compliant; among these “other hospitality venues”, none (0%) of the clubs, and only 5% of pubs/bars were compliant

Figure 2. Percentage of venues that are compliant with the composite indicator assessing “evidence of smoking” - by district



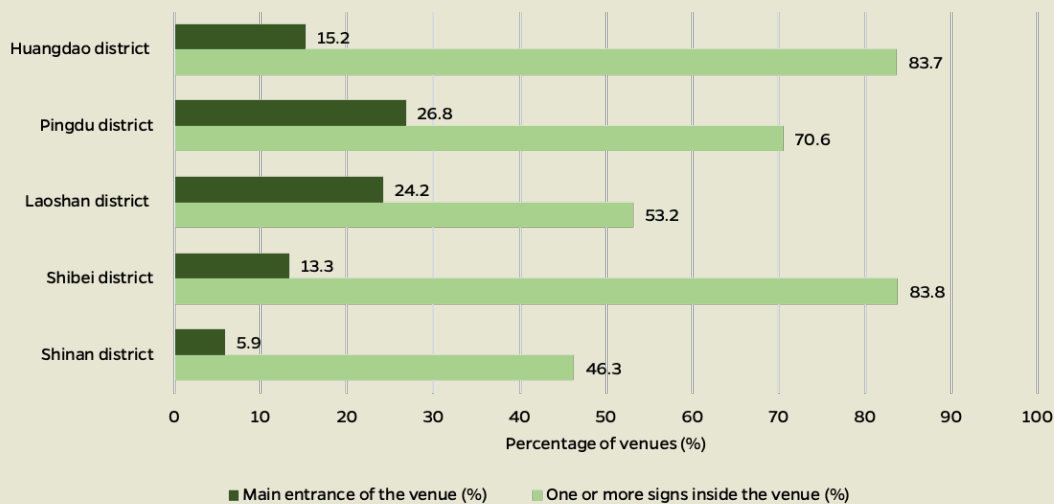
- Approximately three-quarters of venues in Pingdu (75%) and Laoshan (73%) were compliant
- Less than half (39%) of all venues in Huangdao were compliant

Figure 3. Percentage of venues that are compliant with no-smoking signage - by venue category



- Apart from the single public transportation building (airport) observed, the display of no-smoking signs at the main entrance was low across all venues in Qingdao; only 3% of hotels, and 9% of restaurants had a no-smoking sign visibly posted at the main entrance
- Less than 20% of all “other hospitality venues” (11%), shopping malls and retail stores (13%), business office buildings (15%), and universities (16%), had no smoking-signs posted at the main entrance
- All (100%) children’s and maternity hospitals, and 96% of general hospitals, had one or more no-smoking signs posted inside the building; whereas 37% of shopping malls and retail stores had one or more no-smoking signs posted inside
- Display of no-smoking signs inside the venue was lowest among hotels, where less than half (45%) had signage posted inside

Figure 4. Percentage of venues that are compliant with no-smoking signage - by district



- The display of no-smoking signs at the entrance was low across all districts in Qingdao
- Approximately 84% of venues in Huangdao and Shibei had one or more no-smoking signs posted inside, whereas fewer than half (46%) of all venues in Shinan had one or more no-smoking signs posted inside the venue
- Approximately one-quarter of venues in Pingdu (27%) and Laoshan (24%), and fewer than one quarter of venues in Huangdao (15%), Shibei (13%), and Shinan (6%) had a no-smoking sign visibly posted at the main entrance

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) and Vital Strategies China, trained local data collectors to follow data collection protocols and conduct observations in each of the identified public venues. Data collectors used smartphones equipped with the survey application to support the observational data collection, which was conducted during business hours. Data were collected between October - November 2018. Comprehensive lists and a walking protocol were used to identify the public venues to be sampled. A total of 791 venues from 5 districts were included in the final sample.

Discussion

These findings suggest the need for enhanced smoke-free enforcement across all public venues and districts, in particular “other hospitality venues” and business offices located across Qingdao, where less than half of all venues observed were compliant; and public venues located in the Huangdao district. Compliance with no-smoking signage varied by district and venue type, however enforcement efforts concerning signage should prioritize all public venues apart from public transportation buildings. Furthermore, enforcement efforts concerning display of no-smoking signage should prioritize public venues located in the Shinan district. Clear instructions from concerned authorities on where to place the signs, and wider distribution of standardized no-smoking signs, are needed in order to improve compliance.

Achieving compliance with local tobacco-control policies is crucial due to the serious health risks associated with tobacco smoke, and enforcement agencies must work with venue managers to ensure public places and workplaces are complying with Qingdao’s smoke-free legislation. This assessment shows it is possible to establish 100% smoke-free indoor public places in Qingdao in the near future, and that enhanced enforcement can accelerate that objective.