

Compliance with Smoke-free Policies in Public Venues

Lanzhou, China

Fact Sheet

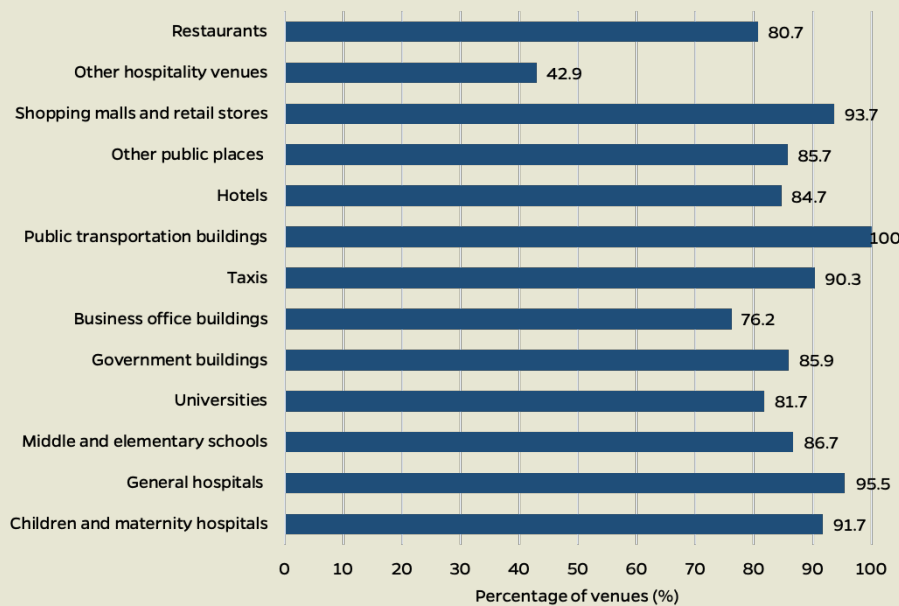
Background

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. Lanzhou, for example, has a municipal legislation that went into effect on January 1, 2014, that completely bans smoking in a number of public places. The objective of this study was to assess smoke-free compliance in different public places across Lanzhou.



Results

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

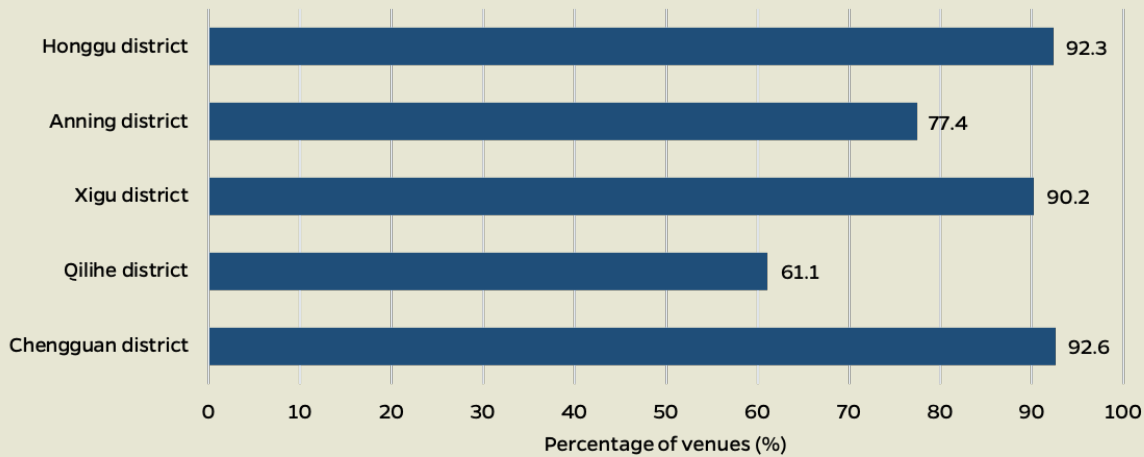


A venue was considered compliant with the composite indicator assessing “evidence of smoking” if it met the following criteria:

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

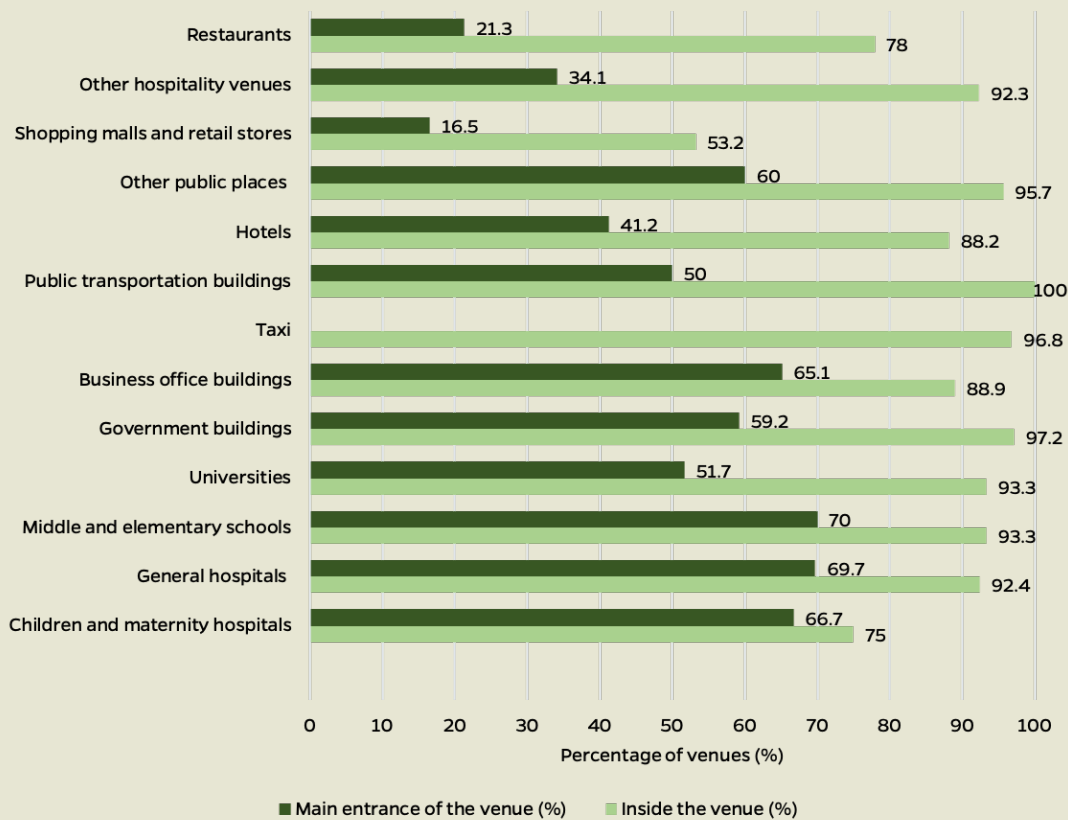
- Most (96%) of the general hospitals, and both (100%) public transportation buildings (an airport and a bus station) observed, were compliant with the composite indicator assessing evidence of smoking
- Less than half (43%) of “other hospitality venues” (which includes pubs/bars, internet cafes, game rooms, billiard rooms, clubs, karaoke) were compliant with the composite indicator assessing evidence of smoking

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



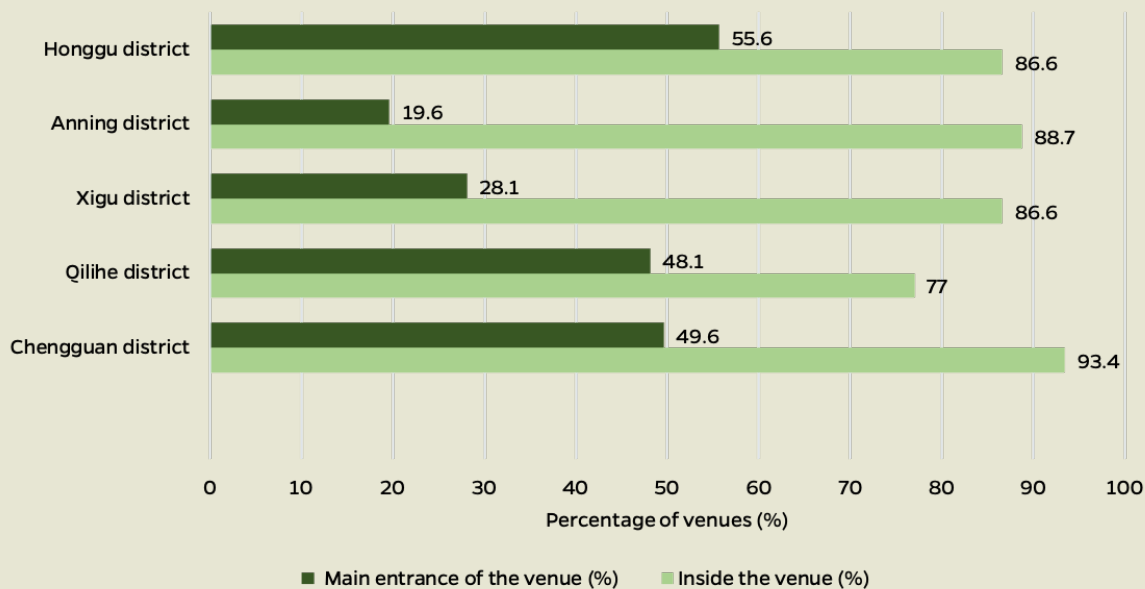
- Approximately 93% of venues observed in Honggu and Chengguan were compliant with the composite indicator assessing evidence of smoking
- 61% of venues observed in Qilihe were compliant

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



- Seventy percent of middle schools and general hospitals had no-smoking signs visibly posted at the main entrances; whereas less than one-quarter of shopping malls and retail stores (17%) and restaurants (21%) had no-smoking signs visibly posted at the main entrances
- Both public transportation buildings observed (100%), and 97% of the taxis and government buildings observed, had no-smoking signs visibly posted inside the venue; whereas approximately half of all shopping malls and retail stores observed (53%) had no-smoking signs visibly posted inside the venue

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



- Approximately half of all venues observed in Qilihe (49%) and Chengguan (50%) had no-smoking signs visibly posted at their main entrances
- Fewer than one-quarter (20%) of all venues observed in Anning had no-smoking signs visibly posted at the main entrance
- The majority (93%) of venues observed in Chengguan had one or more no-smoking signs posted inside the venue; whereas 77% of all venues observed in Qilihe had one or more no-smoking signs posted inside

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 840 venues from 5 districts were included in the final sample.

Discussion

These findings suggest the need for enhanced smoke-free enforcement across most public venues and districts, in particular “other hospitality venues” located across Lanzhou, and public venues located in the Qilihe 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. 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 Lanzhou’s smoke-free legislation. This assessment shows it is possible to establish 100% smoke-free indoor public places in Lanzhou in the near future, and that enhanced enforcement can accelerate that objective.