

Study Objective and Method

The objective of the study was to estimate the health cost of tobacco use on individuals, families and government in Uganda.

- ❖ A cross-sectional study, conducted in Mulago National Referral Hospital in four disease units.
- ❖ The study participants were patients diagnosed with cancer, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and diabetes.
- ❖ The study covered patients aged 30 years and above, who sought care from July 1st, 2013 to June 30th, 2014.
- ❖ Each patient sampled, one full-time caregiver was selected and interviewed.
- ❖ The study applied the cost-of-illness approach to estimate the economic cost of tobacco use in Uganda.
- ❖ The approach used a macro perspective in assessing the aggregated economic impact of tobacco use on society.
- ❖ The economic cost of tobacco use is measured in terms of direct and indirect costs.
- ❖ The method was guided by the WHO toolkit on assessment of the economic costs of smoking. http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/44596/1/9789241501576_eng.pdf

Direct cost of tobacco use

UGX 108.05 Billion
(USD 41.56 Million)

The direct cost of treating tobacco attributable illnesses in Uganda

Indirect morbidity cost of tobacco use

UGX 30.96 billion
(USD 11.91 million)

The total indirect morbidity cost annually

Indirect mortality cost of tobacco use

UGX 189.80 Billion
(USD 73.01) Million

The total indirect mortality cost annually

Total health cost of tobacco use

UGX 328.82 Billion
(USD 126.48) Million

The total annual health care, morbidity and mortality cost

Total market value of cigarettes

UGX 211.15 Billion
(USD 81.22) Million

The market value of cigarettes.

Net cost of tobacco use

UGX 117.66 Billion
(USD 45.26) Million

Cost of tobacco use and national expenditure

The cost of tobacco use constitutes 0.5 percent of GDP, while expenditure on treating tobacco induced illness was 2 percent of the national health expenditure in 2013. This means for every 1 UGX government earns from tobacco, 4 UGX is spent on treating tobacco related illness

Tobacco Income



Cost of health services

On average a patient incurred;

- ❖ UGX 140,000 (USD 58) on out patients consultations annually.
- ❖ UGX 350,000 (USD 140) on admission annually.
- ❖ UGX 40,000 (USD 16) on inpatient consultations annually.
- ❖ UGX 400,000 (USD 156) on investigations/laboratory annually.
- ❖ UGX 390,000 (USD 155) on medicines annually.

Cost of tobacco products

1. 21% of the patients had a history of tobacco use; 8% were current tobacco users and 14% had ever used tobacco.
2. 75% of the current users were using cigarettes.
3. On average, the incurred cost of tobacco is UGX 949,000 (USD 365) annually.

Direct non-health care costs

1. About half of the health care costs were on nursing care and medical procedures (44% of the total costs)
2. Two thirds (2/3) of the direct health care cost were met by patients (67%).
3. Cardiovascular disease costs, constituted a third of the total health care costs.

Other findings

The average expenditure on transport and communication was;

- ❖ UGX 391,329 (USD 156.53) to patients annually.
- ❖ UGX 706,129 (USD 282) caregivers.

