

**COMPLIANCE WITH SMOKE-FREE POLICIES IN PUBLIC SERVICES VEHICLES IN KARACHI, PAKISTAN**

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**Background**

- As Pakistan’s most populous city (~22 million people), Karachi’s public buses tend to be overcrowded with commuters (~5.6 million/day) travelling long distances
- The objective of this study was to assess compliance with smoke-free policies in public service vehicles across Karachi, which are designated smoke-free under the national tobacco control law

**Methods**

- Observational data were collected by trained data collectors between October - November 2019
- Vehicles sampled included public buses (n=43) and taxis (n=20)
- Observations pertaining to evidence of smoking, and the presence and content of no-smoking signage, were conducted
- A vehicle was considered smoke-free compliant (compliant with the “composite indicator assessing evidence of smoking”) if:
  - ✓ No one was observed smoking
  - ✓ No cigarette butt litter was found
  - ✓ No ashtrays were found

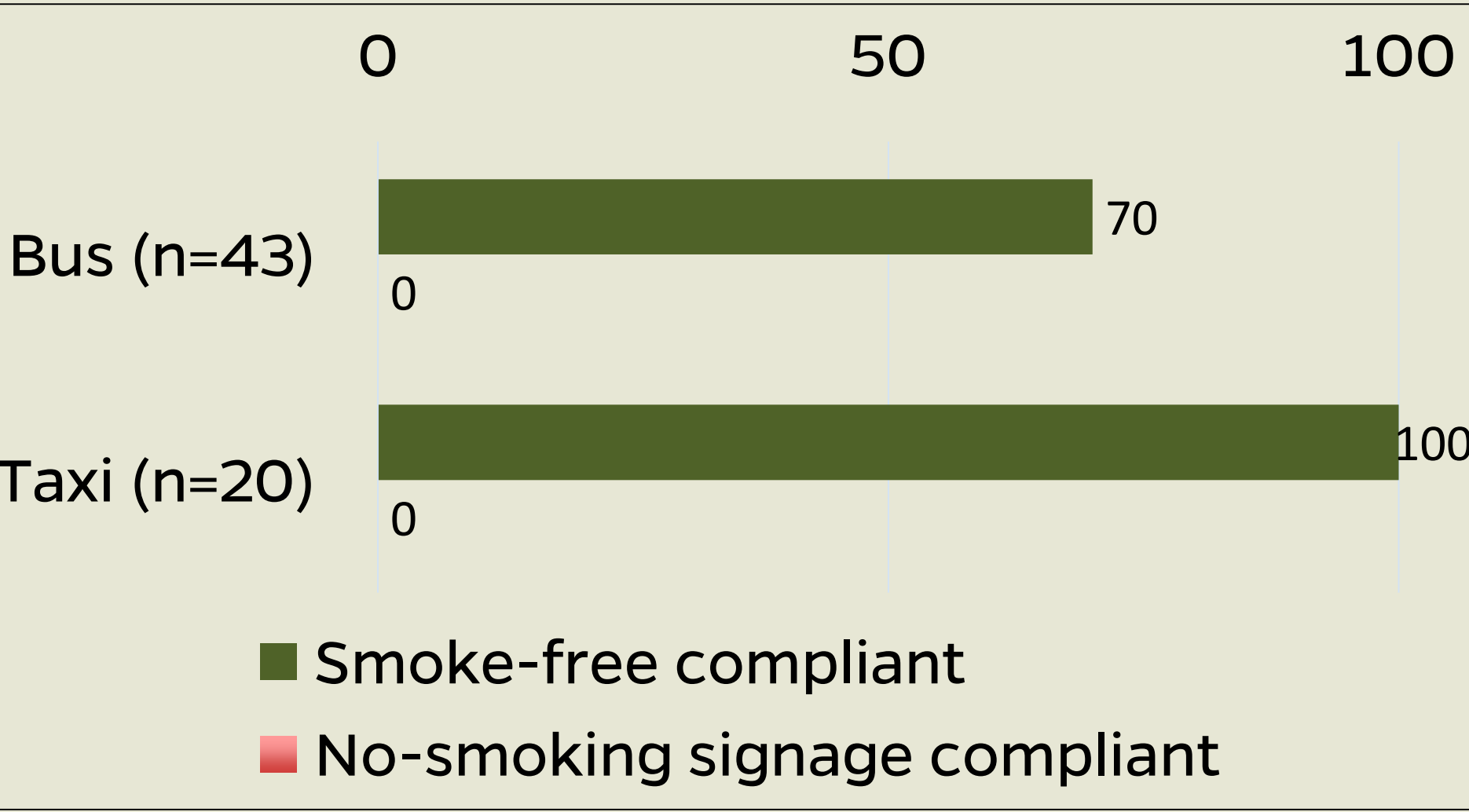
**People are still smoking on public buses operating in Karachi, despite the smoking ban.**



**[www.globaltobaccocontrol.org](http://www.globaltobaccocontrol.org)**

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**Results**



- All (100%) taxis were compliant
- Smoking was observed on 26% of buses, and cigarette butts were found on 21% of buses
- None (0%) of the vehicles observed had ashtrays or no-smoking signage displayed inside

**Recommendations**

- Enhanced efforts are needed to ensure all public service vehicles operating in the megacity are smoke-free
- Efforts to enforce the smoking ban must target public buses, as these are most often used by people belonging to lower income groups in Karachi
- Enforcement efforts concerning the display of no-smoking signage must target buses and taxis, and may include the provision of appropriate signage from enforcement agencies in Karachi

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