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**Intro**

Qingdao passed their smoke-free law in 2013 banning smoking in indoor public places and requiring the no-smoking signage be posted in specific locations in these venues. This study examines compliance with this law in 2018 and 2021.

**Methods**

- A mix of urban and suburban districts in Qingdao were selected as the study area.
- Trained data collectors observed 748 public settings in October-November 2018 and revisited these venues in September-October 2021 for “evidence of smoking” (a composite measure including active smoking, ashtrays, cigarette butts), and the presence and location of no-smoking signage.
- Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used to test the pre-post change

**Results**

The compliance rate of the composite indicator assessing “evidence of smoking” significantly increased from 61.4% to 72.9%.

The posting of no-smoking signage at the main entrance of venues was poor, notwithstanding it significantly increased from 16.8% to 35.2%.

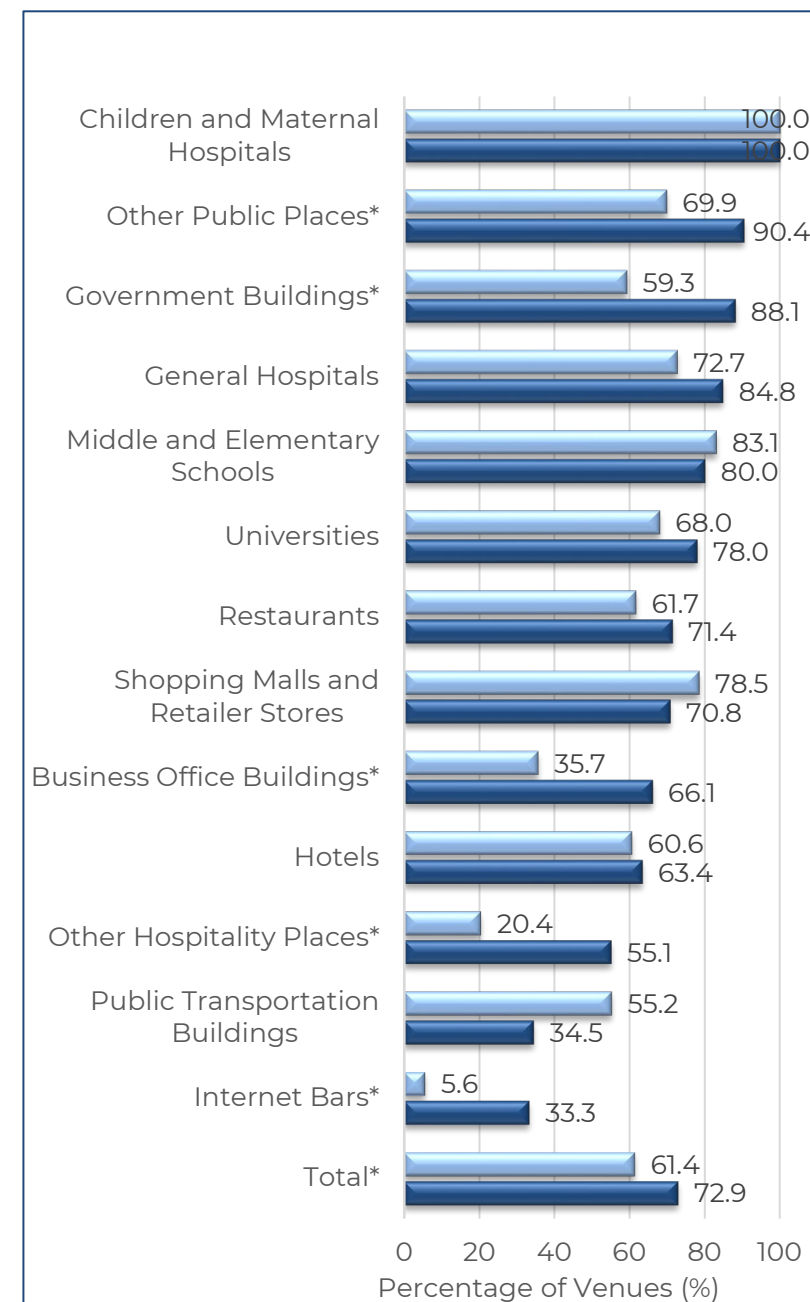
No-smoking signage was found posted inside 80.3% venues in 2021, significantly greater than 2018 (67.1%).

**Discussion**

Findings from this study provide evidence of the overall improvement in compliance with the composite indicator assessing “evidence of smoking” and display of no-smoking signage inside venues. There is an opportunity for Qingdao to further enhance enforcement in internet bars and public transportation stations. More support from the city leadership is needed to ensure sustained enforcement efforts to achieve 100% compliance with the smoke-free law in Qingdao.

**In Qingdao, China, most public and workplaces have seen improvement in compliance with smoke-free policies; however, venues like internet bars and public transport spaces are mostly non-compliant.**

**Compliance with Composite Indicator Assessing “Evidence of Smoking” by Venue Type**



\*Significant at p<0.05. ■ 2018 ■ 2021