

Mosques could benefit from

comprehensive, community-level

100% smoke-free policies

to overcome current implementation and enforcement challenges.

Working Towards 100% Smoke-Free Mosques in Indonesia:

Results of a Qualitative Study with Religious Leaders

Significance

Indonesia is the world’s most populous Muslim-majority country with 87% of the population (~231 million) being adherents. Nearly two-thirds of men (65%) and 2% of women smoke tobacco—this is the highest smoking prevalence in Southeast Asia and among the highest in the world. We explored why smoke-free policies have not been fully implemented at Mosques across Indonesia.

Methods

- Individual and group interviews were conducted between Dec. 2022–May 2023, with religious leaders from mosques in three cities: Surabaya, Makassar, and Banda Aceh



- Participants were asked about their mosque’s smoke-free policy and implementation challenges/insights
- Interviews with 34 participants from 25 mosques
- Interviews were conducted by interviewers in Bahasa; transcripts were translated to English, coded using a priori themes, and emergent themes were identified

Results

- Individual autonomy:** smoke-free policies could be considered paternalistic and in conflict with beliefs that value individual autonomy and choice
- Smoking considered “normal”:** some leaders cited community smoking norms as an impediment to banning smoking on mosque grounds or viewing smoking as a critical threat/problem
- No formal policy:** leaders in mosques often made an appeal to the community for smoke-free, rooted in the importance of maintaining cleanliness and health; some leaders shared that they would directly address smoking if they witnessed it on their property/grounds
- Leadership smoking:** mosque leaders’ own tobacco use behaviors influenced smoke-free policy decision-making and enforcement, most often with smoking in leadership hindering smoke-free success
- Outdoor smoke-free space challenges:** outdoor spaces on properties less likely than indoor spaces to be 100% smoke-free; outdoor smoking not viewed as enforcement priority, or even permitted
- Enforcement:** a few leaders mentioned a lack of support and enforcement of government policy in their region; some mosques engaged security staff to “reprimand” those smoking

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Tobacco industry	E-cigarette & nicotine product industry	Pharma industry
NO	NO	NO
NO	NO	NO

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