

# FACTSHEET

## LOCAL TOBACCO CONTROL POLICIES IN THE NETHERLANDS

In January 2020, we published [a Dutch-language report](#) about local tobacco control policies across the world. This short bulletin summarizes local tobacco control efforts in the Netherlands for readers outside of the Netherlands.

More than 100 of 355 municipalities in the Netherlands have started to develop local tobacco control policies, often as part of the movement towards a Smoke-free Generation. This movement is a national effort that strives to ensure that all children in the Netherlands grow up smoke free and started in 2015. It provides guidance to organizations and groups that want to make public spaces smoke free in order to protect the lives and health of children in the Netherlands. It is also supported by the [National Prevention Agreement](#) coordinated by the Ministry of Health, which aims to make the Netherlands smoke-free in 2040.

### SMOKE-FREE GENERATION

The movement towards a Smoke-free Generation has been initiated by the Dutch Alliance for a Smoke-free Society, a partnership of The Netherlands Lung Foundation, the Dutch Heart Foundation, the Dutch Cancer Society, and over 160 additional partners. Example of these partners are professional associations, sports associations, and insurance companies. This effort has also been embraced by a growing number of community partners, including sports clubs, schools, and municipal governments. Together these partners work to establish smoke-free public spaces for children.

### SMOKE-FREE STREETS AND SQUARES

In the Netherlands, a growing number of sport fields and playgrounds are now smoke free. National legislation will ban smoking in school grounds from August 2020. In addition, in some cities, there are initiatives to make complete streets smoke-free. For example, since February 2018, thanks to the efforts of a doctor's office located on the street, Beverwijkstraat in Amsterdam is smoke free. Sixty GP's in Amsterdam have also made the entrance of their offices smoke free. Another example is the city of Groningen, which passed a local bylaw (APV) to make a select number of public spaces near entrances of public buildings smoke free.

### MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES

The 355 Dutch municipalities are supported by 25 municipal health services. These health services are funded by municipalities in their region and help create policies that affect their municipal region. Small municipalities in particular tend to depend greatly on their municipal health service for creating public health policies. As such, municipal health services play an important role in developing local tobacco control policies in the Netherlands. Several municipalities, such as Amsterdam and Rotterdam, have written extensive policy plans for implementing future tobacco control measures. Municipal health services receive funds from the national government to implement tobacco control policies in their region. These funds are coordinated by the Association of Netherlands Municipalities and the association for municipal health regions GGD-GHOR.

### SMOKE-FREE BUS STOPS AND TRAIN STATIONS

Many people in the Netherlands use public transport every day. Yet many bus stops, train platforms, and metro platforms in the Netherlands are still permit smoking. In Rotterdam, there is a smoking ban at all Rotterdam RET tram stops. However, the ban is not currently enforced. In Amsterdam, the ferry is smoke free since January 2018. The city of Amstelveen is planning to ban smoking at all public transport stops and stations within the city limits. The city of Utrecht is investigating whether and how smoking could be banned at public transport stops within the city limits.

### FURTHER READING...

Want to know more about tobacco in the Netherlands? The following publications may be interesting for you:

- [Smoking in the Netherlands: Key statistics for 2018](#)
- [Factsheet: Water pipe \(hookah\) smoking](#)
- [Dutch Youth Health Care: From smoke-free houses to smoke-free parents](#)

Please contact Jeroen Bommelé ([jbommele@trimbos.nl](mailto:jbommele@trimbos.nl)) if you have any questions regarding this bulletin.

### NETHERLANDS EXPERTISE CENTRE FOR TOBACCO CONTROL

The Netherlands Expertise Centre for Tobacco Control (NET) is part of the Trimbos Institute. The Centre develops, collates, and disseminates independent knowledge on all aspects of tobacco use and tobacco control to health professionals, scientists, and public officials in the Netherlands. These dissemination activities include sharing information about tobacco usage, prevention options, treatment of tobacco addiction, and policy options.

### Colophon

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