

U.S. TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE INDEX 2019

The tobacco industry uses multiple tools and tactics to influence and shape tobacco control public health policy. The U.S. Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2019 explores and quantifies the indicators that are common entry points for the tobacco industry as well as the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) Article 5.3 Guidelines that strive to counter them. On a scale where lower means less tobacco industry interference and higher is worse, the United States' score is the eighth highest overall (in the top quartile) at 72/100.

5.3

Article 5.3 of the FCTC requires parties to defend their public health policies from tobacco industry interference. The U.S. has signed but not ratified the FCTC.

72

The U.S. rank in the STOP Global Tobacco Interference Index 2019 indicates a very high level of interference.

50

All 50 states in the U.S. are less protected by public health regulations because of industry interference.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE IN PUBLIC POLICY

Tobacco industry interference is the greatest obstacle to enacting effective tobacco control laws. Tobacco companies have led efforts to defeat - separately and in all 50 states - legislation to:

RESTRICT SMOKING IN WORKPLACES

DEVELOP EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR PREVENTION RESEARCH

RAISE THE PRICE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

REDUCE YOUTH ACCESS TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

LIMIT MARKETING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

INDUSTRY TOOLS AND TACTICS INCLUDE



Doubt & Controversy



Control at the Top



Boots on the Ground



Contributions & Gifts



Front Groups



Proactive Legislation

INDEX INDICATORS

LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Examples: Tobacco industry collaboration in setting and implementing tobacco control public health policies and tobacco industry collaboration drafting tobacco control policies.

INDUSTRY-RELATED CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) ACTIVITIES

BENEFITS TO THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY

Examples: The tobacco industry receiving extensions/postponement for tobacco control law implementation and the tobacco industry receiving privileges.

FORMS OF UNNECESSARY INTERACTION

Examples: The tobacco industry sponsoring events and tobacco industry assistance with enforcing tobacco control laws.

TRANSPARENCY

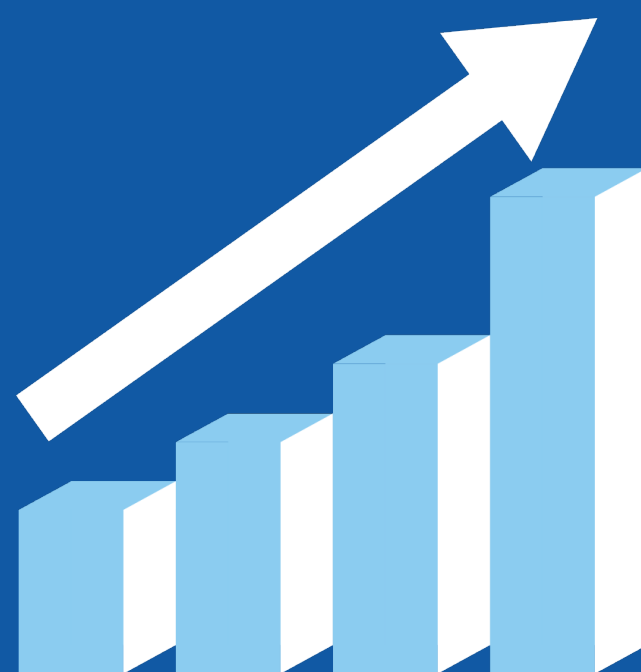
Examples: Government disclosure of tobacco industry meetings and tobacco industry registration requirements.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Examples: Tobacco industry campaign contributions and current government officials leaving to work for the tobacco industry.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Examples: FCTC Article 5.3 awareness and the government disclosing interactions with the tobacco industry.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Steps lawmakers and advocates should take to protect their citizens and to combat tobacco industry interference in public policy:



TRACK LOBBYING



INCREASE TRANSPARENCY



LIMIT CSR



EDUCATE LAWMAKERS



DIVEST FROM TOBACCO



LEVERAGE SUPPORT



ADOPT OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT/CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICIES



RAISE AWARENESS

Read the full report and learn more:

<https://ash.org/tobaccointerference>

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