

UAI JOURNAL OF EDUCATION, HUMANITIES AND LITERATURE (UAIJEHL)



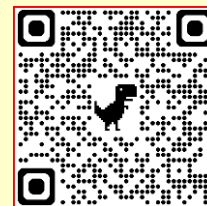
Abbreviated Key Title: UAI J Eud Huma Lit.

ISSN: 3049-3196 (Online)

Journal Homepage: <https://uaipublisher.com/uaijehl-2/>

Volume- 2 Issue- 5 (September-October) 2026

Frequency: Bimonthly



PUBLIC AWARENESS, COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL ACT, 2015: A CRITICAL REVIEW (2015– 2025)

Ogomola Charles Adayi^{1*}, Lawrence Emmanuel Delaw², Ocheja David Adama³

^{1,2} Department of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Taraba State University, Jalingo. Nigeria

³ Department of Pharmaceutical Service, Federal Medical Centre, Jalingo, Taraba State

Corresponding Author: Ogomola Charles Adayi

ABSTRACT

Background: Nigeria enacted the National Tobacco Control Act (NTCA) in 2015 (effective 2017) to implement WHO FCTC provisions on smoke-free places, packaging, advertising bans, and sales restrictions. While the legislation is comprehensive, its effectiveness depends on public awareness, stakeholder compliance, and government enforcement.

Objective: To review public awareness, vendor and industry compliance, and enforcement activities of the NTCA in Nigeria from 2015 to 2025.

Methods: We conducted a narrative review of literature (2015-2025) in PubMed, Google Scholar, conference proceedings, and NGO reports using terms like “Nigeria tobacco control act awareness,” “NTCA enforcement,” “tobacco compliance Nigeria,” etc. Relevant peer-reviewed articles, government documents, and civil society reports were synthesized thematically.

Results: Section 38 of the NTCA mandates nationwide education campaigns, and outreach materials were developed in 2018. However, baseline awareness has remained low; a 2013 Osun State study found only 38% of adults were aware of any smoking ban. Compliance is poor; many retailers ignore restrictions, selling single sticks or to minors. A 2023 survey showed that only 77% of cigarette packs met health warning rules, with just 31% complying with the minimum size. Enforcement has been weak: civil society notes that although NTCA 2015 and related regulations exist, implementation has been inadequate. Funding for the Tobacco Control Fund and capacity of enforcement agencies remain limited.

Conclusion: While Nigeria has a strong legal framework through the NTCA, public knowledge, vendor compliance, and enforcement remains inadequate. Improved public education, routine monitoring, better funding, and multi-sectoral action are needed to fully achieve the Act’s goals.

KEY WORDS: Tobacco Control, Nigeria, National Tobacco Control Act, Public Awareness, Compliance, Enforcement.

INTRODUCTION

Tobacco smoking is a leading preventable cause of death globally. In Nigeria, smoking prevalence is low at 3–4% among adults,¹ yet second-hand smoke and tobacco-related NCDs remain significant risks. The National Tobacco Control Act (NTCA) was enacted in 2015, with provisions including smoking bans in public areas, advertising restrictions, sales prohibitions to minors, health warning labels, retailer licensing, and a Tobacco Control Fund. However, effective tobacco control requires more than laws. This narrative review assesses the NTCA's implementation from 2015 to 2025, focusing on: a) Compliance by the tobacco industry and public with key provisions, b) Enforcement of penalties, and c) Public awareness of the Act.

Our evaluation draws on published research, government and NGO reports, and media coverage from 2015 to 2025. By highlighting successes and gaps, we aim to guide policymakers and advocates on Nigeria's tobacco control progress and challenges. The provisions of the National Tobacco Control Act (NTCA) 2015 (Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, Cap. N30) contains several components. This analysis identifies seven "core" provisions essential to the Act's public health contribution:

1. **Smoke-Free Public Places:** Section 9 enacts a ban on indoor public smoking and in several outdoor public places. Smoking areas are allowed but should not be more than 10% of a place's space.^{2,3} Venue owners must post "No Smoking" signs and enforce the rules. Smokers breaking the law face a ₦50,000 fine or six months in prison, while owners can be fined ₦100,000 or jailed for up to two years.^{2,4}
2. **Promotion and Advertising Bans:** Section 12 prohibits all tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship, including media ads, billboards, event sponsorships, and point-of-sale displays. Limited in-shop signage is allowed for willing adults. Violators face heavy fines (₦3,000,000 to ₦5,000,000) and prison terms of up to two years.²
3. **Sales to/by Minors:** Section 15 prohibits the sale or supply of tobacco products to individuals under 18 and forbids minors from selling tobacco. Sellers must display clear signage and verify customers' ages. Violations carry fines starting at ₦200,000 and/or up to one year imprisonment for individuals, and ₦400,000 for corporations.²
4. **Prohibition Sales of Single-Stick:** Sections 15 (5–7) bans the sale of a cigarette or loose tobacco in quantities less than a package of 20 sticks or 30 grams for loose tobacco. The sale of an individual cigarette is banned. Offences duplicate those of the provision of minors' sales.²
5. **Pictorial Warnings on Packs:** Section 20 and associated regulations demand packs of tobacco to carry large pictorial health warnings covering no less than 50% of the front and rear panels. Warning requirements are outlined in the Standards for Tobacco and Tobacco Products,⁵ while rotation every two years is demanded by the NTCA.⁶ Offenses carry heavy penalties: producers and importers face fines of at least ₦5,000,000 and/or two years' imprisonment, while retailers risk fines of ₦200,000 or up to one year in prison.²

6. **Product Licensing:** Section 29 requires manufacturers, importers, and dealers of tobacco products to obtain a license from the Minister of Health, excluding retailers. Existing licenses remain valid, and the Minister may set additional terms or revoke licenses.²
7. **Tobacco Control Fund (TCF):** Section 8 mandates a dedicated Tobacco Control Fund, supported by federal appropriations, state subventions, and voluntary donor contributions. The fund is utilized for enforcing, public education, smoking cessation, and other tobacco control endeavors.²

Combined, these provisions position Nigeria's NTCA as one of the strongest tobacco control legislations in Africa. The actual test, however, is how effectively these legislations have been implemented. The following sections evaluate each provision's level of compliance, enforcement, and public awareness.

SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

Compliance

Despite the comprehensive smoking bans in Sections 9 and 10 of the National Tobacco Control Act, compliance remains notably low.² Survey data and empirical studies reveal persistent smoking in venues that are officially smoke-free. A policy analysis noted that, despite the ban, major Nigerian cities still encounter smoky streets and restaurants.⁴ Oladepo et al. (2018) estimated only 3 to 5 genuinely smoke-free public places across the country, with high rates of secondhand smoke exposure among youth. For example, a 2008 youth survey reported 35–56% exposure in public areas, while the 2012 Global Adult Tobacco Survey found 7–8% of adults exposed indoors in restaurants and bars.⁷ This data, predating the Act, highlights ongoing poor compliance.

More recent research supports these findings. A 2023 Lagos survey showed over half of teens had seen someone smoke in prohibited places, yet only 14.1% believed enforcement was strong.⁸ Furthermore, Retailers acknowledged allowing smoking in their shops, with qualitative analysis confirming frequent violations.⁹ Overall, many "no-smoking" areas in Nigeria function as unofficial smoking zones, reflecting a widespread failure to enforce the law effectively.

Enforcement

The Nigerian Tobacco Control Act (NTCA) prohibits selling tobacco products to minors and minors selling tobacco, with penalties including fines from ₦200,000 and up to one-year imprisonment. However, enforcement remains largely theoretical. Despite a 2017 government announcement promising enforcement of age restrictions and banning single-stick sales, little action has been taken¹. As of 2025, no prosecutions of vendors under these laws have been documented.

Health advocates report widespread illegal sales to minors across kiosks nationwide without arrests or penalties.⁴ Key issues include the absence of clear guidelines and resources for regulators and law enforcement to conduct effective age verification at points of sale. Occasional inspections find ID checks too complex to implement regularly. Without consistent inspections and visible enforcement of sanctions, the legal ban on selling tobacco to minors remains ineffective in practice, failing to protect youth from tobacco access.

Public Awareness

The overall understanding of the NTCA's ban on sales to minors

under 18 is relatively well-known but still insufficient. Surveys in Lagos show most students correctly identify 18 as the legal purchase age and support the ban.⁸ However, fewer students know detailed compliance rules, such as the requirement to ask for identification or the legal penalties for violations. Many students report witnessing teenagers buying cigarettes easily, implying unawareness or skepticism about enforcement. Public awareness among parents, teachers, and community leaders is also low, with superficial knowledge of age restrictions. Media coverage rarely addresses legal aspects, focusing instead on health risks. NGOs campaigning on youth tobacco use mainly emphasize health dangers, not the law. Despite general agreement that minors should be restricted from tobacco, weak knowledge of specific NTCA provisions and penalties undermines deterrence, leading to persistent non-compliance.

SINGLE-STICK SALES BAN

Compliance

The NTCA prohibits selling loose cigarettes, requiring tobacco products to be sold in sealed packs of at least 20 (Section 15(5-7)).² This law aims to reduce youth access and discourage irresponsible use. However, the sale of single cigarettes remains widespread in Nigeria, especially at informal retail outlets like kiosks and small vendors, who openly sell singles in plastic bags or by hand, openly violating the law.

A 2018 Environews Nigeria study found single cigarettes easily purchased in urban areas despite the ban.¹² Likewise, the 2025 Leadership newspaper highlights that single-cigarette sales are widespread across Nigeria, including sales to children.¹⁵ This problem is especially severe in poor urban slums and rural areas where many cannot afford full packs. Vendors express doubts about the ban's effectiveness, fearing it threatens their livelihoods and seeing the law as disconnected from reality.⁹ Weak enforcement of the ACT has allowed these illegal sales to continue and become normalized.

Enforcement

Despite a clear ban on single-stick sales in the NTCA, enforcement remains practically non-existent. Authorities mention the ban alongside other provisions, but no crackdowns or prosecutions have been reported. Although the 2017 government announcement included the ban, no follow-up actions have occurred.⁴ Some states like Lagos pledge enforcement, yet reality contradicts these promises. Penalties match those for sales to minors (fine $\geq$ ₦200,000),² but no retailer has faced prosecution for single-stick sales. Critics argue that enforcing this ban would require major reforms in tobacco retail practices, which neither government nor vendors are ready for. Thus, as of 2025, the ban remains largely a dream.

Public Awareness

Awareness of the illegality of single-stick cigarette sales is low among both consumers and vendors. Many buyers view single sticks as merely cheap, informal sales and are rarely informed otherwise by sellers. A 2023 survey of college students showed limited knowledge of tobacco sales laws; although most knew the legal age is 18, few mentioned the single-stick ban spontaneously.⁸ Even among vendors, studies reveal that many sellers are unaware that loose cigarettes have been banned since 2015.⁹ Due to weak enforcement, public messaging such as signs or media campaigns about this rule is rare. Like several other NTCA provisions, the

single-stick ban suffers from poor enforcement and minimal public promotion, resulting in negligible awareness nationwide.

PACK HEALTH WARNINGS

Compliance

The National Tobacco Control Act (NTCA) and related packaging regulations mandate graphic health warnings cover at least 50% of the front and back surfaces of tobacco packaging. The Tobacco Pack Surveillance System (TPackSS) survey (2019-2020) assessed compliance by examining cigarette packs from three Nigerian cities. Findings showed that while 77% of packs met general labeling standards, only 31% complied with the 50% coverage requirement. Compliance was higher for warning placement and required textual information, exceeding 85%.⁶ This suggests that many producers use warnings but often fail to meet size requirements, possibly due to carrying over old inventory or intentional noncompliance.

The study also found persistent use of outdated, text-only warnings despite NTCA's push for rotating pictorial messages.³ Non-cigarette tobacco products like cigars and smokeless tobacco showed even lower compliance, with some lacking health warnings entirely.³ Overall, cigarette packs commonly display warnings, but the Nigerian tobacco industry's partial adherence to graphic and size standards reveals tensions between legal mandates and business practices.

Enforcement

The National Tobacco Control Act (NTCA) imposes severe penalties for non-compliance with packaging warning requirements, including up to two years' imprisonment and a minimum ₦5 million fine for manufacturers, and one year's imprisonment plus ₦200,000 fine for retailers.² However, enforcement remains weak in practice. The Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) oversees health warning approvals but lacks publicly available records of inspections, fines, or legal actions against violators. Compliance monitoring largely depends on independent civil society initiatives like the Tobacco Pack Surveillance System (TPackSS), rather than government-led enforcement.⁶

The lack of state-driven enforcement mechanisms means compliance often depends more on external influences like international trade standards and NGO pressure than on national regulatory efforts. This reflects a broader trend in low- and middle-income countries, where strong tobacco laws exist but enforcement is hampered by limited capacity and political will.³ Consequently, despite Nigeria's legal requirements for warning labels, consistent compliance within the tobacco sector remains elusive.

Public Awareness

Graphic health warnings on cigarette packages play a crucial role in educating consumers about tobacco's dangers by frequently reminding both smokers and non-smokers of associated health risks. Despite this exposure, many Nigerians remain unaware of the NTCA's specific packaging requirements, such as the law's mandate for warnings to cover at least 50% of the pack.

Most smokers recognize the need for warnings but are not familiar with the detailed legal criteria. Nigeria had warning labels before the NTCA, stemming from a 2014 standard that fostered a "warning culture".³ However, publicity about newer provisions, including rotating graphic images and stricter placement rules, has been poor. Unlike other countries, Nigeria has not launched significant consumer or retailer education campaigns accompanying these

changes.

The NTCA depends on graphic warnings as passive educational tools rather than relying on public legal knowledge for compliance. This lack of formal awareness about labeling requirements weakens the law's deterrent effect. Despite their visibility, both vendors and smokers have limited understanding of the NTCA's packaging regulations and the broader public health rationale behind these warnings.

PRODUCT LICENSING

Compliance

Section 29 of the NTCA requires tobacco manufacturers, importers, and wholesalers in Nigeria to obtain licences. This requirement is intended to strengthen supply-chain oversight and reduce illicit trade.² However, information on compliance and enforcement remains limited. Unlike consumer-facing measures, the licensing system operates largely within regulatory institutions and is not widely visible to the public.

No official or independent study has systematically assessed licensing procedures, compliance rates, or enforcement under the NTCA. Anecdotal evidence suggests that major companies, including British American Tobacco, transferred licences issued under the 1990 law through the Act's transitional provisions.² New market entrants must register under the current framework, yet no public data show how many licences have been issued, renewed, or revoked since implementation began.

Nigeria's largely informal tobacco market creates further challenges. Small producers and importers may operate without licences or present themselves as distributors to avoid regulation. These practices weaken supply-chain oversight and create major enforcement gaps.

Enforcement

The NTCA does not provide detailed procedures for administering or enforcing its licensing requirements. Section 29 requires licences for manufacturers, importers, and wholesalers but leaves key details to regulations that had not been issued by 2025.² It also specifies no direct penalties, relying instead on the Act's general offence provisions. This ambiguity weakens enforceability.

Monitoring industry compliance also remains difficult. No publicly documented sanctions, closures, or penalties have been reported for operating without a licence. Actions against smuggling and counterfeit tobacco generally proceed under customs or criminal law rather than the NTCA licensing system. The requirement is therefore largely symbolic. Without clear regulations, public records, and enforceable sanctions, compliance cannot be reliably assessed and is likely limited. This undermines the Act's goal of comprehensive supply-chain control.

Public Awareness

NTCA licensing operates largely outside public view. Unlike health warnings and sales restrictions, it regulates manufacturers, importers, and distributors rather than consumers. Public awareness is therefore very low, while knowledge within tobacco companies is often confined to legal and regulatory staff. The absence of visible measures, such as tax stamps or public licence registers, further reduces transparency and accountability.

This lack of transparency limits media scrutiny, civil society oversight, and enforcement pressure. As a result, licensing remains

an underused and largely hidden part of Nigeria's tobacco control framework.

TOBACCO CONTROL FUND (TCF)

Funding and Implementation

Section 8 of the National Tobacco Control Act (NTCA) established the Tobacco Control Fund (TCF) to support enforcement, public education, cessation services, and other tobacco control activities.² The fund was designed to receive federal appropriations, state contributions, and external donations. However, it has remained severely underfunded. After years without an allocation, the federal government provided ₦4.7 million in 2023, about US\$12,000. Civil society groups criticized this amount as merely symbolic and far below operational needs.¹³

Funding rose modestly to ₦10 million in 2024 and ₦13 million in 2025, approximately US\$30,000.¹³ These amounts remain inadequate for Nigeria's population and tobacco-related health burden. Civil society groups estimate that at least ₦300 million, about US\$700,000, is needed annually for basic tobacco control activities.^{13, 11} By comparison, the proposed 2025 health budget allocated ₦150 million, approximately US\$360,000, to the Cancer Health Fund.¹⁴ The TCF's limited funding restricts inspections, awareness campaigns, and cessation training, weakening the NTCA's overall impact.

Enforcement and Utilization

Persistent underfunding has made TCF largely ineffective. The NTCA assigns oversight to the National Tobacco Control Committee (NATCOM) and the Tobacco Control Unit (TCU) within the Federal Ministry of Health, but both bodies have operated weakly. The TCU mainly performs general administrative duties, while NATCOM meets irregularly. No reports or financial disclosures on the fund's use have been published. Without a functional budgeting system, key activities such as recruiting inspectors, conducting surveys, and running awareness campaigns have not been implemented. The fund therefore remains largely nominal. One public health advocate stated that the funding gap has "made legislative efforts at tobacco control ineffective."¹³ Enforcement continues to depend mainly on reassigned civil servants and volunteers rather than dedicated personnel and resources.

Public Awareness

Public awareness of the TCF is extremely low. Although the fund is part of the NTCA, it has not featured in public education or outreach campaigns. Most Nigerians therefore know little about its existence or role in financing tobacco control. This limited visibility has also reduced public pressure on the government to fund and operationalize it. Health-focused NGOs have raised concerns through press statements, open letters, and media engagement,^{13, 11} but the discussion has largely remained within advocacy circles. The public has seen few tangible benefits, such as subsidized cessation services or large-scale health campaigns, that would demonstrate the fund's purpose. Consequently, most people remain unaware of both the TCF and the consequences of its failure. The mechanism intended to support NTCA compliance, and enforcement therefore remains dormant and largely invisible to the population it was created to protect.

ENFORCEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Nigeria's National Tobacco Control Act (NTCA) reflects strong legislative intent, but several linked factors weaken enforcement. Tobacco industry interference has also affected implementation. Egbe et al. (2019) identified industry-friendly provisions, including designated smoking areas and industry representation in regulatory bodies. The Standards Organisation of Nigeria also includes tobacco industry members in regulatory processes, raising conflicts of interest that may hinder enforcement.

Nigeria also faces an implementation gap common in many low- and middle-income countries. After the NTCA was enacted in 2015, key regulations on issues such as smoke-free zones and licensing were substantially delayed. Egbe et al. (2019) and Oladebo et al. (2018) reported that many essential operational rules were still absent in early 2018. Regulations introduced in 2019 were neither widely publicized nor effectively enforced.

Enforcement capacity under the NTCA remains limited. Police officers and health inspectors have competing responsibilities and often lack specialized tobacco control training. Retail inspections are rare, and identified violations frequently go unpunished because of legal and administrative barriers. A 2025 *Leadership* report described enforcement agencies as underfunded and largely inactive, warning that the NTCA would remain at risk without strict enforcement.¹⁵

Low public awareness and established social attitudes further weaken compliance with the NTCA. Many citizens and vendors do not understand its main prohibitions, so violations are rarely reported and public demand for enforcement remains limited.⁹ This lack of pressure allows authorities to give tobacco control a low priority. Regional differences in attitudes toward tobacco may also make the law seem intrusive in some communities. Although Section 26 requires public education to support a smoke-free culture,² chronic underfunding of the Tobacco Control Fund has restricted these efforts. As a result, the Act's strict penalties remain largely aspirational.

DISCUSSION

This review highlights the continuing gap between the provisions of Nigeria's National Tobacco Control Act (NTCA) and their enforcement. The NTCA is among Africa's most comprehensive tobacco laws. It incorporates most WHO FCTC "best buy" measures, including advertising bans, smoke-free regulations, health warnings, and taxation, as well as the Tobacco Control Fund.^{3, 6} Compared with the outdated Tobacco Smoking (Control) Act of 1990, it represents a major policy advance. Some progress is evident. Health warnings now appear on many cigarette packs, although they do not always meet legal size and placement requirements.⁶ The Act has also raised the profile of tobacco control on Nigeria's policy agenda.

However, the NTCA's central weakness is poor enforcement. Weak implementation drives widespread non-compliance. Evidence and media reports show that prohibited practices, including indoor smoking and single-stick cigarette sales, continue with few consequences.^{9, 15} As a result, the Act functions more as a policy statement than an effective deterrent. Although it prescribes multimillion-naira fines and prison terms, these penalties remain largely theoretical. Enforcement systems are weak, and no widely documented sanction has been imposed since the Act took effect.

This confirms early warnings that legislation without effective implementation would have limited influence on behaviour.

Greater public awareness and adequate resources could substantially improve compliance. International experience shows that visible enforcement, including publicized fines, can influence behaviour. Nigeria has made prominent policy announcements, such as the 2017 WHO AFRO enforcement declaration, but these have rarely been followed by concrete action.¹ Funding is another major obstacle. The Tobacco Control Fund received only ₦4.7 million in 2023, ₦10 million in 2024, and ₦13 million in 2025.^{13, 11} These allocations fall far below the estimated annual minimum of ₦300 million needed for inspections, mass-media campaigns, and cessation services.

Legal loopholes also require attention. The NTCA permits designated smoking areas and applies limited outdoor smoking restrictions where signs are absent. These provisions weaken its public health purpose and complicate enforcement.² Widely viewed as concessions to industry lobbying, they also undermine efforts to build a smoke-free culture. Proposed amendments in 2025 sought to address some of these gaps,¹⁶ but broader reform is still needed.

Greater transparency is equally important. Government agencies should regularly publish data on inspections, violations, and penalties to strengthen accountability and encourage public debate. Public education should also be expanded. Community campaigns using radio, social media, schools, and religious institutions could raise awareness of the NTCA and promote social norms that support compliance.

Civil society also remains essential. Organizations such as Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA), the African Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA), and other advocacy groups have sustained pressure for action, challenged industry influence, and held the government accountable.^{13, 11} Their continued advocacy will be vital to securing adequate funding, implementing FCTC Article 5.3 to protect policy from industry interference, and turning the NTCA into an effective public health instrument rather than a largely symbolic law.

RECOMMENDATIONS

While the NTCA prescribes severe punishment for failure to comply, its implementation has been weak. There is little evidence of fines being levied or prosecutions being initiated. This regulatory inertia has rendered the Act's deterrent ability virtually nil. Compounding the challenge is the underfunding of the Tobacco Control Fund (TCF) to support enforcement and education, to which only ₦13 million was allocated in 2025, far below the estimated ₦300 million necessary for minimum operation¹³. The result is that there is little enforcement activity and limited public awareness campaigns.

To attain the goals of the NTCA and reduce tobacco-related morbidity and mortality, a multi-faceted strategy is required:

- I. Provision of dedicated funding for health inspectors and police to monitor public places, entertainment venues, and retail outlets. Publicize fines and prosecutions to deter violations and show accountability.
- II. Expansion of public education by running nationwide campaigns on the law, the health risks of tobacco, and the consequences of violations. Adapt messages to different communities and share them through radio, television, social media, and community events.

- III. Institutional reforms should be made to amend or remove loopholes, including the provision for designated smoking areas. NATCOM and the TCU should operate full-time, with clear mandates, regular meetings, and published outputs. The government should also establish an effective tobacco licensing system.
- IV. Prevention of interference in the industry by government agencies by enforcing WHO FCTC Article 5.3. Limit tobacco industry influence, make government–industry interactions transparent, and strengthen conflict-of-interest safeguards in regulatory bodies.
- V. Nigeria's tobacco control law is well designed but poorly enforced. Without stronger political commitment, capable institutions, and adequate funding, the NTCA will remain symbolic. Federal and state governments should work with civil society to turn the law into measurable health gains and better protect Nigerians from tobacco-related harm.

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE REVIEW

This review has several strengths. It brings together evidence from the first decade of the National Tobacco Control Act (2015–2025) and highlights trends in awareness, compliance, and enforcement. It draws on peer-reviewed studies, government documents, civil society reports, and media articles. This broad evidence base provides insights beyond academic research alone. Organizing the findings by compliance, enforcement, and public awareness also makes comparisons easier. Although the analysis focuses on Nigeria, it offers useful lessons for tobacco control elsewhere. Its practical, policy-focused conclusions further support advocacy and decision-making.

This review has several limitations. Because it used a narrative approach rather than a systematic framework such as PRISMA, some studies and grey literature may have been overlooked. Government and NGO reports may also contain reporting bias or incomplete data, particularly on enforcement outcomes. In addition, the qualitative synthesis did not include pooled effect estimates or a meta-analysis, limiting the precision of the findings. Differences in context may also restrict their applicability to other low- and middle-income countries. Nevertheless, the review provides useful broader insights into the challenges of implementing tobacco control laws.

CONCLUSION

Nigeria's National Tobacco Control Act is a strong piece of legislation, but weak enforcement, low awareness, and a history of chronic underfunding limit its impact. To transform the Act from symbolic law into effective public health policy, government and stakeholders must improve enforcement, fully fund the Tobacco Control Fund, and sustain nationwide education campaigns.

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