

# Prevalence and Compliance of Designated Smoking Areas (DSAs) in Hospitality Venues and Transportation in Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Sejal Saraf, BDS, MPH**

Institute for Global Tobacco Control

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



**JOHNS HOPKINS**

BLOOMBERG SCHOOL  
*of* PUBLIC HEALTH

# Agenda

- Background
- Study Objective
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusion





BACKGROUND





# Motivation

- **Bangladesh is one of the largest tobacco consuming countries in the world**
- **Approximately 35.3% of the adult population currently use tobacco products.**
- **There are nearly 1.5 million adults suffering from tobacco-related illnesses** and over 61,000 children suffering from disease as a result of secondhand smoke exposure.
- **Many challenges in including a variety of tobacco products, and poor compliance with Bangladesh tobacco control laws.**





## Policy Response

- Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage Control Act
- Enacted in 2005 and expanded in 2015 (SRO No. 58)
- According to the Act, Designated Smoking Areas (DSAs) are permitted in hospitality settings and public transport with specific design criteria and requirements

# Physical Requirements of DSA



**DSAs are allowed if the restaurant is:**

Multi-room

Single room but does **not** have walls on all four sides



**DSAs are allowed for hotels if:**

It's in open spaces (or outside area)

Has a restaurant inside in the hotel



**DSAs are allowed in a train if:**

Multi-compartment

At the end/backside of the train

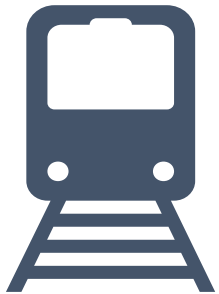
It is **not** the main compartment for passengers.

# Location of DSA

“Designated smoking area” means an area that is physically separated and in an open space and ensures that smoke cannot enter in the non-smoking area.



For hospitality venues, Smoking area or space shall **not** be established at the entrance or exit of venue



In multi-room public transport, DSA should be in an open space at the end or backside of vehicle

# Internal Requirements of DSA



Smoking area or spaces shall be distinctively marked as “Smoking Area” in English AND Bengali.



Display “Designated Place for Smoking” inside the DSA in English AND Bengali



It shall be used only for the purpose of smoking and no other services shall be allowed



Keep fire-extinguisher



Keep appropriate container to through away the remaining parts of a bidi or cigarette



# Requirements for Non-smoking Area

## ➤ Warning Signage:

- “Refrain from Smoking, It is a Punishable Offence”
- Location: one at entrance, one or more throughout venue
- Language: English, Bengali
- Size: 40 x 20 cm
- Design: Red text on white background OR white text on red background, and no-smoking symbol



## ➤ Other requirements:

- No ashtrays should be placed in the no-smoking area

# Study Objective

- To assess the prevalence of DSAs in hospitality venues and transportation in Dhaka
- To assesses the compliance of DSAs with some of the physical requirements outlined under the law



The background is a solid dark green color. On the left side, there is a large, semi-transparent graphic. The top part of this graphic is a stylized leaf with three lobes, and the bottom part is a stylized globe with latitude and longitude lines. A horizontal light green band is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the word 'METHODS' in white, bold, uppercase letters.

# METHODS

# Sampling Methods

---



- **Restaurants:**

- 5872 restaurant venues compiled by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), was used to identify venues across 129 wards
- Three restaurants were randomly identified in each ward for a total of 387 restaurants across 129 wards. Further, using publicly available census data, wards were categorized as low, middle, or high SES (socioeconomic status).



# Sampling Methods

---

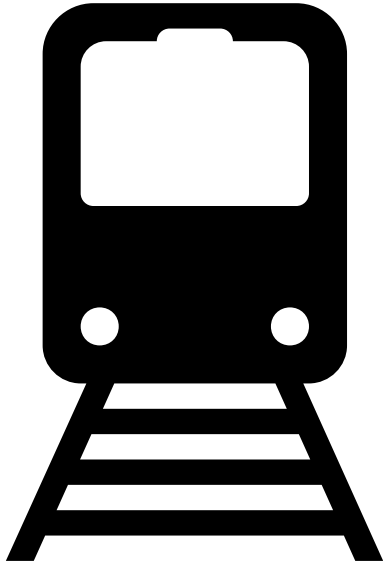
- **Hotels**

- An initial list of 172 hotel venues that were registered with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and had the star-rating information was created
- Based on the star-rating, hotels will be stratified within these 3 categories (1-star; 2-stars, 3-5 stars)
- Hotels will be proportionately sampled within each category, resulting in the following distribution: 1star= 81 hotels; 2 stars= 22 hotels; 3-5stars= 17 hotels, for a total of 120 hotels



# Sampling Methods

---



- **Trains**

- A schedule of 54 active passenger trains passing through Dhaka station was obtained from the Bangladesh Railway Agency

<b>Train category</b>	<b>Number of trains</b>
Intercity train	34
Mail train/ Express train	14
Commuter train	5
International Train	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>



The background is a solid dark green color. On the left side, there is a large, semi-transparent graphic. The top part of this graphic is a stylized leaf with three lobes, and the bottom part is a stylized globe with latitude and longitude lines. A horizontal light green band runs across the middle of the page, containing the word "RESULTS" in black, bold, uppercase letters.

# RESULTS

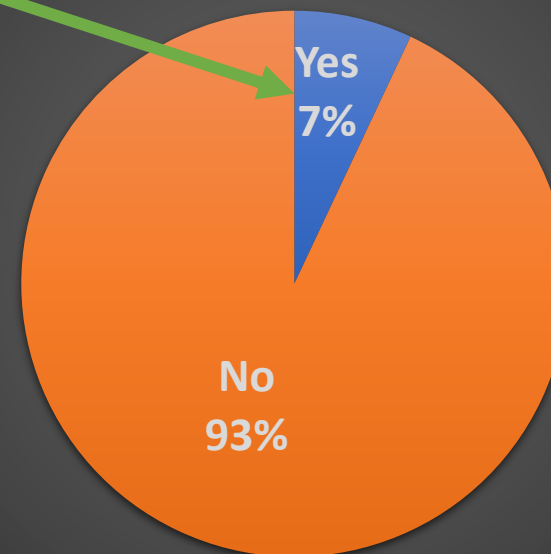
# Overall Prevalence of DSAs

## Sample

Venue-type	Number of venues successfully contacted
Restaurants	356
Hotels	116
Trains	51
Total	523

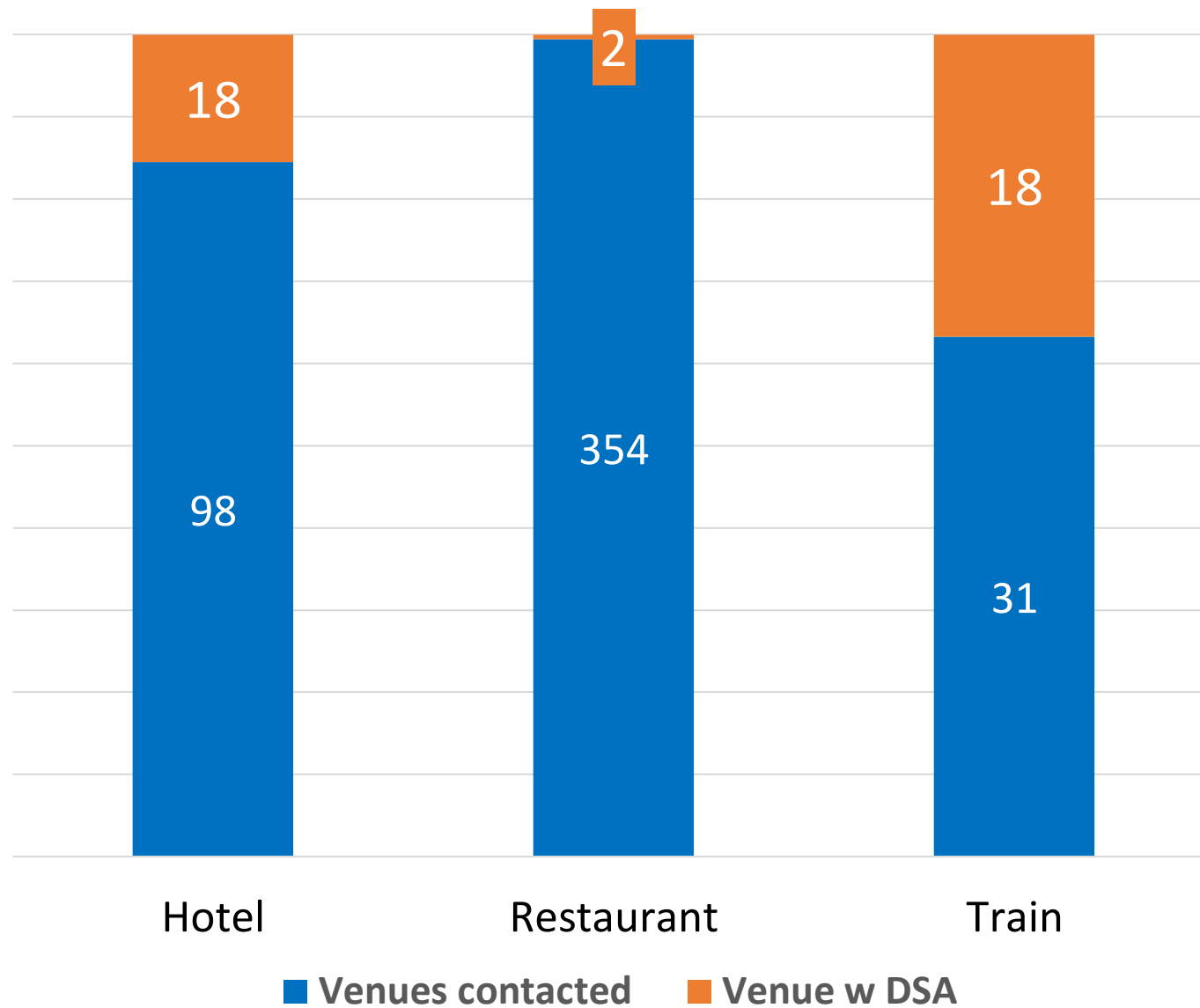
Only 7% (n=38) venues across all venue-types had a DSA

Percentage of venues that had a DSA





# DSA Prevalence By Venue Type



The background is a solid dark green color. On the left side, there are faint, light green abstract shapes. One shape resembles a flame or a leaf, and another below it resembles a stylized globe or a grid of curved lines. A horizontal light green band runs across the middle of the slide, containing the title text.

# COMPLIANCE OF DSA IN HOSPITALITY VENUES

# Location of DSAs

## Restaurants (N=2)

Location	n (%)
Rooftop terrace	1 (50%)
Entrance /exit of the venue	1 (50%)

## Hotels (N=18)

Location	n (%)
<b>Open Space Areas</b>	
Rooftop terrace	4 (22%)
Balcony patio	2 (11%)
Pool area	2 (11%)
<b>Closed Space Areas</b>	
Inside the hotel/restaurant in the hotel	10 (56%)



# Commonly Observed DSA Locations

---





# Physical Design Standards

## Restaurants (n=2):

- Both DSAs were present in a multi-room restaurant, that had walls on all 4 sides
- Both DSAs were physically separated from the non-smoking area
- One DSA required the patrons to cross the smoking area to reach the services

## Hotels (n=18):

- 39% (n=7) were not physically separated from the non-smoking area
- 39% (n=7) required patrons to cross the DSA to reach the services





# Internal DSA Requirements

Features	Restaurants (n=2)	Hotels (n=18)
Services allowed inside the DSA	1(50%)	6(33%)
Absence of fire-extinguisher	1(50%)	8(44%)
Absence of disposal container such as ashtray	1(50%)	3(17%)
Absence of required DSA signage	2(100%)	17(95%)

The background is a solid dark green color. On the left side, there is a large, faint, light green graphic. It consists of a stylized globe with latitude and longitude lines, and several overlapping leaf shapes that appear to be part of a plant or tree. The globe is positioned in the lower-left quadrant, while the leaves are in the upper-left quadrant. A horizontal white band runs across the middle of the image, containing the main text.

# COMPLIANCE OF DSA IN TRAINS

# Location of DSAs

- All trains with DSA had multiple compartments
- 22% (n=4) had the DSA located in last compartment of the train







## Physical Design Standards

- 33% (n=6) were not physically separated from the non-smoking area
- 39% (n=7) required patrons to pass the DSA/smoking area to get to other services



# Internal DSA Requirements



- 95% (n=17) did not have a fire extinguisher inside the DSA
- 17% (n=3) did not have an appropriate disposal container
- 39% (n=7) allowed services (such as food, drinks etc.) inside the DSA
- None of the DSAs had the required signage indicating the space is a smoking area





**NON-SMOKING AREA**

# Non-smoking Area

- 60% (n=23) of venues had the required “no-smoking” signage. Of these,
  - 22 were displayed at appropriate locations
  - 5 were present in English and Bengali
  - 5 had the correct size and 6 had the message written in the correct color size
- 26% (n=135) of observed venues provided smoking aids (i.e. ashtrays) in non-smoking areas
- 24% (n=123) of venues had smokers in non-smoking area. Managers/staff at 12% of those venues (n=15) asked smokers to stop or move

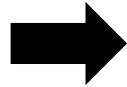


The background is a solid dark green color. On the left side, there are two faint, stylized motifs: a flame-like shape in the upper half and a globe-like shape in the lower half, both rendered in a lighter shade of green. A horizontal light green band runs across the middle of the slide, containing the word 'CONCLUSION' in black, bold, uppercase letters.

# CONCLUSION

# Summary

**523 venues contacted  
successfully**



**8% (n=38) of  
venues had a  
DSA**



**Of the 38  
DSAs that  
assessed, 1%  
(n=1) were  
compliant  
with all  
measures**





# Conclusion – DSA and Public Health

- Nearly impossible to have a DSA where tobacco smoke does not drift/impact to adjacent public places. **Restricting smoking to DSAs does not provide adequate protection from dangerous secondhand smoke**
- As seen from our findings, **DSAs are not very common in hospitality venues and trains**, and the **overall compliance with the law** specifications that were measured were **low**
- Benefits of smoke-free policies not realized when there are provisions of DSAs. **100% smoke-free provisions, including eliminating DSAs, are needed to close all existing loopholes**



# Acknowledgements

- The research team at PROGGA
- Joanna Cohen, Director IGTC
- Preethi Kannan, IGTC
- Vandana Shah, Regional Director, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
- Ataur Rahman, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
- Mostafizur Rahman, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
- Bangladesh Center for Communications Program
- Bloomberg Philanthropies



Bangladesh  
Center for  
Communication  
Programs



# ধন্যবাদ!

[ssaraf3@jhu.edu](mailto:ssaraf3@jhu.edu)



JOHNS HOPKINS  
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL  
of PUBLIC HEALTH

