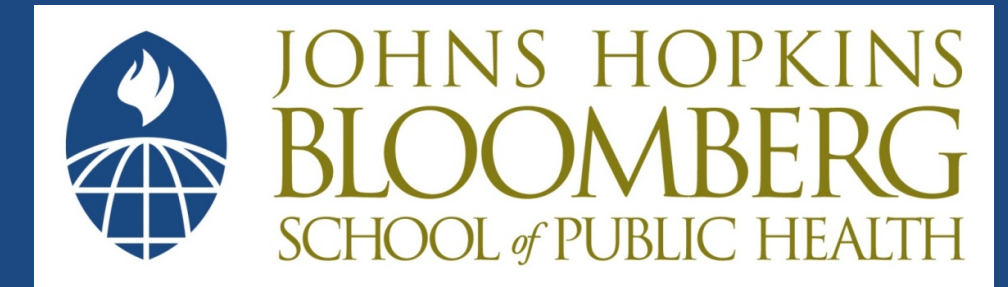


Compliance with Smoke-Free Tobacco Legislation in Indoor Public Places in 12 Cities in Turkey

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INTRODUCTION:

Secondhand smoke exposure poses significant health risks for non-smokers. In 2008, Turkey passed its smoke-free legislation prohibiting smoking in indoor public spaces; but smoke-free legislation is only as effective as its level of compliance.

OBJECTIVE:

To assess the level of compliance with the smoke-free legislation in 12 cities across Turkey (Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Adana, Balikesir, Bursa, Erzurum, Gaziantep, Kayseri, Samsun, Trabzon, and Van) using observations based on The Smoke-Free Compliance Guide.

METHODS

Recruitment

- In each city, the Turkish Institute of Statistics identified 10 central sampling points using a random sampling strategy.
- Using a standardized protocol, we visited universities, schools, hospitals, government building, shopping malls, and hospitality venues (restaurants, traditional coffee houses, cafes, and bars/nightclubs) between December 2012 and July 2013.

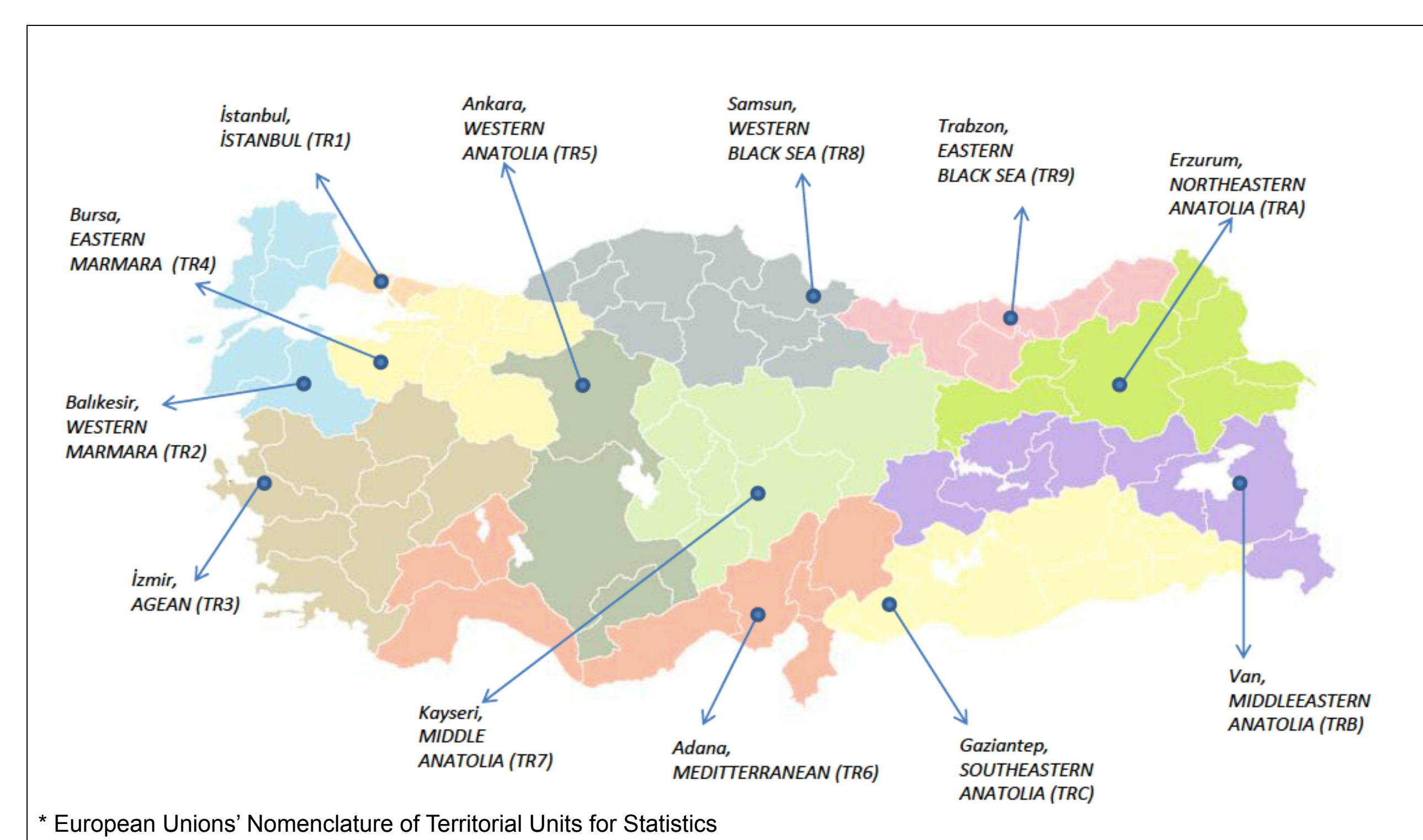
Questionnaires

- Trained fieldworkers used checklists to collect information on the number of smokers, the presence of cigarette butts, ashtrays, no smoking signs, fines or penalty signs, signage visibility and cigarette sales.
- Fieldworkers also observed smoking in taxicabs during rides taken to and from study venues.

Compliance

- % compliance with smoke-free legislation in indoor public places: # venues with zero smokers in all indoor location / # venues observed) %100
- In taxis, we defined compliance as no smoking by the taxi driver.

Provinces Covered by the SHELTS study and their corresponding NUTS* regions and codes



* European Unions' Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics

RESULTS

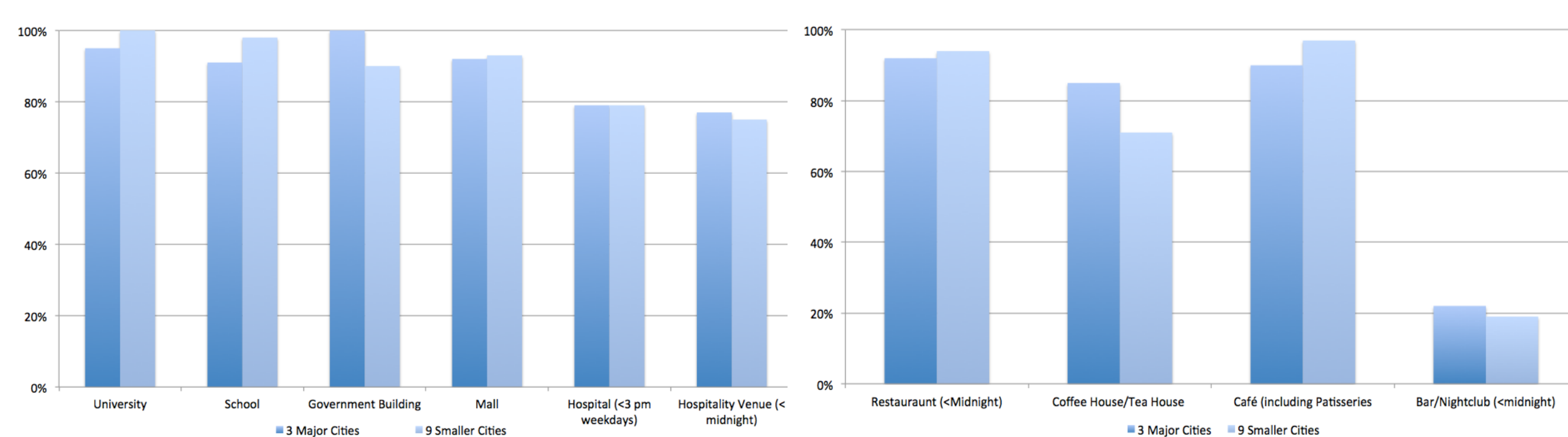
Number of venues, locations and people observed across indoor public places in Turkey

	12 Cities			3 Major Cities			9 Smaller Cities		
	Venues	Locations	People	Venues	Locations	People	Venues	Locations	People
Overall*	898	4,395	39,936	404	1988	20,120	494	2,407	19,816
Hospitals (<3pm weekdays)	89	513	7,297	42	249	3,860	47	264	3,437
Hospitals (>7pm/weekend)	85	463	3,067	37	203	1,636	48	260	1,431
Schools	134	960	7,192	54	419	3,743	80	541	3,449
Universities	37	262	1,816	21	153	1,102	16	109	714
Government Buildings	135	660	4,972	56	265	2,198	79	395	2,774
Malls	52	273	5,187	25	135	2,354	27	138	2,833
Hospitality Venues*	447	1264	10,405	203	564	5,227	244	700	5,178
Restaurants (<midnight)	171	393	2,789	73	182	1,233	98	211	1,556
Restaurants (>midnight)	13	34	135	5	18	61	5	16	74
Coffee/Tea Houses	120	180	2,004	55	80	1,194	65	100	810
Cafés/Patisseries	67	154	799	31	77	371	36	77	428
Bars/Clubs (<midnight)	79	266	2,595	36	111	1,406	43	155	1,189
Bars/Clubs (>midnight)	69	237	2,083	24	96	962	26	141	1,121
Taxis	356	--	--	172	--	--	184	--	--

* Some hospitals, restaurants, and bars/nightclubs were visited twice at different times of the day/week. Therefore, overall numbers are not the sum of the individual venues.

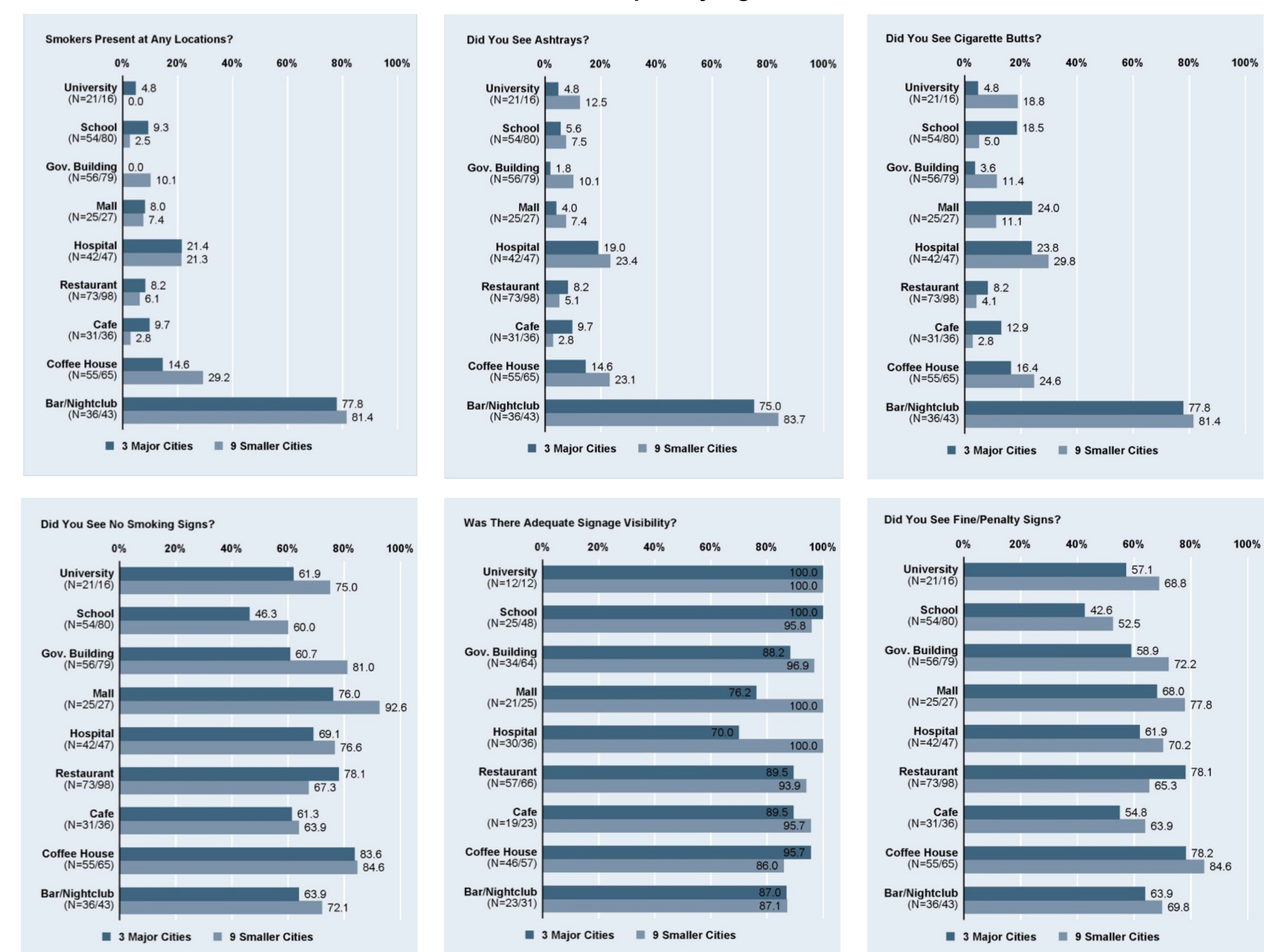
We observed a total of 898 venues, 4395 indoor locations (mean 5 locations/venue), 39,936 people (mean 44 persons/venue) and 356 taxi rides.

Compliance with Smoke Free Legislation in Indoor Public Places in Turkey



Compared to the 3 larger cities, compliance in the 9 smaller cities was similar for malls, hospitals, and hospitality venues, lower for government buildings and higher in universities and schools. Compliance was 94% in cafes, 93% in restaurants, 78% in traditional coffee/tea houses, and 20% in bars or nightclubs. Compliance in bars/night clubs was 0% in Balikesir, Erzurum, Gaziantep and Trabzon.

Presence of smokers, ashtrays, and cigarette butts, smoking signs, adequate signage visibility, and inclusion of penalty signs



Bars and nightclubs had the highest percentages of observed smokers, ashtrays, and cigarette butts. Schools had the fewest observed smoking signs, while coffee houses had the highest. Universities, schools in the 3 major cities, and malls and hospitals in the 9 smaller cities had the highest signage visibility.

LIMITATIONS

Fieldworkers were unable to observe areas in government buildings, hospitals, and universities that are not accessible to the public. Compliance in these areas remains unknown. For taxis, we only observed smoking by the driver and compliance is possibly underestimated.

NEXT STEPS

In the next phase of the study, we are conducting key informant interviews with representatives in hospitals, schools, universities, government buildings, malls, and hospitality venues.

CONCLUSIONS

- Compliance was below 90% in hospitals and hospitality venues. Traditional coffee houses had low compliance, and bars/nightclubs had the lowest compliance of hospitality venues. We observed a similar level of compliance before and after midnight in bars/nightclubs.
- Enforcing smoke-free legislation should be emphasized in hospitality venues, especially bars/nightclubs and traditional coffee houses, and in dining areas within hospitals, schools, and government buildings.