

# THE GLOBAL TOBACCO EPIDEMIC

## TOBACCO CONSUMPTION

There are more than one billion smokers in the world.<sup>1</sup>

- Globally, 19.2% of adults are current smokers (men 32.7%; women 5.8%).<sup>1</sup>
- More than 80% of the world's smokers live in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>2</sup>
  - 21.6% of adults in high-income countries, 19.5% in middle-income countries, and 11.2% of adults in low-income countries are smokers.<sup>1</sup>
  - Middle-income countries have the highest smoking rates among men (35.3%), while high-income countries have the highest rates among women (16.4%).<sup>1</sup>
- Globally, the number of youth aged 13–15 years who smoke is estimated to be around 24 million, and 13 million use smokeless tobacco products.<sup>1</sup>
- The numbers of cigarette smokers and other tobacco product users is increasing in many low- and middle-income countries due to population growth and tobacco industry marketing.

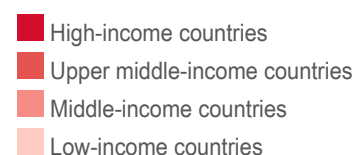
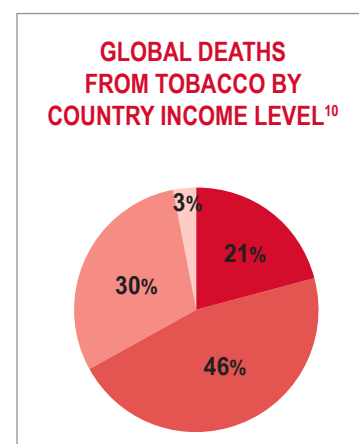
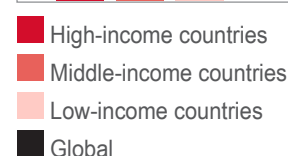
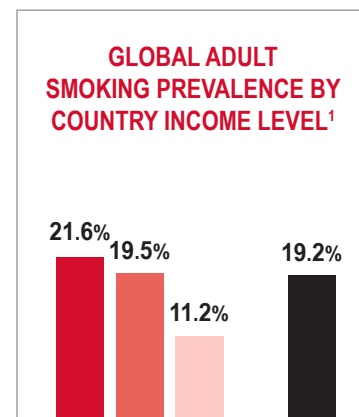
## TOBACCO HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

100 million people died from tobacco use in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. If current trends continue one billion people will die from tobacco use in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>3</sup>

- Tobacco use kills up to half of all lifetime users.<sup>4</sup> On average, smokers lose 15 years of life.<sup>5</sup>
- Tobacco kills more than 8 million people each year. Of these deaths, 1.2 million are caused by secondhand smoke exposure.<sup>2</sup>
- Tobacco-related illnesses account for 1 in 10 adult deaths worldwide. By 2030, 80% of those deaths will be in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>4</sup>

## TOBACCO COSTS TO SOCIETY

- Smoking is estimated to cause about 1.4 trillion USD in economic damage each year.<sup>6</sup>
- Costs associated with tobacco-related illnesses are extremely high. Total economic costs associated with smoking represent 1.8% of global GDP, and smoking-attributable health expenditure represents 5.7% of total health spending.<sup>6</sup>
  - In the United States, annual smoking-related health care costs amount to 170 billion USD.<sup>7</sup>
  - The total economic cost of smoking in international dollars at purchasing power parity was estimated to be \$172.8 billion in Indonesia, \$114.3 billion in India, and \$48.1 billion in Brazil.<sup>8</sup>
- Tobacco-related illnesses and premature mortality impose high productivity costs to the economy because of sick workers and those who die prematurely during their working years. Lost economic opportunities in highly-populated low- and middle-income countries will be particularly severe as tobacco use is high and growing in those areas.<sup>5</sup>
  - Global indirect costs of smoking are estimated to be about 1 trillion USD, nearly two thirds of which are due to premature mortality.<sup>6</sup>
  - In Ukraine, the productivity loss due to premature smoking-related mortality is at least 3 billion USD annually.<sup>9</sup>
- Tobacco production damages the environment:
  - Tobacco plants are especially vulnerable to many pests and diseases, prompting farmers to apply large quantities of chemicals and pesticides that harm human health and the environment.<sup>3</sup>
  - Clearing of land for cultivation and large amounts of wood needed for curing tobacco cause massive deforestation at a rate of about 200,000 hectares per year.<sup>3</sup>



1. WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2019: The MPOWER package. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019. 2. Tobacco Fact Sheet. World Health Organization; 26 July, 2019. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco>. 3. Eriksen M et al. The Tobacco Atlas. Fifth Ed. Atlanta, GA: American Cancer Society; 2015. 4. WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2011: The MPOWER package. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011. 5. WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2008: The MPOWER package. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2008. 6. U.S. NCI and WHO. The Economics of Tobacco and Tobacco Control. NCI Tobacco Control Monograph 21. NIH Publication No. 16-CA-8029A. Bethesda: U.S. DHSS, NIH, NCI, and Geneva: WHO; 2016. 7. Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids. Toll of Tobacco in the United States of America. Available at: <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/assets/factsheets/0072.pdf>. 8. Goodchild M et al. Global economic cost of smoking-attributable diseases. Tobacco Control. 2018;27:58-64. 9. Ross H. Economic and public health impact of 2007-2010 tobacco tax increases in Ukraine. Tobacco Control. 2012 June;21:429-435. 10. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2017. Seattle, WA: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington; 2020. Available at <http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/>.