TOBACCO CONSUMPTION

- Among adults (age 15+), 26.6% of the population smoke, with a significant difference between genders—50.5% of Chinese men and 2.1% of Chinese women smoke.  
  1
- Among youth (junior high school students, median age 14), 3.9% smoke (boys 5.8%; girls 1.8%).  
  2
- China has approximately 307.6 million smokers.  
  1

SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE

There is no safe level of secondhand smoke.  
  3
- 50.9% of adults are exposed to secondhand smoke in the workplace, 73.3% in restaurants, and 12.9% on public transportation.  
  1
- 57.2% of youth (ages 13–15) are exposed to secondhand smoke inside enclosed public spaces, and 44.4% are exposed at home.  
  4

HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

Tobacco use is deadly. Tobacco kills up to half of its users.  
  5
- An estimated 2.5 million Chinese die from tobacco-related diseases each year. Around 387,000 of these deaths are due to secondhand smoke exposure.  
  6
- The number of annual deaths from tobacco-attributable lung, tracheal, and bronchus cancers in China has more than doubled in the past 20 years, reaching about 460,000.  
  6
- Smoking causes almost 23% of all cancers in China.  
  7
- Chinese male smokers are almost 6 times more likely to develop chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) than Chinese non-smokers.  
  8

COSTS TO SOCIETY

Tobacco exacts a high cost on society.
- Smoking-attributable diseases cost China an estimated 392.6 billion CNY in 2012, equivalent to 0.8% of the country’s GDP that year.  
  9
- Direct healthcare costs related to smoking-attributable diseases was 85.5 billion CNY, or 3% of total health expenditure.
- Indirect costs related to smoking—such as lost productivity due to premature mortality or disability caused by smoking—totaled about 304.1 billion CNY.
- Smoking-related lung cancer alone cost China 5.2 billion USD in 2015, and these costs are expected to keep rising.  
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