SOUTH AFRICA
Tobacco Burden Facts

- **TOBACCO CONSUMPTION**

  **>> Tobacco use is rising in South Africa.**

  • The overall prevalence of smoking was 24% in 2003.¹
  • Over 35% of adult males (35.3%) and 10% of adult females (11%) smoke (>18 years).³
  • 22.2% of males and 7.0% of females are daily smokers (>18 years).³
  • 14.8% of youth aged 13-15 currently smoke cigarettes.⁴
  • 21% of boys and almost 11% of girls currently smoke cigarettes.⁵
  • Over 13% of youth use other forms of tobacco.⁶

- **TOBACCO-RELATED CONSEQUENCES**

  **>> Tobacco use is deadly.** Smoking kills half of all lifetime users. Half of those deaths occur between the ages of 30 and 69. Exposure to second hand smoke kills tens of thousands of non-smokers every year.⁷

  • Smoking causes over 44,000 deaths or 8.5% of all deaths in South Africa each year.⁶
  • Between 12% and 15% of all adult deaths (>35 years) in South Africa are caused by smoking.⁹
  • Three times as many males as females die from smoking.¹⁰
  • Almost half (49%) of tobacco-related deaths occur among those in the most economically productive age groups (35-69 years).¹¹

- **TOBACCO-RELATED COSTS**

  **>> Tobacco exacts a high cost on society.**

  **>> Tobacco costs include:**

  • Health care costs associated with tobacco-related illnesses,
  • Productivity costs due to loss in productivity from sick workers and those who die prematurely during their working years.
  • Fire damage and related costs
  • Damage to the environment
  • Diversion of agricultural land that could grow food