



FACTSHEET: Cardiovascular diseases in China

Globally...

- Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), commonly referred to as heart disease or stroke, are the number 1 cause of death around the world
- 1 in 3 deaths globally are as result of CVD, yet the majority of premature heart disease and stroke is preventable¹
- In 2010 CVD cost US\$ 863 billion – this is estimated to rise by 22% to US\$ 1,044 billion by 2030²
- 80% of CVD deaths occur in low- to middle-income countries.

In China...

- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including CVDs, are estimated to account for 87% of total adult deaths in China
- CVDs account for almost half (45%) of these deaths
- It's estimated that one in 5 adults in China has a cardiovascular disease: China has one of the highest CVD death rates in the world
- Some of the CVD related risk factors in adults in China are outlined below:
 - A quarter (25%) of the population smoke tobacco
 - 6.7 litres of pure alcohol consumed per person
 - 27.3% have hypertension which can increase risk of heart attack, heart failure, kidney disease or stroke
 - 5.7% adults in China are obese
- Cardiovascular events, such as ischemic heart disease and stroke, are projected to increase by 50% among the population between 2010 and 2030 (based on population aging and growth alone).

Tobacco consumption in China

- China is the world's largest producer and consumer of tobacco products
- There are more than 300 million smokers in the country – with 28.1% of adults, and more than half of all adult men, regular smokers
- About 1 in every 3 cigarettes smoked in the world is smoked in China
- Among 13-15 year olds, 11.2% of boys smoke
- Around 3,000 people die from tobacco-related illness in China every single day
- In addition, over 700 million people are routinely exposed to second-hand smoke, which kills approximately 100,000 people every year.

Taking action...

- In June 2015, China's Ministry of Finance increased tax on cigarettes from 5% to 11% to combat the level of deaths currently caused by tobacco consumption
- Beijing, China's capital city, also became smoke-free on this date
- WHO reports (May 2016) a 3.3% fall in cigarette sales in the year following the introduction of the tax. Sales of the cheapest cigarettes fell 5.5% over the period, suggesting that the tax has had a positive impact in terms of reducing cigarette purchases among poor smokers.

Sources: World Health Organization (WHO) unless specified in footnotes below

¹ Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). The Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors Study 2010 (GBD 2010). Generating Evidence, Guiding Policy Report

² World Economic Forum, The Global Economic Burden of Non-communicable Diseases, Harvard School of Public Health, 2011