

International Tobacco Evidence Network



<http://www.tobaccoevidence.net>

Purpose of the ITEN Project

- **To build research capacity in low- and middle-income countries**

by supporting a formal network of economists, epidemiologists, social scientists and other tobacco control experts

Why ITEN? (1)

PATTERN OF TOBACCO CONSUMPTION

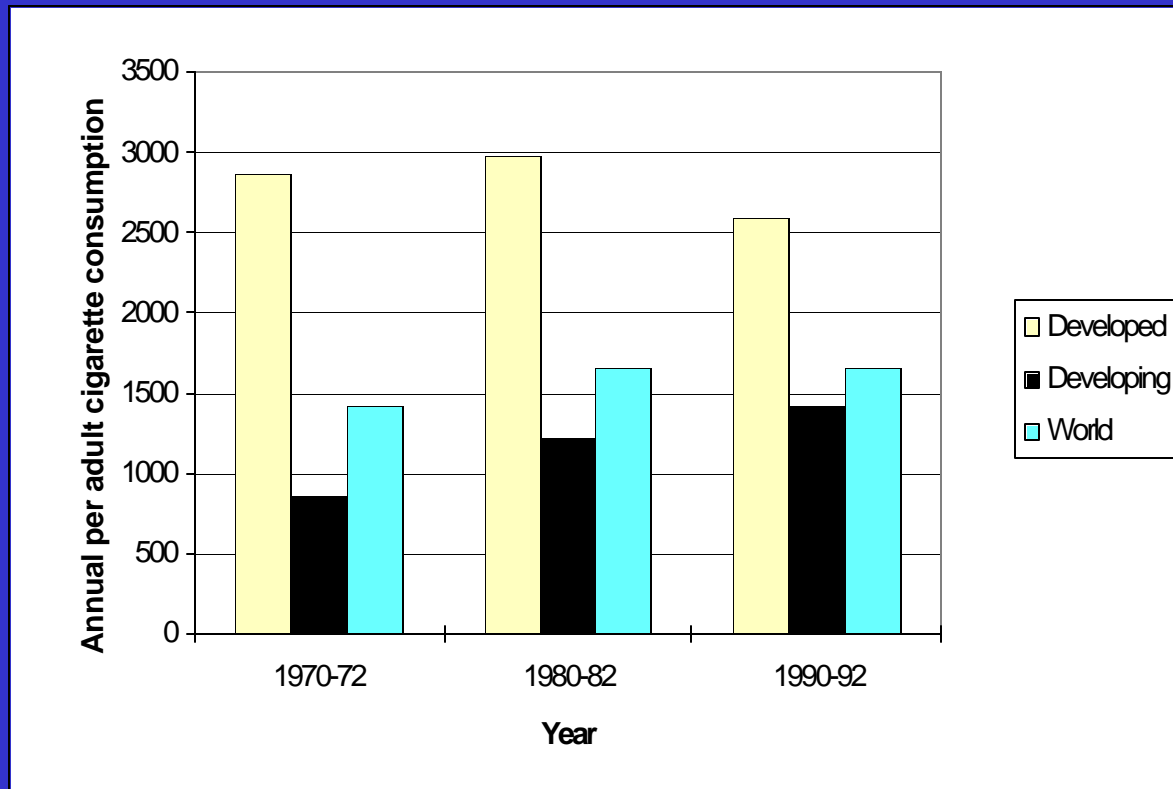
- Most smokers live in developing countries (about 80% of all smokers)
- If the current pattern in tobacco consumption is unchanged, the gap between the high-income and low-income countries will be increasing over time

Quit rates low in low income countries

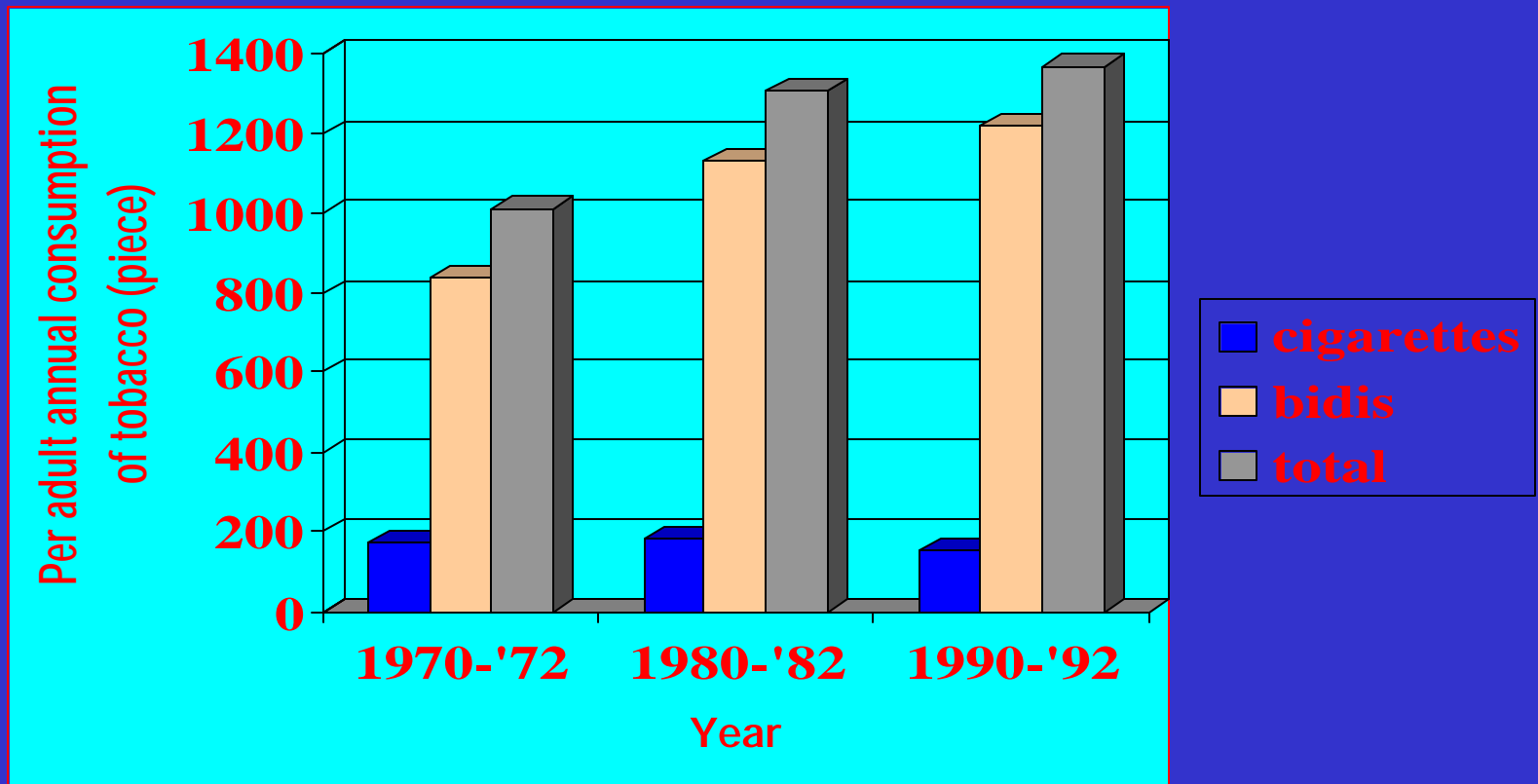
- ◆ *5-10% in China, India*
- ◆ *30-40% in UK*

Why ITEN? (2)

Tobacco use is rapidly rising in developing countries (income effect, role of women)



Per adult (15 and above) annual consumption of cigarettes and bidis in India



Source: WHO 1997

Why ITEN ? (3)

COSTS OF TOBACCO CONSUMPTION

WORLD: Annual Tobacco Deaths

(in millions)

	1990	2030
Developed	2	~3
Developing	~1	~7
<i>World Total</i>	3	~10

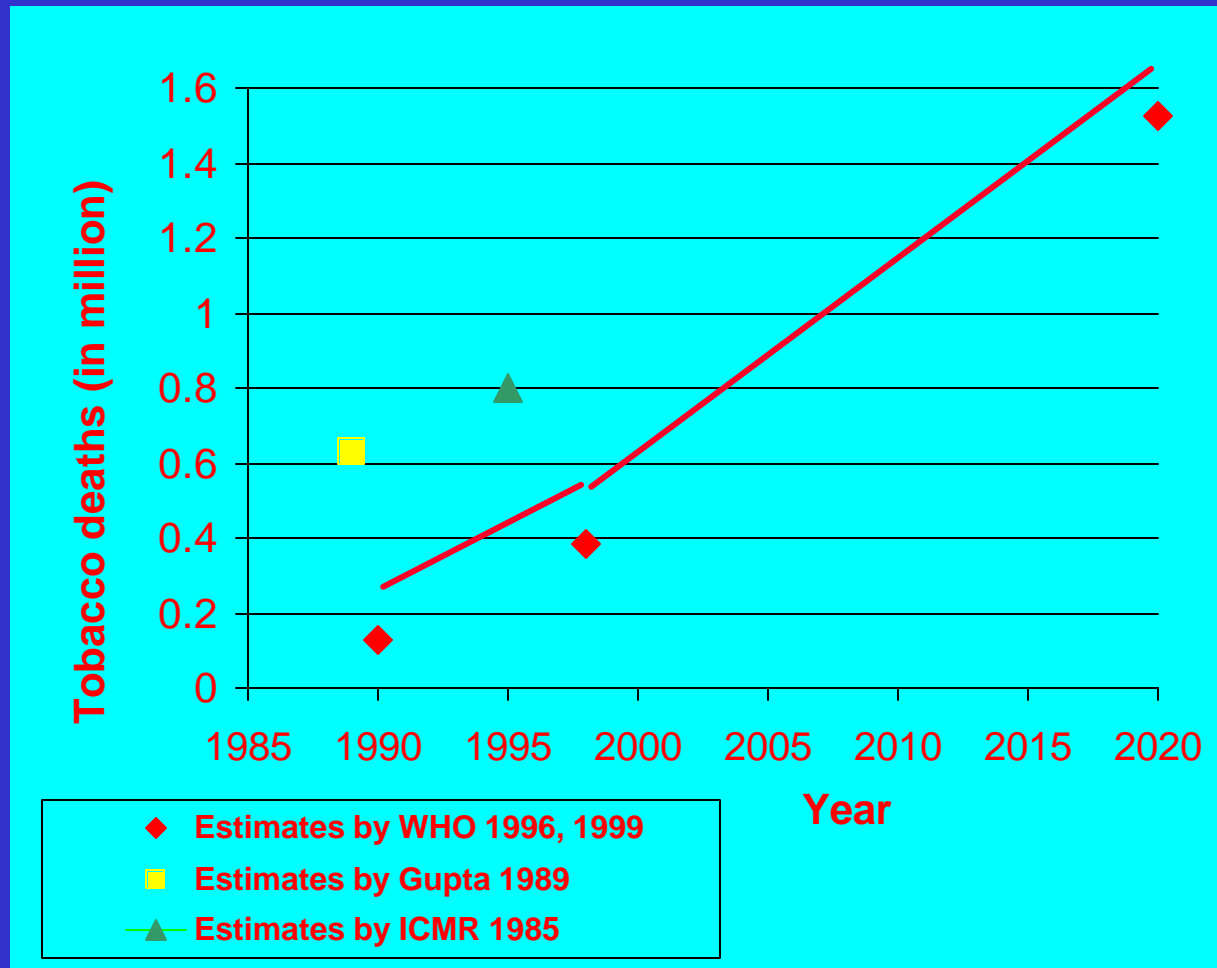


Past smokers, mainly adults



Current smokers, mainly teenagers and young adults

Tobacco deaths are increasing in India



Why ITEN? (4)

RESEARCH EVIDENCE GAP IN LOW- AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES

- **Majority of the research done so far in the US and EU countries**
 - **established sources of research funding**
 - **history of data collection (USA laboratory)**
 - **know-how**

Why ITEN? (5)

CHANGING SITUATION

- **Tobacco control activists persuaded funders of the importance of the local specific evidence from low-income countries**
- **Data collection has improved in many developing countries**
- **But, research capacity is often insufficient**

ITEN Methodology

- ITEN can provide know-how on
 - policy relevant research on tobacco control issues
 - translating research results into most effective public policies
 - grand applications for research funds
 - communicating research results (gives support to tobacco control advocates)

ITEN Tools (1)

- **Internet-based information sharing**
<http://www.tobaccoevidence.net>
- **Cooperation with regional technical centres (South Africa, Mexico, Poland, South East Asia)**
- **Peer review function and dissemination vehicle for primary research**

ITEN Tools (2)

- **Promoting interdisciplinary research using peer-reviewed research protocols on priority topics**
- **Mentoring and technical support**
- **Developing research priority agenda**
- **Rapid Response research**

ITEN Projects

- **Trading Tobacco for Health Initiative**
 - **region: South East Asia (Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia)**
 - **sponsored by Rockefeller Foundation**
- **Seed grants to ITEN centers:**
 - South Africa (effect of advertising ban)**
 - Mexico (analysis of household survey)**

What Can ITEN Do for Tobacco Control Research in India

- **Research capacity building and research priorities**
- **Support research grant applications**
- **Disseminate research results**
- **Investigate the most effective tobacco control policies**
- **Translate research results into public policies**