The economic costs of smoking to smokers and their families include money spent on buying tobacco, which could otherwise be used on food, clothing and shelter, family holidays or a car.

As smoking kills a quarter of all smokers in their working years, smoking deprives the smoker’s family of many years of income. Smokers also suffer loss of income through illness. Following a smoker’s premature death, a partner, children or elderly parents can be left destitute.

Family members of smokers lose income through time taken looking after smokers when they are sick, and time lost taking them to hospital. In some developing countries a hospital visit can take days.

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