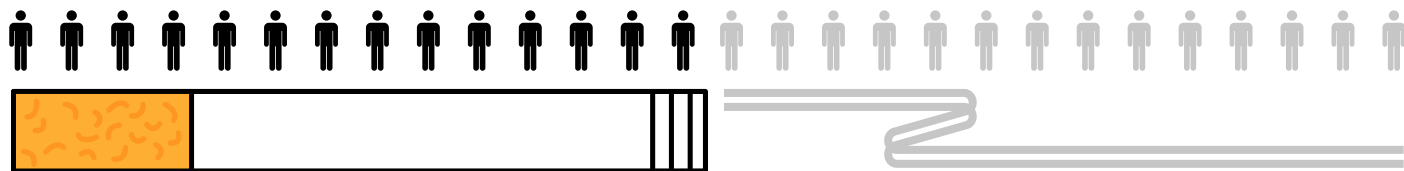
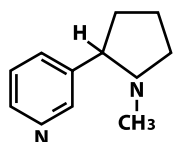


FACTS ABOUT TOBACCO



Tobacco kills
up to half of
its users.

Every year, tobacco use takes more than **8.7 million** lives worldwide, over **7 million** from **direct use** and around **1.3 million** as a result of **second-hand smoke exposure** among non-smokers. Of those who die from tobacco-smoke attributable illnesses, **51 000** are under the age of 20.



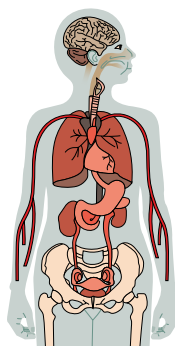
Tobacco products contain **nicotine – a highly addictive substance.**



Tobacco smoke contains **more than 7000 chemicals**, of which at least 250 are known to be **harmful** and at least 69 are known to **cause cancer**.



Nicotine damages the adolescent nervous system, which is still maturing. Nicotine addiction develops faster in younger people. Tobacco use in adolescence also accelerates development of chronic diseases across the full life-course.



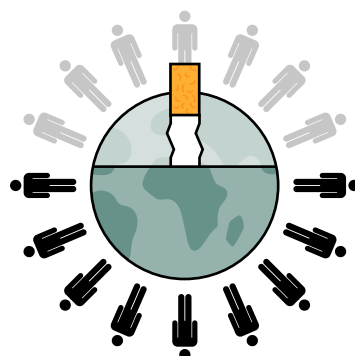
Tobacco use affects each organ of the human body and causes a wide spectrum of diseases.

A tobacco user is at increased risk of many acute and chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, chronic obstructive respiratory diseases, diabetes and a variety of cancers.

Most tobacco-use initiations occur in adolescence, with

88%

of first use of cigarettes occurring before the age of 18 years.



Currently there are **1.3 billion** tobacco users globally. More than **60%** of them want to quit.

Source

Tobacco: key facts. In: World Health Organization [website]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022 (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco>, accessed 15 June 2023).



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