About 230 million women in the world are daily smokers; 22 percent of women in high-resource countries and 9 percent of women in low- and middle-resource countries.

Cigarette smoking among women is declining in most high-resource countries and 9 percent of women in low- and middle-resource countries, cigarette smoking rates among women are either stable or increasing.

A breath-taking phenomenon is evident in many low-resource countries, where cigarette smoking among women has increased at the same rate as men, and it will be an unmitigated disaster. Preventing increases in smoking among women, including “female-only” brands that are long, extra-slim, low-tar, light-colored, mentholated, and/or easily-flavored.

If the women of the world begin smoking at the same rate as men, it will be an unmitigated global public health disaster. Preventing increases in smoking prevalence among women, especially in low- and middle-resource countries, will have a greater impact on global health than any other single intervention.

**SMOKING TRENDS**

Adult female smoking prevalence, 1960–2007 (or most recent available year)

**FEMALE SMOKING**

“Women are taking charge of their health. And for tobacco companies, that’s bad news.” — THOMAS R. FRIEDEN, NEW YORK CITY HEALTH COMMISSIONER, 2007

**CHAPTER 3**

**PERCENT OF FEMALES WHO SMOKE CIGARETTES**

- **60% and above**
- **50–59.9%**
- **40–49.9%**
- **Below 20%**

**TOP 20 FEMALE SMOKING POPULATIONS, 2008 (estimate)**

- **Pakistan** (5,378,040)
- **Mexico** (3,847,777)
- **Indonesia** (3,848,035)
- **Philippines** (3,848,308)
- **Italy** (4,182,381)
- **Ukraine** (4,315,796)
- **Poland** (4,193,803)
- **Turkey** (4,672,538)
- **Spain** (4,790,680)
- **Australia** (4,998,012)
- **United Kingdom** (5,433,559)
- **Japan** (6,809,333)
- **France** (6,811,987)
- **Germany** (6,145,145)
- **Brazil** (9,378,754)
- **Russian Federation** (10,189,820)
- **India** (6,530,677 (adult tobacco users))
- **China** (11,908,517 (all tobacco users))
- **USA** (23,671,860)

**34%**

**32%**

**30–39.9%**

**20–29.9%**

**Below 20%**

**Countries where more women than men smoke**

**No data**

**FEMALE SMOKERS in India die an average of eight years earlier than their non-smoking peers.**