

10 facts on noncommunicable diseases



NCDs account for 63% of all deaths.

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), primarily cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, are responsible for 63% of all deaths worldwide (36 million out of 57 million global deaths).



80% of NCDs deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.



More than 9 million of all deaths attributed to NCDs occur before the age of 60.



Around the world, NCDs affect women and men almost equally.



NCDs are largely preventable.



NCDs are not only a health problem but a development challenge as well.

Noncommunicable diseases force many people into, or entrench them in poverty due to catastrophic expenditures for treatment. They also have a large impact on undercutting productivity.



1.5 billion adults, 20 and older, were overweight in 2008.



Nearly 43 million children under 5 years old were overweight in 2010.



Tobacco use kills nearly 6 million people a year.

By 2020, this number will increase to 7.5 million, accounting for 10% of all deaths.



Eliminating major risks could prevent most NCDs.

If the major risk factors for noncommunicable diseases were eliminated, at around three-quarters of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes would be prevented; and 40% of cancer would be prevented.