

CHAPTER 20 RESEARCH

“The future of tobacco control will never rest solely on the development of new research-based knowledge; it never has. Almost certainly the future will depend far more on effective politics and activism.”

—KENNETH E. WARNER, PHD, DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, USA

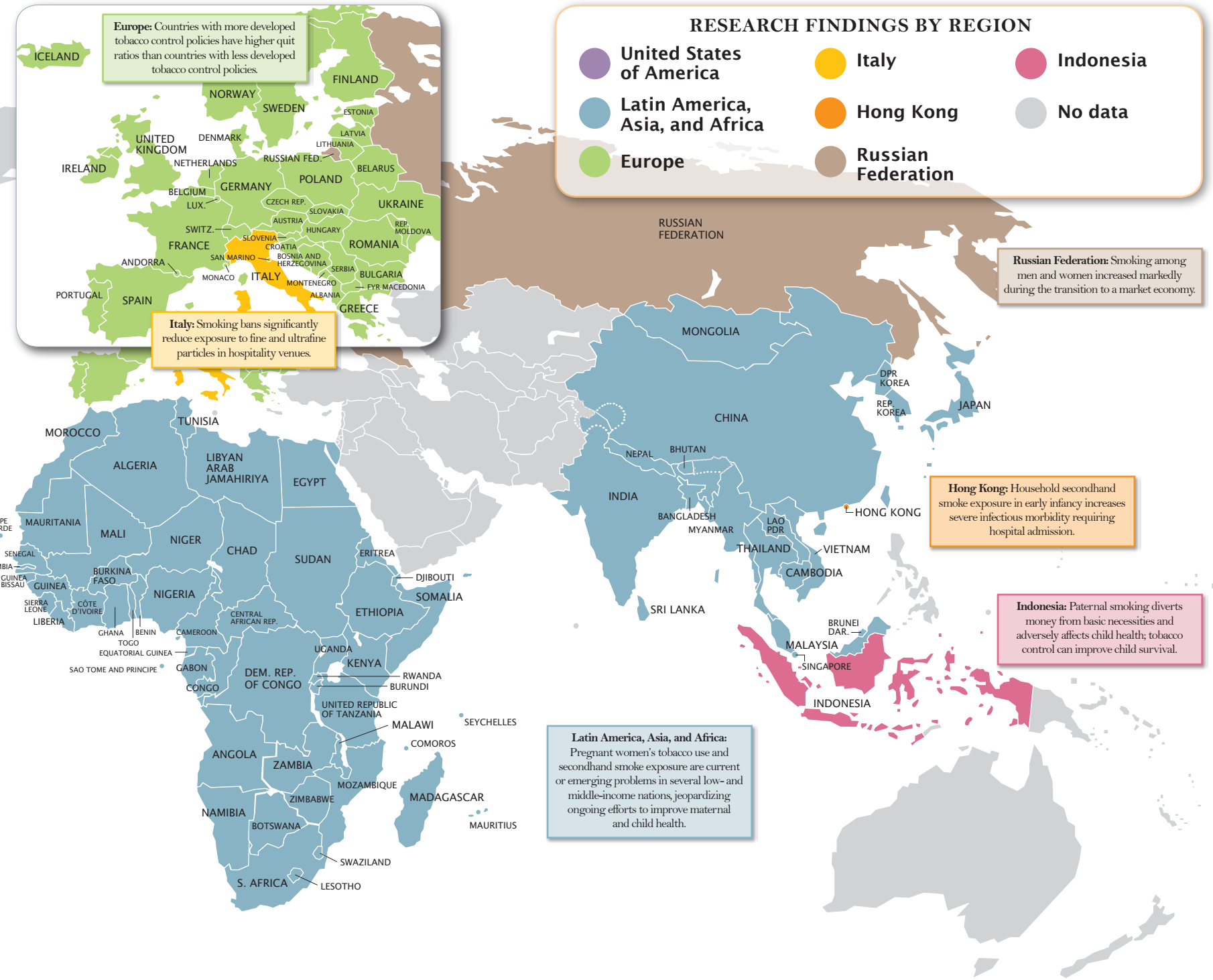
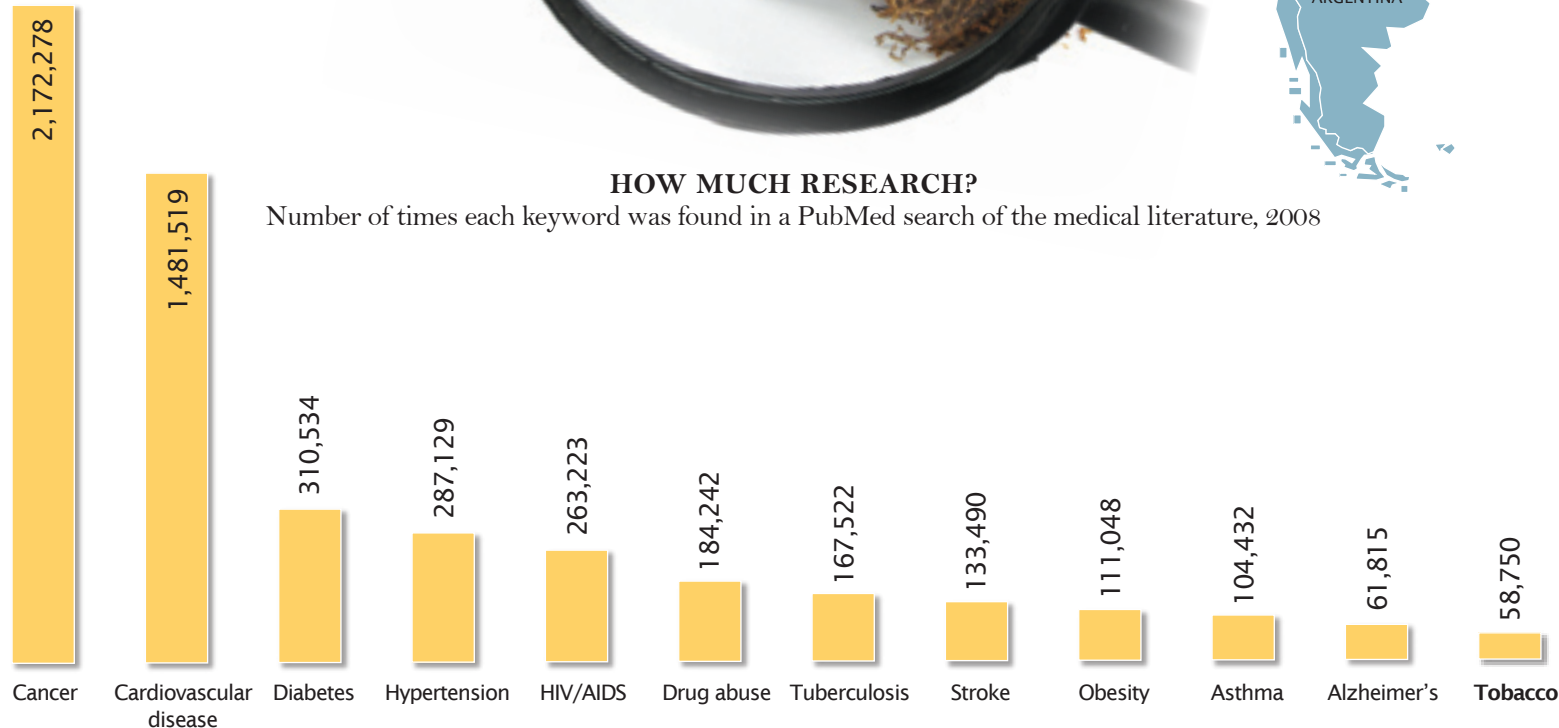
Since the 1950s, scientific research has proven the unparalleled harm tobacco causes to human health. From high-income countries and an increasing number of low- and middle-income countries, scientific evidence has accumulated on tobacco use, the harm it causes, and actions needed to discourage its use. Barriers that make it difficult for developing countries to participate include the lack of standardized data and inadequate communication networks, tobacco-control research capacity, and human and financial resources. Despite philanthropic efforts, tobacco control research continues to be underfunded throughout the world.

Conflicts of interest in tobacco control research arise repeatedly due to the shortage of nonprofit and public-sector research funding. When tobacco companies invest resources in research, they often expect to play a role in designing, conducting, and reporting study results. To maintain the integrity of scientific research and to avoid the appearance of bias, an increasing number of researchers and institutions are unwilling to accept money from the tobacco industry. Among research funding agencies, the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute of Canada, the National Heart Foundation of Australia, and members of the Association of European Cancer Leagues prohibit grants to researchers who have received support from the tobacco industry.



HOW MUCH RESEARCH?

Number of times each keyword was found in a PubMed search of the medical literature, 2008



COMPARATIVE RESEARCH EXPENDITURE

U.S. National Institutes of Health spending on research funding for major health problems, 2007, US\$ per related death

