

milk production^v, as well as to other increased health risks to the newborn child.

Studies show that women who smoke have up to four times higher risk of developing cervical cancer compared to those who are non-smokers, and the risk increases with duration of smoking. The latest United States Surgeon General report on tobacco and health concluded that smoking causes cervical cancer^{vi}.

Cervical cancer is the leading killer cancer in women worldwide, with more than half a million new cases diagnosed annually. Tobacco control measures and smoke cessation could contribute to the reduction of this burden in woman's health and the improvement of maternal-child health in developed and developing countries.

TOBACCO AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There is a growing body of evidence linking smoking and an increased risk of tuberculosis infection, disease and mortality. Studies carried out in India, for instance, show that half the male tuberculosis deaths in that country are caused by smoking, and three quarters of the smokers who were infected with tuberculosis (TB) would not have been infected if they had not smoked^{vii}. The exact physiological mechanism for this association has yet to be completely elucidated but damage to pulmonary mucosa by tobacco smoke, which makes it more susceptible to infection, as well as weight loss and malnutrition in smokers, could be possible mechanisms. The latter would be of special importance among the poorest sector of the population and especially among women.

The incidence of tuberculosis in some developing countries is high and has been aggravated lately by the HIV-AIDS epidemic. An increase in smoking prevalence in these countries could seriously increase the incidence of tuberculosis infection and tuberculosis mortality.