CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN CIGARETTE SMOKE

THIS GRAPHIC OFFERS A SUMMARY OF A SELECTION OF HAZARDOUS COMPOUNDS IN CIGARETTE SMOKE & THEIR EFFECTS

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN CIGARETTE SMOKE



NUMBER OF THESE COMPOUNDS WITH **CONFIRMED CARCINOGENIC ACTIVITY**

The compounds shown below are all found in cigarette smoke. The mass figures, given in µg, take into account both mainstream (inhaled) and sidestream smoke. 1 µg is equal to 1 millionth of a gram. Amounts of these compounds vary in different brands of cigarettes - these figures are approximate.

NICOTINE



- · Approx. 919µg per cigarette
- · Addictive
- · Increases heart rate
- · Increases blood pressure
- · Increases blood glucose
- · Lethal dose: around 500-1000mg

N-NITROSAMINES



- · Large class of compounds
- · Several are tobacco-specific
- · Known human carcinogens
- · Most carcinogenic: NNK & NNN
- · NNK: approx. 0.3µg per cigarette
- NNN: approx. 2-50µg per cigarette
- · May cause reproductive damage

BENZENE



- · Approx. 46-272µg per cigarette
- Known human carcinogen
- · Damages bone marrow
- · Lowers red blood cell count
- · May harm reproductive organs

AROMATIC AMINES



- · Large class of compounds
- · Includes 2-aminonaphthalene:
- Known human carcinogen
- Linked with bladder cancer
- Approx. 0.04µg per cigarette

ACETALDEHYDE



- · Approx. 680-1571µg per cigarette
- Known animal carcinogen
- Probable human carcinogen
- · Irritant to skin & eyes
- · Irritant to respiratory tract

1,3-BUTADIENE



- · Approx. 36-191µg per cigarette
- · Known human carcinogen
- · Suspected human teratogen
- · Irritant to eyes & skin
- · Irritant to upper respiratory tract

ACROLEIN



- · Approx. 69-306μg per cigarette
- Possible human carcinogen
- Known DNA mutagen
- · Irritant to skin & nasal passages
- · May contribute to heart disease

POLYAROMATICS



- · Large class of compounds
- · Includes benzo[a]pyrene:
- Known human carcinogen
- Known DNA mutagen
- Affects reproductive capacity
- Up to 0.14µg per cigarette



