

Tobacco Smoking in Latin America: Differences between Smokers’ Survival Expectations and Observed Mortality

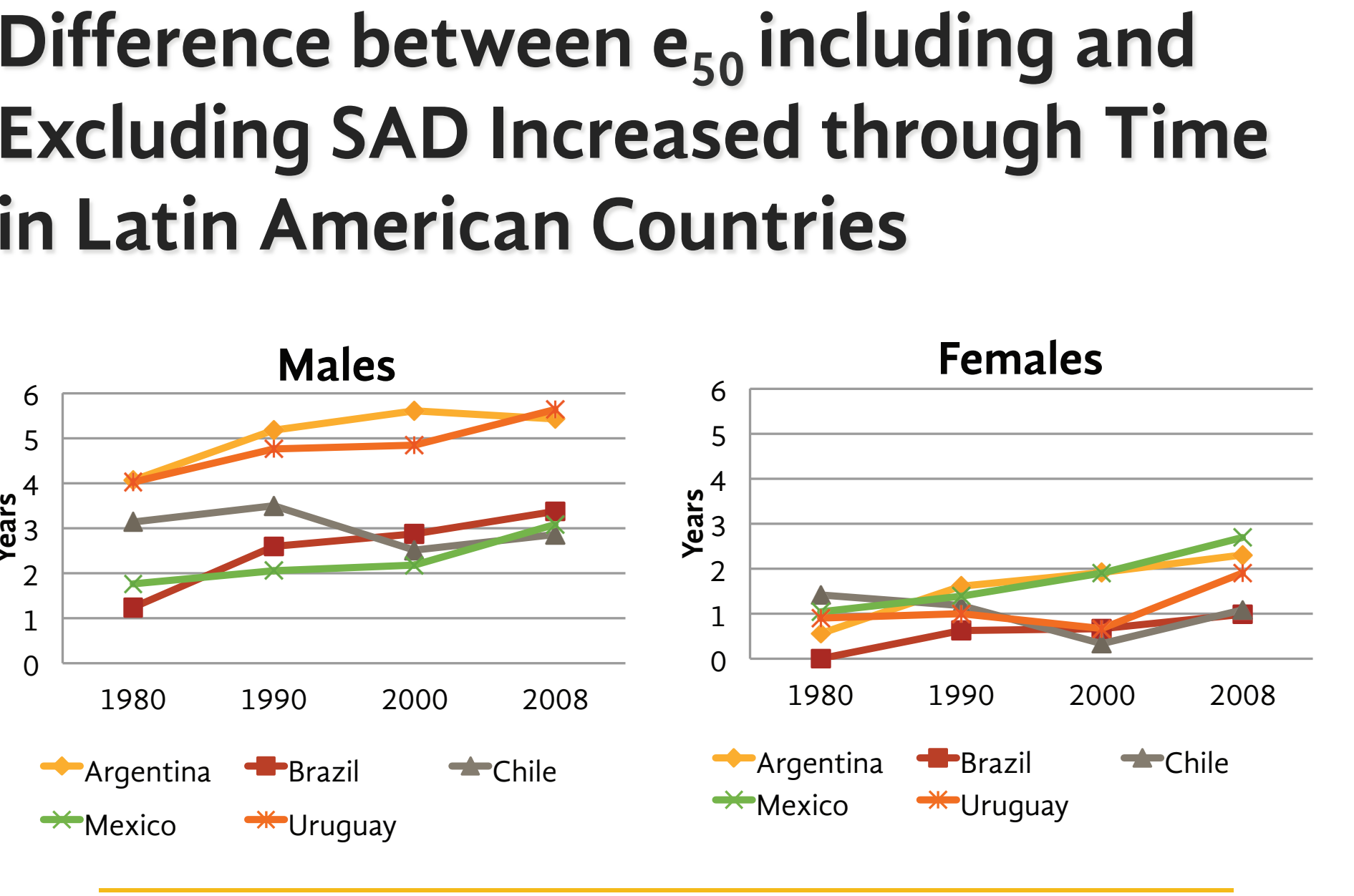
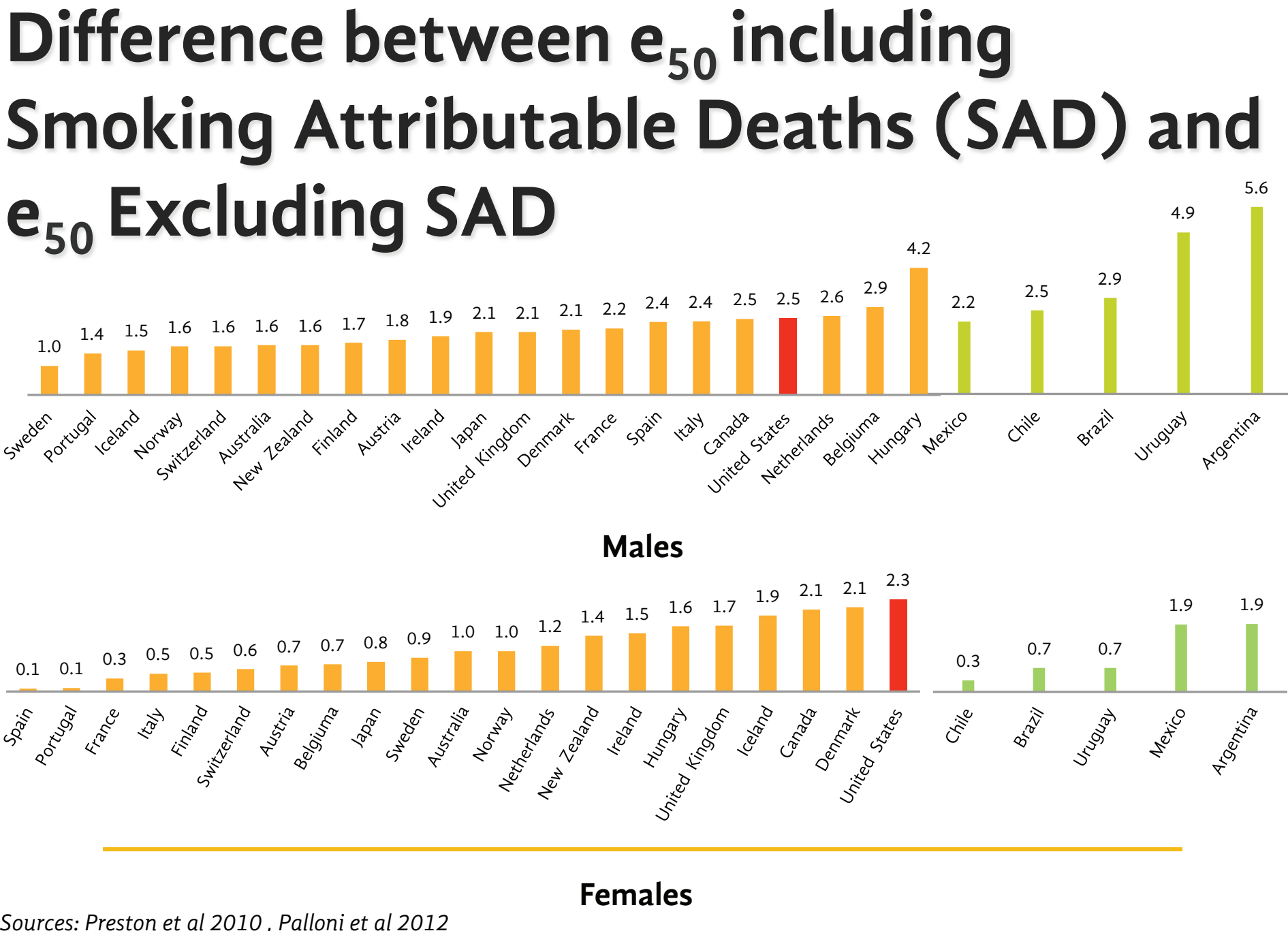
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OBJECTIVE

Explore the existence of consistency, or lack thereof, between actual individual smoking behavior and individual survival expectations

CONTEXT

- Since 1980s the US rate of increase in life expectancy at age 50 has slowed down, primarily due to the contribution of lung cancer and COPD
- Male and female smoking is also the most likely explanation for the observed fall of the ranking of US life expectancy relative to high-income country peers.
- Low income countries are going through the same stages of a smoking epidemic that high income countries did before them



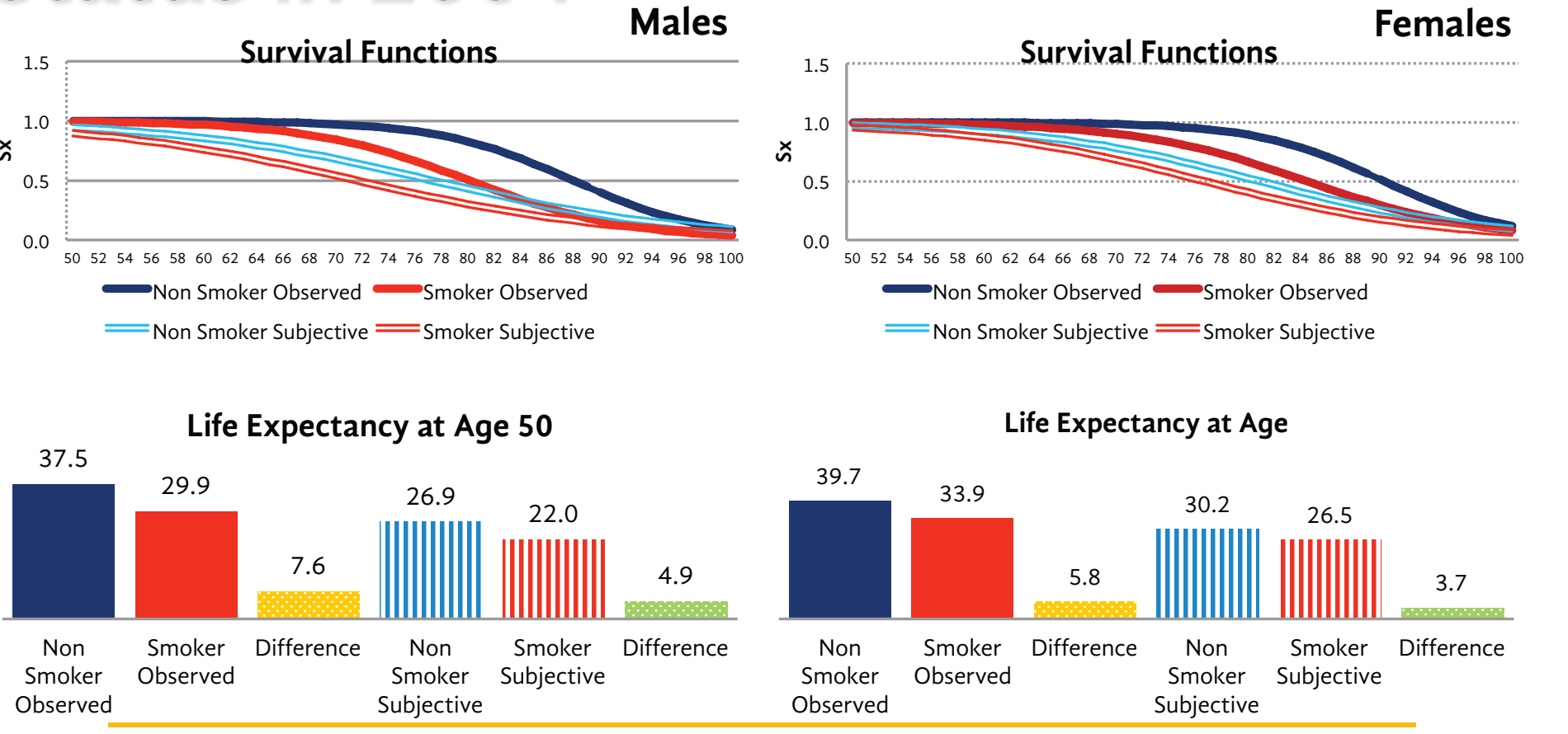
What do we know about Subjective Survival Expectations of Smokers?

- In general, smokers seem to understand that smoking may shorten their potential lifespan

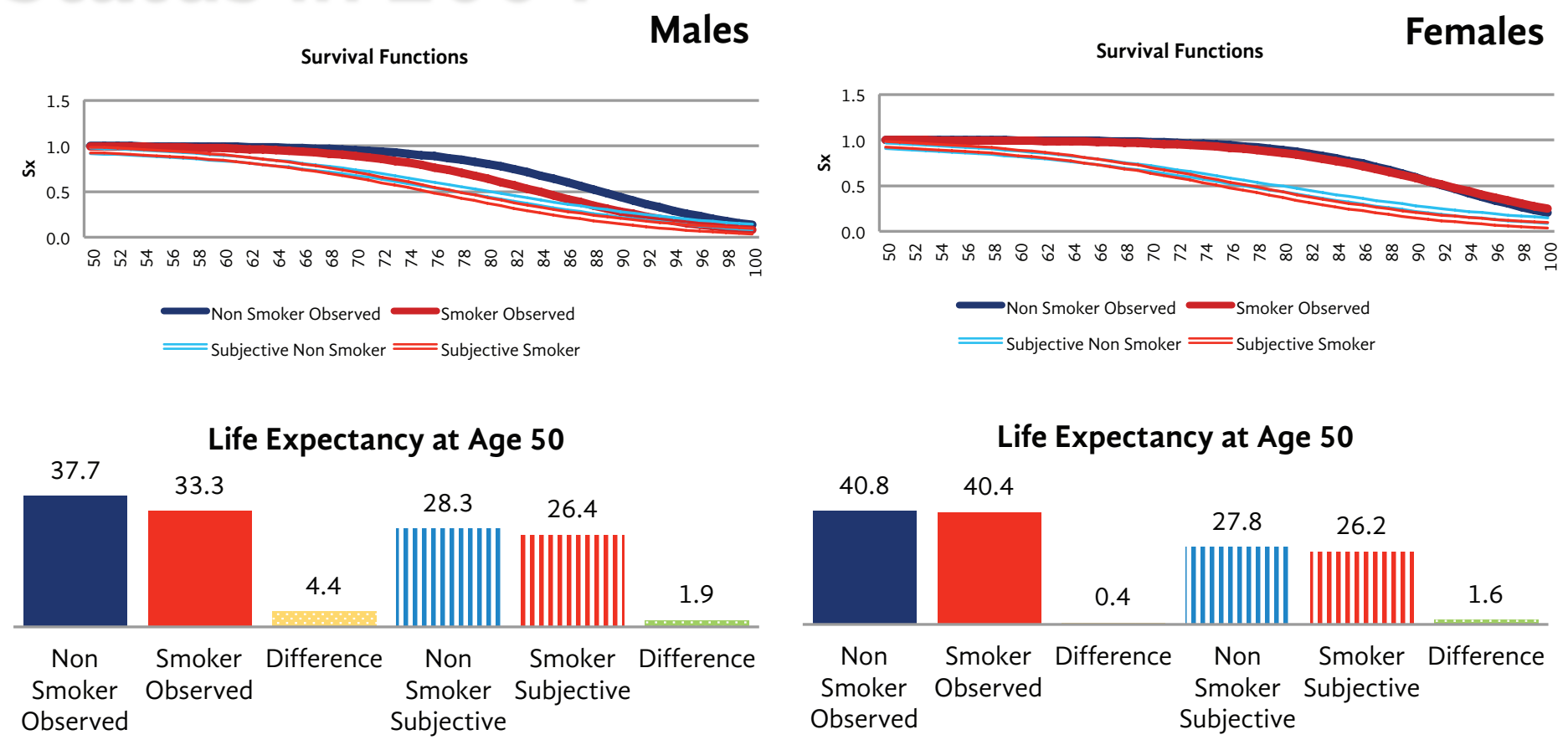
- Underestimate the magnitude of the effect of smoking on their survival probabilities (Schoenbaum 1997) 2-4 years (Ross & Mirowski 2002, Hamermesh & Hamermesh 1983)
- Current smokers seem to use the experience of parents/grand-parents to diminish the importance of smoking on health; however,
- Former smokers emphasize the negative smoking-related health outcomes of relatives (Sloan et al. 2003)

Main Results

US (HRS 2004-2010) Observed and Subjective Mortality by Smoking Status in 2004



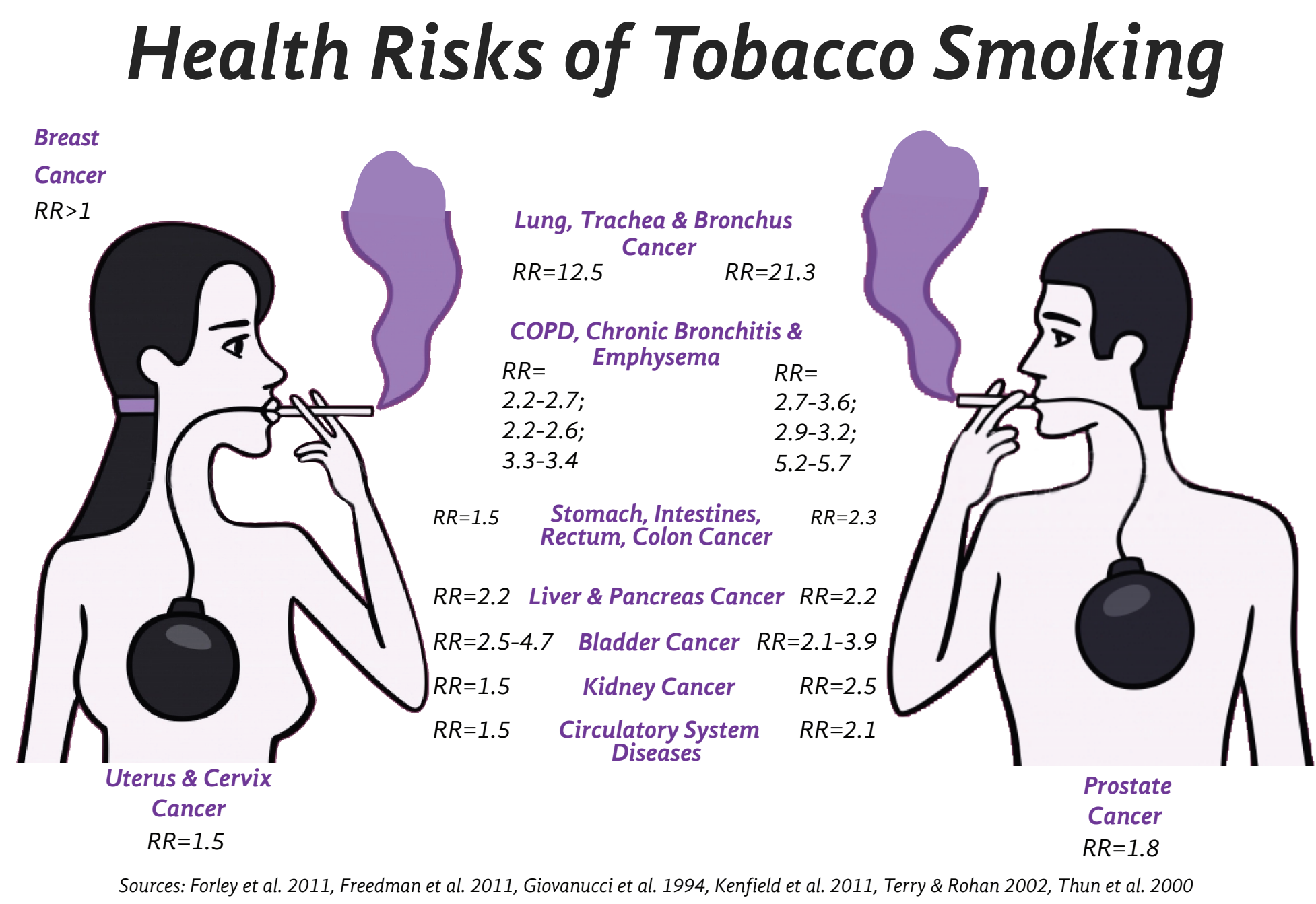
Chile (EPS 2004-2009) Observed and Subjective Mortality by Smoking Status in 2004



- In general, Chilean male smokers are as optimistic (2.5 y) as US male smokers (2.8 y)
- However, considering only White US males, US male smokers are more optimistic (3.8 y) than the Chilean
- White female smokers in the US are somehow optimistic (0.8 y) but Black females are by far optimistic (5.3 y)
- Chilean female smokers and American Black male smokers are a little bit pessimistic (-1.2 y) regarding their future survival

CONCLUSIONS

- Lack of consistency suggests weaknesses and cracks in public health campaigns designed to convey smoking risks
- Consistency, on the other hand, reveals that the population is at least ready though perhaps unwilling to alter behavior
- Future mortality trends in these countries will also depend on smoking behavior (particularly on uptake and quitting rates)



- The bulk of smoking attributable mortality is associated with lung cancer, COPD, cancers of selected sites, and some forms of circulatory and heart disease (in order of importance)