690 publications identified as potentially relevant by MEDLINE search

629 publications excluded for following reasons

- 238 Asian or African studies (or ST products)
- 96 not epidemiological studies (27 animals experimental, 69 human laboratory)
- 112 not cancer studies (17 of precancerous lesions, 75 of tobacco prevalence/cessation, 20 other)
- 141 reviews (34 of ST and cancer, 107 other)
- 22 letters and comments providing no new data
- 17 studies of inappropriate design (9 case report, 6 ecological, 1 cross-sectional, 1 other)
- 3 studies giving no relevant results on ST

61 relevant publications identified after exclusions

45 additional relevant publications from other major reviews or from citations in publications identified

2 (of the 61) identified publications excluded where results from a further publication gives more up-to-date or fuller results

104 publications used for review and meta-analyses

9 cohort studies (25 publications)

80 case-control studies (79 publications)