mean nicotine yield for cigarettes on a sales-weighted basis in 1991 was 0.94 mg of nicotine. Individual yields ranged from 0.1 to 1.9 mg, with 95% of all cigarettes sold falling in the narrower range of 0.32 to 1.56 mg of nicotine. 138 FTC yields for individual brands do not predict actual nicotine intake. Each cigarette rod contains significantly more nicotine than the amount "inhaled" by the smoking machine. Consequently, smokers may absorb more nicotine than the FTC machine, depending on the number and intensity of the puffs they take and whether their lips or fingers block the ventilation holes that can dilute the smoke from "low tar" and "ultra low tar" cigarettes. 139 Whether the tar and nicotine levels measured by the FTC test provide appropriate and useful information to smokers was the subject of a December 5-6, 1994, conference held by the National Cancer Institute at the request of the FTC and the then chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The conferees concluded, among other things, that "actual human smoking behavior is characterized by wide variations in smoking patterns which result in wide variations in tar and nicotine exposure. Smokers who switch to lower tar and nicotine cigarettes frequently change their smoking behavior which may negate potential health benefits."140

¹³⁸ U.S. Federal Trade Commission. *Tar, Nicotine, and Nicotine/Tar Ratios by Year* (Weighted by Sales). U.S. Department of Commerce. 1994.

¹³⁹ Mueller M. Overview of the 1980-1994 Research Findings Relating to the Standard FTC Test Method For Cigarette Smoking (and studies cited therein). Prepared by ROW Sciences, Inc. for the National Cancer Institute Conference on the FTC Test Method for Determining Tar, Nicotine, and Carbon Monoxide Levels in Cigarettes, December 5-6, 1994. Smoking and Tobacco Control Program, National Cancer Institute. Bethesda, MD.

Ad Hoc Committee of the President's Cancer Panel. Statement from the Ad Hoc Committee of the President's Cancer Panel to Consider the FTC Test Method for Determining Tar, Nicotine, and Carbon Monoxide Levels in Cigarettes. December 6, 1994.