

# GSSF

Global Sensitive Skincare Faculty  
by GALDERMA

## Sensitive skin in the modern world Galderma's scientific response to a growing dermatological challenge

### Sensitive skin: a global wakeup call

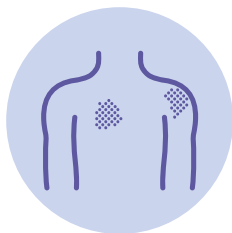
**Sensitive skin** refers to skin that is more prone to neuro-inflammation, with symptoms including:<sup>1-3</sup>



Discomfort due to stinging, itching, and burning



Dryness



Redness

It was first described by dermatologists in the 1970s as a reaction to cosmetics and initially believed to be an unusual reaction in a small subset of individuals.<sup>2-4</sup> But we now know sensitive skin affects up to **70% of people globally**, with a **68% increase** in self-reported cases over the past two decades.<sup>5,6</sup> This makes it one of the most common – but least understood – skin conditions globally.<sup>3,7,8</sup>

To address this widespread issue, Galderma convened a global faculty of experts as the **Global Sensitive Skincare Faculty (GSSF)**: a pioneering international network dedicated to advancing the understanding, diagnosis, and care of sensitive skin.



### What happens when skin meets stress

Sensitive skin can act as a **biological alarm bell**: an early warning system for environmental and physiological stresses such as:<sup>9-11</sup>



Pollution



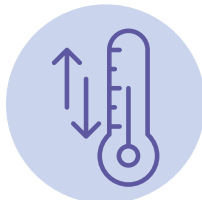
Stress



Poor sleep

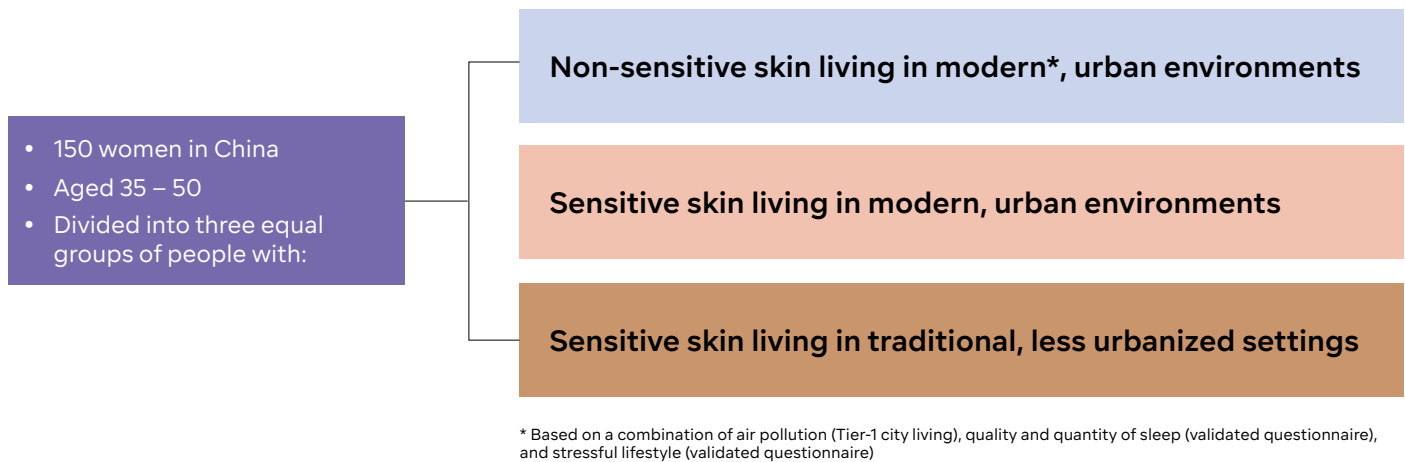


UV exposure

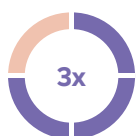


Temperature fluctuations

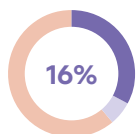
To learn more about the biological impact of urban living on sensitive skin, the GSSF launched a first-of-its-kind real-world study:<sup>9</sup>



### Key Findings



**Inflammation:** People with sensitive skin living in modern, urban environments showed almost **3x higher levels of PGE2**, a key inflammatory marker compared to sensitive skin living in traditional, less urbanized environments. Comparing sensitive skin to non-sensitive skin living in modern, urban environments, sensitive skin experienced a 23% increase in inflammation, showing its overreactivity to internal and external stress triggers increasing long-term skin damage<sup>9</sup>



**Oxidative Stress:** People with sensitive skin living in modern, urban environments had a **16% increase in oxidative stress markers** compared to non-sensitive skin living in the same environments, indicating long-term damage.<sup>9</sup> *Oxidative stress levels were high in sensitive skin regardless, suggesting oxidative stress may be a core driver of sensitive skin<sup>9</sup>*



**Sebum Surge:** Stress-induced sebum production was higher in people with sensitive skin living in modern, urban environments compared to sensitive skin living in the traditional, less urbanized environments. The level of sebum was comparable in sensitive vs non-sensitive skin in modern urban environments<sup>9</sup>



**Visible Impact:** People had more pores, uneven tone, dark circles, and age spots in both sensitive skin groups: those living in modern, urban environments and those living in traditional, less urbanized settings compared to non-sensitive skin living in modern, urban environments<sup>9</sup>

This study quantifies what dermatologists have long suspected: sensitive skin is biologically more reactive, and vibrant modern life is making it worse.<sup>9</sup>

### Galderma is committed to advancing dermatology for every skin story

Sensitive skin is no longer a vague complaint, it's a biologically distinct condition shaped by the realities of modern living and urban environments.<sup>9</sup> Galderma is at the forefront of this transformation, helping to:

- **Redefine diagnosis** standards for sensitive skin
- Drive **innovation in skincare** solutions
- **Educate clinicians and consumers** about the impact of environmental factors like pollution, stress, and poor sleep

Galderma is committed to advancing dermatology for every skin story, and sensitive skin is no exception.

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