

# Pharmacist counselling to support smokers' quitting.

## Findings from the Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey, 2008.

The Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey is an annual survey conducted by Health Canada and Statistics Canada. Among the questions asked of Canadian smokers is: "In the past 12 months, did you talk with a pharmacist?"

Those who reported having talked with a pharmacist are asked "did the pharmacist advise you to reduce or quit smoking?" and those who reported having been advised are asked "Did the pharmacist provide you with information on quit smoking aids such as the patch, a product like Zyban, or counselling programs?"

In 2008, about half of smokers (48%) reported having talked with a pharmacist, but only 12% of those discussions resulted in a smoker reporting that they had been advised to quit (representing 6% of all smokers). Only 5% of smokers reported having been given information on quitting in the past year.

In provinces where cigarette sales were banned in pharmacies in 2008 (Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario), CTUMS reports a higher percentage of smokers having talked with a pharmacist, although the percentage of smokers actually given information was roughly equal. In most provinces, so few survey respondents (fewer than 30 in each province) reported having received advice that the results by province for that question are not releasable.

Since 2008, two provinces (Alberta and Saskatchewan) have passed laws to ban sales of tobacco products in pharmacies.

### Number and percentage of smokers who talked with a pharmacist and who were advised to quit smoking by a pharmacist in Canada, 2008.

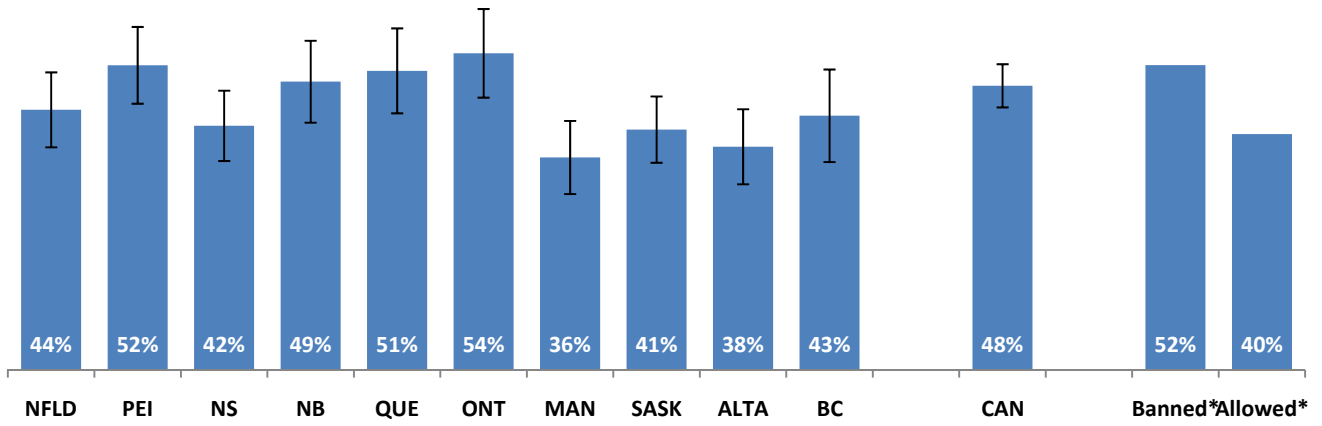
Province	Number of smokers, 2008	Number (Percentage) who talked with pharmacist	COV for % [1]	Number/ Percentage advised to quit	COV for % [1]	Number/ Percentage provided information	COV for % [1]
Newfoundland and Labrador	85,942	38,097 (44%)	7.2%				
Prince Edward Island	20,840	10,819 (52%)	6.3%				
Nova Scotia	149,444	62,172 (42%)	7.2%				
New Brunswick	120,020	58,956 (49%)	7.1%				
Quebec	1,209,286	616,394 (51%)	7.1%				
Ontario	1,832,902	989,024 (54%)	7%				
Manitoba	180,998	65,542 (36%)	8.6%				
Saskatchewan	166,276	68,113 (41%)	6.9%				
Alberta	542,826	206,464 (38%)	8.4%				
British Columbia	565,363	244,892 (43%)	9.1%				
Canada	4,873,897	2,360,473 (48%)	3.8%	297,290 (6%)	13.3%	250,016 (5%)	14.6%

[1] Coefficient of variation taken from Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey 2008, Approximate Sampling Variability Tables

## Percentage of smokers who report having talked with a pharmacist in past 12 months

\*Banned: sale of tobacco in pharmacies banned in NFLD, PEI, NS, NB, QUE, ONT;

\*Allowed: sale of tobacco in pharmacies allowed in MAN, SASK, ALTA, B.C.}



## Percentage of smokers advised to quit by pharmacist, Canada 2008.

