

CALIFORNIA PHARMACY FACTS

There are approximately 5,300 licensed pharmacies in California, including those located in independent pharmacies, hospitals, clinics, chain drugstores, discount and warehouse retail outlets and grocery stores. All hospital and clinic pharmacies are tobacco-free as are those in Targets and Medicine Shoppes and approximately 75-78% of the independent pharmacies. This represents 43% or 2,300 pharmacies, which are not currently selling tobacco products. Which leaves approximately 57%, or over 3,000 California pharmacies that continue to sell tobacco products. With the four major chain pharmacies (Longs Drugs, Rite Aid, Sav-On and Walgreens) representing 1,743 or 58% of these and grocery stores representing only 353 or 12% of licensed pharmacies that continue to sell tobacco products in California.

Detailed Breakdown of Pharmacies in California as of January 2003

Type of Pharmacy	# of Specific Chains	Total # in California	% of Tobacco Free Pharmacies
Independent (Too large to list)		2,338	75-78% = 1,754
Hospitals/Clinics (including Kaiser)	205	324	100% = 324
Discount/Warehouses Costco Kmart Wal-mart Target	86 38 119 38	289	Appro. 13% = 38 (All Targets)
Grocery (Larger Chains) Raley's Raph's Safeway/Vons	59 67 227	371	0% = 0
Small Chains (Select Few) CVS Drug Emporium Horton & Converse Leader Medicine Shoppe Owens	09 25 13 17 77 08	211	Appro. 70% = 149
Large Chains Longs Drugs Rite Aid Sav-On (Albertson's) Walgreens Drug	356 576 505 282	1719	Appro. 1.16% = 20
Totals Pharmacies		5,252 Licensed in CA	2,285 Tobacco-Free

Consumer/Public Support for Tobacco Free Pharmacies and Drugstores

- 72.3% of California consumers are not in favor of tobacco products being sold in drugstores.²
- Nearly one-half of California smokers (49.7%) disagree or strongly disagree that tobacco products should be sold through drug stores and only a small minority of smokers (9.8%) of smokers strongly favor the sale of tobacco products through drugstores.²
- A majority (64.4%) of California consumers do not believe it is appropriate for pharmacies and drug stores to display ads and promotions for tobacco products.²

Pharmacist Support for Tobacco Free Pharmacies and Drugstores

- Overall, 80.6% of chain drugstore pharmacists “disagree” or “strongly disagree” that it is appropriate for pharmacies and drugstores to carry tobacco products.¹
- The overwhelming majority (91.8%) of chain drugstore pharmacists “disagree” or “strongly disagree” that it is appropriate for pharmacies and drugstores to display ads and promotions for tobacco products in pharmacies and drugstores.¹
- Only 13.2% of chain drugstore pharmacists are in favor of tobacco products being sold in drugstores.¹

Notable Quotes

- ***“Since we stopped selling cigarettes, we’ve replaced them by other goods and I must say, at my own expense, that this has worked out well. It’s been a good thing because sales volumes have risen and, you know, even if we were a bit stubborn about it, there is, undeniably, something incompatible between the role of pharmacist and that of cigarette seller... The results have been surprising, and better than I expected... I must say we probably should have done it sooner....”*** Jean Coutu, head of the large pharmacy chain in Quebec that lobbied against and sued over the ban on the sale of tobacco products in Quebec pharmacies.⁵
- ***“The bottom line is that pharmacies and chain drugstores should be helping to improve people’s health, not selling them products that can hurt or kill them,”*** Rolland C. Lowe, MD., chair of the CMA Foundation.³
- ***“We’re trying to promote health,”*** said Eugene Malmquist, owner of Home Drug Co., in San Francisco, explaining his decision to stop selling tobacco products in 1998. ***“How could we in good conscience sell tobacco?”***⁴

-
1. Robinson, G. *Chain Drugstore Policies and Attitudes about Tobacco Sales and Promotions, Phase II – Executive Summary*; California Medical Association Foundation, Pharmacy Partnership Project. San Francisco, CA: CMA Foundation, Pharmacy Project, 2000.
 2. Robinson, G. *California Adult Consumer Survey Pharmacies and Drugstores Selling Tobacco Products –Phase II: Executive Summary, 1997-2000*; California State University Fullerton, Social Science Research Center; California Medical Association Foundation, Pharmacy Partnership Project. California State University Fullerton, Social Science Research Center; California Medical Association Foundation, 2000.
 3. CMA Press Release, April 10, 2000.
 4. Bohan, S., Tobacco foes take aim at drugstore sales. *Sacramento Bee*: November 12, 1999; pg. A-3.
 5. Television interview: Host Pierre Marcotte. Date: April 17, 1999 reported in *Tobacco News Online* July 5, 1999 by Louis Gauvin, of the Coalition québécoise pour le contrôle du tabac.