

Pharmacies that sell tobacco send a mixed message.



AT THE CHECKOUT

- Although tobacco products make up a small percentage of total sales in pharmacies, tobacco is prominently displayed at checkout.
- The presence of tobacco displays makes it more difficult for smokers to quit.
- When filling prescriptions for chronic illnesses worsened by smoking, 1 in 20 customers also purchased cigarettes.
- Pharmacies sell cigarettes cheaper than other stores and charge more for bottled water than other stores.

AT THE PHARMACY

After CVS stopped selling tobacco in September 2014, cigarette pack sales decreased and nicotine patch purchases increased in states where the chain had a large retail presence.

SUPPORT OF TOBACCO-FREE PHARMACIES

- 82% of pharmacists and 72% of adults in CA believe pharmacies should not sell tobacco.
- CA focus group participants, comprised of grocery store and pharmacy customers, considered pharmacies to be incompatible with the sale of cigarettes and thought there should be limitations on where they can be sold.

SOLUTIONS

Tobacco-free pharmacies are possible in CA.

In 2008, San Francisco was the first U.S. city to mandate tobacco-free pharmacies. Currently, 168 cities and counties have passed tobacco-free pharmacy laws, only 15 are in CA. As more communities in CA commit to tobacco-free pharmacies, more Californians will benefit from healthier retail environments.

Tobacco retailer licensing (TRL) ordinances can be used to achieve tobacco-free pharmacies.

A local TRL allows communities to exercise greater control over where tobacco is sold. Under a TRL, a local government requires tobacco retailers to obtain a license and follow certain requirements to sell tobacco. ChangeLab Solutions has policy language that if inserted into a TRL, prohibits the sale of tobacco products in licensed pharmacies.



Over **2 million** U.S. adult smokers last purchased their cigarettes from a pharmacy.



In 2015, more than **53,000** pharmacies sold tobacco - that is more locations than all of the Starbucks and McDonald's in the U.S. combined.