

MAKE PHARMACIES TOBACCO-FREE

Nearly a decade ago, the 62,000-member American Pharmacists Association issued a policy calling on pharmacies and facilities with pharmacies to stop selling tobacco products.

Thousands of pharmacies still sell tobacco — including most Walgreens stores, the country's second largest pharmacy chain — and tobacco use remains the No. 1 cause of preventable death and disease in the U.S.

In December 2018, Truth Initiative® led a discussion with a group of pharmacists to understand their views on the issue. Most participants worked in pharmacies without a ban on tobacco sales and around half of participants worked for Walgreens. Here is what we learned:

Pharmacists saw themselves as front-line healthcare providers and were concerned about tobacco use among customers, who they viewed as patients.

"I will say it bothers me because I am filling prescriptions for illnesses that directly relate to that behavior. I think what a waste of healthcare dollars." — pharmacist in pharmacy selling tobacco

Almost all pharmacists have aided customers in quitting smoking and other forms of tobacco. Most pharmacists in stores with a tobacco ban believed it gave them more opportunities to interact with customers about quitting tobacco, not fewer opportunities.

Sign up to help make tobacco-free pharmacies a reality at truthinitiative.org/pharmacy-pledge.



"My customers take me seriously as a professional when I counsel them against smoking. Pharmacists that don't have support from their companies are in a much worse place." — pharmacist in tobacco-free pharmacy

Most pharmacists, including Walgreens pharmacists, felt a ban would have a positive effect on customer health. Most pharmacists who already worked in a pharmacy with a ban agreed it has had a positive effect on customer health.

"We need to let everyone know we are here to improve your health, not damage it." — pharmacist in tobacco-free pharmacy

"Pharmacies are places that offer life-saving medications to patients. We should not be selling them harmful tobacco products." — pharmacist in tobacco-free pharmacy

There is large public support for removing tobacco from pharmacies. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data from 2016 showed that 66 percent of U.S. adults favored a ban on tobacco products in pharmacy stores, including nearly half of smokers.

73% of Walgreens shoppers surveyed say the pharmacy chain should ban the sale of tobacco products.

A 2017 Truth Initiative survey showed that nearly three-quarters — 73 percent — of Walgreens shoppers surveyed say the pharmacy chain should ban the sale of tobacco products. Additionally, more than a quarter of Walgreens shoppers — 27 percent — reported that they would shop at Walgreens more often if it stopped selling tobacco products.

To learn more about this issue, visit truthinitiative.org.



Calling on Walgreens

Thousands of young people have expressed their support for tobacco-free pharmacies and called on Walgreens to live up to its mission of promoting health.

- > More than **12,000** young people (and counting) have signed **truth**[®] petitions supporting tobacco-free pharmacies.
- > Young people have shown up to **five** protests across the country, including a zombie-themed protest at the Washington, D.C., flagship Walgreens store.
- > Truth Initiative has brought young people to the annual Walgreens shareholders meeting **three** years in a row to directly ask about eliminating tobacco products from Walgreens.



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