

# Prescription FOR CHANGE<sup>®</sup>



## New York Pharmacy Facts

- There are approximately 4,300 licensed pharmacies in New York, including those located in independent pharmacies, hospitals, clinics, chain drugstores, discount and warehouse retail outlets and grocery stores.
- Currently, no tobacco products are sold at hospital or clinic pharmacies, Target and Wegmans stores and 85% of independent pharmacies.
- Currently 52% (2,236) of all pharmacies in New York sell tobacco.
- 99% (1,440) of large, chain drug stores in New York State are licensed to sell tobacco.

### Detailed Breakdown of Pharmacies in New York State

Type of Pharmacy	# of Stores	Total # in NY	% of Tobacco Free Pharmacies	% of Pharmacies Sell Tobacco
<b>INDEPENDENT</b> <i>(Too large to list)</i>		1,935	85%	15%
<b>HOSPITALS/CLINICS</b>		231	100%	0%
<b>DISCOUNT/WAREHOUSES</b>		193	47%	53%
Kmart	36			
Wal-mart/Sams	95			
Target	62		(100% of Target stores)	
<b>GROCERY</b>		334	12%	88%
Tops	59			
Stop & Shop	42			
Price Chopper	39			
Pathmark	39			
Wegmans	35		(100% of Wegmans stores)	
Other	120			
<b>SMALL CHAINS</b>		176	40%	60%
Kinney Drugs	67			
The Medicine Shoppe	20			
Thriftway Pharmacy	10			
Other	79			
<b>LARGE CHAINS</b>		1,455	1%	99%
Rite Aid	640			
CVS	396			
Duane Reade	234			
Walgreens	185			
<b>TOTAL PHARMACIES</b>		<b>4,324</b> <i>Licensed in NY</i>	<b>2,088</b> <i>Tobacco Free</i>	<b>2,236</b> <i>Sell Tobacco</i>

The Siena College Research Institute compiled data for this table on April 15, 2010 by comparing information from the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Taxation & Finance. Pharmacy data was collected from the NYS Department of Health website. The New York State Department of Taxation & Finance supplied all retail locations with a tobacco license who were registered in New York State in 2009.

Now is the time to end tobacco sales at pharmacies in New York State.

Here's why:

- "Pharmacies are the face of neighborhood healthcare. Americans rely on their neighborhood pharmacies and pharmacists as easily accessible and trusted points of care."<sup>1</sup>
- It is a conflict of interest for pharmacies, providers of health care, to also profit from the sale of harmful products such as tobacco, known to cause cancer, heart and pulmonary diseases.<sup>2</sup>
- Tobacco sales in pharmacies raises ethical questions since tobacco is the only consumer product that, when used as intended, will kill at least one half of its long term users.<sup>3</sup>
- Tobacco products are highly addictive and responsible for the preventable death of 25,400 people in New York each year.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Statement on Health Care Reform, November 19, 2008 Available at: <http://www.nacds.org/userassets/pdfs/newsrelease/2008/NACDS%20Finance%20Committee%20HCR%20Hearing%20Statement%20Nov%202008.PDF> [Accessed: April, 13, 2010]

<sup>2,3</sup> Bero L, Corelli R, Hudmon K, Kroon L. Position paper on amending the San Francisco Health Code to prohibit pharmacies from selling tobacco products. July 14, 2008. Available at: <http://www.no-smoke.org/pdf/Pharmacy%20UCSF-TobaccoSalesPositionPaper-v14-%28on%20letterhead%291.pdf> [Accessed: 05/12/2010]

<sup>4</sup> State-Specific Smoking-Attributable Mortality and Years of Potential Life Lost --- United States, 2000—2004, MMWR Weekly, CDC, January 23, 2009/58(02):29-33, Table 1. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5802a2.htm> [Accessed: May 5, 2010.]

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### New Yorkers Support Tobacco-Free Pharmacies

69% in the Capital Region thought that pharmacies should not sell tobacco products<sup>1</sup>

73% in Broome County thought that pharmacies should not sell tobacco products<sup>2</sup>

56% in the Hudson Valley and Long Island thought that pharmacies should not sell tobacco products<sup>3</sup>

58% in NYC favored a law that would prohibit the sales of tobacco products at pharmacies<sup>4</sup>

### Pharmacists Support Tobacco-Free Pharmacies

In July 2009, the Pharmacist Society of the State of New York (PSSNY), House of Delegates passed a resolution supporting efforts to end the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies.

PSSNY is a 125 year old not-for-profit incorporated society which represents the pharmacist's profession and is the largest pharmacy association in New York State, representing nearly 2,700 pharmacists.

## Notable Quotes

*"It is important for the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies to stop. As health care professionals, we need to provide one message to our patients. We are available as a resource and as an advocate to assist our patients in quitting."*

Nicole M. Lodise, Pharm.D.  
Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice  
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

*"To put it as forcefully as I possibly can, pharmacies selling cigarettes is a disgrace. Any other product in these stores that killed even one one-thousandth of the number of people cigarettes kill every year would be pulled from their shelves instantly. Yet these stores continue to carry a product, that, when used as instructed, kill half the people using it."*

Frank Vitale  
National Director Pharmacy Partnership for Tobacco Cessation

*"Over the last twenty plus years as a pharmacist, I have seen too many patients go to an early grave because of tobacco use. I have always been wholeheartedly against the sale of tobacco in pharmacies. There is nothing more convincing than filling medications for someone who has set themselves on fire due to smoking with oxygen on their face."*

Karen Hogue, RPh., Owner, Corning

*"I have never understood why pharmacies would sell tobacco products. These products are a leading cause of death and disease in our society and selling them goes against everything we should be as pharmacists. Please urge pharmacies to STOP putting tobacco profits ahead of people's health and well-being."*

Michael Steed, RPh., Corning

*"After watching my father and brother die horrific deaths both caused by cigarette smoking, we could no longer, in good conscience, continue to sell cigarettes in our pharmacies. Seeing the countless families blown apart by the devastation of lung cancer, it made no sense to try and ease their suffering in the back of the store and encourage cigarette smoking in the front of the store."*

Mark J Quackenbush, Pharm D, Windham Pharmacy, Windham

*"I was a pharmacist in Cortland for over 40 years and was, and am, perplexed by the contradictions one can observe about our pharmacies here in New York State and around the country. Selling tobacco products, known to cause cancer, heart disease and emphysema is in direct conflict with the mission of our pharmacies."*

Richard Menapace, Retired Pharmacist, Cortland

<sup>1</sup> Tobacco Free Coalitions Study: 2009, Siena College Research Institute (SRI), July 2009, pg. 4-5

<sup>2</sup> Community Tobacco Survey of Adult Residents of Broome County, December 2009, Joel LaLone Consulting, pg. 44.

<sup>3</sup> Long Island/Hudson Valley Tobacco Survey 2009, Baruch College Survey Research, June-July 2009

<sup>4</sup> NYC Coalition For A Smoke-free City Report: Zogby International, August 2009

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