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## Database Resources Available from the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit

The Ontario Tobacco Research Unit provides two resources for the design and conduct of studies related to tobacco and tobacco control. These resources can be downloaded from the OTRU web site at <http://www.otru.org/databases.html>.

### Directory of Public Use Data on Tobacco Use in Canada

This directory is designed to help researchers and students locate Canadian data sets on smoking and tobacco use by providing a comprehensive list of survey data sets available for public use.

The first section of the directory is an overview of places where researchers can obtain public-use survey data sets. The second section contains an alphabetized listing of nearly 50 surveys that contain data on some aspect of tobacco use. Detailed information about each individual data set and how to access it is given under the following headings:

- the **location** of the data set
- a brief **description** of the survey
- a bibliography of tobacco-related **reports/publications** associated with the survey or data
- **technical information** about the survey
- the **costs** of obtaining data and/or reports
- **contact information**
- any **restrictions** on use of the data (such as licensing agreements)

### Searchable Database of Questionnaire Items from Population Surveys of Tobacco Use in Canada

The searchable database of questionnaire items from Canadian surveys on tobacco use provides researchers and program evaluators with reliable and valid survey questions. By employing items that have been used in other surveys, researchers can develop questionnaires that allow comparisons with other jurisdictions, or across time. The database contains over 2,000 tobacco-related questions gathered from over 65 national, provincial and local surveys conducted between 1977 and 2007. The database is in Microsoft Access 2000®. The entire database can be downloaded from the OTRU website.

Users of the database can search for individual questionnaire items by entering multiple search criteria into drop-down boxes (e.g., **category**, **keywords**, **survey title and survey year**).

In the example below, three questionnaire items were found to match the search criteria “ETS and “car.” Information on the survey where the item appeared is also provided. It is possible to scroll through the items.

A customized report is easily generated by marking selected questionnaire items. This report can be viewed, printed or saved as a Word® document.

**Tobacco Use Questionnaire Items: A Searchable Database - [Database Search]**

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help

Type a question for help

**Search by Category** **Search by Keyword** **Search by Second Keyword**

**Search by Survey** **Search by Survey Year**

**Question**

In the past month, (excluding your own smoking), were you exposed to second-hand smoke inside a car or other vehicle

**Response**

Yes  
No  
Don't know  
Refused

**Surveys**

Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey: cycle 1--2005  
Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey: cycle 2--2005

**Keywords**

ETS  
exposure  
car

Enter search criteria in the drop-down boxes (e.g. car and ETS entered in keyword boxes)

Click to mark the question item to include in your report.

Click to see a report of selected questions.

Surveys where the question is used.

Three records match the search criteria ETS and car. Click on the arrows to view the next question.

Record: 1 of 3

Form View

NUM

Questions, comments, and suggestions for improvements to these resources are welcome. Please contact: Karen Pieters, Population Health Research Group, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1 (kpieters@healthy.uwaterloo.ca).