



June 2012

## Database Resources Available from the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit

The Ontario Tobacco Research Unit has recently updated two resources for the design and conduct of studies related to tobacco and tobacco control. These resources can be downloaded from the OTRU website 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.

Questions, comments and suggestions for improvements to these resources are welcome. Please contact: Karen Pieters, OTRU Research Officer, Propel Centre for Population Health Impact, University of Waterloo, ([kpieters@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:kpieters@uwaterloo.ca))

The first section of the directory provides an overview of places where researchers may obtain datasets. The second section contains an alphabetized listing of 64 surveys that contain data on some aspect of tobacco use. Detailed information about each individual data set and how to access it is presented 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 the 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 3500 tobacco related questions gathered from over 100 national, provincial and local surveys conducted between 1951 and 2011. The database is in Microsoft Access 2010. The entire database can be downloaded from the OTRU website.

Users of the database are able to search for questionnaire items by entering multiple search criteria into the drop-down boxes (i.e. **category**, **keywords**, **survey title**, and **survey year**). A customized report is easily generated by marking selected questionnaire items. This report can be viewed, printed or saved as a word document.

In the example below, three questionnaire items were found to match the search criteria “ETS and “car”.

Database Search - Tobacco Use Questionnaire Items: A Searchable Database

Search by Category:  Search by Keyword:  Search by Second Keyword:  Select Record:  Reset Search Criteria:  Send us your questions, comments or surveys to be considered for future updates.

Search by Survey:  Search by Survey Year:  Select All Records:  Unmark All Selected Records:  View Selected Records:  Help:  Return to Main Menu:

**Question**

Which of the following best describe the behaviours of the people smoking in the PRIVATE vehicle you travel in the most? (Read response options)

**Response**

☐ No one ever smokes  
☐ People smoke except when children are present  
☐ People smoke when they are the only person in the car  
☐ People smoke whenever they want  
☐ I do not travel in a private vehicle  
☐ Don't know  
☐ Refused

**Surveys**

Ontario Tobacco Survey--Baseline--2005-2007, 2008 (Jan-Jun)

**Keywords**

behaviour  
car  
environmental tobacco smoke  
ETS  
vehicle

**Category**

Second-Hand Smoke

Record: 1 of 3 No Filter Search

Form View Num Lock

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