



Contraband

A Selected Bibliography from the Tobacco Control Reference Catalogue
May 2010

Aitken, C. K., T. R. L. Fry, et al. (2009). "Smokers of illicit tobacco report significantly worse health than other smokers." Nicotine & tobacco research. 11(8): 996-1001. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntp102>

Establishes whether the health of individuals who currently smoke or who formerly smoked illicit tobacco (chop-chop) varies from individuals who currently smoke licit tobacco. A telephone survey found individuals who currently smoke chop-chop had a significantly higher likelihood of initiating smoking before 16 years old, reporting below-average social functioning, and a measurable disability than individuals who smoked licit tobacco.

Arnott, D. and A. McEwen (2009). "Illicit tobacco : an international problem with an international solution." Addiction. 104(1): 155-157. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1360-0443.2008.02407.x>

In this letter to the editor, Deborah Arnott, director of the UK Action on Smoking and Health suggests that an effective solution to international tobacco smuggling will be provided by a protocol to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) which is currently in negotiation.

Callaghan, R. C., S. Veldhuizen, et al. (2009). "Use of contraband cigarettes among adolescent daily smokers in Canada." CMAJ : Canadian Medical Association journal. 181(6-7): 384-386. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.090665>

Authors used data from the Canadian 2006-2007 Youth Smoking Survey and found 13.1% of individuals who smoked daily used contraband cigarettes as their regular brand. This group also consumed significantly more cigarettes compared to individuals who consumed other cigarette brands. In general, 17.5% of Canadian youth who smoke daily consume contraband cigarettes, with this percentage being higher (25%) for youth in Ontario and Quebec.

Canada Revenue Agency (2010). Comprehensive settlement agreements with tobacco companies. Ottawa: Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/tbcc/menu-eng.html>

On April 13, 2010, the federal and provincial / territorial governments entered into civil settlement agreements with tobacco manufacturers JTI-Macdonald Corp. (JTI-MC) and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company (RJR) in connection with governments' civil claims relating to contraband tobacco in the early 1990s. Under its civil settlement, RJR will pay governments \$325 million.

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (2009). Investigating big tobacco. Toronto: CBC.

http://www.cbc.ca/video/#/News/TV_Shows/The_National/Canada/ID=127435615

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This investigative report examines the role of the tobacco industry in the smuggling of the early 1990's, as well as the July 31, 2008 contraband settlements between the two largest tobacco companies, Imperial Tobacco Canada Ltd. and Rothmans, Benson & Hedges. In the settlements, the total of the fines (following a guilty plea and conviction) and civil payments totalled \$1.15 billion. However, deficiencies in the settlements have been the source of public criticism. Includes comments from Paul Finlayson, former "executive and strategist" with Imperial Tobacco Canada Ltd.

Damphousse, F., Non-Smokers' Rights Association (NSRA), et al. (2009).

Contraband tobacco. Toronto: NSRA. http://www.nsra-adnf.ca/cms/file/pdf/Contraband_Spring2009.pdf

This pamphlet from the Non-Smokers' Rights Association calls for action to be taken on contraband tobacco in Canada. It provides some background information on the 1994 tobacco tax rollback; discusses the increase in contraband; and examines some policy options available to protect tobacco taxes, an effective public health strategy.

Haché, T., Non-Smokers' Rights Association (NSRA), et al. (2009). Commercial tobacco in First Nations & Inuit communities. Ottawa: Non-Smokers' Rights

Association (NSRA). http://www.nsra-adnf.ca/cms/file/pdf/Commercial_Tobacco_in_First_Nations_and_Inuit_Communities.pdf

Introduction - History of tobacco use in First Nations and Inuit communities - Aboriginal smoking rates and health outcomes - Tobacco and poverty - First Nations and Inuit tobacco control strategy - Jurisdictional issues: second-hand smoke - Tobacco taxation: a public health best practice - Contraband tobacco in Canada - Conclusion - Appendices - Aboriginal cigarette manufacturers in Canada - Aboriginal cigarette manufacturers in the United States - Endnotes.

Lee, J.-M., S.-H. Chen, et al. (2009). "Price sensitivity and smoking smuggled cigarettes." European journal of public health. 19(1): 23-27.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckn115>

The authors examine socioeconomic factors that influence the decision to purchase smuggled cigarettes in Taiwan. Survey results demonstrate that people with low income, low education and experience purchasing smuggled cigarettes were more likely to purchase them. Messages to counter this purchasing behaviour should address these factors.

Luk, R., J. E. Cohen, et al. (2009). "Prevalence and correlates of purchasing contraband cigarettes on First Nations reserves in Ontario, Canada." Addiction. 104(3): 488-495. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1360-0443.2008.02453.x>

Estimated prevalence and identified correlates of purchasing contraband cigarettes by non-native people on First Nations reserves in Ontario. 25.8% reported recent purchasing and 11.5% reported usual purchasing. Heavy smoking, having no plans to quit and lower education were correlated with recent purchasing. The availability of cheap cigarettes undermines the effectiveness of tobacco taxation to reduce smoking.

Marsden, W. and International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (2009). Canada's boom in smuggled cigarettes. Washington, D.C.: The Center for Public Integrity. <http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/tobacco/articles/entry/1230/>

A billion-dollar industry of sophisticated tobacco smugglers is flooding Canada with untaxed, contraband cigarettes. This investigation by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) documents a gaping hole in the U.S. border with Canada, where smuggling is rampant and enforcement actions have so far been futile.

Ontario Tobacco Research Unit (OTRU) (2009). An update on cigarettes purchased on First Nations reserves. Toronto: Ontario Tobacco Research Unit (OTRU). http://www.otru.org/pdf/updates/update_apr2009.pdf

Previous research used data from the 2005/2006 Ontario Tobacco Survey to estimate the level of buying contraband cigarettes on reserves and its effect on revenues from taxes. This OTRU update assesses 2005/2006 estimates against 2007/2008 Ontario Tobacco Survey estimates. Data from 2007/2009 reveal 29% of total reported cigarette consumption was from contraband cigarettes, which is an increase from 2005/06 data.

Pipe, A. (2009). "Illicit tobacco : governments continue to blow smoke." CMAJ : Canadian Medical Association journal. 181(9): 652. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.091619>.

Tobacco smuggling continues in Canada, depriving governments of enormous revenues, increasing the likelihood of youth smoking and reducing incentives to quit. Governments need to introduce forceful measures to deal with this burgeoning public health problem. Includes five recommendations to quickly and effectively reduce contraband tobacco.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (2009). Contraband tobacco enforcement strategy progress report for the period May 2008 - May 2009. Ottawa: Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ce-da/tobac-tabac/tobacco-tabac-prog-2008-eng.htm>

Outlines the progress that has been made on the RCMP's Contraband Tobacco Enforcement Strategy since it was released in May 2008. Presents an overview of new and ongoing initiatives undertaken to reduce the threat of the current illicit tobacco market. High-profile initiatives include: the surge operations conducted in Cornwall, Ontario; the disruption of a major contraband tobacco distribution network involving the Hells Angels outlaw motorcycle gang; and the development of an extensive network of partners working with the RCMP across the country to effectively combat organized crime and tackle the illicit contraband tobacco market in Canada.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Customs and Excise Branch. Border Integrity Federal and International Operations (2008). 2008 contraband tobacco enforcement strategy. Ottawa: Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/tobac-tabac/tobacco-tabac-strat-2008-eng.htm>

Executive summary - Introduction - The strategy - Overview of the Canadian tobacco environment - The RCMP's role in contraband tobacco - Old commodity - new twist - Impacts on Canadians - Contraband tobacco market drivers - Perspectives - International efforts - Meeting the challenge - Effective accountability and reporting - Summary - Appendices.

Sweeting, J., T. Johnson, et al. (2009). Anti-contraband policy measures : evidence for better practice. Toronto: Ontario Tobacco Research Unit (OTRU).

http://www.otru.org/pdf/special/special_anti_contraband_measures.pdf

This report reviews the effectiveness of ten anti-contraband policy measures: Licensing, tax-markings/stamping, tracking and tracing, record-keeping/control measures, enhanced enforcements, export taxation, tax harmonization, tax agreements/compacts, legally binding agreements with the tobacco industry and memoranda of understanding (MOUs), and public awareness campaigns.

Task Force on Illicit Tobacco Products (Canada) and Canada. Public Safety Canada. (2009). Report on the status of the contraband tobacco situation in Canada. Ottawa: The Task Force. <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/le/ct-rpt-eng.aspx>

In May 2008, the Task Force on Illicit Tobacco Products was formed. Its mandate is to identify concrete measures that will disrupt and reduce the trade in contraband tobacco.

Yurekli, A. and O. Sayginsoy (2010). "Worldwide organized cigarette smuggling : an empirical analysis." Applied economics. 42(5): 545-561.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00036840701720721>

Estimates the economic size and the impact on government revenues of cigarette smuggling worldwide and formulates economic policies that can be used to effectively address this problem. Tax increases in cigarette prices and an improvement in anti-smuggling law enforcement are found to significantly increase government revenues while decreasing global consumption and smuggling.