

# Abstract

## Background

In recent years, tobacco use in the Czech Republic has slightly declined, however, approximately a quarter of the population aged 15 and over are smokers. Pharmacists are one of the most easily accessible healthcare professionals and can, therefore, play a key role in the process of smoking cessation.

## Objectives

Primary objective of this work was mapping the smoking cessation support available in Czech pharmacies. Secondary aims included assessing the interest of pharmacists to perform smoking cessation interventions and the importance of different factors hindering them from doing so. Other objectives were mapping different types of smoking cessation support provided in pharmacies and opportunity to refer them to other healthcare professionals.

## Methods

A quantitative survey study was used. Questionnaire were compiled in online platform Survio. Data were collected in March 2022. The questionnaire was distributed via email using the list of registered pharmacies on SÚKL website. In total, 2681 facilities were approached, of which 132 responded. One questionnaire was invalid, therefore, final selection was comprised of 131 pharmacies, the response rate was 4.92 %. Acquired data were processed and analysed in MS Excel software.

## Results

From all respondents, 80.2 % provide or are interested in providing interventions, of which 59 % feel limited. The lack of time to carry out interventions during normal day-to-day operations feel 69.5 % of participants. In addition to pharmacotherapy, other forms of support are available in 67.2 % of cases, most pharmacies offer professional advice provided by facility staff and information brochures. If the pharmacy does not provide consulting services, 91.2 % of respondents either refer to or are interested in referring patients to another specialist.

## Conclusion

Pharmacists are the best accessible healthcare professionals who can easily participate in intervening to tobacco users. Unfortunately, they are limited by barriers, mainly by the lack of personnel, suitable space and time. Data acquired from this study could be used as a basis for

enabling or improving the smoking cessation interventions in pharmacies. However, the informative value of results could be influenced by higher participation of respondents interested in this topic.

**Key words:** Tobacco dependence – Smoking Cessation - Pharmacy – Counselling – Czech Republic