

OPINIONS ON SMOKING POLICIES IN SWITZERLAND

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Purpose: to assess the opinions regarding smoking ban policies in Switzerland.

Methods: cross sectional study on 2,601 women and 2,398 men, aged 35-75 years, living in Lausanne, Switzerland. Nine questions on smoking policies (restrictions, advertising, taxes and prevention) were applied.

Results: 95% of responders supported policies that would help smokers to quit, 92% supported no selling of tobacco to subjects aged less than 16 years, 87% a smoking ban in public places and 86% a national campaign against smoking. A further 77% supported a total ban on tobacco advertising, 74% the reimbursement of nicotine replacement therapies and 70% increasing the price of cigarettes. Conversely, a lower support was found for a total ban of tobacco sales (35%) or the promotion of light cigarettes (22%). Multivariate analysis showed that women, lower educational level, older age, being physically active or non-smoker were associated with tougher policies against tobacco, whereas current drinking or smoking and higher educational level were associated with lower levels of support.

Conclusion: opinions regarding smoking policies vary considerably according to the policy type considered and also the characteristics of the subjects. Those findings provide interesting data regarding which anti-smoking policies would be more acceptable by the lay public, as well as the subjects who might oppose them.

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Photo: Flow cytometry study of expression of the B and T Lymphocyte Attenuator (BTLA) on human tumor specific CD8 T lymphocytes and effect of cancer vaccination provided by L. Derré et al., Division of Clinical Oncolmmunology, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Lausanne branch, UNIL