

A US menthol cigarette ban would lead to 3.8 billion fewer littered cigarette butts per year

Here's our 3-step calculations:

STEP 1:

An ITC study¹ shows that Canada's menthol ban led to +7.3% increase in quitting for menthol smokers

US menthol ban = 1.33 million US smokers will quit

STEP 2:

ITC survey data from the US show that US menthol smokers smoke an average of 11.9 cigarettes per day

1.33 million x 11.9 cigs/day x 365 days = 5.8 billion

fewer cigarettes smoked each year

STEP 3:

Published US estimates² show that 65% of cigarettes smoked in the US are littered

5.8 billion x 65% = 3.8 billion fewer littered cigarettes annually

References

1. Fong GT, Chung-Hall J, Meng G, Craig LV, et al. Impact of Canada's menthol cigarette ban on quitting among menthol smokers: pooled analysis of pre-post evaluation from the ITC Project and the Ontario Menthol Ban Study and projections of impact in the USA. Tob Control 2022. doi:10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2021-057227. [Epub ahead of print: 28 Apr 2022].

2. Schultz PW, Bator RJ, Large LB, Bruni CM, et al. Littering in context: personal and environmental predictors of littering behavior. Environ Behav 2013;45:35–59.

For more Information: Craig LV, Chung-Hall J, Meng G, Fong GT. Calculating the potential environmental impact of a menthol cigarette ban in the USA. Tob Control 2022. doi:10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2022-057563. [Epub ahead of print: 12 Oct 2022]

International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project

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