

The International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project (the ITC Project) was established to rigorously evaluate the policy domains of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), the first-ever health treaty. Comparisons made between countries with different policy environments and/or different economic status can help illuminate the versatility of specific policies in reducing tobacco consumption. Data from these ITC surveys are available to those outside the ITC Project research team to assess the effectiveness of various tobacco control policies.

The data are not intended to benefit researchers or companies who have commercial interests related to tobacco consumption or tobacco cessation products or services. Such interests would constitute competing interests. Any parties requesting the use of ITC data must report all potential and actual competing interests in their request to access ITC data.

Generally, competing interest arises when the individual or his/her partner ('partner' includes a spouse or other person with whom s/he has a similar close personal relationship), or the administrative unit with which the expert has an employment relationship, has a financial or other interest that could unduly influence the expert's position with respect to the subject-matter being considered. An apparent conflict of interest exists when an interest would not necessarily influence the expert but could result in the expert's objectivity being questioned by others. A potential conflict of interest exists when any reasonable person could be uncertain about whether or not the interest should be reported.

Specifically, for use of ITC data, competing interest is taken to mean any of the following:

1. Being employed by, or contracted to, any tobacco company, association, or any other agents known by you to be acting for, or in services of, tobacco companies or associations;
2. Receiving honoraria, travel, conference or other financial support from any tobacco company, association or any other agents known by you to be acting for or in service of tobacco companies or associations;
3. Receiving direct or indirect financial support for research, education or other services from a tobacco company, association, or any agent acting for, or in service of, such companies or associations. Some allegedly fully independent "arm's length" funding bodies which channel research and/or educational funding to scientists, educators, and public bodies are connected with tobacco companies; often this independence has been compromised by industry involvement.
4. Having shareholdings in any tobacco company of more than 10 shares;
5. Owning a patent or proprietary interest in a technology or process for the consumption of tobacco or other tobacco use related products or initiatives;
6. Being employed by, receiving any financial support from, holding shares in, and/or owning proprietary interest in pharmaceutical companies that provide smoking cessation products, or other companies who are suppliers of tobacco testing services or products;
7. Being employed by any organization that maintains policies that can constrain your scientific objectivity with respect to the use of particular tobacco control strategies (e.g. Quitlines that oppose harm reduction products).

## Allowances

Owners of the ITC data accept that researchers may have legitimate, direct contact with tobacco companies or associations in the course of their work (for example: meeting with tobacco industry employees, attending industry meetings, receiving data or information from a company, being a member of a committee which includes tobacco industry representatives).

Our goal is not to deny data to researchers who have had legitimate, direct contact with tobacco companies or associations, but to ensure that the basic public health concerns of the FCTC treaty, and the ITC countries that are participating in the ITC Project, are not compromised by researchers with significant competing interests.

Declaration of competing interests will be assessed as part of the complete data request package submitted by External Investigators, with approval for use of the data decided within the context of the ITC Data Usage Guidelines.

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I hereby certify that I have no competing interests for the use of ITC data as outlined in points 1-7 above.

I hereby declare the following competing interests:

Name:
Email:
(Electronic) Signature:
Date (DD/MM/YY):

Email the completed form to the relevant project manager for the region related to the proposal and dataset(s) requested. (Go to <http://itcproject.org/forms>)