

The Barbados Cancer Society

**Ms. R. Harrison
ASH, Scotland**

**Henry's Lane
Lower Collymore Rock
St. Michael,
Barbados**

Dear Ms. Harrison,

This week I received from the International Agency on Tobacco and Health a copy of your survey on Smoke-free legislation and other measures designed to prevent the air pollution caused by tobacco smoking. I am writing to thank you for providing this information and am taking this opportunity to send to ASH Scotland information about the Tobacco Control Program of the Barbados Cancer Society and its impact on tobacco consumption in Barbados.

Yours truly,
D.A.Gale

The Barbados Cancer Society is a non-governmental non profit organization. It was founded in 1980 and its Tobacco Control program was started in 1982. I have been honorary director of this program since 1985.

The Tobacco Control Program of the Barbados Cancer Society

The mission of this program which was started in 1982 is to prevent reduce and ultimately eradicate tobacco consumption. More specifically its objectives are as follows:

1. To increase knowledge about the addictive qualities of nicotine and about other deadly poisons in tobacco.
2. To increase knowledge about the human suffering inflicted by tobacco related diseases disabilities and deaths.
3. To help the public understand the risks of Passive Smoking i.e. involuntary exposure to the air pollution caused by tobacco smoking in the home, in the workplace and in public places; and the steps they can take to protect themselves directly by their own efforts, or indirectly through the intervention of governments, employers, or labor unions.

4. To help the public understand that just as mosquitoes are vectors of diseases like malaria, yellow fever and dengue fever, the Tobacco Industry is the vector of all the diseases disabilities and deaths caused by the use of tobacco, and that in the same way that eliminating the breeding places of mosquitoes can eradicate mosquito borne diseases, eliminating the social and economic environments conducive to the promotion of tobacco consumption can eradicate all tobacco related diseases.
5. To help consumers understand why they start using tobacco and the factors that reinforces the habit.
6. To help consumers understand that all human beings have an innate ability to learn new habits of thought and behavior that are beneficial and discard those that are injurious, and that learning how to break the habit is not more difficult than learning other skills necessary for successful living e.g. learning how to how to read or write, learning how to cook, learning how to use a computer, learning to ride a bicycle, learning how to swim.
7. To help consumers understand that by stopping the habit much of the harm caused by tobacco can be reversed.
8. To explain to smokers and persons who use tobacco in other ways the process of quitting and the requirements for success i.e. abstinence without relapse.
9. To help the public and the government to understand the benefits of physical and mental health, including their social and economic value and to recognize that tobacco consumption and the tobacco industry are insuperable barriers to a healthy and prosperous community.
10. To explain to governments and the public that the financial costs to the community of the tobacco industry exceed by far any financial benefits it generates.
11. To help the public to understand and willingly accept the necessity for legal and social and economic measures to prevent reverse tobacco consumption.
12. To describe and explain the general measures necessary for preventing reversing and reducing tobacco consumption, especially those requiring government intervention.

In order to achieve these objectives the Barbados Cancer Society has used the Media i.e. articles in the Press, discussion programmes on Radio and T.V., to educate and inform the public and to teach them to think critically about tobacco and the Tobacco Industry Between 1982 and 1998 this program was the only one of its kind in Barbados or the Commonwealth Caribbean that consistently and continuously disseminated accurate information about tobacco and the tobacco industry in a systematic way, and educated consumers to think critically about why they should never start using tobacco and why they should stop if they do, and about the medical, educational, social, economic, legislative measures needed to prevent reduce and ultimately eradicate tobacco smoking or its use in other ways. So it is reasonable to conclude that any decline in tobacco

consumption and the prevalence of tobacco smoking that took place during this period should be attributed to the influence of this program. Accordingly it is pertinent to ask 2 questions, firstly “Has the Tobacco Control Program of the Barbados Cancer Society reduced tobacco smoking?”, and secondly “What financial benefits if any resulted from a reduction in tobacco consumption.

Only the first question is discussed in this report. .

Data provided by surveys carried out by the Barbados Cancer Society itself but more importantly by organizations not in any way linked with this society i.e. the Government statistical department, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with PAHO and the United Nations Children’s Fund [UNICEF] all agreed unanimously that this tobacco control program was an outstanding success. Thus records of the government statistical department show that between 1982 when this program was started and December 1996 tobacco consumption declined by 56% from 159,486 kgm to 69,200 kgm. By comparison between 1974 &1982 when statistics were first available tobacco consumption declined by 3%. The rapidity of this decline –10 times the former rate, influenced the British American Tobacco Company West Indies Ltd which has a 90% share of the Barbados market to close its factory that been operating in Barbados since 1926.

The West Indian Tobacco Company, a subsidiary of B.A.T. West Indies Ltd in Trinidad and Tobago now supplies the Barbados market.

The Risk Factor Survey conducted in 1993 by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with PAHO on a 1% sample of the Barbados population 15 to 60 years [about 2050 persons] showed the following:

9% of Barbadians were smokers

8% regularly, 1% occasionally

9% were ex-smokers

5% of Barbadians 15 to 25 years were smokers

98% of non-smokers were strongly opposed to involuntary exposure to the air pollution caused by tobacco smoking; and

90% of smokers agreed that non-smokers should be protected from such exposure.

A study carried out by UNICEF in 1999, i.e. the Global Youth Tobacco Survey on Tobacco Consumption, on a representative sample of students 11 to 17 years showed that the prevalence of tobacco use in this age group was 2% or less- one of the lowest if not the lowest in the world. When this study was repeated in 2002 it showed that the prevalence of tobacco consumption in this age group was 40% less than in 1999.

The results of these surveys provide convincing evidence that the Barbados Cancer Society’s Tobacco Control Program has been outstandingly successful in changing the values attitudes and behavior in the way intended. But even more convincing is the evidence emerging from the survey of Smoking in the Workplace carried out by the Barbados Cancer Society in1998.

This survey was carried out by sending the following questionnaires to 70 government offices and 155 private businesses that were members of the Barbados Employers Association:

This survey was designed to answer 3 questions

- 1. The prevalence of workplaces where smoking was permitted**
- 2. The prevalence of workplaces where smoking was prohibited.**
- 3. The prevalence of smokers in the workforce,**

Barbados Cancer Society Survey
Of
Smoking in the Workplace

Questionnaire

N B. The first 3 questions are the most important.

1. Does your organization
 - a. Permit smoking in the workplace and areas where the public is served.
 - b. Prohibit smoking in both these areas.

2. If smoking is prohibited please state
 - a. The reasons for the prohibition

 - b. The date the prohibition was introduced

 - c. State whether or not the prohibition was introduced after consultations and agreements between employers and employees.
 - d. State if there has been any difficulty with compliance.

3 If it is possible state:

No. Of persons

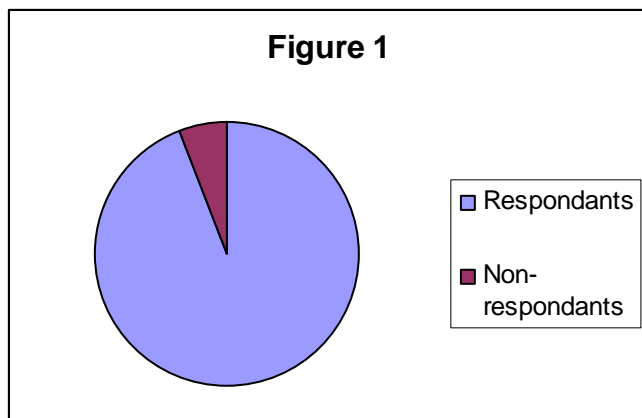
- a. Total number in your workforce.
 - b. Smokers
 - c. Non-smokers.
 - d. Ex-smokers
 - e. Never-smokers
- 4 Please state whether the prohibition has helped those who were trying to quit to do so.

Name of Organization

Postal address Signature

Any other Comments

THE RESULTS
Sixty-five of the 70 government offices or 94.3% responded to the questionnaire.

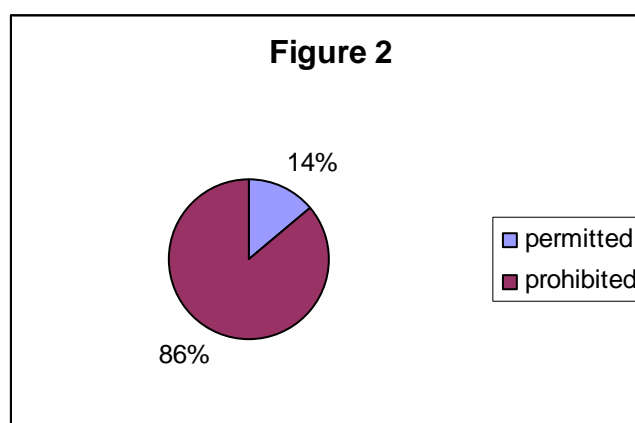


Of these 9 or 13.9% permitted smoking, these were,

Name of office	Workforce	No. Of Smokers
1 Cabinet office	16	0[0%]
2 Data Processing Department	70	0[0%]
3 Government Statistical Department	67	0[0%]
4 Labor Department	51	1[1.9%]
5 Ministry of Finance [Economic Affairs Division]	26	0[0%]
6 Ministry of Home Affairs	16	2[12.5%]
7 Town Planning Department	50	0[0%]
8 Welfare Department	63	1[1.6%]
9 Prison Service	223	No Data

COMMENT Tobacco smoking in staff quarters uncommon.

56 or 86% of government offices Prohibited Smoking.



In 3 offices where smoking was prohibited a single room was reserved for smoking, these were:

Name of office	Workforce	No. Of Smokers
1 Airport [Managers office]	450	No Data

Comment Smoking unusual in area reserved for Smokers

2 Ministry of Finance [Energy Division] 12 2 [16.6%]

3 Ministry of Health
[Administrative Division] 35 0 [0%]

53 Government offices prohibited Smoking unconditionally these were:

	Workforce	No: of Smokers
1. Account General's Office.	73	1[1.4%]
2. Audio Visual Aids Department.	32	0
3. Auditor General's Office.	69	1[1.4%]
4. Barbados Drug Service.	74	1[4%]
5. Barbados Postal Service.	530	No Data
6. Bureau of Women's Affairs.	7	0
7. Central Purchasing Department.	64	4[6.25%]
8. Community Development Department	65	4[6.1%].
9. Customs Department.	493	7[1.4%]
10. Department of Inland Revenue.	160	3[1.9%]
11. Department of Archives.	19	1[10.5%]
12. Electoral Boundaries Commission.	63	1[1.6%]
13. Erdiston College.	28	2[7.1%]
14. Fire Service.	64	4[6.2%]
15. Government Information Service.	43	2[4.6%]
16. Government Electrical Department.	20	2[6.6%]
17. Government Training Division.	20	0
18. Government Printery.	81	1[1.2%]
19. Land Tax Department.	100	0
20. Immigration Office.	135	Data Incomplete
21. Lands and Surveys Department.	44	4[9%]
22. Meteorology Department.	35	0
23. Ministry of Agriculture [Fisheries Division]	33	0.
24. Ministry of civil service	51	1[2%].
25. Ministry of Education.	270	2[0.7%]
26. Ministry of Education [Project Execution Unit]	30	0
27. Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	67	2[3%]
28. Ministry of Foreign Affairs [International Transport Division]	450	42[4.3%]
29. Ministry of Health [Environment Division]	23	0
30. Ministry of Health [Project Execution Unit-Sewerage & Waste Disposal].	37	5[13.5%]
31. Ministry of Industry and Commerce.	32	1[3.1%]
32. Ministry of International Trade and Business.	450	42[9.3%]

33. Ministry of Labor, Development & Sport.	35	Community 2[5.7%]
34. Ministry of Public Works [Housing]	500	50[10%]
35. Ministry of Tourism [Sherbourne Office]	33	0
36. National Library Service.	No Data	
37. National Insurance Department.	246	No Data
38. National Nutrition Centre	5	1[20%]
39. Office of the Ombudsman.	6	0
40. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.	10	0
41. Price Control Department.	25	0
42. Prime Minister's Office.	42	No Data
43. Probation Department.	15	0
44. Psychiatry Hospital.	450	22[4.8%]
45. Queen Elizabeth Hospital.	1700	No Data
46. Registrar of Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property.	28	0
47. Registration Office.	50	0
48. Registration of Co – operatives Department.	14	2[14.3%]
49. Royal Barbados Police Force.	1450	No Data
50. Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic.	No Data	No Data
51. School Meals Service.	577	52[9%]
52. Solicitor General's Office.	27	2[7.4%]
53. St. Michael's District Hospital.	256	2[0.8%]

The number of persons in the workforce in 62 of the 65 government offices that answered the questionnaire was ascertained. There were 10,165 workers in these 62 offices. The prevalence of smokers was ascertained in 5429[53.4%] of these workers. 281 or 5.1% of them were smokers as compared with 9% reported by the P.A.H.O. & Ministry of Health Risk Factor Survey in 1993 on a representative sample of 1% of the population 15 to 60 years i.e. 2050 persons.

**Table 1: Number of Government Departments
Prohibiting Tobacco Smoking**

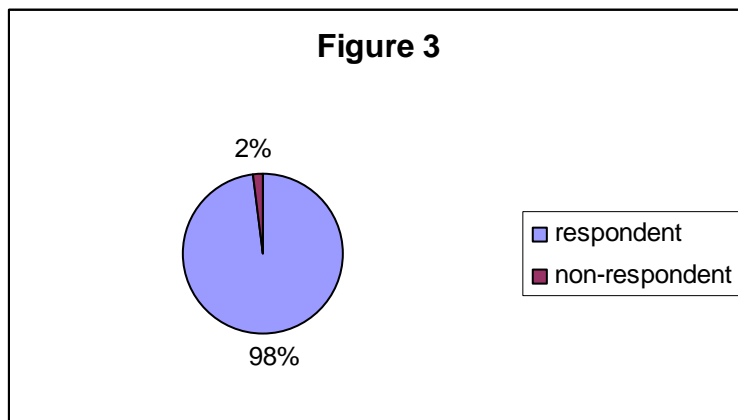
1982	1986	1990	1994	1998
19	25	37	50	53
29.2%	38.5%	56.9%	76.9%	86%

The figures in table 1 show that there was a progressive increase in the number government offices that prohibited smoking in the workplace between 1982 and 1998.

Smoking was prohibited because office managers and employees after consultations agreed that the air pollution caused by tobacco smoking was harmful. It is not surprising, therefore, that compliance was not a problem, and was accepted without dissent not only by all the office workers but by the public being served.

Furthermore even in offices where smoking was permitted smoking was unusual because so few of the office workers or their customers were smokers.

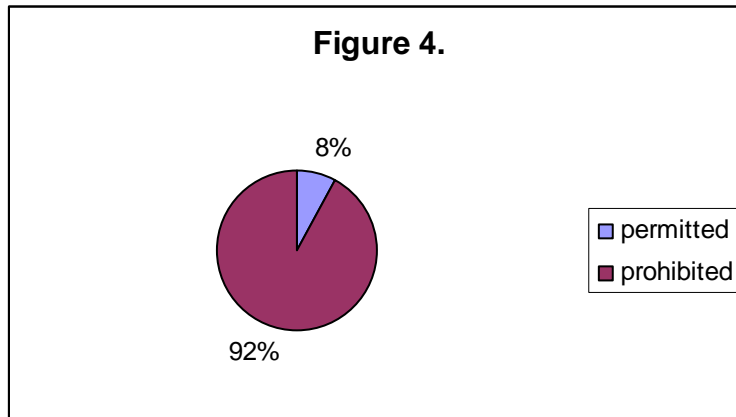
Of the 155 Private Businesses that were sent questionnaires 152[98%] replied.



12[7.9%] permitted smoking. These were;

Name of Business	Workforce	No: of Smokers
1. American Airlines	56	2[3.5%]
2. British American Insurance [B'dos] ltd	70	1[1.4%]
3. Goddard's Enterprises Ltd [Office]	35	0
4. J.E. Security Systems	38	6[15.8%]
5. Landmark Nurseries	28	5[17.8%]
6. Leverage Inc	9	0
7. Matouk Ltd	30	0
8. Royal Bank of Canada	213	No Data
Comment: Smoking by staff or customers uncommon		
9. Sentinel Security Service	85	No Data
10. Shipping Association of Barbados	4	1[25%]
11. T.M.R. Sales & Service	82	0

140[92.1%] Prohibited Smoking. In 9 offices where smoking was prohibited a single room was reserved for the use of smokers



These were:

Name of Business	Workforce	No: of Smokers
1. Airport Restaurants Ltd	35	No Data
2. Arawak Cement Ltd	250	24[9.6%]
3. Atlantic Manufacturing Ltd	220	0
4. Brian Parsons Ltd	31	2[6.4%]
5. Caribbean Broadcasting Corp:[CBC]	250	4[1.6%]
6. Esso Standard Oil SA Ltd	25	1[4%]
7. Roberts Manufacturing Ltd	160	8[5%]
8. Trowel Plastics Ltd	25	2[8%]
9. Welcome Inn Hotel	100	15[15%]

131 Private businesses prohibited smoking unconditionally. These were:

Name Of Business	Workforce	No: of Smokers
1. 99 Convenience Stores Knights Ltd Super Centre Stores	620	33[5.3%]
2. A.S. Bryden Ltd	263	12[4.5%]
3. Air Canada Ltd	20	1[5%]

4. American Life Insurance	26	1[3.8%]
5. Armstrong Manufacturing	14	No Data
6. B&B Distribution Ltd	158	12[7.6%]
7. Bank of Nova Scotia	300	No Data
8. Banks Brewery Ltd	93	No Data
9. Barbados Bottling Co	No Data	No Data
10. Barbados Public Workers Cooperative Credit Union	70	1[1.4%]
11. Barbados National Bank	309	28[9%]
12. Barbados Hardware Co Ltd	74	0
13. Barbados Advocate Ltd	No Data	No Data
14. Barbados Rediffusion Ltd	70	15[18.75%]
15. Barbados Packaging Industries	17	2[11.75%]
16. Barbados Flight Kitchen	94	4[4.2%]
17. Barbados Central Bank	210	6[2.8%]
18. Barbados Agricultural Management Co	200	10[5%]
19. Barbados National Oil Co	140	13[9.2%]
20. Barbados Yacht Club	9	0
21. Barbados Shipping & Trading [Office]	22	2[9%]
22. Barbados Turf Club	22	8[36.9%]
23. Barbados Fire & Commercial Insurance Co Ltd	65	0
24. Barbados Light & Power Ltd	500	45[9%]
25. Barbados Mortgage Finance Co	25	No Data
26. Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Society	232	4[1.7%]
27. Barbados Sugar Industries Ltd [Office]	3	0
28. Barclays Bank plc	375	No Data
29. Berger Paints Ltd	55	4[7.2%]
30. BICO Ltd	125	5[4%]
31. Big B Supermarket	160	12[7.5%]
32. Bottlers [Barbados] Ltd	110	18[16.3]
33. Brown Sugar Restaurant	36	0
34. BS&T Motors Fort Royal Tractors & Equipment	155	15[9.6%]
35. C.O. Williams Construction Ltd [office]	22	6[27.2%]
36. Cable & Wireless [BET]	201	5[2.5%]
37. Cable & Wireless [BARTEL]	868	20[2.3%]
38. Cable & Wireless Information Systems Ltd	43	2[4.6%]
39. C.I.B.C	425	20[4.7%]

40. Carib Supply	30	5[1.6%]
41. Caribbean News Agency[CANA]	33	1[3%]
42. Caribbean Airways	40	No Data
43. Caribbean Broadcasting Union [CBU]	22	No Data
44. Caribbean Financial Services Corporation	9	0
45. Caribbean Commercial Bank	120	6[5%]
46. Caribbean Confection Co Ltd	32	1[3.1%]
47. Caribbean Home Insurance	33	1[3%]
48. Caribbean Aircraft Handling	90	No Data
49. Carmichael Chemicals Ltd	15	0
50. Cave, Sheperd & Co Ltd	500	11[2.3%]
51. CCS Technology	No Data	No Data
52. Century Pipes Ltd	35	No Data
53. Charles McEneaney & Co Ltd	150	12[[8%]
54. Cheffette Ltd	500	No Data
55. Clarke & Tucker Ltd	117	No Data
56. CLICO Life & General	102	3[2.9%]
57. Codrington Trust	3	0
58. Cole's Printery Ltd	65	5[7.6%]
59. Colgate Palmolive Ltd	85	10[11.8%]
60. Collins Ltd	100	7[7%]
61. Colombians Emeralds International	116	14[12%]
62. Commercial Data Processing	172	2[1.1%]
63. Courtesy Garage	140	12[8.6%]
64. Courts [Barbados] Ltd	215	No Data
65.		
66. Dacosta Mannings Ltd	640	No Data
Doyle Offshore Sales Ltd	65	1[1.8%]
67. ECAF Ltd	25	0
68. Ellco Rentals Ltd	22	3[13.6%]
69. .		
70. Elvin R. Sealy Ltd	15	0
71. Everson Elcock & Co	33	3[9%]
72. F.W.Woolworth Ltd	58	No Data
73. Firgos Ltd	22	2[9%]
74. Frank B.Armstrong	48	2[4.1%]
75. Gatsby Incorporated	26	0
76. Gale's Hatcheries	53	2[3.8]
77. Good Time Snacks	27	1[3.7%]
78. Hanschell Inniss Ltd	160	15[9.3%]
79. Harris Paints Ltd	75	No Data
80. Harrisons Ltd	140	10[7.1%]
81. HIPAC Ltd	162	0
82. ICM Ltd	15	0
83. Ideal Homes Ltd	8	1[12.5%]

84.	Insurance Corporation of Barbados	130	2[1.5%]
85.	Jason Jones Ltd	104	9[8.6%]
86.	Jumans Ltd	90	0
87.	Kentucky Fried Chicken	312	27[8.6%]
88.	Kier International	20	2[10%]
89.	Laurie Dash Ltd	9	0
90.	LIAT	5	No Data
91.	Life of Barbados	200	10[5%]
92.	Lowe's Laundry	85	10[11.8%]
93.	Manulife Data Services	126	2[1.6%]
94.	McBride Caribbean Ltd	75	No Data
95.	Moore Paragon	141	No Data
96.	Motor Services Ltd	50	1[2%]
97.	Mount Gay Distilleries Ltd	80	5[6.2%]
98.	Mr. Tees Doughnuts Ltd	17	No Data
99.	Nation Publishing Co	110	No Data
100.	National Petroleum Corporation	155	45[29%]
101.	Nicholls & Edgehill Ltd [office]	9	1[11.1%]
102.	Offshore Keyboarding Ltd	223	1[0.4%]
103.	Plantation Trading Co	100	0
104.	Plantrac	320	No Data
105.	Property Consultant Systems	14	0
106.	Purity Bakeries Ltd	No Data	No Data
107.	R.M. Jones Ltd	35	0
108.	R.L. Seale & Co Ltd	100	2[2%]
109.	Rayside Ltd	361	No Data
110.	Ready Mix Concrete Ltd [office]	12	1[8.3%]
111.	Refrigeration & Electrical Services Ltd	15	0
112.	Regional Business Systems	46	4[8.6%]
113.	Rentokill Ltd	32	2[6.2%]
114.	Richard Edgehill & Associates [office]	6	0
115.	Rotherley Construction Ltd	22	4[18.8%]
116.	S.W. Wilsun Ltd	40	2[5%]
117.	Seawell Air Services	200	18[9%]
118.	Securicor Ltd	320	No Data
119.	Shell Antilles & Guyanas Ltd	No Data	No Data
120.	Simpson Motors Ltd	200	30[15%]
121.	Spring Garden Foods Ltd	72	10[13.8%]
122.	Standard Distributors Ltd	60	0
123.	Superior Plastics Ltd	50	7[14%]
124.	T. Geddes Grant Ltd	241	No Data
125.	Texaco Ltd	50	3[6%]

126.	The Mutual Bank of the Caribbean Inc	115	3[2.6%]
127.	Tiny Tots and Furniture Ltd	345	4[1.2%]
128.	Tropical Batteries Ltd	12	1[8.3%]
129.	West India Biscuit Co Ltd	160	7[4.3%]
129	West Indies Bottle Co	16	0

Table 2: Private Workplaces Prohibiting Tobacco Smoking

1982	1986	1990	1994	1998
45	57	73	107	130
29.4%	37.2%	47.7%	70%	92.1%

The figures in Table 2 show that there was a progressive increase in the number of businesses that prohibited smoking in the workplace between 1982 and 1998

The prevalence of smokers in this group i.e. 7% was 2% less than the 9% reported by the Ministry of Health Risk Survey in 1993.

In Private workplaces as in government workplaces smoking was prohibited because there was mutual agreement between management and staff that the air pollution caused by tobacco was an unacceptable risk, and not surprisingly compliance was not a problem. Thus even in workplaces where smoking was permitted it was unusual because so few of the staff or their customers were smokers. **Furthermore in workplaces where smoking was permitted the prevalence of smokers in the workforce was as low as or lower than in workplaces where smoking was prohibited.**

CONCLUSIONS

The results emerging from this Survey carried out by the Barbados Cancer Society on a representative sample of workplaces and the workforce in Barbados indicate that the Tobacco Control Program of the Barbados Cancer Society has been successful in increasing the knowledge of Barbadians about tobacco and the tobacco industry and changing their attitudes and behavior in the way intended. It is fully consistent with the results emerging from other surveys carried out by PAHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF.

The results of this survey show that the air pollution caused by tobacco smoking in the workplace is socially unacceptable.

That there was a progressive increase in the number of workplaces that prohibited smoking between 1982, when the Tobacco Control program was started and 1998 the year of this Survey.

That in the workplaces where smoking was prohibited it [prohibition] was acceptable to everyone, i.e. smokers and non-smokers, management and staff and customers using their services.

That even in workplaces where smoking was permitted, smoking was very unusual and the prevalence of smokers in the staff of these workplaces and their customers was as low or lower than in workplaces that prohibited smoking.

65[94.3%] of 70 government offices, and 152[98%] of private businesses that were surveyed responded

9[14%] government offices, and 12[7.9%] private businesses permitted smoking.

56 [86%] government offices and 140 [92.1%] private businesses prohibited smoking.

In a few workplaces where smoking was prohibited a single room was reserved for smokers. e.g. 3 government and 9 private workplaces.

There were 10,165 workers in the Government offices surveyed.

The prevalence of smokers in a representative sample i.e.5429 [53.4%] of these workers was ascertained. 5.1% or 281 of these workers were smokers.

There were 17,152 workers in the private workplaces surveyed.

The prevalence of smoking in a representative sample i.e. 12,270 [71.6 %] of these workers was ascertained. 7% or 863 of them were smokers.

Combining the number of persons in the workforce of these 2 groups i.e. government offices and private workplaces, where complete data were obtained for the prevalence of smokers, there were 17,669 persons of whom 1144 or 6.4% were smokers—all of which indicates that since 1993 when the Risk Factor Survey carried out by P.A.H.O. and the Ministry of Health found that the prevalence of tobacco smoking was 9%, tobacco consumption and smoking in the workplace has continued to decline.

D.A. Gale

Director Tobacco Control Program

Barbados Cancer Society

Henry's Lane, Lower Collymore Rock

St. Michael, Barbados.

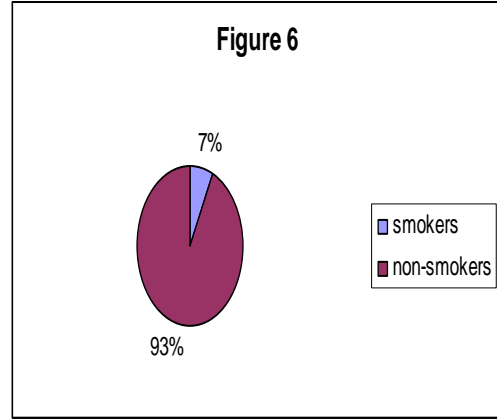
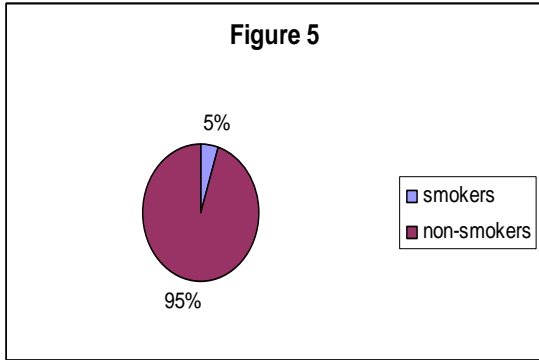
Appendix

Prevalence of Smokers in the Workplace

The prevalence of smokers was ascertained in 5429 [53.4%].

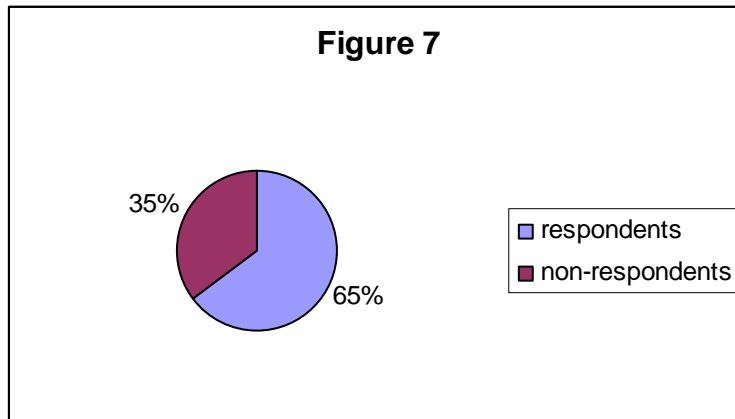
Of the 10,165 workers in government offices 281 workers or 5.1% were smokers [figure 5.]

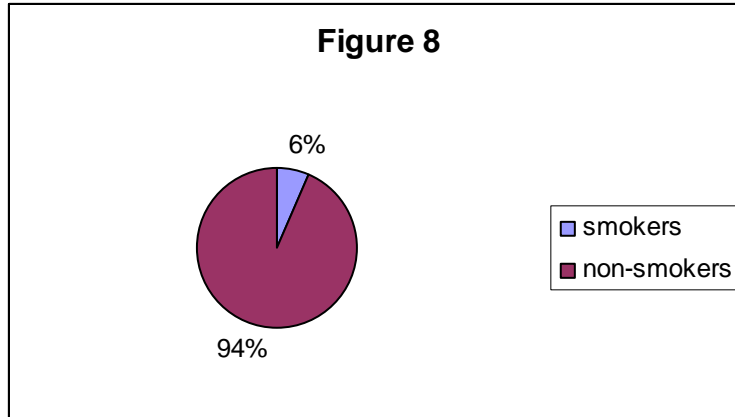
The prevalence of smokers was ascertained in 12,270 [71.6 %]of the 17,152 workers in private workplaces. 863 or 7%were smoker [figure 6]



The total numbers of workers it the 2 groups of workplaces that were surveyed were 27,317.

The prevalence of smoking was ascertained in 17,699 [65%] of them. 1144 or 6.4% were smokers. See figures 7 and 8





The modal average i.e. the most frequent values for prevalence of smokers in the workers of government offices and workers in private workplaces are shown in figure 9 and 10.

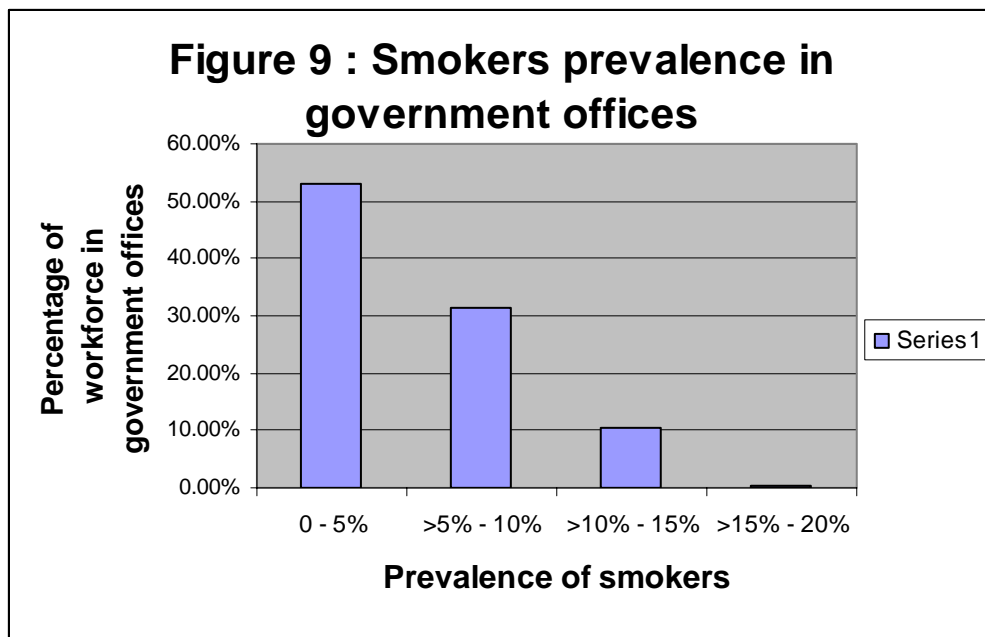


Figure 10: Smokers prevalence in private workplaces

