

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Tobacco-Related Litter Most Commonly Found Litter on Texas Roadways

Approximately 1.1 billion pieces of litter accumulated on Texas highways in 2009, according to data from the Texas Visible Litter Study. The primary source of this litter was tobacco products (43%), consisting mainly of cigarette butts. Not only have tobacco products remained the most prevalent source of litter on Texas roads across the 2001, 2005, and 2009 Visible Litter Studies, they have actually increased in prevalence in recent years (from 33% in 2005 to 43% in 2009). According to the authors, the "increase in cigarette butts over the past four years also suggests that more campaigns should target tobacco users to reduce litter, which could include partnerships with tobacco producers to distribute a 'personal ashtray' that allows smokers to keep the containment device in their cars without using the vehicle's ashtray" (p. 24).

Non-alcoholic Beverage (13%) Tobacco (43%) Construction/ Industrial (10%) Household/ Printed/ Personal (9%) Other (5%)Alcoholic Food Automotive (7%) Beverage (7%)(6%)

Types of Litter Found on Texas Roadways, 2009

NOTE: Litter was collected from November 2008 to May 2009 from 163 research segments across Texas, each consisting of a 1,000-foot-long stretch of Texas Department of Transportation maintained roadways.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from NuStats, *Texas Department of Transportation 2009 Visible Litter Study Final Report*, April 2010. Available at http://dontmesswithtexas.org/wpcontent/uploads/2010/04/TxDOT_2009_VLSFullReport.pdf.

VHS Tapes of Lectures by Renowned Scientists Available

In the early 1990s, CESAR sponsored a series of lectures with leading scientists in the fields of substance abuse and criminal justice, including David Musto, Robert Dupont, Ethan Nadelmann, David Nurco, and James Inciardi. Limited supplies of VHS tapes of these CESAR Speaker Series lectures are now available for the cost of shipping and handling (\$5 per tape). Don't miss this chance to add these unique lectures to your library! See the CESAR website (www.cesar.umd.edu) for a list of available tapes and for ordering information.