

Results of BCIT Employee Survey About Smoking at Work

A questionnaire survey of all full-time employees at BCIT was done during March 17 to April 2. Of the 1142 questionnaires distributed, 724 usable questionnaires were returned. This represents a 63.4% return rate. An analysis of these responses reveals the following information.

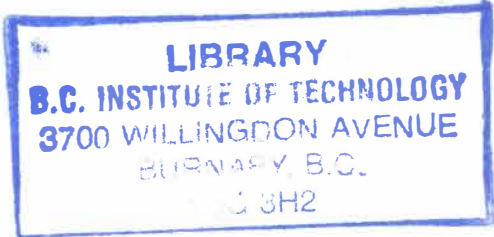
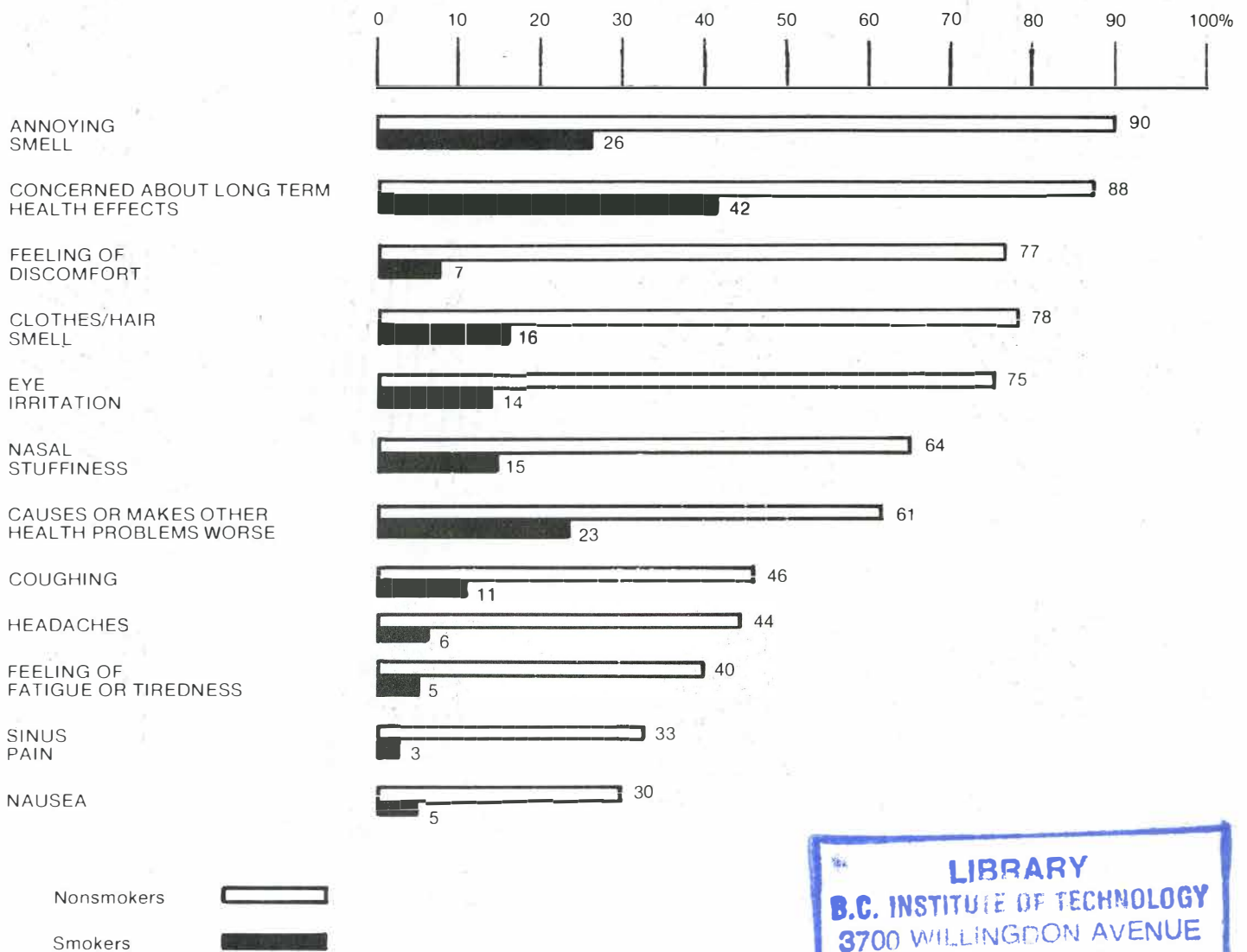
Ninety-five percent of nonsmokers and 68% of smokers said there should be a formal Institute policy on smoking on the Institute premises.

Sixty-four percent of nonsmokers but only 5% of smokers said they were "always" or "frequently" bothered by someone else smoking at the Institute. Twenty-six percent of nonsmokers and 16% of smokers were "occasionally" bothered. Only 10% of nonsmokers but 79% of smokers said they were "seldom" or "never" bothered.

Fifty-seven percent of nonsmokers said that tobacco smoke interfered with their work performance. Only 3% of smokers thought this.

Staff were asked to indicate the type of health problems they had from tobacco smoke at work. The graph below shows the percentages of nonsmokers and smokers answering "yes" to the listed problems.

Reported Health Effects of Smoking by Nonsmokers and Smokers



Seventeen percent of staff are current smokers, 41% are ex-smokers, and 42% have never smoked.

Forty percent of the current smokers said they would attend a program to stop smoking if management offered it. Thirty-two percent were not sure.

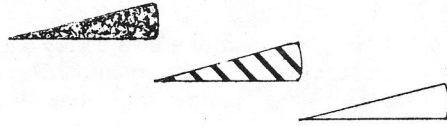
Current smokers were asked how they thought their overall smoking would be affected if the Institute introduced a policy which restricted smoking. Twenty-one percent said it would not affect their smoking, 11% said they would probably smoke more away from work, and 38% said they might reduce the overall amount they smoked. Twenty percent thought they might quit smoking. (Ten percent answered "other".)

Staff were asked their opinions of a smoking policy for various areas. The "pies" below show the percentages in favour of the three policies. These were:

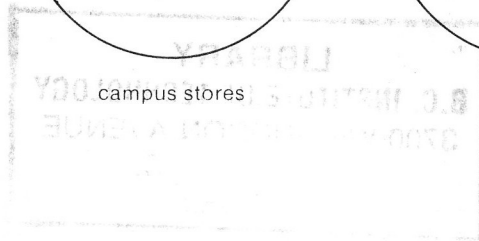
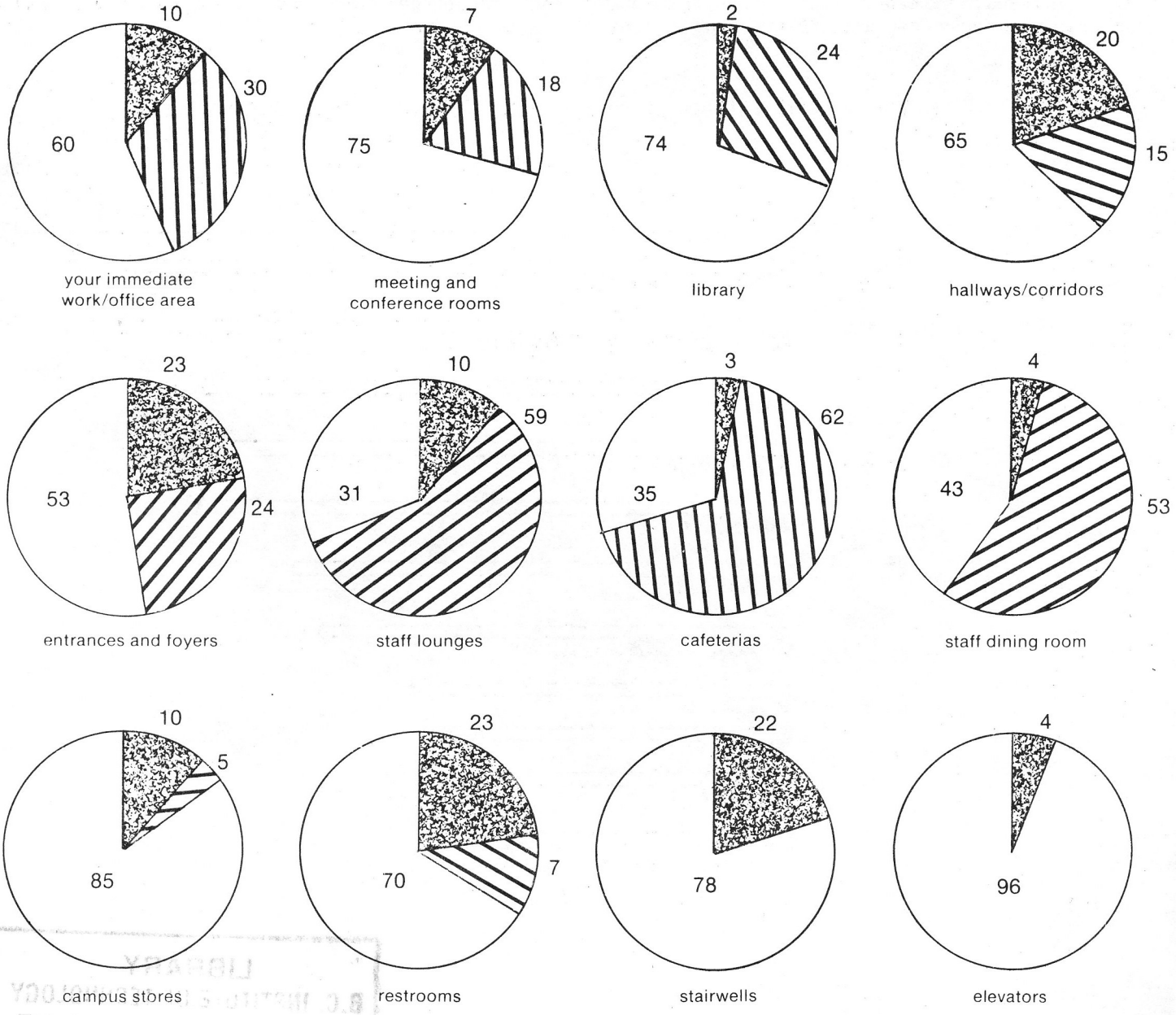
"No Restrictions"

"Designated Smoking and Nonsmoking Areas"

"Total Ban on Smoking"



Smoking Policy Opinions



The above data indicate that the majority of BCIT employees favour implementing a policy to restrict smoking on Institute premises. It would seem that this position is based on the concerns expressed by employees with the effects of smoking on their health, comfort, and productivity.