

Legislative smoking bans improve health outcomes

Clinical Question	How effective are legislative smoking bans on morbidity and mortality from secondhand smoke, and smoking prevalence and tobacco consumption?
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Bottom Line	There was moderate-quality evidence that countries and their populations benefited from enacting national legislative smoking bans with improved health outcomes from reduced exposures to passive smoke, specifically cardiovascular disease (e.g. reduced hospital admission rates). There was also low-quality evidence of reduced mortality for smoking-related illnesses. The evidence on perinatal and respiratory health outcomes was not consistent, nor was the evidence on potential reductions in tobacco consumption.
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Caveat	The nature of the intervention precluded randomised controlled trials. Changes in health outcomes could have been due to other things, such as change in health care practices. However, many of the studies did use methods of analysis that could control for underlying trends.
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Context	Smoking bans have been implemented in a variety of settings, as well as being part of policy in many jurisdictions to protect the public and employees from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke. They also offer the potential to influence social norms and the smoking behaviour of those populations they affect.
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Cochrane Systematic Review	Frazer K et al. Legislative smoking bans for reducing harms from secondhand smoke exposure, smoking prevalence and tobacco consumption. Cochrane Reviews, 2016, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD005992.DOI: 10.1002/14651858. CD005992.pub3. This review contains 77 studies involving 21 countries.
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