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201 - PEOPLE WHO SMOKE SUPPORT BANNING SMOKING IN OPEN SPACES IN SPAIN

A. Peruga, O. Tigova, M. Fu, Y. Castellano, P. Driezen, A.C.K. Quah, G.T. Fong, E. Fernández

Unidad de Control del Tabaco, Instituto Catalán de Oncología-Centro Colaborador de la OMS; Grupo de Investigación en Control del Tabaco, Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Bellvitge; Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Enfermedades Respiratorias, Instituto de Salud Carlos II; Departamento de Salud Pública, Salud Mental y Enfermería Maternoinfantil, Facultad de Enfermería, Universidad de Barcelona; Departamento de Salud Pública, Salud Mental y Enfermería Maternoinfantil, Facultad de Enfermería, Universidad de Barcelona; Departamento de Ciencias Clínicas, Facultad de Medicina y Ciencias de la Salud, Universidad de Barcelona; Department of Psychology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada; School of Public Health Sciences, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada; Secretaría de Salud Pública, Departamento de Salud, Gobierno de Cataluña.

Resumen

Background/Objectives: Spain implemented an extensive smoking ban in outdoor spaces during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. This study examines support for this restriction among people who currently smoke and formerly smoked during and beyond the pandemic.

Methods: Data are from the 2021 ITC EUREST-PLUS Spain Survey. The survey used a multistage sampling design to obtain a representative sample of people who currently or formerly smoked (n = 1,006). We estimated prevalence ratios (PR) to examine variables associated with ban support during the pandemic and beyond. Analyses accounted for the complex sampling design and were weighted to ensure representativeness.

Results: 79% of current smokers and 95% of former smokers supported the outdoor smoking ban during the pandemic. Support for a permanent ban remained substantial, at 61% and 87%, respectively. Those who currently smoke were significantly more likely to support bans during and after the pandemic if they had smoke-free homes (PR = 1.11; PR = 1.29, respectively), understood secondhand smoke harms to health (PR = 1.40; PR = 1.65), had tried to quit (PR = 1.14; PR = 1.30), and self-reported as healthy (PR = 1.40; PR = 1.47). Those who formerly smoked were more likely to support bans during the pandemic if they had smoke-free homes (PR = 1.08) and did not self-reported as healthy (PR = 0.95) and after the pandemic, if they had quit smoking and used alternative tobacco products (PR = 1.23; PR = 1.17, respectively).

Conclusions/Recommendations: Strong support exists for outdoor smoking bans, exceeding previous findings of support in Spain. Policymakers should consider this evolving view for stronger tobacco control policies.

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