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

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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

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= 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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