

Secondhand tobacco smoke in bars and restaurants in Santiago, Chile: evaluation of partial smoking ban legislation in public places.

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To compare air nicotine concentrations according to the smoking policy selected by bars/restaurants in Santiago, Chile before and after the enactment of partial smoking ban legislation in 2007 (establishments could be smoke free, have segregated (mixed) smoking and non-smoking areas, or allow smoking in all areas). The study measured air nicotine concentrations over 7 days to characterise secondhand smoke exposure in 30 bars/restaurants in 2008. Owner/manager interviews and physical inspections were conducted. Median IQR air nicotine concentrations measured in all venues were 4.38 (0.61-13.62) $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Air nicotine concentrations were higher in bars (median 7.22, IQR 2.48-15.64 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) compared to restaurants (1.12, 0.15-9.22 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). By smoking status, nicotine concentrations were higher in smoking venues (13.46, 5.31-16.87 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), followed by smoking areas in mixed venues (9.22, 5.09-14.90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and non-smoking areas in mixed venues (0.99, 0.19-1.27 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Air nicotine conc