Impact of vaping restrictions in public places on smoking and vaping in the US: Evidence using a difference-in-differences approach

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Abstract
Aims: To estimate whether and to what extent extending indoor smoking restrictions to include electronic cigarettes (ECs) impact the use of ECs and cigarette smoking among adults in the US.

Design: Observational study using a linear probability model and applying a difference-in-differences analysis
SETTING: USA
PARTICIPANTS: People aged 18 to 54 who lived in US counties where comprehensive indoor smoking laws in bars, restaurants, and private workplaces have been in place prior to 2010 (N = 45,111 for EC use analysis, N = 75,959 for cigarette use analysis).


Findings: Indoor vaping restriction (IVR) coverage was not significantly associated with the likelihood of adult EC use (coefficient estimate = 0.001; 95% confidence interval [CI] = -0.009, 0.013, P-value = 0.783). In addition, IVR coverage was not significantly associated with adult cigarette smoking (coefficient estimate = -0.00; 95% CI = -0.016, 0.015, P-value = 0.954). The non-significant results appeared in different socio-demographic subgroups.

Conclusions: Indoor vaping restrictions do not appear to decrease electronic cigarette use among US adults. There is no evidence that indoor vaping restrictions increase or decrease cigarette smoking among US adults.

Recommended Citation

Link To PDF: https://doi.org/10.1111/add.16039