

Support for and Reported Compliance Among Smokers With Smoke-Free Policies in Air-Conditioned Hospitality Venues in Malaysia and Thailand: Findings From the International Tobacco Control Southeast Asia Survey

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Abstract

This study examined support for and reported compliance with smoke-free policy in air-conditioned restaurants and other similar places among adult smokers in Malaysia and Thailand. Baseline data (early 2005) from the International Tobacco Control Southeast Asia Survey (ITC-SEA), conducted face-to-face in Malaysia and Thailand ($n = 4005$), were used. Among those attending venues, reported total smoking bans in indoor air-conditioned places such as restaurants, coffee shops, and karaoke lounges were 40% and 57% in Malaysia and Thailand, respectively. Support for a total ban in air-conditioned venues was high and similar for both countries (82% Malaysian and 90% Thai smokers who believed there was a total ban), but self-reported compliance with bans in such venues was significantly higher in Thailand than in Malaysia (95% vs 51%, $P < .001$). As expected, reporting a ban in air-conditioned venues was associated with a greater support for a ban in such venues in both countries.

Keywords: air-conditioned hospitality venues; compliance; restaurants; smoke-free policy; support

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