

SMOKE-FREE LAWS AND VOLUNTARY TOBACCO POLICIES IN MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

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Purpose: This pilot study examined the effects of Lexington Kentucky's smoke-free ordinance on voluntary policy change in manufacturing facilities in the six contiguous counties surrounding Lexington-Fayette County. Specific aims were to: 1) describe the number and type of tobacco policies in manufacturing facilities; 2) describe enforcement strategies for smoke-free policies; 3) assess tobacco cessation policies; and 4) assess voluntary policy change over time with regard to smoking in manufacturing facilities. The Smoke-free Lexington Campaign was a 2½ year community-based advocacy and education initiative which resulted in passage of the law in July 2003. The ordinance became effective on April 27, 2004, and it prohibits smoking in all buildings open to the public. The ordinance does not prohibit smoking in manufacturing facilities not open to the public.

Methods: A time series design was used with secondary data analysis of tobacco policies in all manufacturing facilities in a total of seven counties. Data were collected for the years 1998-2004 to assess trends over time. All data were obtained from the Kentucky Tobacco Policy Research Program at the University of Kentucky College of Nursing.

Findings: Descriptive analysis will include the presence and comprehensiveness of smoke-free policies including bans on indoor and/or company vehicle smoking, and policies regulating smoking in separately ventilated areas. Enforcement of smoke-free policies will include determining efforts used to disseminate policies to employees and types of penalties for violators, both initial and repeat offenders. Data will be analyzed regarding the provision of cessation resources, reimbursement for cessation services, and the percent of workplaces selling cigarettes on company property. Trends will be analyzed between 1998-2004 with regard to increasing voluntary policy control and promotion of cessation efforts in Lexington-Fayette County and the six contiguous counties.

Discussion: Workplaces that allow smoking have higher worker absenteeism, lower productivity, higher cleaning and maintenance costs, increased health insurance rates, and increased liability claims for smoking-related diseases. Strong workplace smoke-free policies have been shown to reduce both the incidence and prevalence of smoking by employees. Little is known about workplace smoking policies in tobacco growing states. This pilot study provides a blueprint for assessing how public policy change influences voluntary tobacco policy change in manufacturing facilities which serve primarily blue collar workers who are disproportionately affected by smoking-related diseases.

