

## SMOKING BANS IN HOUSEHOLDS AND SMOKE EXPOSURE OF YOUNG CHILDREN

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The purpose of this descriptive study was to explore household factors associated with smoking bans in households containing young children. Surveys were administered to a cross sectional sample of English or Spanish-speaking subjects (n=225), 18 years and older, with children, age newborn through pre-school-age residing in the household. Data were collected on demographic factors, knowledge, attitudes, and health of children living in the household, smoking policies and smoking behaviors. Self reports of smoking policies were validated by measurement of cotinine levels in urine obtained from young children in the household. The lack of smoking bans in households (no restrictions on smoking) correlated positively with "cotinine exposure" ( $r=.472$ ). When entered into a regression model, the language in which the survey was completed and negative attitudes toward smoke exposure were predictive of smoking bans in households. Smoke exposure in households was significantly better explained by the inclusion of smoking bans in a model of smoking behaviors than by other smoking measures. These findings confirm that reported smoking bans in households are indicative of actual smoke exposure and can be used as a basis for development of interventions to reduce passive smoke exposure of young children. Further studies are needed to investigate the influence of ethnicity and attitudes on smoking bans.