

Title: HOUSEHOLD SMOKING RULES IN ARMENIA
Authors: N. Movsisyan, K. Sahakyan, V. Petrosyan
Affiliation: Center for Health Services Research and Development,
American University of Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia

Background

Women and children are particularly vulnerable to secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure in homes as a result of high smoking rates among Armenian men (61.5%).

Objective

This study explored household smoking rules in Armenian homes using data from a population-based survey conducted in May-June 2007 in three provinces of Armenia, including the capital city.

Methods

The study utilized a multi-stage cluster sampling method. Data on smoking related knowledge, attitude and practices were collected from 18-60 year old 360 men and 360 women in selected households by trained interviewers. Descriptive statistics and Chi-square test for differences between proportions were used in the study.

Results

The overwhelming majority (82.2%) of households had at least one smoker, with mean number of 1.23 (sd=0.89) smokers per household. About 70.0% of survey respondents acknowledged absence of any smoking restrictions in their households. Smoking was allowed in some rooms in 11.3% and banned in 19.5% of the surveyed households, including 9.2% of homes with exceptions made for guests. Respondents with university education and ex-smokers were more likely to have smoking restriction and bans in homes ($p<0.0001$). Having a child in the household was not linked to stricter smoking rules.

Conclusion

Urgent interventions are needed to reduce SHS exposure in Armenian homes through voluntary adoption of smoke-free household rules. We suggest that monitoring and measurement of personal SHS exposure and indoor air pollution could be an effective tool for public education and promotion of smoke free homes in Armenia.