

## **SMOKING BANS IN PRISONS: RESULTS FROM THE 2015 NATIONAL PRISONER HEALTH DATA COLLECTION**

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**Introduction and Aims:** With smoking bans being introduced in prisons throughout Australia, this paper looks at the differences between prisons with and without smoking bans, using results from the 2015 National Prisoner Health Data Collection.

**Design and Methods:** Data were collected from about 1,000 prison entrants, 500 prisoners about to leave prison (dischargees), and over 20,000 visits to the prison health clinics, from prisons throughout Australia, during two weeks in early 2015.

**Results:** Results are expected to show that smoking is still normalized among prisoners, with almost three-quarters of entrants being current smokers. Almost half of smokers would like to quit, and the smoking bans have reduced smoking while in prison. While about half of dischargees intend to smoke after release from prison, those in prisons with smoking bans were much more likely as those from prisons without bans to say that they do not intend to smoke in the community.

Few prisoners used quit smoking assistance. Even in prisons with smoking bans, where prisoners were much more likely than those in other prisons to use assistance, only about one-quarter did so.

**Discussion and Conclusions:** This paper takes advantage of the unique opportunity presented by a national data collection on prisoner health occurring at a point in time where smoking bans have been recently introduced in some, but not all, Australian prisons.

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