

## Prevalence of second-hand smoke exposure after introduction of the Italian smoking ban: the Florence and Belluno survey

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### ABSTRACT

**Aims and background.** A law banning smoking in enclosed public places was implemented in Italy on January 10, 2005. The aim of this paper is to present a cross-sectional survey on two representative samples of non-smokers of two Italian towns (Florence and Belluno), conducted one year after the introduction of the ban, in order to assess prevalence of second-hand smoke exposure, to record the attitudes towards the ban, and the perception about its compliance in a representative sample of non-smokers.

**Methods.** Computer-assisted telephone interviews were carried out in March 2006, from a random sample of households from telephone registries. Respondents were 402 non-smokers from Belluno and 1,073 from Florence.

**Results.** About 12% of Florentines and 7% of Belluno respondents were exposed at home; 39% and 19%, respectively, at work; 10% and 5% in hospitality venues; 20% and 10% in cars. The smoke-free law was almost universally supported (about 98%) even if a smaller proportion of people (about 90%) had the perception that the ban was observed.

**Conclusions.** Second-hand smoke exposure at home and in hospitality premises has dropped to  $\leq 10\%$ , whereas exposure at work remained higher. These results suggest the need for more controls in workplaces other than hospitality venues.

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**Key words:** Italy, second-hand smoke, smoking ban, survey.

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**Acknowledgments:** Grant from European Commission/European Network for Smoking Prevention #2004323. The work by EF was partially funded by the Ministry of Universities and Research, Government of Catalonia (grant SGR200500646) and Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Ministry of Health, Government of Spain (grant RD06/0020/0089).

**Conflict of interest:** None declared.

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Received March 31, 2008; accepted May 9, 2008.