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RESEARCH PAPER

Application of a rating system to state clean indoor air laws (USA)

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Objective: To develop and implement a system for rating state clean indoor air laws.

Design: The public health interest of state clean indoor air laws is to limit non-smoker exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). Current estimates of health risks and methods available for controlling ETS provided a framework for devising a ratings scale. An advisory committee applied this scale to each of seven site specific smoking restrictions and two enforcement related items. For each item, a target score of +4 was identified. The nine items were then combined to produce a summary score for each state. A state that achieved the target across all nine items would receive a summary score of 36 points and be eligible to receive an additional 6 points for exceeding the target on six of the nine items, resulting in a maximum summary score of 42 points. Individual scores were also adjusted to reflect state level preemption measures. Each state's law was evaluated annually from 1993 through 1999.

Setting: USA.

Main outcome measure: A summary score measuring the extensiveness of the state's clean indoor air law.

Results: State laws restricting smoking in the seven individual locations of interest were relatively weak. The overall mean score across the location restrictions ranged from 0.72 in 1993 to 0.98 in 1999. Mean scores were higher for the enforcement items than for the location restrictions. Summary scores ranged from 0 to 20 in 1993 and 0 to 31 in 1994 through 1999. Average summary scores ranged from 8.71 in 1993 to 10.98 in 1999. By the end of 1999, scores increased for 22 states; however, between 1995 and 1997 there were no changes in the summary scores. Three states scored zero points across all years. From 1993 through 1999, there was a 41% increase in the number of states that had in place state level preemption measures.

Conclusion: The number of newly enacted state clean indoor air laws has remained relatively stagnant since 1995. With a few exceptions, as of the end of 1999, progress in enacting state laws to meet specified public health targets for reducing exposure to ETS was relatively low. Thus, state laws in the USA provide, on average, only minimal protection in specified areas and, given the increase in preemption, are increasingly undermining those passed in localities.

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In 1986, the US Surgeon General and the National Research Council reported on scientific evidence that involuntary smoking is a cause of disease in non-smokers.^{1,2} Involuntary smoking is also referred to as non-smokers' exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). ETS is defined as a mixture of side stream smoke from a cigarette and mainstream smoke exhaled by a smoker.¹ ETS has been widely studied for links to respiratory, carcinogenic, cardiovascular, and other illnesses.^{3,4} In a 1992 report, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated ETS as a group A (known human) carcinogen.⁵ Based on subsequent studies, EPA findings relating to risks of ETS exposure and lung cancer remain authoritative.⁶ At the same time, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has classified ETS in the workplace as an occupational health hazard.⁷ Both the EPA and NIOSH have recommended eliminating non-smoker exposure to ETS.^{3,7} The 1992 EPA report also highlighted evidence that children who are exposed to ETS are at risk for illnesses, including asthma, respiratory tract infections, and middle ear disease.³

"Healthy People 2010"—a compendia of the federal government's national public health objectives—provides specific incentives for states to regulate smoking in public places. The report calls on each state to enact comprehensive clean

indoor air laws that strictly limit smoking in public places and in public and private worksites.⁸

While a modest number of laws on smoking in indoor locations were in place in a number of states decades ago, scientific evidence supporting the conclusion that ETS is a disease causing agent developed over the past decade—and resulting recommendations for limiting exposure to ETS provided a framework for regulating ETS exposure.^{1,2,5} State legislatures responded with laws ranging from minimal restrictions on smoking to comprehensive restrictions on smoking in most public places.^{9,10}

In order to provide comparative data on state legislation restricting indoor smoking, an advisory committee was convened by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop a system for rating state clean indoor air laws; a rating system had previously been devised for rating state laws on youth access to tobacco.¹¹ As Wakefield and Chaloupka note, such measures provide a unique opportunity to assess the affect of

Abbreviations: ASSIST, American Stop Smoking Intervention Study, EPA, Environmental Protection Agency; ETS, environmental tobacco smoke; NCI, National Cancer Institute; NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; SCLD, State Cancer Legislative Database

Table 1 Targets for each item in clean indoor air score

Item	Target
1: Government worksites	Government worksites are 100% smokefree, no exemptions
2: Private worksites	Private worksites are 100% smokefree, no exemptions
3: Schools	No smoking permitted in schools during school hours or while school activities are being conducted
4: Childcare facilities	No smoking permitted during operating hours in childcare facilities (explicitly including licensed home based facilities)
5: Restaurants	Restaurants (explicitly including bar areas of restaurants) are 100% smoke-free
6: Retail stores	Retail stores or retail businesses open to the public are 100% smoke-free
7: Recreational/cultural facilities	Recreational and cultural facilities are 100% smoke-free
8: Penalties	Penalties or fines, applicable to smokers and to proprietors/employers, for any violation of clean indoor air legislation
9: Enforcement	Enforcement authority designated for clean indoor air legislation, and sign posting is required

tobacco control *inputs* (for example, clean indoor air policies) on tobacco control *outputs* (for example, exposure to ETS).¹² In fact, Luke and colleagues have demonstrated the ability to assess the relation between the state youth access ratings and youth smoking behaviour.¹³ For the current study, ratings for clean indoor air laws (in effect as of the end of 1993 through the end of 1999) in all 50 states and the District of Columbia (hereinafter referred to as “states”) were based not only on whether the law restricts smoking in a particular type of location, but also on an ordinal coding of the type of restriction mandated for those locations.

The members of the NCI committee have experience in conducting policy research, implementing interventions, and analysing public health issues related to smoking. The committee used this experience to establish several goals it considered essential for developing a model to rate the wide range of state statutes restricting indoor smoking. The committee initially identified critical topic areas for clean indoor air legislation by consulting guidelines developed as part of the American Stop Smoking Intervention Study (ASSIST)—a joint project of NCI and the American Cancer Society that has developed cancer prevention and control programmes in 17 states.¹⁴ In addition, when developing criteria for the ratings structure, the committee reviewed data on the specifics of clean indoor air items as presented in state laws. Based on the ASSIST guidelines and this review, the committee developed nine categories for inclusion in this study: seven sites of restriction (that is, public worksites, private worksites, schools, childcare facilities, restaurants, retail stores, and recreational/cultural facilities) as well as penalty and enforcement items (table 1). This system is applicable both to laws that address places of employment generally (that is, California and Maryland) and to those laws that address specific location restrictions (for example, restaurants, schools, etc).

As of the end of 1999, public and private workplaces were covered by laws in 37 and 22 states, respectively, and data are emerging on the effects of various restrictions.^{15–23} Schools in 44 states and childcare facilities in 32 states were also covered by state laws that mandate some level of smoking restriction—indicating a strong public health interest in protecting children from ETS.^{5 24–26} Restaurants were covered under smoking laws in 31 states, and the impact of these laws has been examined in numerous studies.^{27–31} Although the implementation and effects of smoking restrictions on retail stores and recreational/cultural facilities are not well examined as discrete topics, such restrictions are a recognisable element of comprehensive clean indoor air laws¹ and have a significant presence in states with less extensive regulation; more than half of the states have laws restricting smoking in these venues.

The nine items established for the rating system were designed to serve as an indication of the comprehensiveness of the effort by individual states to restrict indoor smoking. To

this end, the committee identified four underlying goals for this study:

- to identify state specific smoking restrictions in seven indoor settings and the extent to which such restrictions may minimise exposure to ETS
- to delineate features of the law that narrow or otherwise limit its application
- to measure the degree to which the law defines penalties and enforcement
- and to ascertain whether state law preempts stronger local clean indoor air ordinances.

DATA SOURCE AND METHODS

The state clean indoor air legislative data used for this study were obtained from NCI’s State Cancer Legislative Database (SCLD) program (<http://www.sclld-nci.net>). SCLD contains information on the current status of each state’s clean indoor air law as of the last day of each calendar year beginning with 1993. The current status records reflect all changes, including substantive amendments and repeals, since the law’s inception. The 1993 through 1999 clean indoor air current status records were used to develop ratings for each of the nine areas addressed by this study.

The methodology developed to rate state clean indoor air laws was based on the model employed for the youth access to tobacco ratings.¹¹ The clean indoor air ratings cover laws in effect at seven points in time—the end of each year from 1993 through 1999. For each of these time points, a state’s total summary score equals the sum of the state’s ratings on each of the nine categories identified earlier. The total scores, therefore, indicate how closely the state laws approximated a series of seven target items identified as being important to limiting non-smoker exposure to ETS. While recognising that clean indoor air laws have been characterised as self enforcing,^{32 33} the NCI committee felt that it was important to address penalties for violation of the state law and identification of specific enforcement bodies. Thus, the total scores could be divided into two components: seven of the target items specifically relate to controlling smoking in indoor locations and two of the target items address enforcement of the location items (table 1).

As with the youth access to tobacco ratings methodology, a “target” score of +4 was identified for each of the nine clean indoor air items to reflect the public health objectives for limiting non-smoker exposure to ETS.¹¹ As table 1 and the appendix indicate, for the seven location restrictions (that is, items 1–7), the target score reflects a total ban on smoking. Such a ban represents the most stringent possible restriction and renders moot the scientific assessment of whether exposure to ETS is minimised or eliminated. For six of the nine items (government worksites, private worksites, schools, childcare facilities, penalties, and enforcement), the committee felt that

Table 2 Mean scores (without preemption penalty) by category, 1993 through 1999

Category	Maximum points*	Year						
		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Individual rating item								
1. Government worksites	5	0.84	0.84	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.96
2. Private worksites	5	0.39	0.45	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53
3. Schools	5	1.06	1.35	1.59	1.59	1.59	1.59	1.67
4. Childcare facilities	5	0.94	1.31	1.27	1.27	1.27	1.43	1.43
5. Restaurants	4	0.57	0.65	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67
6. Retail stores	4	0.59	0.69	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
7. Recreational/cultural facilities	4	0.65	0.76	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86
8. Penalties	5	1.82	2.00	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.10	2.10
9. Enforcement	5	1.84	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	2.00	2.02
Composite rating items								
Location restrictions		0.72	0.86	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.96	0.98
Penalty and enforcement items		1.83	1.98	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.05	2.06
Overall mean for all items		0.97	1.10	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.21	1.22

*The target score per item was +4 points.

a bonus point (over and above the target) was warranted when a state law exceeded the requirements of the target item. For example, for government and private worksites, a bonus point was assigned if a law prohibited smoking in both the worksite and the outdoor areas around such worksites. In such instances, a state was assigned a +5 rating.

A more difficult judgment for the committee was how to rank the restrictions that are less stringent than a total ban for the seven locations of interest. Examining methods for controlling ETS provided an obvious basis for discriminating among the options.³⁴⁻³⁸ Based on evidence from the research literature, the committee felt that smoking bans reduce exposure to ETS to a greater extent than do enclosed, separately ventilated designated smoking areas (which are reportedly 100% effective only under optimal circumstances) and ranked these two options as a +4 and +3, respectively.^{36-39,40} Moreover, the health benefits of a smoke-free policy as compared to enclosed, separately ventilated smoking lounges may be a significant health issue for smokers, who are concentrated in a small area in such lounges.⁴¹ A score of +2 was assigned to items that limit smoking to enclosed areas without separate ventilation (thereby subjecting non-smokers to building wide recirculation of tobacco smoke).³⁶ Items that permit unenclosed smoking areas were given the lowest ranking (+1) because simple separation of smokers and non-smokers provides the least protection from ETS exposure.^{1,3,36} (The appendix delineates the scoring structure for each of the nine items.) State scores for categories that specify locations (items 1-7) were adjusted based on specific limitations or exemptions that narrowed coverage of the law. In general, the score was reduced by one point if a basic restriction was in place but a smaller class or category of individuals was excluded from the law. In some cases, however, the committee determined that explicit exemption of a significant class or category (for example, an exemption for private schools in a school smoking item or an exemption for restaurants serving fewer than 50 patrons in a restaurant smoking item) should result in a score of +1. The committee considered data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics⁴² to create specific values for government and private workplace restrictions, inasmuch as some state laws exclude small businesses even though these firms employ a considerable percentage of the US workforce.⁴³

The rating system focused its targets on enforcement related issues to include a rating on two topics: penalties (item 8) and designation of an enforcement authority (item 9). A

state could meet the target for the penalty item if state law required a graduated penalty scheme applicable to both smokers and to proprietors/employers. The item 9 target was met when state law specified an enforcement authority and required sign posting.

The committee established separate criteria for rating each of the nine items. The scoring structure for rating each item may be interpreted as follows:

+5 Exceeds target (where applicable): outstanding

+4 Meets target: excellent

+3 Meets ~75% of target: good

+2 Meets ~50% of target: fair

+1 Meets ~25% of target: minimal

0 No effective item: none

It is important to note that the target percentages for the seven location restrictions are subjective and do not, necessarily, equate to a certain percentage reduction in exposure to ETS. The appendix should be consulted for details on the specific criteria for rating each item.

Scoring for preemption

The committee devised a separate set of scores for state laws that included language on preemption. State preemption is in effect when a state government regulates an area or subject matter so that its law supercedes those of lower jurisdictions.^{44,45} When a state law uniformly preempted all local ordinances related to the clean indoor air items of interest, the state score was reduced by two points on each of the nine items of interest, with the lowest possible score being zero.¹¹ As noted below, to enable the committee to assess further the preemption effect on the extensiveness of the state laws, we developed two sets of total scores—one without preemption and one with preemption.

Coding of the laws and inter-rater agreement

Two raters independently reviewed the SCLD clean indoor air current status records and developed initial ratings for 1993 through 1999. Following these initial ratings, the individual ratings were compared and coded to form a final consensus rating.* To ensure the reliability of the ratings methodology, a third rater reviewed the current status records for all states

*A copy of the decision rules for developing the clean indoor air ratings is available from the corresponding author.

Table 3 Clean indoor air summary scores* by state, 1993 through 1999 (target score = 36 points)

State	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Δ 1993-1999
Alabama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alaska	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	0
Arizona	6	6	6	6	6	6	10	4
Arkansas	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0
California	13	18 (2)	18 (2)	18 (2)	18 (2)	18 (2)	18 (2)	5
Colorado	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	1
Connecticut	8 (2)	8 (2)	8 (2)	8 (2)	8 (2)	8 (2)	8 (2)	0
Delaware	0	17 (5)	17 (5)	17 (5)	17 (5)	17 (5)	17 (5)	17
District of Columbia	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	0
Florida	20 (7)	20 (7)	20 (7)	20 (7)	20 (7)	20 (7)	20 (7)	0
Georgia	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	4
Hawaii	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	0
Idaho	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	0
Illinois	10 (2)	10 (2)	13 (5)	13 (5)	13 (5)	13 (5)	13 (5)	3
Indiana	5	5	5	5	5	9	12	7
Iowa	10 (0)	10 (0)	10 (0)	10 (0)	10 (0)	10 (0)	10 (0)	0
Kansas	13	14	14	14	14	14	14	1
Kentucky	3	3 (0)	3 (0)	3 (0)	3 (0)	3 (0)	3 (0)	0
Louisiana	11 (2)	16 (7)	16 (7)	16 (7)	16 (7)	16 (7)	16 (7)	5
Maine	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	0
Maryland	3	3	23	23	23	23	23	20
Massachusetts	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0
Michigan	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	0
Minnesota	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	0
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	0
Montana	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	0
Nebraska	9	9	9	9	9	9	11	2
Nevada	13 (4)	13 (4)	13 (4)	13 (4)	13 (4)	13 (4)	13 (4)	0
New Hampshire	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	0
New Jersey	11	11	11	11	11	14	14	3
New Mexico	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0
New York	16	19	19	19	19	19	19	3
North Carolina	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0
North Dakota	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	0
Ohio	6	9	9	9	9	9	9	3
Oklahoma	6 (0)	10 (1)	10 (1)	10 (1)	10 (1)	10 (1)	10 (1)	4
Oregon	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	0
Pennsylvania	8 (0)	8 (0)	8 (0)	8 (0)	8 (0)	8 (0)	8 (0)	0
Rhode Island	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	0
South Carolina	9	11	11	11 (3)	11 (3)	11 (3)	11 (3)	2
South Dakota	4	5	5 (0)	5 (0)	5 (0)	5 (0)	5 (0)	1
Tennessee	0	0	6 (0)	6 (0)	6 (0)	6 (0)	6 (0)	6
Texas	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0
Utah	17	31 (14)	31 (14)	31 (14)	31 (14)	31 (14)	31 (14)	14
Vermont	9	9	13	13	13	13	13	4
Virginia	9 (0)	13 (2)	13 (2)	13 (2)	13 (2)	13 (2)	13 (2)	4
Washington	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	0
West Virginia	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	0
Wisconsin	12	15	15	15	15	15	15	3
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean	8.71	10.02	10.67	10.67	10.67	10.80	10.98	NA
Median	9	10	11	11	11	11	11	NA

*Scores with preemption penalties are shown in parentheses.

for the baseline year (1993) and independently assigned ratings. The overall inter-rater agreement for the coding schema was 86.1%. Agreement rates were highest for childcare facilities (96.1%), restaurants (96.1%), and recreational/cultural facilities (94.1%). The lowest agreement rates were for the penalty items (70.6%) and the enforcement items (74.5%). The committee had expected some difficulty in rating the penalty and enforcement items, given the states' diverse approaches to drafting enforcement related language.

RESULTS

Detailed information on the state specific values for each of the nine categories for all years is available on the SCLD website (www.sclld-nci.net). Data on mean scores and cumulative results are summarised below and presented on the SCLD website.

Mean scores for individual restrictions

The mean scores across states on each of the individual items are presented in table 2. Overall mean scores across all of the items (items 1–9) ranged from 0.97 in 1993 to 1.22 in 1999, on a scale where a +4 indicated that the target goals across the items were achieved.

For the most part, state laws restricting smoking in the seven locations of interest were relatively weak. As table 2 indicates, the overall mean score across the location restrictions ranged from 0.72 in 1993 to a high of 0.98 in 1999. While still far from the target goal of +4, smoking restrictions were most extensive in relation to schools, childcare facilities, and government worksites. Restrictions were less common in recreational/cultural facilities, private worksites, restaurants, and retail stores.

State scores on the penalty and enforcement items were higher than those for the location restrictions. The overall

Table 4 Number of states with preemption penalties in clean indoor air ratings by item, 1993-1999

Item	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Change 1993-1999	Δ 1993-1999 (%)
1. Government worksites	8	11	11	12	12	12	12	4	50.00
2. Private worksites	5	8	8	8	8	8	8	3	60.00
3. Schools	7	11	13	14	14	14	14	7	100.00
4. Childcare facilities	4	8	10	11	11	11	11	7	175.00
5. Restaurants	8	11	11	11	11	11	11	3	37.50
6. Retail	6	9	9	9	9	9	9	3	50.00
7. Recreation/cultural facilities	6	10	12	13	13	13	13	7	117.00
8. Penalties	9	13	15	16	16	16	16	7	77.78
9. Enforcement	10	13	14	15	15	15	15	5	50.00
Any item	10	14	16	17	17	17	17	7	70.00

mean rating for the combined penalty and enforcement items ranged from 1.83 in 1993 to 2.06 in 1999. Across all years, penalty items in the state laws were slightly stronger than the enforcement items; however, more states achieved the target score for enforcement than in any other area covered by the ratings (14 states as of the end of 1999).

Cumulative and summary scores

Table 3 presents the total summary scores for each state for 1993 through 1999, as well as the change in scores between 1993 and 1999. A state that achieved the target across all nine items would have received 36 points plus 6 additional points for exceeding the target on six of the nine items, for a total of 42 points. Generally, the scores fell well below the target score across all years; however, Utah scored 31 points in 1994 through 1999. Between 1993 and 1999, the scores increased for 22 states, with Maryland demonstrating the most dramatic increase over time (20 points). Three states—Alabama, Mississippi, and Wyoming—scored zero points across all seven years.

As tables 2 and 3 indicate, state laws related to the items of interest did not substantively change between 1995 and 1997; therefore, the total summary scores for each state did not change between these years. The overall mean summary score across all states ranged from 8.71 in 1993 to 10.98 in 1999. Thus, as of the end of 1999, all of the states combined only achieved slightly more than 26% of the target restrictions examined in this study. The minimum and maximum scores ranged from 0 to 20 in 1993 and 0 to 31 in 1994 through 1999. In 1993 and 1994, the modal score was 9, while the modal score in 1995 through 1999 was 13. It is important to recall, however, that the per item scores were higher for the penalty and enforcement items. Thus, achieving a total summary score of nine did not necessarily equate with a minimal (+1) rating on each of the nine items.

Measuring the effect of preemption

As table 4 reveals, the number of states enacting clean indoor air laws containing items eliminating or limiting local authority increased steadily between 1993 and 1996 and then stabilised after that point.⁴⁴⁻⁴⁵ At the end of 1999, 41% more states had laws in place that preempted local ordinances than had such laws at the end of 1993. As of the end of 1999, preemption affected the scores of 17 states. Preemptive items were most common in relation to penalty and enforcement items followed by schools, recreational/cultural facilities, and government worksites.

When accounting for the preemption factor, state scores were negatively affected for all years after enactment of preemption. The overall mean summary score for all of the states combined, when accounting for preemption, ranged from 7.2 in 1993 to 8.02 in 1999. As of the end of 1999, preemption reduced the overall mean summary score by 27%. Utah, California, and Florida's scores were most dramatically effected by preemption (table 3). When accounting for preemption, their scores were reduced by 17, 16, and 13 points, respectively.

DISCUSSION

This study is particularly timely since tobacco control programmes are established in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The methodology developed and the results reported herein can be used as one measure by which the state tobacco control programmes can monitor their own progress in meeting key objectives.

Ratings results show that states have enacted clean indoor air laws with more frequent restrictions on government workplaces, schools, and day care facilities than on private workplaces, restaurants, and recreational/cultural facilities. Further research would be worthwhile to examine the extent to which this result is influenced by factors outside of public health—for example, the political calculation that anti-smoking measures for government worksites and to protect children are more likely to be enacted than similar measures for private businesses.

Moreover, while it is encouraging that items for enforcement of the laws that do exist are the strongest part of the ratings, this indicates that states are calling for enforcement of weak items. The NCI committee saw the same pattern observed when developing the youth access ratings—weak laws on the books.¹¹ When combined with ratings for youth access laws, the states are very far from setting high benchmarks to protect public health. The findings also shed light on the fact that implementation of state tobacco control programs—not simply adoption of clean indoor air laws—is critical.

Also, as with the youth access topic area, preemption was a key factor in the clean indoor air ratings.¹¹ As noted above, the number of states enacting items to eliminate or limit local authority to adopt tobacco control legislation increased steadily between 1993 and 1996, but stabilised thereafter.⁴⁴⁻⁴⁵ State preemption is significant in the clean indoor air legislative arena, since local ordinances restricting smoking are well established across the USA.⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸ Numerous internal industry documents released during the Minnesota attorney general's lawsuit against tobacco product manufacturers confirm that for the past decade the tobacco industry's chief legislative goal at the state level has been the enactment of preemption legislation.⁴⁹⁻⁵²

However, public health organisations strongly oppose preemptive tobacco control laws.³³⁻³⁴ Formal opposition to preemption is found in the federal government's "Healthy People 2010" report.⁸ Opponents of preemption express concern that legislation at one level of government is being used to weaken the strength of a lower level of government and, consequently, that public health standards are compromised. Opponents also cite the greater success of local level public education and the potential for greater compliance that can occur with local level, as opposed to state level, clean indoor air initiatives.⁴⁶

The NCI committee felt strongly that state laws that include preemption should be identified and that specific items of the

law to which preemption applies should not be scored on the same par as non-preemptive items. Under the described rating system, a state score is calculated exclusive of information about preemption. However, an alternative score is also calculated to consider preemption, thus identifying and “penalising” individual states for preemptive language (table 3); this alternative score more fully reflects the content and extensiveness of the law.

Limitations and uses

The ratings system described herein applies to state laws only. State regulations and executive orders, which may be significant policy instruments for a given state, were not examined for this analysis. Thus, the ratings structure may provide information on only one component of a state’s clean indoor air policy.

Similarly, analysis of state legislation on indoor smoking represents only one level of governmental policy affecting ETS exposure. On the federal level, there has been only limited action with regard to indoor air quality.³ Instead, many of the most extensive clean indoor air items have been developed at the local levels of government. In fact, over the past two decades there has been a significant increase in the number of local ordinances aimed at limiting exposure to second hand smoke. Such ordinances are adopted by counties or other local entities in the USA and mandate restrictions for that locality only.^{47–48} The committee believes that the ratings model described here also could be adapted for rating the extensiveness of clean indoor air laws at the local levels of government.¹²

Non-governmental, or voluntary, clean indoor air regulation also falls outside the framework of the described ratings system. For example, in the health care industry, a ban on smoking has emerged as an important factor in diminishing the risk of exposure to ETS in hospital settings.⁵⁵ One study reported that 96% of hospitals were in compliance with the ban within two years of its implementation.⁵⁶ Despite minimal clean indoor air restrictions for private workplaces in many state laws, individual businesses have been active in adopting their own smoking bans, which may account for the fact that a high percentage of the workforce in some states is reportedly covered by smoke-free policies.⁴³

In addition to the aforementioned limitations of the rating system, the authors recognise inherent complexities in the structure of the ratings system itself. For example, the selection of location categories raises the potential criticism that public and private workplaces are placed on a par with retail stores and recreational/cultural facilities in terms of possible exposure to ETS. From a public health standpoint, it is probably more important to restrict smoking by worksite, where exposure is both prolonged and involuntary. For this study, these categories are effectively of equal weight; however, their purpose is to measure the comprehensiveness of a given state clean indoor air law in terms of the degree to which smoking is or is not permitted. Therefore, it is the individual adjustments within each category that measure the content of the law. Drawing on the most relevant and best available scientific data on the effects of different types of restrictions—ranging from a complete ban to few or no restrictions on indoor smoking^{34–36}—the committee designed a scale to correlate to the level of restrictiveness for the clean indoor air items identified for this study.

The high percentage of inter-rater agreement (89.1%) for the categories identified as “public places” suggests strong reliability of the ratings system for interpreting the restrictiveness of statutory language of these items. Inter-rater agreement was lower for rating categories identified as “penalties” and “enforcement”, a result that was predicted based

What this paper adds

Sources for data on state level clean indoor air laws in the USA exist in a number of formats; however, there has not been available a tool for systematic comparative analysis of these laws.

The ratings system described in this paper provides one measure for evaluating the extensiveness of state clean indoor air laws in nine areas of interest. A National Cancer Institute (NCI) advisory committee devised a ratings scale and, using data from the NCI’s State Cancer Legislative Database (SCLD), determined state-by-state and summary scores for the years 1993 through 1999. Overall, scores for state laws restricting smoking in the areas of interest were relatively weak and were even lower when state level preemption measures were taken into account.

on the diverse approaches of states in drafting enforcement related items. State statutes differ on such matters as whether smokers and/or proprietors face sanctions for violations and on the type of enforcement authority if such an authority has been named. Moreover, clean indoor air laws have been characterised as self enforcing, although the amount of data on compliance is limited.^{32–33} A few studies have considered other variables that may be significant; these variables include insufficient public information and/or education about the law and limited reinforcement actions in the years following the law’s enactment. Examination of the implementation of clean indoor air laws was also beyond the scope of the ratings structure; however, the authors recognise the importance of studies in this area and hope that data from this ratings system may facilitate further analysis.

In summary, the authors recognise the limitations of this study. In addition, we recognise that critical assumptions were made about the health outcomes and estimates of exposure associated with the various smoking policies in the state laws; however, we contend that the rating system offers a reasonable framework for examining states’ efforts in this area. The results of this analysis suggest that state laws, considered as a whole, establish only minimal clean indoor air restrictions in specified locations and, with increasing frequency, use preemption to prevent local jurisdictions from adopting measures that vary within states or are more restrictive than state laws.

Future applied research may seek to examine whether a rating system such as that described here could be applied to legislative studies in the USA at the local level and in other countries.¹² In addition, it would be interesting to explore the relation, if any, between state scores on the youth access to tobacco ratings¹¹ and the clean indoor air ratings to first ascertain whether or not different aspects of tobacco control are being given equal weight in the state legislatures, and second, to develop an overall measure of tobacco control legislation in the states. Other research would be well served to explore the relation between the clean indoor air ratings and state level ETS exposure based on the US Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey or other data sets.

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APPENDIX: DECISION CRITERIA FOR RATING STATE CLEAN INDOOR AIR LAWS

- (1) For all items, +4 represents the target item.
- (2) For all items, state preemption of stricter local ordinances reduces any score by 2 points (with a minimum score of 0).
- (3) Maximum score that a state can receive is 42 points.

Item 1: Government worksites are 100% smokefree (points: decision criteria)

- +5: 100% of government worksites and grounds (or a specified distance from entries/exits) are smokefree, no exemptions
- +4: Government worksites are 100% smokefree, no exemptions
- +3: No smoking permitted in government worksites unless restricted to enclosed, separately ventilated designated smoking areas *or* government worksites are 100% smokefree, with a minimal exemption (for example, worksites with five or fewer employees, privately enclosed offices used exclusively by smokers, or other narrow exemption (for example, based on smoker density) exemption)
- +2: Smoking in government worksites restricted to designated smoking areas which are separate and enclosed *or* to enclosed, separately ventilated designated smoking areas, with a minimal exemption
- +1: Smoking in government worksites restricted only to designated smoking areas; *or* to designated smoking areas which are separate and enclosed, with a minimal exemption, *or* any stricter requirement that applies to some but not all types of worksites (for example, warehouses exempted) and/or includes more than a minimal exemption
- 0: No restrictions, or requirement(s) that smoking be permitted

Item 2: Private worksites are 100% smokefree (points: decision criteria)

- +5: 100% of private worksites and grounds (or a reasonable distance from entries/exits) are smokefree, no exemptions
- +4: Private worksites are 100% smokefree, no exemptions
- +3: No smoking permitted in private worksites unless restricted to enclosed, separately ventilated designated smoking areas *or* private worksites are 100% smokefree, with a minimal exemption (for example, worksites with five or fewer employees, privately enclosed offices used exclusively by smokers, or other narrow exemption (for example, based on smoker density exemption)
- +2: Smoking in private worksites restricted to designated smoking areas which are separate and enclosed *or* to enclosed, separately ventilated designated smoking areas, with a minimal exemption
- +1: Smoking in private worksites restricted only to designated smoking areas; *or* to designated smoking areas which are separate and enclosed, with a minimal exemption, *or* any stricter requirement that applies to some but not all types of worksites (for example, warehouses exempted) and/or includes more than a minimal exemption
- 0: No restrictions, or requirement(s) that smoking be permitted

Item 3: No smoking permitted during school hours in schools, on school grounds (or a reasonable distance from entries/exits) and at school events (points: decision criteria)

- +5: No smoking permitted at any time in school facilities including—but not limited to—buildings, school grounds (or reasonable distance from entries/exits)

- +4: No smoking permitted in schools during school hours or while school activities are being conducted
- +3: No smoking permitted in schools during school hours only *or* any stricter requirement that restricts smoking to enclosed, separately ventilated designated smoking areas
- +2: Smoking in schools during school hours restricted only to designated smoking areas which are separate and enclosed
- +1: Smoking in schools during school hours restricted only to designated smoking areas, *or* any stricter requirement that includes more than minimal exemption(s) (for example, all private schools explicitly exempted)
- 0: No restrictions, or requirement(s) that smoking be permitted

Item 4: No smoking permitted during operating hours in childcare facilities (explicitly including licensed home based facilities) (points: decision criteria)

- +4: No smoking permitted during operating hours in childcare facilities (explicitly including licensed home based facilities)
- +3: No smoking permitted in child care facilities unless restricted to enclosed, separately ventilated designated smoking areas
- +2: Smoking in childcare facilities restricted to designated smoking areas which are separate and enclosed
- +1: Smoking in childcare facilities restricted only to designated smoking areas *or* restrictions on smoking in childcare facilities that apply to some but not all facilities (for example, home based facilities are explicitly exempt)
- 0: No restrictions, or requirement(s) that smoking be permitted

Item 5: Restaurants (including bar areas of restaurants) are 100% smokefree (points: decision criteria)

- +5: 100% of restaurants, bars, and taverns are smokefree, including outdoor seating
- +4: Restaurants (explicitly including bar areas of restaurants) are 100% smokefree
- +3: No smoking permitted in restaurants (including bar areas of restaurants) unless restricted to enclosed, separately ventilated designated smoking areas
- +2: Smoking in restaurants restricted to designated smoking areas which are separate and enclosed
- +1: Smoking in restaurants restricted only to designated smoking areas *or* restrictions on smoking that apply to some but not all restaurants (for example, size exemptions)
- 0: No restrictions, or requirement(s) that smoking be permitted

Item 6: Retail stores or retail businesses open to the public are 100% smokefree (points: decision criteria)

- +4: Retail stores or retail businesses open to the public are 100% smokefree
- +3: No smoking permitted in retail stores or retail businesses open to the public unless restricted to enclosed, separately ventilated designated smoking areas
- +2: Smoking in retail stores or retail businesses open to the public restricted to designated smoking areas which are separate and enclosed
- +1: Smoking in retail stores or retail businesses open to the public restricted only to designated smoking areas *or* restrictions on smoking that apply to some but not all retail stores or retail businesses open to the public
- 0: No restrictions, or requirement(s) that smoking be permitted

Item 7: Recreational and cultural facilities are 100% smokefree (points: decision criteria)

- +4: Recreational and cultural facilities are 100% smokefree
- +3: No smoking permitted in recreational and cultural facilities unless restricted to enclosed, separately ventilated designated smoking areas
- +2: Smoking in recreational and cultural facilities restricted to designated smoking areas which are separate and enclosed
- +1: Smoking in recreational and cultural facilities restricted only to designated smoking areas *or* restrictions on smoking that apply to some but not all recreational and/or cultural facilities
- 0: No restrictions, or requirement(s) that smoking be permitted

Item 8: Establish a system of penalties or fines, applicable to smokers and to proprietors/employers, for any violations of clean indoor air legislation (points: decision criteria)

- +5: Graduated penalties or fines, applicable to smokers and to proprietors/employers, for repeated violations of clean indoor air legislation
- +4: Penalties or fines, applicable to smokers and to proprietors/employers, for any violation of clean indoor air legislation
- +3: Penalties or fines, applicable to smokers and to proprietors/employers, for any violation of clean indoor air legislation, but with the possibility of delayed penalties (for example, triggered after more than one offense)
- +2: Penalties or fines, applicable to either smokers or to proprietors/employers *or* any of the above applicable to most but not all specified clean indoor air items
- +1: Penalties or fines, applicable to either smokers or to proprietors/employers, with the possibility of delayed penalties (for example, triggered after more than one offense) *or* any of the above applicable to only a limited number of specified clean indoor air items
- 0: None of the above
- Note: Intent requirement *or* affirmative defences or waivers that require only minimal (or possibly minimal) compliance with the law reduce any score by 1 point.

Item 9: Designate an enforcement authority for clean indoor air legislation and require sign posting (points: decision criteria)

- +5: Designate an enforcement authority for clean indoor air legislation, and require the agency or other officials to conduct compliance inspections *and* require sign posting
- +4: Designate an enforcement authority for clean indoor air legislation *and* require sign posting
- +3: Designate an enforcement authority for clean indoor air legislation, but *no* requirement for sign posting
- +2: Designate an enforcement authority for certain sites only, and require sign posting
- +1: Designate an enforcement authority for certain sites only, but no requirement for sign posting, *or* requirement for sign posting only (no enforcement authority designated for any site)
- 0: No item

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