

# Effects of a Comprehensive Law Banning Smoking in Enclosed Spaces in the Province of Trento, Italy 2005-2006

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## Background

- Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body and causes numerous diseases
- People who stop smoking greatly reduce their risk of chronic disease and premature death
- Second-hand smoke can also cause disease; even brief exposures can be dangerous
- In January 2005, Italy banned smoking in all enclosed spaces open to the public, including offices, bars, restaurants, clubs, and discos

## Objectives

For the Province of Trento:

- Estimate the prevalence of smoking at local level
- Evaluate local effects of the smoking ban

## Methods

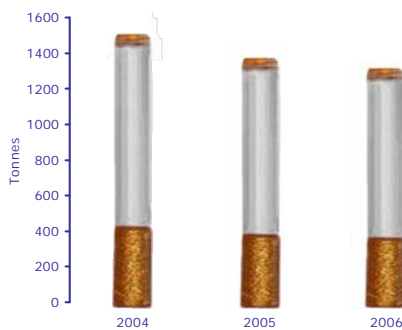
Data obtained from various sources:

- Cigarette sales data from the Trentino-Alto Adige region (which includes a second province, Bolzano)
- Studio PASSI 2005, a cross-sectional telephone survey conducted at local level (n = 200)
- Local cross-sectional survey in 2006 limited to smoking behaviours; included questions from the smoking module of Studio PASSI 2005 (n = 1050)
- In both studies, smokers were asked whether the 2005 law had affected their smoking practices

Definitions:

- *Smoker* = smoked at least 100 cigarettes during lifetime and smokes at present

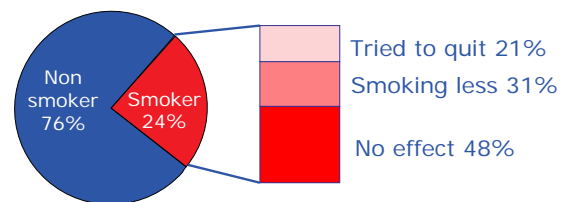
## Results 1: Cigarette Sales, Trentino Alto-Adige 2004-2006



Compared to 2004, cigarette sales declined 9% in 2005 (equivalent to 5.6 million packs) this was higher than the national reduction of 6%. In 2006, sales declined even further.

## Results 2: Behaviour after 6 months

Percentage of smokers who reported smoking less or having tried to quit as an effect of the new law



More than half of the smokers reported that they were smoking fewer cigarettes or had tried to quit smoking as a consequence of the law.

## Results 3: Behaviour after 18 months

The 2006 survey demonstrated that new law continues to show its effects:

- 18% of smokers reported having tried to quit
- 32% of smokers reported smoking less
- 25% of those who quit after the ban reported that the law had influenced their decision

## Conclusions

- The smoking ban was effective and resulted in a reduction of cigarette consumption in the Province of Trento
- The transformation of PASSI into a surveillance system will permit ongoing monitoring of smoking behaviour at local level