

Did the Smoking Ban Reduce Smoking?

Josef Brüderl* and Volker Ludwig**

University of Mannheim

In this paper we will investigate, whether anti-smoking laws – enacted in Germany in 2007 – have reduced smoking. In 2007 most German Länder introduced legislation that banned smoking from public buildings and restaurants. Smoking was also banned from trains and airplanes. The main goal of these laws was to improve working conditions and health of employees and guests. In addition, the new restrictions on smoking might have reduced the incidence of smoking in the population. This certainly would be a welcomed side-effect of the smoking ban.

We will evaluate the effect of the reforms by using GSOEP data on smoking behavior. The relevant questions were asked in 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008. Thus, information from the 2008 wave will allow for estimating the effects of the reform. We will pose three questions:

- 1) What is the overall effect of the reform? We will use fixed-effects growth curve models to answer this question.
- 2) Did the reform reduce the number of cigarettes smoked by the smokers, or did it even reduce the number of smokers? For this we will use hurdle count data models.
- 3) The strictness of the laws differed from Land to Land. Some Länder even allowed for smoking in separate rooms. In these Länder we expect only a small effect on smoking behavior. Länder-specific estimates of the policy effect will shed light on this hypothesis.

* Professor of sociology, University of Mannheim, A5, D-68131 Mannheim.
Phone: +49 (0)621-181-2003, E-mail: bruederl@uni-mannheim.de. (Corresponding author)

** PhD candidate in sociology, University of Mannheim, A5, D-68131 Mannheim.
Phone: +49 (0)621-181-2820.