

Self-reported Smoke-free Policy Non-compliance: A Cross-sectional Survey in Beijing, Shenzhen, and Shanghai

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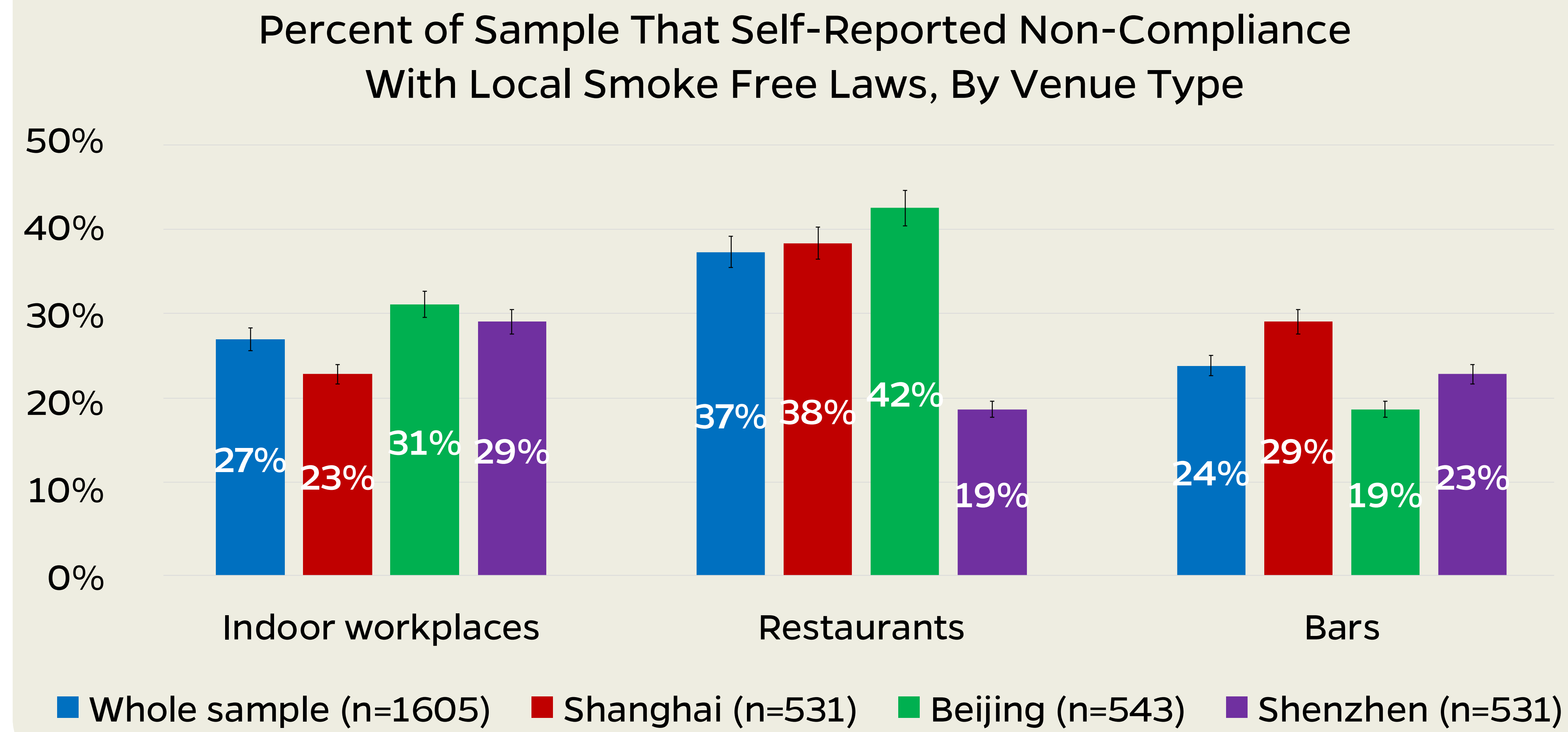
Significance

- Beijing (BJ), Shenzhen (SZ), and Shanghai (SH) implemented or updated comprehensive smoke free laws in June 2015, January 2017, and March 2017, respectively
- Little is known about non-compliance with each law
- **OBJECTIVE:** To examine self-reported non-compliance with the smoke free laws for indoor or enclosed public places

Methods

- Cross-sectional survey conducted in December 2017 in BJ, SZ, and SH
- Approximately 535 adult (18+) smokers residing in each city were recruited via street intercept (50% male and 50% <40 years of age) to conduct a 25 minute tablet-based survey
- Smokers were asked, “Have you smoked cigarettes in any of the following indoor or enclosed public places in the past week? Please select all that apply.”
- Locations included indoor workplaces, restaurants, bars, hotels, public transportation, airports, and schools/universities
- T-tests compared non-compliance between the three cities for each type of public place

Results



- Our analyses indicate in SZ (75%) and BJ (74%) self-reported non-compliance was significantly higher than in SH (62%) in terms of smokers smoking in one or more of the indoor public places
- For indoor workplaces, BJ smokers (31%) reported significantly higher non-compliance than SH smokers (23%)
- For restaurants, SH (38%) and BJ (42%) smokers reported significantly higher non-compliance than SZ smokers (19%)
- For bars, SH (29%) and SZ (23%) smokers reported significantly higher non-compliance than BJ smokers (19%)
- No differences were found among the three cities for hotels (19-22%), public transportation (13-15%), airports (3-4%), or schools/universities (1-3%)

Discussion

- Overall SH had the lowest self-reported non-compliance, with BJ, SH, and SZ each performing better relative to one another for different yet important public places, including workplaces, restaurants, and bars
- Lower non-compliance might reflect stricter law enforcement at each place; however, it could also be an artificial effect resulting from fewer respondents visiting the places during the week prior
- Beijing does not allow indoor designated smoke-free areas (DSAs); Shanghai and Shenzhen do allow DSAs in select indoor areas (e.g., restaurants with 75+ seats). Our survey questions do not distinguish between venues with and without DSAs
- Relative to findings from BJ and SH during 2013-15, our data suggest compliance may have improved, but smokers are still smoking inside. Improved enforcement may be needed in all three cities



<https://static01.nyt.com/images/2014/11/25/world/25sino-SMOKING/25sino-SMOKING-tmagArticle.jpg>

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