

What this paper adds

Very little is known about the potential long-term effect on adolescents and young adults of having lived in a parental household where smoking was banned. This study provides evidence that a parental household smoking ban is transported to the living quarters once youths move out of the home.

residential housing policies¹⁴ out of 252 colleges and universities in Massachusetts.¹⁵ This suggests that the majority of college students had a choice about what type of housing smoking policy their college residence would have upon arrival. Furthermore, the smoking policy of the parental home retained a strong independent effect on the outcome even when this confounding factor (college residence) was accounted for in the multivariate models. Not surprisingly, youths who were themselves smokers or who lived with smokers were less likely to move to living quarters where smoking was not permitted.

This study found that a parental household smoking ban increases the odds of moving into smoke-free living quarters once youths leave the parental home above and beyond living situations and a host of individual-level predictors. This finding was present even among those who were smokers at follow-up. This suggests that promoting the adoption of household smoking bans in homes with youths may have an additional benefit beyond reducing secondhand smoke exposure and promoting non-smoking attitudes. It may be an effective way to transmit a non-smoking norm throughout a child's life and even across generations.

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Competing interests: None.

Ethical approval: This study was approved by the institutional review boards of the University of Massachusetts at Boston (survey administration and data collection site)

and the Boston University Medical Center (data analysis site for the study described in this brief report).

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Correction

In the last issue, the cover photographs were by Peter Ucko, as correctly credited in the cover caption, and not Andrew Kerr (From the Editor: the Diverse Dynamic new world of tobacco control. *Tobacco Control* 2009;**18**:75).

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