

Unintended Consequences of Tobacco Policies on Women Working in Bars and Restaurants

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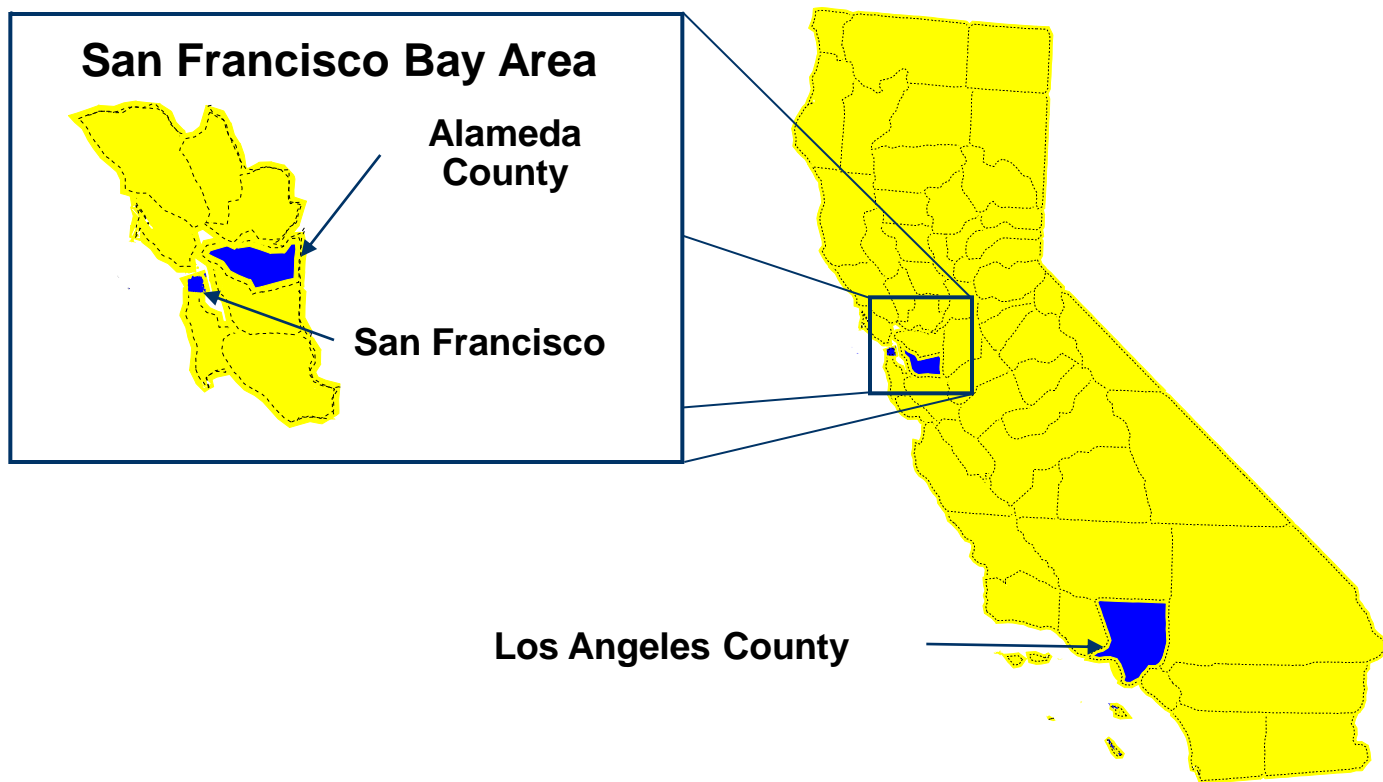


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Unintended Policy Consequences: Theories

- Durkheim, Weber, and other social scientists:
- Laws intended to alter human behavior produce unanticipated results
- Complex social systems and cumulative individual reactions to policies
- Merton: Unexpected outcomes positive, too

Research Settings: Standalone Bars



Methods and Data

- Multiple observations of smoking in and around 300+ bars in three counties
- Interviews with 207 bartenders, bar patrons, and bar owners and managers
- Data management system: ATLAS.ti

Focus on Low-SES Women

Female bartenders in California:

- <10% have college degrees
- 2000 Census: mean income of \$17,527
- Many first-generation migrants

Positive: Solidarity among smokers

- Compliant bars led to smoking outside
- Social networking and solidarity
- Temporary escape for bartenders

Negative: Safety Concerns

- Exposure to dangerous streets
- Examples of violence discussed
- Potential for retaliation from 86'ed patrons

Negative: Threats to personal image

- Negative connotations for women smoking outside bars
- Cultural definitions of feminine comportment

Negative: Increased Exposure to SHS

- Weak provisions for enforcement of enable some recalcitrant bar owners to permit smoking
- Assortative patronage reinforcing patterns of noncompliance
- Low-SES women working in such bars may still be exposed to substantial SHS

Weak enforcement provisions

- Relatively weak provisions for enforcement of tobacco-free laws in bars enable some recalcitrant bar owners to permit smoking
- Low-SES women working in such bars may still be exposed to substantial SHS

Strong enforcement provisions

- Paradox: Might the social solidarity of smoking circles outside bars inhibit quit attempts?

Implications

- Legislation needs to be clear, leveling the playing field for low SES women
- Enforcement needs to be clear and consistent
- Norm change takes time, but clear policy enforcement helps speed the process