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TITL: Tourism and hotel revenues before and after passage of smoke-free restaurant ordinances. [comment in JAMA. 2000 Apr 5;283(13):1686-7] 10755488

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ABST: CONTEXT: Claims that ordinances requiring smoke-free restaurants will adversely affect tourism have been used to argue against passing such ordinances. Data exist regarding the validity of these claims. OBJECTIVE: To determine the changes in hotel revenues and international tourism after passage of smoke-free restaurant ordinances in locales where the effect has been debated. DESIGN: Comparison of hotel revenues and tourism rates before and after passage of 100% smoke-free restaurant ordinances and comparison with US hotel revenue overall. SETTING: Three states (California, Utah, and Vermont) and 6 cities (Boulder, Colo; Flagstaff, Ariz; Los Angeles, Calif; Mesa, Ariz; New York, NY; and San Francisco, Calif) in which the effect on tourism of smoke-free restaurant ordinances had been debated. MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES: Hotel room revenues and hotel revenues as a fraction of total retail sales compared with preordinance revenues and overall US revenues. RESULTS: In constant 1997 dollars, passage of the smoke-free restaurant ordinance was associated with a statistically significant increase in the rate of change of hotel revenues in 4 localities, no significant change in 4 localities, and a significant slowing in the rate of increase (but not a decrease) in 1 locality. There was no significant change in the rate of change of hotel revenues as a fraction of total retail sales ($P=.16$) or total US hotel revenues associated with the ordinances when pooled across all localities ($P=.93$). International tourism was either unaffected or increased following implementation of the smoke-free ordinances. CONCLUSION: Smoke-free ordinances do not appear to adversely affect, and may increase, tourist business.

MJTR: Commerce, statistics & numerical data. Housing, statistics & numerical data. Restaurants, legislation & jurisprudence. Smoking, legislation & jurisprudence. Tobacco Smoke Pollution, legislation & jurisprudence. Travel, statistics & numerical data.

MNTR: Commerce, economics. Comparative Study. Housing, economics. Humans. Linear Models. Policy Making. Public Health. Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't. Research Support, U.S. Gov't, P.H.S.. Restaurants, economics. Restaurants, statistics & numerical data. Smoking, prevention & control. Tobacco Smoke Pollution, prevention & control. Travel, economics. United States.

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