



# A Breath of Fresh Air: The Effect of Public-Place Smoking Bans on Indigenous Youth in Canada

Dept. of Economics Visiting  
Speaker: Angela Daley

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Arts & Admin Bldg. Rm AA1043

This event is open to the public.  
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Angela Daley is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Maine. She has a PhD in Economics from Dalhousie University. Angela is originally from New Brunswick and has lived in remote Inuit communities in Nunavut. These experiences inform and motivate her research on the well-being of Canadian children and their families, as well as the interplay with social policy. Angela is particularly interested in those living in rural and remote communities including Indigenous and Northern populations.

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Public-place smoking bans are among the most widely-used tobacco control policies in the world. Indeed, all Canadian provinces/territories have adopted bans, the timing of which varied from June 2003 to May 2008. We exploit this variation to estimate the effect of smoking bans on Canadian youth, testing for heterogeneity by Indigenous identity. While there has been some research on how the bans affect adults, there has been no consideration of Canadian youth. Moreover, to our knowledge, there has been no research on how smoking bans affect Indigenous peoples, among whom the rates of smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke are considerably high. Using a difference-in-differences model and microdata from the Canadian Community Health Survey, we find the bans reduced smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke in public places for Canadian youth aged 12 to 17. We find no evidence of displacement to private vehicles or homes on the extensive margin, however there was an increase in the number of people who smoke in homes. The most notable finding of our work is that, among Indigenous youth, exposure to second-hand smoke in homes fell by 33 percent as a result of the bans. At the same time, Indigenous youth experienced large gains in self-reported health and life satisfaction. We conclude that, in addition to reducing smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke in public places for all Canadian youth, the bans fostered an awareness of health risks, thus decreasing these behaviours in Indigenous homes.