Measuring smoking in outdoor public spaces

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Background

- Knowing the extent of smoking in outdoor places can help planners and policy makers.

Aim

- To review and evaluate ways of measuring smoking outdoors.
Results of literature review

32 studies to March 2013 included:

1. **Systematic observation** – smoking prevalence over time, by setting

2. **Butt collection** – smoking over current (e.g., 24 hr) or past periods
3. Measuring fine particulates in the air (PM$_{2.5}$)

4. Recall surveys: what populations recall – smoking and smoking seen, by place

5. Location surveys: people at locations

6. Key informant interviews
Discussion

- There is a variety of simple, often low cost measurement methods

Researchers, advocates and officials can:

- measure the extent of smoking outdoors
- measure smoke drift from outdoors to indoors
- evaluate policy changes with before and after studies