

The Effects of a Smoking Ban on an Inpatient Psychiatric Program

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Introduction

- Smoking is a large part of the lives of many psychiatric clients, particularly psychiatric inpatients.
- Smoking ban meant: no more smoking inside, not all patients able to go outside at will.
- Staff and clients afraid of: increased aggression, disruption of care, changes to weight, medication use, dangers of illicit smoking.
- Previous literature, including Penetanguishene, suggested no negative effects from a smoking ban.



Methods.

- Data relates to general functioning of the inpatient program, physical health and medication use.
- Ban: May 1st 2004. Study period: May '03 – April '05.
- Incident reports filed due to disruption of normal functioning of ward. Categories:
 - Assaults by an aggressor
 - Assaults reported by a victim (including staff)
 - Assaults of a verbal nature (threats, abuse, altercations)
 - Fires
 - Smoking in an unauthorized area
 - Property damage
 - Unauthorized leaves ("ULOAs", "elopement")
 - Other incidents not in the other categories



Methods (cont'd).

- Physical health = Weight, Blood Pressure
- Medication use = "PRN" medication: medication used in addition to their regularly prescribed medication regimen.
- Data collected from the records of clients who were inpatients at some time in the 12 month periods both before and after the smoking ban.
- Number of client subjects = 26.
- Subjects of this part of the study their own control group.

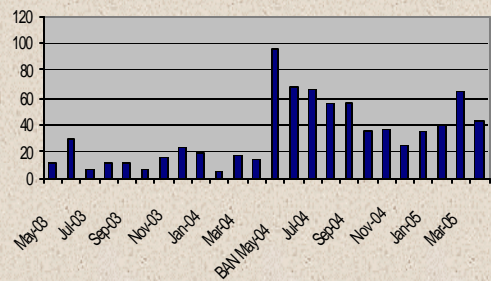


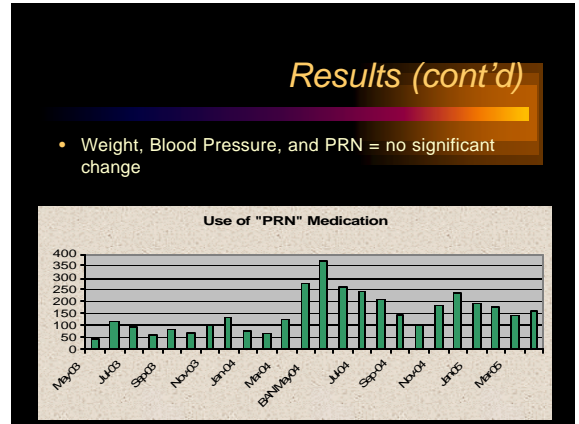
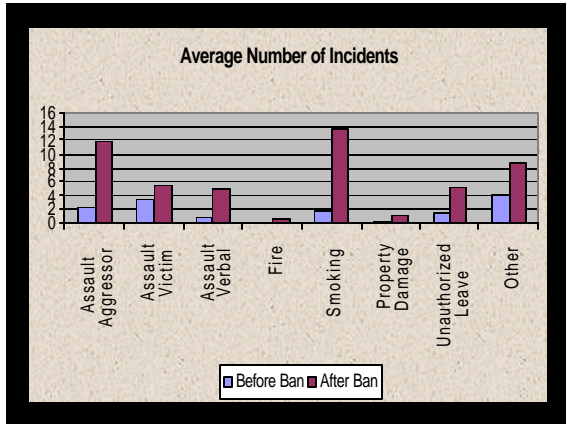
Results

- Total number of incidents after ban greater than before ban
- Before Ban = average of 14 incident reports/month. After the ban = average of 52 per month.
- Number of beds/clients increased in post-ban period 13%; number of incidents increased 271%.
- Analysis of Covariance indicates that the smoking ban contributed to the increase in incident reports more than twice as much as the increase in beds did



TOTAL INCIDENT REPORTS





Discussion

- Smoking Ban has had an effect on the lives of inpatients.
- Effect = increased disruption

Specific Effects

- More inappropriate smoking.
- More unauthorized absence.
- More physical and verbal assaults.

Bed/Client increase also an effect but much less than smoking ban.

Implications

- Accept the consequences OR rectify?
- If so, how?

