

Comments on:

Workplace smoking ban effects in an  
heterogeneous smoking population

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## ***Workplace smoking ban effects***

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- Set up of the paper
  - Two parts of the paper can be integrated better
  - Common data and methods section
- DID and the parallel trends assumption
  - Control group consist of non-employed: combination of retirement, inactivity, unemployment and study
  - Inherently different to employed population
  - Confounding labour market dynamics?
  - Pre-ban placebo tests good approach, but not fully convincing
  - Triple difference regressions?
    - Control for differential pre-ban trends
    - Requires weaker identifying assumption: kinks in the trends are exogenous

## ***Workplace smoking ban effects***

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- **Spill-over effects**
  - DID approach assumes that the control groups is no affected by the ban: no spill-over effects from employed to non-employed
  - If control group contaminated: downward bias
  - Exploit heterogeneity of the control group:
    - Contamination is expected to differ by category of non-employed
    - DID placebo analysis on the different control groups (post- and pre-ban): retirees vs inactive, unemployed and students
- **Are the estimates derived from voluntary bans biased?**
  - Obviously, if these are based on cross section analysis
  - IV approach as unreliable as OLS
  - Time dummies exogenous, but not orthogonal
- **Effect heterogeneity**
  - Who reacts to the ban? Age, gender, education, marital status,...