

Comments on:

Workplace smoking ban effects in an
heterogeneous smoking population

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Workplace smoking ban effects

- 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

- **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,...