

Original Investigation

Smoking on Both Sides of the Pacific: Home Smoking Restrictions and Secondhand Smoke Exposure Among Korean Adults and Children in Seoul and California

John W. Ayers, M.A.,^{1,2} C. Richard Hofstetter, Ph.D.,^{2,3} Suzanne C. Hughes, Ph.D., M.P.H.,² Haeryun Park, Ph.D.,⁴ Hee-Young Paik, Sc.D.,⁵ Veronica L. Irvin, M.P.H.,² Jooeun Lee, Ph.D., M.P.H.,⁶ Hee-Soo Juon, Ph.D., M.S.N.,¹ Carl Latkin, Ph.D.,¹ & Melbourne F. Hovell, Ph.D., M.P.H.²

¹ Department of Health, Behavior and Society, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD

² Center for Behavioral Epidemiology and Community Health, Graduate School of Public Health, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

³ Department of Political Science, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

⁴ Department of Food and Nutrition, Myongji University, Kyonggi-Do, Republic of Korea

⁵ Department of Food and Nutrition, Seoul National University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

⁶ Department of Society, Human Development and Health, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA

Corresponding Author: C. Richard Hofstetter, Ph.D., Center for Behavioral Epidemiology and Community Health, Graduate School of Public Health, San Diego State University, 9245 Sky Park Court, Suite 230, San Diego, CA 92123, USA. E-mail: rhofstet@mail.sdsu.edu

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Abstract

Introduction: This study, informed by ecological frameworks, compared the prevalence, predictors, and association of home smoking restrictions with secondhand smoke exposure (SHSe) between Koreans in Seoul, South Korea, and Korean Americans in California, United States.

Methods: A cross-sectional survey was drawn from telephone interviews with Korean adults in Seoul ($N = 500$) and California ($N = 2,830$) during 2001–02. Multivariable regressions were used for analyses.

Results: Koreans, compared with Korean Americans, had significantly fewer complete home smoking bans, 19% (95% CI: 16–23) versus 66% (95% CI: 64–68), and were more likely to not have a home smoking restriction, 64% (95% CI: 60–69) versus 5% (95% CI: 4–6). Home smoking restrictions were associated with lower home SHSe; however, the impact was consistently larger among Korean Americans. Households with more SHSe sources were less likely to have the strongest home smoking restrictions, where the difference in complete bans among Korean Americans versus Koreans was largely among those at low risk of SHSe, 82% (95% CI: 76–86) versus 36% (95% CI: 17–57), while high-risk Korean American and Koreans had similar low probabilities, 10% (95% CI: 7–13) versus 7% (95% CI: 3–13).

Conclusions: Consistent with ecological frameworks, exposure to California's antismoking policy and culture was associated with stronger home smoking restrictions and improved effectiveness.

Interventions tailored to Korean and Korean American SHSe profiles are needed. Behavioral interventions specifically for high-risk Korean Americans and stronger policy controls for Koreans may be effective at rapidly expanding home smoking restrictions.

Introduction

Ecological frameworks assume that societal structures have mediating and moderating, in addition to direct, impacts on secondhand smoke exposure (SHSe; Bronfenbrenner, 1977; Glass & McAtee, 2006; Hovell & Hughes, 2009; McLeroy, Bibeau, Steckler, & Glanz, 1988). Exposure to formal tobacco control policies and antismoking cultures may promote home smoking restrictions (mediation), and where in place, restrictions may be more effective when embedded in antitobacco social structures (moderation). These ecologic deductions are exemplified through comparison of the disparate tobacco control and smoking cultures among Koreans in Seoul, South Korea, and Korean Americans in California, United States.

The South Korean tobacco market originated in government monopolies, where most of the market remains and few policies restrict consumption (Corrao, Guindon, Sharma, & Shokoohi, 2000; Do & Park, 2009; Kang et al., 2003). Smoking is often a status symbol among Koreans, especially men (Cho, Khang, Jun, & Kawachi, 2008; Lee, 2003). California, on the other hand, has been at the forefront of antismoking activism beginning in 1977 (Bayer & Colgrove, 2002) developing into the California Tobacco Control Program

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(CTCP; Gilpin et al., 2004). Californians are also considered the most hostile to smoking in the United States (Alamar & Glantz, 2006).

The mediation ecological deduction suggests that the larger environment alters the occurrence of proximal determinants—those occurring conceptually closer to the individual. South Korean sociopolitical norms may place nonsmokers, mostly women and children, in positions where they cannot protect themselves. About 54% of Korean nonsmoking women had smoking husbands, and these women developed lung cancer at double the rates of those married to never-smokers (Jee, Ohrr, & Kim, 1999), likely a reflection of limited smoking restrictions. Estimates suggest that 65% of Korean homes have no home smoking restriction, and only 19% have a complete home smoking ban (Hughes, Hovell, et al. 2008; Hughes et al. 2009). Taking on California norms likely increases the focus on self-preservation, encourages equitable relationships (Markus & Kitayama, 1991; Min, 2001), and renders smoking less common (Ji et al., 2005; Zhu, Wong, Tang, Shi, & Chen, 2007). In the context of California's antismoking culture, instituting home smoking restrictions may be easier. We hypothesize (H_1) that home smoking policies will be more restrictive among Korean Americans than among Koreans.

Research among diverse populations documents a consistent association between harsher home smoking restrictions and lower SHSe (Martinez-Donate, Johnson-Kozlow, Hovell, & Gonzalez Perez, 2009; Pizacani et al., 2003), particularly among children (Spencer, Blackburn, Bonas, Coe, & Dolan, 2005); this relationship appears to hold for Koreans (Hughes et al., 2008; Hughes et al., 2008) and Korean Americans (Hughes, Corcos, Hofstetter, Hovell, & Irvin, 2008). However, the relative effectiveness of home smoking restrictions may be contingent on the social structures they are embedded in, the moderating ecologic deduction. Asian cultures are hierarchical (Markus & Kitayama, 1991), and smoking men often have power over nonsmokers (Jee et al., 1999). Immigration may empower Korean Americans to enforce smoking restrictions. Some of our earlier analyses allude to this dynamic: Korean male smokers are very resistant to others' requests to limit smoking (Ayers, Hofstetter, Hughes, et al., 2010), while Korean American men expect and cease in the face of social reprimand (Hofstetter, Hovell, et al., 2010). Similarly, strong tobacco control policies, largely enforced by peers and not the police (Jacobson & Wasserman, 1999), provide a set of models Korean Americans can imitate in their home. We hypothesize (H_2) that home smoking restrictions will be more effective at reducing SHSe among Korean Americans than among Koreans.

The patterns between home smoking restrictions and SHSe are complicated by suggestions that home smoking restrictions arise from microsocial contexts where smoking is rare and individuals need less protection (Hughes et al., 2009; Ji et al., 2009; Winickoff et al., 2009). Unfortunately, most prior work focused on the head of household or the study subject's smoking. In this report, we document a more complete perspective of these processes using social network data on familial smoking and descriptors of friends' smoking to evaluate the relative presence of the harshest home smoking restrictions across levels of SHSe risk. These analyses inform our earlier hypotheses of which Korean and Korean Americans uptake home smoking restrictions by investigating the SHSe risk of those with and without restrictions.

Methods

The survey instruments were developed in English and translated into Korean with the assistance of coinvestigators in Seoul and California. The English–Korean translation process was repeated, including formative focus groups, to assess translations and optimize isomorphism between concepts.

Random digit dialing procedures were used in Seoul with telephone interviews administered to 500 adults stratified by telephone district. California interviews were based on all residential telephones linked to Korean surnames. Numbers were purchased from a firm that aggregated from a variety of sources that included listed, unlisted, and cell phone numbers. The list was purged of persons who had Asian but not Korean first names with Anglicized first names retained ($N = 108,843$). The list was sorted into random order before calling began, and 2,830 interviews were administered. In both the Seoul and the California samples, respondents within households were randomly selected using the "most recent birthday" procedure (Frey, 1983) and filtered to ensure they were Korean.

Seoul interviews were conducted by trained graduate students at Myongji University under the supervision of a project coinvestigator during Summer and Fall of 2002. Up to five callbacks were made to each residence until interviews were completed, the targeted respondent refused the interview, or the number was found to be nonresidential. The cooperation rate, 41%, was comparable with meta-analysis, suggesting a mean cooperation rate of 48% ($SD = 20$; Baruch, 1999). All Seoul interviews were conducted in Korean.

California interviews were conducted by professional interviewers who were bilingual in English and Korean under the supervision of the interview supervisor at the Center for Behavioral Epidemiology and Community Health. Interviewers keyed on the phone answering language, which was very often Korean, but asked language preference before initiating interviews. Up to seven callbacks were used and a specially trained skilled interviewer attempted to convert refusals. The cooperation rate was high, with approximately 86% of all eligible respondents completing interviews. About 85% of interviews were conducted in Korean. Figure 1A and 1B show the sample dispositions. The Institutional Review Boards at San Diego State and Myongji University approved study procedures.

Measures

Adult and Childrens' SHSe

Respondents estimated the number of cigarettes to which they and their "most exposed" child were exposed in the home on a "typical day," dummy coded into any exposure. Similar measures have demonstrated satisfactory validity (Hovell, Zakarian, Wahlgren, Matt, & Emmons, 2000; Wagenknecht, Burke, Perkins, Haley, & Friedman, 1992).

Home Smoking Restrictions

Responses to "How is cigarette smoking handled as far as your home is concerned? Is no one allowed to smoke in your home, only special guests are allowed to smoke, people are allowed to smoke only in certain areas of your home, or are people allowed to smoke anywhere in your home?" were coded into three dummy indicators for no smoking restriction, a partial smoking ban, or a complete smoking ban.

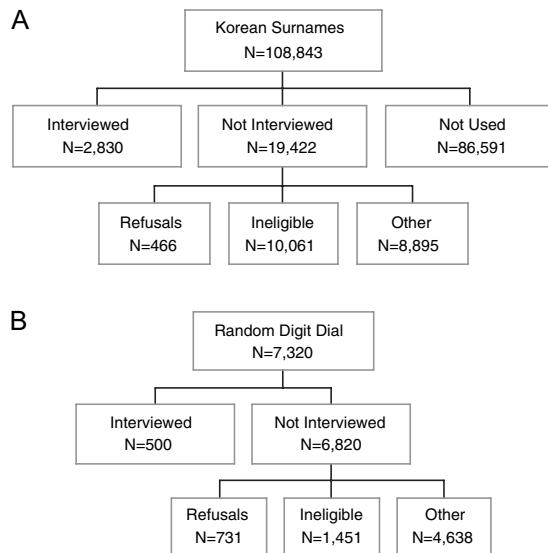


Figure 1. (A) California Sample. (B) Seoul Sample. Disposition of the samples ineligible includes non-Koreans, business numbers, and persons who speak neither English nor Korean. Other includes disconnected numbers, machines, no answer after seven attempts (five in Seoul, Korea), and line busy through seven (five) attempts.

Family Smoking Models

The survey instruments included questions to collect egocentric social network data on familial ties and general descriptors of friends' smoking (Smith & Christakis, 2008). Respondents were presented with a list of familial relationships and asked about the traits of that person. This network approach treats the individual as the wheel hub where respondents are asked about alters, persons with whom the respondent has a relationship, particularly if these alters smoked.

Family smoking models were measured by counting the number of the persons (spouse, parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles, siblings, and children) that respondents reported " . . . smokes cigarettes" and dividing by the total number of observed familial ties. The units are interpreted as the percent of smoking familial ties.

Dyadic Patterns of Family Smoking

Specific smoking relationships were computed by creating dummy variables by relationship type (spouse, parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles, siblings, and children) that indicated if the alter smoked.

Friends' Smoking

Responses to "How many of your friends who you see regularly are cigarette smokers? All, most, some, a few, or none" was coded into three dummy variables representing none, some/few, or most/all.

Respondent's Smoking Status

Current smoking status was computed using Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria; persons who reported having smoked 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke everyday or some days (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1996).

Covariates

Education and age were measured in years. Gender and having any children at home were dummy coded.

Analysis Plan

Significant differences in home smoking restrictions between Koreans and Korean Americans, consistent with H₁, were estimated by chi-square tests of deviation from independence followed by two-sample *t* tests to estimate differences in proportion within categories of restriction (Freedman, Pisani, & Purves, 2007). The association of restrictions with SHSe was appraised by entering home smoking restrictions into a logistic regression equation (Long, 1997) predicting any SHSe at home by sample, including adjustment for sociodemographics (gender, having any children [adult only], education, and age in the regression equation). Analysis of children's home SHSe was restricted to households with at least one child under the age of 18 years and adjusted for adult characteristics. To test for differences in the association between smoking restrictions and SHSe, consistent with H₂, a single equation for Seoul and California was specified, including an interaction term of country with home smoking restrictions (Brambor, Clark, & Golder, 2006).

To further understand, the patterns in H₁ predictors of having a complete home smoking ban were appraised. The choice of analyzing tendencies toward a complete home smoking ban was informed by preliminary analysis, demonstrating that those with a partial ban and no smoking restriction had equivalent distributions of familial smokers, friends smoking, and respondents smoking (Seoul: $z = .59, p < .55$ and California: $z = .05, p < .963$) based on the null hypothesis that none of these varied across a partial ban and no smoking restriction using a joint linear combination test. Predictors of a complete home smoking ban using smoking risk indicators for the respondent, their familial network, and friends including sociodemographics used logistic regression. The association between dyadic occurrences of smoking in specific relationships and having a complete home smoking ban were assessed using logistic regression by relationship and sample, including adjustment for friends' smoking and socio demographics.

Predicted probabilities from the regression analyses, instead of odds ratios, are reported to improve clarity, so absolute differences as well as relative differences can be observed (King, Tomz, & Wittenberg, 2000). Graphical presentation followed methods described by Kastellec and Leoni (2007). All tests were two tailed, $p < .05$.

Results

On average, Koreans were younger, less educated, and more likely to have children or smoke than Korean Americans (Table 1). Koreans had more opportunities for SHSe as indicated by more familial smokers and smoking friends. For example, about 45% (95% CI: 43–48) of Korean family members smoked compared to 29% (95% CI: 27–30) among Korean Americans. Similarly, about 34% (95% CI: 30–38) of Koreans reported most/all their friends smoked compared with 13% (95% CI: 12–14) among Korean Americans. Koreans were significantly more likely to have any SHSe at home, 43% (95% CI: 38–47), compared with Korean Americans, 17% (95% CI: 16–19), as were Korean children, 59% (95% CI: 53–65) versus 13% (95% CI: 12–25).

Table 1. Sample characteristics^a

| | Seoul, South Korea | | | California, United States | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----|---------------------------|----------------|-------|
| | M | 95% CI | N | M | 95% CI | N |
| Any SHSe adult ^b | 0.427 | 0.383–0.471 | 494 | 0.174 | 0.160–0.188 | 2,830 |
| Any SHSe children ^b | 0.591 | 0.534–0.648 | 286 | 0.134 | 0.115–0.154 | 1,177 |
| Home smoking policy | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| No policy ^b | 0.644 | 0.601–0.686 | 494 | 0.054 | 0.045–0.063 | 2,498 |
| Partial ban ^b | 0.166 | 0.133–0.199 | 494 | 0.287 | 0.269–0.304 | 2,498 |
| Complete ban ^b | 0.190 | 0.156–0.225 | 494 | 0.659 | 0.641–0.678 | 2,498 |
| Smoking models ^b | 0.454 | 0.427–0.482 | 499 | 0.309 | 0.298–0.319 | 2,827 |
| Spouse ^b | 0.278 | 0.228–0.329 | 309 | 0.161 | 0.145–0.176 | 2,172 |
| Sibling ^b | 0.573 | 0.528–0.617 | 475 | 0.441 | 0.423–0.460 | 2,687 |
| Grandparent ^b | 0.573 | 0.518–0.628 | 314 | 0.350 | 0.327–0.373 | 1,669 |
| Parent ^b | 0.537 | 0.492–0.582 | 471 | 0.369 | 0.350–0.388 | 2,509 |
| Son/daughter ^b | 0.220 | 0.172–0.268 | 291 | 0.154 | 0.139–0.170 | 2,029 |
| Friends smoking | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| None ^b | 0.243 | 0.205–0.281 | 498 | 0.395 | 0.377–0.413 | 2,811 |
| A few/some ^b | 0.418 | 0.374–0.461 | 498 | 0.474 | 0.455–0.492 | 2,811 |
| Most/all ^b | 0.339 | 0.298–0.381 | 498 | 0.131 | 0.119–0.144 | 2,811 |
| CDC smoker ^b | 0.332 | 0.291–0.373 | 500 | 0.172 | 0.159–0.186 | 2,830 |
| Any children ^b | 0.572 | 0.528–0.616 | 500 | 0.416 | 0.398–0.434 | 2,830 |
| Male | 0.496 | 0.452–0.540 | 500 | 0.471 | 0.453–0.490 | 2,830 |
| Years of education ^b | 12.998 | 12.723–013.273 | 495 | 14.862 | 14.753–014.971 | 2,732 |
| Age ^b | 38.342 | 37.029–039.655 | 500 | 46.948 | 46.377–047.520 | 2,828 |

Note. CDC = Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; SHSe = secondhand smoke exposure.

^aNumbers in cells are means, associated 95% CIs, and useful sample size for each concept. SHSe for adults and children were based on self-reports of the typical number of cigarettes exposed to at home.

^bIndicates significant differences in means between Seoul, South Korea, and California, United States, using a two sample *t* test assuming unequal variances; *p* < .05.

Korean Americans Have Harsher Smoking Restrictions

Consistent with expectations under H₁, Korean Americans were significantly more likely to have a complete home smoking ban, 66% (95% CI: 64–68) versus 19% (95% CI: 16–23), and less likely to not have any smoking restriction, 5% (95% CI: 4–6) versus 64% (95% CI: 60–69), than Koreans. Among those with any smoking restrictions, Korean Americans were also significantly (*t* = 4.19, *p* < .01) more likely to have a complete rather than partial home smoking ban, 70% (95% CI: 46–68) versus 53% (95% CI: 46–61), than Koreans.

Korean Americans Were Afforded More Protection for the Same Home Smoking Restriction

Consistent with expectations under H₂, the negative associations between smoking restrictions and any home SHSe were stronger among Korean Americans than among Koreans for both adults and children. For example, among Koreans, the probability of any SHSe at home without a home smoking restriction was 50% (95% CI: 45–56) compared with 49% (95% CI: 38–61) with a partial ban and 10% (95% CI: 5–18) with a complete smoking ban (Figure 2A). Among Korean Americans, the trends for SHSe were 62% (95% CI: 52–70) without a home smoking restriction compared with 37% (95% CI: 33–41) with a partial and 3% (95% CI: 2–4) with a complete smoking ban. The absolute difference between a complete

ban versus no ban was 40% compared with a 59% reduction in the probability of any home SHSe for Korean and Korean Americans, respectively; this translates into relative within-group differences [(SHSe_(ban) – SHSe_(no ban))/SHSe_(no ban)] of 80% for Koreans versus 95% for Korean Americans. Among children, the absolute difference in probability of any home SHSe, by ban versus no ban, was 12% for Koreans versus 38% for Korean Americans; with the relative within-group differences being 17% for Koreans versus 83% for Korean Americans (Figure 2B).

High-Risk Koreans and Korean Americans Were Similarly Unlikely to Have the Harshest Smoking Restrictions

Part of the difference in the presence of complete home smoking bans between Korean and Korean Americans was a function of Korean Americans with lower risk profiles being more likely to have a complete ban. For example, the probability of having a complete home smoking ban among Korean Americans was 13% (95% CI: 8–18) lower when a few/some friends smoked and 25% (95% CI: 17–33) lower when most/all of their friends smoked, while Koreans were not significantly more or less likely to have a complete home smoking ban as a function of their friends smoking (Figure 3A). Respondents' smoking was associated with a 40% (95% CI: 33–45) and 12% (95% CI: 3–20) lower probability of a complete home smoking ban among Koreans and Korean Americans, respectively, with the former significantly larger than the latter (*z* = 2.69, *p* < .01). As 50% more of a respondent's

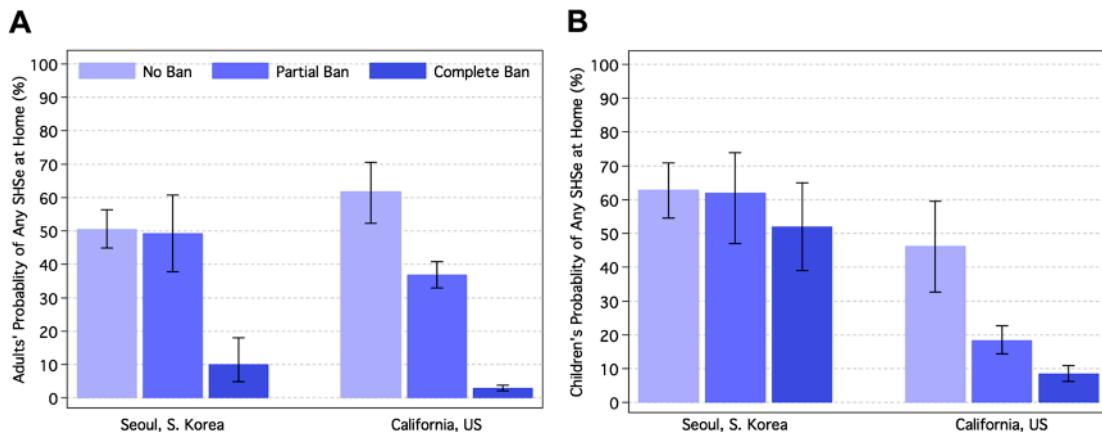


Figure 2. Home smoking restrictions differentially protect against secondhand smoke exposure (SHSe) at home in Seoul and California. (A) shows the predicted probability of any SHSe at home for the respondent, and (B) their children, with 95% CIs by home smoking policy in Seoul, South Korea, and California, United States. Estimates were produced from a logistics regressions (by country) adjusting for gender, education, and age of the household respondent. Predictions were produced by simulation, using 1,000 randomly drawn estimates from the coefficient covariance matrix, with other predictors held at their mean. Trends of increased SHS exposure were statistically significant for all associations, except children in Seoul, South Korea.

family smoked, Korean Americans had a 15% (95% CI: 11–20) and Koreans a 11% (95% CI: 6–17) lower probability of a complete home smoking ban; though the difference was practically large, it was not statistically significant ($z = 0.86, p < .38$).

Four more years of formal education was associated with a 6% (95% CI: 1–14) higher probability of a complete home smoking ban among Korean Americans, but education was not significantly associated with a ban among Koreans. Each additional 10 year age increase after 40 years was associated with a 7% (95% CI: 4–10) and 5% (95% CI: 3–7) higher probability of having a complete home smoking ban among Koreans and Korean Americans, respectively, with neither association significantly distinguishable from the other ($z = 0.87, p < .39$). Having any children was associated with a 12% (95% CI: 7–16) lower probability and male gender a 12% (95% CI: 7–17) higher probability of having a complete home smoking ban among Korean Americans, while these were not significantly associated with a complete home smoking ban among Koreans.

To clarify SHSe between risk patterns and their association with home smoking restrictions, probabilities were produced under the counterfactual of low and high-risk profiles using estimates from the above regression. Low-risk profiles assumed that the respondent did not smoke, 25% of their familial alters smoked, none of their friends smoked, and they had 16 years of education. High-risk profiles assumed that the respondent smoked, 75% of their familial alters smoked, most/all of their friends smoked, and they had 12 years of education. In both profiles, age was fixed at 30, gender as male, and they were parents. Korean Americans at low risk were significantly more likely than Koreans at low risk to have a complete home smoking ban, 82% (95% CI: 76–86) versus 36% (95% CI: 17–57; Figure 3B). On the other hand, Korean Americans at high risk were no more likely to have a complete home smoking ban than Koreans at high risk, 10% (95% CI: 7–13) versus 7% (95% CI: 3–13), with the probability of having a complete ban of either quite low.

Dyadic associations between smoking by familial relationship and complete home smoking ban provided additional evidence for differences in SHSe risk between Koreans and Korean

Americans (Figure 4). For example, a smoking spouse was associated with a 42% (95% CI: 35–48) lower probability of having a complete home smoking ban among Korean Americans compared with 9% (95% CI: 3–18) among Koreans, a more than fourfold stronger association ($z = 2.26, p < .01$). This pattern was similar for smoking husbands or wives modeled separately. A smoking son or daughter was associated with a 22% (95% CI: 14–29) lower probability of a complete home smoking ban compared with an insignificant association for Koreans, –2% (95% CI: –14 to 12), with these associations borderline significantly different ($z = 1.61, p < .10$). These patterns suggest that for Korean Americans, any smoking relationship in the home was associated with greater reductions in the probability of having a complete ban than for Koreans.

Discussion

Consistent with ecological frameworks, mediating and moderating processes occurred on both sides of the Pacific where tobacco control and antismoking cultures were weak, as in Seoul, versus strong, as in California. Korean Americans had harsher home smoking restrictions than Koreans, and for the same level of restriction, restrictions were more protective against SHSe at home among adults and their children. Respondents who did not smoke, had few smoking family members, few smoking friends, and higher education were more likely to have the most restrictive smoking policies on both sides of the Pacific. However, these patterns also differed in that the higher prevalence of complete smoking bans in California, relative to Seoul, was among those at low risk of SHSe, though being at lower risk was more common in California than in Seoul.

Strengths and Limitations

The strengths of this study include a multisite design consistent with ecological frameworks to assess variability in distal socio political structures, particularly for home smoking restrictions and SHSe where these have been the least explored (Hovell & Hughes, 2009). Interviews were conducted in respondents' language of preference, and measures included details of SHSe

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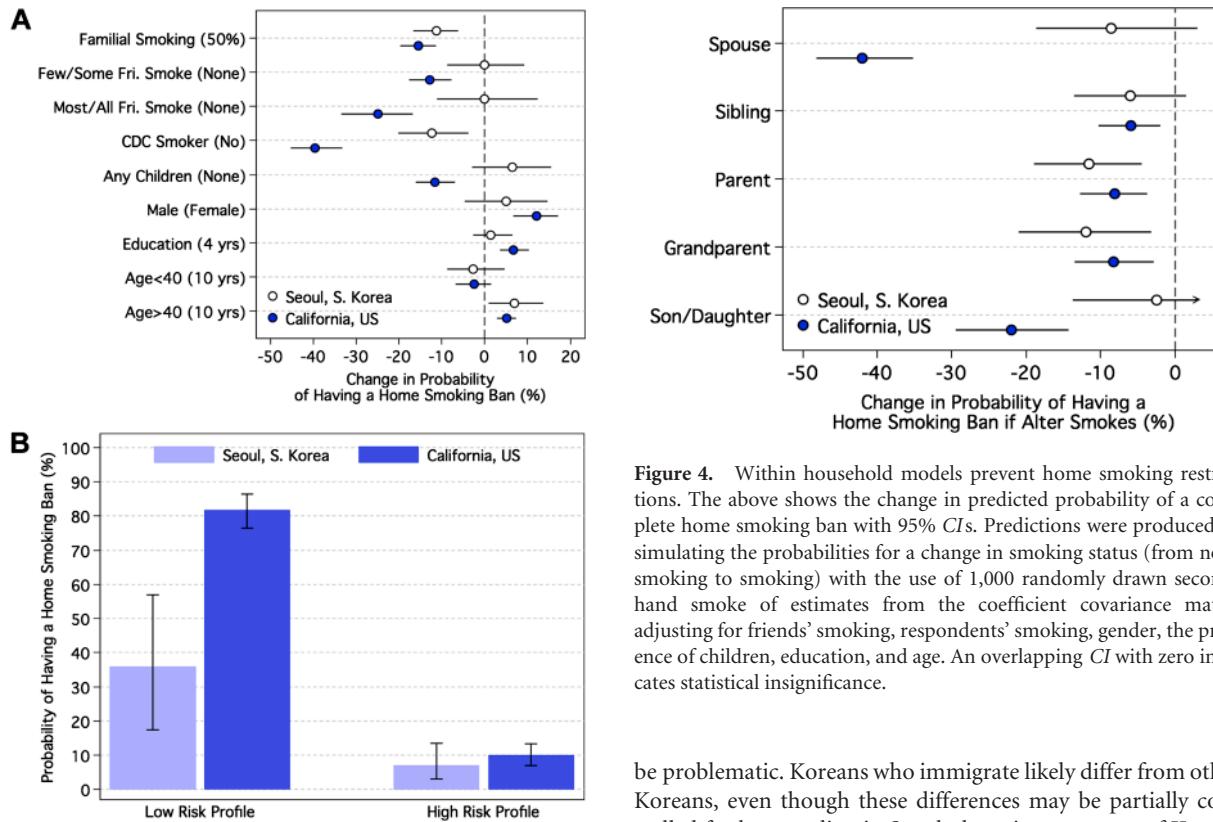


Figure 3. Who has the harshest home smoking restrictions? (A) shows the change in predicted probability of a complete home smoking ban with 95% CIs after entering all predictors into a single logistic regression equation. An overlapping CI with zero indicates statistical insignificance. (B) shows the predicted probability of a home smoking ban for high-risk and low-risk profile respondents using estimates from the logistic equation described in A. Low risk was indicated by 25% of familial alters smoking, no smoking friends, not smoking, and 16 years of education. High risk was indicated by 75% of familial alters smoking, most/all smoking friends, smoking, and 12 years of education. In both profiles, age was fixed at 30, gender as male, and they had children. All predictions were produced by simulation using 1,000 randomly drawn estimates from the coefficient covariance matrix.

risk from friends and family who smoked. Limitations included self-reported data subject to recall and reporting biases from a single household informant, although such biases are not fatal to tobacco studies of this kind ([SRNT Subcommittee on Biochemical Verification, 2002](#)). Some features of the data collection also posed limitations. The response rate in Seoul was modest, though the sample characteristics, including smoking status, were similar to those known of the population, suggesting that the data still closely represented the respective population. The collection of the data differed only in the number of callbacks to no answers, five in Seoul versus seven in California. [Dunkelberg and Day \(1973\)](#) shows that respondents reached on the fifth versus seventh attempt do not differ practically or statistically; suggesting that this difference in method may not alter our conclusions.

The assumption that the two-sample design allowed variation in policy/culture among similar populations may

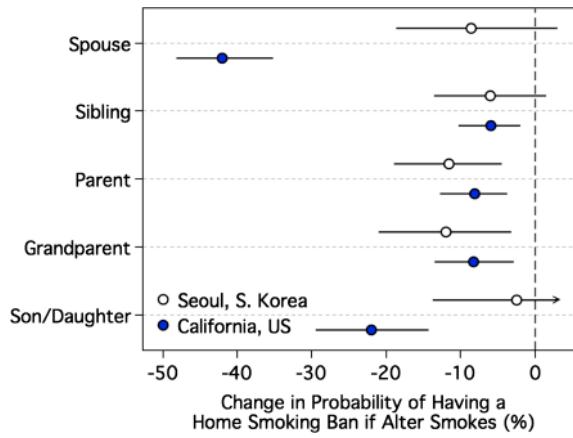


Figure 4. Within household models prevent home smoking restrictions. The above shows the change in predicted probability of a complete home smoking ban with 95% CIs. Predictions were produced by simulating the probabilities for a change in smoking status (from non-smoking to smoking) with the use of 1,000 randomly drawn second-hand smoke of estimates from the coefficient covariance matrix adjusting for friends' smoking, respondents' smoking, gender, the presence of children, education, and age. An overlapping CI with zero indicates statistical insignificance.

be problematic. Koreans who immigrate likely differ from other Koreans, even though these differences may be partially controlled for by sampling in Seoul, the primary source of Korean immigration, and adjusting for sociodemographic characteristics. It remains unclear what specific aspects of the distal environment altered home smoking restrictions and restrictions' association with SHSe. Among the possible explanations, three predominate: It may be the harsher smoking culture, CTCP, or the shifting cultural norms toward equitable individualism. More complete measures of the distal environment may address this but it is likely that all three factors work in combination ([Link & Phelan, 1995](#)).

It is also possible that difference in cooperation rates across study sites limit the generalizability of the findings reported herein, where noncooperators could differ from cooperators in smoking restrictions, SHSe and their joint association. Despite the disproportionate cooperation rates in Seoul and California, the surveys closely represented population characteristics. Neither sample differed significantly from age by gender population distributions, and sample smoking prevalences approximated those in other studies, as described in [Hofstetter et al. \(2004, 2006\)](#). Still, the results should be interpreted with caution, and further investigation should be used to assess the quality of our inferences.

Implications

[Engel \(1977, 1980\)](#) provided early critiques of the biomedical model, which focused on already diseased individuals in isolation of factors outside the individual. Extensions of his logic ([Bronfenbrenner, 1977; Glass & McAtee, 2006; Hovell, Wahlgren, & Adams, 2009; McLeroy et al., 1988](#)) have brought attention to extraindividual determinants, but their inclusion in research remains shallow with many researchers treating these frameworks as little more than a reminder to consider investigating everything ([McHugh, 1992](#)). This may be changing, especially in tobacco research where advances in policy, social

context, and individual research are more prominent (Samet & Wipfli, 2009). Hovell and Hughes (2009) have taken these frames to their next logical extension with application to SHSe where more specific and testable deductions may be made. Herein, we extended these deductions by applying the logic of distal and proximal mediation and moderation to Koreans and Korean Americans, and their home smoking restrictions. Our findings provide a framework for their continued application. For example, studies have found strong associations between the CTCP and restrictive home smoking policies (Norman, Ribisl, Howard-Pitney, Howard, & Unger, 2000), but these only considered the direct effects of CTCP on home smoking restrictions and did not consider the possible pathways responsible or how individuals are differentially impacted by CTCP as ecological frameworks would suggest.

It is difficult to apply our findings to situations where there may be more nuanced contrasts in distal determinants. However, we have found similar patterns in South Korea between genders where women faced more criticism for, and the same level of criticism had a stronger association with, smoking than among men (Ayers, Hofstetter, Hughes, et al., 2010). Martinez-Donate et al. (2009, 2008) found that exposure to the California smoking climate was associated with a lower smoking prevalence 1,500 miles south of the Mexican border. These analyses were able to observe patterns of mediation and moderation with less extreme variability in distal determinants than presented here, suggesting that ecological frameworks may be pursued in more nuanced cases.

At the time these data were collected, South Korea was undergoing many tobacco control reforms. In 2003, the South Korea government signed and in 2005 ratified the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC; K. S. Cho, 2006; Fong et al., 2006). To be consistent with FCTC, reforms of the original 1995 National Health Promotion Act expanded antismoking campaigns, restrictions on tobacco advertising, and obvious warning labels on cigarettes and made clean indoor air laws more restrictive. Our findings suggest that these policies may promote home smoking restrictions and thereby reductions in SHSe at home. These policies may also cause South Korea to resemble California where there are fewer smokers and numerous models of how to enforce public restrictions that may be translated to the home, resulting in greater effectiveness for restrictions. Application of additional policy interventions to South Korea should be foremost on the prevention agenda.

In California, home smoking restrictions appear mostly in effect among low-risk households; suggesting that direct interventions are needed unlike the policy provisions prescribed for Koreans. California's policy environment likely selects from Korean Americans most susceptible to taking on a complete home smoking ban, leaving those at the greatest risk unchanged. These data provide details on which Korean Americans are in the category of greatest risk. It may be advisable to approach clinicians who service Korean Americans and ask if they screen and prescribe home smoking restrictions to their patients in the high-risk profile. Similar strategies among U.S. teens have reduced smoking initiation when prescribed by their orthodontist (Hovell et al., 1996). Since health care access may be limited among immigrants, community interventions that reach Korean Americans where they cluster, such as Christian churches (Ayers et al., 2009; Ayers, Hofstetter, Irvin, et al., 2010; Hofstetter,

Ayers, et al., 2010), may also be useful for promoting secondary and tertiary prevention. Targeted interventions developed in the United States will be applicable to South Korea as policy changes there likely impact those with low risk of SHSe, leaving a pool of high risk Koreans to be directly intervened on.

Future Research

It is no longer sufficient to focus on a single level of measurement given the strong claims by ecological frameworks and our results. Studies need to maximize variability among distal determinants to detect the upstream factors responsible for the proximal risks most often observed. What remains to be studied is how similar mediating and moderating processes impact other smoking behaviors and how application of ecological frameworks to interventions moves the promotion of home smoking restrictions away from their individual focus.

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Declaration of Interests

None declared.

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