

EDITORIAL

See article: Öztürk B, Kosku H, Güven İ, et al. A Study Examining Compliance with the Anti-Tobacco Law Nb. 4207 Inside Taxis. Turk Thorac J 2017;18:88-93.

Can we Protect the Society from Passive Smoking?

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Similar to active smoking, the inhalation of tobacco smoke, in other words second-hand smoking, causes health problems (1). Therefore, one of the main components in tobacco control is to protect the society from the passive effects of smoking (2). In articles under Law No. 4207, which constitutes a basis for the action plan in national tobacco control, there are regulations that aim to protect the society from the hazards of passive smoking (3). Despite these regulations, some studies have shown that the rates of violation are high.

In one such study, the rate of violation in the prohibition of tobacco use in indoor places has been reported to be 32% in İzmir (4).

Moreover, the use of tobacco and tobacco products is banned in public transport vehicles and taxis under Law No. 4207 (5). However, some studies have revealed that this prohibition is also violated in taxis and enclosed places. A study investigating the knowledge level of taxi drivers on this issue has demonstrated that the awareness of drivers is unsatisfactory and that support for this ban is low (6).

This issue of the journal includes a research study that evaluated whether there was obedience to the smoking ban in taxis under Law No. 4207. In the study by Burcu Öztürk et al., violations in taxis were observed from the outside at intersections with heavy traffic in Ankara and the rate of violation was found to be 2.6% (7). Despite the fact that these observations were made on the move and at specific points, the rate is high. In fact, this rate of violation can be considered to be higher.

To inform the whole society, particularly taxi owners and drivers, on the harms of passive smoking and obedience to the law and to increase the efficiency of inspections will contribute to the reduction in violations.

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