

IARC HANDBOOKS OF CANCER PREVENTION

Tobacco Control



International Agency for Research on Cancer
World Health Organization

Volume 13

**Evaluating the Effectiveness
of Smoke-free Policies**

IARC

2009

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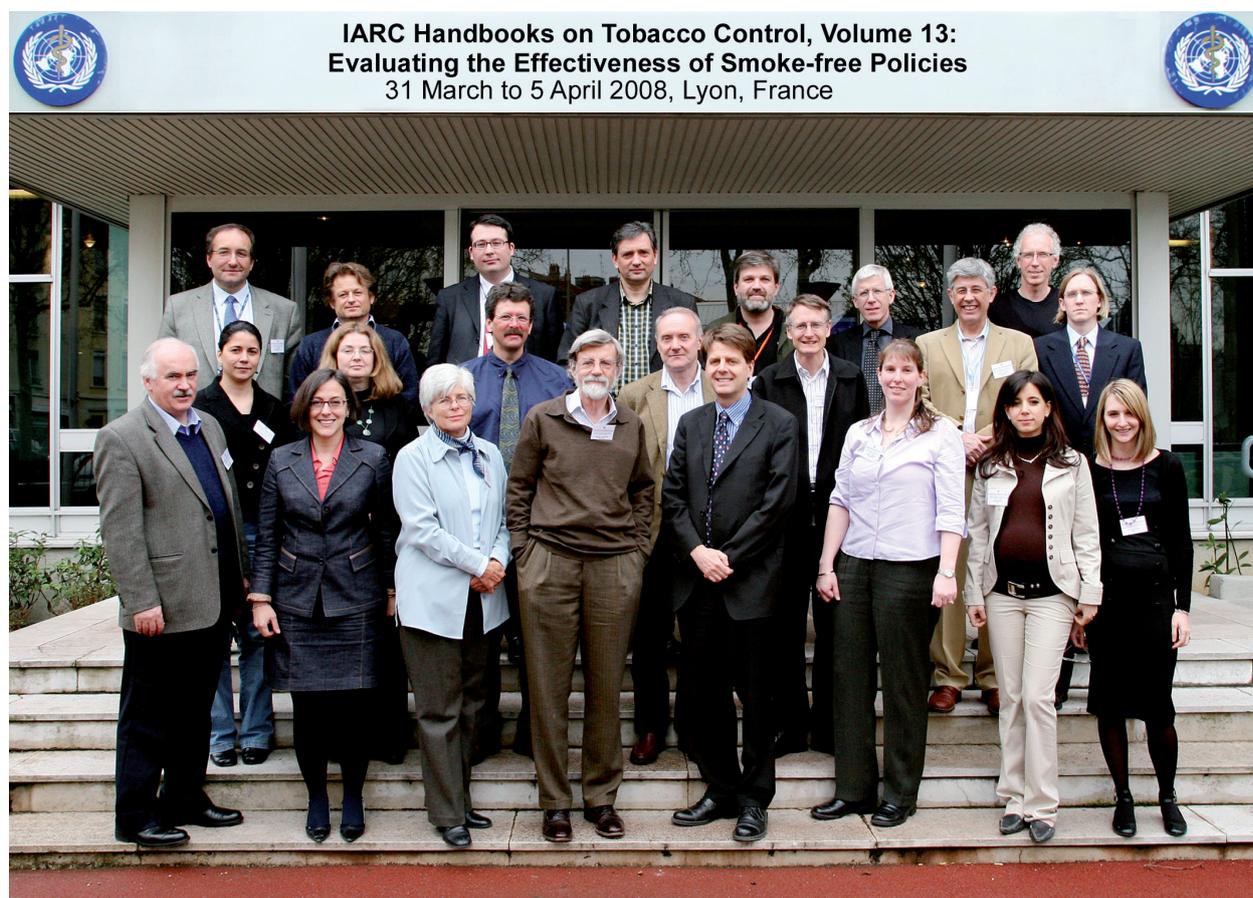
International Agency for Research on Cancer

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This publication represents the views and opinions of an IARC Working Group on Evaluating the effectiveness of smoke-free policies which met in Lyon, France, 31 March - 5 April 2008.



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Preface

A key intervention in reducing the burden of disease attributable to tobacco use is protecting people from exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke (SHS). Volume 13 of the IARC Handbook series on Cancer Prevention presents the evidence on the effectiveness of measures enforced at the societal level to eliminate tobacco smoking and tobacco smoke from the environments where exposure takes place. This volume offers a critical review of the evidence on the economic effects and health benefits of smoke-free legislation and the adoption of voluntary smoke-free policies in households.

SHS contains nicotine, carcinogens, and toxins and the IARC (2004) concluded that exposure to SHS is carcinogenic to humans. Article 8 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) recognises “that scientific evidence has unequivocally established that exposure to tobacco smoke causes death, disease and disability.” It mandates Parties to this treaty to

“adopt and implement... effective legislative, executive, administrative and/or other measures, providing for protection from exposure to tobacco smoke in indoor workplaces, public transport, indoor public places and, as appropriate, other public places.” (WHO, 2005). Guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties to assist Parties in meeting their obligation under this article of the treaty, clearly state that this requires “the total elimination of smoking and tobacco smoke in a particular space or environment in order to create a 100% smoke-free environment.” (WHO, 2007a).

Today, 164 countries have ratified the WHO FCTC and more are expected to do so in the future. As a result, countries around the world are working towards designing, implementing, and enforcing legal measures aimed at creating 100% smoke-free environments in public and workplaces. The relevant content of this Handbook will serve as guiding principles to those countries.

The literature reviewed for this Handbook was published from 1990 mostly up to April 2008, when the meeting took place to conduct the evaluation of the gathered evidence. The Working Group drafting the volume acknowledged the need to document the enforcement and reach of smoke-free policies in many developing countries where smoke-free legislation either does not exist or is not effective, translating into millions of people, particularly children, who are routinely exposed to SHS. Globally, about half of never smokers are exposed to tobacco smoke in different settings: work (including hospitality venues), home, cars, and other means of transportation. About 10-15% of lung cancers in never smokers may be attributed to SHS (Boyle & Levin, 2008). Comprehensive smoke-free legislation, as described in the guidelines of Article 8 of the WHO FCTC, will lead signing Parties towards removing this major cause of disease and death worldwide.