Reviewer's report

Title: Air Pollution in Boston Bars Before and After a Smoking Ban

Version: 1 Date: 23 May 2006

Reviewer: Jonathan Samet

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General
¢ This manuscript would benefit from greater focus and shortening. Is the major purpose to describe the consequences of the ban? To address ventilation and smoker density as determinants of RSP concentration?

¢ I suggest removing the ventilation rate calculations, which have noted limitations. Ventilation is known to be inadequate as a control measure for SHS.

¢ The comparison to the NAAQS for PM2.5 is conceptually flawed. This is not an exposure standard but an ambient concentration standard.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests