Objectives: To evaluate the impact of the 2005 school smoking ban on teenage smoking behavior in Chile.

Background: A debate on Internet governance for health, or “eHealth governance” is emerging with the impending award of a new dot-health (health) generic top-level domain name (“gTLD”) to a private sector entity by The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (“ICANN”), a multistakeholder nonprofit international organization that controls this system.

Structure/Method/Design: The analysis followed an interrupted time series (ITS) design with a comparison group. The data consisted of biennially repeated population cross sections representative at the regional level in Chile between the years 2000 to 2011. The data for the intervention group (high school population, ages 12-to-18 years) originated from the Chilean SENDA población escolar dataset (n ~ 50,000 per data year), and the data for the comparison group (age 19-24 years) originated from the Chilean SENDA población general dataset (n ~ 2,000 per data year).

In 2005, Chile passed a tobacco-regulatory law #20.105, effective January 1st, 2006. The strictest provision of the law was a complete smoking ban in all high schools and a tobacco sales ban within a radius of 300 m (~1,000 feet) of all schools. The effect of this ban on the high school student population was the focus of this analysis. A two-stage ITS analysis via Poisson models was performed to assess the difference in change in slopes of smoking behavior pre-and post-policy between groups.

Thirty-day smoking prevalence change before and after the law, change in prevalence of heavy smokers before and after the law.

Results (Scientific Abstract)/Collaborative Partners (Programmatic Abstract): Past 30-day smoking prevalence during 2000-2001 was 41.9% and 55.1% among high school students and young adults, respectively. While smoking prevalence increased a relative 0.6% per year among HS students in the pre-intervention period 2000-2005 (RR, 1.01, 95% CI, 1.00-1.01, P = 0.014), no significant change was observed among young adults. Post-2006, the smoking prevalence decreased annually by 2.9% (93% CI, -5.0% to -0.1%, P = 0.0039) in the high school group compared to the university aged group. A direct policy intervention effect of a -14.5% change over 5 years (or -29.0% over 10 years) can be attributed to the law. The impact of the smoking ban was driven by the decline in smoking prevalence in 8th- through 12th-grade students. The law was effective in reducing the relative proportion of low frequency smokers, but the proportion of heavy smokers (smoking more than 15 days per month) remained unchanged.

Summary/Conclusion: The 2005/06 high school smoking ban was successful in reducing the smoking prevalence among Chilean teenagers, but future interventions tackling older high school students and more frequent smokers are needed.

Health domains for sale: The need for better global eHealth governance of health information online

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Background: A debate on Internet governance for health, or “eHealth governance” is emerging with the impending award of a new dot-health (health) generic top-level domain name (“gTLD”) to a private sector entity by The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (“ICANN”), a multistakeholder nonprofit international organization that controls this system.

Structure/Method/Design: This was a descriptive global health policy study. We reviewed the applications of health-related gTLDs and assessed factors of application status and country of origin, entity type of applicant (public vs. private), applicant affiliations, proposed governance of gTLD, and the presence of any support/partnership from the health sector. Analysis was conducted in August 2013.

Results (Scientific Abstract)/Collaborative Partners (Programmatic Abstract): Upon our analysis, we found that prospective .health applicants are all business corporations with few or no ties to the global public health community. If approved, one of these companies would effectively control the future of the .health address on