The purpose of this study was to determine the impact of a public smoking ban on the hospital admissions due to acute myocardial infarction in Delaware County, Indiana.

The study population consists of all the patients admitted to Ball Memorial Hospital during three 22-month periods with a primary or secondary discharge diagnosis code of acute myocardial infarction (ICD-9-CM) immediately prior to the implementation of the ordinance. Chi-square was conducted for the three 22-month periods of hospital admissions. A significant drop occurred in the number of admissions among nonsmoking patients in Delaware County. The changes in the number of smoking-patient admissions before and after the ban were not significant.