# Moderators of the association between regular smoking exposure and motivation and attempts to quit: a repeat cross-sectional study

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### **ABSTRACT**

Aims To estimate the associations between regular exposure to smoking by other people and motivation and attempts to quit among current smokers. To examine whether socio-demographic and other factors moderate these associations. Design A repeat nationally representative cross-sectional survey. Data were collected monthly between November 2014 and February 2019. **Setting** England. **Participants** Current smokers ≥16 years of age from the Smoking Toolkit Study (n = 15136). Measurements Participants were asked whether other people regularly smoke in their presence, how motivated they were to quit and whether they had made a quit attempt in the past year. Moderators assessed were occupation-based social grade, housing tenure, urges to smoke, high-risk alcohol consumption, and disability. Adjusted analyses included moderators, socio-demographic (age/sex/ethnicity/sexual orientation/marital status/children in household) and seasonal (quarter/year) confounders. Findings 
Current smokers who were regularly exposed to other people smoking in their presence were less likely to be highly motivated to quit (OR = 0.88 [95% CI 0.80-0.97]), but were no less likely to have made a quit attempt in the past year (OR 1.04 [0.97-1.13], Bayes Factor (BF) = 0.05). The inverse relationship between regular smoking exposure and motivation to quit was moderated by urges to smoke, such that exposure was only associated with a reduction in motivation among those without strong urges to smoke (OR 0.83 [0.75–0.93] versus OR 1.04 [0.86-1.26]; P = 0.048). None of the other factors significantly moderated the association with motivation to quit, and none moderated the relationship between regular smoking exposure and quit attempts. All non-significant interactions, except social grade (BF = 1.44) with quit attempts, had Bayes Factors that supported the hypothesis of no moderation (BF range: 0.12–0.21). Conclusions Among current smokers in England, regular exposure to other smokers appears to be associated with lower motivation to quit in people without strong urges to smoke, yet there appears to be no association with quit attempts in the previous year. Social grade, housing tenure, high-risk alcohol consumption and disability do not moderate these associations.

**Keywords** Inequalities, motivation, nicotine dependence, peer influence, quit attempts, smoking exposure, socio-economic position, tobacco control.

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## INTRODUCTION

People who are regularly exposed to smoking by others are more likely to start smoking themselves [1, 2]. After starting, they have a lower interest in quitting and are less likely to successfully quit [3, 4]. This 'regular smoking exposure' increases contact with cues that can induce urges to smoke, such as the sight and smell of cigarettes, which may undermine quit attempts [5, 6]. It might also increase social pressure to smoke, both via direct

persuasion and through the influence of social norms [7]. However, this relationship between regular smoking exposure and quitting may depend on several risk factors. Using data from the Smoking Toolkit Study (STS), we investigated the associations that smoking exposure had with motivation and attempts to quit. We also examined whether socio-demographic and behavioural factors moderated these associations.

Although the overall rate of smoking in England has declined over the past few decades, there remains a higher

prevalence among disadvantaged (25.9%) compared with more affluent socioeconomic groups (10.2%) [8]. Moreover, smoking rates are higher in people with disabilities [9]. This gradient in smoking prevalence means that the burden of smoking-related mortality and morbidity is also greatest in disadvantaged groups [10–12] and, as such, smoking remains a leading cause of health inequalities.

The association between regular smoking exposure and motivation to quit may be exacerbated by disadvantage. For example, in interviews with smokers, only those from working class occupations experienced significant social pressure to smoke [13]. If the association between regular smoking exposure and motivation and attempts to quit depends on this social pressure, it may be moderated by occupation-based social grade [14]. Smoking exposure may also have a greater effect on people with disabilities, some of whom would be less able to remove themselves from environments that propagate tobacco use [15, 16].

In addition, adults in social housing have twice the odds of being a smoker when compared to those in other forms of housing [17]. In areas with high smoking rates, it can be considered the norm to smoke—that further amplifies its prevalence [18, 19]. Therefore, groups in social housing likely have stronger smoking social norms, which could lead to a greater negative association between regular smoking exposures and motivation and attempts to quit.

Cigarette dependence —operationalised here as strength of urges to smoke—is another factor that may moderate the relationship between smoking exposure and motivation and attempts to quit. When shown smoking cues in experimental settings, individuals with higher cigarette dependence experience stronger urges to smoke [20]. Proximity to other people smoking may act as a cue for smokers, which elicits greater urges to smoke in those who are highly dependent. Alternatively, there could be a ceiling effect, whereby highly dependent individuals are likely to continue smoking regardless of their exposure to other people smoking. Conversely, those who are less dependent and usually have weaker urges to smoke may be more influenced by exposure to smoking in their social environment.

Consuming alcohol also influences smoking cue-reactivity. In experiments, drinking alcohol increases participants' urges to smoke after being exposed to smoking cues [21]. Moreover, individuals who have high alcohol consumption may be particularly susceptible to peer influence [22]. Therefore, those with high-risk alcohol consumption might be especially influenced by being near other people smoking.

It is important to understand which groups may be most influenced by smoking exposure, as this could help targeting of interventions and regulation. For instance, if people who live in social housing are especially influenced by smoking exposure, this would indicate that implementing smokefree policies and targeted cessation support in these areas may help to promote quitting and improve motivation to quit. Similarly, if smoking exposure has a disproportionally stronger association with quit attempts and motivation to quit among disadvantaged individuals, broader smokefree policies may be an effective intervention to help reduce smoking-related health inequalities.

This study aims to investigate whether the association of regular smoking exposure with motivation to quit smoking and incidence of a quit attempt is moderated by these key socio-demographic and behavioural factors. Specifically, we aim to answer the following research questions:

- Among current smokers, what is the association between regular smoking exposure and motivation to quit, before and after adjusting for potential confounders?
- 2. Among current smokers, what is the association between regular smoking exposure and the incidence of a quit attempt in the last 12 months, before and after adjusting for potential confounders?
- 3. Are these associations moderated by occupation-based social grade, housing tenure, strength of urges to smoke, high-risk alcohol consumption or disability, before and after adjusting for potential confounders?

# **METHODS**

## Design and setting

Data were taken from the STS; a monthly cross-sectional survey of the population in England age 16+. It used a hybrid of random probability and quota sampling. Grouped output areas—each containing 300 households—that were stratified by region and socio-demographic characteristics were randomly selected for an interviewer visit. Interviewers chose houses within these areas that were most likely to fulfil their quotas, conducting face-to-face interviews with one member per house. The STS recruits participants that have a similar socio-demographic composition to those of large-scale national surveys with probability sampling (Health Survey of England) [23]. STS data were used between November 2014 (earliest date when smoking exposure was measured) and February 2019.

# Ethical approval

Ethical approval for the STS was granted originally by the University College London (UCL) Ethics Committee (ID 0498/001). The data were not collected by UCL and were anonymised before being received by UCL.

#### Outcomes

Past year quit attempt was measured with the following question: 'How many serious attempts to stop smoking have you made in the last 12 months? By serious attempt I mean you decided that you would try to make sure you never smoked again. Please include any attempt that you are currently making and please include any successful attempt made within the last year'.

Those who reported none were coded 0. Those who reported one or more were coded 1.

Motivation to quit was measured using the Motivation to Stop Scale (MTSS), which has been verified as an externally valid predictor of quit attempts in the next 12 months [24]. Individuals who reported that they intended to quit in the next 3 months were classified as having a high motivation to quit, as people who report this are substantially more likely to subsequently make a quit attempt [25].

# **Explanatory variables**

Regular smoking exposure participants were asked; 'Other than yourself, does anyone regularly smoke cigarettes or use an e-cigarette in your presence, such as at your home, work, car or other places that you visit regularly?' Responses that reported regular exposure to cigarette smoking were coded 1, whereas those with no exposure or only exposure to e-cigarettes were coded 0. The question also asked about e-cigarette exposure to ensure that participants did not mistakenly equate electronic with conventional cigarettes.

# Moderators

Social grade, operationalised as a variable for socio-economic position, was measured using the National Readership Survey classification [26]. This tool measures the occupation of the chief income earner. Occupational groups were dichotomised into ABC1 (managerial, administrative and professional occupations; coded 0) versus C2DE (manual and casual workers, state pensioners and unemployed; coded 1).

Housing tenure, this variable was also split into two groups; those living in social housing (coded 1) and those in other accommodation (coded 0).

Strength of urges to smoke was measured using the strength of urges score, in which participants were asked, 'How strong have the urges to smoke been in the past 24 hours? Slight, moderate, strong, very strong, extremely strong'. Those who reported having strong, very strong or extremely strong urges were classified as having strong urges to smoke (coded 1). All others were coded zero. This measure is used here as a proxy for cigarette dependence. Previous research from the Smoking Toolkit Study found that strength of urges is a better predictor of relapse

after a quit attempt than other measures of cigarette dependence [23].

High-risk alcohol consumption was identified as those who scored greater than or equal to five on the three consumption questions of the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT-C), which measures the typical frequency and amount of alcohol consumption, and frequency of binge drinking [25].

Disability was self-reported disability and was measured with the question, 'Do you consider yourself to have a disability within the meaning of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995?' (yes/no).

## Covariates

The following potential confounders were selected a priori: female (yes/no); age (16–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45–54, 55–64, 65+); ethnicity (White/not White); sexual orientation (heterosexual/not heterosexual); marital status (married/not married); children in household (yes/no); quarter of survey; and year of survey. These covariates have known or plausible associations with explanatory variables and outcomes [27, 28].

The variables that are listed as moderators were also entered as covariates in the logistic regression models testing all other moderators.

# Analyses

The analysis included complete cases who reported that they regularly or occasionally smoke cigarettes (including roll-your-own) or another tobacco product. Data were analysed in R [29]. The pre-analysis plan and analysis code is available on the Open Science Framework (OSF) (https://osf.io/w5j8z/).

We reported the number and percentage of participants who gave each response to questions listed in the measures section. We also reported descriptive statistics for complete cases (i.e. participants who responded to every question).

The associations between regular smoking exposure and the two outcomes—incidence of a quit attempt and high motivation to quit—were assessed in separate univariable logistic regression models. To examine the independent association after adjustment for potential confounders, multivariable logistic regression models for each outcome were constructed also including all moderators and quarter and year of survey. To examine moderation effects, a series of models were constructed including each socio-demographic factor, smoking exposure and their two-way interaction. This series of models were produced for both outcomes, and also repeated with the inclusion of all other moderators and covariates.

We reported ORs and 95% CIs for these analyses and, for non-significant results, Bayes factors were calculated.

 Table 1
 Sample characteristics.

	All adults $(n = 15790)$ , $n$ (%)	Complete cases $(n = 15136)$ , $n$ (%)
Smoking characteristics		
Quit attempt		
None	11 542 (73.1)	11 068 (73.1)
One or more	4248 (26.9)	4068 (26.9)
Motivation to quit	(_ 0.5)	2000 (2005)
Low	13 474 (85.3)	12910 (85.3)
High	2316 (14.7)	2226 (14.7)
Smoking exposure	(,	(==.,)
Not exposed	5264 (33.3)	5020 (33.2)
Exposed	10 526 (66.7)	10116 (66.8)
Socio-demographic characteristics		24 224 (4414)
Socioeconomic position		
ABC1	6405 (40.6)	6149 (40.6)
C2DE	9385 (59.4)	8987 (59.4)
Housing tenure	5505 (55.1)	0507 (55.1)
Other	10 836 (69.1)	10 520 (69.5)
Social	4841 (30.9)	4616 (30.5)
Urges to smoke	1011 (50.5)	1010 (50.5)
Weak	11 876 (75.5)	11 435 (75.5)
Strong	3850 (24.5)	3701 (24.5)
High risk alcohol consumption	3030 (21.3)	3701 (21.3)
No	10 108 (64.6)	9759 (64.5)
Yes	5540 (35.4)	5377 (35.5)
Disability	3340 (33.4)	3377 (33.3)
No	12 869 (83.1)	12 594 (83.2)
Yes	2615 (16.9)	2542 (16.8)
Sex	2015 (10.9)	2342 (16.8)
Woman	7408 (46.9)	7112 (47.0)
		7112 (47.0)
Not woman	8382 (53.1)	8024 (53.0)
Age 16–24	2025 (19.6)	2707 (19.5)
	2935 (18.6)	2797 (18.5)
25–34 35–44	3134 (19.8)	3015 (19.9)
	2521 (16.0)	2447 (16.2)
45–54	2668 (16.7)	2561 (16.9)
55–64	2315 (14.7)	2197 (14.5)
65+	2217 (14.0)	2119 (14.0)
Ethnicity	1660 (10.6)	1556 (10.4)
Not White	1669 (10.6)	1576 (10.4)
White	14 045 (89.4)	13 560 (89.6)
Sexual orientation	1404 (0.6)	1250 (0.0)
Not heterosexual	1484 (9.6)	1358 (9.0)
Heterosexual	14 209 (90.5)	13 778 (91.0)
Marital status	0.570 (57.0)	0000 (54.4)
Not married	8678 (55.0)	8239 (54.4)
Married	7112 (45.0)	6897 (45.6)
Children in household	10 552 (60.2)	10.252 ((5.0)
No	10 773 (68.2)	10 273 (67.9)
Yes	5017 (31.8)	4863 (32.1)
Survey characteristics		
Quarter of survey	444 (848)	
Q1	4112 (26.0)	3955 (26.1)
Q2	3805 (24.1)	3623 (23.9)
Q3	3625 (23.0)	3486 (23.0)
Q4	4248 (26.9)	4072 (26.9)

(Continues)

Table 1. (Continued)

	All adults $(n = 15790), n (\%)$	Complete cases $(n = 15 136)$ , $n (% $
Year of survey		
2014	670 (4.2)	630 (4.2)
2015	3914 (24.8)	3782 (25.0)
2016	3706 (23.5)	3535 (23.4)
2017	3410 (21.6)	3270 (21.6)
2018	3550 (22.5)	3393 (22.4)
2019	540 (3.4)	526 (3.5)

Following a conservative approach, we modelled the alternate hypotheses as half-normal distributions centred on zero, with a standard deviation equal to the expected effect size [30]. Based on previous research into barriers to quit attempts, the expected effect size was set as the natural logarithm of OR = 0.70 [31, 32]. A robustness region was calculated for each Bayes factor, which specified the range of expected effect sizes used when constructing the alternative hypothesis that support the same conclusion (i.e. support for the null hypothesis) [33].

Two sets of sensitivity analyses were conducted. First, analyses for motivation to quit were repeated using multiple linear regressions with continuous MTSS score as the outcome. Second, analyses for quit attempts were repeated using gamma-Poisson regression with counts of the number of past-year quit attempts as the outcome. A pre-registered sensitivity analysis using a continuous measure of quit attempts was corrected following comments from the statistical editor and removed from this article, but it is available on the OSF (https://osf.io/w5j8z/).

## **RESULTS**

Of the 15 790 current smokers who were surveyed, 15 136 (95.9%) provided a complete set of responses. Characteristics for the full sample with pairwise deletion of data and the complete cases sample are shown in Table 1.

The majority (66.8%) of participants reported regular exposure to others smoking in their presence. In unadjusted analyses, those who were regularly exposed to smoking were less likely to have a high motivation to quit than those who were not (OR 0.88, 95% CI 0.80–0.97, P < 0.01, Table 2). However, the odds of making a quit attempt in the last 12 months did not differ between these groups (OR 1.04, 95% CI 0.97–1.13, P = 0.27, BF 0.05). Table 2 shows results were adjusted for moderators, year, and quarter of survey, alongside interactions between smoking exposure and moderators.

Strength of urges to smoke moderated the association between smoking exposure and motivation to quit such that exposure only reduced the incidence of high motivation to quit among those who experience strong urges to smoke, as shown in Fig. 1 (OR $_{un}$  0.83, 95% CI 0.75–0.93 vs. OR $_{un}$  1.04, 95% CI 0.86–1.26).

None of the other socio-demographic or behavioural factors significantly moderated the association between regular smoking exposure and motivation to quit in either adjusted or unadjusted models (Table 2). Moreover, none of these factors significantly moderated the relationship between exposure and quit attempts. Bayes factors indicated there was insufficient evidence on whether the association between regular smoking exposure and quit attempts was moderated by social grade (BF 1.44). However, there was moderate evidence for the null hypothesis (no moderation) for all other socio-demographic factors, irrespective of the outcome (BF range 0.12-0.26). When calculating these Bayes factors, a null of OR 1.00 was compared to an expected effect size of OR 0.7. Planned sensitivity analyses showed that our conclusions were robust to changes in this assumption—the expected effect size could be altered to OR 0.76–0.89 while still showing support for the null hypothesis. However, we cannot rule out the possibility of small moderation effects.

Further sensitivity analyses (Table S1 and Table S2) explored whether similar results would be found when the outcomes were continuous MTSS score for motivation to quit and counts for quit attempts. In both unadjusted and adjusted analyses, there were no significant relationships between regular smoking exposure, MTSS score and number of quit attempts. We also found that—in both adjusted and unadjusted analyses—none of the socio-demographic factors significantly interacted with exposure when predicting quit attempts or motivation to quit. However, in the analyses that used a continuous measure of MTSS score, the assumption of normality of residuals was violated.

## **DISCUSSION**

Current smokers who were regularly exposed to smoking by other people were equally likely to have made a quit attempt in the past year but were less likely to have a high current motivation to quit than those who were not. This negative association with motivation was only evident in

 Table 2
 Associations between regular smoking exposure and motivation and attempts to quit.

	Motivation to quit						Quit attempts					
	OR <sub>un</sub> [95% CI]	Ъ	Bayes Factor	OR <sub>adj</sub> [95% CI]	Ь	Bayes factor	OR <sub>un</sub> [95% CI]	Р	Bayes factor	OR <sub>adj</sub> [95%CI]	Ъ	Bayes
Smoking exposure												
No	1.00	1	ı	1.00	1	ı	1.00	1	1	1.00	1	ı
Yes	[0.80 - 0.97]	0.009	I	0.85 [0.78 - 0.94]	.002	ı	1.04 [0.97–1.13]	0.27	0.05	0.98[0.91-1.07]	0.72	0.15
Social grade												
ABC1	1.00	ı	I	1.00	ı	ı	1.00	ı	ı	1.00	1	ı
C2DE	0.77 [0.67–0.90]	<0.001	I	0.72 [0.62 - 0.85]	<0.001	ı	0.97 [0.86 - 1.10]	0.65	ı	[0.76-0.99]	0.04	ı
Interaction with exposure	1.00[0.83 - 1.21]	0.995	0.26	1.00[0.83-1.21]	0.998	0.26	0.87 [0.75–1.02]	0.08	1.78	0.88[0.75-1.03]	0.11	1.44
Housing tenure												
Other	1.00	1	I	1.00	ı	ı	1.00	ı	ı	1.00	1	ı
Social	0.97 [0.82 - 1.14]	89.0	I	0.96 [0.81 - 1.14]	0.64	ı	1.11 [0.97–1.27]	0.12	ı	1.07[0.93-1.24]	0.32	1
Interaction with exposure	1.06 [0.87 - 1.31]	0.55	0.19	0.96 [0.88 - 1.34]	0.42	0.17	1.05 [0.89 - 1.24]	0.56	0.15	1.08 [0.92 - 1.28]	0.36	0.13
Urges to smoke												
Weak	1.00	ı	I	1.00	ı	ı	1.00	ı	ı	1.00	ı	ı
Strong	0.95 [0.79–1.13]	0.54	I	0.96 [0.80 - 1.15]	29.0	I	1.24 [1.07 - 1.43]	0.004	I	1.25 [1.08 - 1.44]	0.003	,
Interaction with exposure	1.25 [1.00-1.56]	0.048	I	1.27 [1.02 - 1.58]	0.04	I	1.09 [0.91 - 1.30]	0.34	0.13	1.11[0.93-1.32]	0.27	0.12
Alcohol consumption												
Low risk	1.00	I	I	1.00	Ι	Ι	1.00	I	Ι	1.00	I	I
High risk	0.93 [0.79 - 1.10]	0.43	1	0.91 [0.76 - 1.07]	0.26	,	0.92 [0.80 - 1.06]	0.25	,	0.90[0.78-1.04]	0.15	0.98
Interaction with exposure	1.00[0.82 - 1.23]	0.99	0.27	1.04 [0.85–1.28]	0.71	0.21	1.00[0.85 - 1.18]	0.99	0.23	1.02 [0.86 - 1.21]	0.82	0.20
Disability												
No	1.00	ı	I	1.00	ı	ı	1.00	ı	ı	1.00	ı	ı
Yes	0.93 [0.76-1.13]	0.48	I	1.04 [0.84 - 1.28]	0.70	I	1.08 [0.92–1.27]	0.35	I	1.20[1.01 - 1.42]	0.03	I
Interaction with exposure	1.21 [0.94–1.55]	0.14	0.14	1.19 [0.92–1.53]	0.18	0.15	1.16 [0.95–1.41]	0.15	0.12	1.14[0.93-1.40]	0.20	0.13

"OR<sub>un</sub> are unadjusted odds ratios. OR<sub>ud</sub> are odds ratios that have been adjusted for gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status, children in household, quarter of survey, and year of survey, alongside all the potential moderators listed in this table.

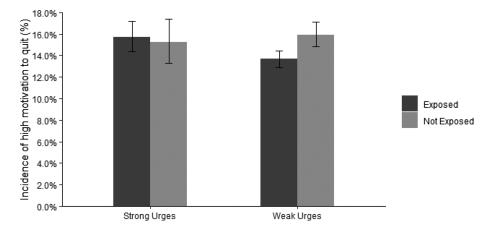


Figure I Incidence of a high motivation to quit by strength of urges to smoke and regular smoking exposure. Estimates are unadjusted for covariates and error bars represent 95% CI

those without strong urges to smoke. Social grade, housing tenure, high-risk alcohol consumption and disability did not moderate the relationship that smoking exposure has with motivation and attempts to quit.

Our results suggest that there may be a negative effect of regular smoking exposure on motivation to quit. This is consistent with previous research showing that smokers who have close friends that smoke have a lower intention to quit [34]. A possible mechanism is that smokers who are regularly exposed to other people smoking encounter social pressure to smoke and a greater number of smoking cues [3, 5, 7].

Our results suggest no effect of regular smoking exposure on quit attempts. One possible explanation is the focus of this paper on current smokers, which could have introduced collider bias [35]. Previous studies have shown [34] that having close friends who smoke reduces the likelihood that an individual will quit successfully. Among those who made a quit attempt, this would have caused more non-exposed individuals to be removed from the analysis, leading us to underestimate the association between regular smoking exposure and quit attempts. Further research that includes responses from ex-smokers or explores longitudinal associations is needed to determine the plausibility of this interpretation.

Strength of urges to smoke moderated the association between regular smoking exposure and motivation to quit, such that the association was only evident among participants without strong urges to smoke. A possible explanation for this is that more dependent smokers who experience strong urges to smoke may be less influenced by environmental and social forces and, therefore, smoking exposure has little influence on their motivation to quit. In the sensitivity analysis that used a continuous measure of motivation to quit, the interaction between smoking exposure and strength of urges was non-significant. However, the assumption of normality of residuals was violated, so

results from the primary analysis are likely more robust. Nonetheless, this reduces the certainty of this finding.

To our knowledge, this study is the first to explore how the association between regular smoking exposure with motivation and attempts to quit may differ for those in advantaged and disadvantaged socio-demographic groups. We were able show the striking similarity in the association of regular smoking exposure with motivation and attempts to quit across social grade and housing tenure—a finding not previously reported in the literature. This suggests that higher smoking prevalence in these disadvantaged groups may not be the result of a differential impact of smoking exposure on quitting. However, as we only measured motivation and attempts to quit, it is possible that there is a greater negative association between smoking exposure and quit success among disadvantaged groups. This would mirror previous findings that socio-demographic factors are associated with guit success but not attempts [36]. Nonetheless, targeted regulation (e.g. smokefree zones) may still have an equity positive impact on smokingrelated inequalities, as smoking prevalence is much higher among disadvantaged groups.

This study had a number of strengths. The sample was representative of smokers in England and large enough to detect small associations, which allowed us to disambiguate null findings. Moreover, we were able to control for putative confounding variables. Several limitations arise from the cross-sectional design, such as our inability to (i) provide evidence for a temporal association between outcomes and predictors and (ii) rule out self-selection bias. Because of this, it is possible smokers who were less motivated to quit could have been more likely to expose themselves to smoking peers. Another limitation is that only current smokers were included in the analysis, which meant that we could not investigate the relationship between smoking exposure and quit success. Finally, smoking exposure was measured on a dichotomous scale, with participants

reporting either being regularly exposed or not. This meant we could not investigate the source or severity of exposure. It is possible that exposure to smoking from peers has a greater impact on smoking behaviours than exposure from other people [37]. Moreover, there may only be a negative association (and/or moderation by socioeconomic position) between smoking exposure and quitting behaviours among those with more persistent exposure. Further research should investigate different sources and severities of smoking exposure to identify how these may influence quitting trajectories, alongside how their effects vary across socio-demographic groups.

### CONCLUSIONS

Among current smokers in England, regular exposure to other smokers was associated with lower motivation to quit in people without strong urges to smoke, yet there was no association with quit attempts in the previous year. The lack of moderation by other included covariates suggests that the association between regular smoking exposure and motivation and attempts to quit is similar across people with various behavioural and sociodemographic characteristics.

## **Declaration of interests**

Authors declare no financial links with tobacco companies, e-cigarette manufacturers or their representatives. L.S. has received honoraria for talks, an unrestricted research grant and travel expenses to attend meetings and workshops by pharmaceutical companies that make smoking cessation products (Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson). J.B. has received unrestricted research funding from Pfizer.

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#### **Author contributions**

Harry Tattan-Birch: Conceptualization-Equal, Formal analysis-Lead, Methodology-Equal, Writing-original draft-Lead, Writing-review & editing-Equal. Jamie Brown: Conceptualization; data curation; funding acquisition; methodology; supervision. Loren Kock: Conceptualization; supervision. Lion Shahab: Conceptualization; funding acquisition; methodology; supervision.

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# **Supporting Information**

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of the article.

**Table S1** Sensitivity analysis using continuous measure of motivation to quit.

**Table S2** Sensitivity analysis modelling number of quit attempts in a gamma-Poisson (negative-binomial) regression.