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Socioeconomic inequalities in children's exposure to tobacco retailing based on individual-level GPS data in Scotland

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Tobacco Control

Socioeconomic inequalities in children's exposure to tobacco retailing based on individual-level GPS data in Scotland.

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Manuscripts

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3 1 **Socioeconomic inequalities in children’s exposure to tobacco retailing based on**
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5 2 **individual-level GPS data in Scotland**
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3 **10 Abstract**
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6 **11 Background:** Identifying factors shaping knowledge of and attitudes toward tobacco
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8
9 **12** products in pre-adolescence is a key component supporting tobacco control policies aimed at
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11 **13** preventing smoking initiation. This study quantified exposure to tobacco retailing
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13 **14** environments within the individual-level activity spaces of children across a socioeconomic
14
15 **15** gradient.
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18
19 **16 Methods:** One week of GPS tracking data were collected at 10 second intervals from a
20
21 **17** nationally-representative sample of 10-11-year-olds (n=692). Proximity of GPS locations
22
23 **18** (n~16M) to the nearest tobacco retailer (n=9030) was measured and exposure defined when
24
25 **19** a child came within 10m of a retailer. Duration, frequency, timing, and source of exposure
26
27 **20** were compared across income-deprivation quintiles, along with retail density within
28
29 **21** children's home neighbourhoods.
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32
33 **22 Results:** On average, children were exposed to tobacco retailing for 22.7 minutes (95%CI
34
35 **23** 16.8—28.6) per week in 42.7 (35.2—50.1) independent encounters. However, children from
36
37 **24** the most deprived areas accumulated 6 times the duration and 7 times the frequency of
38
39 **25** exposure as children from the least deprived areas. Home neighbourhood retail densities were
40
41 **26** 2.6 times higher in deprived areas, yet the average number of businesses encountered did not
42
43 **27** differ. Most exposure came from convenience stores (35%) and newsagents (15%), with
44
45 **28** temporal peaks before and after school hours.
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49 **29 Conclusions:** By accounting for individual mobility, we showed that children in socially
50
51 **30** disadvantaged areas accumulate higher levels of exposure to tobacco retailing than expected
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53 **31** from disparities in home neighbourhood densities. Reducing tobacco outlet availability,
54
55 **32** particularly in areas frequently used by children, might be crucial to policies aimed at
56
57 **33** creating 'tobacco free' generations.
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35 Background

36 There is growing acceptance that tobacco ‘endgame’ strategies—which seek to end, rather
37 than control, the tobacco pandemic—are needed to reduce the global burden of preventable
38 disease^{1–3}. Endgame goals vary internationally, but typically set a target for reducing smoking
39 prevalence to less than 5% of the population⁴. A variety of tobacco-related interventions will
40 be required to achieve these ambitions, and will almost certainly have to include measures
41 designed to reduce the local supply of tobacco products⁴. Most adult smokers start during
42 adolescence⁵, so mitigating against risk factors connected to smoking initiation during
43 adolescence has been identified as a priority in tobacco control policies⁶. However, much of
44 the research into the availability of tobacco products has focused on adults and adolescents^{7–}
45 ¹², and less is known about exposure among younger children. This is a key omission
46 because pre-adolescence is a significant formative period during which knowledge and
47 attitudes to health-related behaviours, including smoking, become ‘hard-wired’¹³.

48 The availability of tobacco products has been identified as a potential causal factor in
49 promoting smoking initiation and as a barrier to cessation^{14,15}. It is well established that
50 tobacco retailing is disproportionately located in more socially deprived neighbourhoods^{16–20},
51 where smoking prevalence and premature deaths attributable to tobacco are also higher^{21,22}.
52 Research suggests that ubiquitous availability of tobacco normalises and reinforces smoking
53 in the local population, which in turn may make young people in the area more likely to
54 become smokers themselves^{2,15,16}. Early smoking experience is strongly linked to later
55 behaviour^{23–25}. Two-thirds of youths who initiate smoking aged 11 years become regular
56 smokers versus less than half of those who initiate aged 16²⁶. Even a single smoking
57 experience at age 11 is associated with an increased risk of smoking in the future compared

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3 58 with those who never smoked at this age²⁷. Hence early childhood interventions, such as
4
5 59 those designed to de-normalise smoking behaviours by reducing tobacco availability in
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7 60 socially disadvantaged areas, should benefit disadvantaged children who are already more
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9
10 61 vulnerable to smoking²⁸.

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13 62 Research linking exposure to tobacco retailing and youth smoking has typically quantified
14
15 63 exposure within local neighbourhoods delimited using fixed areal units, such as census tracts,
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17 64 postcodes, or distance buffers from schools and/or homes^{12,17,19,29,30}. However, such methods
18
19 65 are potentially biased by the areal units for which data are reported, and may not account for
20
21 66 highly variable movements of individuals during their daily activities³¹. For example,
22
23 67 measuring exposure within an individual's residential neighbourhood can lead to
24
25 68 considerable underestimates compared to those based on an individual's daily
26
27 69 movements^{32,33}. To overcome this, researchers are increasingly quantifying environmental
28
29 70 exposures, such as to food or tobacco retail environments, within individual "activity spaces",
30
31 71 i.e. the set of locations visited in the course of daily activities and routes used to access
32
33 72 them³³⁻³⁶. Importantly, novel research linking individual-level mobility patterns to point-of-
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35 73 sale tobacco marketing exposure has revealed substantial differences in when and where
36
37 74 individuals encounter tobacco^{35,36}. Kirchner et al. conclude that 1) fixed measures of
38
39 75 exposure environments fail to account for differences in the mobility, preferences, and
40
41 76 behaviour of individuals as they interact with the built environment; and 2) quantifying
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43 77 individual-level exposure can identify previously unrecognized patterns of association among
44
45 78 individual mobility, the built environment, and behavioural outcomes^{35,36}.

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48 79 The focus of this study is Scotland where recent tobacco control policies—including banning
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50 80 point-of-sale tobacco product displays in shops; raising the legal purchase age to 18-years-
51
52 81 old; and making it an offence to buy tobacco for under 18s—have led to significant declines
53
54 82 in smoking in Scotland in the last decade^{37,38}. Adolescent smoking rates are at a historical

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3 83 low, with just 2% of 13-year-olds and 9% of 15-year-olds reporting regular smoking³⁹.
4
5 84 However, rates of smoking in 13- and 15-year-olds remain higher in the most deprived
6
7 85 areas^{37,39}. If the government's aim of making Scotland tobacco-free by 2034 is to be achieved
8
9
10 86 it is clear that further action to reduce inequalities in smoking is necessary³⁸.

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13 87 In this paper, we determine if individual mobility patterns of children exacerbate exposure to
14
15 88 tobacco retailing above what would be expected based on tobacco outlet density (TOD)
16
17 89 alone. To achieve this, we provide a nationally representative assessment of daily exposure to
18
19 90 tobacco retailing within the individual-level activity spaces of pre-adolescent children
20
21 91 (n=692) in Scotland. One limitation highlighted by Kirchner et al. was that the low frequency
22
23 92 of geospatial locations recorded (once every 15 minutes) in their study meant some exposures
24
25 93 may have been missed, and exposure duration could not be estimated³⁶. Here, we use location
26
27 94 data collected every ten seconds to quantify real-time exposure duration and make
28
29 95 comparisons across area-level income deprivation quintiles. We calculated traditional
30
31 96 measures of TOD in the home environment to determine if socioeconomic inequalities in
32
33 97 exposure duration reflect those in TOD. In addition, we quantify the frequency of
34
35 98 independent exposures, the number of unique retailers encountered per day, and the timing
36
37 99 and source (i.e. outlet type) of exposures.
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44 100 **Methods**

45
46 101 Calculating individual-level exposure of children to tobacco retailing took the following
47
48 102 steps: i. geocoding tobacco retailer locations; ii. measuring proximity of children's GPS
49
50 103 locations to the nearest tobacco retailer; iii. calculating mean hourly exposure rates to derive
51
52 104 daily and weekly rates for comparison across area-level deprivation quintiles.
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56 105 *Tobacco retail data*

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3 106 The addresses of all premises registered for tobacco sales in 2015-2016 were obtained from
4
5 107 the Scottish Tobacco Retailers Register (n=9043) and cleaned to remove duplicates, resulting
6
7 108 in 9030 premises. The longitude/latitude coordinates for each address were geocoded using
8
9
10 109 the R package⁴⁰ ggmap⁴¹. Most addresses (91%) were geocoded to rooftop accuracy, but
11
12 110 those that failed (n=830; 9%) were manually geocoded using Google Maps.

111 *Neighbourhood deprivation*

112 We obtained an indicator of socioeconomic deprivation for the data zone (a commonly used
113 census data reporting unit comprising 500-1000 residents) containing each participant's home
114 address. The measure came from the Scottish Government's Scottish Index of Multiple
115 Deprivation (SIMD) 2016, a tool for measuring area-level deprivation. The SIMD is made
116 from 7 domains that characterise social, economic and physical environment in the area,
117 ranging from education to crime. Following previous precedent, we used the income
118 deprivation domain to measure area level deprivation¹⁹. This domain indicates the proportion
119 of population in each area experiencing income deprivation as measured by receipt of means-
120 tested benefits and government support. Eligibility for means tested benefits is based on
121 income and savings, and benefits are used to top-up income if it is below a certain level.

122 *Child activity space data*

123 We used data from participants in the 'Studying Physical Activity in Children's
124 Environments across Scotland' (SPACES) study⁴², who were recruited from the Growing Up
125 in Scotland (GUS) study—a nationally representative longitudinal cohort study originating in
126 2005. From a possible 2,402 children who participated in GUS sweep 8 interviews, 2,162
127 consented to be approached by SPACES researchers, of which 51% (n=1,096) consented to
128 take part. Participants were provided with an accelerometer (ActiGraph GT3X+) and a GPS
129 (QstarzSTARZ BT-Q1000XT; Qstarz International Co., Ltd, Taiwan) and asked to wear them

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3 130 over eight consecutive days between May 2015 and May 2016, when the participants were
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5 131 10-11-years old. SPACES inclusion criteria required at least four weekdays of accelerometer
6
7 132 data and 1 day of weekend data, resulting in a subset of 774 participants. Of these, 692
8
9
10 133 participants (381 female, 311 male) met our inclusion criteria of providing at least one hour
11
12 134 of GPS data (Table 1).

15 135 *Quantifying exposure*

17
18 136 The straight-line distance from each GPS location to every retailer location was measured
19
20 137 using the geosphere package⁴³ in R, and the nearest tobacco retailer retained along with
21
22 138 information regarding retailer outlet type. Locations were classed as “exposed” when distance
23
24 139 to nearest retailer was $\leq 10\text{m}$. The 10m threshold was used because this is the distance a child
25
26 140 walking at 1m sec^{-1} (3.6kph) would travel between each GPS location. Each exposed location
27
28 141 represented a 10-second epoch and duration of exposure in minutes was calculated by
29
30 142 multiplying counts of locations by 10, then dividing by 60. The frequency of independent
31
32 143 exposures was also quantified. Independent exposures occurred when an exposed location
33
34 144 was preceded by an unexposed location and thus gives a measure of encounter rates with
35
36 145 retailers. The unique identifier of retailers on the register was used to quantify the number of
37
38 146 unique retailers encountered by participants.

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44 147 Participants were asked to wear GPS devices during waking hours, leading to variation in
45
46 148 wear time per day. To account for this, we standardised rates of exposure (duration and
47
48 149 frequency) per hour of wear for weekdays and weekend days. Hourly exposure rates of each
49
50 150 participant were then averaged to provide the mean hourly rate per day type per child. Mean
51
52 151 hourly rates were multiplied by 16 hours to calculate the daily exposure in an average week
53
54 152 or weekend day (0600-2200) for each participant. Rates were average across week/end day
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56 153 types and used to scale estimates per average week.

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3 154 Comparison our sample with national level demographic distributions (Supplementary
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5 155 material) indicate slight under-representation of children from low-middle-income
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7 156 households (£10,000—£29,000) and the two most socially deprived quintiles (SIMD 1 and
8
9 157 2); and over-representation of high-income households (>£50,000) and the least socially
10
11 158 deprived quintiles (4 and 5). However, after applying individual-level cross-sectional weights
12
13 159 that were generated for all GUS respondents in sweep 8⁴², our sample could be considered
14
15 160 nationally representative. Hourly exposure rates were weighted by each participant's unique
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17 161 weighting score and used as response variables in models against income-deprivation
18
19 162 quintile.

23 24 25 163 *Home environment TOD*

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28 164 We calculated home neighbourhood TOD as the number of tobacco outlets within 800m of
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30 165 each participant's geocoded home address⁹.

31 32 33 166 *Data analysis*

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36 167 Mean weighted exposure rates (duration and frequency) of participants, home environment
37
38 168 TOD, and mean and maximum number of unique retailers encountered were compared across
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40 169 income deprivation quintiles using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). Separate models
41
42 170 were run for week days, weekend days, and average weeks. We controlled for season (winter:
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44 171 October—March) in all models, although 54-64% of participants in all income quintiles were
45
46 172 tracked in winter (Table 1). All analyses were conducted in R using the lme4 package⁴⁴. The
47
48 173 proportion of total daily exposure per hour of day and the proportion of total daily exposure
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50 174 per retailer type were also quantified. Exposure by retailer type was compared against
51
52 175 availability in the environment with chi-square tests, as was the distribution between most
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54 176 and least income deprivation quintiles. The distribution of exposure by time of day was
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177 compared between most and least income deprivation quintiles. All means are presented with
178 95% confidence intervals.

179 **Results**

180 A total 52,166 hours of GPS data were collected from 692 participants, with an average 63.0
181 hours (61.7—64.2) of wear time per participant across an average 6.0 (5.6—6.4) days of
182 tracking, equalling an average 10.0 hours (9.9—10.1 hours) per participant per day (Table 1).

183 *Duration and frequency of exposure to tobacco retailing*

184 Our results showed that an average 10-11-year-old child was exposed to tobacco retailing for
185 2.7 minutes (1.9—3.4) per weekday and 4.7 minutes (3.4—5.9) per weekend day, totalling
186 22.7 minutes (16.8—28.6) per week (Table 2). However, a significant socioeconomic
187 gradient existed in which children from the most income deprived areas experienced 5 times
188 more exposure than children from the most affluent areas on weekdays, 6 times more on
189 weekend days, and 6 times more in an average week ($P<0.001$: Table 2). An even greater
190 disparity was apparent in the frequency of independent exposures (Table 3). While the
191 average child encountered exposures 5.2 (4.2--6.1) times per weekday, 8.5 (6.9--10.2) time
192 per weekend day, and 42.7 (35.2--50.1) times per week, children in the most income deprived
193 areas encountered exposures 7 times more frequently per weekday and week than children in
194 the least deprived areas (and 6 times on weekends: $P<0.001$: Table 3). The total number of
195 businesses encountered by each child was higher in the most deprived areas 6.7 (5.3—8.1)
196 than the least deprived 6.0 (5.3—6.7), but not significantly so ($P=0.63$).

197 *Tobacco outlet density in the home environment*

198 The average number of retailers within 800m of participant's homes was 6.2 (5.6—6.7).
199 Home environments of participants in the most deprived quintile had significantly more

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3 200 retailers (11.8; 10.1—13.4) than those in the least deprived areas (4.5; 3.7—5.2; $P<0.001$).

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5 201 The mean density in the most deprived areas was 2.6 times greater than that in the least
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8 202 deprived.

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11 203 *Source of exposure by outlet type*

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14 204 We found a significant difference between the distribution of exposure source across all
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16 205 income-deprivation levels and the availability of those sources in the environment ($P<0.001$).

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18 206 Overall, most exposure during a week came from convenience stores (35.0%) and
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21 207 newsagents (14.5%), although the level of exposure was roughly proportionate with the
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23 208 availability of these outlets (37.5% and 15.3%, respectively: Table 4). Exposure from
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25 209 supermarkets (9.8%) was significantly higher than expected given their availability (5.4%),
26
27
28 210 particularly on weekends (13.6%). Exposure from off-licences, hotels, and businesses classed
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30 211 as “other retail” (e.g. discount stores) was also greater than expected given their availability.

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33 212 We found significant differences between the distribution of exposure sources of children in
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35 213 the most deprived areas compared to those in the least deprived areas, and with their
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37
38 214 availability in the environment (both $P<0.001$). Children in deprived areas got significantly
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40 215 more exposure from convenience stores (41.0%) than children in the least deprived areas
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42 216 (28.1%). However, this reflected differences in the availability of convenience stores, which
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44
45 217 were 3 times more numerous in the most deprived areas ($n=929$) than the least ($n=306$).

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47 218 Children in deprived areas also got almost three times more exposure from supermarkets
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49 219 (13.2%), particularly on weekends (21.7%), than availability in these areas (4.8%) would
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51
52 220 predict. Children in deprived areas got less exposure from newsagents (12.7%) or public
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54 221 houses (3.9%) than expected given their availability (17.6% and 7.6%, respectively).

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56 222 Whereas, children from the least deprived areas got more exposure from these two sources
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3 223 (15.1% and 11.8%, respectively) than expected given their availability (11.1% and 9.7%,
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5 224 respectively).

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9 225 *Timing of exposures*

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11 226 Considerable peaks were seen in the timing of exposure for children from across all income
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13 227 deprivation levels. On weekdays, 46% of total exposure occurred after immediately school
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15 228 between 1500-1800, with 10% occurring before school between 0800-0900 (Figure 1a).
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17 229 Rates of exposure were reduced during school hours (0900-1500). On weekends, exposure
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19 230 was elevated between 1200-1700 when 59% of exposure occurred (Figure 1b).
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24 231 [FIGURE 1 HERE]

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27 232 Despite following a similar temporal trend, the hourly distribution of exposure was
28
29 233 significantly different on weekdays and weekend days between children from income
30
31 234 deprived and non-deprived areas (both $P < 0.001$). The weekday morning (0800-0900) and
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33 235 afternoon (1500-1600) peaks were higher among children from income-deprived areas.
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35 236 Weekend days also saw a higher peak in exposure during the hours 1200-1500 among those
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37 237 from income deprived areas compared to those from non-deprived areas.
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45 239 **Discussion**

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48 240 This is the first large-scale (n=692 participants) study to quantify exposure to tobacco
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50 241 retailing environments within the individual daily activity-spaces of pre-adolescent youths,
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52 242 and socioeconomic associations therein. As such, it represents a significant advancement in
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54 243 our understanding of how often tobacco retailers are encountered in an under-studied, yet
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56 244 key, demographic group. We found that an average 10-11-year old child in Scotland is
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58 245 exposed to tobacco retailing for 22.7 minutes (16.8—28.6) per week. Most notable, however,
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3 246 was the significant socioeconomic gradient in exposure, in which children from areas with
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5 247 the most income deprivation accumulated 6 times the duration, and 7 times the frequency, of
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7 248 exposure than children from areas with the least income deprivation. In other words, children
8
9 249 in income deprived areas typically experienced more exposure in one weekend day (13.0
10
11 250 minutes: 5.8—20.2) as those from non-income deprived areas experienced in a whole week
12
13 251 (11.3 minutes: 7.4—15.1). From a public health perspective, this is a concern given that
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15 252 exposure to tobacco products is a potential pathway to smoking initiation^{14,15}. It means that
16
17 253 children from income deprived areas, who are already vulnerable to smoking initiation⁴⁵,
18
19 254 experience the most exposure to tobacco products prior to adolescence, a critical period of
20
21 255 addiction vulnerability⁴⁶. Additionally, the magnitude of the socioeconomic inequality in
22
23 256 exposure revealed by our study is considerably larger than the 2.6-fold difference in tobacco
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25 257 retailer density in the home neighbourhood. This strongly suggests that static aerial measures,
26
27 258 such as outlet density, may underestimate exposure inequalities compared with use of activity
28
29 259 spaces that account for interactions between individual mobility and environment^{35,36}.

30
31 260 Simulation studies show that socioeconomic inequalities in smoking prevalence will persist
32
33 261 in 2034 if the UK continues with “business as usual” tobacco control policies, with smoking
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35 262 rates of <3% in the upper income quintile smoking compared to 15% in the lowest income
36
37 263 quintile⁴⁷. Radical actions are therefore required if the ‘tobacco free generation’ ambition is
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39 264 to be realised. Our results suggest that targeting policies to address the timing and type of
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41 265 retailer selling tobacco, or the spatial distribution of retailers, may be ways to reduce the gap.
42
43 266 We found that a third of all exposure came from convenience stores, rising to over 40% in
44
45 267 deprived areas, which reflected their availability. Exposure from supermarkets was
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47 268 disproportionate to availability across all income deprivation levels, particularly on weekends
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49 269 when children presumably accompany their parents grocery shopping. Interestingly, children
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51 270 from deprived areas got less exposure from newsagents, while the opposite was true for the
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3 271 least deprived, which may reflect differences in spending-power between quintiles. Clear
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5 272 temporal trends were also apparent, with peaks just before and after school hours on
6
7 273 weekdays, and around midday into early afternoon on weekends. Extended exposure after the
8
9 274 morning peak into school hours among those from income deprived areas may suggest the
10
11 275 schools they attend have tobacco retailers close by.

15 276 *Policy implications*

17
18 277 Possible policy responses to our results are to prohibit sales of tobacco either in shops
19
20 278 frequented regularly by children (e.g. convenience stores, newsagents, supermarkets), or at
21
22 279 the times of day when children are more likely to visit (e.g. before and after school hours).
23
24 280 Previous studies suggest that such policies may be heavily resisted, however. In a feasibility
25
26 281 study to determine willingness of New Zealand convenience store owners to stop selling
27
28 282 tobacco, or restrict hours of sale, almost all (93%) refused to do so voluntarily⁴⁸. This was
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30 283 primarily because tobacco is perceived as a key product for small local businesses for
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32 284 generating footfall⁴⁸. Reducing the availability of tobacco in communities may therefore
33
34 285 require a combination of building public consensus and legislation to disincentivise retailers
35
36 286 from selling tobacco products. Encouragingly, policy options such as banning sale of tobacco
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38 287 products near schools can be effective at reducing retailer density in lower income areas and
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40 288 reducing socioeconomic disparities while receiving strong public support^{49,50}. Determining
41
42 289 policy interventions that are most effective in reducing overall exposure and socioeconomic
43
44 290 inequalities is therefore a priority for future research.

51 291 *Strengths and limitations*

53
54 292 The main strength of our study lies in our quantifying individual-level exposure within child
55
56 293 activity spaces using precise child and retailer location data from a large and nationally
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58 294 representative sample of children. This offers a significant advantage over previous studies
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3 295 adopting neighbourhood or density measures, which assume exposure by virtue of residential
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5 296 or school location. Collecting GPS data at 10-second intervals allowed us to quantify
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7 297 continuous real-time exposure, unlike previous studies quantifying exposure to tobacco
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9 298 retailing with GPS data collected at 15- or 30-minute intervals^{35,36}. Our methodology takes
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11 299 our understanding further by providing additional insight into the temporal distribution and
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13 300 the sources of exposure. Additionally, we now have a baseline of tobacco exposure for our
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15 301 sample who will be followed up longitudinally as part of GUS, allowing us to track their
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17 302 future smoking trajectories. Our use of an area-based measure of income deprivation also
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19 303 meant we were able to explore how differences in exposure are driven by the positive skew in
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21 304 retailer density towards more deprived areas.
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26
27 305 Our study was limited, however, in that we do not know whether the children entered a shop
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29 306 or what the prominence and visibility of tobacco products was within shops. We also did not
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31 307 remove GPS locations at speeds indicative of travel by bicycle or motor-vehicle. We do not
32
33 308 know how successive exposures accumulate and influence subliminally—or what a suitable
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35 309 threshold speed would be. Instead we assume that all exposure adds environmental cues to
36
37 310 the social normalising process of tobacco availability. In addition, we know little of how a
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39 311 spatial concentration of outlets may relate to other smoking stimuli in the environment to
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41 312 further normalise smoking behaviours. Finally, children from income deprived areas were
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43 313 less well represented in the sample than those from less-deprived areas due to non-responses
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45 314 by those approached to be involved in the study.
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50 51 315 **Conclusions**

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54 316 Our study highlights how exposure can be more precisely quantified in tobacco studies to
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56 317 better understand everyday encounters with tobacco retailing. In doing so, our findings raise
57
58 318 important questions regarding children's exposure to the tobacco retailing environment, and
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3 319 the significant inequalities therein. Understanding of the timing, frequency, duration, and
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5 320 source of tobacco retail exposure provides some of the evidence required to open the debate
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8 321 on tobacco retailing in Scotland. Reducing exposure through licensing, restricting sales in
9
10 322 ‘child spaces’, or restricting sale times may become essential elements of a strategy to
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12 323 eliminate the tobacco epidemic.

15 324 **What this study adds**

17
18 325 This study is significant because it reveals how much greater socioeconomic disparities in
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20 326 tobacco retail exposure become when individual mobility is accounted for. By implementing
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22 327 cutting-edge methodology for measuring continuous real-time exposure to tobacco retailing
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24 328 we were able to identify socioeconomic inequalities of greater magnitude than disparities in
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26 329 neighbourhood measures of density would indicate. This forms a significant contribution to
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28 330 the policy debate on tobacco availability. Our findings highlight a need to take interactions
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30 331 between individual patterns of mobility and the retail environment into account when
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32 332 considering any supply-side intervention. However, the observed socio-economic gradient in
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34 333 exposure (as measured by income deprivation level) suggests that any moves to either reduce
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36 334 retail outlets, or restrict time of sales, will have a greater impact on, and indeed benefit to,
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38 335 more deprived income groups who suffer the greatest amount of tobacco-related harm.

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52 341 and approved the final manuscript.

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Table 1: Unweighted sociodemographic characteristics and summary of GPS data of 692 study participants.

	Overall	Income deprivation quintile				
		1 (Most Deprived)	2	3	4	5 (Least Deprived)
Sex: male	311 (45%)	26 (44%)	33 (39%)	58 (41%)	85 (46%)	109 (48%)
Sex: female	381	33	52	82	98	116
Season: winter	450 (63%)	38 (64%)	59 (69%)	76 (54%)	106 (58%)	151 (67%)
Season: summer	262	21	26	64	77	74
Urban: 1	176 (25%)	18 (31%)	20 (24%)	17 (12%)	37 (20%)	84 (37%)
2	248	36	42	48	48	74
3	83	1	10	24	17	31
4	20	2	2	8	6	2
5	106	2	6	20	48	30
Rural: 6	59 (9%)	0 (0%)	5 (6%)	23 (16%)	27 (15%)	4 (2%)
Tracking effort: wear hours (mean ± 95% CI)	63.0 (61.7--64.2)	57.9 (53.4--62.4)	58.0 (53.6--62.4)	65.0 (62.4--67.6)	63.9 (61.5--66.3)	64.1 (62.0--66.3)
Tracking effort: wear days (mean ± 95% CI)	6.0 (5.6--6.4)	6.0 (5.8--6.3)	6.3 (6.1--6.5)	6.1 (6.0--6.3)	6.2 (6.1--6.4)	6.2 (6.1--6.3)

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Table 2: Mean duration of exposure per average day and week with 95% confidence intervals in parenthesis.

Income deprivation quintiles	Weekday	Weekend	Week
All income levels	2.7 (1.9--3.4)	4.7 (3.4--5.9)	22.7 (16.8--28.6)
1 (most deprived)	7.3 (4.6--10.0)	13.0 (5.8--20.2)	63.4 (38.7--88.1)
2	5.8 (1.9--9.7)	9.2 (4.1--14.3)	45.6 (17.6--73.7)
3	2.4 (0.1--4.7)	4.5 (1.1--7.9)	21.1 (2.5--39.8)
4	1.5 (0.9--2.2)	3.1 (1.5--4.7)	14.0 (9.3--18.7)
5 (least deprived)	1.4 (0.8--1.9)	2.2 (1.4--3.0)	11.3 (7.4--15.1)
ANOVA	$P < 0.001$	$P < 0.001$	$P < 0.001$

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Table 3: Mean frequency of independent exposures per day and week with 95% confidence intervals in parenthesis.

Income deprivation quintiles	Weekday	Weekend	Week
All income levels	5.2 (4.2--6.1)	8.5 (6.9--10.2)	42.7 (35.2--50.1)
1 (most deprived)	18.1 (11.6--24.5)	27.3 (15.3--39.3)	149.2 (96.5--201.9)
2	8.2 (5.1--11.3)	12.9 (7.8--17.9)	63.3 (42.8--83.8)
3	3.4 (1.6--5.2)	7.0 (3.1--10.9)	30.5 (14.8--46.2)
4	4.0 (2.2--5.8)	5.9 (4.1--7.8)	32.5 (20.3--44.7)
5 (least deprived)	2.7 (2.0--3.4)	5.0 (3.8--6.3)	22.8 (18.4--27.3)
ANOVA	$P < 0.001$	$P < 0.001$	$P < 0.001$

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Table 4: The percentage of independent exposures by retailer type and availability of retailer types by income deprivation.

Retailer type	All income quintiles				Most deprived income quintile				Least deprived income quintile			
	Weekday	Weekend	Week	Availability	Weekday	Weekend	Week	Availability	Weekday	Weekend	Week	Availability
Convenience Store	40.9	25.5	35.0	37.5	45.4	34.6	41.0	42.9	34.3	18.6	28.1	35.8
Newsagent	14.5	14.6	14.5	15.3	15.1	9.2	12.7	17.6	14.1	16.8	15.1	11.1
Public House	9.2	12.3	10.4	10.6	5.1	2.0	3.9	7.6	10.4	14.0	11.8	9.7
Supermarket	7.5	13.6	9.8	5.4	7.3	21.7	13.2	4.8	11.0	16.6	13.2	7.3
Off-licence	8.1	8.8	8.4	5.9	9.3	10.8	9.9	8.7	6.4	5.6	6.1	4.8
Hotel	5.9	5.3	5.7	3.9	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	10.3	6.4	8.7	8.0
Other retail	4.2	7.1	5.3	4.2	6.4	9.2	7.6	4.5	3.5	7.0	4.9	2.3
Forecourt Garage	3.6	5.9	4.5	6.9	4.6	7.4	5.7	3.9	3.8	4.1	3.9	10.2
Other catering	2.8	2.5	2.7	4.2	4.0	2.2	3.3	5.4	2.6	3.8	3.1	3.5
Restaurant	0.6	1.4	0.9	1.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.1	0.3	2.9	1.3	1.8
Nightclub	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.4	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.9
Entertainment venue	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.8	1.4	1.0	2.1
Private Club	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.7	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.3
Specialist tobacconists	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.0
Sports Club	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.3
Mobile trader	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0

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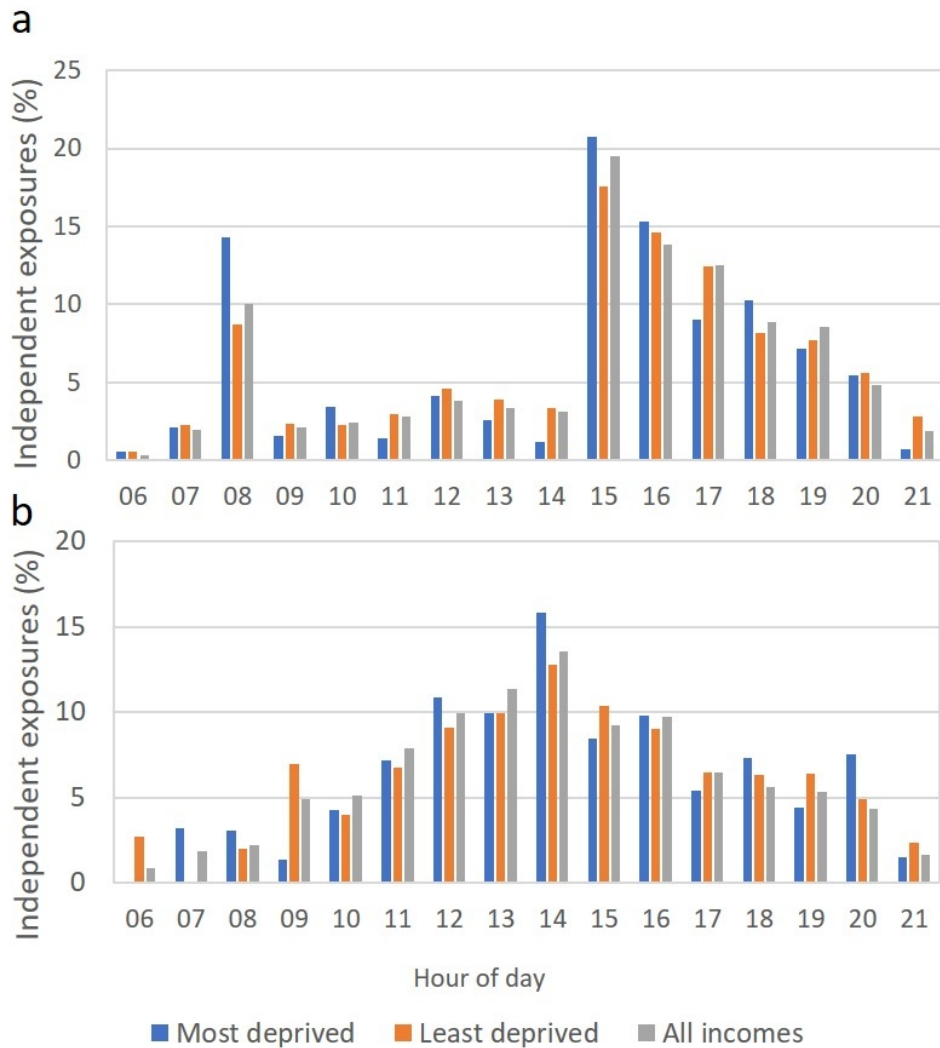


Figure 1: Proportion of daily exposure to tobacco retailing experienced by participants by hour of day and income deprivation level on weekdays (a) and weekend days (b).

139x153mm (150 x 150 DPI)

Supplementary Material: Comparison of un/weighted samples in the present study to a sample at known national level demographic distributions from GUS. Each participant in GUS was weighted using cross-sectional weights developed and supplied by Scotcen to compensate for potential response bias in the sample and to correct for unequal selection probabilities and non-response bias.

Demographic variable	Unweighted sample in present study (n=692)	Present study sample after applying individual weightings (n=692)	Sweep 8 Growing up in Scotland after individual weightings applied (n=2402)
Income (per annum)			
<3,999 - £9,999	7 %	7 %	5 %
£10,000 - £19,999	9 %	19 %	21 %
£20,000 - £28,999	11 %	18 %	16 %
£29,000 - £37,999	15 %	14 %	14 %
£38,000 - £49,999	17 %	14 %	15 %
>50,000	42 %	28 %	29 %
Mothers age at birth (years)			
Under 20	1 %	3 %	7 %
20 -29	31 %	43 %	41 %
30 – 39	64 %	51 %	49 %
40 or older	4 %	3 %	3 %
Marital status			
Married	78 %	60 %	68 %
Cohabiting	13 %	19 %	15 %
Single	4 %	12 %	9 %
Widowed	0 %	1 %	1 %
Divorced	3 %	5 %	3 %
Separated	2 %	3 %	4 %
SIMD quintile (2012)			
Most deprived	8 %	21 %	20 %
2 nd	13 %	18 %	21 %
3 rd	21 %	18 %	20 %
4 th	27 %	22 %	18 %
Least deprived	31 %	21 %	21 %

Highest educational qualification in household			
No qualification	1 %	2 %	6 %
Lower level Standard Grades or equivalent	2 %	4 %	4 %
Upper level Standard Grades or equivalent	12 %	19 %	19 %
Higher Grades or equivalent	34 %	40 %	33 %
Degree level academic or equivalent	49 %	35 %	38 %
Other	1 %	1 %	0.4 %
Urban/Rural dwelling			
Large urban	31 %	36 %	38 %
Other Urban	29 %	34 %	32 %
Small accessible towns	10 %	8 %	10 %
Small remote towns	3 %	2 %	3 %
Accessible rural	17 %	13 %	13 %
Remote rural	10 %	7 %	4 %
BMI UK categories			
Underweight	2 %	2 %	2 %
Healthy weight	69 %	64 %	64 %
Overweight	15 %	18 %	15 %
Obese	13 %	16 %	19 %