

Pathways to smoking in LGB populations: A multilevel path analysis

Megan Davies

m.davies@soton.ac.uk

Nathaniel Lewis & Graham Moon



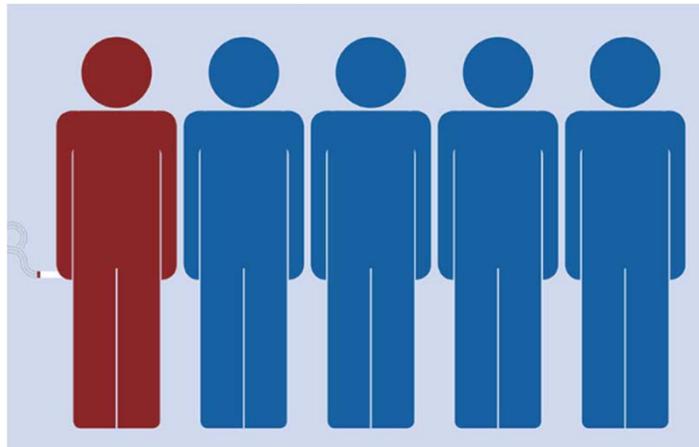
@MeganDaviesUK



Overview

- Background
- Introduction to research question 1
- Methods and findings
- Conclusions and limitations

Why smoking?



Source: Health matters

Towards a Smokefree Generation

A Tobacco Control Plan for England

General overview

- LGB people smoke more than heterosexual and have higher rates of substance use
- Variations between sexual minority groups
- Intention to quit is the same but LGB people less successful



Research questions

1. What are the structural factors and determinants of smoking in LGB people across the UK?
1. What are the geographical variations in smoking and substance use behaviours within LGB populations?
1. Is there change over time in smoking compared to heterosexual populations?
1. How is smoking linked with other risk behaviours in LGB people?

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Background

Neglected themes in LGB smoking research in England: age of initiation, exposure to smoke and mental health



- People that start smoking earlier are more likely to be current smokers and smoke heavier
- Exposure to smoke increases likelihood of smoking

These pathways occur in people from lower social class backgrounds

Methods

- We pooled data from Health Survey for England 2013/2014
- Analysed using multilevel path analysis in Mplus

Regions

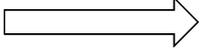
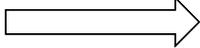
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Individuals

Hypothesised pathways

Sexual orientation  Mental health  Increased exposure to smoke

Covariates: social class, age and sex

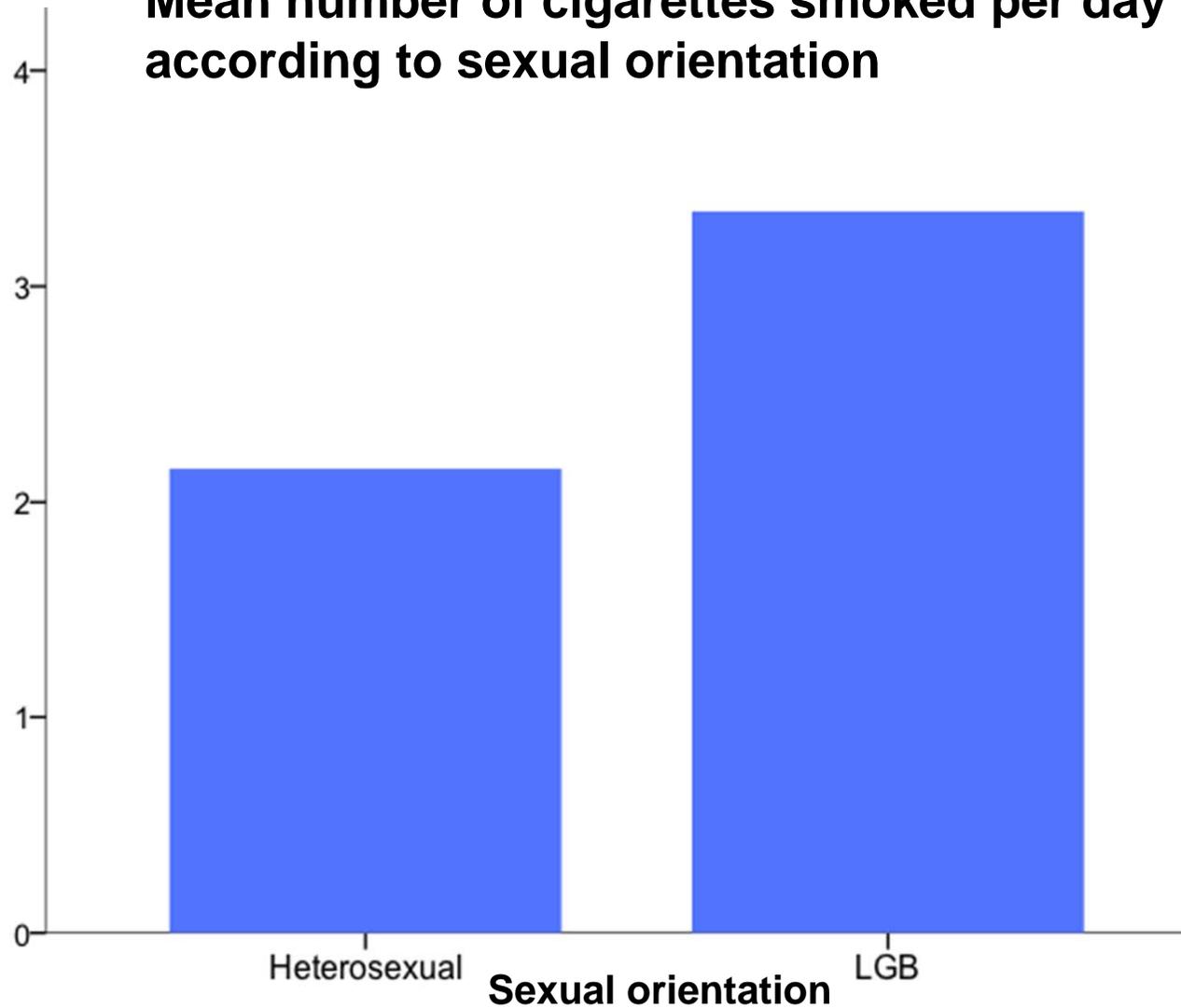
Earlier age of initiation



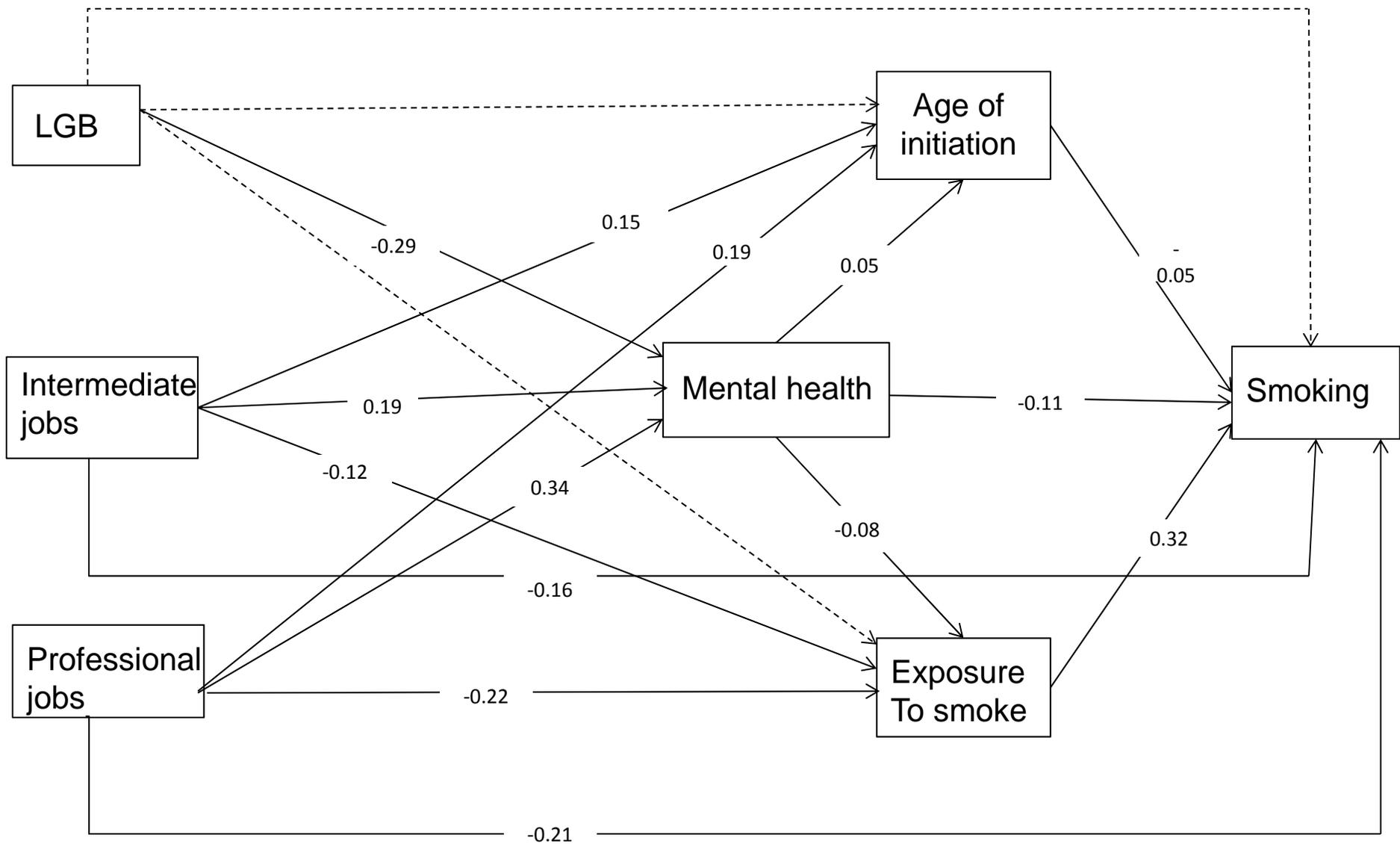
Increased smoking

Mean number of cigarettes smoked per day according to sexual orientation

**Mean
number of
cigarettes
smoked
per day**



	Current smoker		Number of cigarettes smoked per day (grouped)									
	Yes		0		1-5		6-10		11-20		20+	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
LGB	78	45	192	72	17	6	24	9	28	10	7	3
Heterosexual	2615	33	11643	82	535	4	780	6	1013	7	198	1

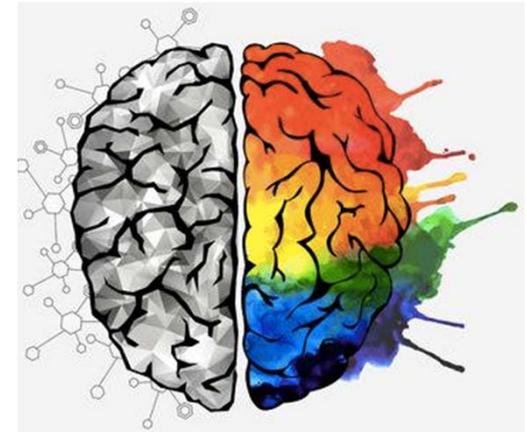


Davies, M., Lewis, N. M. & Moon, G (In review).

Discussion

Adds to body of research on syndemics

- Mental health might explain the pathways that are associated with increases smoking rates



Discussion

- Social class is an important driver of smoking inequalities in England and likely confounded our results
- Lack of findings of exposure might be related to stricter smoking policies



Conclusions

- **Limitations**

- Small sample size of LGB people ~1%

- Compared to 2% nationally

- Sexual orientation was self-reported

- **Implications**

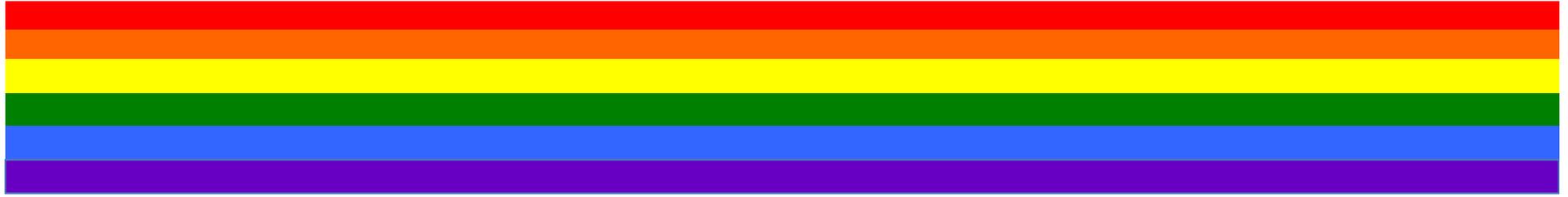
- Associations between social class and LGB

- Policy implications for targeted anti-smoking campaigns

- Tobacco control plan: towards a smoke free generation

What's next?

- Looking at change over time and examining rates before and after the public smoking bans
- Looking at the spatial differences and place specific effects
- Relationship between smoking and other risk behaviours i.e. substance use, unsafe sex



Thank you for listening

Any questions?

Megan Davies

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