

Social housing and inequalities in smoking

Findings from the Smoking Toolkit Study

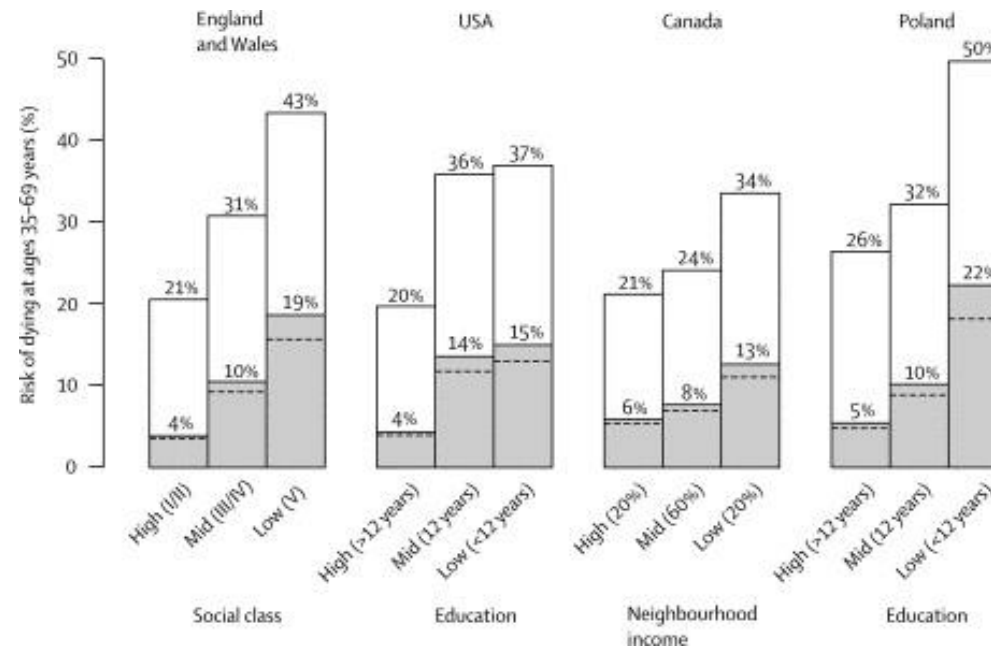
Dr Sarah Jackson

UCL Tobacco and Alcohol Research Group

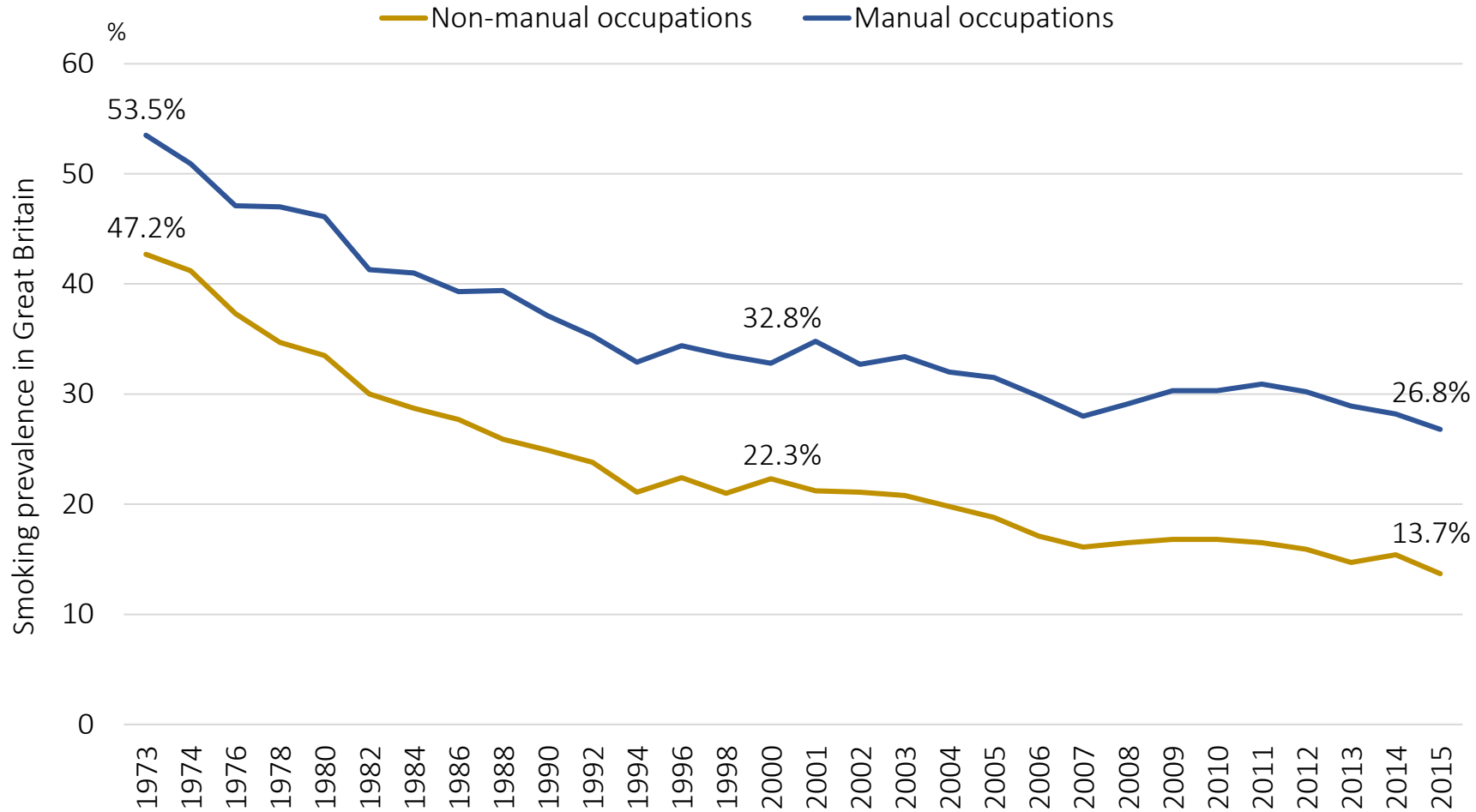
s.e.jackson@ucl.ac.uk @DrSarahEJackson

Tobacco smoking is a key driver of health inequalities

Social inequalities in male mortality in 1996 from smoking (shaded) and from any cause



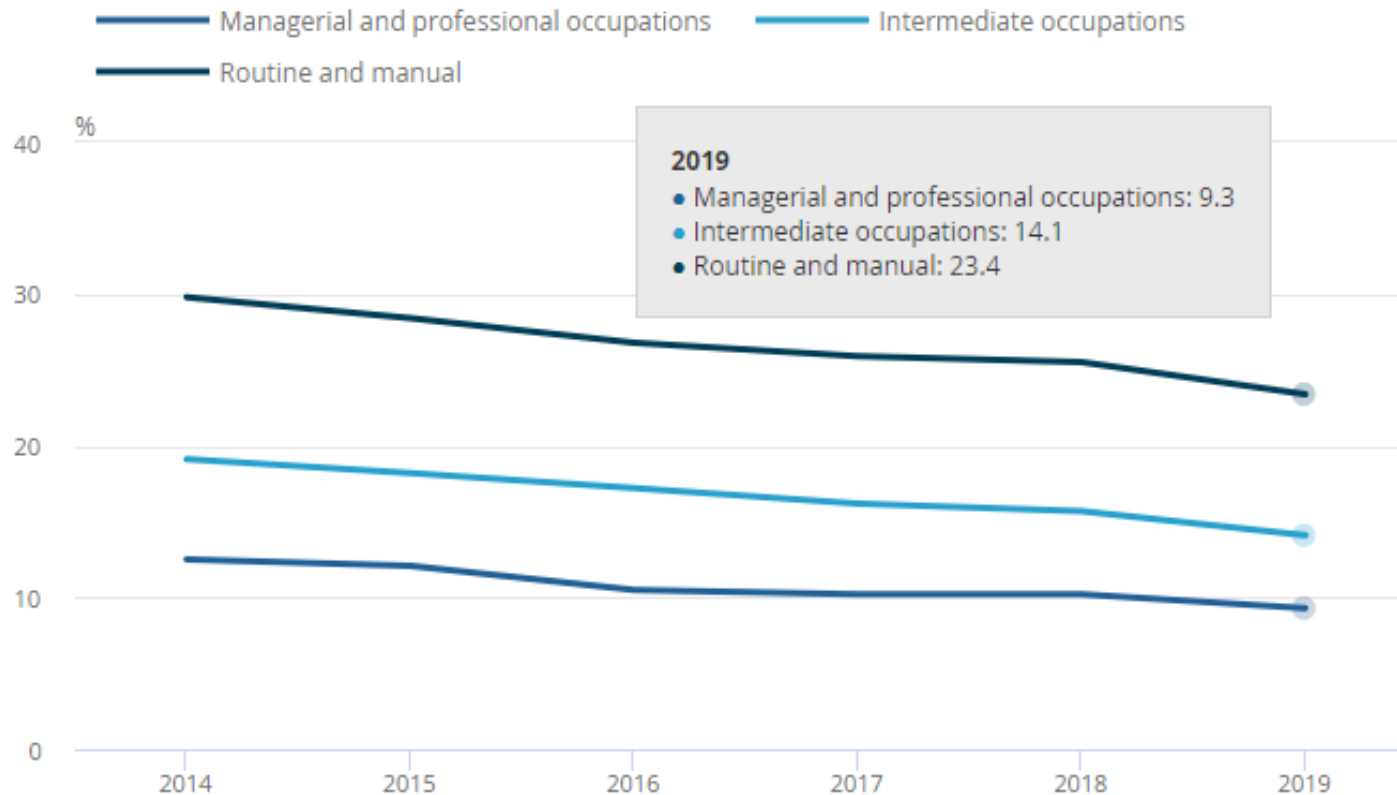
Smoking prevalence is higher among disadvantaged groups



Source: General Lifestyle Survey 1973-2008, Integrated Household Survey 2009-2014, Annual Population Survey 2015

Smoking prevalence is higher among disadvantaged groups

Proportion who were current smokers, adults aged 18 to 64 years, UK, 2014 to 2019



Housing tenure is a particularly strong predictor of smoking

- 120,496 adults in England (21,720 smokers)
- Home ownership
- Social grade
- Educational qualifications
- Income
- Car ownership
- Employment status

Housing tenure is a particularly strong predictor of smoking

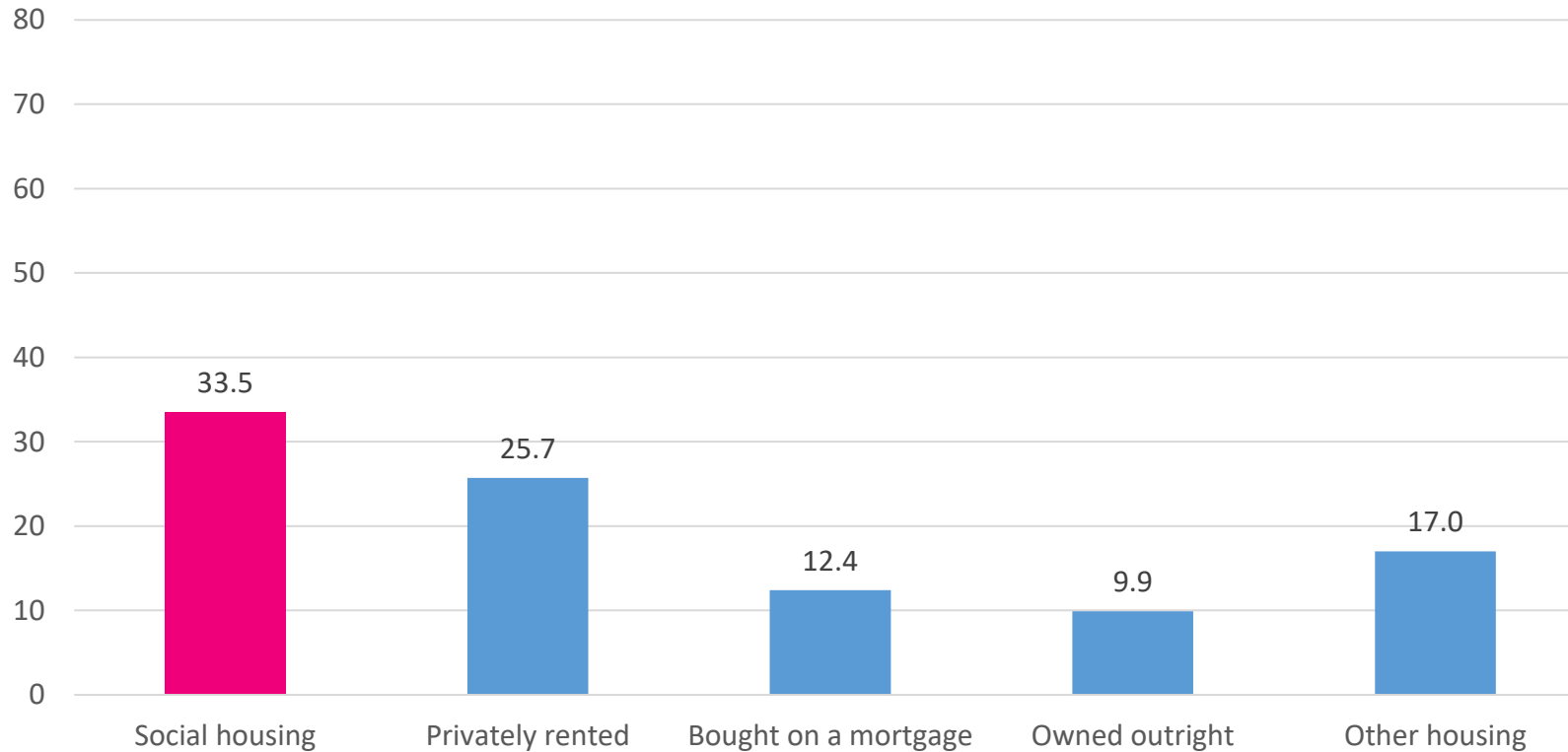
- 120,496 adults in England (21,720 smokers)

Odds ratio for being a smoker

- Home ownership 2.01 (does not own home vs. homeowner)
- Social grade 1.04, 1.29, 1.39, 1.78 (grades C1, C2, D, E vs. AB)
- Educational qualifications 1.48 (no post-16 qualifications vs. university)
- Income 1.06, 1.18, 1.23 (2nd quartile, 3rd q, 4th q vs. 1st q)
- Car ownership 1.05 (does not own car vs. owns car)
- Employment status 1.03 (not in full-time work vs. in full-time work)

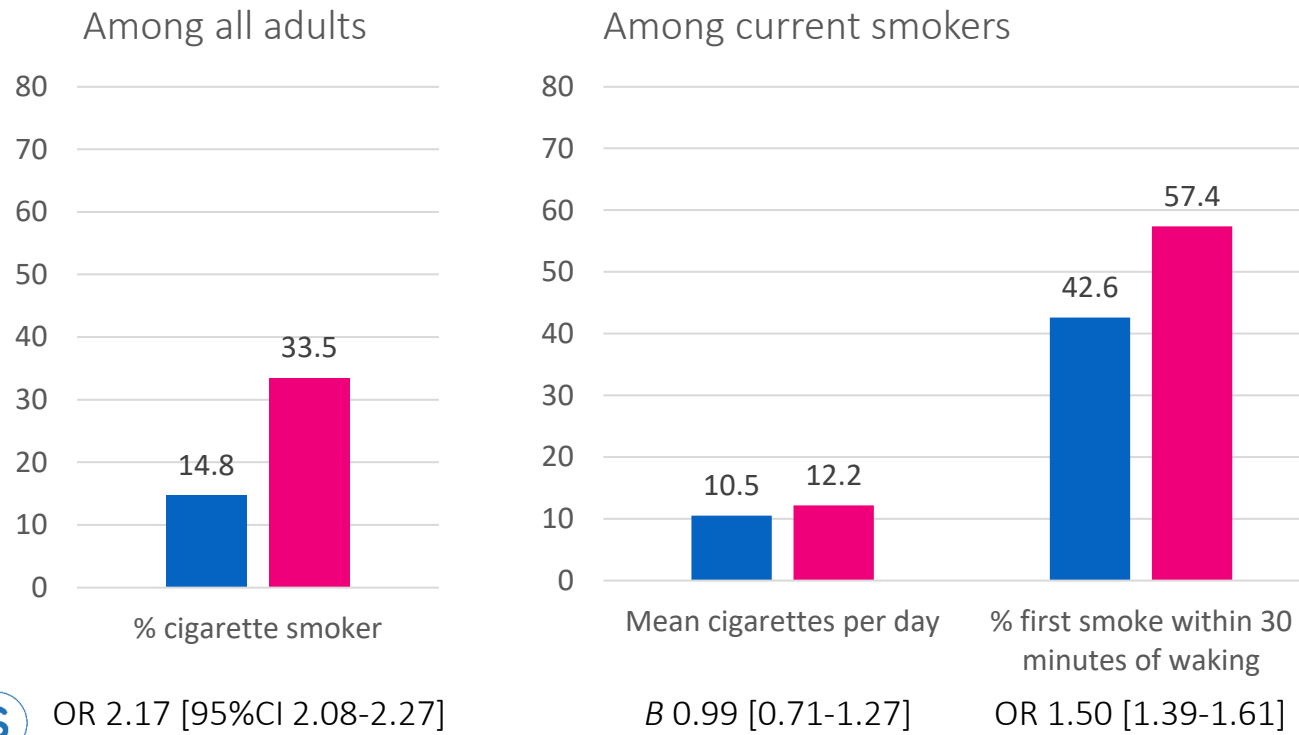
People living in social housing are at highest risk for smoking

% current smoker



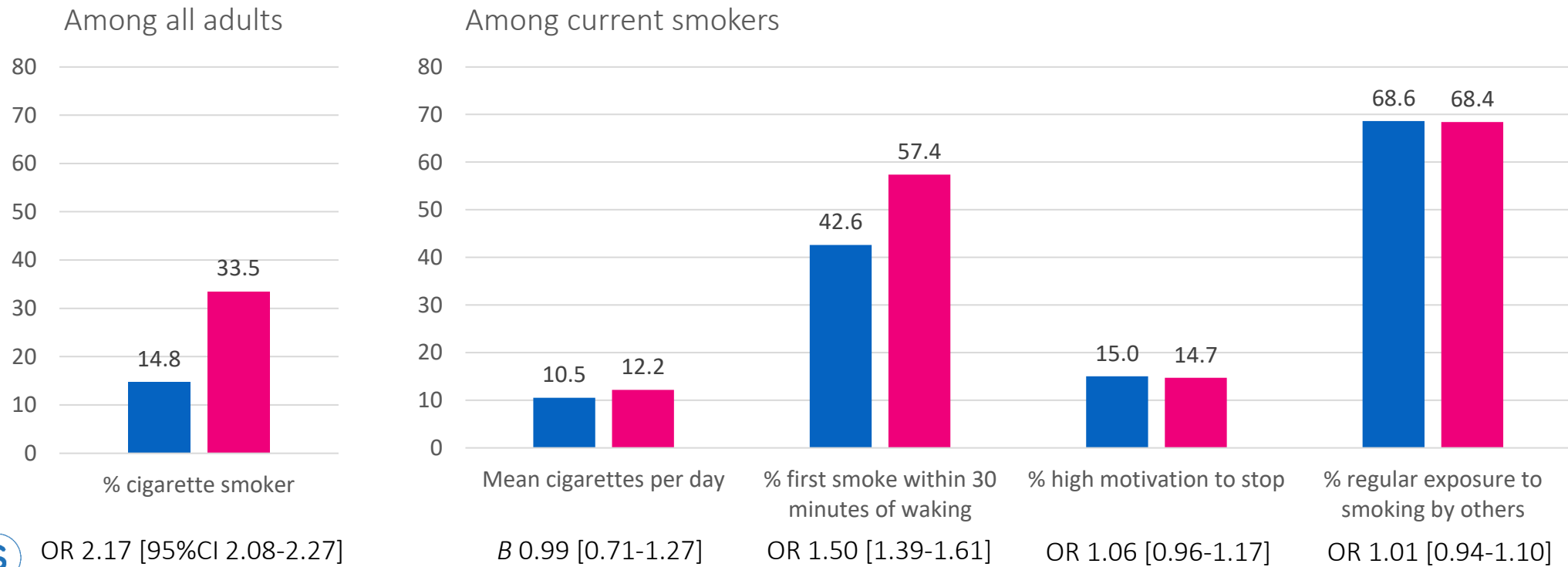
People living in social housing are at highest risk for smoking

- 105,562 adults in England (13,862 social housing residents), Jan 2015-Feb 2020



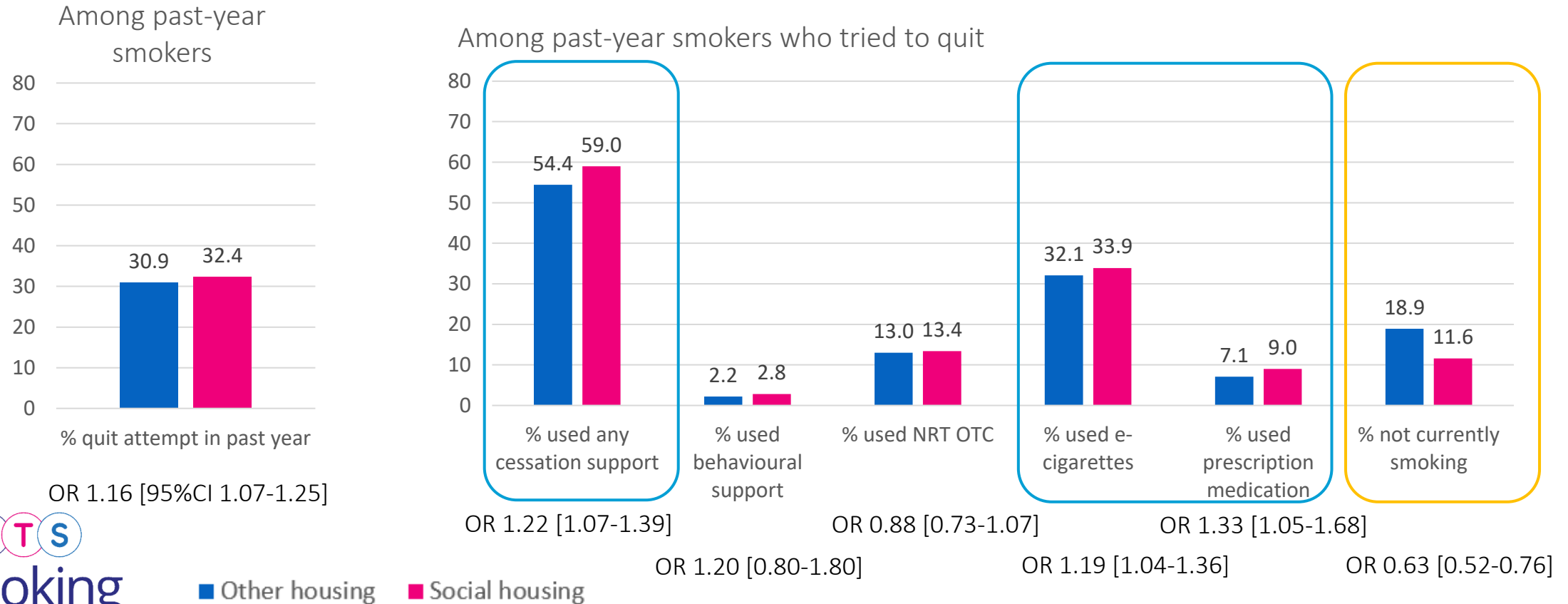
People living in social housing are at highest risk for smoking

- 105,562 adults in England (13,862 social housing residents), Jan 2015-Feb 2020

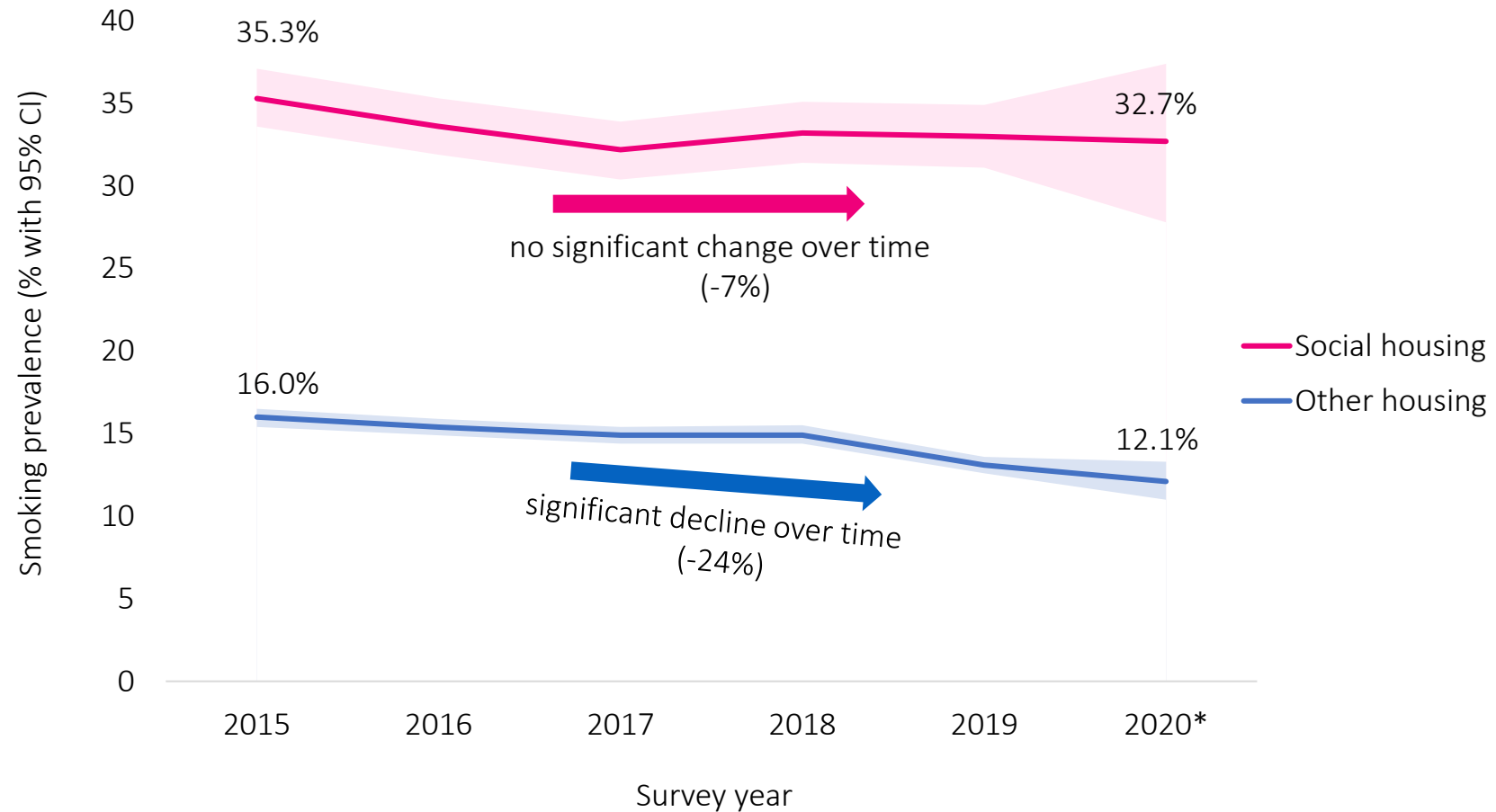


Smokers living in social housing try to quit but are less likely to be successful

- 105,562 adults in England (13,862 social housing residents), Jan 2015-Feb 2020



Smoking prevalence is not falling as quickly among social housing residents as it is in the rest of the population



*Note: Data for 2020 are from January and February only.

Take home messages

There remain stark inequalities in smoking and quitting behaviour by housing tenure in England.

Declines in smoking prevalence have stalled among people living in social housing despite progress in the rest of the population.

Inequalities in health are likely to worsen without targeted interventions to boost quitting among social housing residents.

Research team and funder



Professor Jamie Brown
Professor Robert West



Deborah Arnott
Hazel Cheeseman
Robbie Titmarsh

