

**Supplementary Table 1: Descriptive Statistics & Comparison of Observed and Analysis Samples**

		Observed Sample (N=5122)		Imputed Analysis* (N=5122)	
		N	%	N	%
Gender	Male	2613	51.0	2613	51.0
	Female	2509	49.0	2509	49.0
Year (at age 11)	1990-94	848	16.6	848	16.6
	1995-99	1475	28.8	1475	28.8
	2000-04	1735	33.9	1735	33.9
	2005-08	1064	20.8	1064	20.8
Country	England	2889	56.4	2889	56.4
	Scotland	884	17.3	884	17.3
	Wales	849	16.6	849	16.6
	Northern Ireland	500	9.8	500	9.8
Parental Social Class	I & II	2237	44.5	2252	44.0
	III	2007	40.0	2042	39.9
	IV & V	778	15.5	828	16.2
	Missing	100			
Parental Education	Degree or Higher	827	16.3	830	16.2
	Other Qualifications	3656	72.0	3688	72.0
	No Qualifications	592	11.7	604	11.8
	Missing	47			
Household Income	Top Tertile	1323	29.3	1504	29.4
	Middle Tertile	1525	33.8	1711	33.4
	Bottom Tertile	1661	36.8	1907	37.2
	Missing	613			
Housing Tenure	Owned/Mortgaged	3520	69.0	3534	69.0
	Rented/Other	1583	31.0	1588	31.0
	Missing	19			
Parental Employment	Employed	4139	81.4	4154	81.1
	Not employed	948	18.6	968	18.9
	Missing	35			
Initiation	Yes	1958	42.0	2866	56.0
	Did not initiate	2703	58.0	2256	44.0
	Missing	461			
Age of Initiation	11 years	394	20.1	522	18.2
	12 years	372	19.0	513	17.9
	13 years	442	22.6	612	21.4
	14 years	434	22.2	655	22.9
	15 years	316	16.1	564	19.7
	Did not initiate	2703		2256	
	Missing	461			
Experimentation	Yes	878	48.8	1508	52.6
	Tried only	920	51.2	1358	47.4
	Did not initiate	2703		2256	
	Missing	621			
Age of Experimentation	11 years	74	8.4	215	7.5
	12 years	102	11.6	347	12.1
	13 years	179	20.4	590	20.6
	14 years	268	30.5	836	29.2
	15 years	255	29.0	878	30.7
	Tried only	920		1358	
	Did not initiate	2703		2256	
	Missing	621			

Escalation & Quitting	Escalation	299	34.1	561	37.2
	Quitting	398	45.4	640	42.4
	Occasional only	180	20.5	307	20.4
	Tried only	920		1358	
	Did not initiate	2703		2256	
	Missing	622			
Age of Escalation	11 years	7	2.3	7	1.2
	12 years	21	7.0	39	6.9
	13 years	47	15.7	86	15.4
	14 years	101	33.8	191	34.0
	15 years	123	41.1	238	42.4
	Quitting	398		640	
	Occasional only	180		307	
	Tried only	920		1358	
	Did not initiate	2703		2256	
	Missing	621			
Age of Quitting	11 years	43	10.8	54	8.5
	12 years	66	16.6	97	15.1
	13 years	82	20.6	141	22.0
	14 years	96	24.1	166	25.9
	15 years	111	27.9	182	28.5
	Escalation	299		561	
	Occasional only	180		307	
	Tried only	920		1358	
	Did not initiate	2703		2256	
	Missing	621			

\*Percentages are based on average results across 20 imputed data-sets.

**Supplementary Table 2: Relative importance of different transitions for inequalities in daily smoking by age 15**

		Percentage reduction of expected inequality <sup>a</sup> in number of daily smokers by age 15			
		1995-1999		2005-2009	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
<b>Removing Inequalities</b>	All Ages (11-15) <sup>b</sup>	72.7	68.9	82.0	80.8
<b>in Initiation at...</b>	Age 11 only	10.6	6.5	15.2	11.4
	Age 12 only	13.2	10.9	15.6	14.1
	Age 13 only	12.7	12.8	13.8	14.2
	Age 14 only	8.9	9.9	9.6	10.9
	Age 15 only	3.7	4.1	4.3	4.9
<b>Removing Inequalities</b>	All Ages (11-15) <sup>b</sup>	52.2	57.5	51.9	54.6
<b>in Escalation at...</b>	Age 11 only	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.6
	Age 12 only	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.6
	Age 13 only	7.7	8.7	8.2	8.9
	Age 14 only	12.6	14.5	13.3	14.5
	Age 15 only	22.2	24.2	21.4	22.3

<sup>a</sup>Contrasting those whose parents have no qualifications with those whose parents have a degree or higher.

<sup>b</sup>Contributions for removing inequalities at specific ages do not sum to the contributions from all ages as effects are multiplicative; transitions in one year affect numbers at risk in subsequent years.