

Heavy drinking in early adolescence: findings from the Millennium Cohort Study

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Research question:

Are age of initiation of drinking, alcohol context, social relationships, parental monitoring and supervision, other behaviours and psychosocial wellbeing associated with heavy drinking in early adolescence?

Outcome: Heavy drinking at age 14

Exposures:

Alcohol context: Age of initiation expectancies (positive and negative), parental drinking, availability of alcohol in the home, friends drinking;

Social relationships: conflict with parents, social support;

Supervision and monitoring: staying out late, staying out overnight;

Behaviours: smoking, drugs, truancy, 'antisocial';

Psychosocial wellbeing: self esteem, socioemotional difficulties, depressive symptoms, educational engagement

Prevalence of drinking at age 14

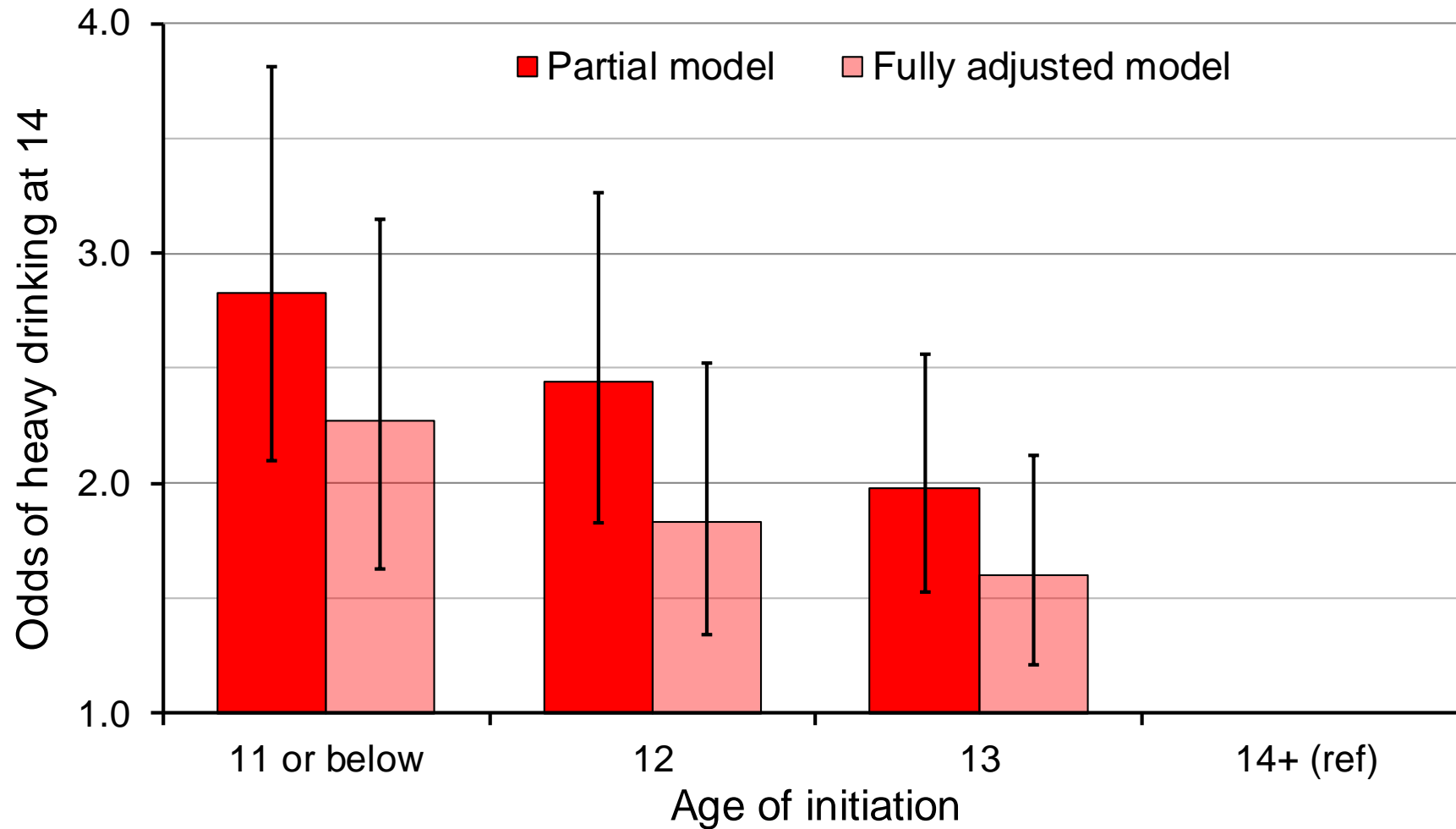
Heavy = 8.8%

Not heavy = 32.3%

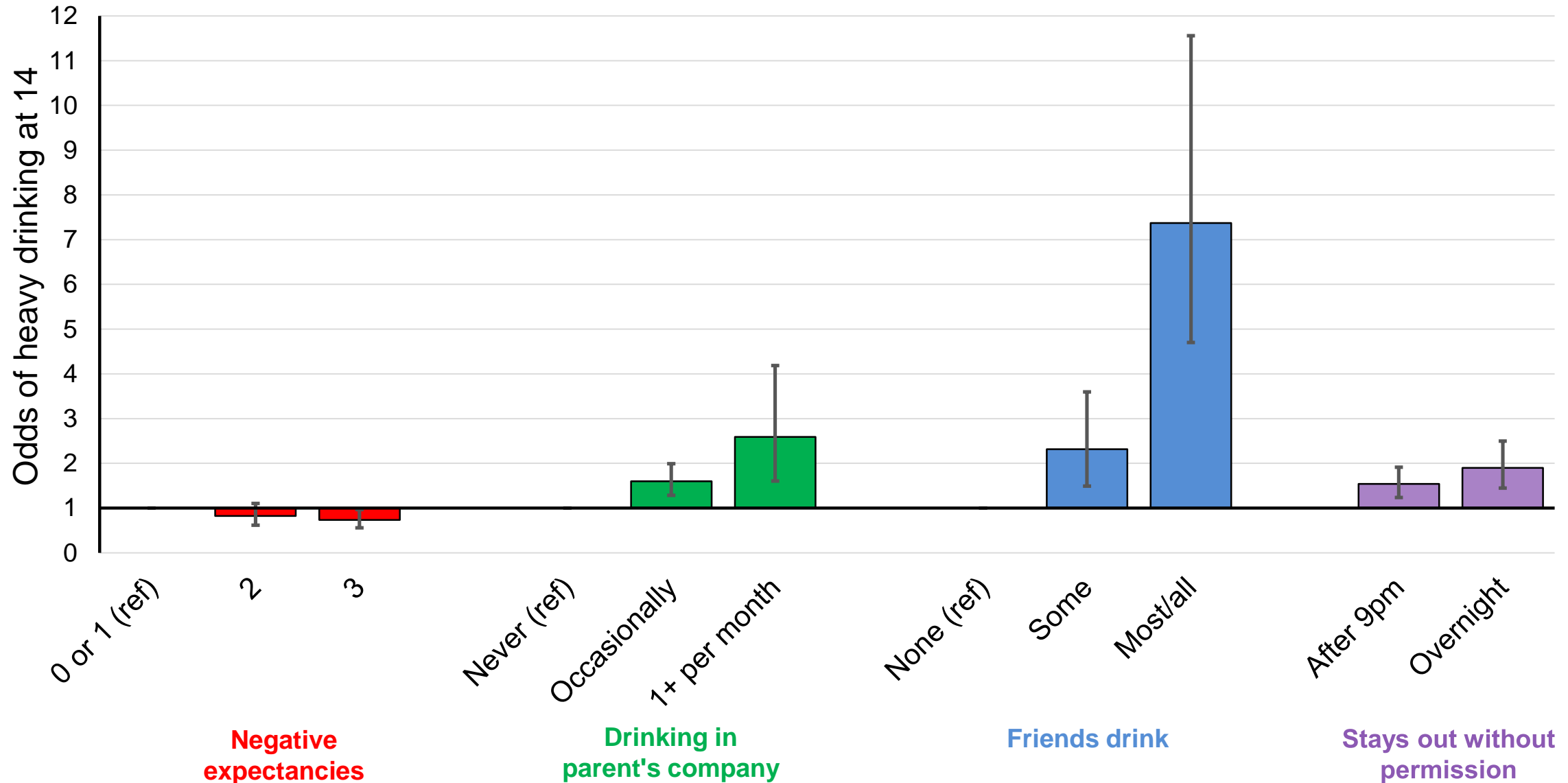
Not in last year = 3.2%

Never = 55.7%

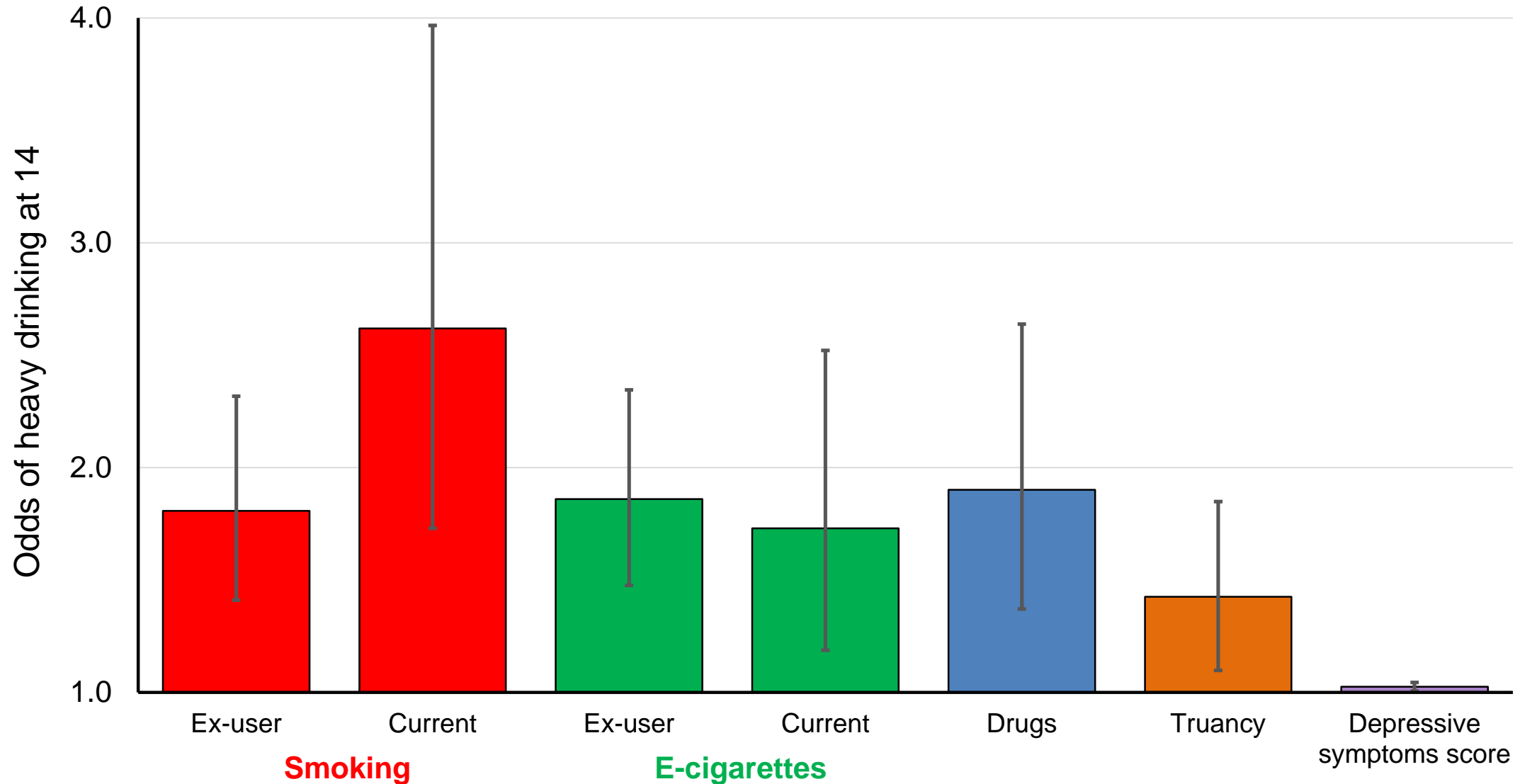
Is age of alcohol initiation associated with heavy drinking patterns in early adolescence?



Are alcohol context, social relationships and parental monitoring associated with heavy drinking in early adolescence?



Are other behaviours and psychosocial wellbeing associated with heavy drinking in early adolescence?



Conclusions

- Correlates of heavy drinking: age of initiation, negative expectancies, availability of alcohol in the home, friends' drinking, supervision and monitoring, engaging in 'risky' behaviours, depressive symptoms
- Multiple elements of children and young people's lives are linked to heavy drinking – lending support for multi-level interventions



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