

1 **Chronic pain in families: A cross-sectional study of shared social, behavioural,**
2 **and environmental influences**

3

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31 **Abstract**

32 Chronic pain is common and creates significant burden to the individual and society. Emerging
33 research has shown the influence of the family environment on pain outcomes. However it is not clear
34 what shared factors between family members associate with chronic pain. This study aimed to
35 investigate the family level contribution to an individual's chronic pain status. This was a cross
36 sectional study using the Generation Scotland: Scottish Family Health Study dataset. This study
37 focused on a nested cohort of dyads (only 2 relatives per family, n = 2714). Multilevel modelling was
38 first carried out to estimate the extent of variance in chronic pain at the family level. Then each
39 member of the dyad was randomly assigned as either the exposure or outcome family member and
40 logistic regression was used to identify shared factors associated with the outcome of chronic pain
41 status. Multilevel modelling showed just under 10% of variation in chronic pain status was at a family
42 level. There was an increase in odds of chronic pain if exposure family member had chronic pain (OR
43 1.30, 95% CI 1.02, 1.65), if both were female (OR 1.39, 95% CI 0.99, 1.94), both older age (OR 1.80,
44 95% CI 1.31, 2.48), and if both had low household income (OR 3.27, 95% CI 1.72, 6.21). These
45 findings show that the majority of explanation for chronic pain is still at the individual level. However
46 some significant shared effects between family members associate with chronic pain, and this
47 highlights the influence of the family context.

48

49 **1.0 Introduction**

50 Chronic pain is common within the population and has an impact on the individual, their family, and
51 wider society [3,50]. There are complex interactions between the individual with chronic pain and their
52 family environment. Evidence shows the influence and impact of chronic pain on family members, in
53 terms of the adjustments family members make (for example, possible employment changes),

54 relationship changes (for example, marital quality), and potential role changes (for example, becoming
55 a caregiver for the person with pain and associated disability) [25,26,29,45]. The converse is also
56 possible, that the family has an influence on the individual with chronic pain; numerous studies show
57 the effects of family members, particularly partners, on the outcomes of those with chronic pain
58 conditions, for example solicitous responses (e.g. being overly helpful with tasks and duties), mood
59 influences and negative reactions (e.g. anger and frustration in partners) affecting relationship quality
60 [6,8,9,49]. Evidence also exists of more direct influences and interactions at a biological/genetic level
61 between family members. A number of twin and family studies have reported shared biological
62 heritability concordance (shared risk) between family members for pain conditions [21,23,48]. For
63 example Hocking et al [23] report that the genetic heritability estimate for chronic pain was 29% in a
64 study of 2195 extended families, and another study [21] has shown a significant association between
65 maternal and related adolescent chronic pain.

66 Research on specific conditions such as face pain, stomach pain, and headache has shown that
67 family members are more likely to have similar symptoms, or have elevated levels of poor health
68 compared to non-family members [11,28]. Families are also likely to share similar lifestyles, and
69 express similar health behaviours and beliefs [18,30], and a significant amount of healthcare
70 engagement can be explained at a family level [12,13]. Furthermore, families are likely to share the
71 same environment, and so share similar economic status, educational status, and access to health
72 services [10,35,40]. Recently a paper described concordance between partners (e.g. husband, wife)
73 for musculoskeletal pain; concordance was partly explained in terms of the shared lifestyle and
74 environment between couples [7]. Overall, this evidence suggests that, aside from biological and
75 genetic propensity, there might be other important shared influences to explain concordance between
76 family members. A recent heritability twin study carried out by Vehof et al [48] show that 7% to 10% of
77 the variance in Chronic Pain Syndrome is explained by the common environment (i.e. shared social
78 factors) over and above genetic and individual contribution. Clearly shared effects between family
79 members are present, but currently we do not know what the specific shared factors are that may
80 result in increased concordance for pain conditions. The aim of this study was to investigate the family

81 level contribution to chronic pain status within the individual, and describe which shared factors are
82 associated with chronic pain.

83

84 **2.0 Methods**

85

86 *2.1 Design and participants*

87 This is a cross-sectional analysis of participants in the Generation Scotland: Scottish Family Health
88 Survey (GS:SFHS [42]). Briefly the GS:SFHS identified potential participants at random from people
89 aged 35 to 65 registered at collaborating primary care medical practices throughout areas of
90 Scotland. Participants were invited to take part and to identify at least one first-degree relative (i.e. the
91 index person's mother, father, sister, brother, adult child) aged 18 years or over to also take part.
92 Volunteers from anywhere in Scotland were also welcomed to participate in GS: SFHS, again with the
93 request that one or more first-degree relatives (aged 18 or over) also agree to take part. In total
94 126,000 probands were invited with 12.3% volunteering and meeting the Generation Scotland
95 inclusion criteria [43].

96

97 Participants completed pre-clinic health questionnaires and attended research clinics for a physical
98 examination, and mental health and cognitive function assessment. In total, at the time of this study,
99 21,327 individuals were participating forming 2195 family groups. Fuller details of the recruitment
100 process are given elsewhere ([42,43], www.generationscotland.org). The GS: SFHS was approved by
101 the Tayside Committee on Medical Research Ethics (reference 05/S1401/89).

102

103 The current study focuses on a nested cohort of the total population. We included index participants
104 who only recruited one other first-degree relative (n = 2714 individuals forming 1357 family dyads).
105 This strategy was specifically chosen on the basis of the analysis design where each member of the
106 family dyad was randomly assigned as either the exposure or outcome. This ensured that each family
107 member was a first degree relative, with the rationale that first-degree relatives (e.g. mother, father,
108 brother, sister, adult child) would be more likely to experience, or have experienced, shared factors
109 (e.g. economic, physical activity, health behaviour, psychological) compared to second degree or

110 more distant relatives. For example, first-degree relatives would most likely live or have lived in the
111 same household as each other at some point, and have demonstrated continued contact with each
112 other.

113

114 2.2. Measures

115 The outcome measure of chronic pain is based on the definition developed for the International
116 Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) [34]. Chronic pain was assessed within the pre-clinic
117 questionnaire, and participants were asked if they currently experienced continuous or intermittent
118 pain, and if yes, whether this pain had lasted for at least 3 months or more. Those answering yes to
119 both of these questions were classified as having chronic pain.

120

121 Potential shared physical factors include age (categorised in age bands 18 to 29, 30 to 49, 50 to 69,
122 70+ years), gender, weight (categorised as underweight/normal *versus* overweight/obese/severely
123 obese using BMI cut-off ≥ 25). Potential shared health behavioural factors included smoking status
124 (never smoked *versus* current smoker/ previously smoked), and whether the participant lived with
125 someone who currently smokes. Education level was based on the number of years the participant
126 was at school full time or in further study full time. Three categories were created to follow the UK's
127 Educational system (UK Government [14]), compulsory education (e.g. primary/secondary education
128 up to 11 years of education), further education (e.g. college education, 12 to 15 years), and higher
129 education (e.g. university, > 15 years). Social environment measured whether the participant lived
130 with a partner (e.g. husband, wife, cohabitee). Financial status was measured as annual household
131 income (categorised as £0 < £30,000, £30,000 to £50,000, and > £50,000), and accommodation
132 status categorised as: own home outright, current mortgage, currently rent, other. Finally, we
133 measured potential shared psychological status using the general health questionnaire version 28
134 (GHQ 28, categorised using the recommended cut off score of 5 or above to indicate psychological
135 morbidity [31,32,39]).

136

137

138 2.3. *Statistical analysis*

139 Analysis was conducted within the GS:SFHS dataset. The aim of this study did not overlap with any
140 previous study using this data. A two-stage process was applied to address the research aim. The
141 first stage investigated explanatory variables associated with the outcome of chronic pain across the
142 cohort, with a multi-level model producing an estimation of the amount of variance in chronic pain
143 status that was at the family rather than individual level. A two level hierarchical model was used, with
144 individual participants (level 1) nested within their respective family dyads (level 2). An initial variance
145 components model (i.e. no explanatory variables entered) was carried out to establish whether there
146 was a significant effect at level 2 (family effect) using the Likelihood Ratio (LR) test [44]. A variance

147 partition coefficient (VPC) was calculated ($VPC = \frac{\sigma_u^2}{\sigma_u^2 + \sigma_e^2}$ where σ_u^2 = residual variance (level 2), and
148 $\sigma_e^2 = 3.29$ (logit), to estimate the proportion (%) of variance in chronic pain at the family level [1,44].

149 The use of a logit function is appropriate for a binary outcome multi-level model. The standard logistic
150 distribution ($\pi^2/3 = 3.29$) is taken as the measure of level 1 variance, allowing for comparison on the
151 same scale for level 2 variance, with VPC as the calculation of the ratio of level 2 variance to the sum
152 of the level 1 and level 2 variances [43]. Then explanatory variables (individual's age, gender, weight,
153 smoking status, live with smoker, education level, live with partner, household income,
154 accommodation status, psychological status) were then entered into the model singularly (univariable
155 multilevel logistic regression models) to estimate the significant factors associated with chronic pain.
156 All variables were then placed within a final multivariable multilevel logistic regression model. This
157 model was used to test the associations of the variables with chronic pain across the cohort (i.e. the
158 general effect of variables on outcome) with a further VPC calculation carried out to produce an
159 estimate of unexplained variance residing at level 2 (family) within the final multivariable model (i.e.
160 proportion of variance in chronic pain status at a family level).

161 The second stage of the analysis considered how the significant explanatory variables from the first
162 stage interrelate between family members to estimate the shared effect on chronic pain status. In
163 order to model this, each participant within each family dyad was randomly assigned to be either an
164 "index" family member (outcome being chronic pain status), or "exposure" family member following

165 previous methodology [7]. Variables significant from the multivariable multilevel model at the first
166 stage were then entered as shared (i.e. using measures from both family members) potential
167 predictors of chronic pain in the index participant using logistic regression producing Odds Ratios
168 (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI). Statistical adjustment was made for the age of both
169 family members and the exposure family member's chronic pain status (to ensure shared effect was
170 not an artefact of pain status). Using gender in association with the index family member's chronic
171 pain outcome as an example; the analysis considered the independent association of the index family
172 member's gender, then the independent association of the exposure family member's gender, and
173 finally a shared analysis (i.e. index family member female and exposure family member male, index
174 family member male and exposure family member female, both family members female compared to
175 where both family members are male). Whilst the use of logistic regression is appropriate for this
176 cross sectional design there are issues in the interpretation of effect size (relative effect) where the
177 prevalence of the outcome is large. It is shown for example that the interpretation of ORs generated
178 from populations where the prevalence of outcome is low (i.e. rare disease assumption) are
179 comparable to estimates of relative risk (RR), however where prevalence of outcome is high (e.g. >
180 10%) the reported ORs overestimate the relative effect [16,41]. Given that previous studies within
181 the Generation Scotland population [23,43] have reported a high prevalence of chronic pain status (>
182 30%), this study will, alongside ORs, also report the prevalence percentage difference. The
183 prevalence percentage difference will be calculated to show the difference from the reference
184 category prevalence of chronic pain and the influence of exposure from both the index family member
185 and the exposure family member. Complete case analysis was carried out due to the low level of
186 missing data [42], and analysis was performed using SPSS version 21 and STATA 13 (STATA binary
187 level multilevel modelling command *xtmelogit*).

188

189 To determine whether 2 member family dyads in this current study were different to those within
190 Generation Scotland with more family members (e.g. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or more), we compared size of
191 family block across a range of variables (chronic pain status, age, gender, BMI, smoking status,
192 education level, lives with a partner, household income, accommodation status, psychological

193 morbidity) using one way ANOVA (continuous variables) or Chi Square (categorical) tests. These
194 tests show no significant differences on any variables dependent on family size block (data not
195 shown).

196

197 **3.0 Results**

198 Characteristics of the cohort are described in Table 1. The mean age was 47 years (standard
199 deviation 15 years), 59% were female and just over 36% of the cohort indicated the presence of
200 chronic pain.

201

202 ***Insert Table 1 about here***

203

204 *3.1 Stage 1: Multilevel modelling*

205 Table 2 shows the results of the multilevel logistic regression analysis (stage 1). The multilevel
206 univariable logistic regression results showed that age (being in older age bands), gender (being
207 female), smoking status (currently or previously a smoker), living with a current smoker, educational
208 level (having fewer years of education), household income (having less income), were all associated
209 with increased odds of chronic pain. Having a mortgage (compared to owning your home outright)
210 decreased the odds of reporting chronic pain. Being overweight or obese, not living with a partner,
211 and having psychological morbidity were not significantly associated with chronic pain. The final
212 multilevel multivariable logistic regression model showed that female gender, increased age, lower
213 income, and smoking were significantly associated with increased odds of reporting chronic pain. The
214 initial multilevel variance components model (i.e. no explanatory variables added) indicated a
215 significant family level effect (LR test 4.81, $p=0.01$) with 8.1% of variation in chronic pain status
216 residing at the family rather than individual level. LR tests for all univariable and multivariable models
217 were significant, indicating the presence of a significant family level effect, and the final multilevel
218 multivariable model VPC was 9.8% (LR test 4.15, $p = 0.02$, 9.8% unexplained variance at family
219 level).

220

221 ***Insert Table 2 about here***

222

223 *3.2 Stage 2: shared effect analysis*

224 Table 3 outlines the shared effects of the significant factors associated with chronic pain from stage 1.

225 This shows that when the exposure family member indicates they have chronic pain, there is a 30%

226 increase in odds of reported chronic pain in the index family member (after adjustment for both index

227 and exposure family member age), prevalence percentage shows an increase of 5.9% addition due to

228 the exposure having chronic pain. The effects of gender show, using both family members as male as

229 the reference category, that being female (index family member) gives a prevalence percentage

230 increase of 4.5%, but if the exposure family member is female (and index male) there is a reduction (-

231 0.7%), both results were not significant within the logistic regression tests. However when both family

232 members are female, independent of the exposure family members' chronic pain status, there was a

233 non-significant trend (adjusted OR 1.39; 95% CI 0.99, 1.94) with a prevalence percentage increase of

234 9.1% which is a 4.6% increase on the effect if the index family member is female. Considering the

235 shared effect of age, compared to when both family members are within the youngest categories (<

236 50 years) there was a significant effect when the index was older with a 16.9% increase in

237 prevalence, but a non-significant effect when the exposure was older (3.0% increase in prevalence).

238 There is a significant effect when both index and exposure were older, the percentage prevalence

239 increase was 14.3%, which is a reduction of 2.6% prevalence compared to when only the index was

240 older. For income, there is a significant effect when the index person is within the low income

241 category, regardless of the exposure family members' income status. However the strength of effect

242 is stronger when both exposure and index are low income (OR 3.27, prevalence increase of 28.2%)

243 compared to when the index is low income and exposure is either medium income (OR 2.88,

244 prevalence increase 25.5%) or high income (OR 2.84, prevalence increase 24.3%). There is also a

245 significant effect when both the index and exposure are within the medium income category (OR 2.45,

246 prevalence increase 18.6%) and this effect is stronger when the index is within the medium income

247 category and the exposure is within the low income category (OR 2.80, prevalence increase 22.1%).

248 Smoking only showed a significant effect if the index family member smoked or smokes (OR 1.41,

249 prevalence increase of 9.3%), with no significant effect found when both family members smoke or
250 have smoked, compared to when they both have never smoked.

251

252 ***Insert Table 3 about here***

253

254 **4.0 Discussion**

255

256 This multilevel modelling study shows that 8% of the variance in chronic pain status within a family
257 health survey can be explained at a family level, and this rate increased slightly to 9.8% when
258 introducing individual level variables associated with chronic pain. Overall this suggests that factors
259 related to chronic pain status are mostly explained at the individual level, but that there is a modest
260 level of shared effect present. The results of tests between family members on variables associated
261 with chronic pain do show some effects; family members have increased odds of reporting chronic
262 pain if they have another family member who also has chronic pain. Additional shared factors
263 between family members that may contribute to chronic pain status were also identified, such as the
264 shared gender status between family members, and also shared income status between family
265 members. These findings show some potential shared effects beyond the individual that can
266 contribute to chronic pain.

267

268 *4.1 Comparison with other literature*

269 In terms of generalisability the GS:SFHS has been compared to the Scottish general population
270 [42,43], and it is reported that GS:SFHS participants are generally older, but have a lower prevalence
271 of general illness; with lower levels of chronic pain status (32% versus 46%), less likely to smoke,
272 more likely to have a better level of education, and less likely to be depressed. Similar trends are
273 found in the nested cohort in this current study. A recent study using the GS:SFHS dataset that
274 examined genetic heritability variance for chronic pain status report that 8% of the variance for chronic
275 pain was explained by unmeasured "shared" environmental factors [23]. Similarly Vehof et al [48]
276 found a range of 7% to 10% of the variance of chronic pain syndrome was explained by common
277 shared environment factors, and both these figures are similar to the variances reported within this

278 current study. We have now added to this literature by investigating what shared factors contribute to
279 this shared effect, and the size of the effect for each variable. This current study is also in accord with
280 other chronic pain studies in identifying, age, sex, income, smoking status, and education level as
281 factors associated with chronic pain [20,22,33,37,47]. Whilst the results report on significant shared
282 effects in accord to previous literature, the actual contribution above and beyond the individual effects
283 (i.e. the added effect) is small. For example the percentage prevalence of chronic pain status
284 increased by only 5.9% if the exposure family member has chronic pain. The results for age actually
285 show a reduction in the increase of prevalence when both family members are old (14.9%) compared
286 to when the index family member is old (16.9%). Similarly for income, whilst there is an increase in
287 chronic pain prevalence (increase of 28.2%) when both family members are low income, this is largely
288 driven by the index individuals income status, for example we only see a 3.3% rise in prevalence if the
289 exposure family member is low income and the index is high. Caution should be exercised on the
290 interpretation of percentage prevalence increase in this context, as causation cannot be assumed
291 within this cross sectional design. This current study did not find psychological morbidity (as
292 measured by the GHQ-28) as a factor associated with chronic pain despite other epidemiological
293 studies finding such an association [2,36]. This may be a reflection of the overall lower proportion of
294 chronic pain and psychological distress within the GS:SFHS population, compared to Scottish
295 population norms. For example the proportion of those depressed is double within the Scottish
296 general population (8%) compared to GS:SFHS (4%), and the proportion of those with chronic pain at
297 a Scottish national level is reported as 46%, whereas within the GS:SFHS it is lower at 32% for the
298 full cohort [43], and 36% within this nested cohort.

299

300 *4.2 Strengths and weaknesses*

301 A key strength of this study is the recruitment of a random sample of families from a diverse range of
302 areas within Scotland. Participants included within this analysis were not recruited on the basis of
303 their chronic pain status, and so results would be less likely influenced by response bias. Furthermore
304 we randomised which participant was assigned as the index family member, and which family
305 member was assigned as the exposure family member, again to minimise bias. We also choose to

306 only include participants who had only one other family member within the dataset. This was for the
307 analysis model whereby we randomly assigned each member to either exposure or outcome status
308 with assumption that first degree relatives would have increased contact with each other (as
309 evidenced by the invitation to take part in GS:SFHS from one family member to the other) as this
310 would increase the likelihood that family members share a current relationship and probably share
311 similar environmental influences [11]. However it is acknowledged that different analysis methods
312 could have included all Generation Scotland participants.

313

314 There are some other limitations to this study. Firstly we have no information on the amount of time
315 each family member spends with each other, and no information on the geographic location of each
316 family member, and so no way of quantifying the amount of shared status between family members.
317 We also have no information on the type of linkage between family members (i.e. brothers, sisters,
318 mothers, and fathers). The study also lacks information on the family dynamics (e.g. relationship
319 quality between family members, ethnic/cultural groups, social network and level of support) which
320 may have contributed more explanation at the family level. Whilst this study used a valid question on
321 chronic pain status [34], we did not carry out analysis based on the location of the pain, the duration
322 of pain, the severity of pain, the impact on function, how the person views their pain, how they cope
323 with their pain, or what medication or treatment they may be receiving for their pain. All of these
324 factors may be more influenced by shared family effect, and further research is needed to look at
325 these specific aspects between family members. Furthermore the effects reported for chronic pain
326 may differ for other types of pain (e.g. back pain, or chronic widespread pain), recent research has
327 shown different rates of concordance for consultations about musculoskeletal pain in couples
328 dependent on which body region they consulted about [7], and further research is now required to
329 understand potential differences on shared influence for different pain conditions. Lastly we have no
330 information on which participant, within the family dyad, reported pain first, or how long each family
331 member has had their chronic pain. Duration of pain is likely to be an influence in terms of a pain
332 severity indicator, but also in terms of social learning influence (e.g. parents long term expression of

333 pain influencing child's reaction and coping with pain). Further longitudinal research would be required
334 to help establish causal linkage factors between family members.

335

336 *4.3 Clinical Relevance*

337 The findings on family effects associated with chronic pain reported here are relatively small and
338 unlikely to have direct clinical relevance. For example even though we present a 30% increase in
339 odds for the influence of one family members' chronic pain status on another, this only translates to a
340 modest percentage prevalence rise of 5.9%. Therefore we believe our findings have greatest
341 relevance at a population level, given the very high proportion of the population who report chronic
342 pain, for example 36% in this nested cohort, with general population estimates higher at 45%
343 [4,15,43]. Buchbinder et al [5] demonstrated the effectiveness of a public health intervention designed
344 to alter beliefs about back pain and report moderate success in changing back pain beliefs and pain
345 related behaviours (e.g. disability) at a full population level. However subsequent attempts at
346 population change have not been as successful, partly due to heterogeneity within the population,
347 where people differ in their motivation, ability and opportunity to affect their outcome [19]. Perhaps
348 one way of addressing chronic pain in this way (i.e. public health) is to target at a family level, where
349 greater homogeneity will be found, in effect considering the "family case history". This may entail
350 further research to ascertain shared family factors that are predictive of pain onset, and where
351 identified, tailor interventions to reduce such risk factors at a family level. It may also be useful to
352 examine the relationship between family members when they have pain; there is evidence of social
353 learning influence on pain behaviour [46] and research has shown that interventions targeting
354 modifiable lifestyle factors and beliefs at a family level can reduce the impact of other long term
355 conditions such as heart disease and diabetes [27,38]. In addition there may be increased benefit
356 combining the evidence we have at the individual, genetic and family level, and direct treatment
357 towards those individuals where there is high risk of poor outcome.

358

359

360

361 4.4. Conclusion

362 There is an increasing research interest on shared experience and shared risk of illness with families.
363 Studies have begun to report on genetic evidence associated with chronic pain. In this study we
364 compliment such research by exploring the contribution of shared environmental factors. Taken
365 together the evidence suggests family effects are present that impact on the individual. Further
366 research is now required to understand the interaction of influence between family members.

367

368 **Acknowledgements and conflicts of interest**

369

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ACCEPTED

Table 1. Characteristics of cohort

Characteristics		Number (%)
Chronic pain	Yes	981 (36.1%)
	< 30 years old	421 (15.5%)
Age bands	30 years to 49 years	1048 (38.6%)
	50 years to 70 years	1058 (39.0%)
	> 70 years	187 (6.9%)
Gender	Female	1590 (58.6%)
Weight/BMI	Overweight/obese	1508 (59.2%)
Smoking status	Current/previous smoker	1265 (47.2%)
	Currently live with smoker	392 (15.0%)
Education level	Compulsory	793 (30.2%)
	Further education	927 (35.3%)
	Higher education	908 (34.6%)
Live with partner	Yes	1780 (67%)
	< £30K per year	856 (35.3%)
Household income	30K to 50K per year	642 (26.5%)
	> 50K per year	711 (29.3%)
	Not reported	216 (8.9%)
	Own outright	804 (30.0%)
Accommodation status	Current mortgage	1338 (49.9%)
	Rent	448 (16.7%)
	Other	90 (3.4%)

Psychological morbidity	Yes	480 (19.0%)
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K = £1000

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Table 2. Logistic regression multilevel model of factors associated with chronic pain status

Explanatory variable	Univariate model OR (95% CI)	Multivariable model OR (95% CI)
Gender (being female)	1.46 (1.23, 1.73)*	1.55 (1.25, 1.91)*
Age (reference 18yrs to 29yrs)		
30yrs to 49yrs	2.05 (1.53, 2.75)*	2.10 (1.45, 3.03)*
50yrs to 70yrs	4.17 (3.10, 5.60)*	3.98 (2.68, 5.92)*
Over 70yrs	2.82 (1.88, 4.24)*	2.23 (1.26, 3.93)*
Weight (being overweight/obese)	1.04 (0.87, 1.23)	0.98 (0.79, 1.20)
Smoking (yes or previous)	1.56 (1.32, 1.84)*	1.32 (1.07, 1.64)*
Live with smoker (yes)	1.28 (1.01, 1.62)*	0.98 (0.73, 1.33)
Education level (reference University)		
College	1.41 (1.14, 1.74)*	1.15 (0.90, 1.47)
Compulsory	1.99 (1.61, 2.48)*	1.18 (0.89, 1.56)
Live with partner/as couple (no)	0.85 (0.71, 1.02)	0.85 (0.66, 1.09)
Household income (reference > £50K)		
£30K to £50K	1.67 (1.30, 2.13)*	1.50 (1.13, 1.98)*
< £30K	2.40 (1.91, 3.03)*	2.10 (1.54, 2.85)*
Not reported	1.63 (1.15, 2.30)*	1.47 (0.95, 2.26)
Accommodation (reference own outright)		
Current mortgage	0.67 (0.55, 0.82)*	1.01 (0.77, 1.33)
Rent	1.01 (0.79, 1.30)	1.33 (0.94, 1.89)

Other	0.57 (0.34, 0.94)*	1.39 (0.68, 2.82)
Psychological morbidity (yes)	1.01 (0.80, 1.26)	0.99 (0.79, 1.20)

OR – Odds ratio, CI – Confidence Interval, * $p < 0.05$

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Table 3. Influence of shared gender, age, income and smoking status on chronic pain status in index family member

Influence		Influence present	Percentage index family member with chronic pain	Unadjusted OR (95% CI)	OR (95% CI) adjusted for index and exposure age and exposure chronic pain status	% difference [§]
Presence of chronic pain in exposure family member		No	33.3%	1.29 (1.03, 1.63)	1.30 (1.02, 1.65) [#]	5.9%
		Yes	39.2%			
Gender						
Gender	Both male	Yes	31.4%	Reference	Reference	
	Index female, exposure male	Yes	35.9%	1.23 (0.86, 1.76)	1.22 (0.85, 1.75)	4.5%
	Index male, exposure female	Yes	30.7%	0.97 (0.68, 1.39)	0.90 (0.62, 1.30)	-0.7%
	Both female	Yes	40.5%	1.49 (1.07, 2.08)	1.39 (0.99, 1.94)	9.1%
Age						
Age	Both younger (< 30 and 30 to 49)	Yes	27.6%	Reference	Reference	
	Index old, exposure young	Yes	44.5%	2.11 (1.55, 2.87)	2.10 (1.54, 2.86)*	16.9%
	Index young, exposure old	Yes	30.6%	1.16 (0.84, 1.60)	1.09 (0.78, 1.50)*	3.0%
	Both older (50 to 70 and > 70)	Yes	41.9%	1.90 (1.39, 2.61)	1.80 (1.31, 2.48)*	14.3%
Income						
Income	Both high income	Yes	19.1%	Reference	Reference	
	Index medium and exposure high income	Yes	27.3%	1.59 (0.78, 3.22)	1.53 (0.75, 3.11)	8.2%
	Index low and exposure high income	Yes	43.4%	3.25 (1.73, 6.12)	2.84 (1.49, 5.40)	24.3%
	Index high and exposure medium income	Yes	25.0%	1.41 (0.69, 2.91)	1.38 (0.67, 2.86)	5.9%
	Both medium income	Yes	37.7%	2.56 (1.25, 5.25)	2.45 (1.19, 5.04)	18.6%
	Index low and exposure medium income	Yes	44.6%	3.41 (1.74, 6.65)	2.88 (1.46, 5.68)	25.5%
	Index high and exposure low income	Yes	22.4%	1.23 (0.60, 2.49)	1.14 (0.56, 2.33)	3.3%
	Index medium and exposure low income	Yes	41.2%	2.97 (1.56, 5.67)	2.80 (1.45, 5.41)	22.1%

	income					
	Both low income	Yes	47.3%	3.80 (2.02, 7.14)	3.27 (1.72, 6.21)	28.2%
Smoking status	Both never smoked	Yes	32.3%	Reference	Reference	
	Index smoker, exposure never	Yes	41.6%	1.50 (1.10, 2.04)	1.41 (1.03, 1.93)	9.3%
	Index never, exposure smoker	Yes	31.0%	0.95 (0.69, 1.30)	0.88 (0.64, 1.22)	-1.3%
	Both smoke or smoked	Yes	39.7%	1.38 (1.01, 1.90)	1.19 (0.85, 1.64)	7.4%
<p>OR – Odds Ratio, CI – Confidence interval, [#] Adjustment for index and exposure family member age only, * Adjustment for exposure chronic pain status only, [§] Percentage difference from reference category.</p>						

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