<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>Passive smoking: secondhand smoke does cause respiratory disease.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author(s)</strong></td>
<td>Hedley, AJ; Lam, TH; McGhee, SM; Leung, GM; Pow, M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Citation</strong></td>
<td>Bmj (Clinical Research Ed.), 2003, v. 327 n. 7413, p. 502; author reply 505; discussion 505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Issued Date</strong></td>
<td>2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>URL</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10722/43580">http://hdl.handle.net/10722/43580</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rights</strong></td>
<td>B M J. Copyright © B M J Publishing Group.; This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inverse correlation of smoking and education should have raised suspicion

Editor—It is well known that smoking is inversely correlated with education level; the higher the age of a smoker is, the lower among those people who have not completed high school. This inverse correlation of smoking and education has been true for many years. It is referred to in the 15th edition (1977-9) of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Clearly, the bias on the data entry and the programming used by Enstrom and Kabat to perform their analysis,1 because they find that the highest frequency of smoking is associated with the highest level of education.

From their table 2 (male never smokers) and table 3 (female never smokers) sorted by smoking status of spouse, they show that the heaviest smokers (≥40 cigarettes/day) are more likely to have completed high school than are non-smokers. Further, among smokers, they show that for those smoking a higher percentage of smoking was found among those who have not completed high school. This inverse correlation of smoking and education has been true for many years. It is referred to in the 15th edition (1977-9) of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Clearly, the bias on the data entry and the programming used by Enstrom and Kabat to perform their analysis, because they find that the highest frequency of smoking is associated with the highest level of education.

Because the “never smoked/formerly smoked” group does not show the expected higher proportion of high school graduates, this indicates that there were a sizeable number of smokers included among the non-smokers; that would account for the spouses of “non-smokers” not exhibiting a lower rate of heart disease.

John H Glaser
independent researcher
1 Woodpark Cîrcle, Lexington, MA 02421, USA

glaserj@alum.mit.edu

Competing interests: None declared.


Secondhand smoke does cause respiratory disease

Editor—The report by Enstrom and Kabat confirms that exposure to secondhand smoke causes injury to the respiratory system with the finding of a combined inverse correlation of smoking and education among the highest percentage of smokers is found among those who have not completed high school. This inverse correlation of smoking and education has been true for many years. It is referred to in the 15th edition (1977-9) of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Clearly, the bias on the data entry and the programming used by Enstrom and Kabat to perform their analysis, because they find that the highest frequency of smoking is associated with the highest level of education.

From their table 2 (male never smokers) and table 3 (female never smokers) sorted by smoking status of spouse, they show that the heaviest smokers (≥40 cigarettes/day) are more likely to have completed high school than are non-smokers. Further, among smokers, they show that for those smoking a higher percentage of smoking was found among those who have not completed high school. This inverse correlation of smoking and education has been true for many years. It is referred to in the 15th edition (1977-9) of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Clearly, the bias on the data entry and the programming used by Enstrom and Kabat to perform their analysis, because they find that the highest frequency of smoking is associated with the highest level of education.

Because the “never smoked/formerly smoked” group does not show the expected higher proportion of high school graduates, this indicates that there were a sizeable number of smokers included among the non-smokers; that would account for the spouses of “non-smokers” not exhibiting a lower rate of heart disease.

John H Glaser
independent researcher
1 Woodpark Cîrcle, Lexington, MA 02421, USA

glaserj@alum.mit.edu

Competing interests: None declared.