to investigate the association between the attempt and socio-demographic, behavioural and clinical variables.

Methods Data collected in 2008 from PASSI, the Italian behavioural risk factor surveillance system based on telephone interviews of residents aged 18–69 years, were analysed to identify factors associated to quit smoking attempts.

Results Sample analysed included 18,281 current and ex-smokers. Around two out of three people (11,881) tried to quit smoking and among them 3911 (34%) failed the attempt.

A multivariate analysis showed that smoking cessation attempt was more likely among males, older (50–69 years) and married people; among those living with children (<14 yrs), with a temporary job, without economic difficulties and with a high level of education; among those with cardiovascular risk factors (hypertension, hypercholesterolaemia, obesity) and those affected by chronic diseases (almost one among cancer, diabetes and myocardial infarction). On the other side, sedentary people and those with good perceived health status are less intentioned to quit.

Stratification by sex showed a different strength of association between the outcome variable and other variables in males and females, but most important that education and perceived health status are not associated with the attempt to quit smoking among women.

Conclusions Population-based surveillance system tracking the characteristics of ex and current smokers, who tried to quit, may offer a lot of information, otherwise not available, for planning, implementing and evaluating promotion and prevention interventions to support people who try to quit smoking.

Objective To describe and compare physical activity levels, sedentary and moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA) behaviour in HSE2008 in a representative sample of the adult population, using both objective (accelerometry) and subjective (self-report via questionnaire) methods of measurement.


Setting Random sample of the general population living in private households in England.

Participants Subsample of 4507 adults aged 16+ were selected for accelerometer wear, of whom 2115 adults had valid accelerometry data wear (with at least 600 min per day).

Main Outcome Measure Prevalence of those adults who meet the current physical activity (PA) recommendations by accelerometry.

Results Based on accelerometry data, 6% of men and 4% of women met the Chief Medical Officer’s current minimum recommendations for PA by achieving at least 30 min of moderate or vigorous activity on at least 5 days in the week of accelerometer wear. Men and women aged 16–34 were most likely to have met the recommendations (11% and 8%, respectively). In contrast, based on self-report measures, 39% of men and 29% of women were said to have met the PA recommendations. Only 10% of men and 8% of women whose self-reported activity level corresponded with meeting the recommendations also met the recommendations based on accelerometry. Overall, men had significantly longer periods of sedentary time per day than women (595 min and 584 min, respectively), (p=0.003). While men spent an average of 51 min in MVPA in total per day, and women an average of 24 min, most of this was sporadic activity. Those who were not overweight or obese spent few minutes on average in sedentary time (591 min for men and 577 min for women) than those who were obese (612 min for men and 585 for women). Similarly, adults not overweight or obese spent more MVPA minutes than those who were overweight or obese. This pattern was similar with each BMI category.

Conclusion Subjective self-reported method of assessing physical activity resulted in higher levels of activity than objective accelerometer data. Despite this, the results from objective accelerometer data corroborate self-report findings across age and sex. Objective measures provide more accurate data and should be used where available. Comparison between objective and subjective methods indicates that people over estimate their actual physical activity levels.