Conclusion The review provides an overview of research strategies and measures with application and purpose described. Producing a map of how asset-based approaches are evaluated and articulating key methodological differences helps researchers and practitioners select appropriate evaluation methods.

Background Most adolescents do not achieve the recommended level of physical activity (PA) in the UK. Cultural norms – captured by ethnic identity – and social cohesion are aspects of the social environment that have the potential to influence health (behaviours). This study examines the relationships between social cohesion, ethnicity and three common types of PA in adolescents. The objectives are to test whether different types of PA have similar patterns of associations with social cohesion and ethnicity and to investigate confounding and interaction effects.

Methods We used longitudinal data from the Olympic Generation in East London (ORIEL) study. In 2012, 3088 adolescents aged 11–12 were recruited from 25 schools in four deprived and ethnically diverse boroughs of East London. Adolescents were followed-up in 2013 and 2014. Social cohesion was operationalised as trust in people living in the neighbourhood, measured on a four-point scale at wave 2. We grouped ethnic identities into eight categories. The outcomes were self-reported binary variables: walking to school, walking for leisure, and outdoor PA in the neighbourhood. We identified potential confounders. We fitted Generalised Estimating Equation models for each outcome, with a time trend and interaction effects.

Results We found evidence of associations between ethnicity and the PA outcomes. Adjustment for potential confounders (socioeconomic status, health and gender) did not attenuate the relationships. In the fully adjusted models, compared to White British, Black Africans had 1.49 higher odds of outdoor walking to school (95% CI 1.02–1.97) and all ethnic groups had lower odds of walking for leisure (estimated ORs varied between 0.37 and 0.71). While social cohesion was not associated with walking, there was evidence of a dose-response relationship with outdoor PA. A one-category increase in cohesion increased the odds of outdoor PA by 1.18 (95% CI 1.07–1.30). We found no evidence of time*exposure interaction; exposures did not predict change in PA.

Conclusion This study contributes new findings to the evidence base on the social environment and PA. The ethnic diversity of the ORIEL study and its large sample size provided sufficient power to reveal how PA behaviours are patterned by ethnic groups. Further analyses will jointly model the three PA outcomes to better capture the dependency and associations between the exposures and the outcomes.

Background Current evidence linking socioeconomic factors to incident Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) in older populations is conflicting. We investigated the prospective association of individual socioeconomic position and neighbourhood-level socioeconomic deprivation with incident T2DM in older British men, and examined possible underlying factors.

Methods A socially-representative cohort of 3487 men, aged 60–79 years in 1998–2000, from 24 British towns was followed-up for 14 years for incident cases of T2DM. Individual socioeconomic position was based on social class derived from the longest-held occupation in middle-age, and was categorised into non-manual and manual groups. Neighbourhood-level socioeconomic deprivation was based on national Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) quintiles; a composite score of neighbourhood-level factors (income, employment, education, disability, crime, housing and living environment), with a higher score indicating greater deprivation. Follow-up on type 2 diabetes was obtained from reviews of general practitioner records and self-reported from questionnaires. Cox proportional hazards models were used to obtain hazard ratios (HR) and 95% CI for incident diabetes according to social class and IMD quintiles. Prevalent cases of diabetes at baseline were excluded from the analyses.

Results During the follow-up of 14 years, there were 289 incident cases of T2DM (7.1 per 1000 person-years). Diabetes risk increased from higher to lower social class groups and from IMD quintile 1 (least deprived) to quintile 5 (most deprived) (P for trend=0.001). Compared with non-manual social class groups, age-adjusted HR for manual groups was 1.58 (95%CI 1.24–2.01) – this was largely attenuated (1.38; 95%CI 1.08–1.76) on adjustment for body mass index (BMI); adjustment for blood pressure, smoking, alcohol, physical activity, diet, medication and family history resulted in little attenuation while further adjustment for triglyceride levels attenuated the association. Compared with IMD quintile 4, the risk of incident T2DM was highest in IMD quintile 1 (HR=1.79; 95%CI 1.24–2.54). This largely attenuated on adjustment for BMI (HR=1.46; 95%CI 1.02–2.10), and became non-significant after adjustment for lifestyle factors (smoking, alcohol, physical activity and diet).

Conclusion Manual social class and neighbourhood-level socioeconomic deprivation was associated with an increased risk of T2DM in older British men. For social class this was mostly explained by BMI and triglycerides. For neighbourhood-level socioeconomic deprivation it was largely explained by BMI and lifestyle factors. Our results support the need for public health initiatives specifically targeting obesity as a means