

# Frank Popham

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## About me

I am an experienced quantitative social science health researcher. I study health inequalities and population health with a particular interest in how social policy influences them. My studies have used survey and administrative data (including NHS) and involved data linkage. I also work on methodology particularly natural experiment methods. I was involved in one of the first registered reports in medicine and I am an advocate of open science. All my recent code is on Github. From my undergraduate days I have coded, data managed and analysed, moving from SPSS to Stata to R as my main language. I write using Rmarkdown (my website and this CV are written in markdown). I have managed research teams and projects, and supervised students.

## Education

2001	PhD Sociology and Social Policy UK	Newcastle University
1995	BA Hons. Social Policy UK	Newcastle University

## Employment

2023-	NHS Grampian	Senior Specialist Analyst
2022-23	Independent Researcher	NA
2021-22	Research Fellow	Law School, University of Edinburgh
2020-21	Research Fellow	Moray School of Education, University of Edinburgh
2011-20	Senior Research Fellow / (Senior Investigator Scientist 2011-2013, Programme lead 2013-2015)	MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow
2008-11	Research Fellow	School of Geography and Geosciences, University of St Andrews
2007-08	Lecturer in Health and Social Science	Centre for International Public Health Policy, University of Edinburgh
2005-07	Research Fellow	Research Unit in Health, Behaviour and Change, University of Edinburgh
2004-05	Research Fellow	Social Work Research Centre, University of Stirling
2002-04	Research Fellow	Research Unit in Health, Behaviour and Change, University of Edinburgh
2000-02	Research Associate	Department of Sociology and Social Policy, Newcastle University
1995-2000	Teaching Assistant	Department of Sociology and Social Policy, Newcastle University

## Publications

1. Popham, F. (2023). Risk ratio regression—simple concept yet simple computation. *International Journal of Epidemiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyad076>
2. McCartney, G., McMaster, R., Popham, F., Dundas, R., & Walsh, D. (2022). Is austerity a cause of slower improvements in mortality in high-income countries? A panel analysis. *Social Science & Medicine*, 313, 115397. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.115397>
3. Pulford, A., Thapa, A., Thomson, R. M., Guilding, A., Green, M. J., Leyland, A., Popham, F., & Katikireddi, S. V. (2022). Does persistent precarious employment affect health outcomes among working age adults? A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jech-2022-219292>
4. Popham, F. (2021). Definition yes, analysis no: A comment on “analyses of change scores do not estimate causal effects in observational data.” *International Journal of Epidemiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyab202>
5. Popham, F., Whitley, E., Molaodi, O., & Gray, L. (2021). Standard multiple imputation of survey data didn’t perform better than simple substitution in enhancing an administrative dataset: The example of self-rated health in England. *Emerging Themes in Epidemiology*, 18(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12982-021-00099-z>

6. Tweed, E. J., Popham, F., Thomson, H., & Katikireddi, S. V. (2021). Including “inclusion health”? A discourse analysis of health inequalities policy reviews. *Critical Public Health*, 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09581596.2021.1929847>
7. Campbell, D. D., Green, M., Davies, N., Demou, E., Ward, J., Howe, L. D., Harrison, S., Johnston, K. J. A., Strawbridge, R. J., Popham, F., Smith, D. J., Munaf'o, M. R., & Katikireddi, S. V. (2021). Effects of increased body mass index on employment status: A mendelian randomisation study. *International Journal of Obesity*, 45(8), 1790–1801. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41366-021-00846-x>
8. Popham, F., & Iannelli, C. (2021). Does comprehensive education reduce health inequalities? *SSM - Population Health*, 15, 100834. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2021.100834>
9. Karlson, K. B., Popham, F., & Holm, A. (2021). Marginal and conditional confounding using logits. *Sociological Methods & Research*, 4912412199554. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0049124121995548>
10. Baxter, A. J., Dundas, R., Popham, F., & Craig, P. (2021). How effective was England's teenage pregnancy strategy? A comparative analysis of high-income countries. *Social Science & Medicine*, 270, 113685. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.113685>
11. Butler, J., Black, C., Craig, P., Dibben, C., Dundas, R., Boon, M. H., Johnston, M., & Popham, F. (2020). The long-term health effects of attending a selective school: A natural experiment. *BMC Medicine*, 18(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-020-01536-7>
12. Popham, F. (2020). Re: Positive epidemiology? *Epidemiology*, 31(5), e37–e37. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ede.0000000000001203>
13. McCartney, G., Fenton, L., Minton, J., Fischbacher, C., Taulbut, M., Little, K., Humphreys, C., Cumbers, A., Popham, F., & McMaster, R. (2020). Is austerity responsible for the recent change in mortality trends across high-income nations? A protocol for an observational study. *BMJ Open*, 10(1), e034832. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2019-034832>
14. Whitley, E., Benzeval, M., & Popham, F. (2018). Population priorities for successful aging: A randomized vignette experiment. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gby060>
15. Whitley, E., Craig, P., & Popham, F. (2019). Impact of the statutory concessionary travel scheme on bus travel among older people: A natural experiment from England. *Ageing and Society*, 40(11), 2480–2494. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0144686x19000692>
16. McCartney, G., Hearty, W., Arnot, J., Popham, F., Cumbers, A., & McMaster, R. (2019). Impact of political economy on population health: A systematic review of reviews. *American Journal of Public Health*, 109(6), e1–e12. <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.2019.305001>
17. Popham, F. (2019). Controlled mediation as a generalization of interventional mediation. *Epidemiology*, 30(3), e21–e22. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ede.0000000000000980>
18. Seaman, R., Riffe, T., Leyland, A. H., Popham, F., & van Raalte, A. (2019). The increasing lifespan variation gradient by area-level deprivation: A decomposition analysis of Scotland 1981–2011. *Social Science & Medicine*, 230, 147–157. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.04.008>
19. Green, M. J., & Popham, F. (2019). Interpreting mutual adjustment for multiple indicators of socioeconomic position without committing mutual adjustment fallacies. *BMC Public Health*, 19(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-6364-y>
20. McCartney, G., Bartley, M., Dundas, R., Katikireddi, S. V., Mitchell, R., Popham, F., Walsh, D., & Wami, W. (2019). Theorising social class and its application to the study of health inequalities. *SSM - Population Health*, 7, 100315. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2018.10.015>
21. Popham, F., & Whitley, E. (2019). Re. Sensitivity analyses without assumptions. *Epidemiology*, 30(5), e31. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ede.0000000000001043>
22. McCartney, G., Popham, F., McMaster, R., & Cumbers, A. (2019). Defining health and health inequalities. *Public Health*, 172, 22–30. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2019.03.023>

23. Popham, F., & Leyland, A. H. (2018). Assessing confounder balance in outcome regressions. *Epidemiology*, 29(5), e47–e48. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ede.0000000000000871>
24. Boutilier, J., Craig, P., Lewsey, J., Robinson, M., & Popham, F. (2018). Synthetic control methodology as a tool for evaluating population-level health interventions. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 72(8), 673–678. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jech-2017-210106>
25. Keyes, K. M., Rutherford, C., Popham, F., Martins, S. S., & Gray, L. (2018). How healthy are survey respondents compared with the general population? *Epidemiology*, 29(2), 299–307. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ede.0000000000000775>
26. Craig, P., Gibson, M., Campbell, M., Popham, F., & Katikireddi, S. V. (2018). Making the most of natural experiments: What can studies of the withdrawal of public health interventions offer? *Preventive Medicine*, 108, 17–22. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2017.12.025>
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28. Whitley, E., Benzeval, M., & Popham, F. (2016). Associations of successful aging with socioeconomic position across the life-course: The West of Scotland Twenty-07 prospective cohort study. *Journal of Aging and Health*, 30(1), 52–74. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0898264316665208>
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32. Green, M. J., Espie, C. A., Popham, F., Robertson, T., & Benzeval, M. (2017). Insomnia symptoms as a cause of type 2 diabetes incidence: A 20 year cohort study. *BMC Psychiatry*, 17(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-017-1268-4>
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35. Craig, P., Dundas, R., Leyland, A., & Popham, F. (2016). How successful was the English teenage pregnancy strategy? *The Lancet*, 388(10060), 2604. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(16\)32223-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(16)32223-1)
36. Curnock, E., Leyland, A. H., & Popham, F. (2016). The impact on health of employment and welfare transitions for those receiving out-of-work disability benefits in the UK. *Social Science & Medicine*, 162, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2016.05.042>
37. Popham, F. (2016). Re: Lies, damned lies, and health inequality measurements understanding the value judgments. *Epidemiology*, 27(3), e15–e16. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ede.0000000000000440>
38. Popham, F. (2016). Converting between marginal effect measures from binomial models. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 45(2), 590–591. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyv323>

39. Green, M. J., & Popham, F. (2016). Life course models: Improving interpretation by consideration of total effects. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, dyw329. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyw329>
40. Whitley, E., Popham, F., & Benzeval, M. (2016). Comparison of the Rowe-Kahn model of successful aging with self-rated health and life satisfaction: The West of Scotland Twenty-07 prospective cohort study. *The Gerontologist*, 56(6), 1082–1092. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnv054>
41. Seaman, R., Leyland, A. H., & Popham, F. (2015). How have trends in lifespan variation changed since 1950? A comparative study of 17 Western European countries. *The European Journal of Public Health*, 26(2), 360–362. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckv185>
42. Seaman, R., Mitchell, R., Dundas, R., Leyland, A., & Popham, F. (2015). How much of the difference in life expectancy between Scottish cities does deprivation explain? *BMC Public Health*, 15(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-015-2358-1>
43. Robertson, T., Benzeval, M., Whitley, E., & Popham, F. (2015). The role of material, psychosocial and behavioral factors in mediating the association between socioeconomic position and allostatic load (measured by cardiovascular, metabolic and inflammatory markers). *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*, 45, 41–49. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbi.2014.10.005>
44. Clemens, T., Popham, F., & Boyle, P. (2014). What is the effect of unemployment on all-cause mortality? A cohort study using propensity score matching. *European Journal of Public Health*, 25(1), 115–121. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/cku136>
45. Popham, F., Williamson, L., & Whitley, E. (2014). Is changing status through housing tenure associated with changes in mental health? Results from the British Household Panel Survey. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 69(1), 6–11. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jech-2014-203990>
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48. Shaw, R. J., Green, M. J., Popham, F., & Benzeval, M. (2014). Differences in adiposity trajectories by birth cohort and childhood social class: Evidence from cohorts born in the 1930s, 1950s and 1970s in the west of Scotland. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 68(6), 550–556. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jech-2013-203551>
49. Robertson, T., Popham, F., & Benzeval, M. (2014). Socioeconomic position across the lifecourse & allostatic load: Data from the West of Scotland Twenty-07 cohort study. *BMC Public Health*, 14(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-14-184>
50. Shaw, R. J., Benzeval, M., & Popham, F. (2014). To what extent do financial strain and labour force status explain social class inequalities in self-rated health? Analysis of 20 countries in the European Social Survey. *PLoS ONE*, 9(10), e110362. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0110362>
51. Campbell, M., Egan, M., Lorenc, T., Bond, L., Popham, F., Fenton, C., & Benzeval, M. (2014). Considering methodological options for reviews of theory: Illustrated by a review of theories linking income and health. *Systematic Reviews*, 3(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/2046-4053-3-114>
52. Popham, F., Dibben, C., & Bambra, C. (2013). Are health inequalities really not the smallest in the nordic welfare states? A comparison of mortality inequality in 37 countries. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 67(5), 412–418. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jech-2012-201525>

53. Sweeting, H., Bhaskar, A., Benzeval, M., Popham, F., & Hunt, K. (2013). Changing gender roles and attitudes and their implications for well-being around the new millennium. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 49(5), 791–809. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-013-0730-y>
54. Whitley, E., Batty, G. D., Hunt, K., Popham, F., & Benzeval, M. (2013). The role of health behaviours across the life course in the socioeconomic patterning of all-cause mortality: The West of Scotland Twenty-07 prospective cohort study. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 47(2), 148–157. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12160-013-9539-x>
55. Popham, F., Skivington, K., & Benzeval, M. (2012). Why do those out of work because of sickness or disability have a high mortality risk? Evidence from a Scottish cohort. *European Journal of Public Health*, 23(4), 629–635. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/cks164>
56. Dibben, C., & Popham, F. (2012). Are health inequalities evident at all ages? An ecological study of English mortality records. *The European Journal of Public Health*, 23(1), 39–45. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/cks019>
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58. Katikireddi, S. V., Niedzwiedz, C. L., & Popham, F. (2012). Trends in population mental health before and after the 2008 recession: A repeat cross-sectional analysis of the 1991-2010 health surveys of England. *BMJ Open*, 2(5), e001790. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2012-001790>
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