

BMJ Open Inequalities in healthcare disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic: evidence from 12 UK population-based longitudinal studies

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ABSTRACT

Objectives We investigated associations between multiple sociodemographic characteristics (sex, age, occupational social class, education and ethnicity) and self-reported healthcare disruptions during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Design Coordinated analysis of prospective population surveys.

Setting Community-dwelling participants in the UK between April 2020 and January 2021.

Participants Over 68 000 participants from 12 longitudinal studies.

Outcomes Self-reported healthcare disruption to medication access, procedures and appointments.

Results Prevalence of healthcare disruption varied substantially across studies: between 6% and 32% reported any disruption, with 1%–10% experiencing disruptions in medication, 1%–17% experiencing disruption in procedures and 4%–28% experiencing disruption in clinical appointments. Females (OR 1.27; 95% CI 1.15 to 1.40; $I^2=54%$), older persons (eg, OR 1.39; 95% CI 1.13 to 1.72; $I^2=77%$ for 65–75 years vs 45–54 years) and ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities) (OR 1.19; 95% CI 1.05 to 1.35; $I^2=0%$ vs white) were more likely to report healthcare disruptions. Those in a more disadvantaged social class were also more likely to report healthcare disruptions (eg, OR 1.17; 95% CI 1.08 to 1.27; $I^2=0%$ for manual/routine vs managerial/professional), but no clear differences were observed by education. We did not find evidence that these associations differed by shielding status.

Conclusions Healthcare disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic could contribute to the maintenance or widening of existing health inequalities.

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all aspects of society. Health systems worldwide have faced major disruption as they respond to large increases in demand arising from the

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY

- ⇒ We conducted coordinated primary analyses in 12 UK longitudinal population studies, and pooled results using a random effects meta-analysis.
- ⇒ Use of multiple studies increased statistical power to look at subpopulations such as ethnic minority groups across cohorts and allowed for greater examination of how inequalities were patterned by age.
- ⇒ Most studies were weighted to be representative of their target ages in the UK population, and findings were robust to excluding those that were not.
- ⇒ We did not adjust for whether respondents needed healthcare, so the inequalities observed may be at least partly attributable to inequalities in needing healthcare.
- ⇒ Data on prepandemic healthcare disruption were not available, so we could not tell if inequalities in healthcare disruption had widened or narrowed during the pandemic.

COVID-19 disease.^{1–5} Furthermore, healthcare access has been reduced by governmental control measures and the public's fear of contracting infection.⁶ Disruptions may have both short-term and long-term health consequences as preventive treatments are foregone, disease surveillance is interrupted and disease diagnoses are delayed. While the disruption of health systems can impact the entire population, it has become apparent that not all groups have been affected equally. For example, recent evidence has demonstrated that both elective and emergency hospital admissions vary by socioeconomic deprivation and ethnic minority quintiles, with the more deprived areas showing a large fall in elective admissions, and areas with

high ethnic minority populations showing larger falls in emergency admissions.⁵ Understanding the impacts of the pandemic on health systems and on equity of healthcare access is therefore a major policy priority.

In the UK, the National Health Service (NHS) provides free healthcare and prioritises equity of delivery. However, the UK's relatively high COVID-19 burden and associated repeated lockdown measures have raised concerns that the health system may not be providing accessible care to those who need it most. Recent reports from NHS Digital indicate a large increase in those waiting 12 months or more for elective treatments in February 2021 compared with March 2020.⁷ Furthermore, despite decreases in attendance at accident and emergency (A&E) services,⁴ the number of patients waiting over 12 hours for admission was 34% higher in January 2021 than January 2020. Disruption to pharmacological treatments has also been reported with delays in accessing medication.^{8,9} However, a comprehensive assessment of inequalities in healthcare disruption in the community is lacking.

It is well known that health systems do not meet the needs of all social groups equitably, with marked health inequalities by sex, ethnicity and socioeconomic position.^{10–11} For example, the inverse care law demonstrates that health service provision is often not allocated according to need, with more socioeconomically deprived areas relatively underserved.¹² Given the barriers that some social groups face in accessing high-quality healthcare, there is considerable concern that disadvantaged groups (eg, ethnic minorities) will be disproportionately impacted by healthcare disruption during the COVID-19 pandemic, as some emerging evidence suggests.^{13,14}

Harnessing multiple longitudinal studies allows inequalities to be studied in detail by improving statistical power and allows consistency of findings to be investigated. We therefore aimed to investigate inequalities in healthcare disruption during the COVID-19 pandemic in 12 population-based longitudinal studies, to help inform targeting of policy responses as we move out of the acute phases of the pandemic. We investigate healthcare disruptions (including prescription or medication access, procedures or surgery, clinical appointments) by sex, age, ethnicity, education and occupational social class and we explore whether associations differ by age, or for those who have been recommended to 'shield' due to clinical vulnerability.

METHODS

Design

The UK National Core Studies–Longitudinal Health and Wellbeing programme aims to draw together data from multiple UK population-based longitudinal studies to answer questions relevant to the pandemic response. By coordinating analyses within each study and statistically pooling results in a meta-analysis, we can provide robust evidence to understand healthcare disruptions during the pandemic.

Participants

Data were from 12 UK population studies which had conducted surveys both before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Details of the design, sample frames, current age range, timing of the COVID-19 surveys, response rates and analytical sample size are available in online supplemental table S1 in supplementary file 4.

Our population of interest is the current UK population aged 16 years or older. The following studies are considered to be nationally representative samples of their target age groups: the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS)¹⁵; Next Steps (NS)¹⁶; the 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70)¹⁷; the National Child Development Study (NCDS)¹⁸; the National Survey of Health and Development (NSHD)^{19,20}; Understanding Society (USOC)²¹; and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA).²² We also included the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC-G1)²³; the parents of the ALSPAC-G1 cohort which we refer to as ALSPAC-G0²⁴; the Born in Bradford (BIB) study^{25,26}; Generation Scotland: the Scottish Family Health Study (GS)²⁷; and the UK Adult Twin Registry (TwinsUK).^{28,29} We present the results from all 12 studies in the main manuscript and results restricted to representative samples in online supplemental file 1.

We can further categorise these studies into age-homogenous birth cohorts (where all individuals were of similar age within each cohort) and age-heterogeneous studies (each covering a range of age groups). The age-homogenous studies include MCS, ALSPAC-G1, NS, BCS, NCDS and NSHD. The age-heterogeneous studies include BIB, USOC, GS, ALSPAC-G0, TwinsUK and ELSA. Analytical samples were defined within each study based on respondents who had no missing data on at least one healthcare disruption outcome in a COVID-19 survey and on a minimum set of covariates (sex, ethnicity and age where relevant). Most studies were weighted to be representative of their target populations accounting for differential non-response.^{20,30,31} Weights were not available for BIB or TwinsUK. Studies were ordered for presentation by age of sample (youngest to oldest), with the age-homogenous cohorts first, followed by the age-heterogeneous studies. Missing data within surveys were generally low, especially for healthcare disruption variables, but approximately 5%–10% of respondents across studies were excluded due to missing baseline covariates.

Measures

Below we describe the overall approach to measuring each variable in the analysis.

Outcomes

We assessed self-reported disruptions to prescriptions or medication access; procedures or surgery; and appointments (eg, with a general practitioner or outpatient services); and a combined variable indicating disruptions to any of the aforementioned. Any deviation from planned or existing treatment was coded as a disruption, regardless of the reason for the disruption. The wording

of the questions was the same for MCS, NS, BCS70, NCDS and NSHD. There was variation in how the questions were asked in the other studies. Full details of the questions and coding used within each study are available in online supplemental file 2. ALSPAC did not have information about prescriptions or medication access. BIB did not have information about procedures or surgery. TwinsUK did not have information about procedures or surgery or appointments. Where multiple pandemic survey waves had been included, we coded for any disruptions reported up to and including the most recent. This meant at least 7 months of follow-up for most studies (GS had five and ELSA had four, while ALSPAC had the longest follow-up period at 9 months). Online supplemental table S3 shows how the prevalence for any experience of each disruption accumulated across the six USOC surveys. The majority of those who experienced each type of healthcare disruption had already experienced it by the end of May 2020.

Indicators of inequality

We assessed inequalities associated with key sociodemographic characteristics, that is, sex, age, ethnicity, education and occupational social class. For age, we considered age groups categorised as: 16–24; 25–34; 35–44; 45–54; 55–64; 65–74; and 75+ years. Depending on the level of detail of ethnicity available, we examined both a binary (white (including white minorities) vs ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities)) and a finer categorisation of ethnicity (white, south asian, black, mixed, other asian, other ethnic minority). For education, we distinguished between degree or equivalent; A-level or equivalent (ie, post-compulsory schooling qualifications); General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) or equivalent (ie, qualifications for completing compulsory schooling); and fewer or no qualifications. We also examined occupational class with the following categories (based on different coding schemes in different studies): professional/managerial; intermediate; routine/manual; and other (which included never/long-term non-employed and, in some studies, respondents who could not be classified elsewhere). Respondents' education and occupational class were not available in the MCS or ALSPAC-G1, so we considered parental education or household social class. For full details, see online supplemental file 2.

Moderators

We decided *a priori* to examine modification by age and clinical vulnerability to COVID-19 to see whether inequalities varied by life stage or were particularly acute for those with higher healthcare needs and at higher risk from COVID-19 harms. For moderation by age, the age-heterogeneous studies split their samples into the age bands covered, while age-homogeneous cohorts were included within the appropriate age bands (see above for banding). In the UK, clinically extremely vulnerable people were advised to stay at home ('shield') during the pandemic. Respondents were directly asked whether they had received a letter from the NHS advising them to stay

at home and protect themselves. Specific survey questions can be found in online supplemental file 2.

Other variables

The following covariates were also included where relevant and available within each study: UK nation (ie, England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland); household composition (based on partnership status and whether there were children in the household); and prepandemic self-reported health (good vs poor).

Analysis

Within each study, distributions of sociodemographic characteristics and healthcare disruption were examined. Then, each healthcare disruption outcome was regressed on each indicator of inequality (ie, sex, age, ethnicity, education and occupational class). Unadjusted associations are included in online supplemental file 3. Since our aim was primarily to describe inequalities, we focus on presenting associations with minimal adjustment only for sex, age and ethnicity when applicable. To assess whether associations were independent of other related factors, we also provide results in online supplemental file 3 for any healthcare disruption which additionally adjust for education, occupational class, UK nation (where appropriate), household composition and prepandemic self-reported health. Moderation by age and shielding status was assessed using stratified models.

Results were then meta-analysed for each outcome for the full sample, and within age and shielding strata. We used a random effects meta-analysis with restricted maximum likelihood. For stratified results, a test of group differences was performed using the subgroup meta-analysis command. We report heterogeneity using the I^2 statistic (0% indicates low variation between estimates across studies, while values closer to 100% indicate greater heterogeneity).

Finally, in sensitivity analyses we restricted the meta-analyses to representative studies (MCS, NS, BCS70, NCDS and NSHD, USOC and ELSA). Meta-analyses were conducted in Stata V.16.³²

Patient and public involvement

None.

RESULTS

Descriptive statistics

The distribution of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics within each study is presented in table 1. A total of 68 912 participants were included in the coordinated analysis. Due to study design, participants from BIB were all female, as were the vast majority (89.4%) from TwinsUK. The age ranged from 16 years in BIB and USOC to 90+ years in TwinsUK and ELSA.

Overall, the prevalence of any healthcare disruption ranged from 6.4% in TwinsUK to 31.8% in USOC (figure 1). Table 2 shows that disruptions to medical

Table 1 Per cent (and n) distribution of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics by study

	MCS	ALSPAC-G1	NS	BCS70	NCDS	NSHD	BIB	USOC	GS	ALSPAC-G0	TwinsUK	ELSA
Total analytic, n	3147	3430	3311	5175	5747	1569	1726	13253	17139	3625	4282	6508
Female	65.0 (2045)	65.3 (2240)	64.8 (2145)	57.9 (2994)	53.7 (3086)	52.6 (825)	100.0 (1726)	57.9 (7868)	67.0 (11476)	73.1 (2651)	89.4 (3830)	56.3 (3663)
Mean age in 2020 (range)	19.5 (18.7–20.1)	28.4 (27–29)	30.6 (29.9–31.4)	50.5 (50.4–50.6)	62.6 (62.5–62.7)	74	37.5 (16–54)	51.1 (16–54)	57.0 (18–96.2)	59.4 (45–89)	61.2 (22–96)	69.3 (52–90+)
Ethnicity												
White	86.1 (2708)	98.4 (3330)	74.6 (2470)	NA	NA	NA	37.8 (653)	98.3 (16 843)	87.2 (11 561)	98.4 (3567)	97.1 (4156)	95.9 (6239)
South Asian	7.6 (240)	NA	15.0 (496)	NA	NA	NA	56.1 (968)	0.4 (70)	6.7 (885)	NA	0.7 (28)	2.1 (135)
East Asian	1.0 (30)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.3 (51)	1.2 (155)	NA	0.1 (3)	NA
Black	2.6 (83)	NA	3.8 (127)	NA	NA	NA	2.0 (34)	0.1 (21)	2.5 (334)	NA	1.1 (45)	1.2 (75)
Mixed	2.4 (76)	NA	4.6 (152)	NA	NA	NA	1.4 (24)	0.6 (105)	1.8 (241)	NA	0.9 (38)	0.9 (59)
Other	0.3 (10)	NA	2.0 (66)	NA	NA	NA	2.7 (47)	0.3 (49)	0.6 (77)	NA	0.3 (12)	NA
All ethnic minorities	13.9 (439)	2.9 (100)	25.4 (841)	NA	NA	NA	62.2 (1073)	1.3 (226)	12.8 (1692)	1.6 (58)	2.9 (126)	4.1 (269)
Education												
Higher education or degree	55.9 (1758)	29.0 (994)	48.9 (1620)	46.6 (2411)	46.0 (2646)	29.0 (994)	35.1 (556)	50.7 (8602)	47.1 (6238)	29.7 (1075)	55.7 (2386)	25.6 (1666)
A-level or equivalent	15.0 (473)	35.1 (1203)	23.4 (773)	14.2 (733)	18.0 (1034)	35.1 (1203)	17.2 (273)	35.9 (6096)	11.6 (1543)	29.7 (1078)	11.6 (498)	27.6 (1798)
GCSE or equivalent	19.5 (615)	26.1 (896)	19.0 (628)	23.4 (1209)	22.8 (1311)	26.1 (896)	22.3 (354)	6.2 (1046)	25.2 (3341)	30.3 (1098)	20.5 (877)	22.3 (1452)
<GCSE or none	9.6 (301)	9.83 (337)	8.8 (290)	15.9 (822)	13.2 (756)	9.8 (337)	25.5 (405)	7.2 (1214)	16.1 (2131)	10.3 (374)	12.2 (521)	24.5 (1592)
Social class												
Managerial, admin, professional	51.3 (1614)	18.0 (616)	47.6 (1575)	42.7 (2209)	23.0 (1319)	18 (616)	31.2 (475)	81.0 (10 716)	35.0 (4639)	13.4 (486)	NA	32.4 (2111)
Intermediate	15.4 (484)	46.2 (1583)	18.9 (625)	21.1 (1091)	14.9 (856)	46.1 (1583)	35.7 (545)	14.4 (1906)	17.1 (2264)	41.2 (1492)	NA	23.0 (1497)
Manual/routine	18.9 (595)	35.3 (1212)	15.0 (495)	19.5 (1009)	16.5 (948)	35.3 (1212)	25.3 (386)	4.4 (581)	20.1 (2663)	44.6 (1617)	NA	28.2 (1834)
Other	14.4 (454)	0.6 (19)	18.6 (616)	16.7 (866)	45.7 (2624)	0.6 (19)	7.8 (119)	0.2 (27)	27.8 (3687)	0.8 (30)	NA	16.4 (1066)
Instructed to shield	2.5 (79)	NA	3.3 (110)	5.2 (267)	6.9 (393)	8.8 (101)	7.6 (131)	6.2 (825)	7.8 (1332)	NA	5.9 (252)	16.3 (1062)

Sources: Millennium Cohort Study (MCS); Children of the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC-G1); Next Steps (NS); 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70); National Child Development Study (NCDS); National Survey of Health and Development (NSHD); Born in Bradford (BIB); Understanding Society (USOC); Generation Scotland: the Scottish Family Health Study (GS); parents of ALSPAC (ALSPAC-G0); UK Adult Twin Registry (TwinsUK); English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA).

Studies are ordered by age homogeneity/heterogeneity and mean age of respondents at the time of the interview. Samples for each study are restricted to respondents with non-missing information on healthcare disruptions and valid information on sex, social class, education and (where applicable) age and ethnicity. All information about how data were collected and variables were coded is available in online supplemental file 2.

Unweighted data.

GCSE, General Certificate of Secondary Education; NA, not available/info not collected.

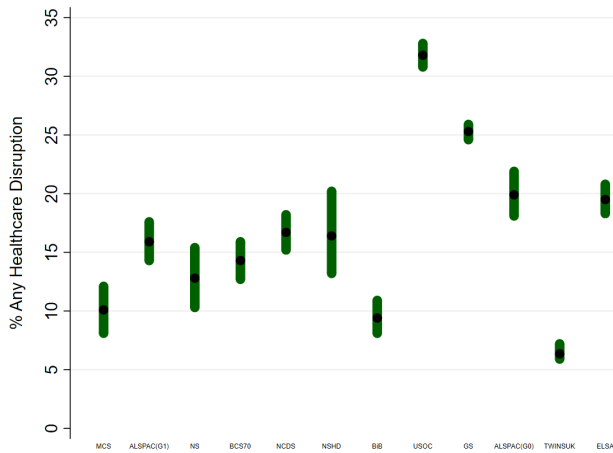


Figure 1 Prevalence (and 95% CIs) of any healthcare disruption by study. Sources: Millennium Cohort Study (MCS); Children of the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC-G1); Next Steps (NS); 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70); National Child Development Study (NCDS); National Survey of Health and Development (NSHD); Born in Bradford (BIB); Understanding Society (USOC); Generation Scotland: the Scottish Family Health Study (GS); parents of ALSPAC (ALSPAC-G0); UK Adult Twin Registry (TwinsUK); English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). Studies are ordered by age homogeneity/heterogeneity and mean age of respondents at the time of the interview. Samples for each study were restricted to respondents with non-missing information on healthcare disruptions and valid information on sex, social class, education and (where applicable) age and ethnicity. All information about how data were collected and variables were coded is available in online supplemental file 2.

appointments were most common, ranging from 3.5% (ELSA) to 28.4% (USOC). Disruptions in prescriptions or medication access varied from 0.8% (ELSA) to 10.4% (GS). Disruptions to procedures or surgery were least common ranging from 0.7% (MCS) to 16.8% (ELSA).

The following sections describe the results adjusted for sex, age and ethnicity when applicable. Unadjusted results and results adjusted for education, occupational class, UK nation (where appropriate), household composition and pre-pandemic self-reported health can be found in online supplemental file 3. The associations were largely robust to further adjustment.

Sex and healthcare disruptions

Across all studies, females were generally more likely to report any healthcare disruptions than males (see online supplemental table S4 for details).

Pooled results from the meta-analysis demonstrate that females had increased odds of any healthcare disruption compared with males (OR 1.27; 95% CI 1.15 to 1.40; $I^2=54%$, figure 2, online supplemental file 3). Similar associations were observed for disruptions to appointments (OR 1.33; 95% CI 1.17 to 1.52; $I^2=60%$). The association between sex and disruptions to procedures and

Table 2 Per cent prevalence (and 95% CIs) of healthcare disruptions during the pandemic by study

	MCS	ALSPAC-G1	NS	BCS 70	NCDS	NSHD	BIB	USOC	GS	ALSPAC-G0	TwinsUK	ELSA
Prescription/ medication access	4.0 (2.3 to 5.5)	NA	3.8 (2.3 to 5.3)	3.4 (2.7 to 4.2)	2.4 (1.8 to 3.0)	2.2 (1.3 to 3.8)	1.2 (0.7 to 1.7)	5.5 (5.0 to 6.1)	10.4 (9.9 to 10.9)	NA	2.9 (2.5 to 3.3)	0.8 (0.6 to 1.2)
Procedures or surgery	0.7 (0.0 to 1.2)	1.6 (1.2 to 2.1)	2.1 (0.0 to 3.8)	1.0 (0.7 to 1.2)	2.8 (2.0 to 3.5)	2.5 (1.4 to 4.4)	NA	12.3 (11.6 to 13.0)	2.1 (1.9 to 2.4)	2.9 (2.1 to 3.9)	NA	16.8 (15.7 to 17.9)
Appointments	6.2 (4.9 to 7.6)	11.7 (10.3 to 13.2)	7.3 (5.6 to 9.0)	10.6 (9.2 to 12.1)	12.1 (10.9 to 13.3)	12.0 (9.3 to 15.6)	8.6 (7.4 to 10.1)	28.4 (27.4 to 29.4)	16.6 (16.0 to 17.1)	14.4 (12.8 to 16.2)	NA	3.5 (2.9 to 4.1)
Any healthcare disruption	10.1 (8.1 to 12.1)	15.9 (14.3 to 17.6)	12.8 (10.3 to 15.4)	14.3 (12.7 to 15.9)	16.7 (15.2 to 18.2)	16.4 (13.2 to 20.2)	9.4 (8.1 to 10.9)	31.8 (30.8 to 32.8)	25.3 (24.6 to 25.9)	19.9 (18.1 to 21.9)	6.35 (5.9 to 7.2)	19.5 (18.3 to 20.8)

Sources: Millennium Cohort Study (MCS); Children of the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC-G1); Next Steps (NS); 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70); National Child Development Study (NCDS); National Survey of Health and Development (NSHD); Born in Bradford (BIB); Understanding Society (USOC); Generation Scotland: the Scottish Family Health Study (GS); parents of ALSPAC (ALSPAC-G0); UK Adult Twin Registry (TwinsUK); English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA).
 Studies are ordered by age homogeneity/heterogeneity and mean age of respondents at the time of the interview. Samples for each study were restricted to respondents with non-missing information on healthcare disruptions and valid information on sex, social class, education and (where applicable) age and ethnicity. All information about how data were collected and variables were coded is available in online supplemental file 2.
 TwinsUK had an additional question: 'Have you experienced healthcare disruption as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?'. These data were also used to derive the 'any healthcare disruption' variable for TwinsUK.
 Weighted data where applicable.
 NA, not available/info not collected.

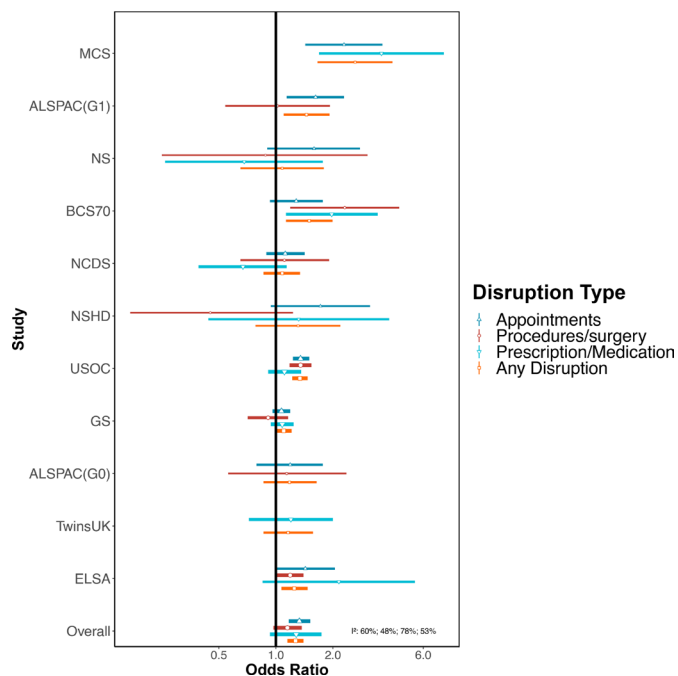


Figure 2 Associations between female (compared with male) sex and healthcare disruption. Sources: Millennium Cohort Study (MCS); Children of the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC-G1); Next Steps (NS); 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70); National Child Development Study (NCDS); National Survey of Health and Development (NSHD); Understanding Society (USOC); Generation Scotland: the Scottish Family Health Study (GS); parents of ALSPAC (ALSPAC-G0); UK Adult Twin Registry (TwinsUK); English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). Adjusted for age and ethnicity where applicable.

medications crossed the null (online supplemental file 3 and figure 2).

There were differences in the association between sex and healthcare disruption when stratified by age ($p < 0.001$, online supplemental file 3). The odds of having any healthcare disruption for females was highest among 16–24-year-olds (OR 2.22; 95% CI 1.63 to 3.02; $I^2 = 0\%$, Supplementary File 3). An association between sex and healthcare disruption was observed up to age 54 years but there were no clear associations among those aged 55 years and above. There was no evidence that the association between sex and healthcare disruption differed by shielding and non-shielding groups (Supplementary File 3).

Age and healthcare disruptions

A higher prevalence of having any healthcare disruption was observed among older participants of the national birth cohorts where the same questionnaire was used (figure 1). This age difference was also observed among the ALSPAC studies and for other age-heterogenous studies as seen in online supplemental table S4.

The meta-analysis including age-heterogenous studies was supportive of age differences for any healthcare disruptions (eg, OR 1.39; 95% CI 1.13 to 1.72; $I^2 = 77\%$ for 65–75 years vs 45–54 years) (figure 3, online supplemental

file 3). Disruptions seemed less likely in younger age groups and more likely among older age groups, though some estimates cross the null and had high heterogeneity, which may be because of few studies in specific age categories (figure 3, online supplemental file 3). Associations for disruptions to medical appointments and procedures or surgery showed these age differences more clearly (figure 3, online supplemental file 3).

There were no clear differences in the association with age and any healthcare disruption by shielding status. However, for those who were shielding, CIs were wide (Supplementary File 3). The magnitude for the association of healthcare disruption among 75 year-olds and above vs 45–54-year-olds was higher among the non-shielding group (OR 1.61; 95% CI 1.17 to 2.22; $I^2 = 79\%$) compared with the shielding group (OR 0.83; 95% CI 0.51 to 1.37; $I^2 = 83\%$, Supplementary File 3).

Ethnicity and healthcare disruptions

Among the studies that had data on ethnicity, between 7.8% (BIB) and 31.9% (USOC) of the white groups reported healthcare disruption. Between 8.3% (TwinsUK) and 23.6% (GS) of ethnic minority groups reported having any healthcare disruption (online supplemental table S4).

In meta-analysis, ethnic minorities compared with white groups had increased odds of any healthcare disruption (OR 1.19; 95% CI 1.05 to 1.35; $I^2 = 0\%$, figure 4 and Supplementary File 3). This association was less clear for specific domains of healthcare disruption (figure 4, online supplemental file 3). Among the studies that had a finer categorisation of ethnicity, only the black ethnic groups had clearly raised odds for any healthcare disruption compared with white groups (OR 1.38; 95% CI 1.03 to 1.84; $I^2 = 0\%$). Associations with healthcare disruption were less evident for other ethnic groups but were imprecisely estimated (figure 4, online supplemental file 3).

There were no major differences in associations between ethnicity and any healthcare disruption by age, though this may simply be due to low power as CIs were wide (Supplementary File 3). The clearest associations with ethnic minority groups were within the age ranges of 35–44 and 45–74 years (OR 1.31; 95% CI 1.01 to 1.71; $I^2 = 0\%$ and OR 1.61; 95% CI 1.16 to 2.22; $I^2 = 0\%$). The mixed ethnicity group was also at particular risk for disruption in the 16–24 years age range (OR 2.50; 95% CI 1.25 to 5.02; $I^2 = 0\%$). The magnitude for the association between any healthcare disruptions among ethnic minority groups versus white groups was higher among those who were shielding (OR 1.56; 95% CI 1.01 to 2.39; compared with OR 1.06; 95% CI 0.86 to 1.31 for non-shielding). This observation was consistent across more granular ethnicity categories, but CIs were wide (Supplementary File 3).

Education and healthcare disruptions

There was no clear pattern in the prevalence of healthcare disruption across education levels. For example, in

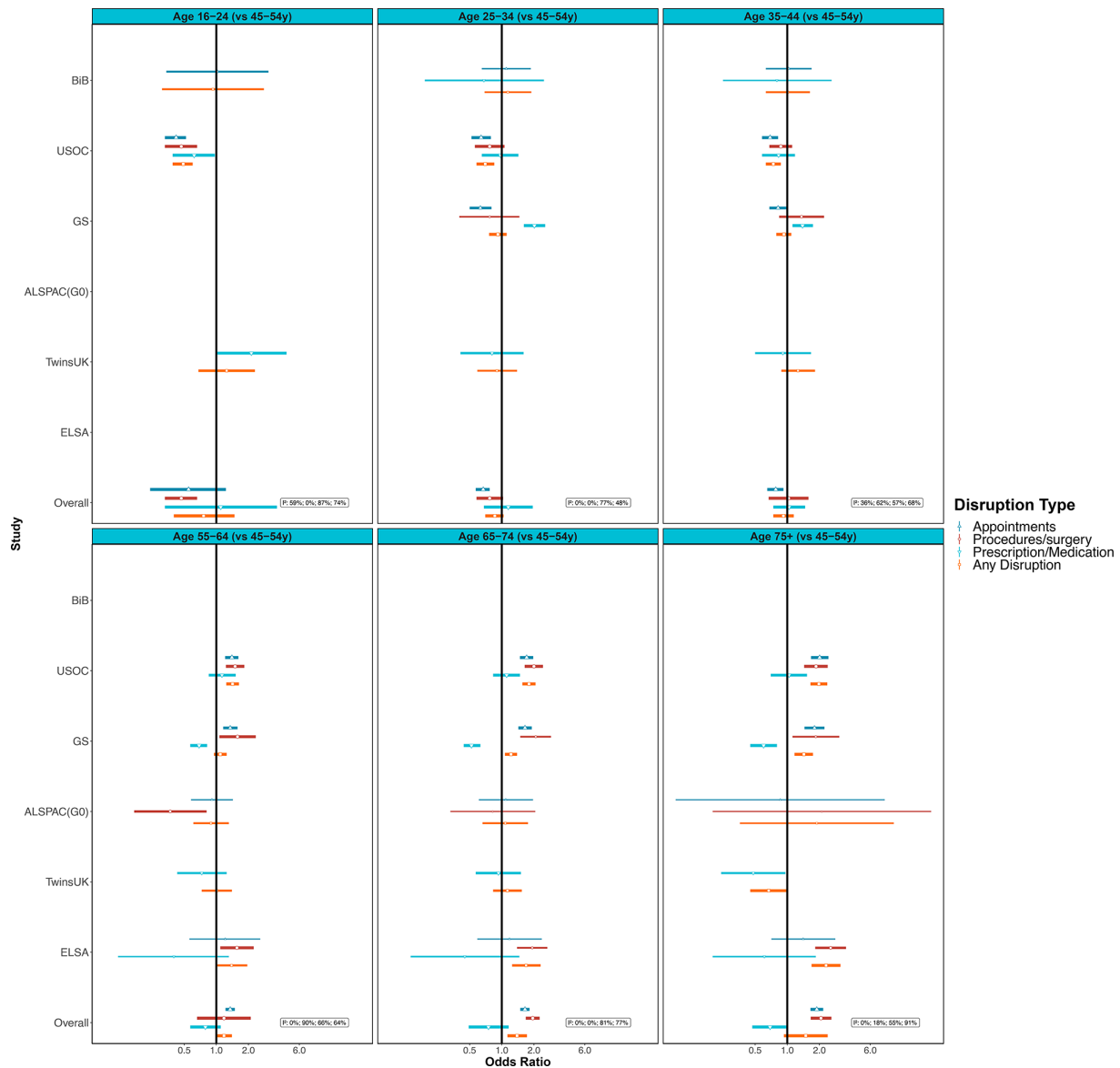


Figure 3 Associations between age (compared with 45–54 year-olds) and healthcare disruption. Sources: Born in Bradford (BIB); Understanding Society (USOC); Generation Scotland: the Scottish Family Health Study (GS); parents of ALSPAC (ALSPAC-G0); UK Adult Twin Registry (TwinsUK); English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). Adjusted for sex and ethnicity where applicable.

USOC 29.7% of those with any healthcare disruption had a degree or equivalent and 39% had no school-leaving qualifications. In TwinsUK, 9.9% of those with any healthcare disruption had a degree or equivalent and 6.1% had no school leaving (online supplemental table S4).

In meta-analysis, we did not observe clear associations between education level and healthcare disruption, other than that those without school-leaving qualifications had raised odds of disruptions to procedures or surgery (OR 1.26; 95% CI 1.11 to 1.44; $I^2=0\%$; Supplementary File 3 and figure 5). We did not observe differences by age or shielding status (Supplementary File 3).

Occupational class and healthcare disruptions

The prevalence of any healthcare disruption ranged from 9.7% (BIB) to 25.7% (USOC) among the professional/

managerial social class and from 9.3% (BIB) to 27.6% (USOC) for the manual/routine social class (online supplemental table S4).

Results from meta-analysis show that those in a more disadvantaged occupational class were more likely to report any healthcare disruptions (eg, OR 1.17; 95% CI 1.08 to 1.27; $I^2=0\%$ for manual/routine compared with professional/managerial, figure 6, online supplemental file 3). The OR was greatest for the other occupational class category (OR 1.51; 95% CI 1.12 to 2.04); however, the I^2 was also large (80%). "The large I^2 implies considerable between study heterogeneity. It is worth noting that two of the four individual studies (MCS and ELSA) that did not show clear associations for this category were at the extremes of the age range considered.

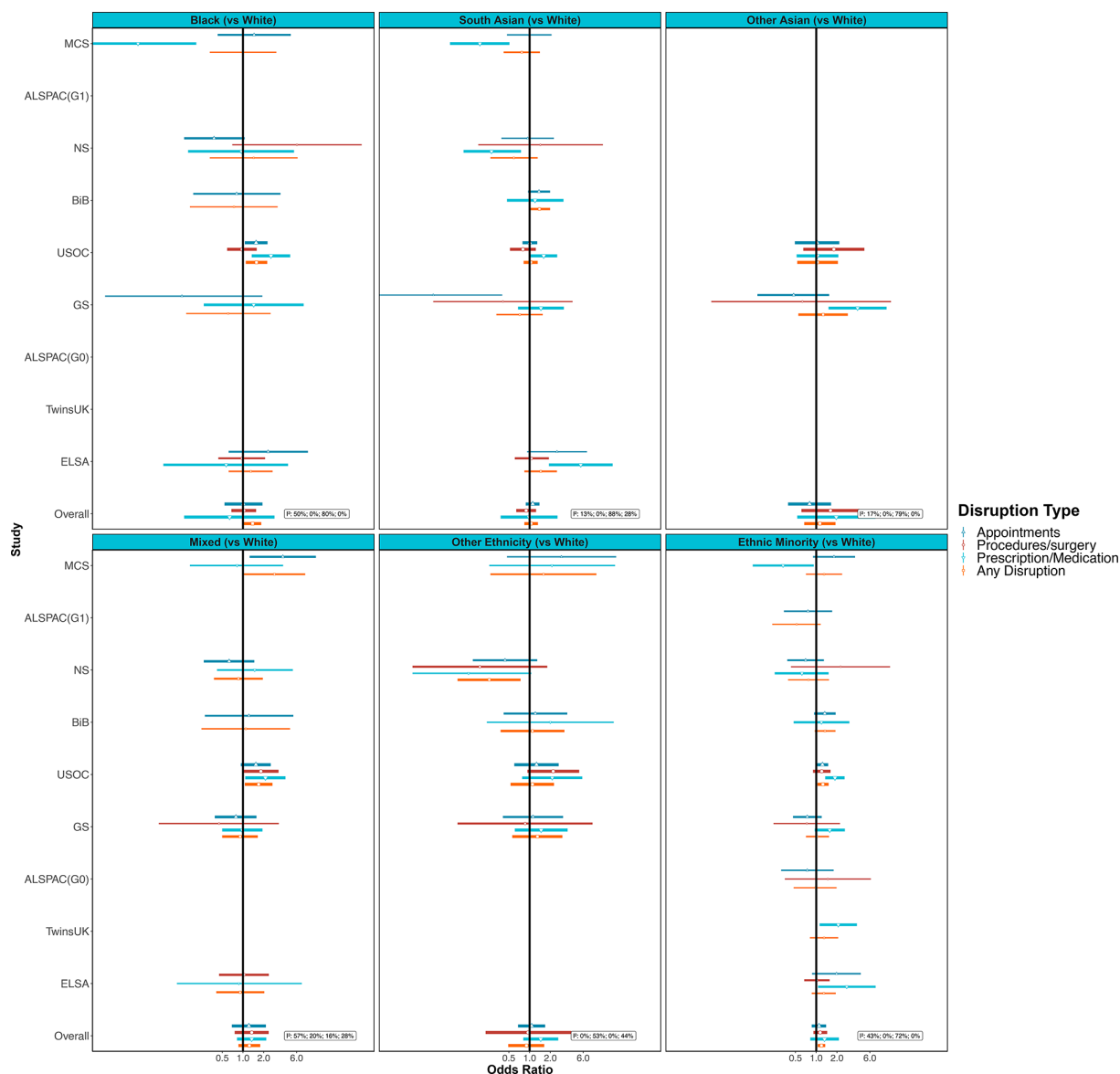


Figure 4 Associations between ethnicity (compared with white groups) and healthcare disruption. Sources: Millennium Cohort Study (MCS); Children of the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC-G1); Next Steps (NS); Born in Bradford (BIB); Understanding Society (USOC); Generation Scotland: the Scottish Family Health Study (GS); parents of ALSPAC (ALSPAC-G0); UK Adult Twin Registry (TwinsUK); English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). Panels illustrate findings for some larger ethnic groups separately and the final panel presents results for all non-white ethnic minorities combined. Adjusted for age and sex where applicable.

Similar associations were seen for domains of healthcare disruption, with the largest inequalities seen for access to medications. We did not observe differences by age or shielding status (Supplementary File 3).

Sensitivity analysis

There were no major differences in the results after restricting to representative samples (Supplementary file 1).

DISCUSSION

Our study demonstrates marked inequalities in healthcare disruption during the COVID-19 pandemic by harnessing data from 12 UK longitudinal studies. Females were more

likely to report healthcare disruptions than males, especially at younger ages (<55 years). This inequality was observed for each healthcare disruption type including prescription medication, procedures or surgery and appointments as well as a combined measure for any of these disruptions. Older adults were especially likely to report disruptions to medical appointments and procedures and surgeries compared with their younger counterparts. Ethnic minority (excluding white minorities) groups were more likely to report healthcare disruption compared with white (including white minorities) groups. Furthermore, when stratifying results by shielding status, the magnitude for the association between any healthcare disruptions among ethnic minority groups (compared

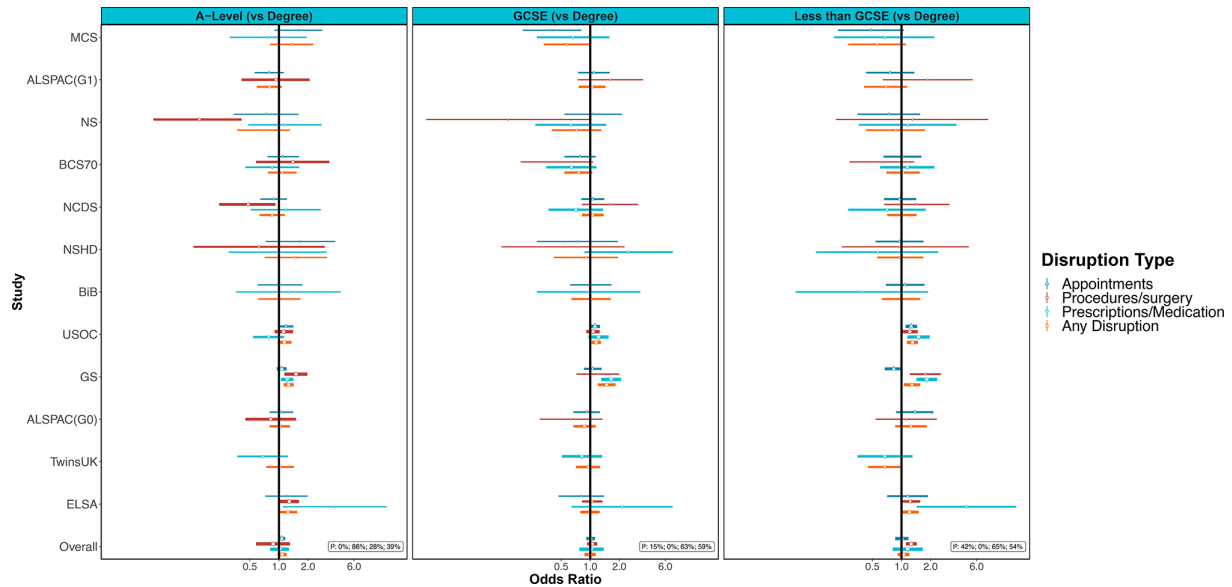


Figure 5 Associations between education (compared with degree level) and healthcare disruption. GCSE, General Certificate of Secondary Education. Sources: Millennium Cohort Study (MCS); Children of the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC-G1); Next Steps (NS); 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70); National Child Development Study (NCDS); National Survey of Health and Development (NSHD); Born in Bradford (BIB); Understanding Society (USOC); Generation Scotland: the Scottish Family Health Study (GS); parents of ALSPAC (ALSPAC-G0); UK Adult Twin Registry (TwinsUK); English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). Adjusted for age, sex and ethnicity where applicable.

with white groups) was higher among those who were shielding. In studies where a finer breakdown of ethnicity was possible, black ethnic minority groups had the most clearly increased odds of disruption compared with white ethnic groups. Occupational class was also found to be associated with healthcare disruption with those in a routine/manual occupation or other (which included never/long-term non-employed) being more likely to

experience healthcare disruption than those in a managerial/professional occupation. No clear association between education and healthcare disruption was found in the main, age or shielding status-stratified analyses.

The direct burden of COVID-19 on health services across the globe has been colossal and remains so in some countries, with prioritisation of patients with COVID-19, leaving less capacity and resources for non-COVID-19

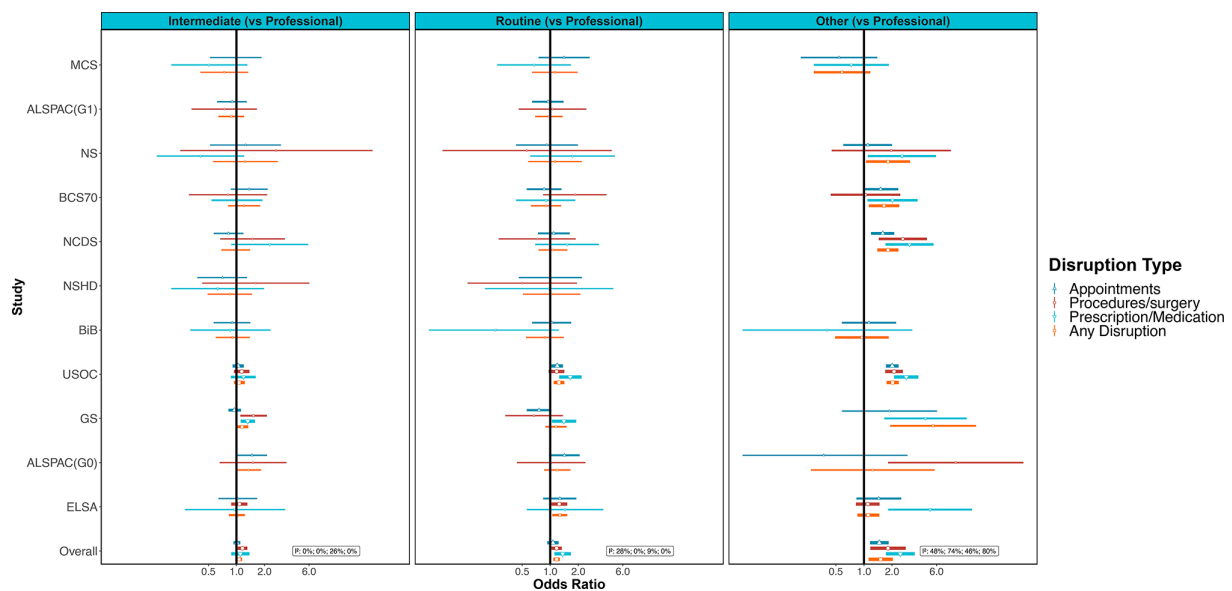


Figure 6 Associations between occupational social class (compared with professional/managerial) and healthcare disruption. Sources: Millennium Cohort Study (MCS); Children of the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC-G1); Next Steps (NS); 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70); National Child Development Study (NCDS); National Survey of Health and Development (NSHD); Born in Bradford (BIB); Understanding Society (USOC); Generation Scotland: the Scottish Family Health Study (GS); parents of ALSPAC (ALSPAC-G0); English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). Adjusted for age, sex and ethnicity where applicable.



healthcare. Furthermore, associated repeated lockdown measures are also likely to decrease healthcare access and availability with a decrease in the number of people attending A&E services,⁴ and reports of difficulties accessing medication.⁹

Our findings are consistent with current evidence from a smaller subset of the studies examined here, suggesting that females are more likely to experience disruption to planned surgery, medical procedures or other medical appointments during lockdown.¹³ Furthermore, our results show that older adults were more likely to report healthcare disruption as compared with their younger counterparts, especially disruptions to medical appointments and planned procedures or surgeries. This finding is consistent with current UK evidence indicating that older adults experience more delays and disruption to health services.^{33–36} Black ethnic minority groups were also found to be at increased risk of healthcare disruption compared with white ethnic groups—an issue of particular concern given prepandemic ethnic inequalities in healthcare.³⁷ The inequalities by occupational class we found are consistent with prior evidence of socioeconomic healthcare inequalities reported in the UK in the past decade,³⁸ and highlight that these have still been present in the COVID-19 pandemic. Associations with occupational class were clearer than those for education, which is also an indicator of socioeconomic position but may have been a more distal influence.

The sex inequalities observed in this study could partially be explained by a disproportional increase in childcare responsibilities for women,³⁹ which may have made it more difficult to access healthcare. However, in this study we adjusted for household composition and associations for sex were robust to further adjustment on this variable.

Our results also show that older adults were more likely to report healthcare disruption than younger adults. There are many reasons why older people may have experienced an increase in healthcare disruption during the COVID-19 pandemic compared with younger people, including fear of becoming infected while visiting a care facility, difficulties engaging in telemedicine (using technology to deliver care)^{35–35} and greater frailty, resulting in more healthcare utilisation and subsequent disruption.³⁶

One explanation for the inequality in healthcare disruption among black ethnic minority group may be due to adverse effects of loss of income, unstable housing, increased psychological distress and reduced community support brought about by lockdown restrictions. Another explanation could stem from a disproportionate representation of ethnic minority populations among key workers, who are subjected to increased and antisocial working hours.

Strengths and limitations

The analysis brings together data from 12 longitudinal studies with rich and sensitive information on healthcare disruption. This study is strengthened by the coordinated

investigation in multiple longitudinal studies with differing study designs, different target populations and varying selection and attrition processes. Our combined approach provides the largest sample size available to prospectively investigate differences between ethnic groups, within representative population-based samples. What's more, though using non-response weights available, the proportion of ethnic minority groups within most studies is representative of the UK population. Moreover, the use of multiple studies increased statistical power to look at subpopulations such as ethnic minority groups across cohorts and allowed for greater examination of how inequalities were patterned by age. While not all 12 studies were representative of the population of interest, removing them in sensitivity analyses did not change our conclusions. Our novel approach to coordinated analyses harnessing multiple data sets therefore allowed research questions to be addressed which would not otherwise be possible.

Differences between studies in a range of factors including measurement of healthcare disruption, timing of surveys, design, response rates and differential selection into the COVID-19 sweeps are potentially responsible for heterogeneity in estimates. However, despite this heterogeneity, the key findings were consistent across most data sets. Furthermore, this heterogeneity can be informative, for example, by virtue of mixing age-specific and age range studies, we identified that sex inequalities were stronger at younger ages. The definition of healthcare disruption used may also have contained a range of disruptions of greater or lesser severity, and there may have been further inequalities in the severity of disruptions experienced; however, we were not able to assess this using the available data. We also could not assess prepandemic inequalities in healthcare disruption, though other studies have indicated massive increases in the prevalence of healthcare disruption (at least in part from the supply side with non-urgent procedures cancelled to reduce risk of infection transmission), and that inequalities related to geographic measures of deprivation (rather than individual-level measures as used here) have widened during the pandemic.^{5 40 41}

We have focused on our aim of identifying who experienced greater disruptions in healthcare, rather than on adjustment for confounders to estimate causal effects of the exposures in question.⁴² Nevertheless, many of the associations we observed were robust to adjustment for a wider range of related variables, but bias due to residual confounding cannot be ruled out. Importantly, we did not condition our analyses on healthcare need. Many of the inequalities we observed for healthcare disruptions may be due to inequalities in health, with those who have greater health needs being more likely to require healthcare that could be disrupted. Accounting for differences in need could have masked inequalities in healthcare disruptions that are caused by inequalities in health and could have made it less clear which groups have been more likely to experience disruption during the

pandemic. Restricting analyses to those who needed care could also induce bias if there were unmeasured determinants of both need and disruption.⁴³ Nevertheless, another study of the USOC data analysed here that did restrict analyses to those needing care still found income-related inequalities in healthcare disruption, and most of the associations we observed were robust to adjustment for prepandemic self-assessed health.⁴⁴

Impact of healthcare disruption

Disadvantaged groups such as females, older adults, black ethnic minority groups and those in routine/manual occupations have had elevated odds of healthcare disruption in the first 8–10 months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Delays and disruptions to treatment could have ongoing implications for patients' physical and mental health.⁴⁵ Action is needed to remedy these inequalities, and efforts to ensure continuity of care during pandemic-related disruptions may need to be more clearly targeted to those who most need that care. Actions to alleviate healthcare disruption inequalities critically rely on better understanding the causes. For example, barriers to accessing care, such as working hours or fear of infection, may require measures to make care more accessible outside of working hours, or to increase public confidence that patients can attend safely.

As healthcare access resumes, given the forgone delays in treatments and the subsequent backlog of postponed surgeries,⁴⁶ these groups may require prioritised support to address unmet needs experienced during the pandemic.

CONCLUSION

There have been clear inequalities in disruptions to healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK. Females (especially those aged 54 or younger), older adults, ethnic minorities and those in disadvantaged occupational classes have been more likely to experience healthcare disruptions. These are groups who usually experience worse health, so considering the massive increases in the prevalence of healthcare disruptions related to COVID-19, these inequalities in disruption have clear potential to maintain or even exacerbate existing health inequalities.

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Competing interests SVK is a member of the Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies subgroup on ethnicity and COVID-19 and is cochair of the Scottish Government's Ethnicity Reference Group on COVID-19. NC serves on a data safety monitoring board for trials sponsored by AstraZeneca.

Patient and public involvement Patients and/or the public were not involved in the design, or conduct, or reporting, or dissemination plans of this research.

Patient consent for publication Not applicable.

Ethics approval Ethics statement and data access details for each study can be found in online supplemental table S2 in supplementary file 4.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

Data availability statement Data are available upon reasonable request. Data for NCDS (SN 6137), BCS70 (SN 8547), Next Steps (SN 5545), MCS (SN 8682) and all four COVID-19 surveys (SN 8658) are available through the UK Data Service. NSHD data are available on request to the NSHD Data Sharing Committee. Interested researchers can apply to access the NSHD data via a standard application procedure. Data requests should be submitted to mrlcha.swiftinfo@ucl.ac.uk; further details can be found at <http://www.nshd.mrc.ac.uk/data.aspx>. doi:10.5522/NSHD/Q101; doi:10.5522/NSHD/Q10. The ALSPAC study website contains details of all the data that is available through a fully searchable data dictionary and variable search tool: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/alspac/researchers/our-data>. ALSPAC data is available to researchers through an online proposal system. Information regarding access can be found on the ALSPAC website (http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/alspac/documents/researchers/data-access/ALSPAC_Access_Policy.pdf). Data from the various BiB family studies are available to researchers; see the study website for information on how to access data (<https://borninbradford.nhs.uk/research/how-to-access-data/>). All USOC data are available through the UK Data Service (SN 6614 and SN 8644). All ELSA data are available through the UK Data Service (SN 8688 and 5050). Access to data from GS is approved by the Generation Scotland Access Committee. See <https://www.ed.ac.uk/generation-scotland/for-researchers/access> or email access@generationscotland.org for further details. The TwinsUK Resource Executive Committee (TREC) oversees management, data sharing and collaborations involving the TwinsUK registry (for further details see <https://twinsuk.ac.uk/resources-for-researchers/access-our-data/>).

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Supplementary File 1: Meta-analysis summary restricted to representative studies

Note: ALSPAC, GS, TwinsUK and BiB

excluded. **Summary of results**

		Any healthcare disruption				Appointments				Prescription/Medication				Procedures/surgery			
		OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I ² %	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I ² %	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I ² %	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I ² %
Sex																	
Female vs. Male	Unadjusted [†]	1.27	1.19	1.36	0	1.29	1.18	1.42	5.66	1.39	0.90	2.14	73.3	1.24	1.13	1.37	0
	Basic adjustment	1.34	1.15	1.57	65.33	1.36	1.25	1.47	0	1.37	0.86	2.16	74.9	1.27	1.12	1.43	11.85
	Full adjustment	1.34	1.15	1.56	61.89	1.34	0.94	1.91		1.99	0.77	5.12		1.21	1.01	1.44	
Age																	
16-24y vs 45-54y	Unadjusted	0.50	0.41	0.62		0.43	0.34	0.54		0.65	0.42	1.02		0.48	0.34	0.68	
	Basic adjustment	0.49	0.39	0.60		0.42	0.33	0.52		0.62	0.39	0.97		0.47	0.33	0.66	
	Full adjustment	0.47	0.37	0.61		no information				no information				no information			
25-34y vs 45-54y	Unadjusted	0.71	0.58	0.86		0.65	0.53	0.80		0.97	0.66	1.44		0.78	0.57	1.07	
	Basic adjustment	0.70	0.58	0.85		0.64	0.52	0.79		0.97	0.65	1.43		0.77	0.56	1.06	
	Full adjustment	0.77	0.63	0.94		no information				no information				no information			
35-44y vs 45-54y	Unadjusted	0.74	0.63	0.88		0.70	0.58	0.83		0.83	0.58	1.18		0.88	0.69	1.12	
	Basic adjustment	0.74	0.63	0.87		0.69	0.58	0.82		0.83	0.58	1.18		0.87	0.68	1.11	
	Full adjustment	0.86	0.73	1.03		no information				no information				no information			
55-64y vs 45-54y	Unadjusted	1.40	1.23	1.59	0	1.37	1.19	1.58	0	0.75	0.27	2.07	67.1	1.51	1.26	1.80	0
	Basic adjustment	1.42	1.25	1.61	0	1.39	1.21	1.60	0	0.80	0.30	2.09	64.1	1.52	1.28	1.80	0
	Full adjustment	1.21	1.06	1.40	0	1.04	0.48	2.25		0.52	0.16	1.68		1.37	0.93	2.01	

65-74y vs 45-54y	Unadjusted	1.72	1.51	1.96	0	1.57	1.21	2.04	16.9	0.76	0.31	1.86	59.6	1.93	1.63	2.30	0
	Basic adjustment	1.78	1.56	2.02	0	1.67	1.42	1.97	2.81	0.85	0.38	1.91	52.9	1.98	1.67	2.34	0
	Full adjustment	1.35	1.14	1.58	0	1.01	0.42	2.43		1.41	0.34	5.89		1.55	1.05	2.30	
75y+ vs 45-54y	Unadjusted	1.97	1.68	2.31	1.58	1.87	1.56	2.24	0	0.89	0.59	1.35	6.53	2.10	1.46	3.02	66.45
	Basic adjustment	2.06	1.76	2.41	0	1.97	1.64	2.35	0	0.98	0.68	1.42	0	2.14	1.57	2.91	55.32
	Full adjustment	1.38	1.13	1.70	0.00	1.07	0.44	2.61		1.26	0.39	4.02		1.75	1.17	2.62	
Ethnicity																	
Non-White vs White*	Unadjusted	0.96	0.82	1.12	0	1.02	0.72	1.46	44.4	1.02	0.39	2.67	84.8	0.90	0.71	1.14	0
	Basic adjustment	1.23	1.05	1.44	0	1.25	0.87	1.81	48.3	1.06	0.42	2.67	83.1	1.16	0.91	1.47	0
	Full adjustment	1.10	0.94	1.29	0	1.39	0.61	3.20		2.04	0.70	5.98		0.96	0.63	1.48	
Black vs White	Unadjusted	1.22	0.91	1.65	0	1.02	0.53	1.94	48.5	0.49	0.07	3.52	85.4	0.87	0.58	1.31	0
	Basic adjustment	1.47	1.08	1.98	0	1.18	0.57	2.44	59.3	0.50	0.08	3.36	84	1.03	0.68	1.55	0
	Full adjustment	1.20	0.92	1.58	0	0.88	0.18	4.22		0.37	0.04	3.11		0.87	0.41	1.82	
East Asian vs White	Unadjusted	0.82	0.38	1.73		0.79	0.35	1.80		0.97	0.47	1.97		1.38	0.47	4.02	
	Basic adjustment	1.04	0.53	2.06		1.03	0.49	2.16		1.04	0.52	2.09		1.80	0.65	4.99	
	Full adjustment	1.01	0.60	1.68				no information				no information				no information	
Mixed vs White	Unadjusted	1.13	0.82	1.57	0	1.27	0.49	3.29	77.5	1.53	0.90	2.60	0	1.12	0.70	1.80	0
	Basic adjustment	1.38	0.88	2.17	34.69	1.47	0.59	3.67	75.1	1.67	0.98	2.86	0	no information			
	Full adjustment	1.36	0.88	2.11	24.01			no information		0.93	0.10	8.48		0.85	0.32	2.21	
South Asian vs White	Unadjusted	0.76	0.58	1.01	29.78	0.84	0.56	1.25	38.6	0.80	0.17	3.77	93.2	0.70	0.45	1.09	28.01
	Basic adjustment	1.02	0.84	1.24	0	1.05	0.84	1.31	0	0.83	0.18	3.76	92.4	0.90	0.64	1.26	0
	Full adjustment	0.95	0.72	1.25	21.29	2.65	1.03	6.82		4.47	1.38	14.50		1.11	0.62	1.99	

Other Ethnicity vs White	Unadjusted	0.56	0.25	1.25	40.34	0.82	0.45	1.49	0	0.70	0.14	3.54	63.29	0.81	0.11	6.21	67.17
	Basic adjustment	0.72	0.25	2.07	64.12	1.02	0.41	2.51	48.38	0.96	0.17	5.25	66.68	0.82	0.08	8.51	74.76
	Full adjustment	0.72	0.25	2.02	64.08	no information				no information				no information			
Education																	
A- level/equiv alent vs Higher education/D egree	Unadjusted	1.02	0.85	1.22	53.07	1.02	0.84	1.25	39.4	0.94	0.68	1.30	26.88	0.68	0.37	1.28	90.63
	Basic adjustment	1.11	0.99	1.25	8.05	1.13	0.99	1.29	1.31	0.92	0.71	1.19	0	0.73	0.38	1.39	91.07
	Full adjustment	0.98	0.85	1.12	21.18	0.98	0.59	1.63		3.39	1.04	11.09		1.05	0.83	1.32	
GCSE/equiv alent vs Higher education/D egree	Unadjusted	0.96	0.84	1.10	36.2	0.96	0.84	1.11	19.4	0.95	0.69	1.30	39.93	1.01	0.89	1.14	0
	Basic adjustment	0.94	0.79	1.12	55.76	0.91	0.73	1.13	53.46	0.96	0.68	1.35	45.45	1.04	0.92	1.19	0
	Full adjustment	0.84	0.73	0.95	24.18	0.63	0.36	1.10		1.96	0.59	6.47		0.81	0.62	1.04	
<GCSE/equi valent vs Higher education/D egree	Unadjusted	1.13	0.89	1.43	72.27	1.06	0.83	1.36	61.17	1.22	0.77	1.94	58.91	1.38	1.21	1.58	0
	Basic adjustment	1.12	0.96	1.30	33.28	1.04	0.85	1.27	34.32	1.25	0.88	1.78	27.88	1.20	1.04	1.38	0
	Full adjustment	0.85	0.76	0.96	3.24	0.70	0.42	1.17		3.22	1.01	10.27		0.86	0.66	1.12	
Occupational class																	
Intermediate vs Managerial/ Admin/Profe ssional	Unadjusted	1.07	0.97	1.18	0	1.04	0.93	1.17	0	0.99	0.74	1.35	17.14	1.15	1.00	1.32	0
	Basic adjustment	1.04	0.94	1.15	0	1.02	0.91	1.15	0	0.96	0.68	1.37	29.88	1.12	0.98	1.28	0
	Full adjustment	0.97	0.88	1.08	0	1.13	0.67	1.90		0.74	0.21	2.59		1.05	0.84	1.31	
Manual/Rou tine vs Managerial/ Admin/Profe ssional	Unadjusted	1.13	0.99	1.29	29.12	1.06	0.94	1.18	0	1.30	1.00	1.68	9.9	1.13	0.91	1.41	33.75
	Basic adjustment	1.20	1.09	1.32	0	1.15	1.03	1.30	0	1.35	1.01	1.81	16.85	1.20	1.05	1.37	0
	Full adjustment	1.03	0.93	1.15	0	1.29	0.81	2.06		0.75	0.27	2.13		1.07	0.85	1.35	
Other social class vs	Unadjusted	1.36	0.90	2.06	92.46	1.40	1.01	1.94	79.32	2.03	1.25	3.29	73.7	1.55	0.90	2.68	87.81

Managerial/ Admin/Professional	Basic adjustment	1.48	1.10	2.00	81.34	1.51	1.18	1.93	56.4	5	2.44	1.71	3.49	45.4	9	1.64	1.10	2.46	72.22
	Full adjustment	1.19	0.99	1.42	44.84	1.39	0.80	2.42			4.12	1.43	11.82			0.94	0.69	1.27	

Basic adjustment: sex, age, and ethnicity (where available)

Full adjustment: sex, age, and ethnicity (where available), education, occupational class, UK Nation (where appropriate), household composition, and pre-pandemic self-reported health.

Empty I²% column indicates only one study included

*Binary variable including Black, East Asian, Mixed, South Asian, and other ethnicity in 'non-White'

Summary of stratified results

		Any healthcare disruption			
Sex		OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I2%
Female vs. Male	Overall	1.34	1.15	1.57	65.33
	Not shielding	1.32	1.09	1.61	75.25
	Shielding	1.48	1.20	1.83	0
	16-24y	2.21	1.61	3.03	3.99
	25-34y	1.45	0.86	2.43	63.72
	35-44y	1.48	1.14	1.92	
	45-54	1.97	1.61	2.42	0
	55-64	1.16	1.02	1.32	0
	75+	1.03	0.80	1.32	42.24
Age		OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I2%
16-24y vs 45-54y	Overall	0.49	0.39	0.60	
	Not shielding	0.50	0.40	0.62	
	Shielding	0.64	0.23	1.78	
25-34y vs 45-54y	Overall	0.70	0.58	0.85	
	Not shielding	0.71	0.58	0.87	
	Shielding	0.86	0.34	2.16	
35-44y vs 45-54y	Overall	0.74	0.63	0.87	
	Not shielding	0.76	0.64	0.90	
	Shielding	0.48	0.24	0.96	
55-64y vs 45-54y	Overall	1.42	1.25	1.61	0
	Not shielding	1.37	1.20	1.57	0
	Shielding	1.32	0.80	2.17	0
65-74y vs 45-54y	Overall	1.78	1.56	2.02	0
	Not shielding	1.67	1.46	1.91	0
	Shielding	1.33	0.82	2.15	0
75y+ vs 45-54y	Overall	2.06	1.76	2.41	0
	Not shielding	1.96	1.66	2.33	0
	Shielding	1.07	0.65	1.78	0
Ethnicity		OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I2%
Non-White vs White*	Overall	1.23	1.05	1.44	0

	Not shielding	0.96	0.62	1.48	73.47
	Shielding	1.56	0.97	2.49	0
	16-24y	1.24	0.84	1.82	0
	25-34y	0.70	0.47	1.04	0
	35-44y	1.42	0.94	2.12	
	45-54	1.71	1.20	2.44	0
	55-64	1.20	0.87	1.66	0
	75+	1.28	0.67	2.45	0
	Overall	1.47	1.08	1.98	0
Black vs White	Not shielding	0.84	0.38	1.83	72.85
	Shielding	1.49	0.59	3.78	0
	16-24y	1.15	0.51	2.59	0
	25-34y	0.74	0.30	1.86	16.69
	35-44y	2.11	0.87	5.12	
	45-54	1.99	0.93	4.25	15.25
	55-64	1.74	1.03	2.95	0
	75+	1.23	0.42	3.56	0
		Overall	1.04	0.53	2.06
East Asian vs White	Not shielding	1.04	0.52	2.11	
	Shielding				
	16-24y	0.01	0.00	0.05	
	25-34y	0.57	0.12	2.62	
	35-44y	1.55	0.69	3.48	
	45-54	1.62	0.42	6.18	
	55-64	0.90	0.36	2.21	
	75+				
		Overall	1.38	0.88	2.17
Mixed vs White	Not shielding	1.28	0.88	1.86	0
	Shielding	1.89	0.64	5.55	0
	16-24y	2.50	1.25	5.02	0
	25-34y	1.09	0.61	1.95	0
	35-44y	2.47	0.88	6.95	
	45-54	1.01	0.48	2.14	
	55-64	1.19	0.56	2.51	0
	75+	1.47	0.34	6.42	22.46
		Overall	1.02	0.84	1.24
South Asian vs White	Not shielding	0.92	0.64	1.34	42.86
	Shielding	1.30	0.72	2.36	0
	16-24y	0.98	0.62	1.53	13.95

	25-34y	0.43	0.26	0.72	2.58
	35-44y	0.91	0.58	1.42	
	45-54	2.55	0.59	10.92	86.27
	55-64	0.90	0.47	1.74	19
	75+	1.11	0.40	3.12	0
	Overall	0.72	0.25	2.07	64.12
	Not shielding	0.63	0.20	1.95	62.21
	Shielding	0.19	0.01	4.52	
	16-24y	0.18	0.00	15.35	88.56
Other Ethnicity vs White	25-34y	0.57	0.10	3.20	70.09
	35-44y	1.52	0.36	6.41	
	45-54	1.12	0.37	3.38	
	55-64	0.49	0.12	1.96	
	75+	4.18	0.35	50.04	
Education		OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I2%
	Overall	1.11	0.99	1.25	8.05
	Not shielding	1.02	0.85	1.23	47.74
	Shielding	0.92	0.66	1.30	0
	16-24y	1.39	0.96	2.01	0
A-level/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree	25-34y	0.97	0.55	1.71	52.33
	35-44y	1.48	1.00	2.18	
	45-54	1.10	0.86	1.40	0
	55-64	0.99	0.76	1.29	44.12
	75+	0.77	0.57	1.05	0
	Overall	0.94	0.79	1.12	55.76
	Not shielding	0.93	0.79	1.10	47.54
	Shielding	0.80	0.60	1.06	0
	16-24y	0.93	0.36	2.40	83.45
GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree	25-34y	1.05	0.53	2.07	70.84
	35-44y	1.19	0.86	1.64	
	45-54	1.00	0.70	1.44	60.4
	55-64	1.06	0.91	1.24	0
	75+	0.88	0.59	1.31	54.52
	Overall	1.12	0.96	1.30	33.28
	Not shielding	1.01	0.83	1.23	50.08
	Shielding	0.86	0.63	1.18	8.77
	16-24y	0.79	0.38	1.61	46.71
	25-34y	1.31	0.61	2.81	62.99

	35-44y	0.87	0.56	1.36	
	45-54	1.32	0.85	2.06	61.45
	55-64	1.18	0.97	1.43	0
	75+	0.98	0.78	1.24	0
Occupational class		OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I²%
Intermediate vs Managerial/Admin/Professional	Overall	1.04	0.94	1.15	0
	Not shielding	1.04	0.94	1.15	0
	Shielding	0.86	0.59	1.25	13.43
	16-24y	0.88	0.55	1.41	0
	25-34y	1.25	0.86	1.81	0
	35-44y	1.13	0.81	1.58	
	45-54	1.13	0.92	1.39	0
	55-64	0.92	0.77	1.11	0
	75+	1.02	0.76	1.37	0
Manual/Routine vs Managerial/Admin/Professional	Overall	1.20	1.09	1.32	0
	Not shielding	1.20	1.08	1.33	0
	Shielding	0.94	0.71	1.24	0
	16-24y	1.14	0.74	1.75	0
	25-34y	1.55	0.97	2.48	36.45
	35-44y	1.23	0.88	1.71	
	45-54	1.04	0.85	1.27	0
	55-64	1.14	0.95	1.37	0
	75+	1.29	0.98	1.70	0
Other social class vs Managerial/Admin/Professional	Overall	1.48	1.10	2.00	81.34
	Not shielding	1.44	1.10	1.89	73.49
	Shielding	0.92	0.38	2.22	82.67
	16-24y	1.01	0.34	2.95	79.64
	25-34y	2.09	1.40	3.13	0
	35-44y	2.16	1.34	3.48	
	45-54	2.05	0.98	4.29	85.15
	55-64	1.73	1.28	2.33	64.79
	75+	1.02	0.62	1.69	0

Adjusted for sex, age, and ethnicity (where available)

Empty I²% column indicates only one study included

*Binary variable including Black, East Asian, Mixed, South Asian, and other ethnicity in 'non-White'

Supplementary File 2: Variable coding

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Healthcare disruptions

<i>Study</i>	<i>Question (exact wording)</i>	<i>Possible Answers</i>	<i>Recoding if needed</i>
* PRESCRIPTION or MEDICATION ACCESS *			
MCS NS BCS 70 NCDS NSHD	Since the Coronavirus outbreak in March, have you had any difficulty obtaining any of your prescribed medication?	1=Yes; 2=No/Not applicable	= 1
ALSPAC	Not Available		
USOC	Q1: Still thinking about your situation now, have you been able to access the NHS services you need: Prescription medicine? Q2: Still thinking about your situation now, have you been able to access the community health and social care services and support you need... Over the counter medications?	For both Q1 and Q2: 1=Yes; 2=No; 3=Not required	Q1=2 OR Q2=2
ELSA	Since the coronavirus outbreak, have you been able to get access to your regular medications?	1=Yes; 2=No; 3=No need	= 2
GS	How strongly do you agree with the following statements: Accessing and remembering to take my medication has become more difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic	From 1 (do not agree at all) to 10 (agree very strongly)	=6/10
TWINS UK	Have you experienced any of the following as a result of COVID-19? Unable to access required medication	0= No; 1 = Yes	= 1
BIB	Q1: Have you or a member of your household needed to access pharmacy services since lockdown began? Q2: If yes, did you receive the support you needed?	Q1. 0=No; 1=Yes Q2. 0= No; 1=Yes; 2=Haven't tried	Q1=1 & Q2=0
* PROCEDURES or SURGERIES *			
MCS NS BCS 70 NCDS NSHD	Q1: At the time of the Coronavirus outbreak in March, did you have an in-patient or out-patient appointment booked at a hospital for a consultation, investigation, treatment or surgery? Q2: Have you now had your surgery? Q3: Did your (last) surgery take place on the planned date or was it delayed? Q4: Why has your surgery not taken place?	Q1. 1=Yes - for a consultation investigation or treatment; 2=Yes - for surgery; 3=No. Q2. 1=Yes; 2=No. Q3. 1=Surgery took place on the planned date; 2=Surgery was delayed. Q4. 1=My surgery was postponed and	Q1=2 & Q2=1 & Q3=2 OR Q1=2 & Q2=2 & Q4=(1 OR 3)

		has not yet happened; 2=My surgery was not postponed, but it hasn't happened yet; 3=My surgery was cancelled	
ALSPAC GS	Q1: Have you had any medical treatments or appointments that have had to be cancelled or postponed during the COVID-19 pandemic? For example, hospital referral, non-emergency surgery, cancer, treatment, etc. Q2: What types of medical treatments or appointments were cancelled or postponed?	Q1. 1=Yes; 2=No. Q2. a -- surgery: 1=Yes; -9=Not applicable b -- cancer treatment: 1=Yes; -9=Not applicable c -- dialysis: 1=Yes; -9=Not applicable	Q1=1 & Q2 (a OR b OR c)=1
USOC	Q1: [since previous survey] have you had or been waiting for NHS treatment? Please select all that apply. Q2: Has your treatment plan(s) been changed in any way?	Q1. 1=Yes, tests/consultations planned or in progress; 2=Yes, operation or procedure planned; 3=Yes, targeted therapy, chemotherapy or radiotherapy planned or in progress; 4=Yes, other treatment planned; 5=No Q2. 1=Yes, consultations/treatments cancelled or postponed by NHS; 2=Yes, alternative treatment provided; 3=Yes, I cancelled or postponed treatment; 4=No, treatment continuing as planned	Q1=2/4 & Q2=1/3
ELSA	Since the coronavirus outbreak, have you had a hospital operation or treatment cancelled?	1. Yes; 2.No	=1
TWINS UK	Not Available		
BIB	Not Available		
* APPOINTMENTS *			
MCS NS BCS 70 NCDS NSHD	Q1: At the time of the Coronavirus outbreak in March, did you have an in-patient or out-patient appointment booked at a hospital for a consultation, investigation, treatment or surgery? Q2: Have you now had your in/ out-patient hospital appointment for a consultation, investigation or treatment? Q3: Did your (last) appointment take place on the planned date or was it delayed? Q4: Why has your in-/out-patient hospital appointment for a consultation, investigation or treatment not taken place?	Q1. 1=Yes - for a consultation investigation or treatment; 2=Yes - for surgery; 3=No. Q2. 1=Yes; 2=No. Q3. 1=Appointment took place on the planned date; 2=Appointment was delayed. Q4. 1=My appointment was postponed	Q1=1 & Q2=1 & Q3=2 OR Q1=1 & Q2=2 & Q4=(1 OR 3)

		and has not yet happened; 2=My appointment was not postponed, but it hasn't happened yet; 3=My appointment was cancelled	
ALSPAC GS	<p>Q1. Have you had any medical treatments or appointments that have had to be cancelled or postponed during the COVID-19 pandemic? For example, hospital referral, non-emergency surgery, cancer, treatment, etc.</p> <p>Q2. What types of medical treatments or appointments were cancelled or postponed?</p>	<p>Q1. 1=Yes; 2=No.</p> <p>Q2= d -- GP referral: 1=Yes; -9=Not applicable</p> <p>e -- Hospital referral: 1=Yes; -9=Not applicable</p> <p>f -- Routine clinical appointment: 1=Yes; -9=Not applicable</p> <p>g -- Cancer testing: 1=Yes; -9=Not applicable</p> <p>h -- Cancer screening: 1=Yes; -9=Not applicable</p>	<p>Q1=1 & Q2(d OR e OR f OR g OR h)=1</p>
USOC	<p>Thinking about your situation now, have you been able to access the NHS services you need to help manage your condition(s) over the last 4 weeks?</p> <p>Q1: GP or primary care practice staff?</p> <p>Q2: Hospital or clinic outpatient?</p> <p>Q3: Hospital or clinic inpatient?</p> <p>Q4: [since previous survey] have you had or been waiting for NHS treatment? Please select all that apply.</p> <p>Q5: Has your treatment plan(s) been changed in any way?</p>	<p>Q1-3. 1=Yes, in person; 2=(Q1 & Q2 only) Yes, online or by phone only; 3=No, not able to access; 4=No, decided not to seek help at this time/cancelled; 5=Alternative treatment provided; 6=Not required</p> <p>Q4. 1=Yes, tests/consultations planned or in progress; 2=Yes, operation or procedure planned; 3=Yes, targeted therapy, chemotherapy or radiotherapy planned or in progress; 4=Yes, other treatment planned; 5=No</p> <p>Q5. 1=Yes, consultations/treatments cancelled or postponed by NHS; 2=Yes, alternative treatment provided; 3=Yes, I cancelled or postponed treatment; 4=No, treatment continuing as planned</p>	<p>Q1 Q2 Q3=(3 OR 4 OR 5) OR Q4=1 AND Q5=(1 OR 2 OR 3)</p>
ELSA	<p>Q1: Since the coronavirus outbreak, have you wanted to see or talk to a GP?</p> <p>Q2: Have you been able to see or talk to a GP?</p>	<p>Q1: 1=Yes; 2=No</p> <p>Q2: 1=Yes; 2=No; 3=I did not attempt to contact them 4.I did not need to contact them</p>	<p>Q1= & Q2=2</p>
TWINS UK	Not Available		

BIB

Q1: Have you or a member of your household needed to access

-- (1) your doctor (GP) or nurse

-- (2) NHS111

-- (3) Health emergency services (A&E)

-- (4) A specialist (consultant) doctor or specialist clinic (hospital outpatient) appointment since lockdown began?

Q2: If yes, were you able to access (1, 2, 3, or 4)?

Q1. 0=No; 1=Yes

Q2. 0= No; 1=Yes; 2=Haven't tried

Q1= & Q2=0

Covariates

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Study</i>	<i>Options</i>	<i>Recoding if needed</i>
* Sex * 0=Male; 1=Female			
	All	0=Male; 1=Female	
* Ethnicity * 0=White; 1=South East Asian; 2=Other Asian; 3=Black; 4=Mixed; 5=Other Non-White			
	MCS	1=White; 2=Mixed; 3=Indian; 4=Pakistani; 5=Bangladeshi; 6=Other Asian; 7=Black Caribbean; 8=Black African; 9=Other Black; 10=Chinese; 11=Other ethnic group	1=0, 2=4, 3-5=1, 6 & 10=2, 7-9=3, 11=5
	NS	1=White; 2=Mixed; 3=Indian; 4=Pakistani; 5=Bangladeshi; 6=Black Caribbean; 7=Black African; 8=Other	1=0, 2=4, 3-5=1, 6-7=3, 8=5
	BCS70	Not Available	
	NCDS	Not Available	
	NSHD	Not Available	
	ALSPAC	G0 (Parents) 1=White; 2=Black Caribbean; 3=Black African; 4=Other black; 5=Indian; 6=Pakistani; 7=Bangladeshi; 8=Chinese; 9=Other G1 (Children) 1=White; 2=Mixed/Multiple Ethnic group; 3=Asian; 4=Black/African/Caribbean/Black British; 5=Arab or Other	G0: 1=0; 5/7=1, 8=2, 2/4=3, 9=5 G1: 1=0; 3=2, 4=3, 2=4
	USOC	1=White British; 2=Irish (White); 3=Gypsy or Irish Traveller (white); 4=Any other white background; 5=White and black Caribbean (mixed); 6=White and black African (mixed); 7=White and Asian (mixed); 8=Any other mixed background; 9=Indian (Asian or Asian British); 10=Pakistani (Asian or Asian British); 11=Bangladeshi (Asian or Asian British); 12=Chinese (Asian or Asian British); 13=Any other Asian background (Asian or Asian British); 14=Caribbean (Black or Black British); 15=African (Black or Black British); 16=Any other Black background (Black or Black British); 17=Arab (other Ethnic group); 97=Any other ethnic group	1-4=0, 5-8=4, 9-11=1, 12-13=2, 14-16=3, 17-97=5
	ELSA	1.White; 2=Mixed ethnic group; 3=Black; 4=Black British; 5=Asian; 6=Asian British	1=0; 2=4; 3/4=3; 5/6=1
	GS	1=White Scottish; 2=White English; 3=White Welsh; 4=White N. Irish; 5=White Irish; 6=White Gypsy/Irish traveller; 7=White Polish; 8=Any other white; 9=Asian/British Asian - Indian; 10=Asian/British Asian - Pakistani; 11=Asian/British Asian - Bangladeshi; 12=Asian/British Asian - Chinese; 13=Any other Asian background; 14=Black or Black British - African; 15=Black or Black British - Caribbean; 16=Any other Black/African/Caribbean background; 17=Arab or Arab British; 18=Mixed - White and Black Caribbean; 19=Mixed - White and Black African; 20=Mixed - White and Asian; 21=Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background; 22=Any other ethnic group	1/8=0, 9/11=1, 12/13=2, 14/16=3, 18/21=4, 17&22=5

TWINS UK	1=White- English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, Irish; 2=White- Other white background; 3=Mixed/multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean; 4=Mixed/multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African; 5=Mixed/multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian; 6=Mixed/multiple ethnic groups - Other mixed/ multiple ethnic background; 7=Asian/Asian British- Indian; 8=Asian/Asian British - Pakistani; 9=Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi; 10=Asian/Asian British - Chinese; 11=Asian/Asian British - Other Asian background; 12=Black/Black British - African; 13=Black/Black British - Caribbean; 14=Black/Black British - Other Black Background; 15=Middle-Eastern; 16=Other ethnic group	1/2=0; 10=1; 7/9 11=2; 12/14=3; 3/6=4; 15/16=5
BIB	BiB: 1=White British; 2=White other; 3=Mixed-White and Black; 4=Mixed-White and South Asian; 5=Black; 6=Indian; 7=Pakistani; 8=Bangladeshi; 9=Other BIBBS: 1=White British; 2=White Irish; 3=Pakistani; 4=Indian; 5=Bangladeshi; 6=White Polish; 7=White Slovakian; 8=White Romanian; 9=White Czech; 10=Other White; 11=White Gypsy/Roma/Irish traveller; 12=Chinese; 13=African; 14=Caribbean; 15=Mixed White/Black Caribbean; 16=Mixed White/Black African; 17=Mixed White/Asian; 18=Do not wish to answer; 19=Other	BiB: 1/2=0; 6/8=1; 5=3; 3/4=4; 9=5 BiBBs: 1/2=0; 6/11=0; 3/5=1; 13/14=3; 15/18=4; all other options=5

*** Education * 0= Degree; 1=A-Level; 2=GCSE; 3=Low or None**

MCS NS BCS 70 NCDS	0=None; 1=Nvq1; 2=Nvq2; 3=Nvq3; 4=Nvq4; 5=Nvq5 *parent's education for MCS	0/1 = 0 2=1 3=2 4/5=3
NSHD	0=None attempted; 1.=Vocational course, proficiency only; 2=Sub GCE or sub Burnham C; 3=GCE 'O' level or Burnham C; 4=GCE 'A' Level or Burnham B; 5=Burnham A2; 6= 1st Degree or graduate equivalent; 7= Higher degree, Masters; 8= Higher degree, doctorate; 9=Unknown	6 7 8=0; 4 5=1; 3=2; 0 1 2 9=3
ALSPAC	1=Degree; 2=A levels/AS levels or equivalent; 3=O levels; 4=Vocational; 5=CSE *parent's education for G1 (Children)	1=0; 2=1; 3=2; 4/5=3
USOC	1.Higher degree 2. 1st degree or equivalent 3. Diploma in Higher Education 4. Teaching qualification (not PGCE) 5. Nursing or other medical qualification 6. Other higher degree 7. A-Level 8. Welsh baccalaureate 9. International baccalaureate 10. AS Level 11. Scottish Highers 12. Certificate of 6th year studies 13. GCSE/O-Level 14. Certificate of secondary education 15. Standard or lower 16. Other school certificate 96. No qualifications	1-6=0, 7-12=1, 13-16=2, 96=3
ELSA	1=Nvq4/nvq5/degree or equivalent; 2=Higher Education below degree; 3=Nvq3/GCE A level equivalent; 4=Nvq2/GCE O level equivalent; 5=Nvq1/CSE other grade equivalent; 6=Foreign/other; 7=No qualification	1=0; 2/3=1; 4=2; 5/7=3
GS	1=No qualifications; 2=Other (please specify); 3=School leavers certificate; 4=CSEs or equivalent; 5=Standard grade, National 4 or 5, O levels, GCSEs or equivalent; 6=Higher grade, A levels, AS levels or equivalent; 7=NVQ or HND or HNC or equivalent; 8=Other professional or technical qualification; 9=Undergraduate degree; 10=Postgraduate degree	9 10=0; 6 7 8 =1; 5=2; <5=3

TWINS UK	1=No qualification; 2=NVQ1/SVQ1; 3=O-level/GCSE/NVQ2/SVQ2/Scottish intermediate; 4=Scottish Higher, NVQ3, City and Guilds, Pitman; 5=A-level, Scottish Advanced Higher; 6=Higher vocational training (e.g. Diploma, NVQ4, SVQ4); 7=Undergraduate degree; 8=Postgraduate degree (e.g. Masters or PhD), NVQ5, SVQ5	6/8=0; 4/5=1; 3=2; 1/2=3
BIB	1=<5 GCSE equivalent; 2=5 GCSE equivalent; 3=A-level equivalent; 4=Higher than A-level; 5=Other; 6=Don't know; 7=Foreign unknown	4=0; 3=1; 5/7=2; 1=3; missing=1

*** Occupational Social Class * 1=Managerial/Admin/Professional; 2=Intermediate; 3=Manual/routine; 4=Other**

NS-SEC: National Statistics Socioeconomic Classification. RGSC: Registrar General's Social Class. ONS SOC: Office of National Statistics Standard Occupational Classification

MCS NS BCS 70 NCDS	[NS-SEC] 1=Higher managerial and professional; 2=Lower managerial and professional; 3=Intermediate occupations; 4=Small employers and own account workers; 5=Lower supervisory and technical; 6=Semi-routine occupations; 7=Routine occupations; 8=Never worked and long-term unemployed *parent's occupational social class for MCS	2=1; 3-4=2; 5-7=3; 8=4
NSHD	[RGSC] 1=I Professional; 2=II Managerial and Technical; 3=IIINM Skilled non-manual; 4=IIIM Skilled manual; 5=IV Partly skilled; 6=V Unskilled;	2=1; 3/5=2; 6=3;
ALSPAC	[RGSC] 1=I Professional; 2=II Managerial and Technical; 3=IIINM Skilled non-manual; 4=IIIM Skilled manual; 5=IV Partly skilled; 6=V Unskilled; 7=Armed Forces *parent's occupational social class for G1 (Children)	2=1; 3/5=2; 6=3; 7=4
USOC	[NS-SEC] 1=Higher managerial and professional; 2=Lower managerial and professional; 3=Intermediate occupations; 4=Small employers and own account workers; 5=Lower supervisory and technical; 6=Semi-routine occupations; 7=Routine occupations; 8=Never worked and long-term unemployed	2=1; 3-4=2; 5-7=3; 8=4
ELSA	[NS-SEC] -3=Incomplete/No job info; 1=Higher and Lower managerial/ professional; 2=Intermediate occupations; 3=Routine and manual occupations; 99=Other	99=4; -3=4
GS	[ONS SOC] 1=Managers, directors, senior officials; 2=Associate professional and technical occupations; 3=Administrative and secretarial occupations; 4=Skilled trades occupations; 5=Sales and customer service occupations; 6=Process, plant and machine operatives; 7=Elementary (unskilled) occupations; 8=Never worked	1/3=1; 4/5=2; 6/7=3; 8=4
TWINS UK	Not Available	
BIB	1=Modern professional occupations; 2=Clerical and intermediate occupations; 3=Senior managers or administrators; 4=Technical and craft occupations; 5=Semi-routine manual and service occupations; 6=Routine manual and service occupations; 7=Middle or junior managers; 8=Traditional professional occupations; 9=Self-employed; 10=Student/in training; 11=Does not work-long term unemployed/sick; 12=Don't know *Based on either own class (80.7%) or partner's (19.3%)	3=1; 8=1; 4=2; 7=2; 5/6=3; all other options=4

*** Living Arrangement * 1=Alone; 2=With partner/spouse only; 3=With partner/spouse and child(ren); 4=With child(ren), without partner/spouse; 5=Any other living arrangement**

OR * Partnership Status * 1=Married/Partnered; 0=Not married/partnered

MCS NS BCS 70 NCDS	Who do you currently live with? 1. Husband/Wife/Cohabiting Partner 2. Children (including adult children, step-children, adopted children, foster children or any other children you consider yourself parent to) 3. Parent or Parent-in-law (including step-parent or adoptive parent) 4. Grandparent 5. Grandchild 6. Sibling 7. Other relative 8. Friend / unrelated sharer 9. Other	1 = Husband/Wife/Cohabiting Partner; 0 = Other
NSHD	Who do you currently live with? (Options include Husband/Wife/Cohabiting Partner)	1= Partner in HH 0= No partner in household
ALSPAC	NA	NA
USOC	Derived from Household Grid	0=partner present; 1=Single
ELSA	IF respondents live with other people, they are asked for each person "what is this person's relationship to you". Options include "1. Husband/wife/partner"	1=Partner in HH 0=No partner in HH
GS	1. Married/ Civil partnership 2. In a relationship, living together 3. In a relationship, not living together 4. Single 5. Separated 6. Divorced 7. Widowed 8. Other	1-3=1 4-8 = 0
TWINS UK	Single, never married (1); Single, divorced or widowed (2); In a relationship/married but living apart (3); In a relationship/married and cohabiting (4)	1, 2 = 0; 3, 4 = 1
BIB	What is your current relationship status? 0=do not wish to answer; 1=single; 2=married; 3=not married but in a relationship	1=0; 2/3=1

*** Shielding Status * 1=Advised to Shield; 0=Not advised to shield**

MCS NS BCS 70 NCDS NSHD	Did you at any time receive a letter or text message from the NHS or Chief Medical Officer saying that you have been identified as someone at risk of severe illness if you catch Coronavirus, because you have an underlying disease or health condition? 1=Yes; 2=No	2=0
ALSPAC	Not Available	

USOC	Have you received a letter, text or email from the NHS or Chief Medical Officer saying that you have been identified as someone at risk of severe illness if you catch coronavirus, because you have an underlying disease or health condition? 1=Yes; 2=No	2=0
ELSA	Have you been contacted by the NHS or your GP and advised that you are vulnerable and at risk of severe illness if you catch coronavirus (Covid-19), and should stay at home at all times and avoid any face-to-face contact? 1=Yes; 2=No	2=0
GS	Have you been contacted by letter or text message to say you are at sever risk from COVID-19 due to and underlying health condition and should be shielding? 1=Yes; 2=No	2=0
TWINS UK	Have you received a letter or text message over the past few months to say you are at high risk from COVID-19 due to an underlying health condition, and should be 'shielding'? 1=Yes; 2=No	2=0
BIB	Have you been advised by a health professional that you are high risk or vulnerable and should self-isolate for 12 weeks to protect yourself from coronavirus? 0=No; 1=Yes	

*** Pre-Pandemic Self-Assessed Health * 1=Good/Very Good/Excellent; 0=Fair/Poor**

MCS NS BCS 70 NCDS NSHD	In general, in the 3 months before the Coronavirus outbreak would you say your health was ... 1=Excellent; 2=Very Good; 3=Good; 4=Fair; 5=Poor	1/3=1; 4/5=0
ALSPAC (G0 & G1)	(2020) Do you have a history of diabetes (A), obesity (B) or asthma (C)?	1 if A & B & C==0 0 if A B C==1
USOC	(2018/19) In general, would you say your health is... 1=Excellent; 2=Very Good; 3=Good; 4=Fair; 5=Poor	1/3=1; 4/5=0
ELSA	(2018/19) Would you say your health is... 1=Excellent; 2=Very Good; 3=Good; 4=Fair; 5=Poor	1/3=1; 4/5=0
GS	NA	
TWINS UK	(2020) In general, would you say your health is... 1=Excellent; 2=Very Good; 3=Good; 4=Fair; 5=Poor	1/3=1; 4/5=0
BIB	(2016 - 2020) In general, would you say your health is... 1=Excellent; 2=Very Good; 3=Good; 4=Fair; 5=Poor	1/3=1; 4/5=0

A note about shielding

Who had to shield?

Initially 1.5 million, increasing to 2.2 million, people in the UK were identified as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) by their GP. They were sent a letter asking them to shield – not go out – for at least 12 weeks until the end of June. This timeframe was extended, and on 1st August, CEV individuals in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland were told that shielding had been paused. In Wales shielding continued until 16th August.

Who was classed as clinically extremely vulnerable?

People falling into the clinically extremely vulnerable group include:

- Solid organ transplant recipients
- People with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radical radiotherapy for lung cancer
- People with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
- People having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
- People having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors (which prevent cancer cells from repairing)
- People who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections such as Severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) or homozygous sickle cell
- People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection
- Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

Source:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200330181117/https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Supplementary File 3: Meta-analysis results

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Summary of results

	Any healthcare disruption				Appointments				Prescription/Medication				Procedures/surgery				
	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I ² %	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I ² %	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I ² %	OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I ² %	
Sex																	
Female vs. Male	Unadjusted	1.26	1.14	1.39	58.51	1.30	1.12	1.52	73.54	1.33	1.00	1.77	75.15	1.12	0.93	1.36	60.28
	Basic adjustment	1.27	1.15	1.40	53.11	1.33	1.17	1.52	60	1.27	0.94	1.74	77.98	1.15	0.97	1.37	47.79
	Full adjustment	1.30	1.15	1.46	44.89	1.41	1.10	1.82	0.00	1.18	0.50	2.77	59.02	1.09	0.77	1.55	18.15
Age																	
16-24y vs 45-54y	Unadjusted	0.77	0.41	1.47	71.12	0.55	0.26	1.20	55.5	1.17	0.34	4.05	86.43	0.48	0.34	0.68	
	Basic adjustment	0.76	0.39	1.46	71.95	0.55	0.24	1.23	58.53	1.09	0.33	3.67	85.53	0.47	0.33	0.66	
	Full adjustment	0.85	0.32	2.24	70.28	0.89	0.18	4.36		4.71	1.40	15.86		no information			
25-34y vs 45-54y	Unadjusted	0.87	0.71	1.07	51.9	0.71	0.53	0.96	72.25	1.23	0.75	2.03	74.54	0.78	0.59	1.02	0
	Basic adjustment	0.85	0.70	1.04	47.62	0.67	0.57	0.77	0	1.16	0.68	1.96	76.95	0.77	0.58	1.03	0
	Full adjustment	0.92	0.74	1.15	43.99	1.21	0.66	2.22		1.18	0.52	2.67	0	no information			
35-44y vs 45-54y	Unadjusted	0.93	0.74	1.16	67.57	0.77	0.66	0.89	23.09	1.06	0.75	1.51	57.05	0.99	0.71	1.36	42.96
	Basic adjustment	0.92	0.74	1.15	68.24	0.78	0.65	0.92	35.96	1.04	0.74	1.47	56.72	1.03	0.67	1.58	61.87
	Full adjustment	1.03	0.81	1.29	59.88	1.03	0.59	1.78		1.25	0.62	2.52	0	1.36	0.93	2.00	0
55-64y vs 45-54y	Unadjusted	1.16	0.98	1.38	63.54	1.33	1.21	1.47	0	0.79	0.57	1.08	61.08	1.17	0.65	2.10	91.47
	Basic adjustment	1.18	0.99	1.39	64.04	1.35	1.22	1.49	0	0.79	0.57	1.10	65.97	1.18	0.66	2.10	89.83
	Full adjustment	1.17	1.05	1.29	0	1.55	0.62	3.91	49.89	0.85	0.48	1.52	0	no information			
65-74y vs 45-54y	Unadjusted	1.36	1.11	1.67	75.24	1.61	1.46	1.78	0	0.73	0.48	1.11	79.59	1.93	1.67	2.23	0
	Basic adjustment	1.39	1.13	1.72	77.16	1.65	1.49	1.82	0	0.75	0.49	1.16	80.63	1.95	1.68	2.26	0
	Full adjustment	1.33	1.19	1.49	0	1.98	0.48	8.10	73.94	1.15	0.65	2.04	0	1.57	1.07	2.31	0
75y+ vs 45-54y	Unadjusted	1.45	0.92	2.29	90.02	1.83	1.59	2.12	0	0.66	0.46	0.94	47.94	2.05	1.59	2.64	28.83
	Basic adjustment	1.50	0.93	2.39	91.23	1.89	1.65	2.17	0	0.69	0.47	1.01	53.79	2.07	1.66	2.59	17.97
	Full adjustment	1.16	0.86	1.58	62.75	1.07	0.44	2.61		0.78	0.39	1.57	1.68	1.75	1.17	2.62	
Ethnicity																	

Non-White vs White*	Unadjusted	1.02	0.89	1.18	10.29	0.95	0.72	1.25	56.69	1.36	0.79	2.33	79.57	0.89	0.71	1.12	0
	Basic adjustment	1.19	1.05	1.35	0	1.10	0.86	1.39	42.54	1.32	0.82	2.12	71.12	1.14	0.91	1.44	0
	Full adjustment	1.09	0.96	1.25	0	1.15	0.83	1.61	0	1.97	1.08	3.62	0	1.68	0.36	7.76	62.98
Black vs White	Unadjusted	1.16	0.87	1.55	0	0.95	0.54	1.64	33.95	0.63	0.13	3.06	81.71	0.87	0.58	1.29	0
	Basic adjustment	1.38	1.03	1.84	0	1.01	0.54	1.92	49.83	0.64	0.14	2.87	80	1.03	0.68	1.55	0
	Full adjustment	1.15	0.86	1.53	4.01	0.81	0.23	2.83	0	0.37	0.04	3.11		0.87	0.41	1.82	
East Asian vs White	Unadjusted	0.97	0.56	1.68	0	0.61	0.28	1.30	12.51	2.34	0.39	14.15	88.19	1.23	0.48	3.15	0
	Basic adjustment	1.13	0.67	1.90	0	0.80	0.39	1.64	17.46	1.95	0.53	7.24	79.39	1.61	0.61	4.22	0
	Full adjustment	0.96	0.60	1.51	0	1.19	0.26	5.51		no information				no information			
Mixed vs White	Unadjusted	1.05	0.79	1.38	0	1.02	0.55	1.89	64.07	1.51	0.99	2.30	0	1.05	0.66	1.67	0
	Basic adjustment	1.24	0.86	1.78	27.61	1.22	0.69	2.15	56.82	1.34	0.82	2.18	16.29	1.34	0.76	2.36	20.19
	Full adjustment	1.25	0.88	1.77	15.86	1.61	0.80	3.22	51.21	0.93	0.10	8.48		0.85	0.32	2.21	
South Asian vs White	Unadjusted	0.85	0.61	1.18	64.69	0.92	0.59	1.42	67.42	0.99	0.36	2.72	89.3	0.68	0.45	1.04	18
	Basic adjustment	1.05	0.84	1.32	28.25	1.11	0.88	1.39	12.68	0.98	0.38	2.54	87.94	0.89	0.64	1.24	0
	Full adjustment	0.93	0.67	1.30	57.84	1.03	0.29	3.63		2.81	1.19	6.63	11.86	1.11	0.62	1.99	
Other Ethnicity vs White	Unadjusted	0.79	0.46	1.34	28.89	0.91	0.58	1.45	0	1.23	0.56	2.67	25.72	0.84	0.20	3.48	44.62
	Basic adjustment	0.90	0.49	1.63	44.27	1.07	0.68	1.68	0	1.45	0.81	2.60	0	0.95	0.23	4.03	52.56
	Full adjustment	0.82	0.45	1.50	35.18	1.97	1.08	3.62	0.00	3.74	0.39	35.91		no information			
Education																	
A-level/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree	Unadjusted	1.04	0.91	1.17	58.16	1.03	0.91	1.17	42.88	0.94	0.77	1.15	21.54	0.84	0.55	1.29	88.56
	Basic adjustment	1.08	0.97	1.20	38.7	1.07	0.99	1.16	0	1.02	0.82	1.28	27.13	0.87	0.58	1.30	85.92
	Full adjustment	1.01	0.92	1.11	0	0.97	0.76	1.25	0	1.61	0.63	4.12	59.22	1.03	0.82	1.29	0
GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree	Unadjusted	0.99	0.87	1.14	62.23	1.03	0.95	1.12	0	0.98	0.75	1.27	53.81	1.03	0.91	1.16	0
	Basic adjustment	1.00	0.87	1.14	59.18	1.01	0.91	1.12	15.22	1.04	0.77	1.39	62.34	1.05	0.93	1.18	0
	Full adjustment	0.91	0.81	1.02	48.6	0.86	0.66	1.12	0	1.01	0.63	1.61	1.57	0.82	0.64	1.05	0
<GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree	Unadjusted	1.06	0.88	1.28	76.55	1.09	0.92	1.29	52.88	1.07	0.74	1.54	69.78	1.45	1.28	1.64	0
	Basic adjustment	1.05	0.91	1.21	53.17	1.01	0.86	1.18	42.42	1.17	0.82	1.67	63.42	1.26	1.11	1.44	0
	Full adjustment	0.87	0.75	1.00	34.17	0.90	0.54	1.50	58.54	1.17	0.39	3.49	60.69	1.53	0.34	6.85	71.25
Occupational class																	

Intermediate vs Managerial/Admin/Professional	Unadjusted	1.08	1.00	1.16	0	1.01	0.91	1.14	22.79	1.09	0.83	1.42	41.19	1.19	1.05	1.34	0
	Basic adjustment	1.07	0.99	1.15	0	1.01	0.93	1.10	0	1.10	0.88	1.38	26.19	1.16	1.03	1.31	0
	Full adjustment	1.00	0.92	1.08	0	1.01	0.78	1.30	0	0.73	0.34	1.61	0	0.78	0.42	1.47	48.08
Manual/Routine vs Managerial/Admin/Professional	Unadjusted	1.13	1.03	1.23	12.12	1.04	0.90	1.20	36.16	1.38	1.16	1.64	0	1.11	0.91	1.35	25.25
	Basic adjustment	1.17	1.08	1.27	0	1.07	0.93	1.23	28.46	1.36	1.11	1.67	8.93	1.17	1.03	1.33	0
	Full adjustment	1.02	0.93	1.12	0	1.10	0.84	1.44	6.05	0.51	0.18	1.43	23.27	0.92	0.56	1.50	20.63
Other social class vs Managerial/Admin/Professional	Unadjusted	1.47	1.02	2.13	89.12	1.41	1.08	1.84	66.23	2.16	1.30	3.57	76.1	1.71	0.94	3.10	87.16
	Basic adjustment	1.51	1.12	2.04	79.69	1.46	1.16	1.84	47.81	2.45	1.72	3.50	45.5	1.81	1.17	2.80	73.85
	Full adjustment	1.19	1.00	1.43	39.12	1.30	0.85	1.99	0.00	1.42	0.13	15.78	76.18	0.94	0.69	1.27	

Basic adjustment: sex, age, and ethnicity (where available)

Full adjustment: sex, age, and ethnicity (where available) education, occupational class, UK Nation (where appropriate), household composition, and pre-pandemic self-reported health.

Empty I²% column indicates only one study included

*Binary variable including Black, East Asian, Mixed, South Asian, and other ethnicity in 'non-White'

Summary of stratified results

		Any healthcare disruption			
Sex		OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I2%
Female vs. Male	Overall	1.27	1.15	1.40	53.11
	Not shielding	1.26	1.12	1.43	61.12
	Shielding	1.37	1.15	1.63	0
	16-24y	2.22	1.63	3.02	0
	25-34y	1.56	1.30	1.87	0
	35-44y	1.51	1.23	1.86	0
	45-54	1.72	1.35	2.18	36.61
	55-64	1.09	0.92	1.30	59.58
	75+	1.08	0.90	1.30	20
Age		OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I2%
16-24y vs 45-54y	Overall	0.76	0.39	1.46	71.95
	Not shielding	0.79	0.40	1.56	70.32
	Shielding	0.64	0.23	1.78	
25-34y vs 45-54y	Overall	0.85	0.70	1.04	47.62
	Not shielding	0.86	0.70	1.06	43.4
	Shielding	1.09	0.61	1.95	0
35-44y vs 45-54y	Overall	0.92	0.74	1.15	68.24
	Not shielding	0.95	0.74	1.21	68.26
	Shielding	0.68	0.34	1.34	47.41
55-64y vs 45-54y	Overall	1.18	0.99	1.39	64.04
	Not shielding	1.21	1.02	1.43	53.82
	Shielding	1.24	0.87	1.77	0
65-74y vs 45-54y	Overall	1.39	1.13	1.72	77.16
	Not shielding	1.44	1.20	1.72	64.1
	Shielding	1.11	0.79	1.56	0
75y+ vs 45-54y	Overall	1.50	0.93	2.39	91.23
	Not shielding	1.61	1.17	2.22	79.38
	Shielding	0.83	0.51	1.37	32.84
Ethnicity		OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I2%
Non-White vs White*	Overall	1.19	1.05	1.35	0
	Not shielding	1.06	0.86	1.31	41.46
	Shielding	1.62	1.08	2.43	0
	16-24y	1.30	0.89	1.89	0
	25-34y	0.92	0.65	1.29	36.48
	35-44y	1.31	1.01	1.71	0
	45-54	1.61	1.16	2.22	0
	55-64	1.13	0.85	1.50	0

	75+	1.28	0.67	2.45	0
Black vs White	Overall	1.38	1.03	1.84	0
	Not shielding	0.80	0.43	1.49	58.06
	Shielding	1.60	0.67	3.83	0
	16-24y	1.15	0.51	2.59	0
	25-34y	0.82	0.40	1.68	0
	35-44y	1.91	0.81	4.48	0
	45-54	1.99	0.93	4.25	15.25
	55-64	1.69	1.00	2.84	0
	75+	1.23	0.42	3.56	0
East Asian vs White	Overall	1.13	0.67	1.90	0
	Not shielding	0.95	0.54	1.68	0
	Shielding		no information		
	16-24y	0.01	0.00	0.05	
	25-34y	0.62	0.20	1.92	0
	35-44y	1.63	0.80	3.32	0
	45-54	1.75	0.54	5.64	0
	55-64	0.96	0.43	2.15	0
	75+		no information		
Mixed vs White	Overall	1.24	0.86	1.78	27.61
	Not shielding	1.18	0.85	1.62	0
	Shielding	1.85	0.71	4.77	0
	16-24y	2.50	1.25	5.02	0
	25-34y	1.26	0.79	2.02	0
	35-44y	1.15	0.23	5.69	73.12
	45-54	0.92	0.46	1.87	0
	55-64	1.06	0.53	2.11	0
	75+	1.47	0.34	6.42	22.46
South Asian vs White	Overall	1.05	0.84	1.32	28.25
	Not shielding	0.98	0.75	1.28	35.03
	Shielding	1.44	0.87	2.38	0
	16-24y	0.98	0.62	1.53	13.95
	25-34y	0.80	0.38	1.71	74.73
	35-44y	1.11	0.80	1.55	10.1
	45-54	1.67	0.43	6.48	82
	55-64	0.82	0.44	1.56	14.81
	75+	1.11	0.40	3.12	0
Other Ethnicity vs White	Overall	0.90	0.49	1.63	44.27
	Not shielding	0.85	0.45	1.62	43.11
	Shielding	0.75	0.11	4.96	10.15
	16-24y	0.18	0.00	15.35	88.56
	25-34y	0.80	0.31	2.08	49.28

	35-44y	1.41	0.58	3.40	0
	45-54	1.74	0.56	5.45	29.75
	55-64	0.77	0.27	2.22	0
	75+	4.18	0.35	50.04	
Education		OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I2%
A-level/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree	Overall	1.08	0.97	1.20	38.7
	Not shielding	1.09	0.96	1.23	39.28
	Shielding	0.95	0.74	1.22	0
	16-24y	1.33	0.93	1.90	0
	25-34y	0.99	0.69	1.42	62.16
	35-44y	1.62	1.28	2.05	0
	45-54	1.13	0.96	1.34	0
	55-64	1.01	0.89	1.14	0
	75+	0.96	0.65	1.40	57.49
GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree	Overall	1.00	0.87	1.14	59.18
	Not shielding	0.99	0.84	1.17	64.95
	Shielding	0.80	0.62	1.04	0
	16-24y	0.94	0.49	1.81	64.06
	25-34y	1.24	0.80	1.94	69.1
	35-44y	1.26	0.97	1.63	0
	45-54	1.16	0.83	1.62	62.52
	55-64	1.03	0.91	1.17	0
	75+	0.92	0.65	1.30	35.17
<GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree	Overall	1.05	0.91	1.21	53.17
	Not shielding	1.02	0.88	1.19	46.14
	Shielding	0.87	0.68	1.11	0
	16-24y	0.77	0.47	1.28	11.51
	25-34y	0.99	0.67	1.45	42.2
	35-44y	1.03	0.74	1.43	0
	45-54	1.48	1.08	2.04	34.96
	55-64	1.20	1.03	1.41	0
	75+	0.96	0.78	1.20	0
Occupational class		OR	Lower CI	Upper CI	I2%
Intermediate vs Managerial/Admin/P rofessional	Overall	1.07	0.99	1.15	0
	Not shielding	1.07	0.98	1.16	0
	Shielding	0.87	0.65	1.16	7.88
	16-24y	0.92	0.60	1.41	0
	25-34y	1.04	0.84	1.29	10.79
	35-44y	1.28	0.92	1.78	46.81
	45-54	1.12	0.94	1.33	0
	55-64	1.01	0.86	1.19	22.02

	75+	1.00	0.76	1.33	0
	Overall	1.17	1.08	1.27	0
	Not shielding	1.18	1.07	1.29	0
	Shielding	0.93	0.71	1.21	0
Manual/Routine vs Managerial/Admin/P rofessional	16-24y	1.15	0.77	1.71	0
	25-34y	1.11	0.80	1.55	50.55
	35-44y	1.24	0.95	1.63	0
	45-54	1.08	0.90	1.30	0
	55-64	1.16	1.00	1.35	0
	75+	1.27	0.96	1.67	0
		Overall	1.51	1.12	2.04
	Not shielding	1.48	1.04	2.09	83.37
	Shielding	0.89	0.39	2.07	78.87
Other social class vs Managerial/Admin/P rofessional	16-24y	1.02	0.46	2.26	58.35
	25-34y	1.85	1.29	2.64	0
	35-44y	1.44	0.55	3.80	68.27
	45-54	2.05	0.98	4.29	85.15
	55-64	1.65	1.21	2.27	60.63
	75+	1.02	0.62	1.69	0

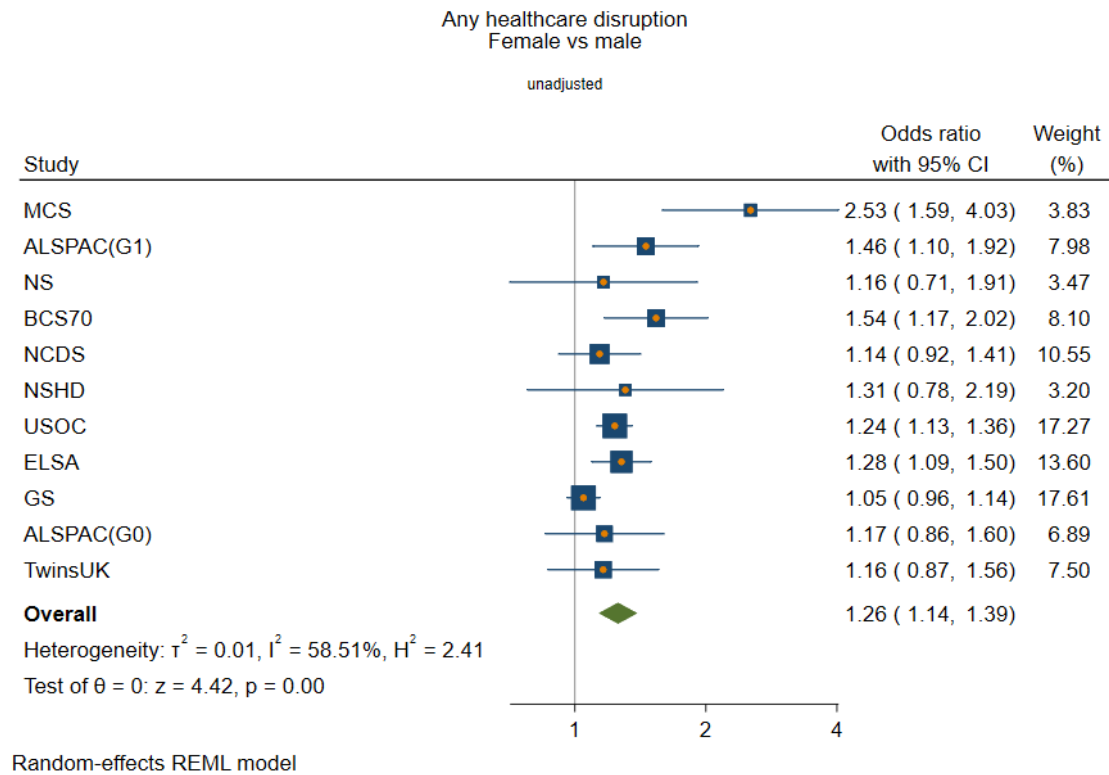
Adjusted for sex, age, and ethnicity (where available)

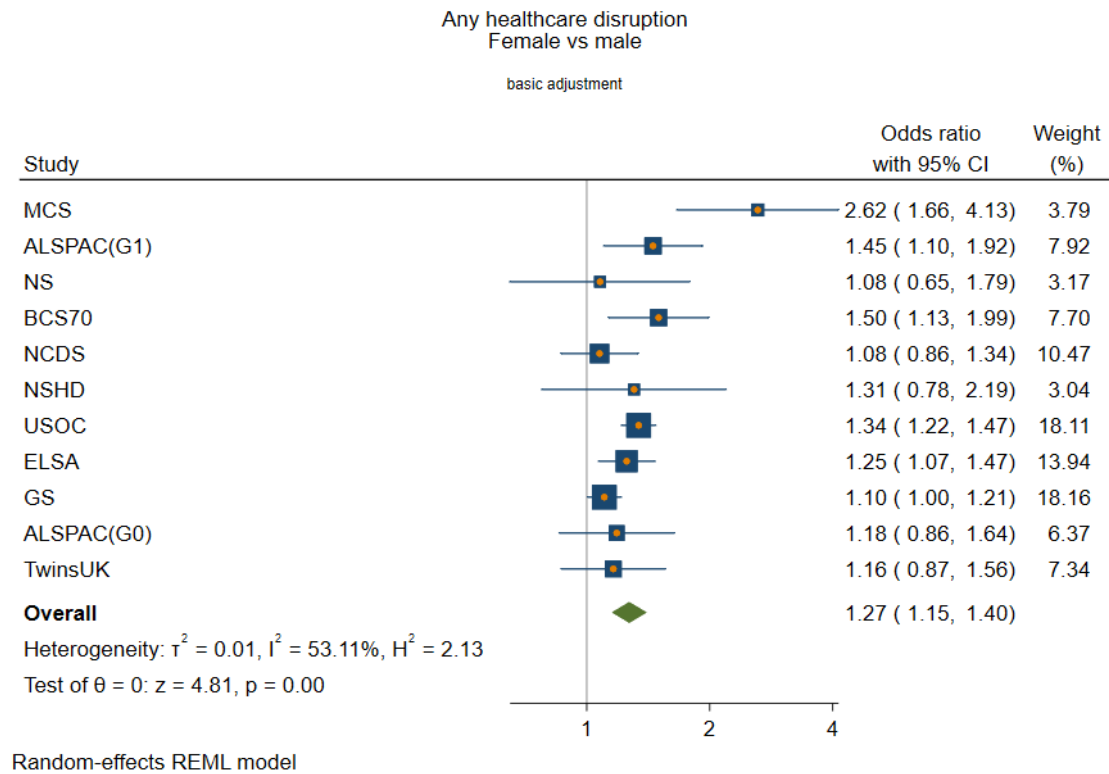
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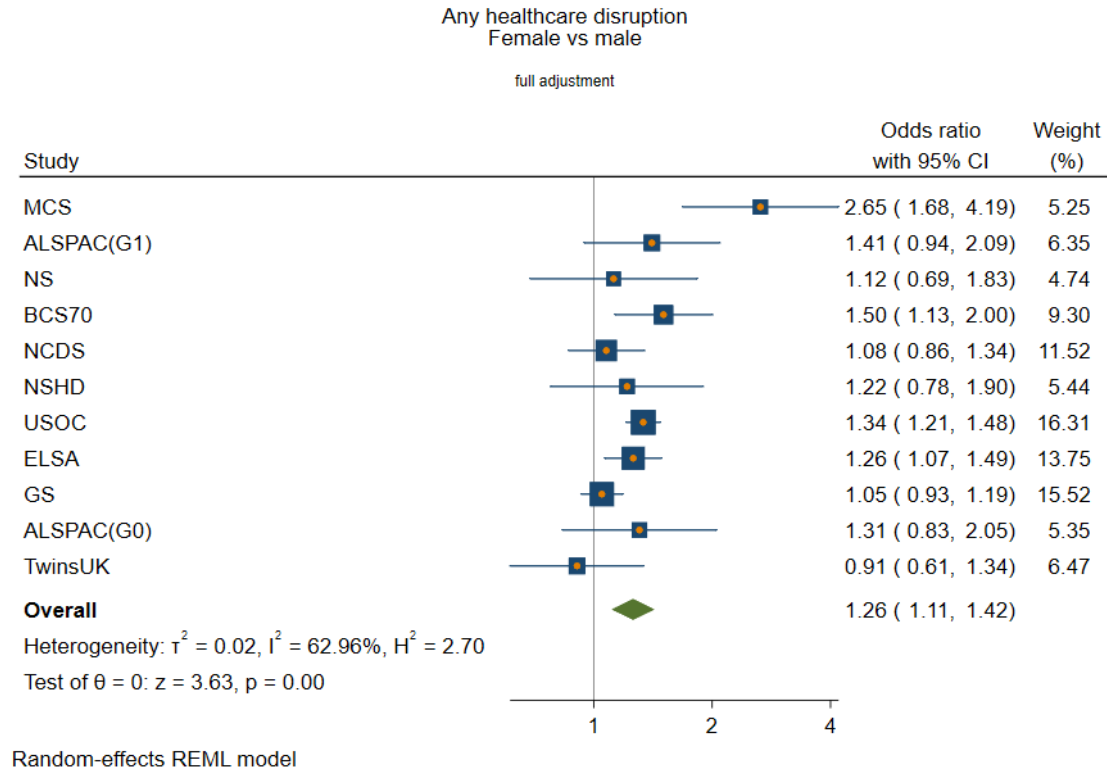
*Binary variable including Black, East Asian, Mixed, South Asian, and other ethnicity in 'non-White'

Any healthcare disruption

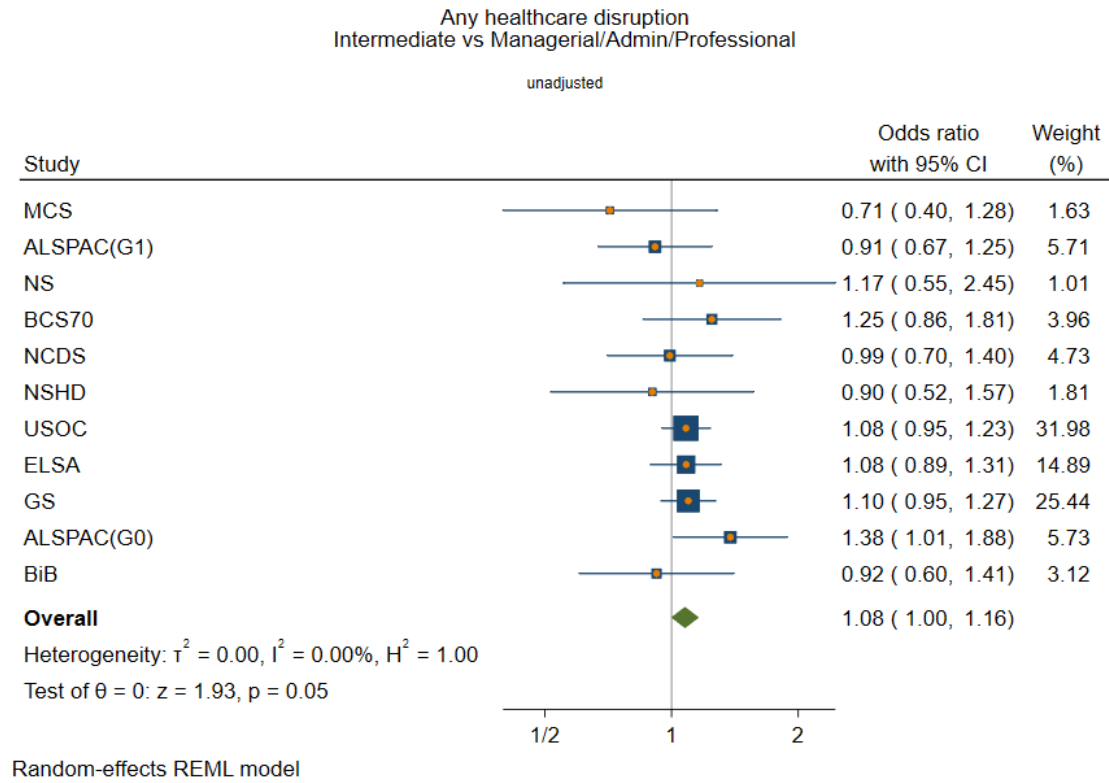
Sex
Unadjusted



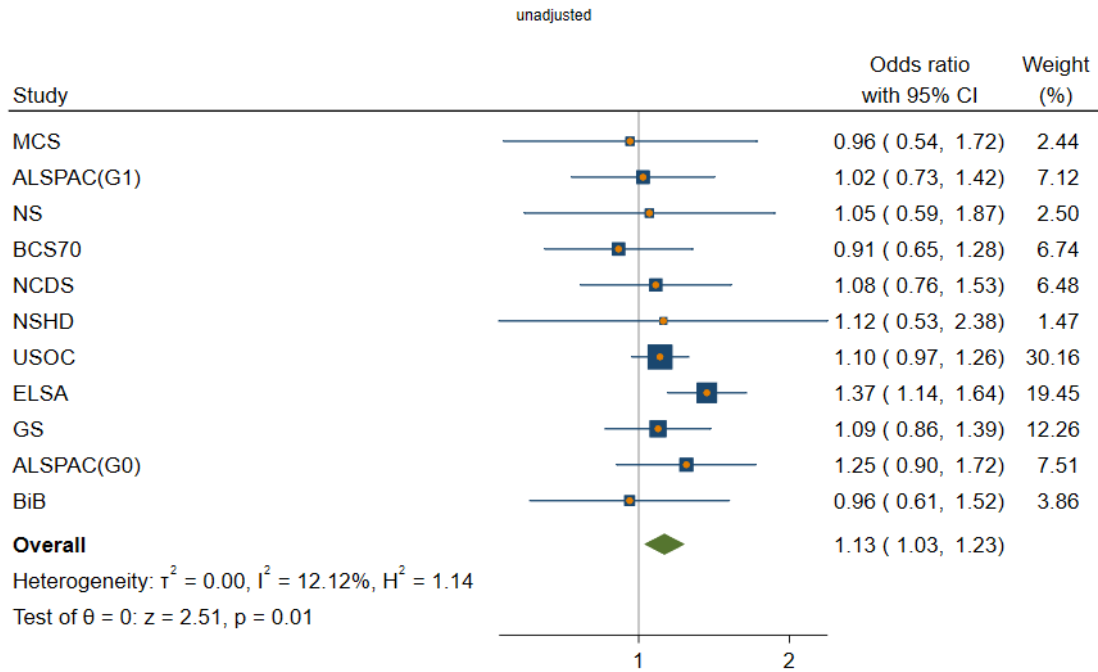
Basic adjustment

Full adjustment

Occupational class
Unadjusted

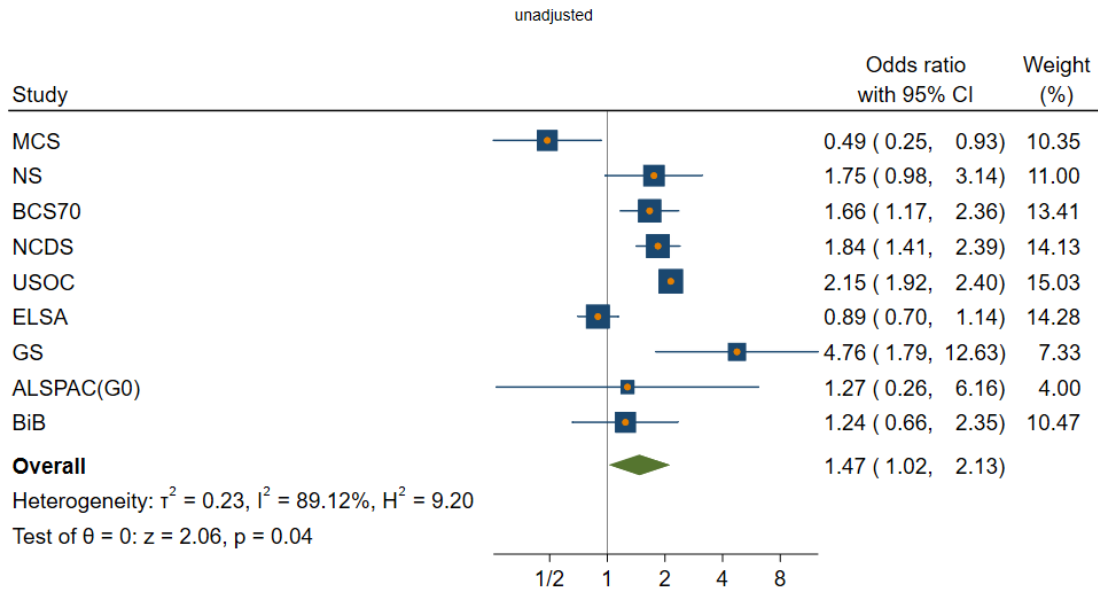


Any healthcare disruption
Manual/Routine vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

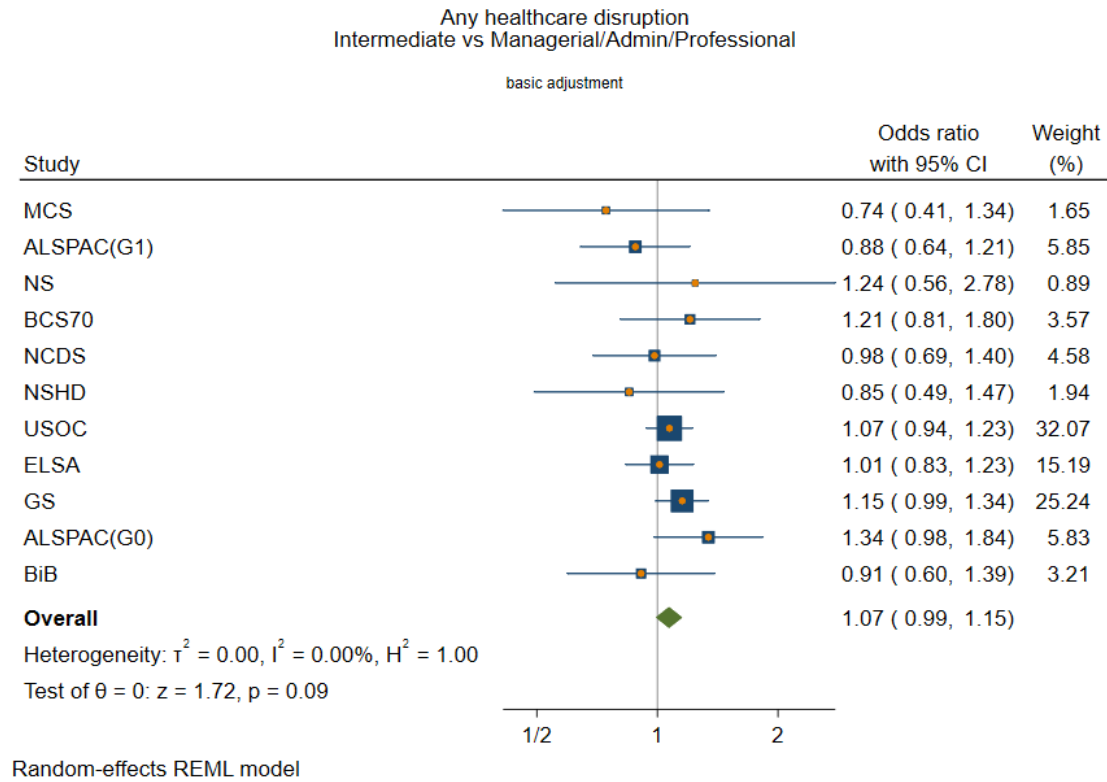


Random-effects REML model

Any healthcare disruption
Other social class vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

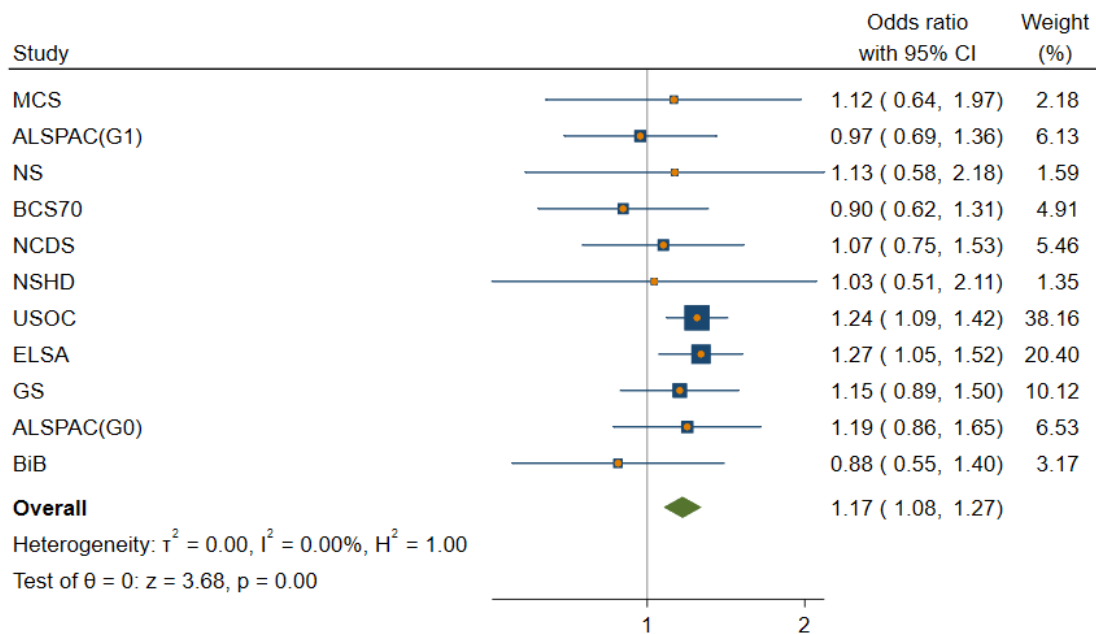


Random-effects REML model

Basic adjustment

Any healthcare disruption
Manual/Routine vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

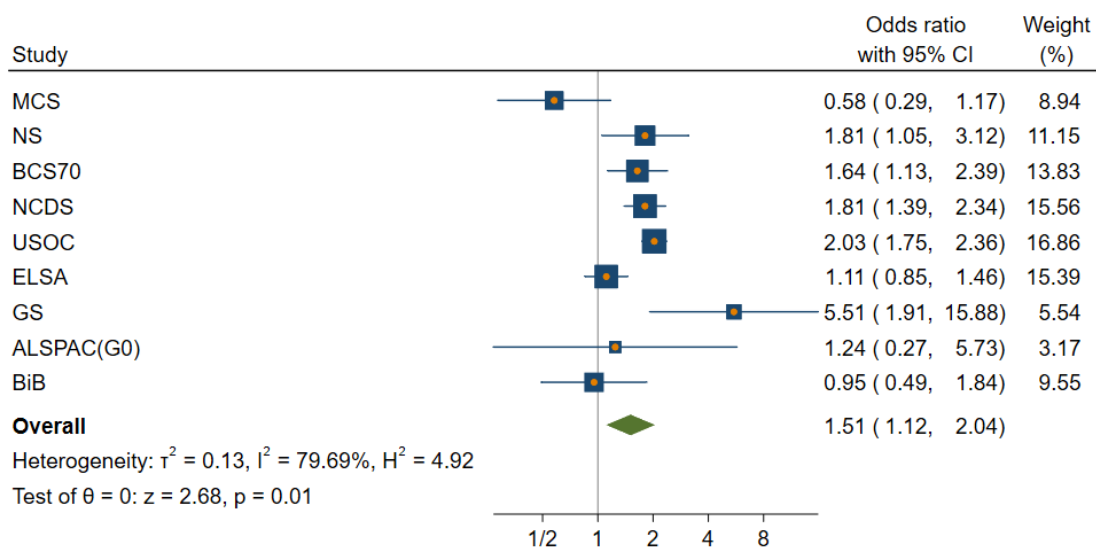
basic adjustment



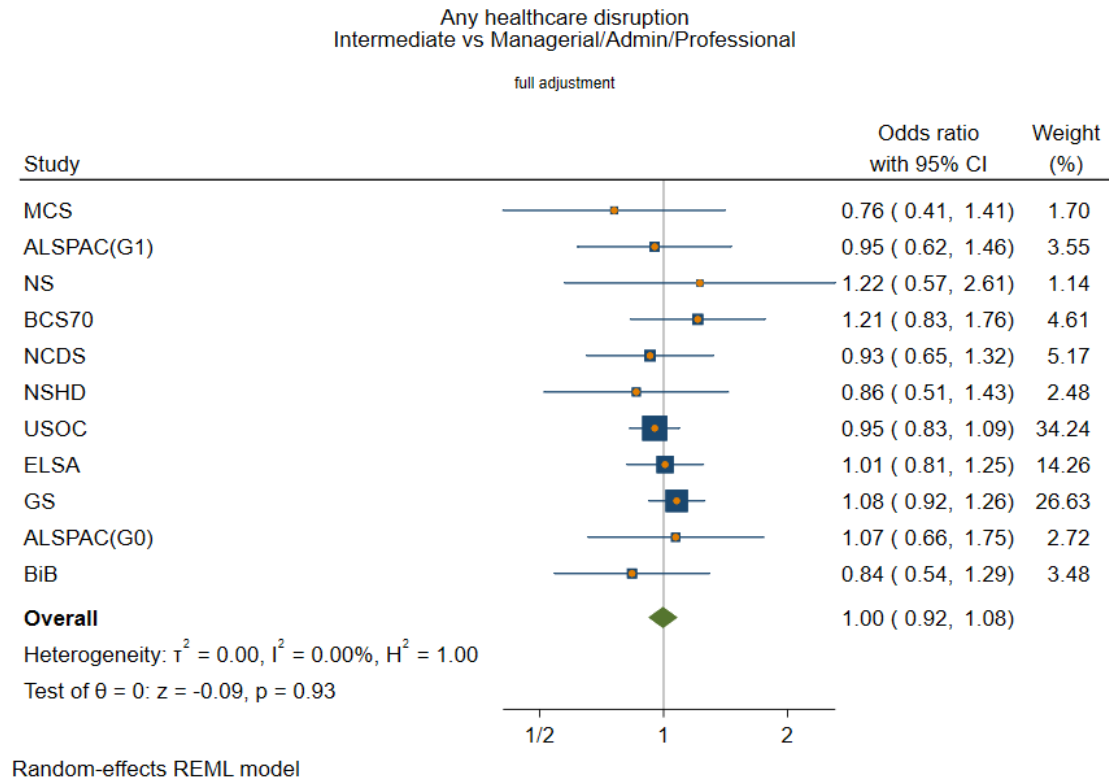
Random-effects REML model

Any healthcare disruption
Other social class vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

basic adjustment

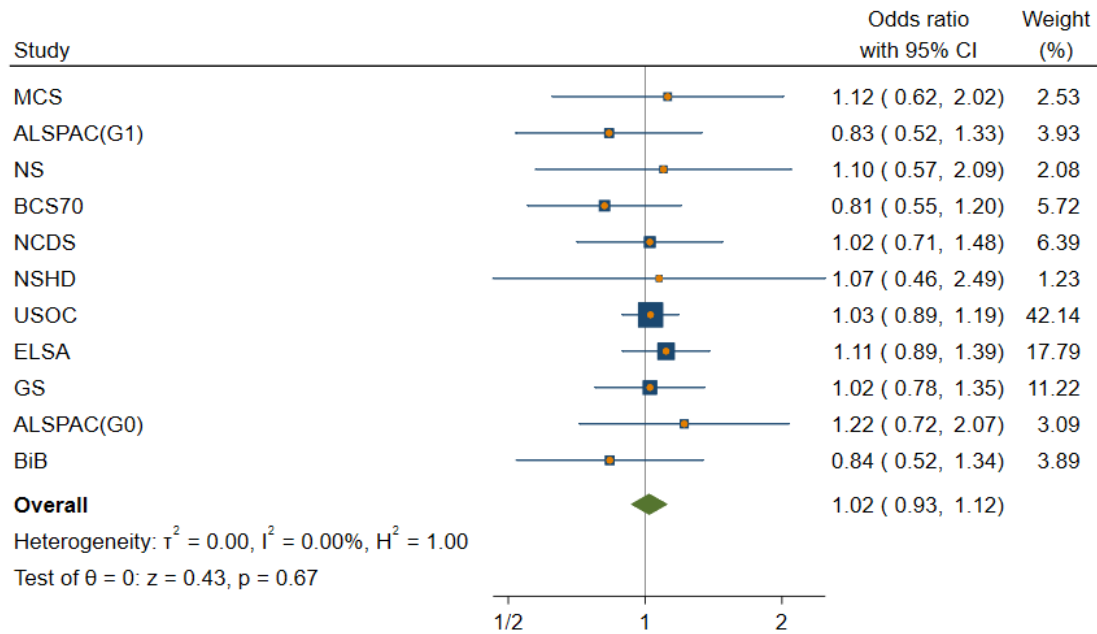


Random-effects REML model

Full adjustment

Any healthcare disruption
Manual/Routine vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

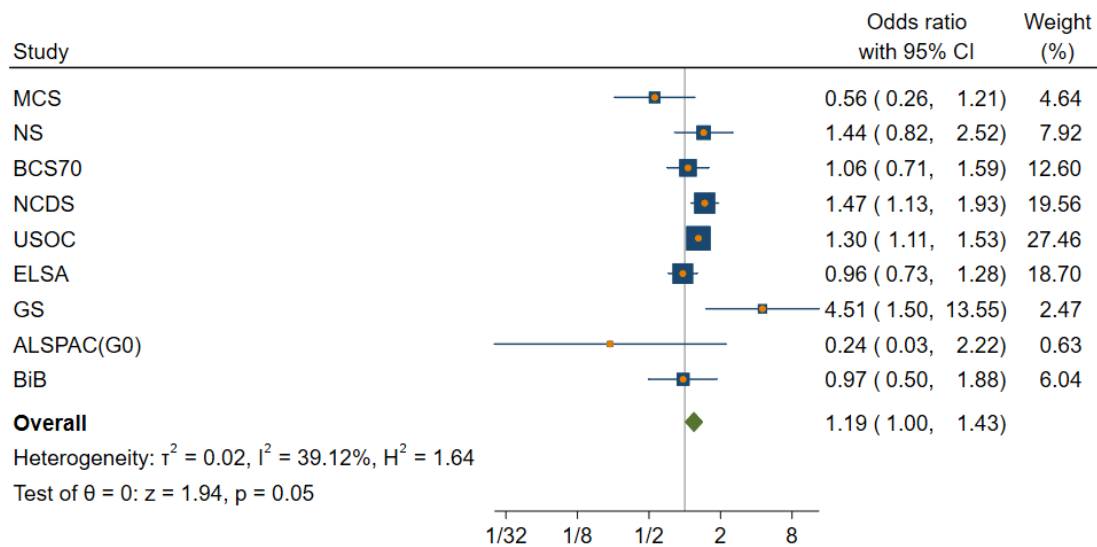
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

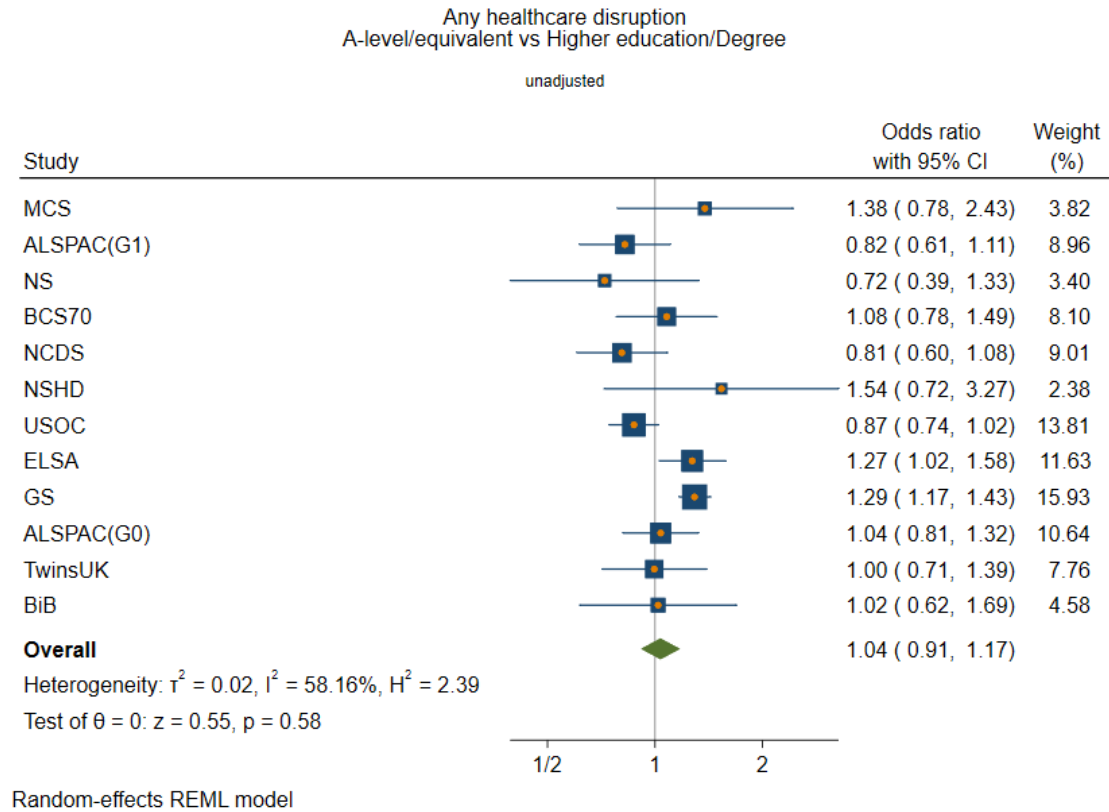
Any healthcare disruption
Other social class vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

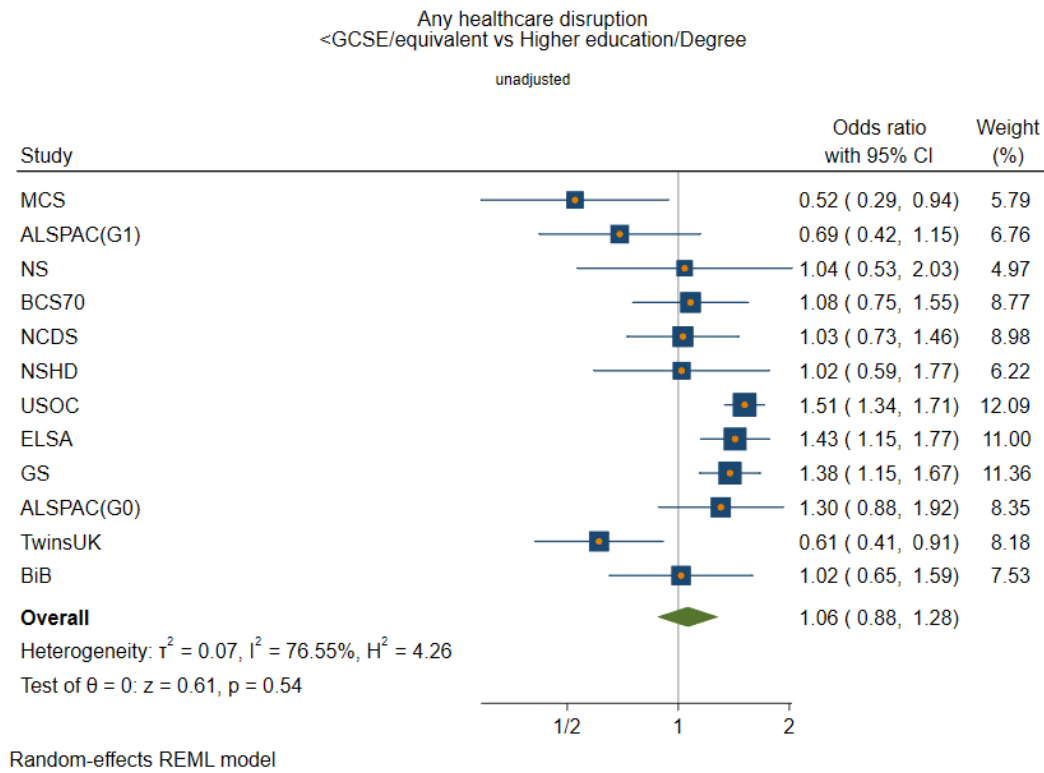
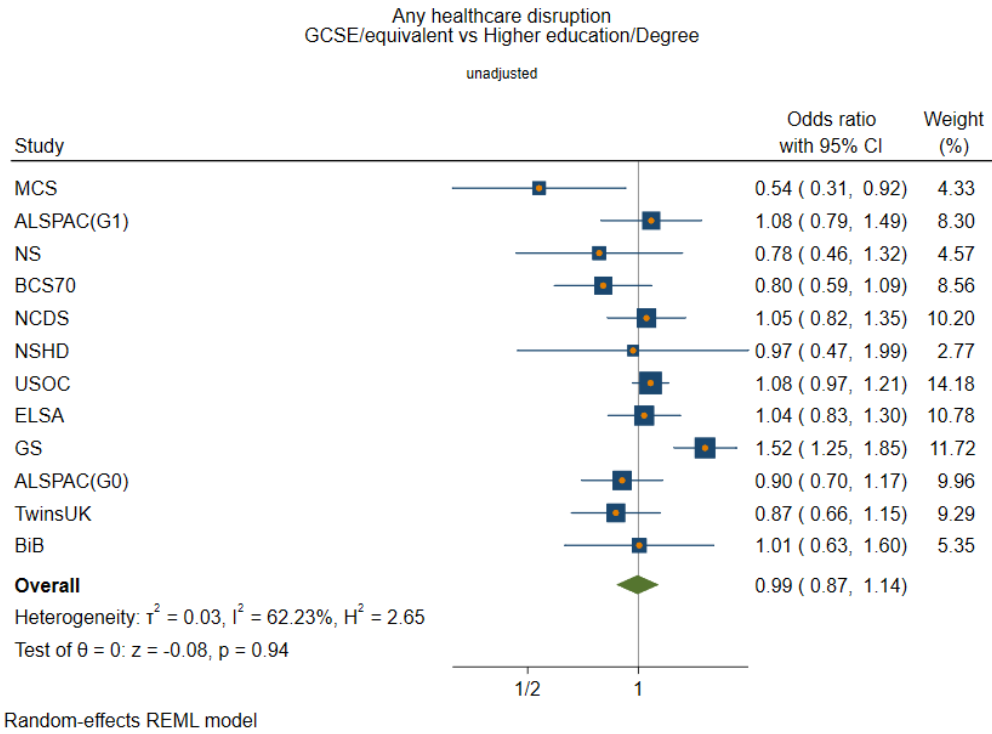
full adjustment

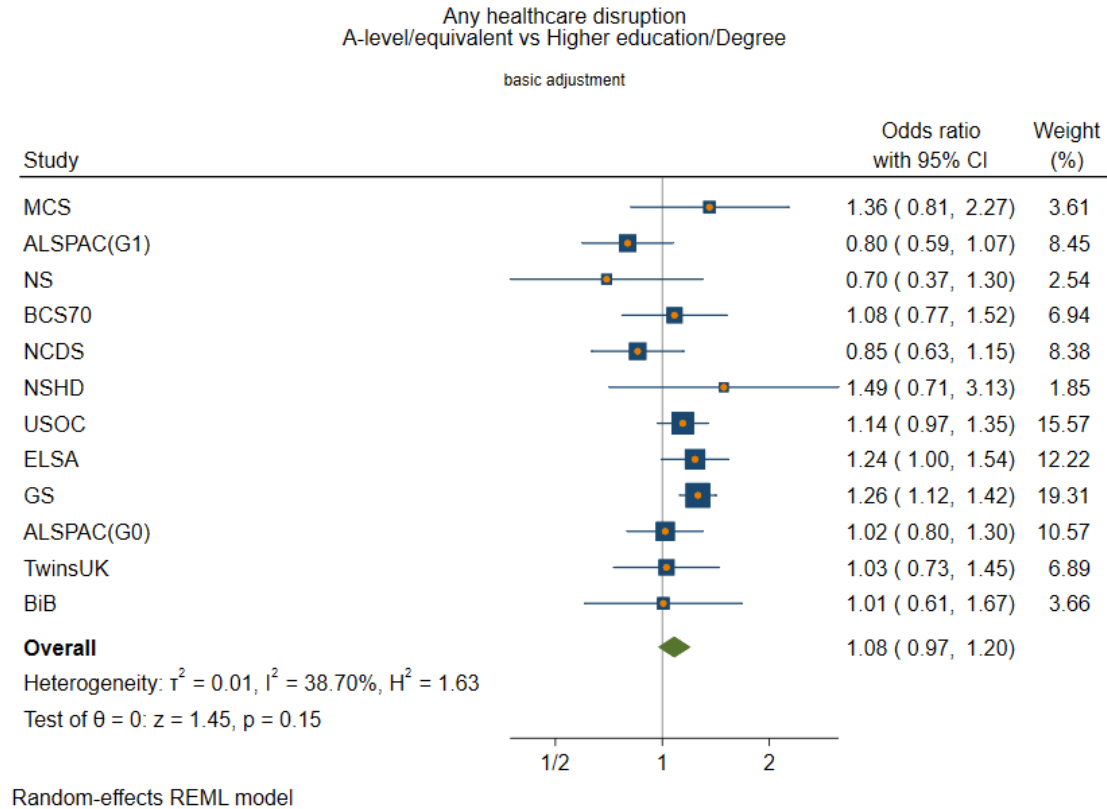


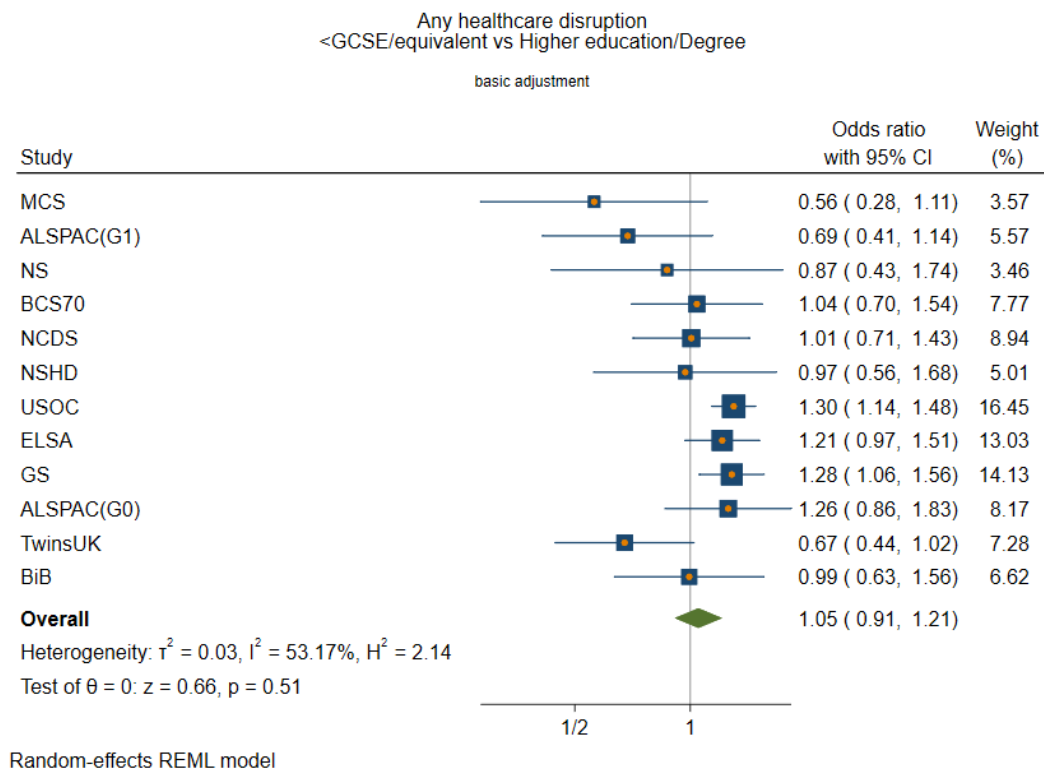
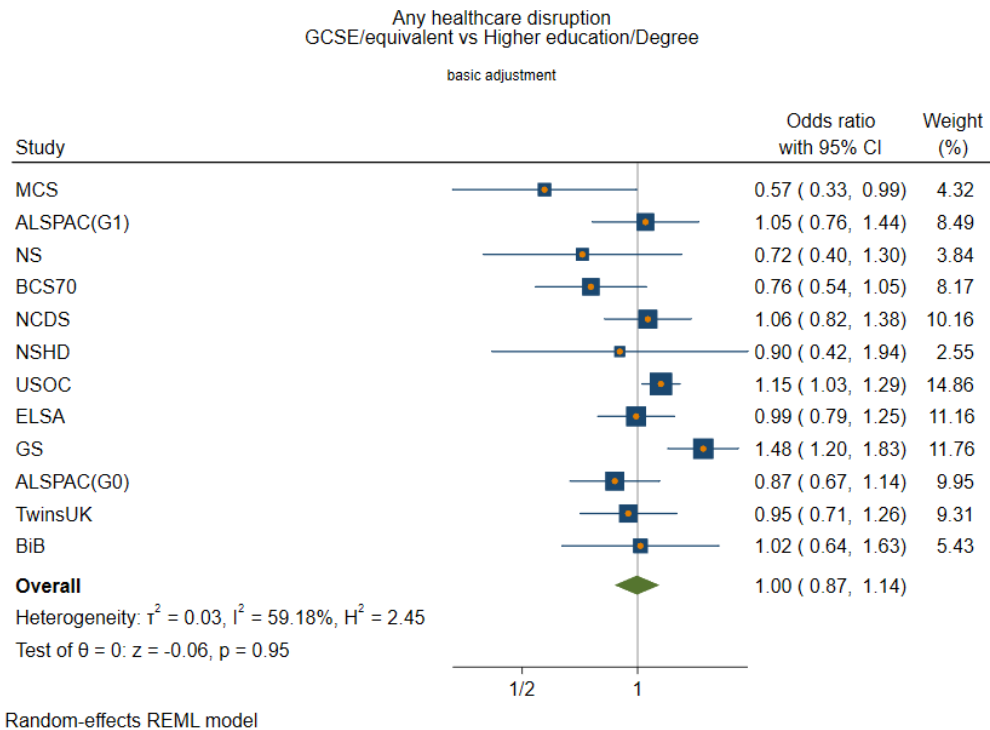
Random-effects REML model

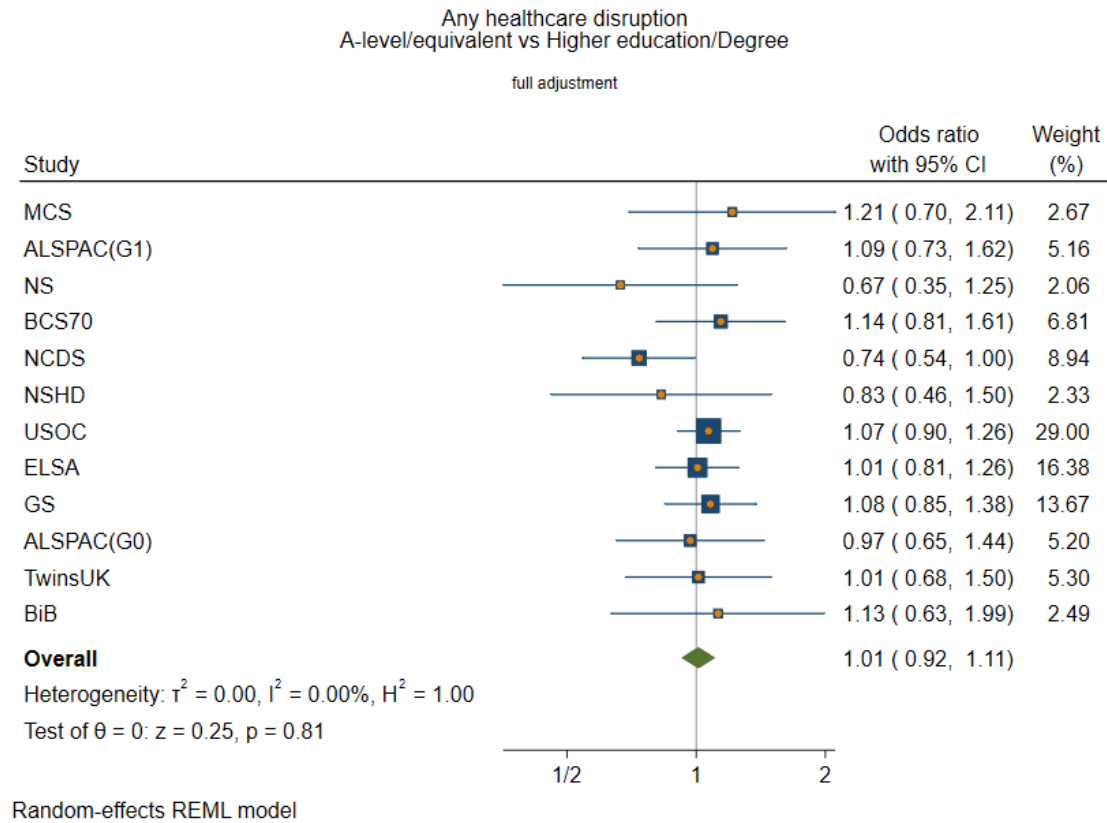
Education
Unadjusted

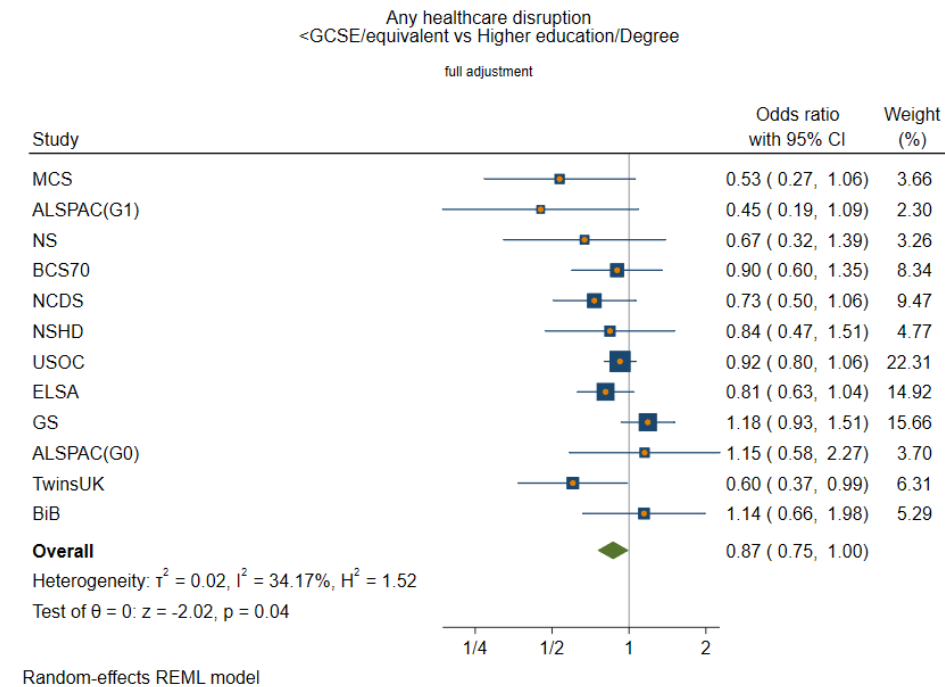
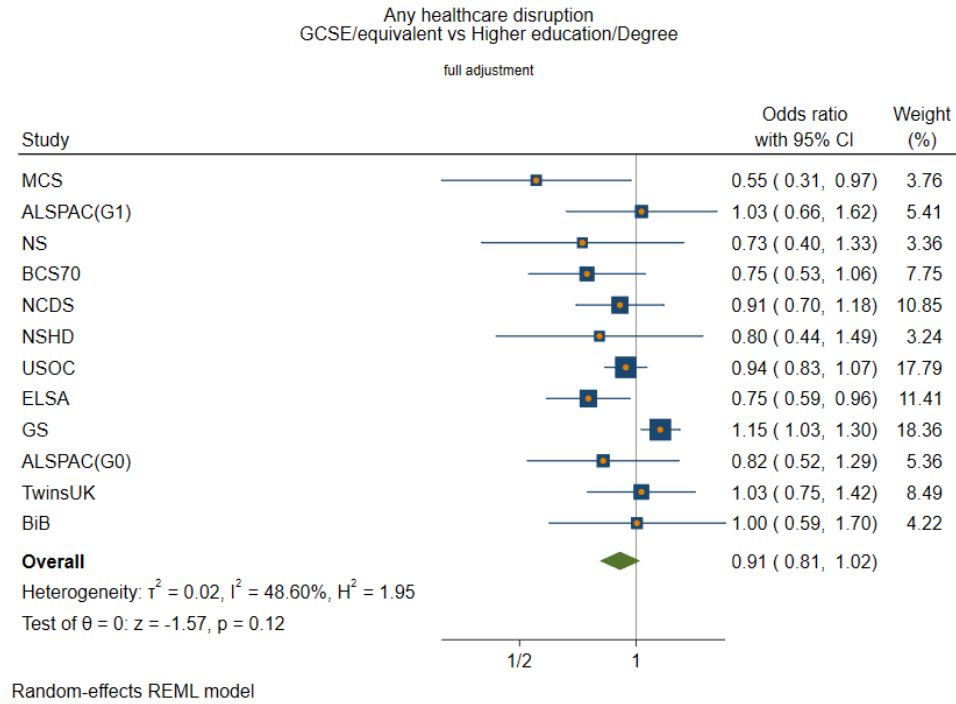




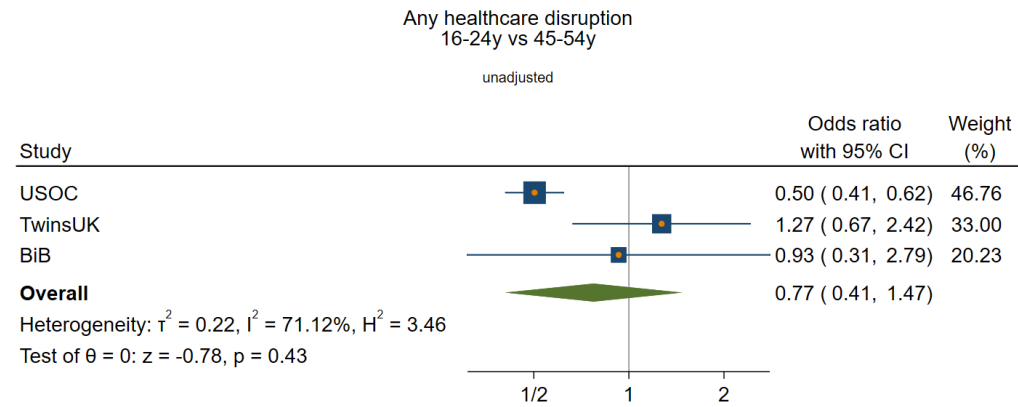
Basic adjustment



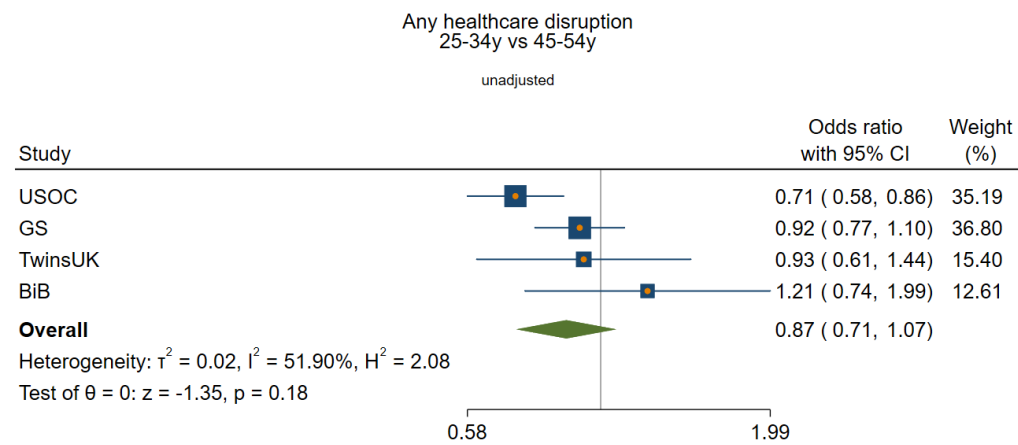
Full adjustment



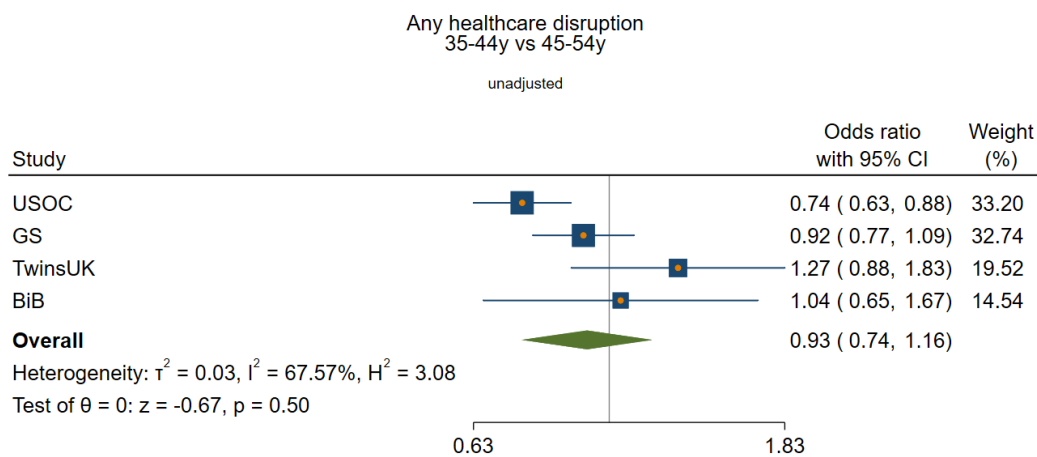
Age
Unadjusted



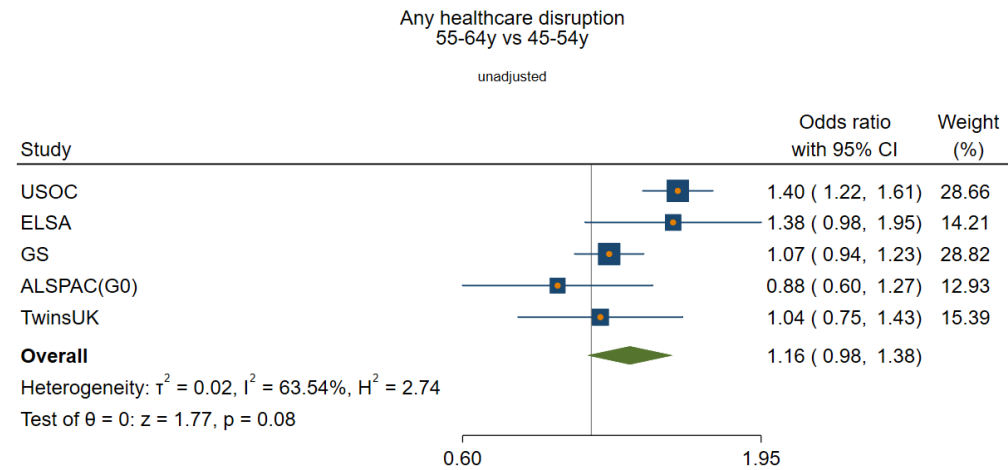
Random-effects REML model



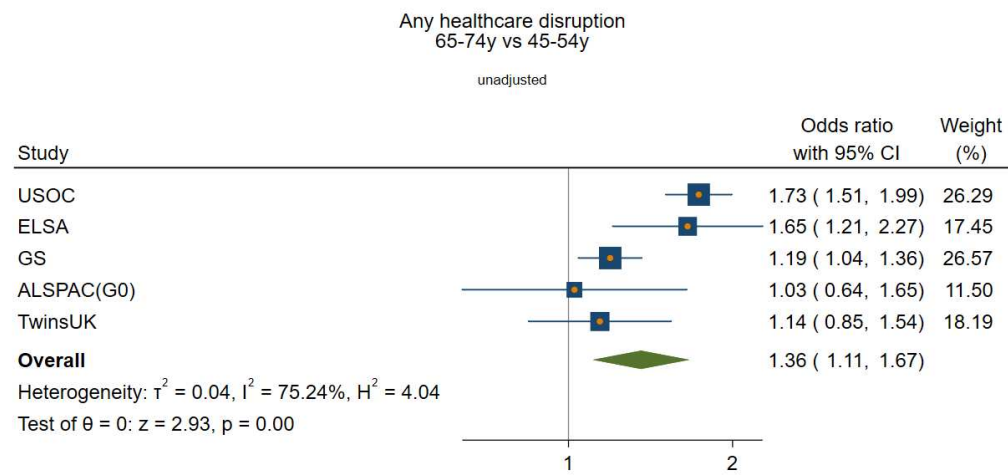
Random-effects REML model



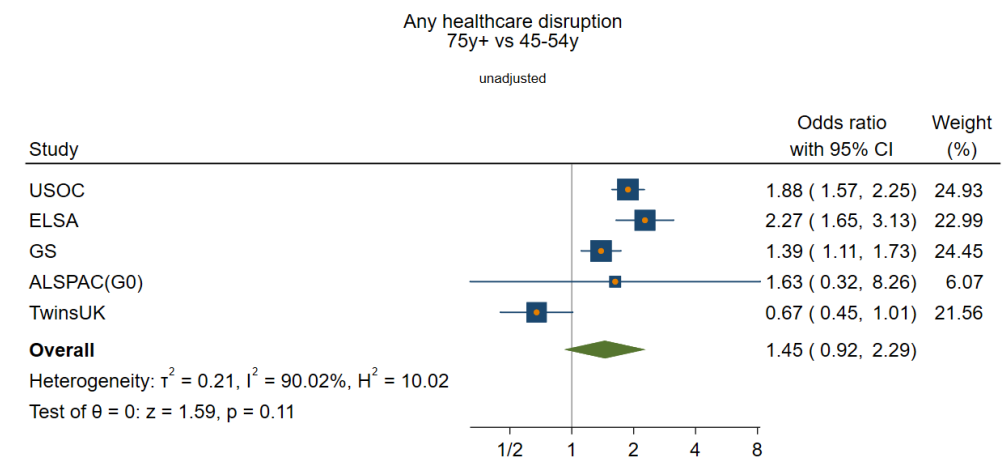
Random-effects REML model



Random-effects REML model

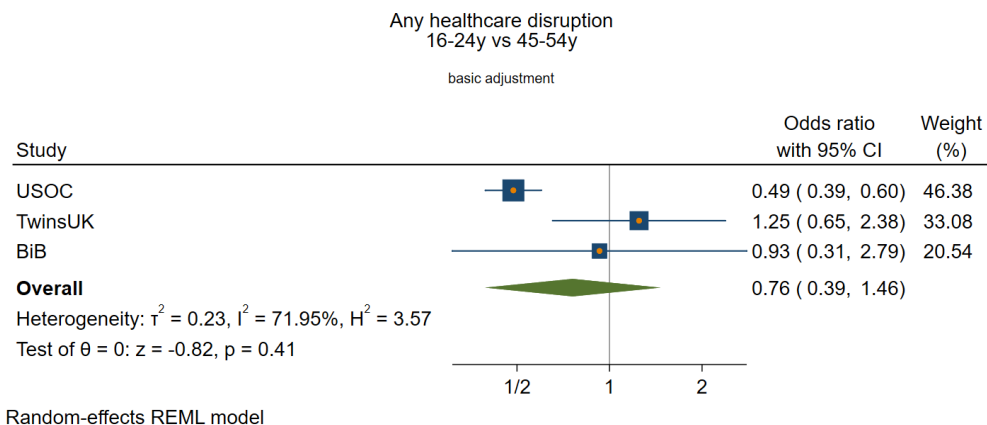


Random-effects REML model

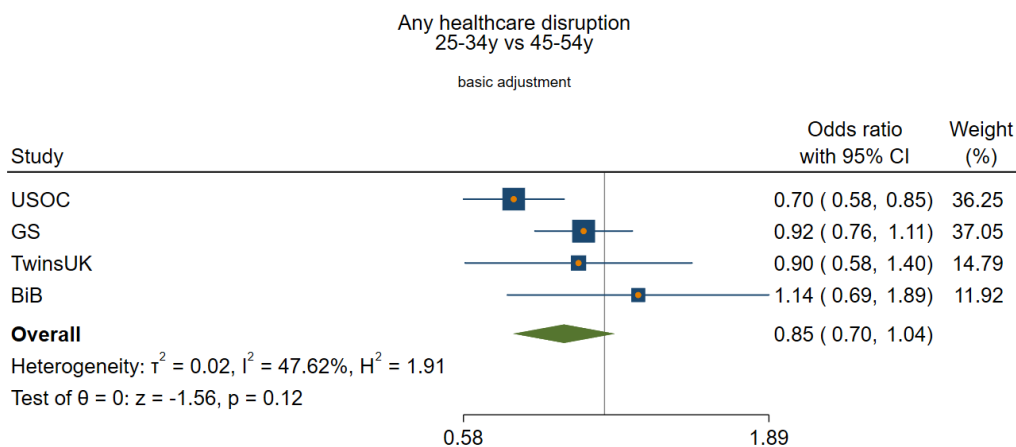


Random-effects REML model

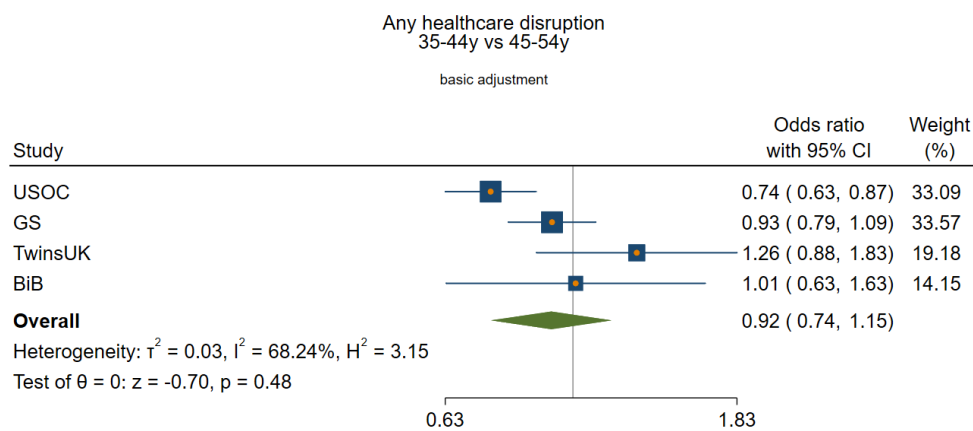
Basic adjustment



Random-effects REML model



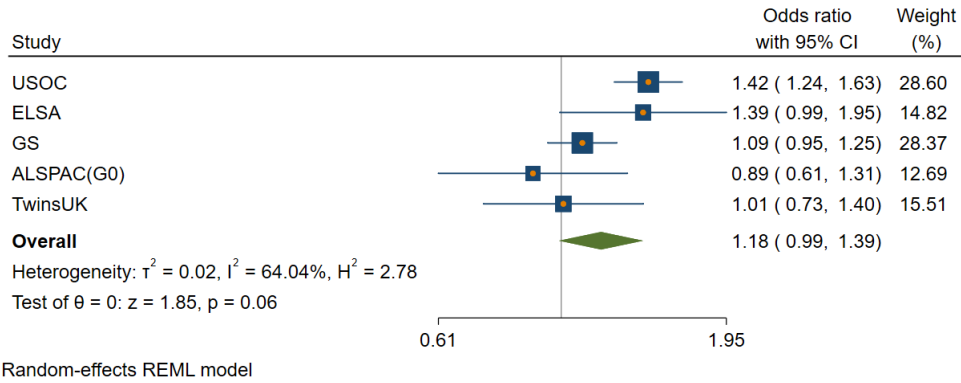
Random-effects REML model



Random-effects REML model

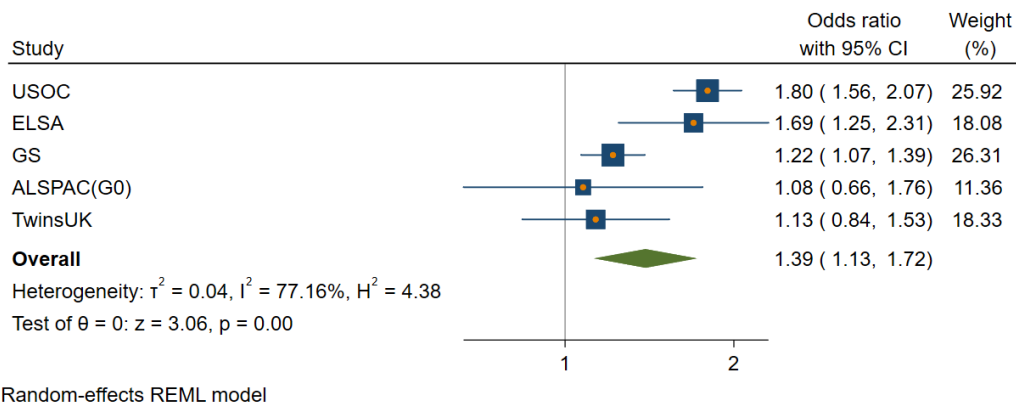
Any healthcare disruption
55-64y vs 45-54y

basic adjustment



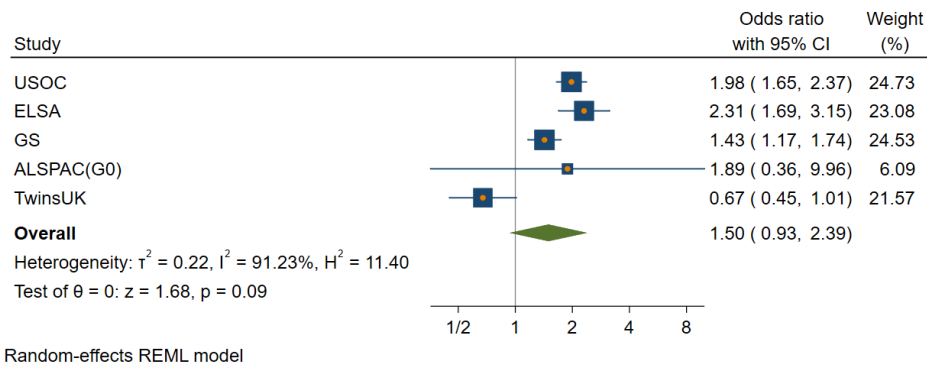
Any healthcare disruption
65-74y vs 45-54y

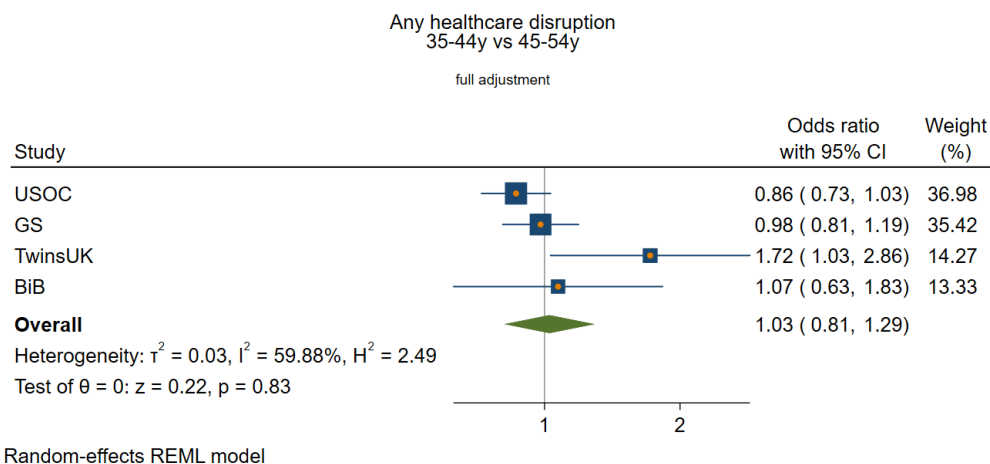
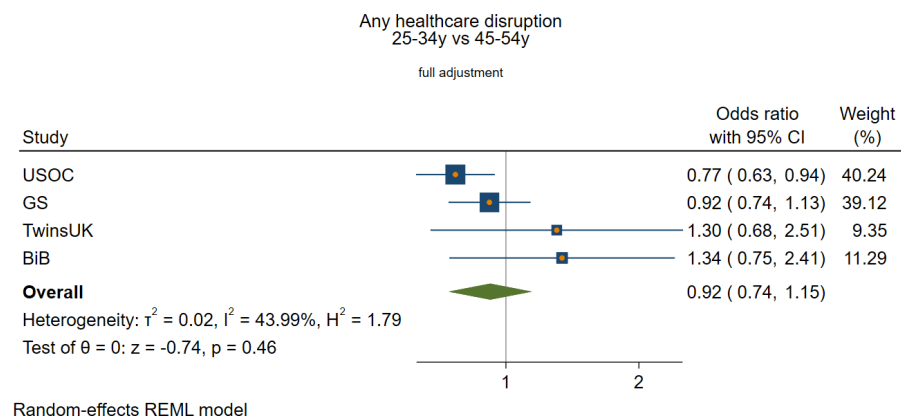
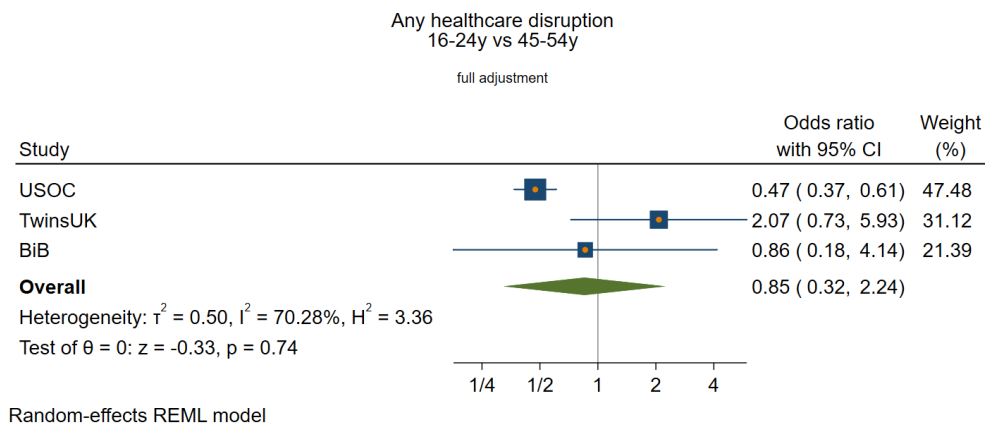
basic adjustment

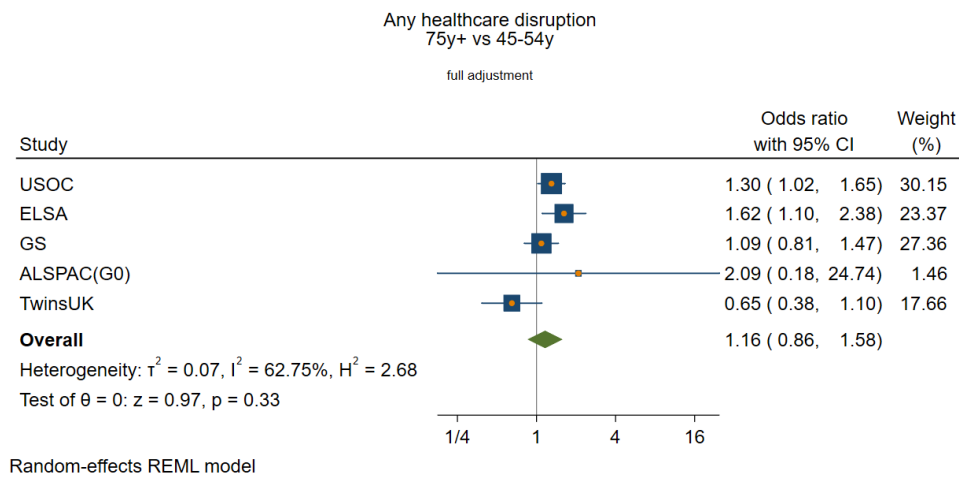
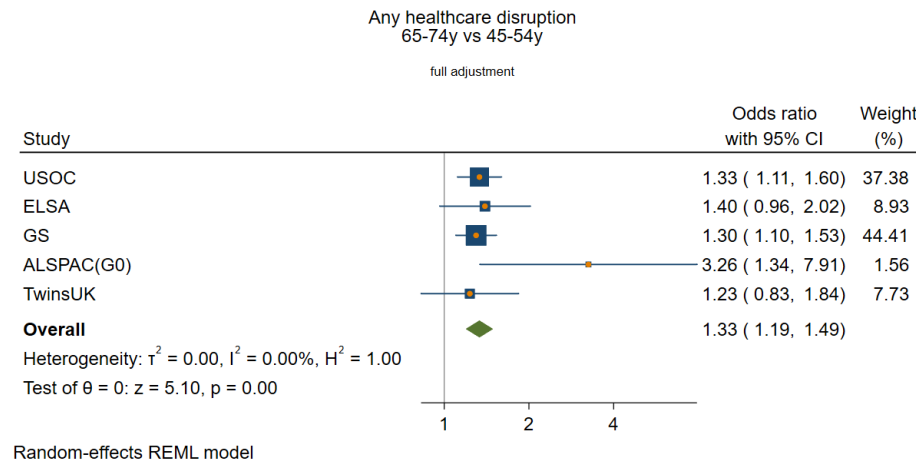
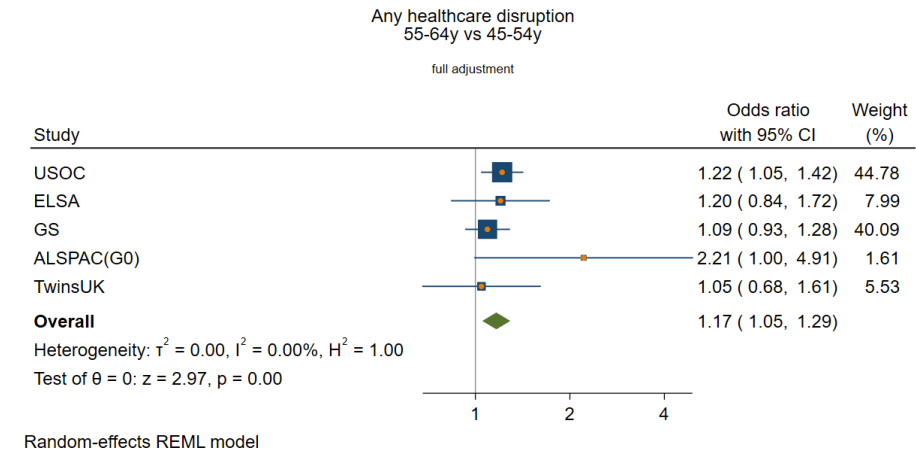


Any healthcare disruption
75y+ vs 45-54y

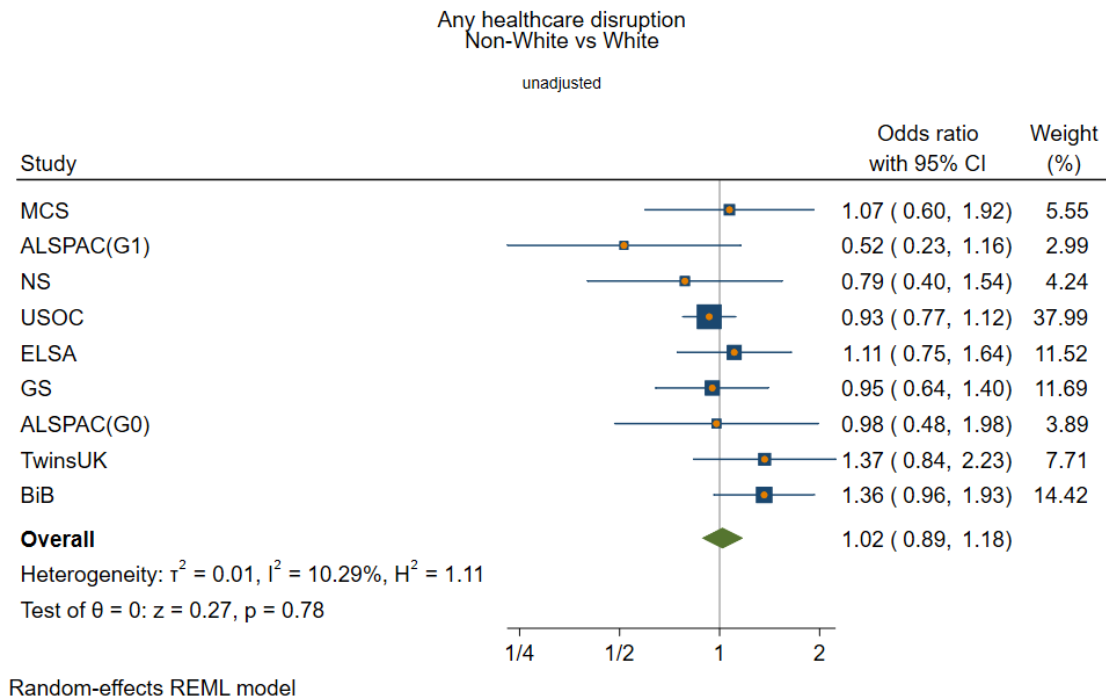
basic adjustment

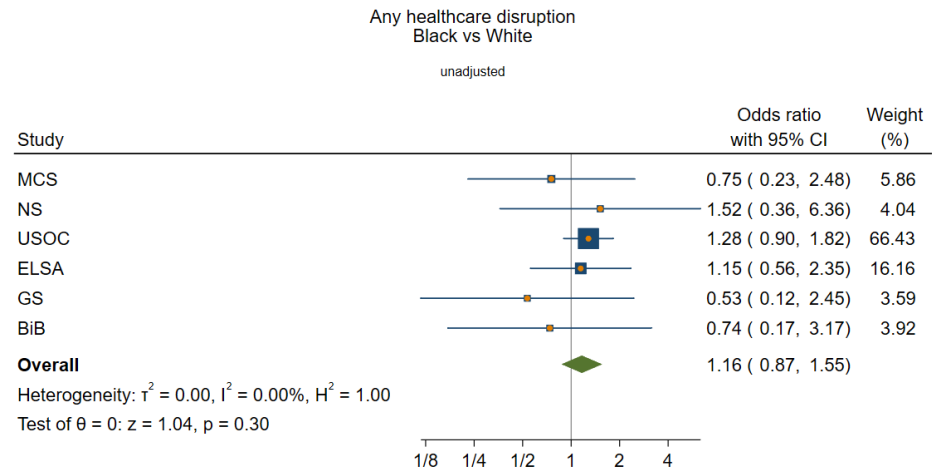


Full adjustment

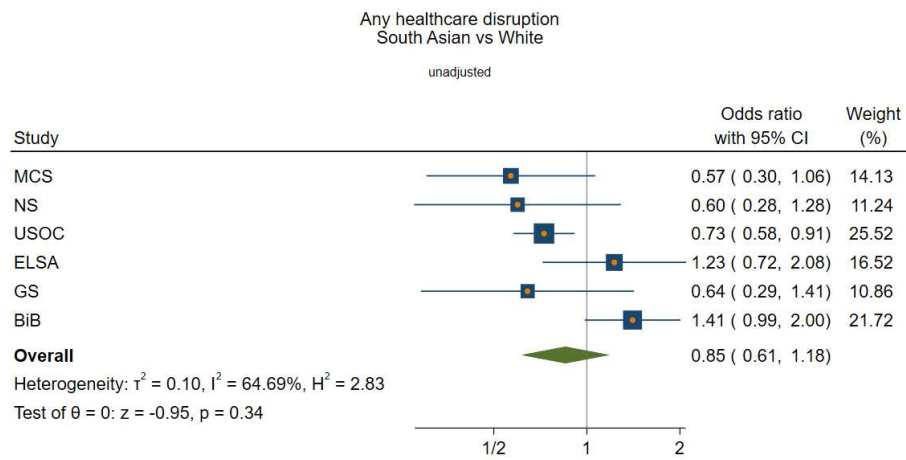


Ethnicity
Unadjusted

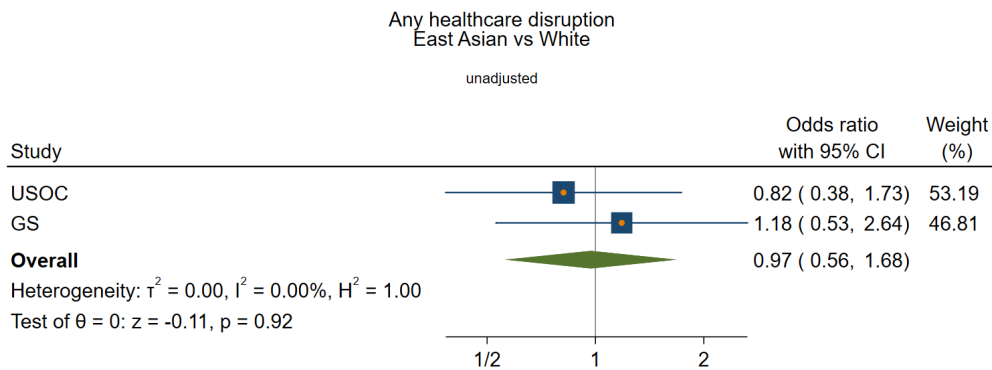




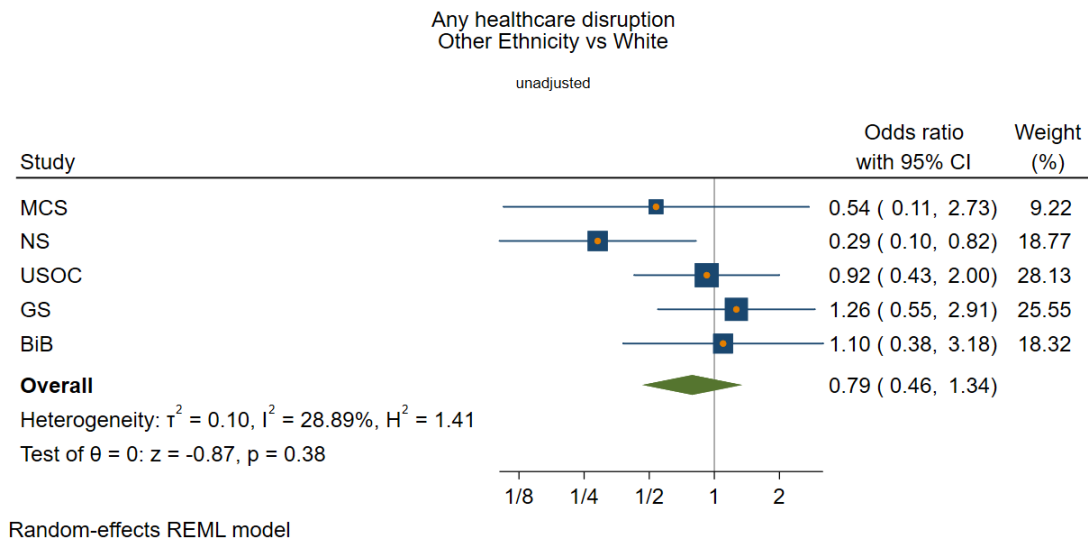
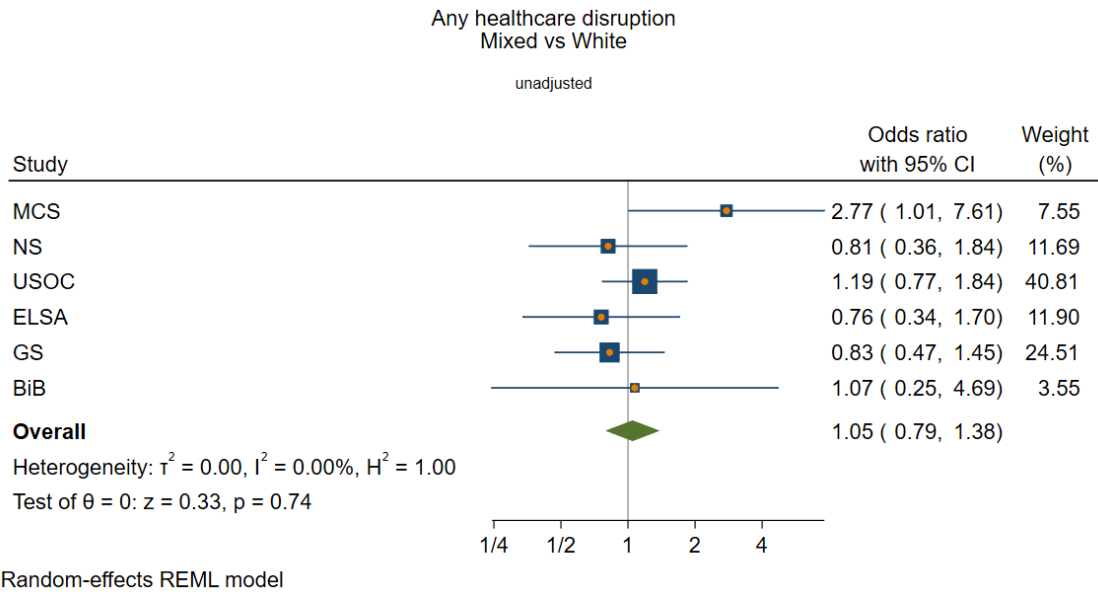
Random-effects REML model

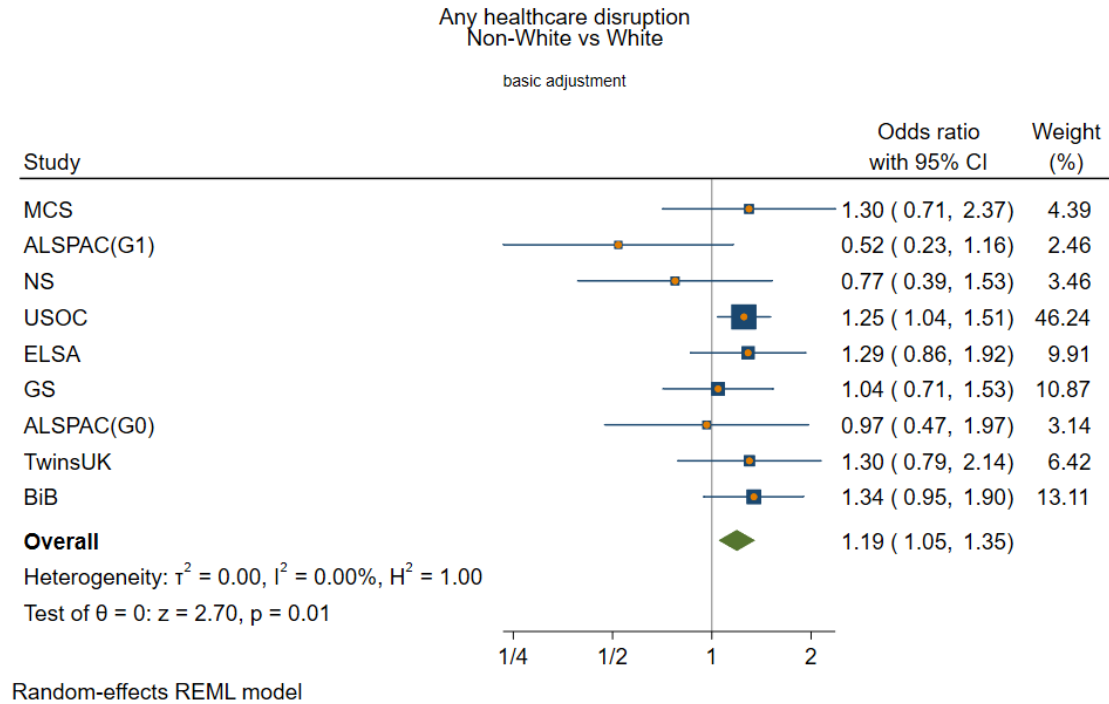


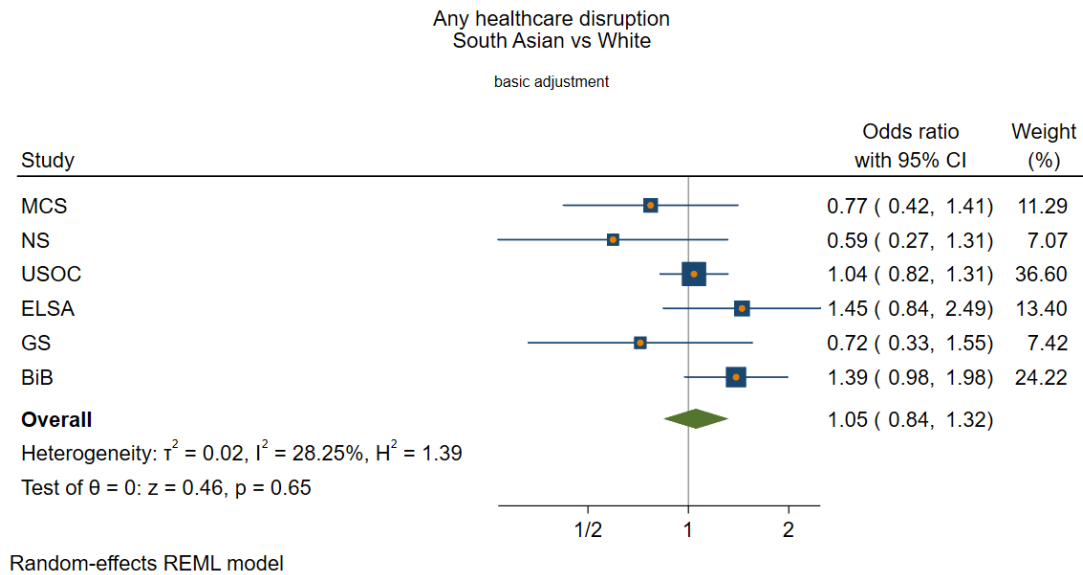
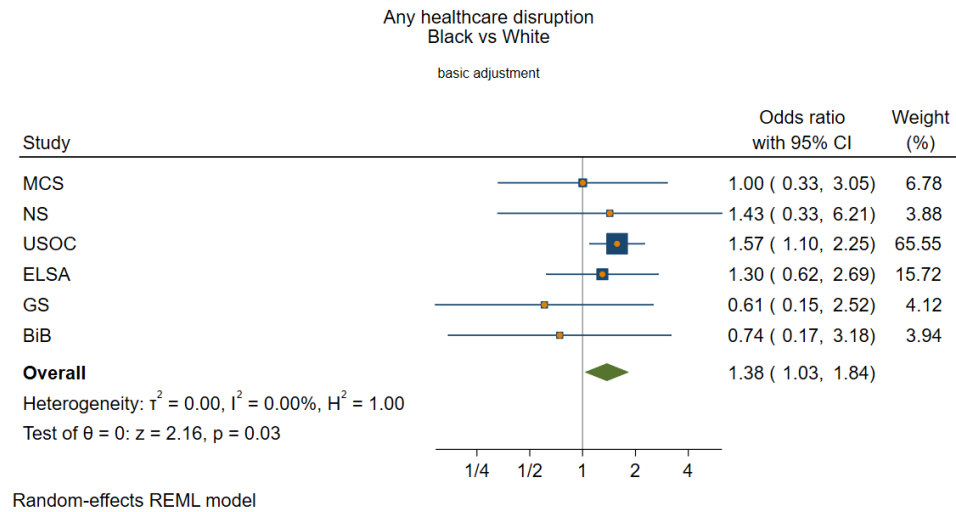
Random-effects REML model

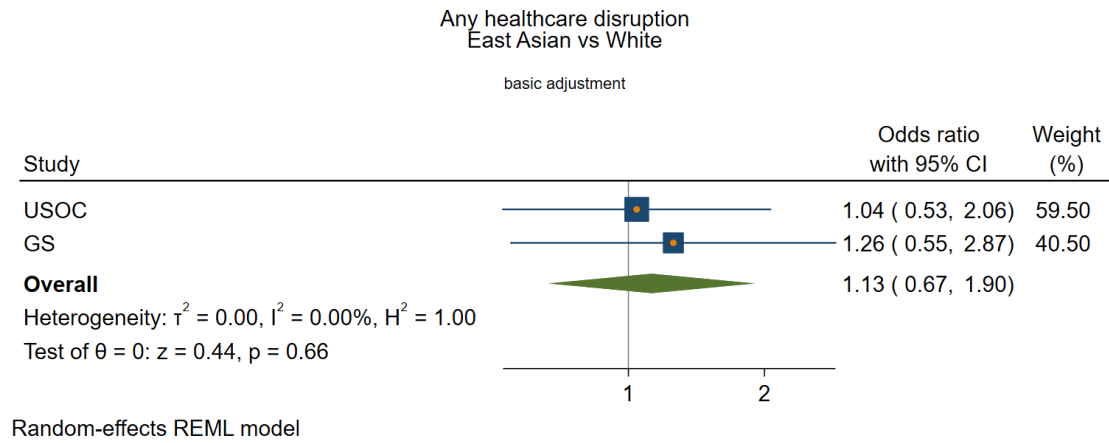


Random-effects REML model



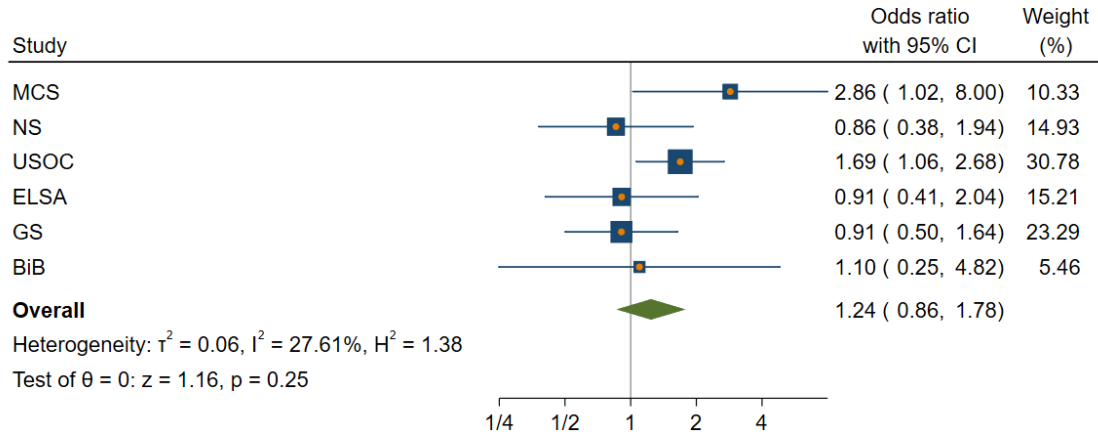
Basic adjustment





Any healthcare disruption
Mixed vs White

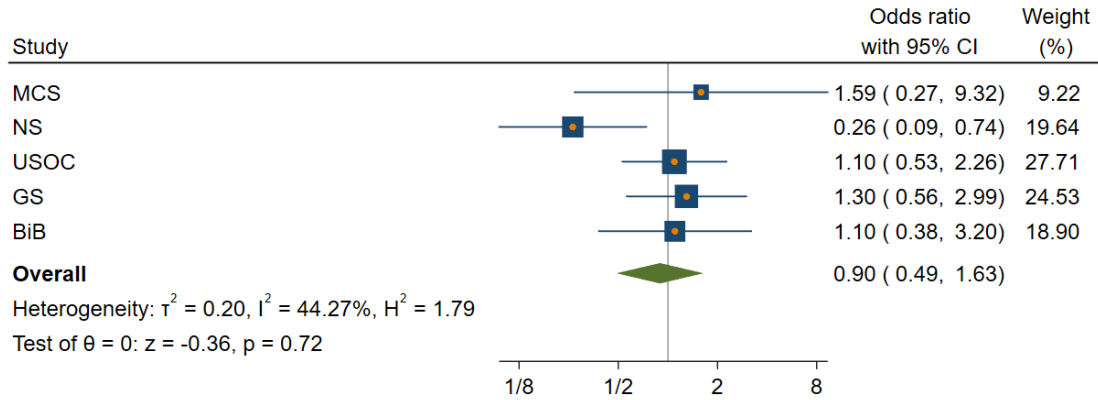
basic adjustment



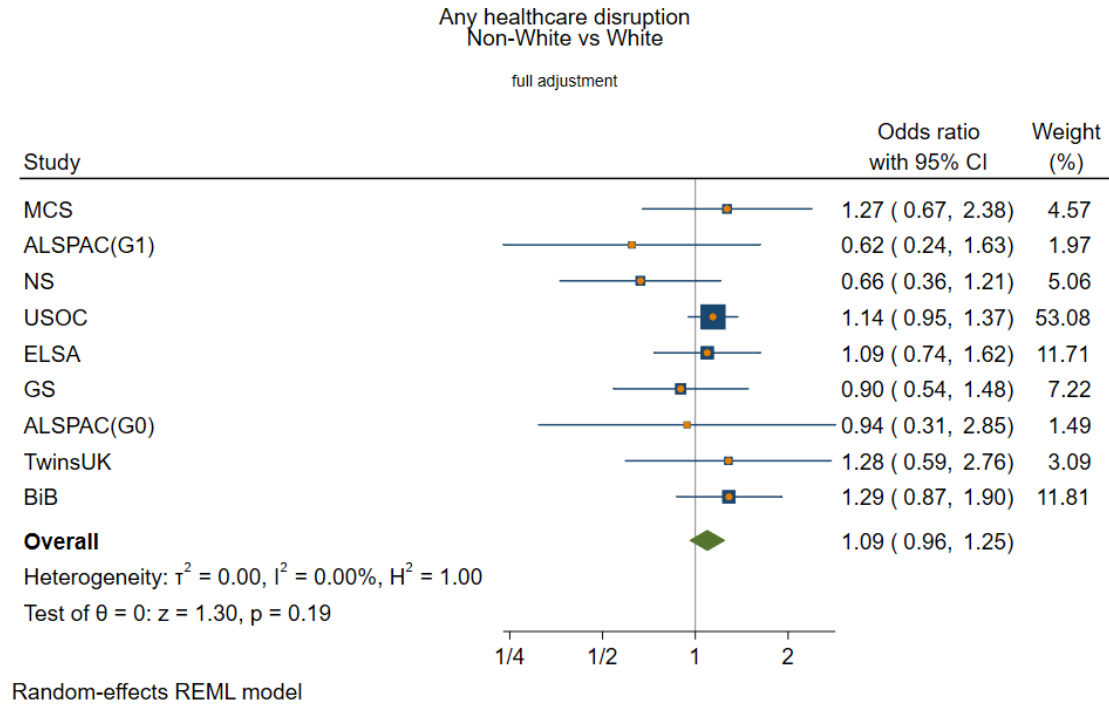
Random-effects REML model

Any healthcare disruption
Other Ethnicity vs White

basic adjustment

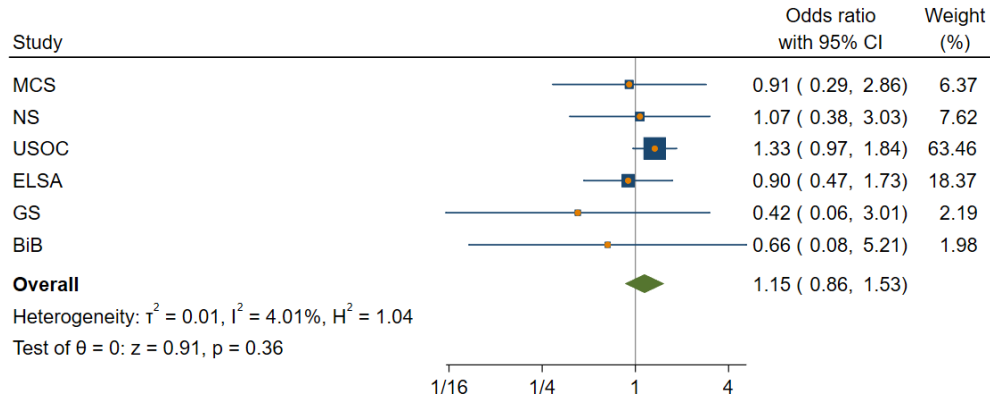


Random-effects REML model

Full adjustment

Any healthcare disruption
Black vs White

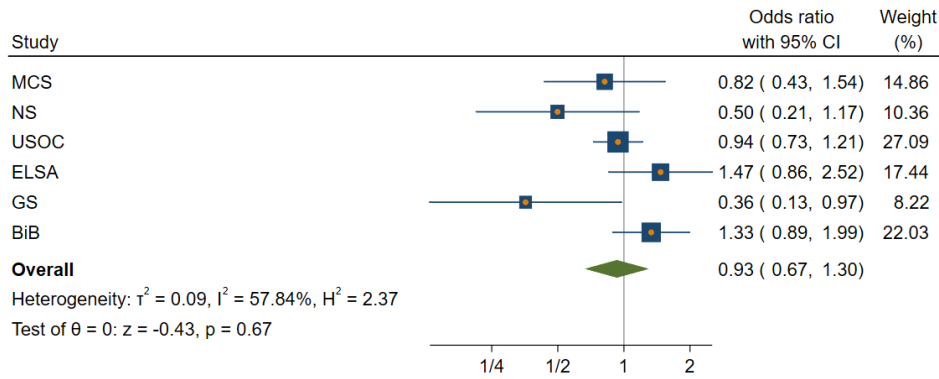
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Any healthcare disruption
South Asian vs White

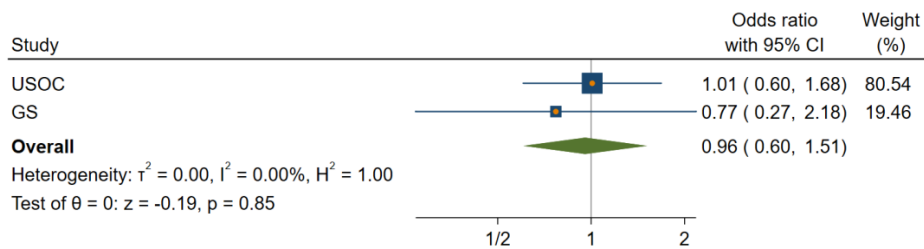
full adjustment



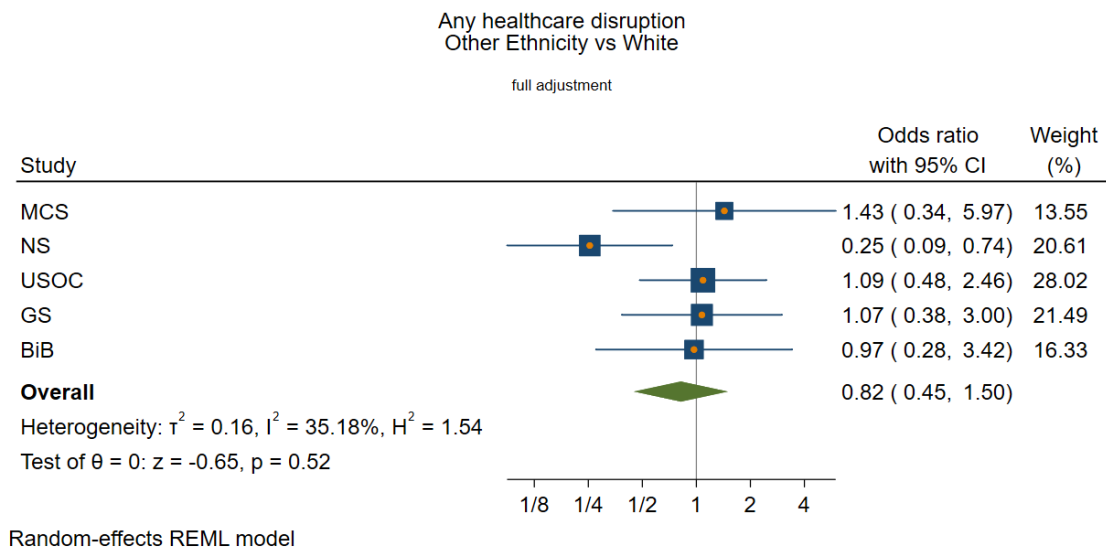
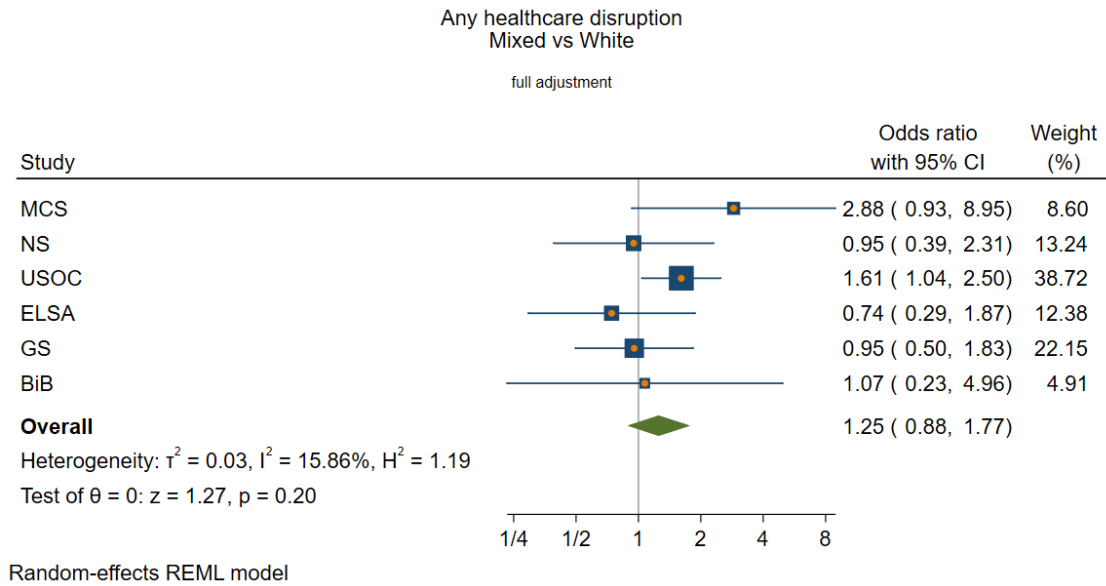
Random-effects REML model

Any healthcare disruption
East Asian vs White

full adjustment

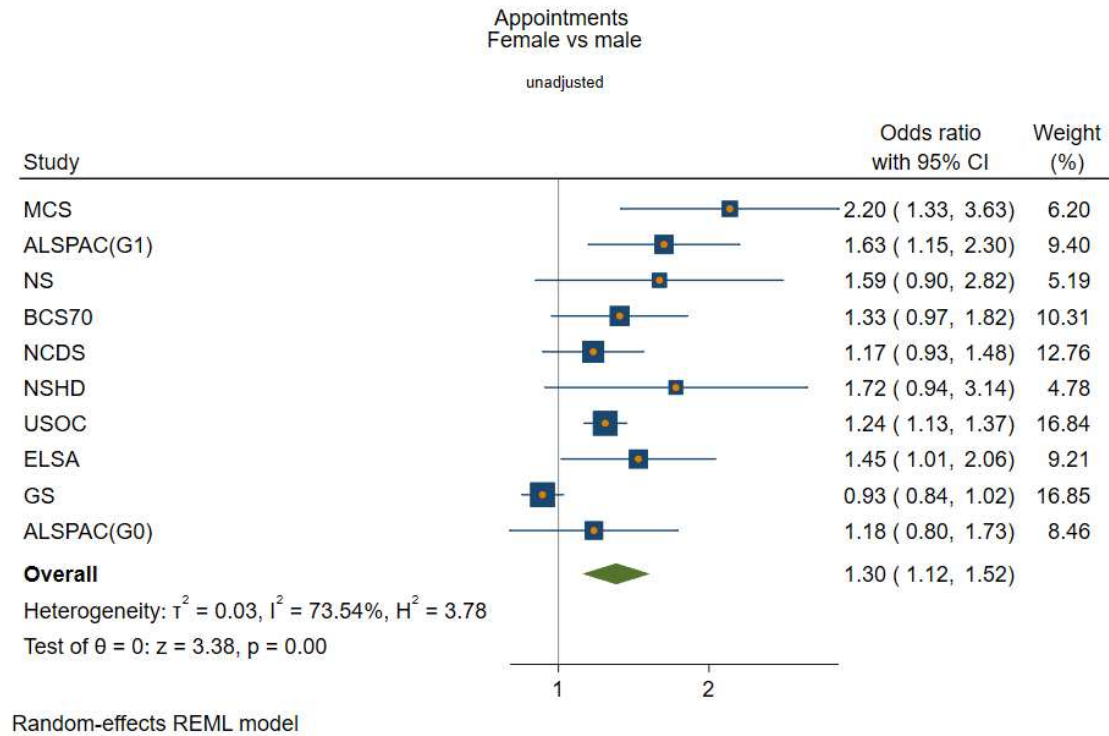


Random-effects REML model

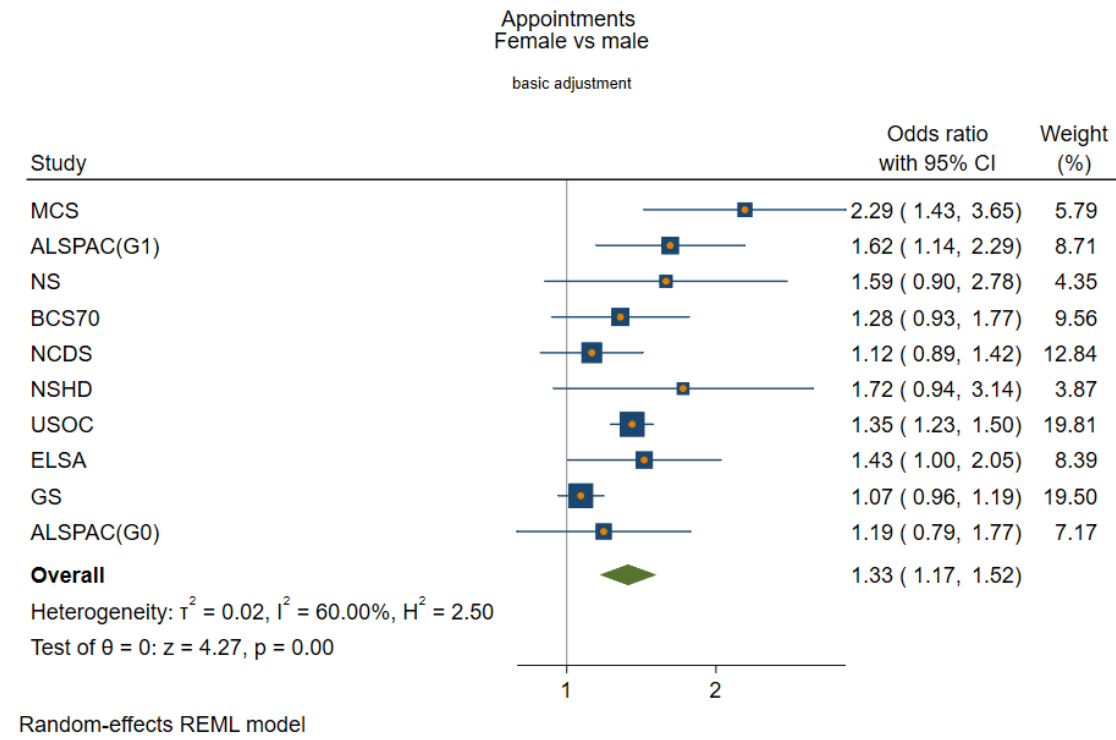


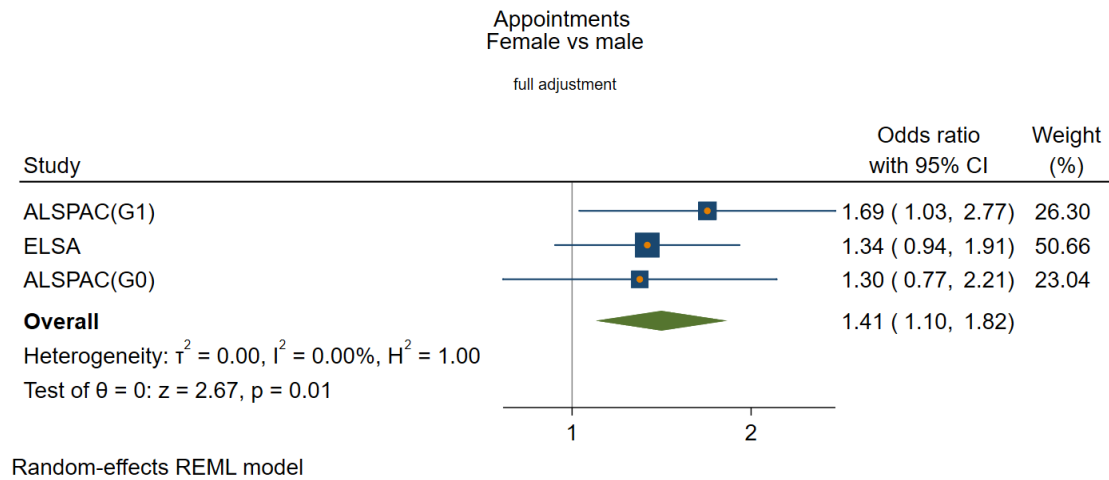
Appointments

Sex
Unadjusted

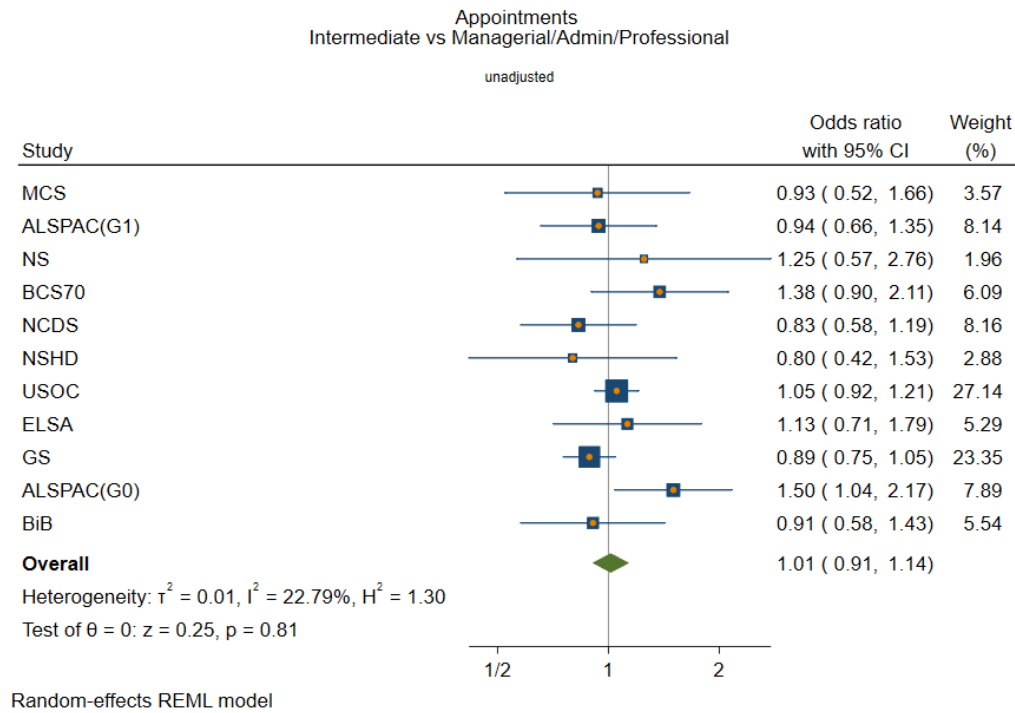


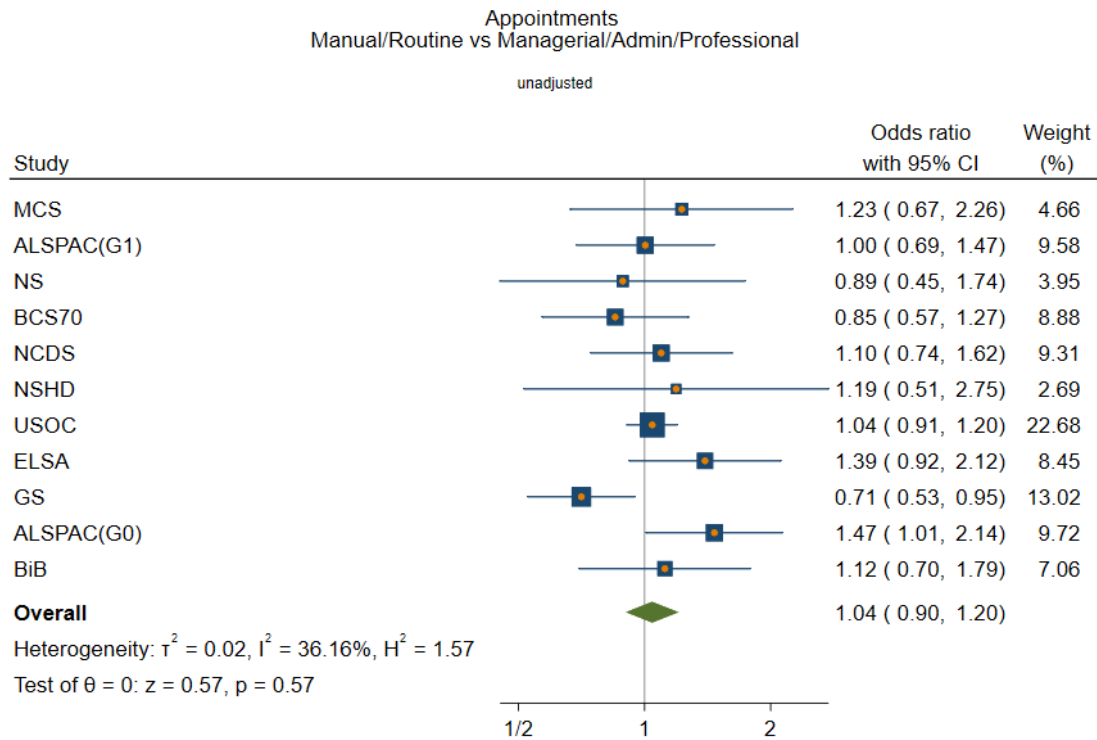
Basic adjustment



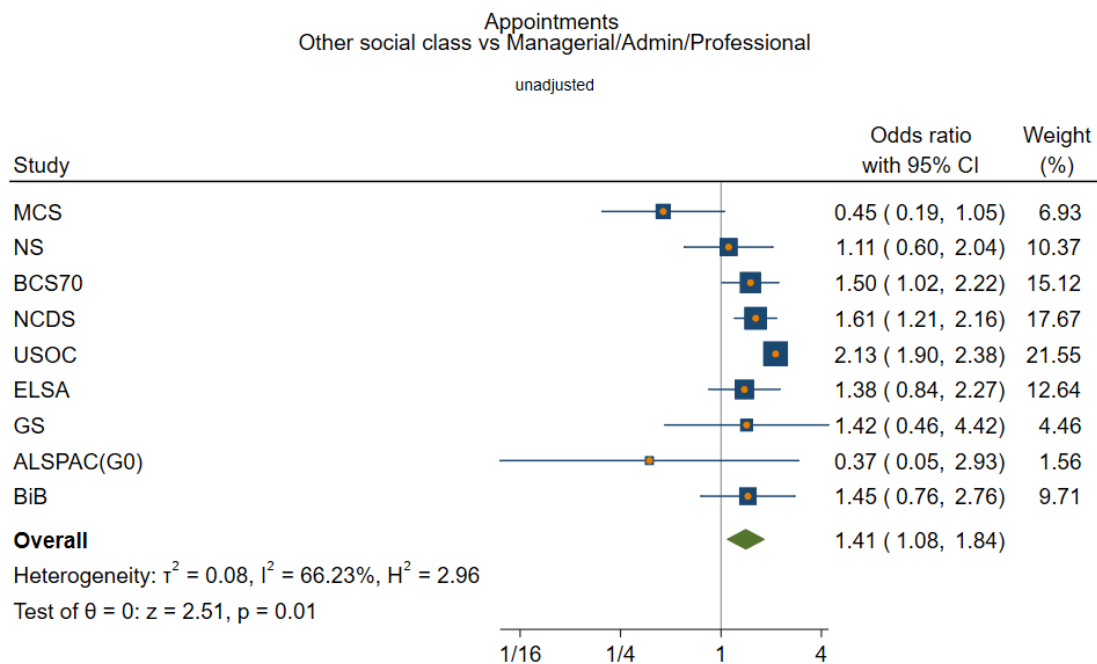
Full adjustment

Occupational class
Unadjusted



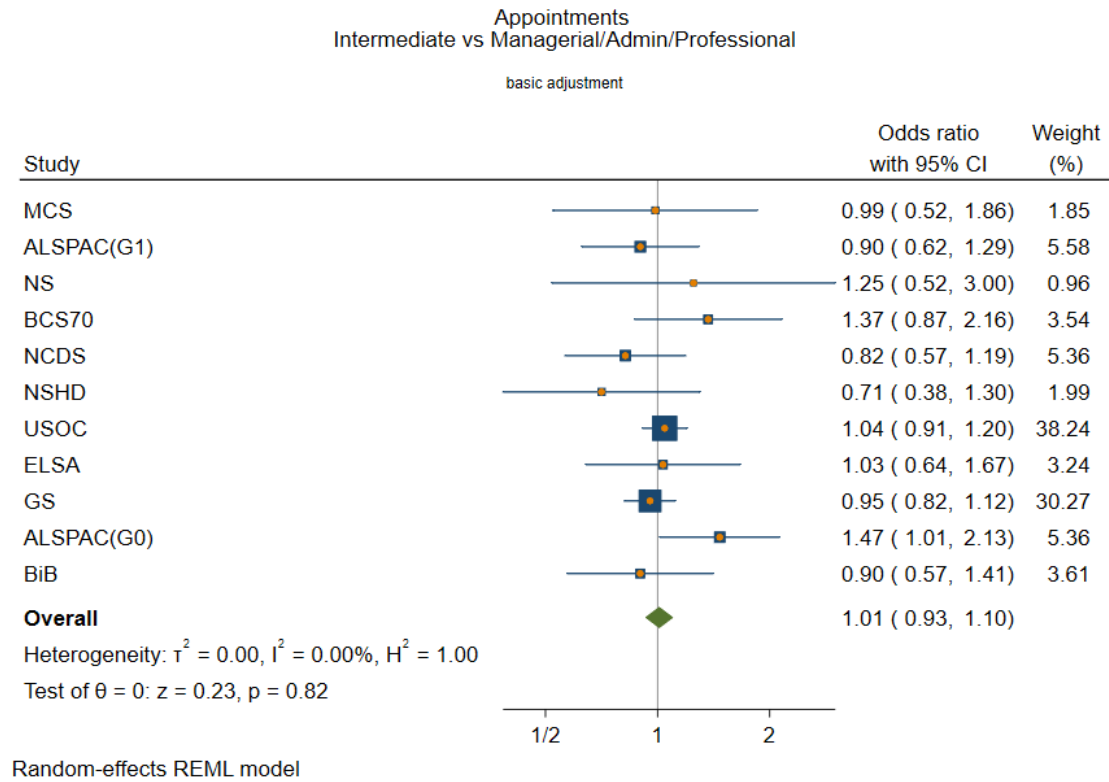


Random-effects REML model



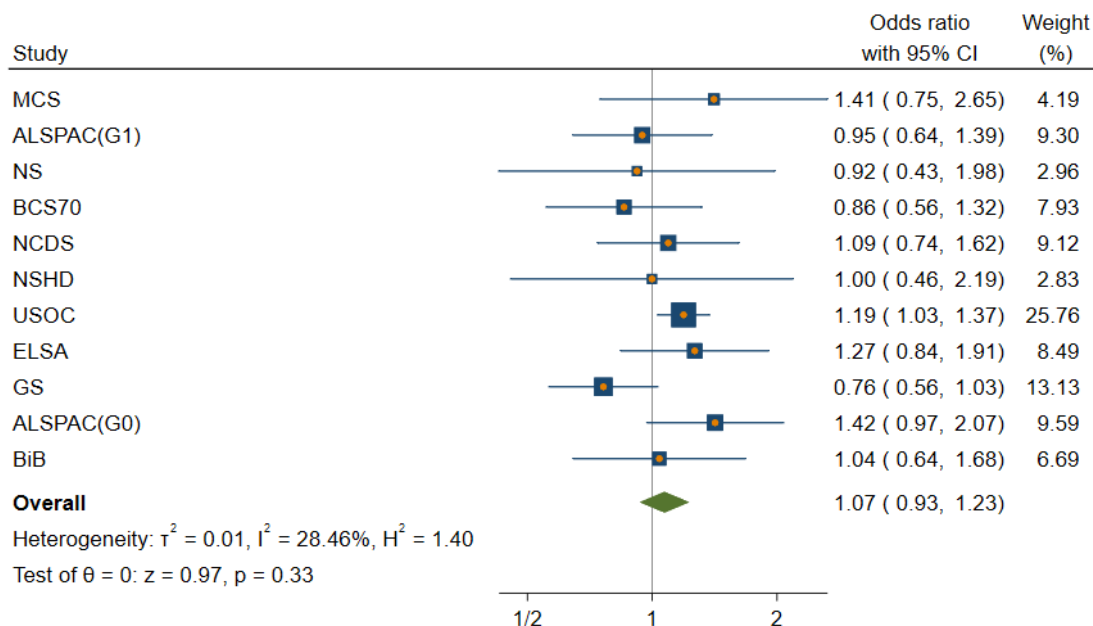
Random-effects REML model

Basic adjustment



Appointments
Manual/Routine vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

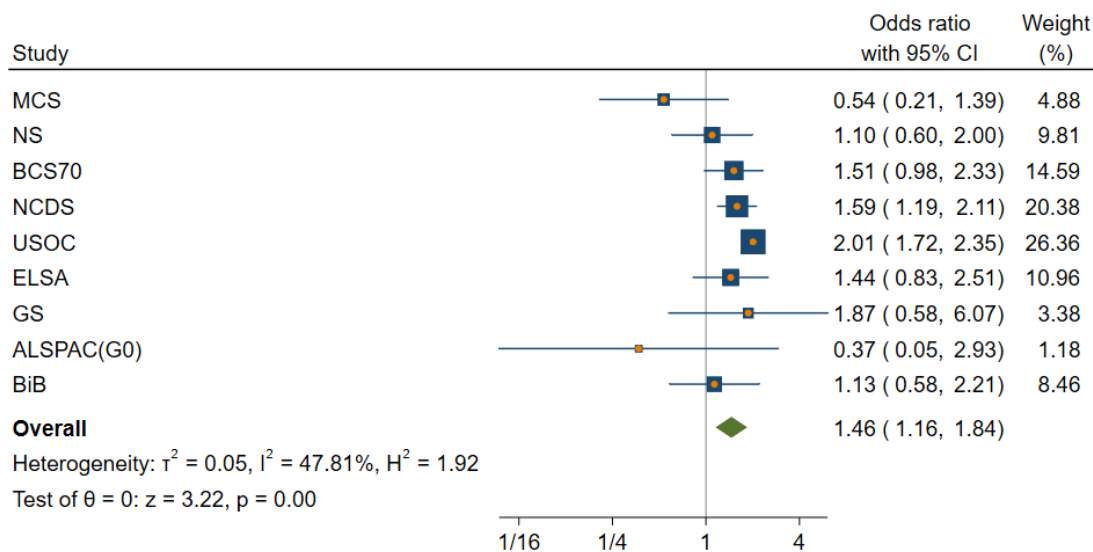
basic adjustment



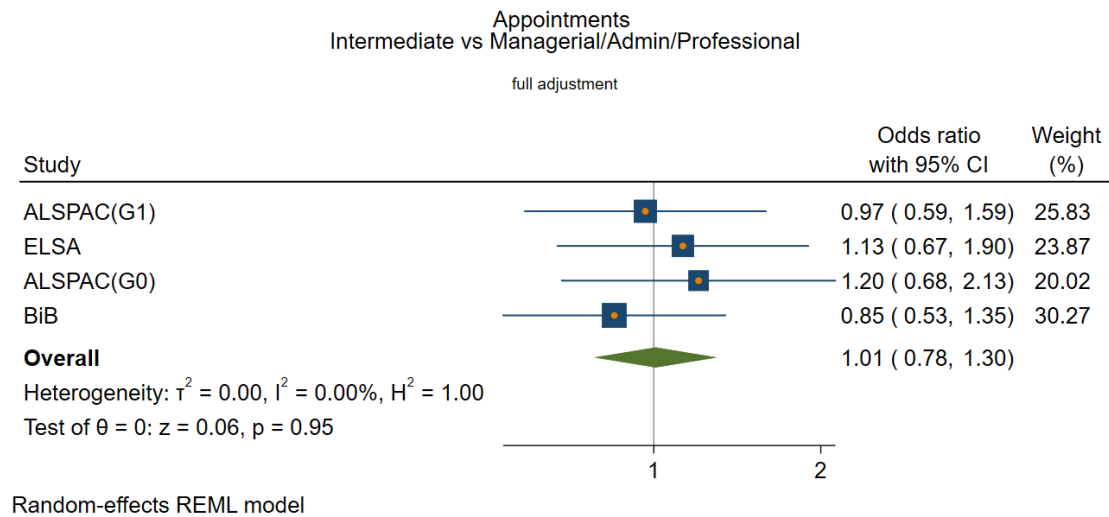
Random-effects REML model

Appointments
Other social class vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

basic adjustment

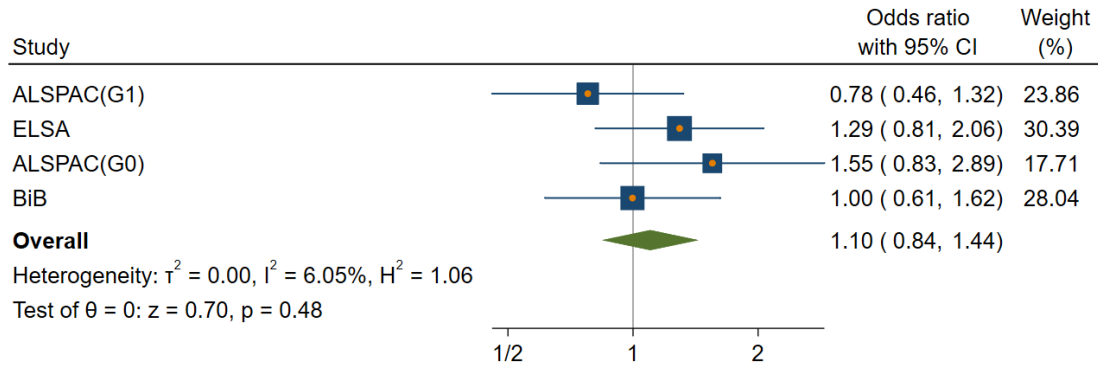


Random-effects REML model

Full adjustment

Appointments
Manual/Routine vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

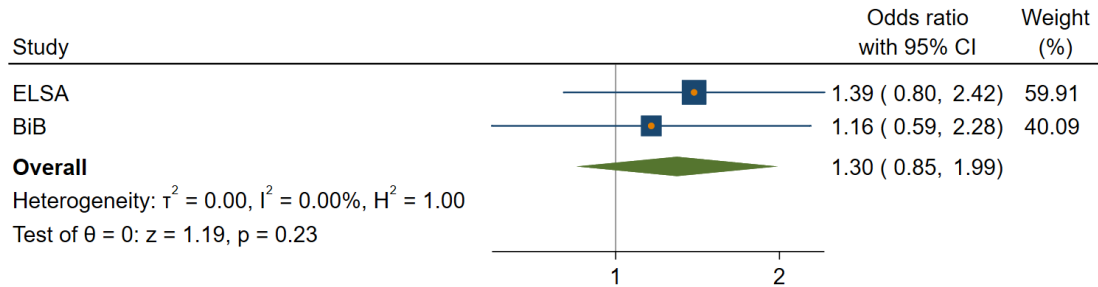
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

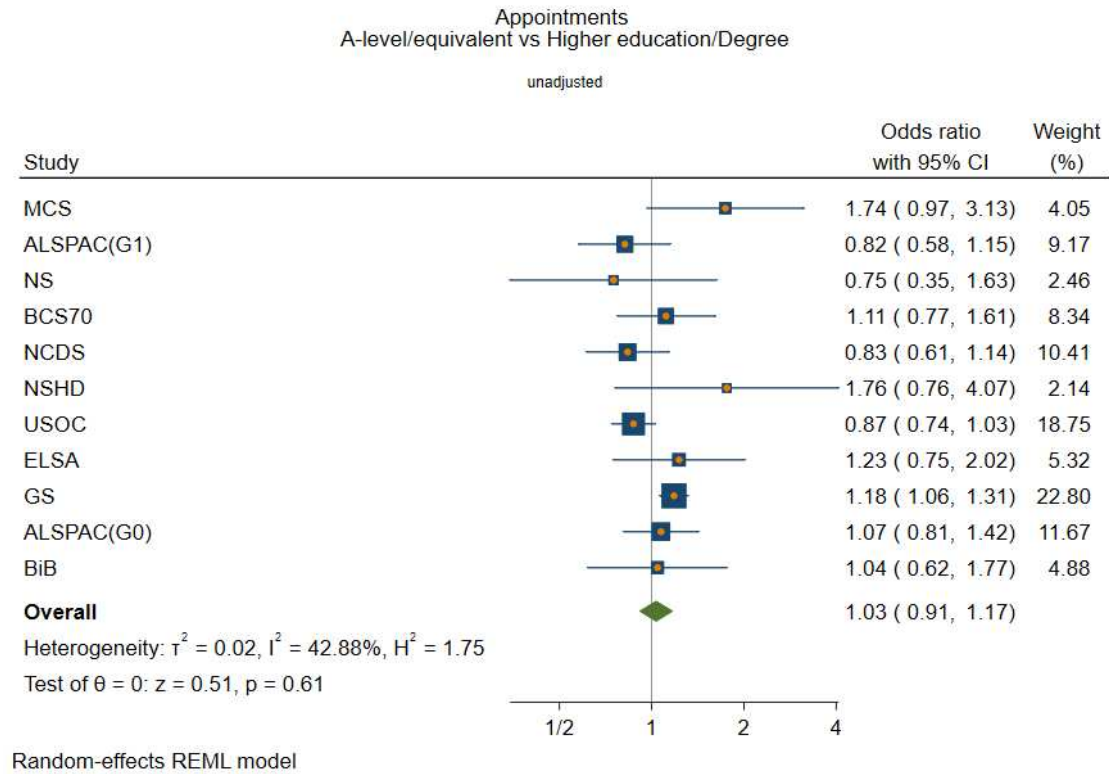
Appointments
Other social class vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

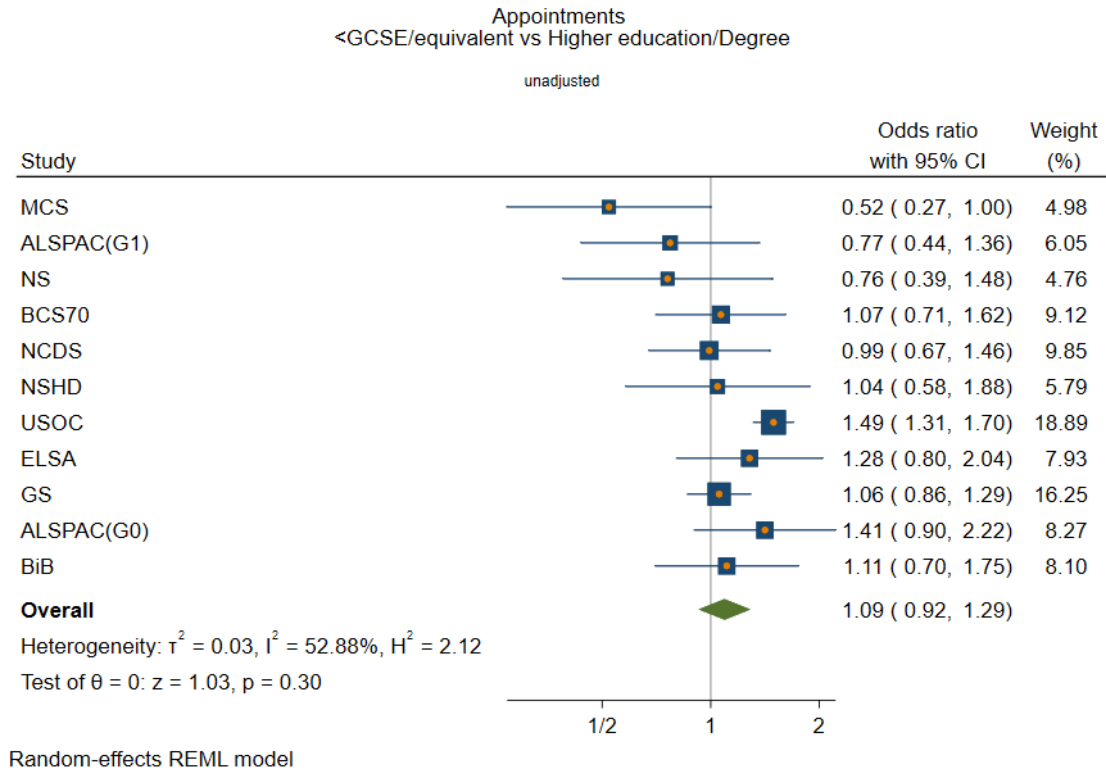
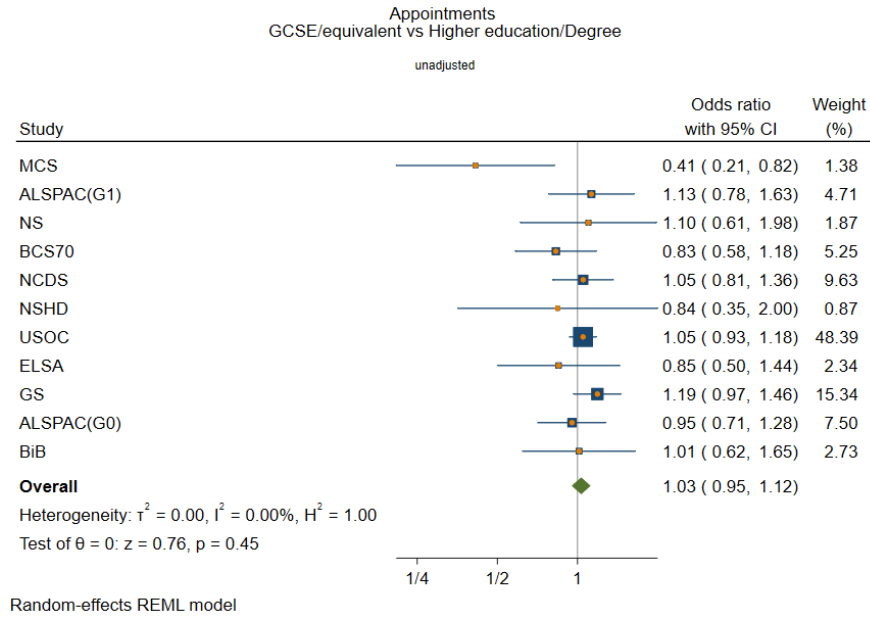
full adjustment

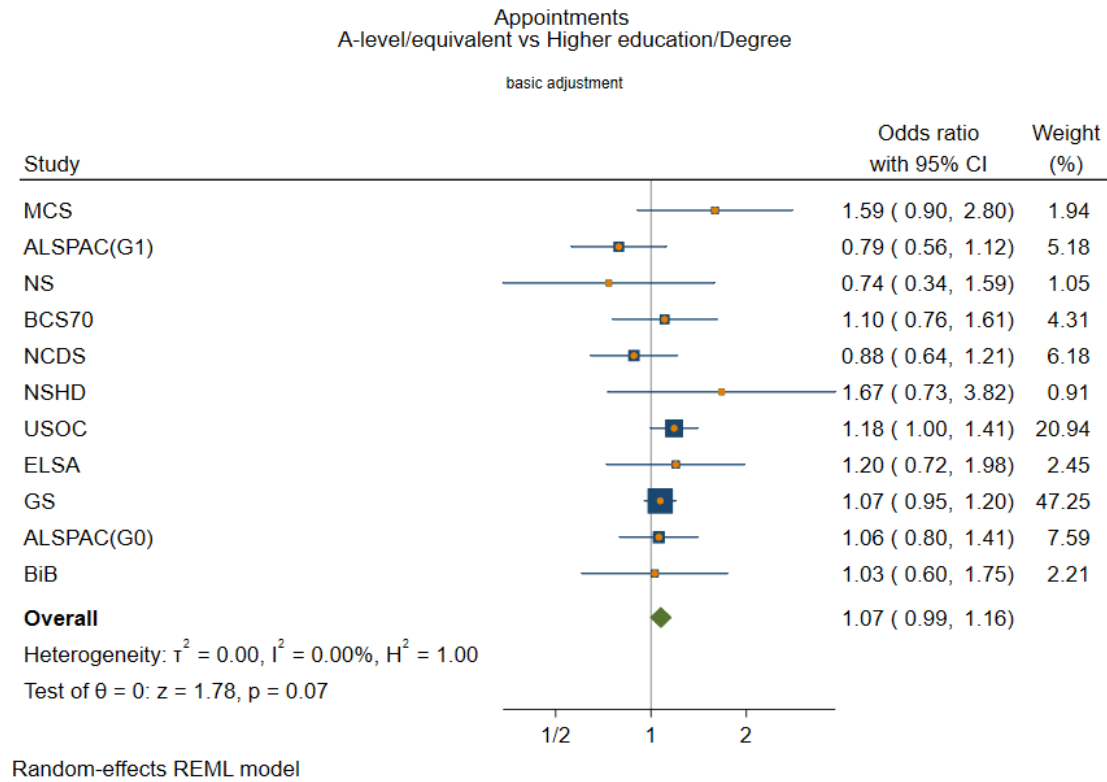


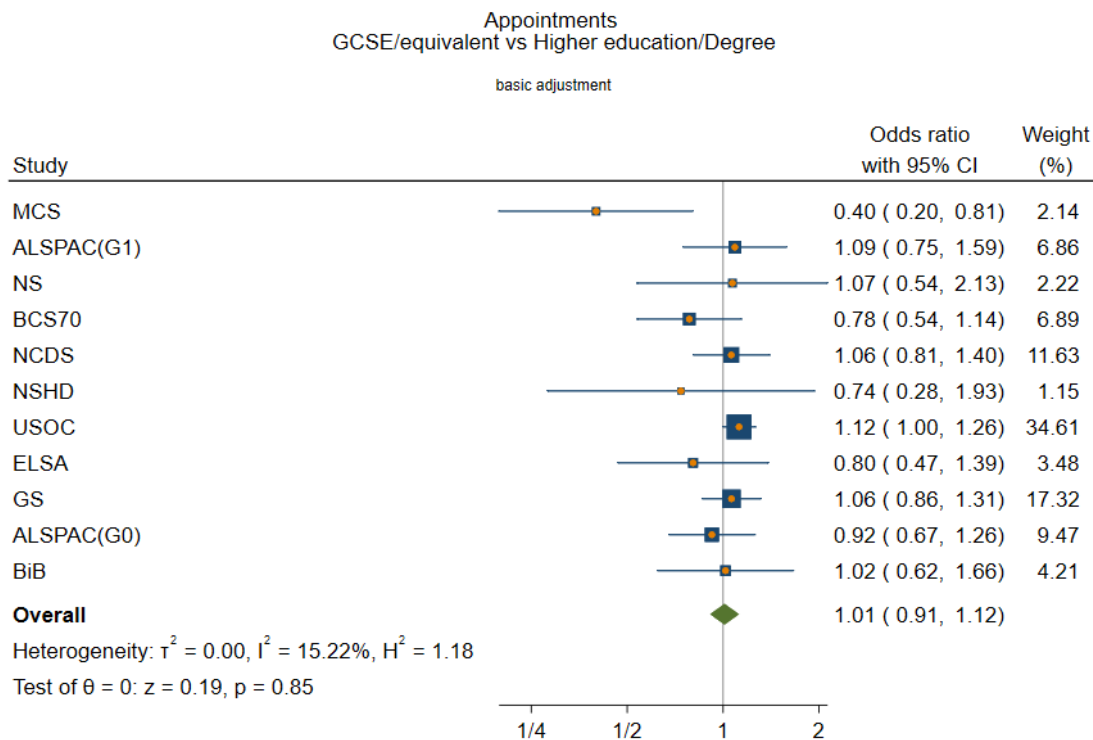
Random-effects REML model

Education
Unadjusted

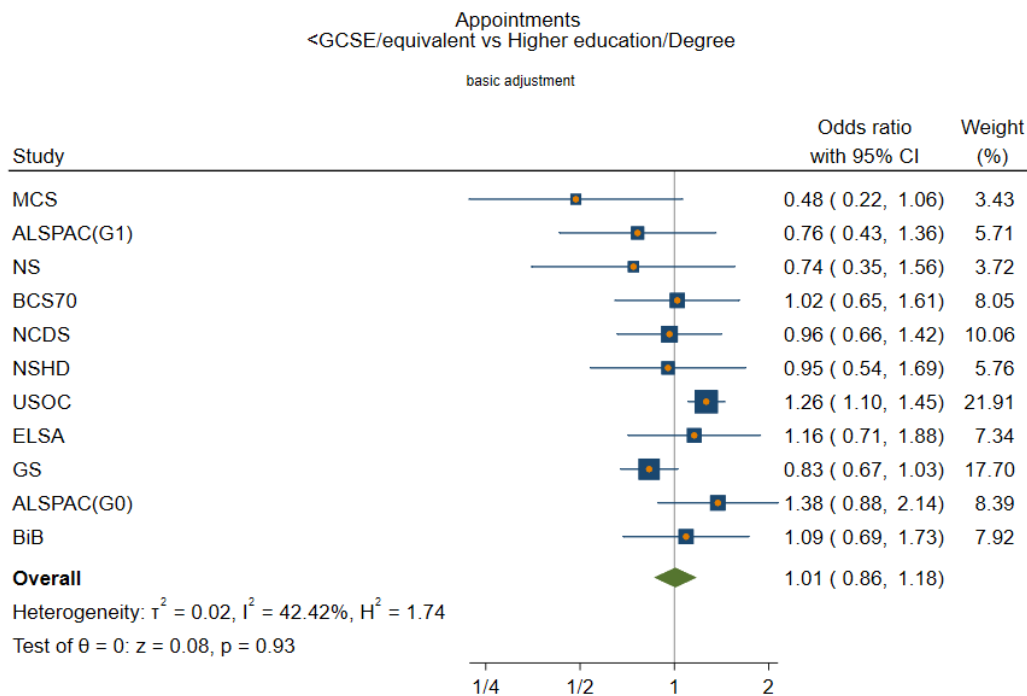




Basic adjustment

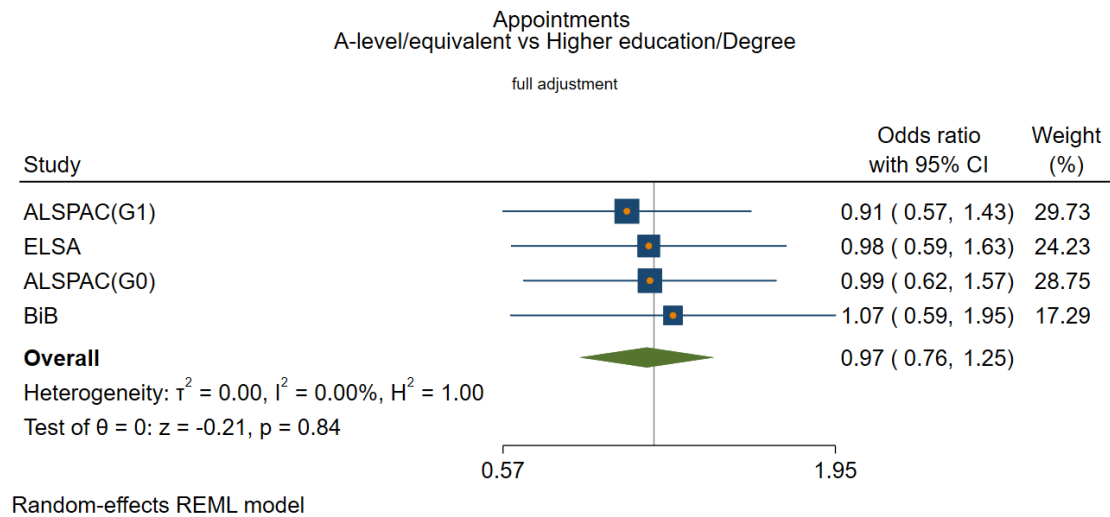


Random-effects REML model



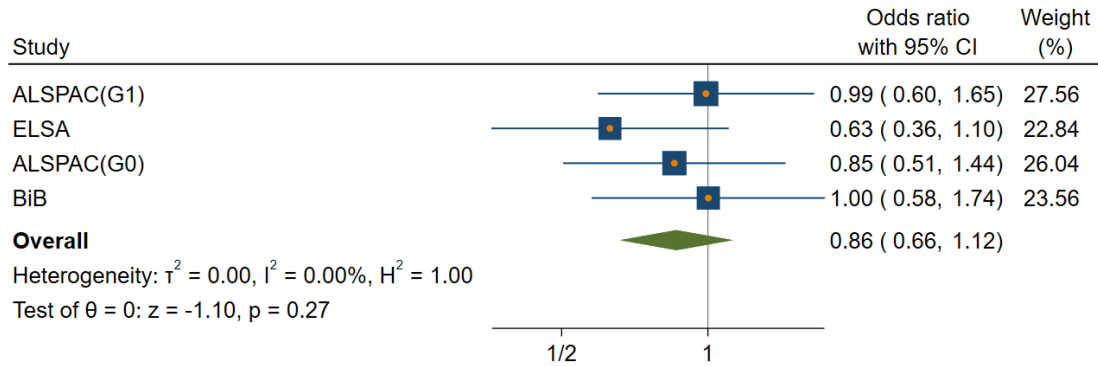
Random-effects REML model

Full Adjustment



Appointments
GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree

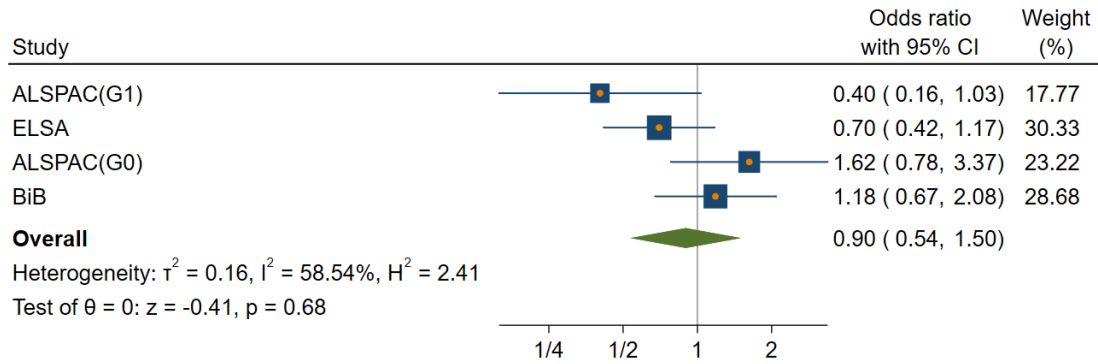
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

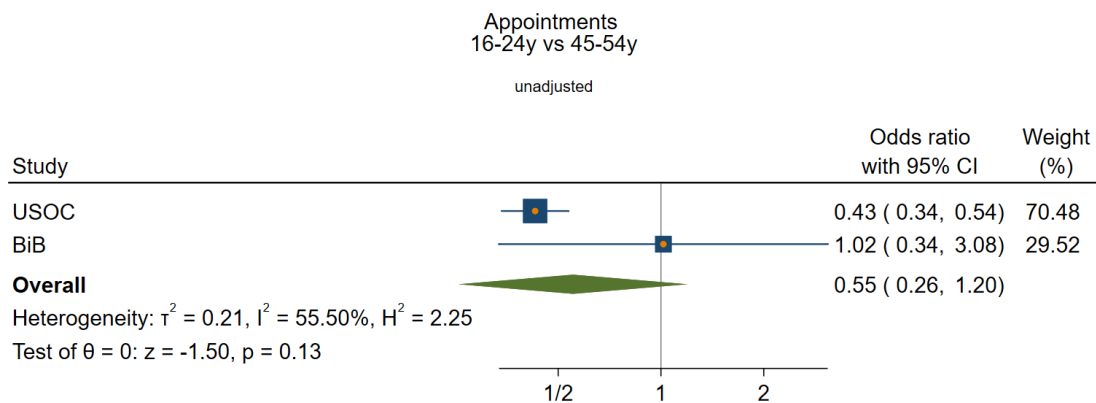
Appointments
<GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree

full adjustment

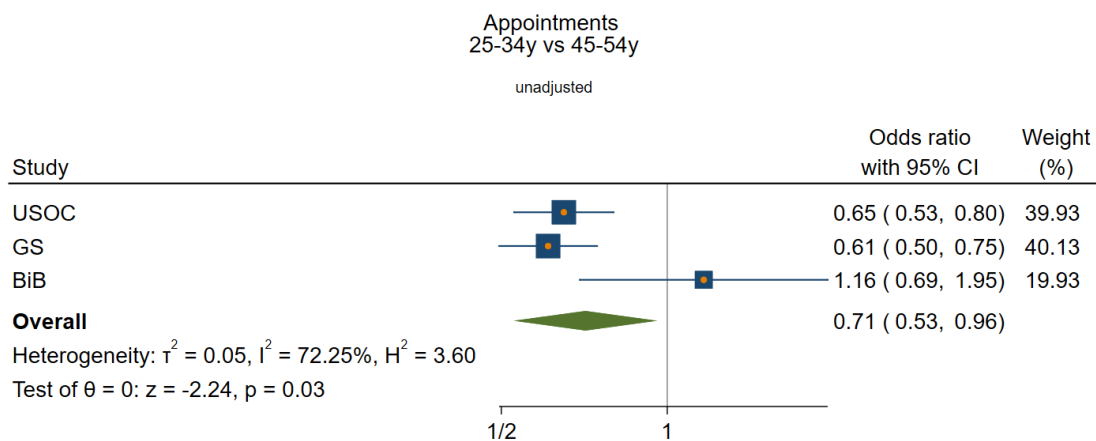


Random-effects REML model

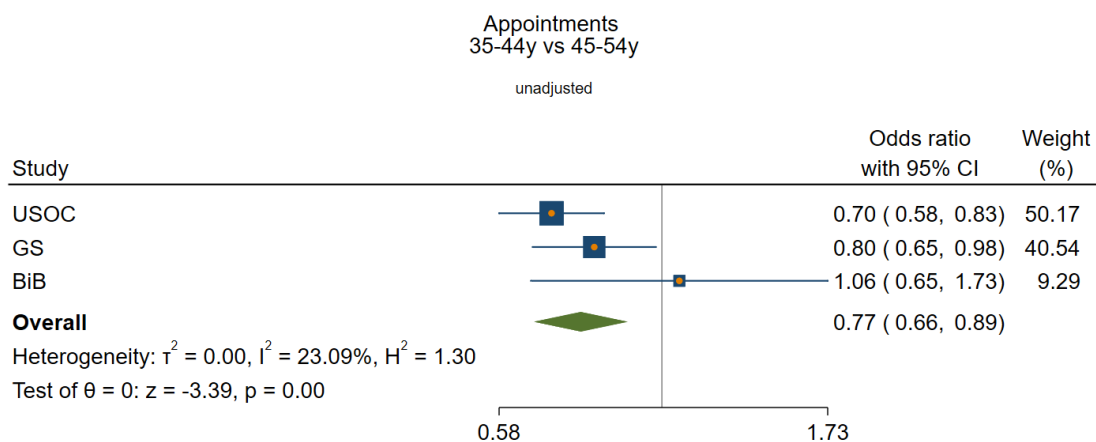
Age

Unadjusted

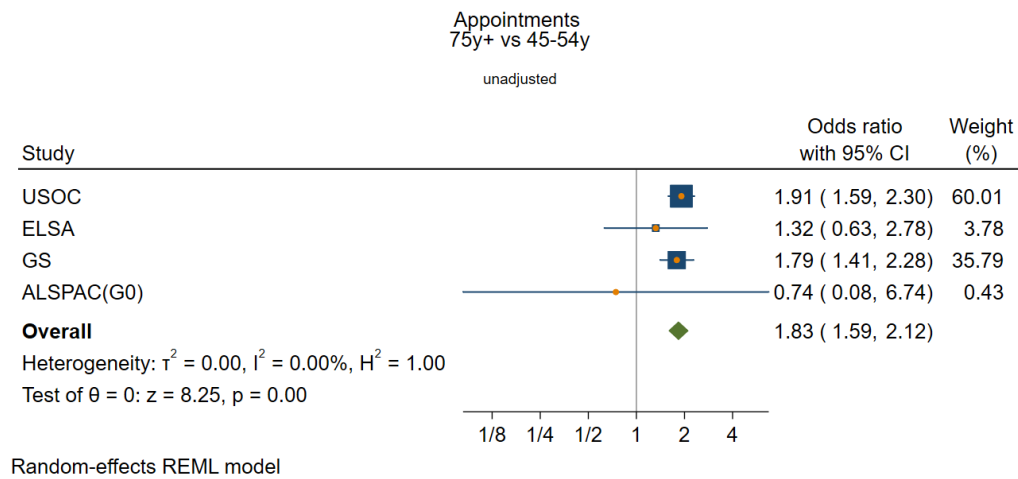
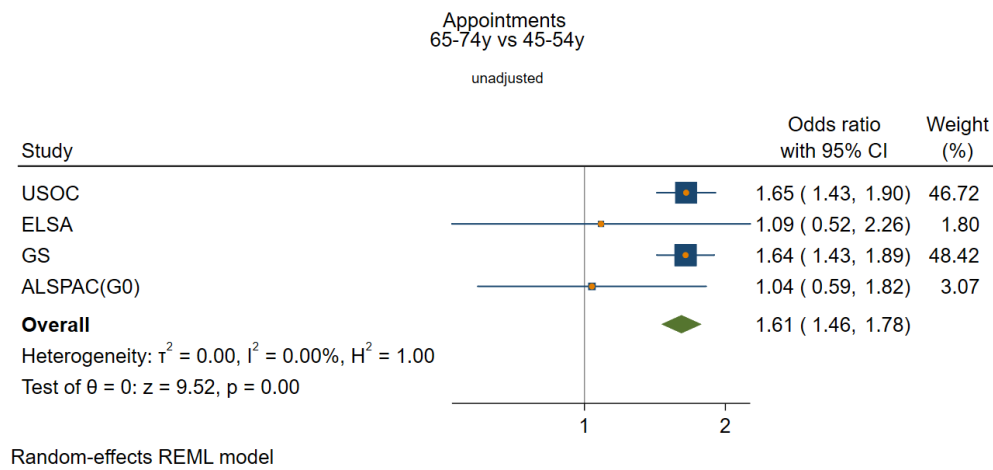
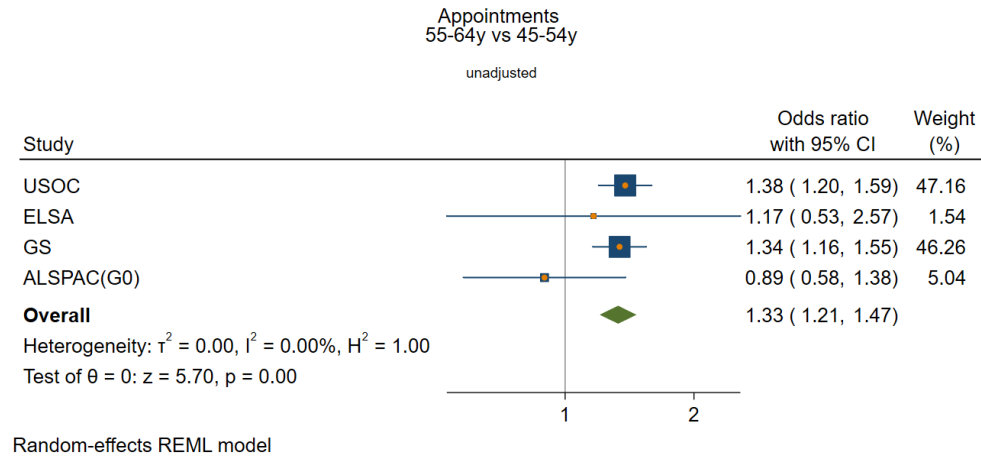
Random-effects REML model



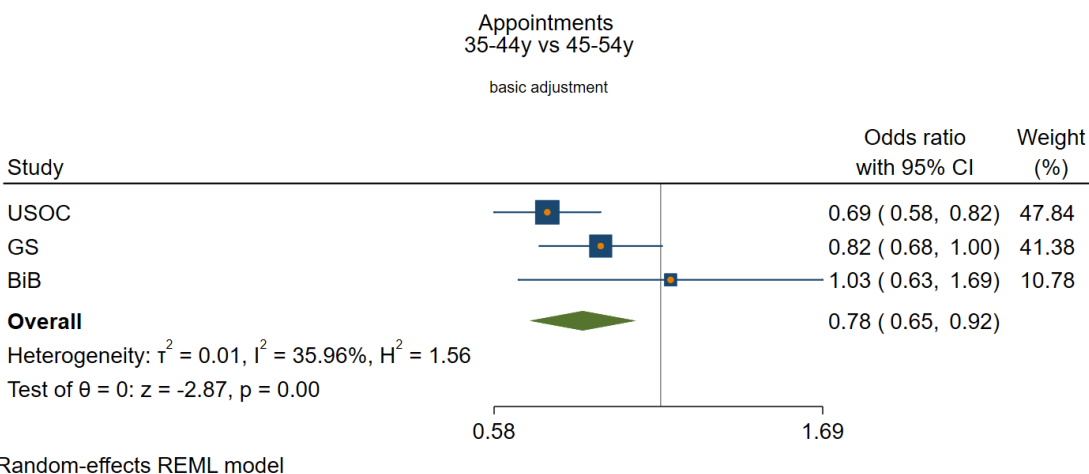
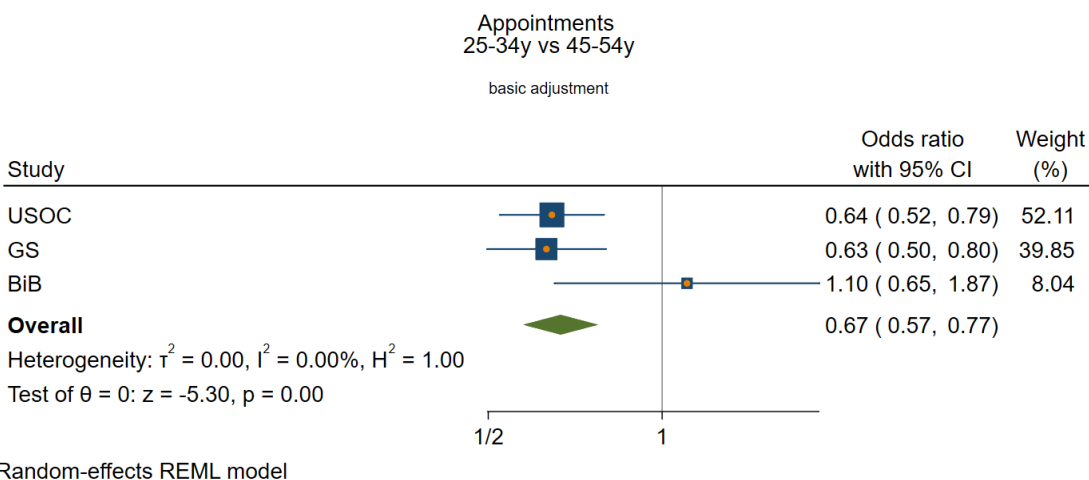
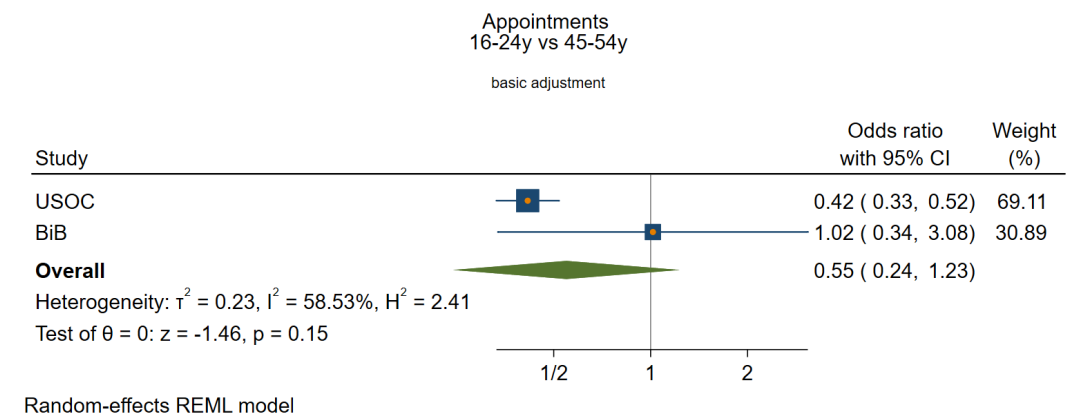
Random-effects REML model



Random-effects REML model

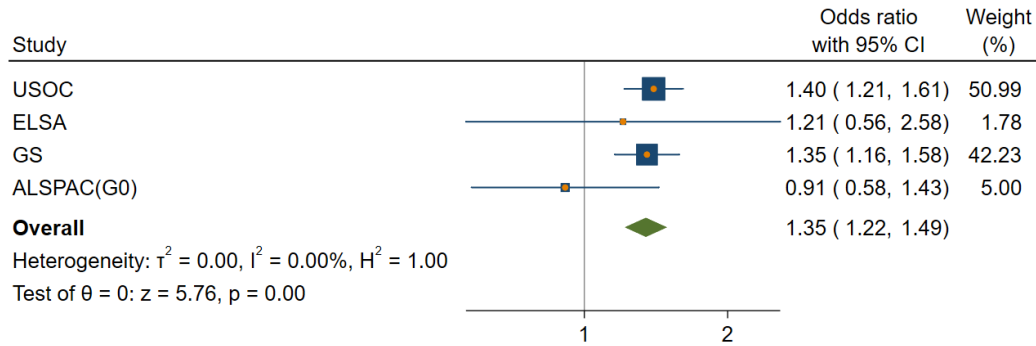


Basic adjustment



Appointments
55-64y vs 45-54y

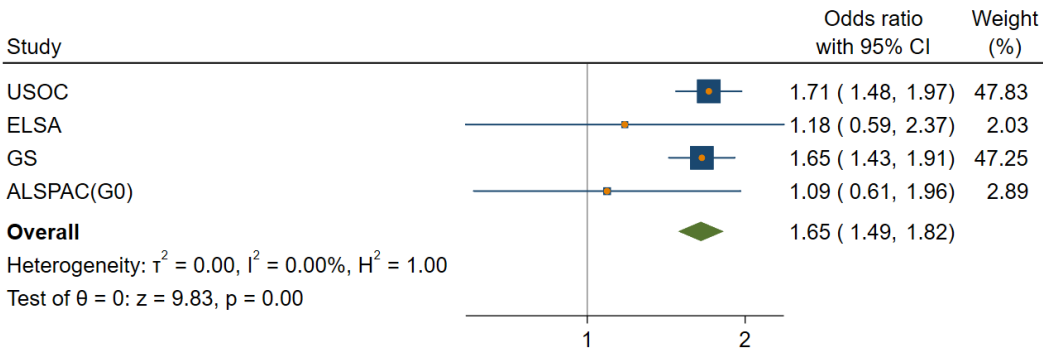
basic adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Appointments
65-74y vs 45-54y

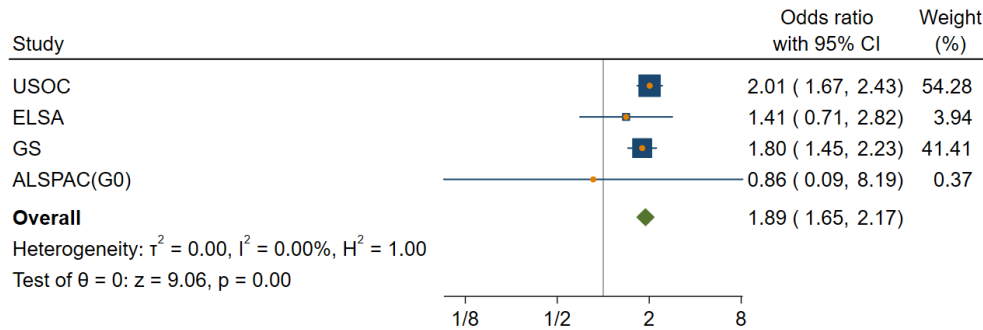
basic adjustment



Random-effects REML model

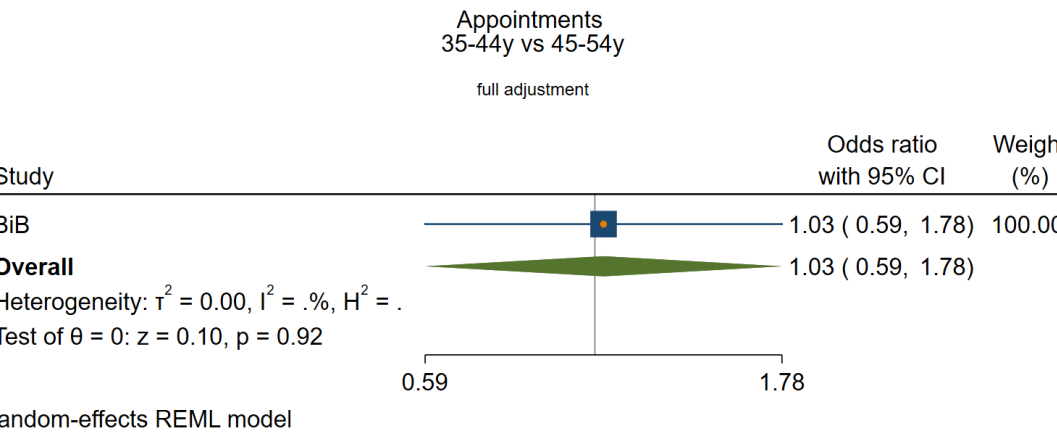
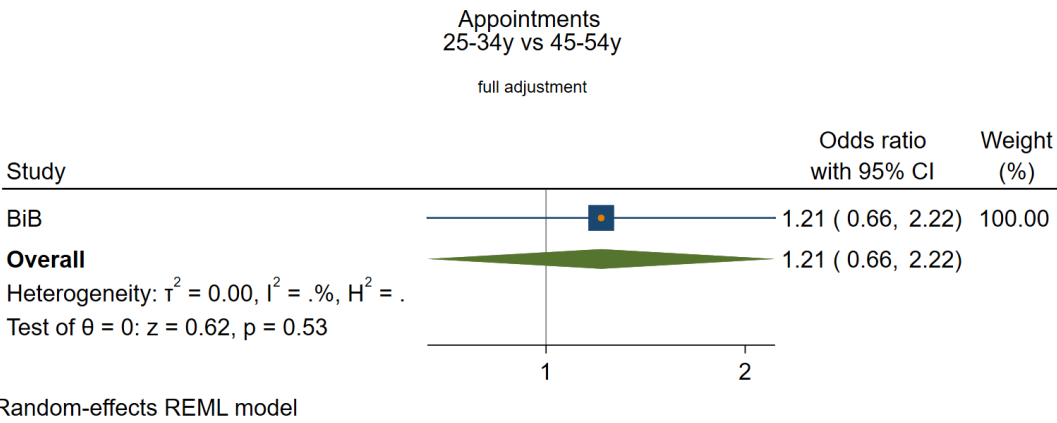
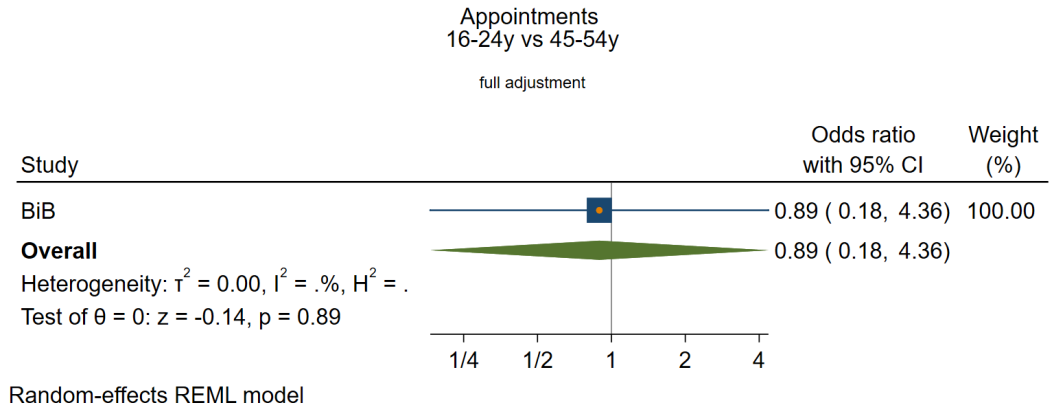
Appointments
75y+ vs 45-54y

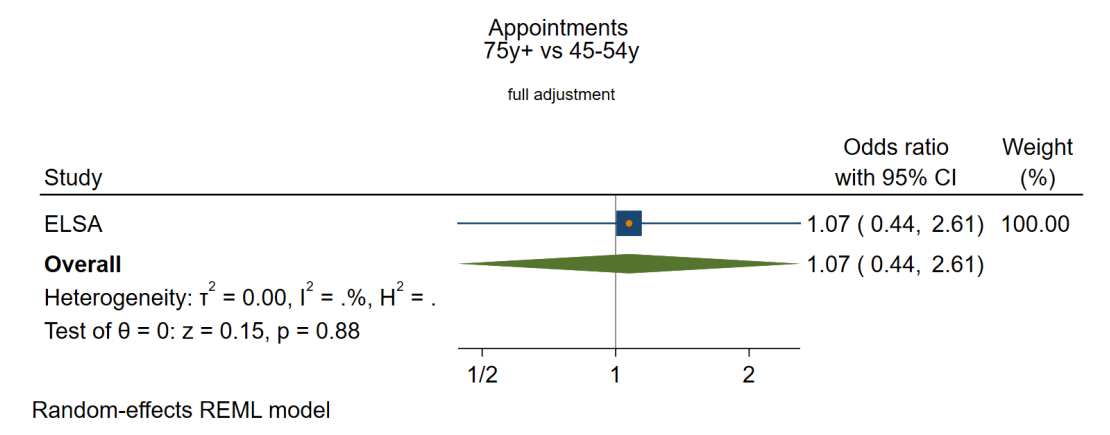
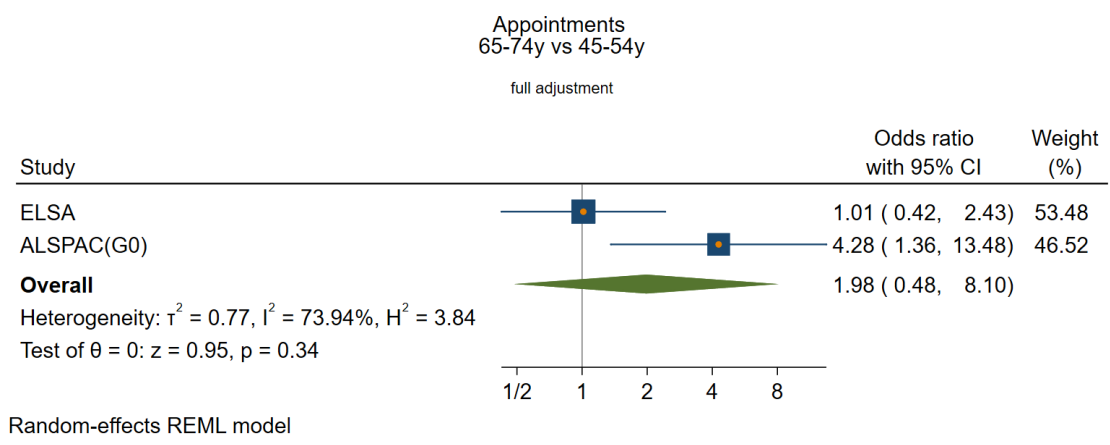
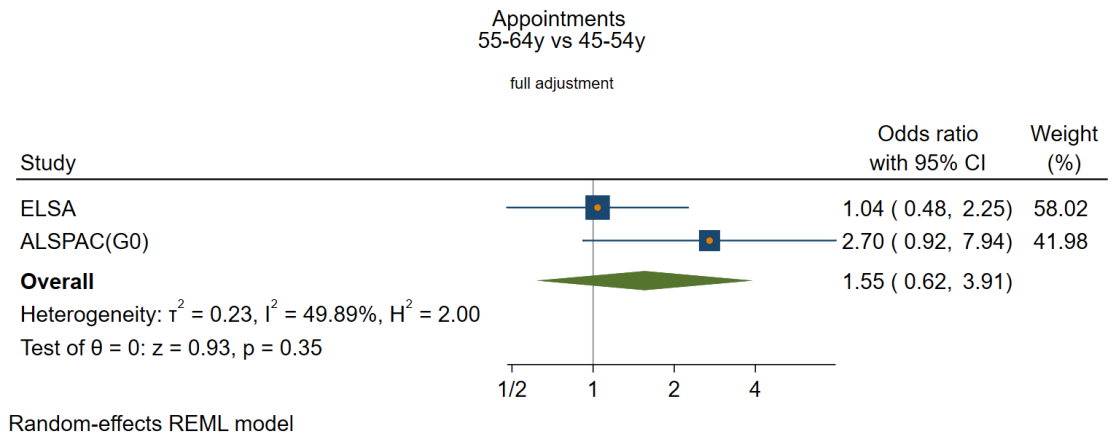
basic adjustment



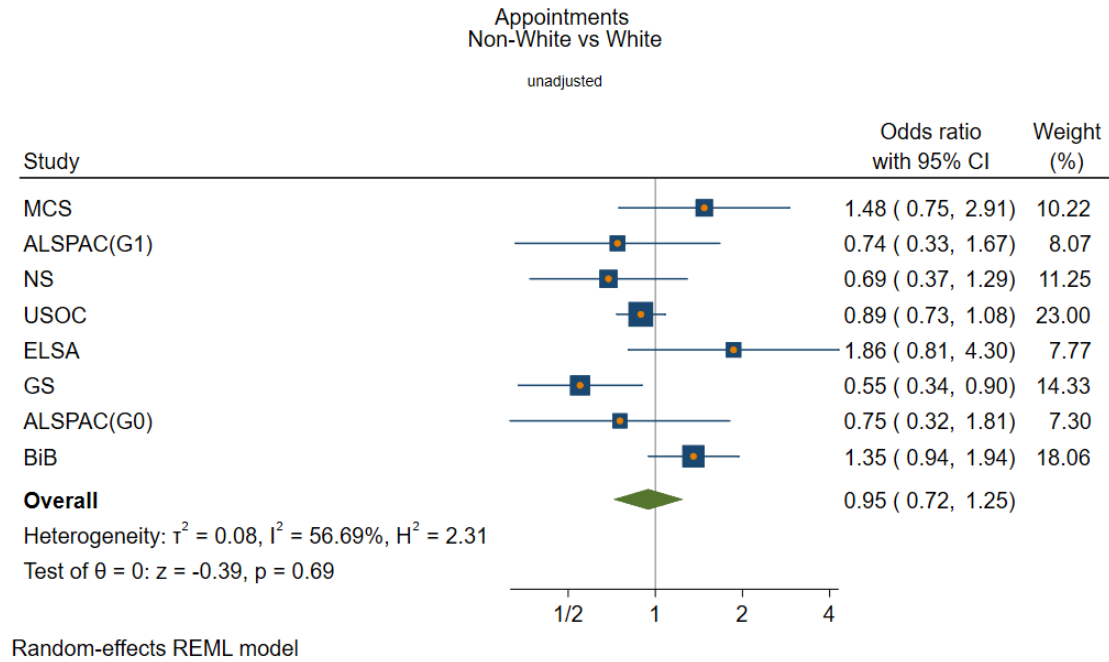
Random-effects REML model

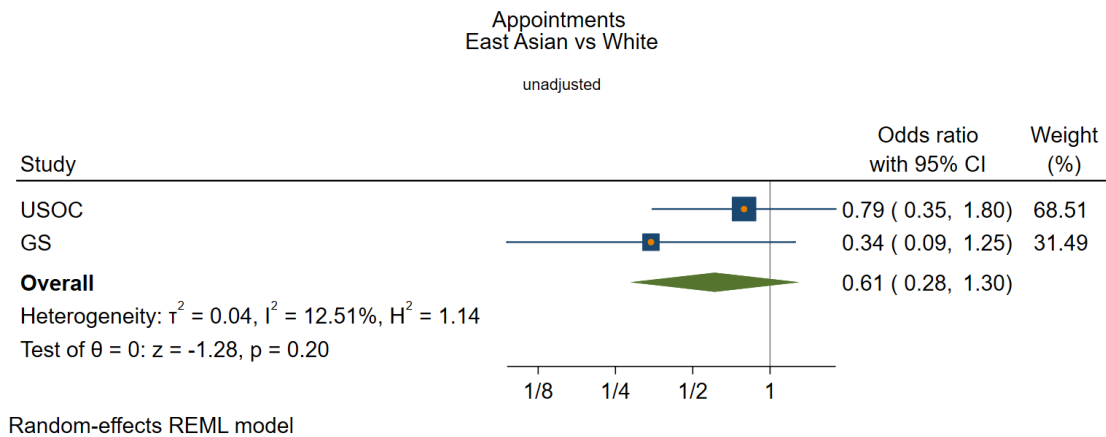
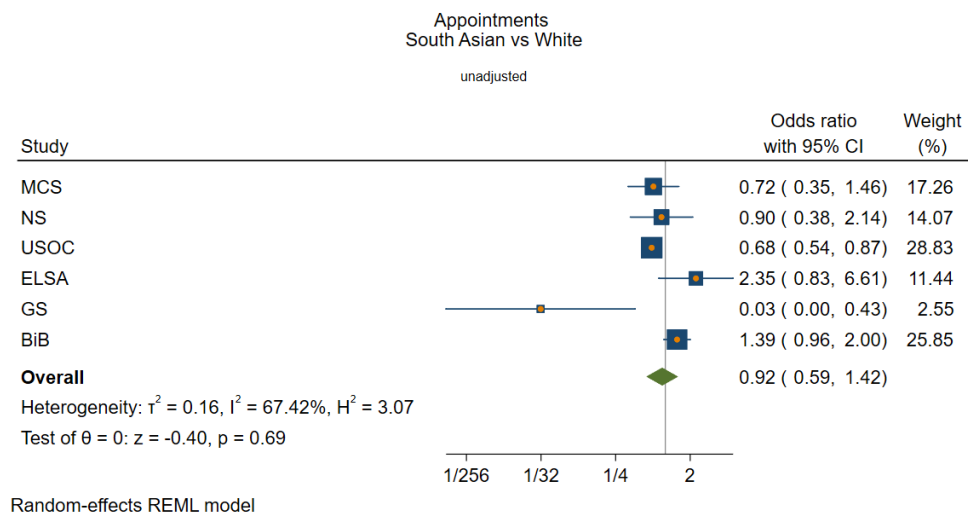
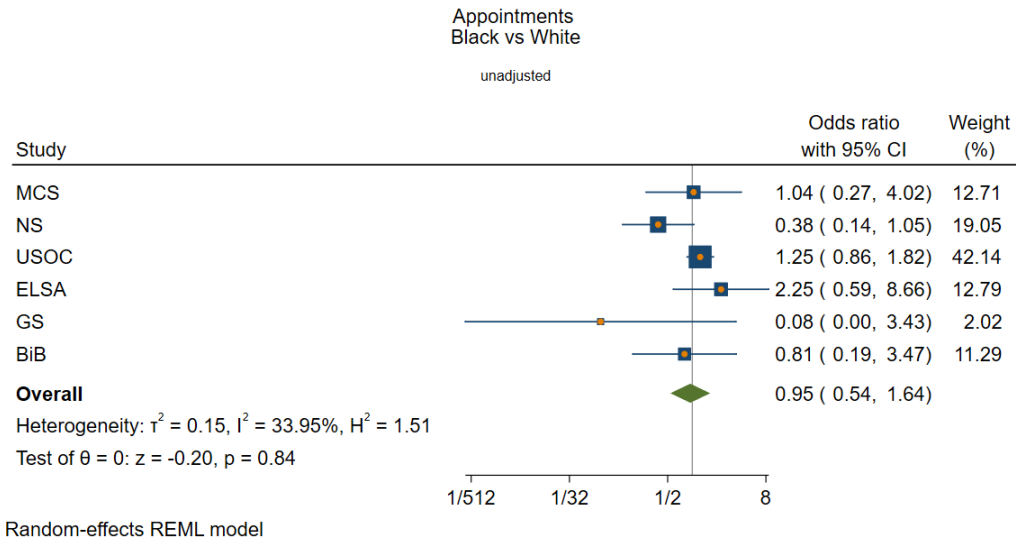
Full adjustment

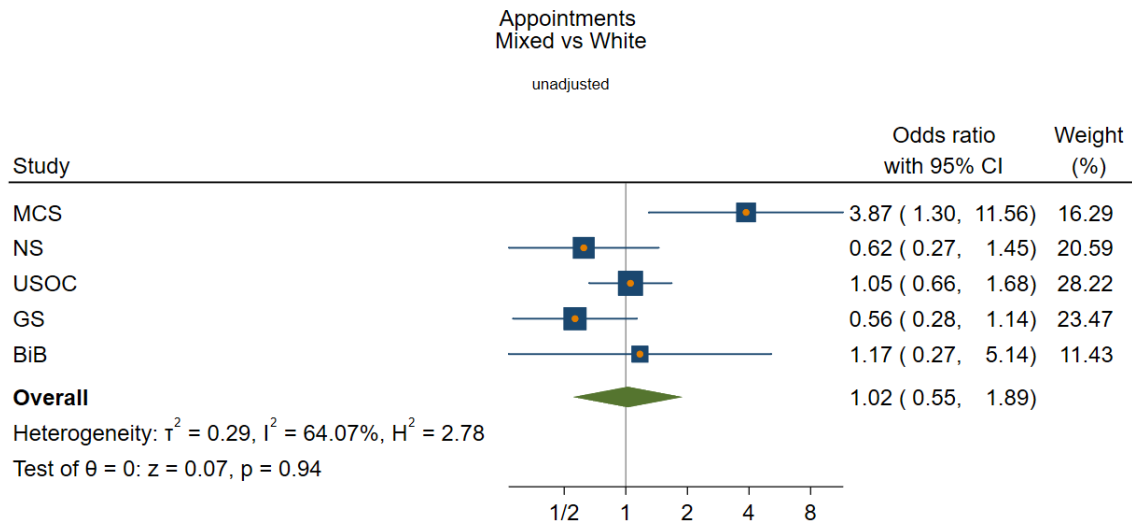




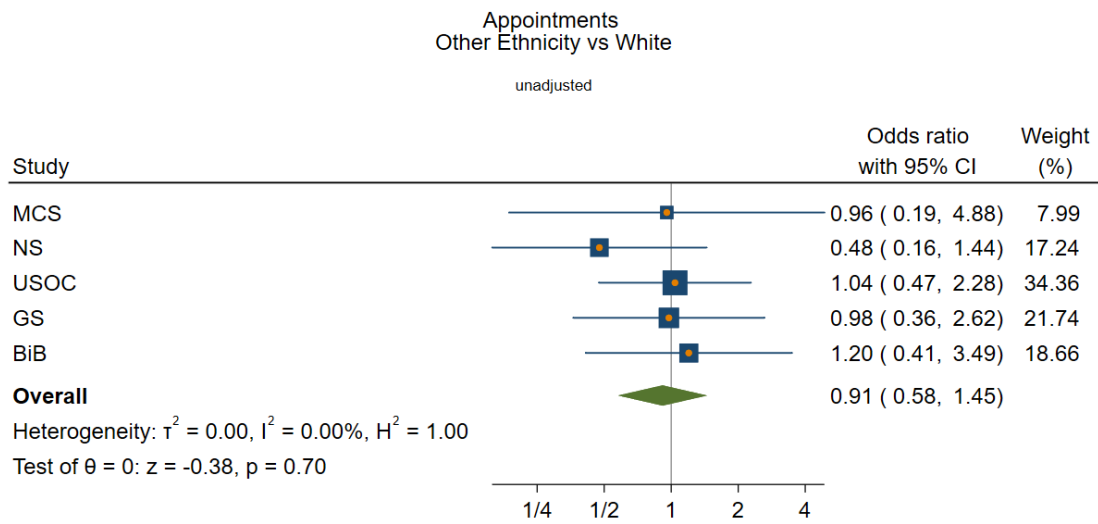
Ethnicity
Unadjusted





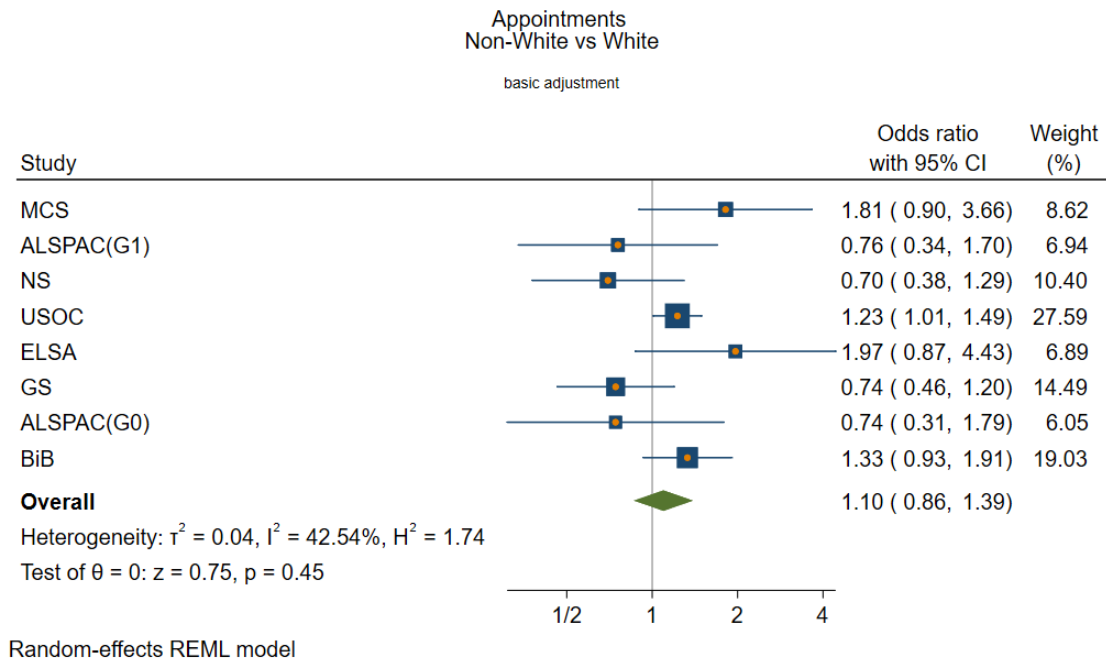


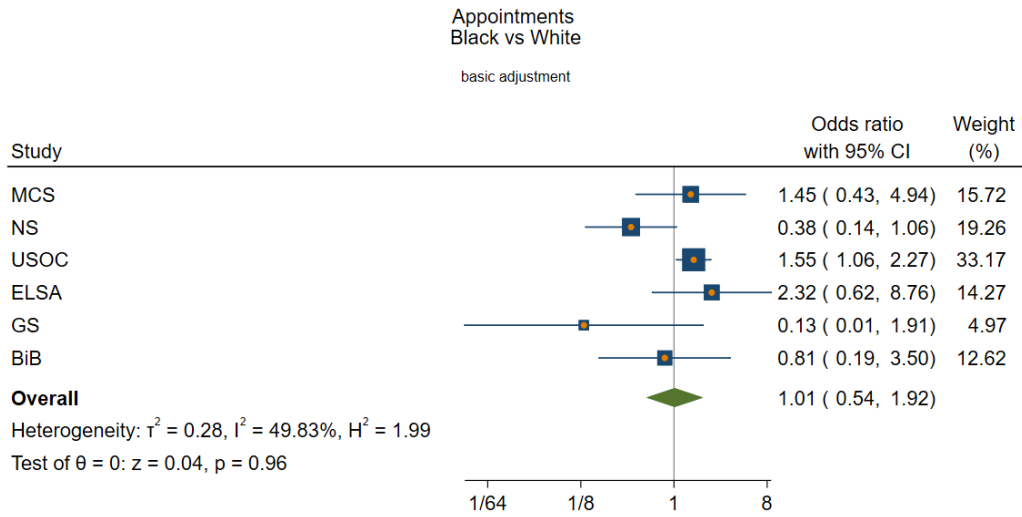
Random-effects REML model



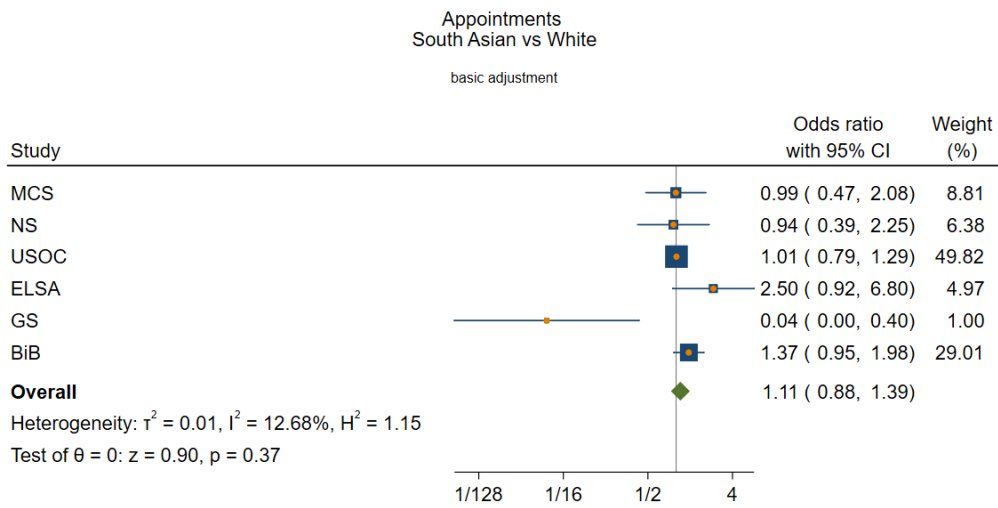
Random-effects REML model

Basic adjustment

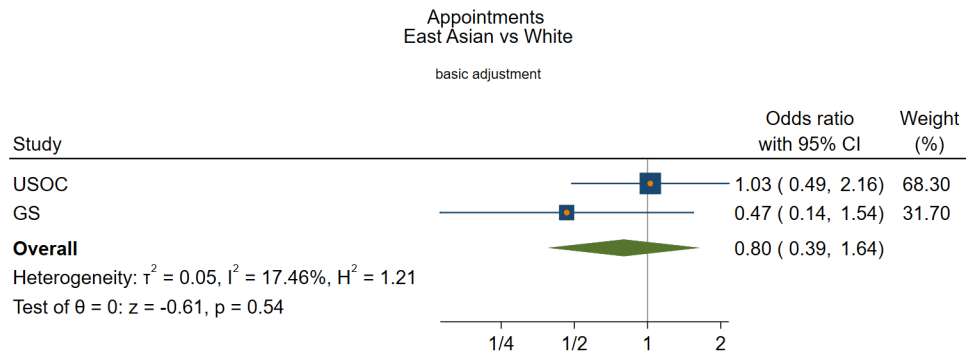




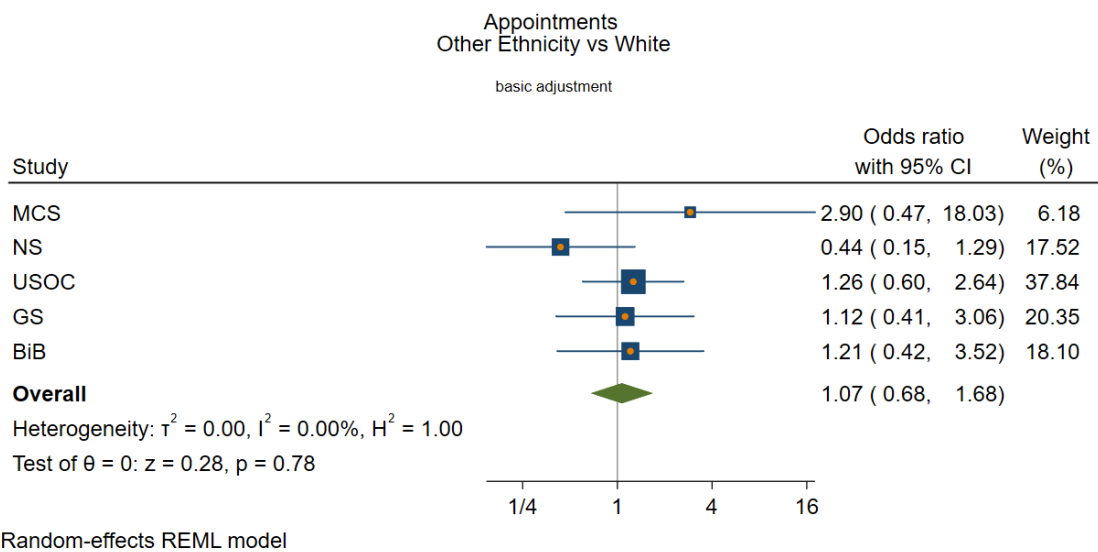
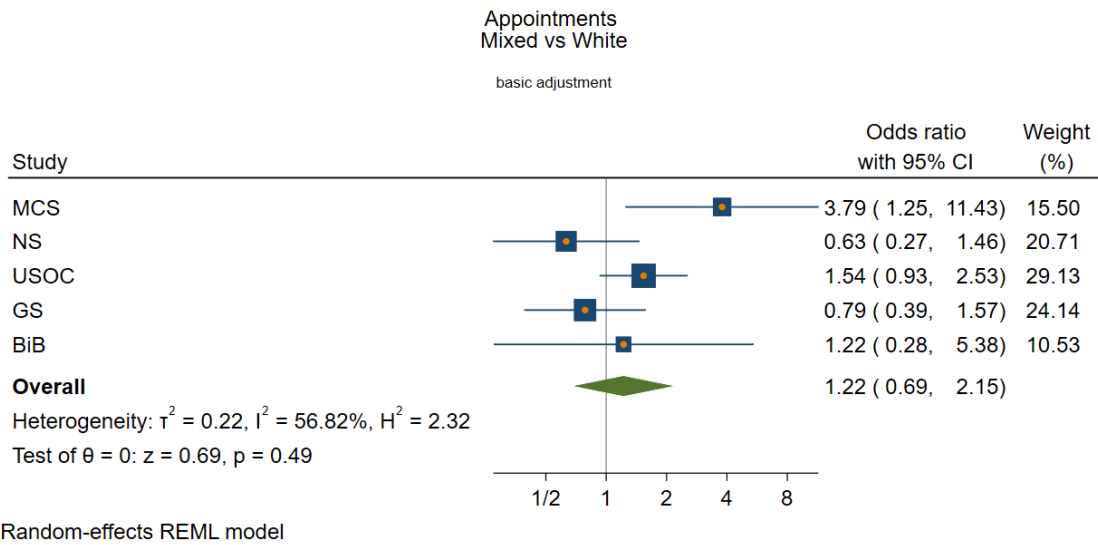
Random-effects REML model

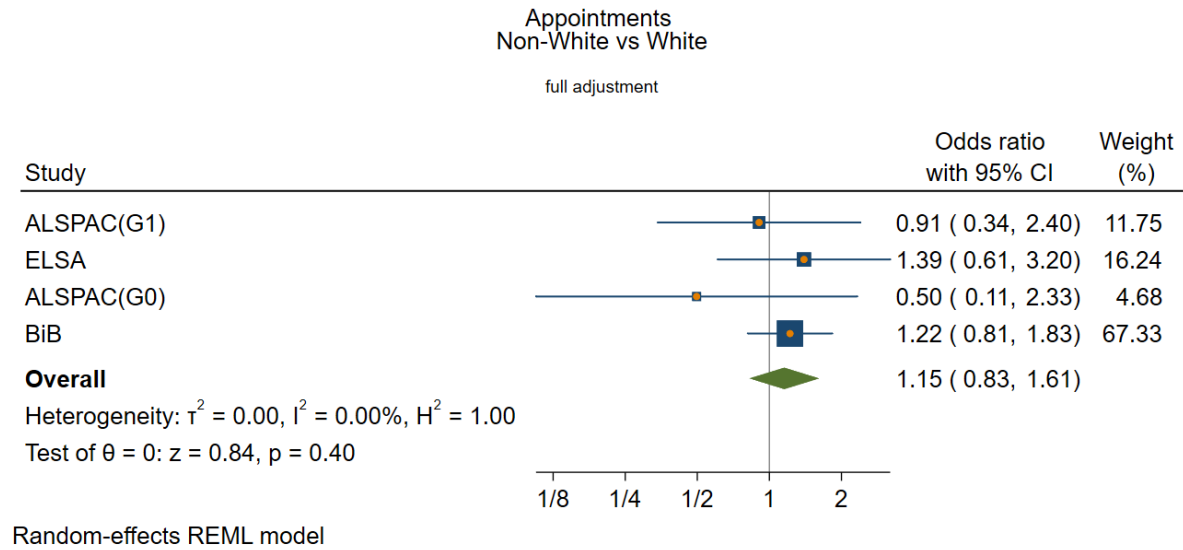


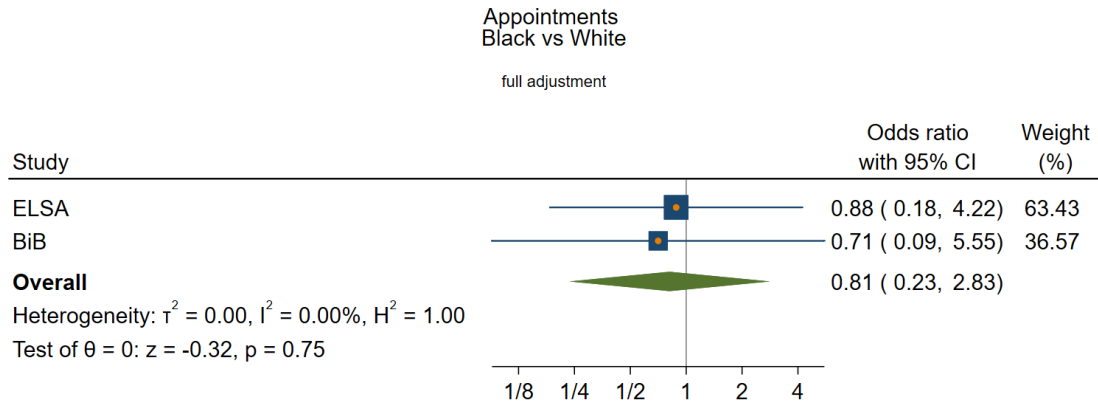
Random-effects REML model



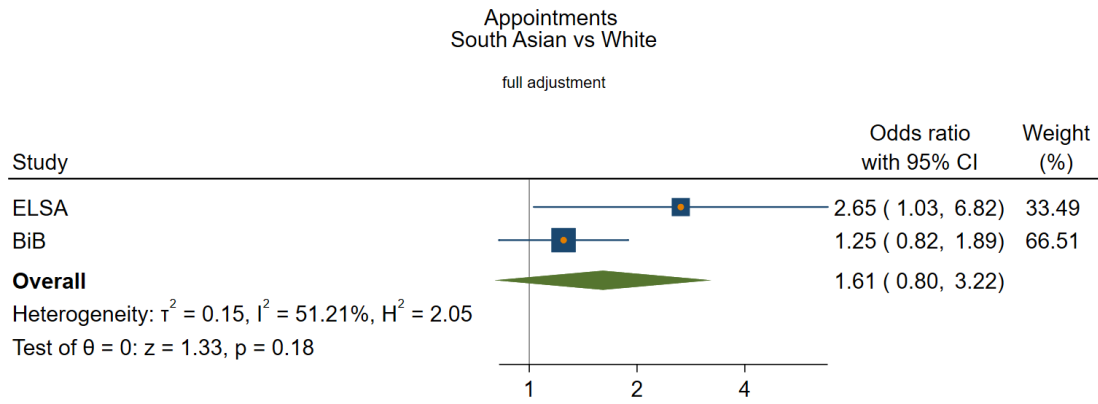
Random-effects REML model



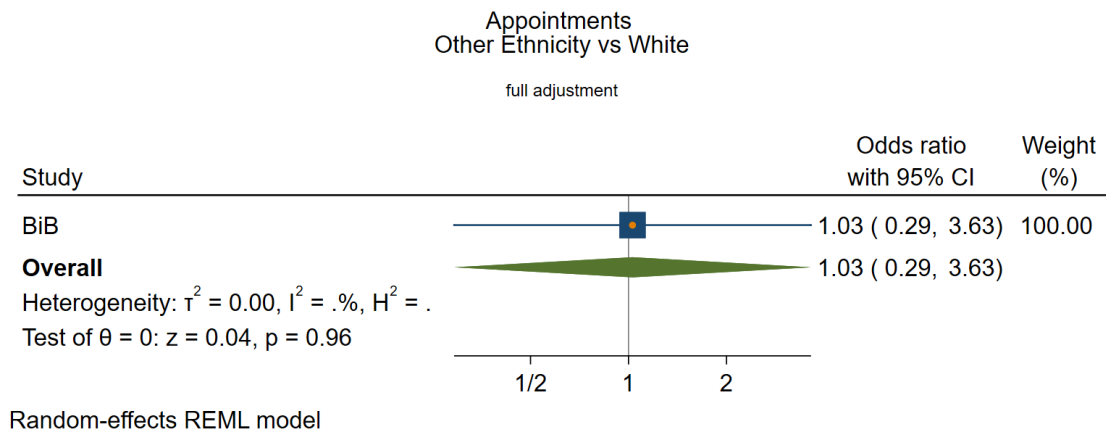
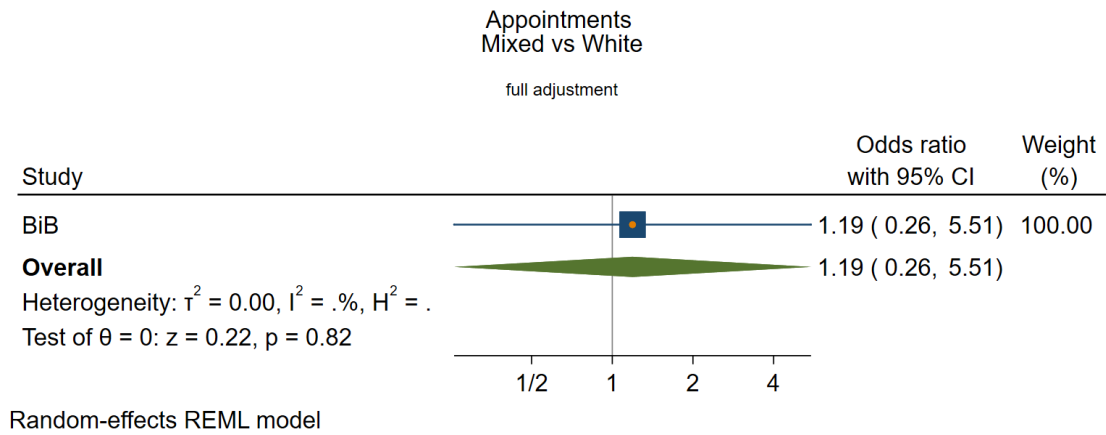
Full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

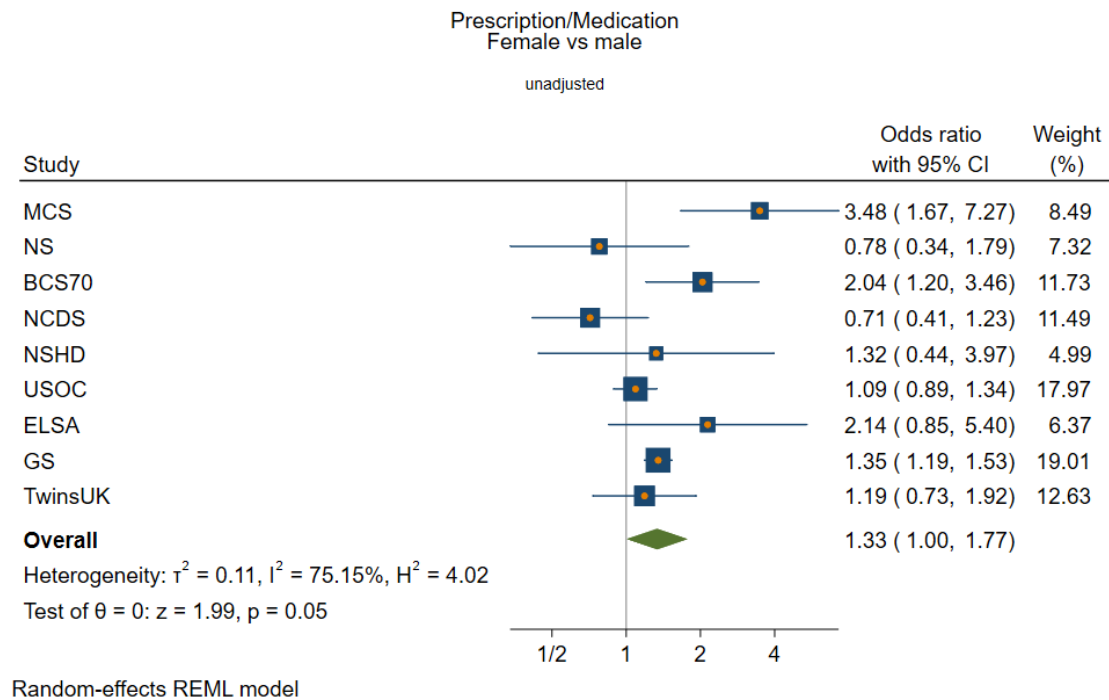


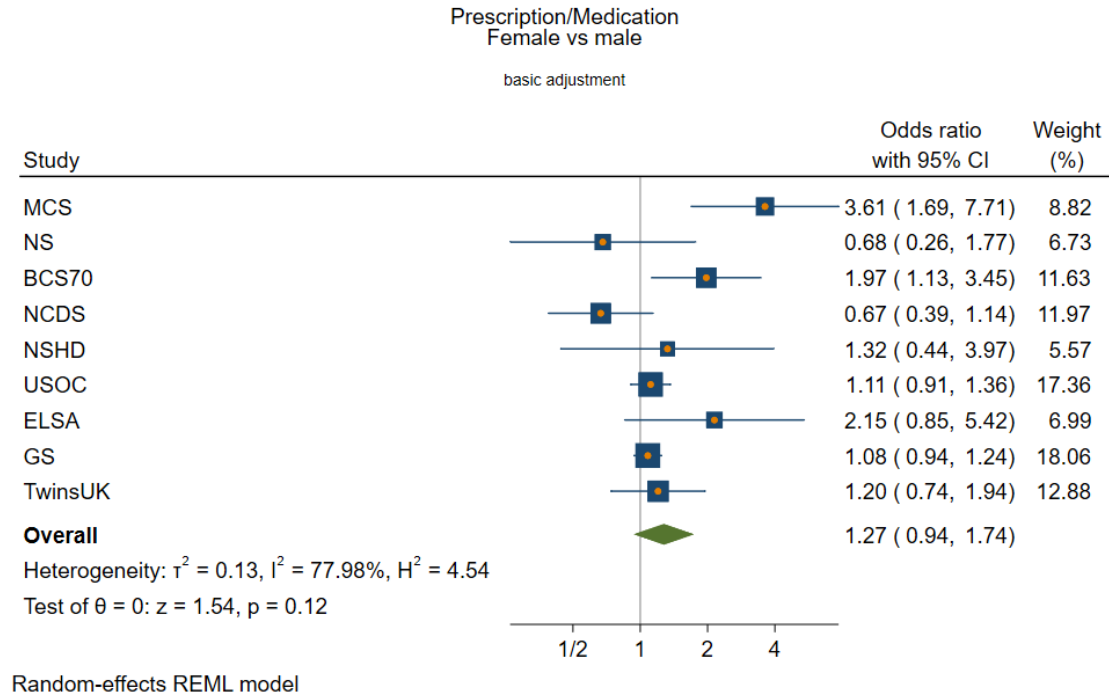
Random-effects REML model

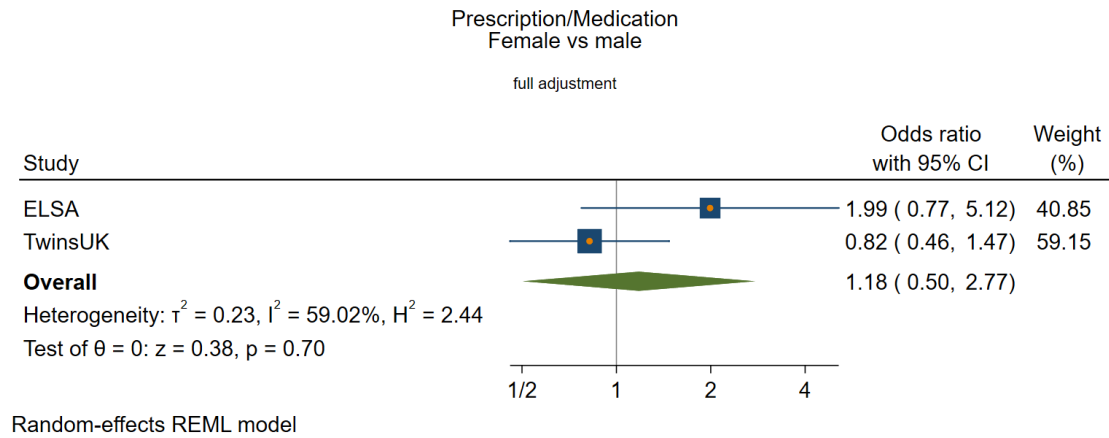


Prescription/Medication access

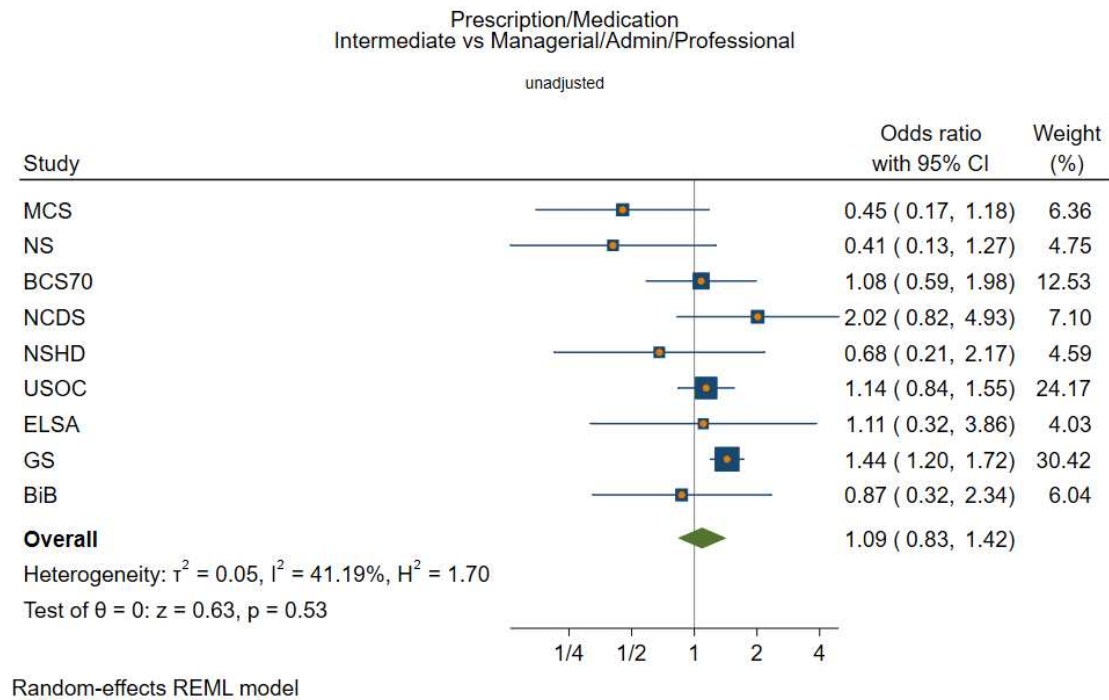
Sex
Unadjusted



Basic adjustment

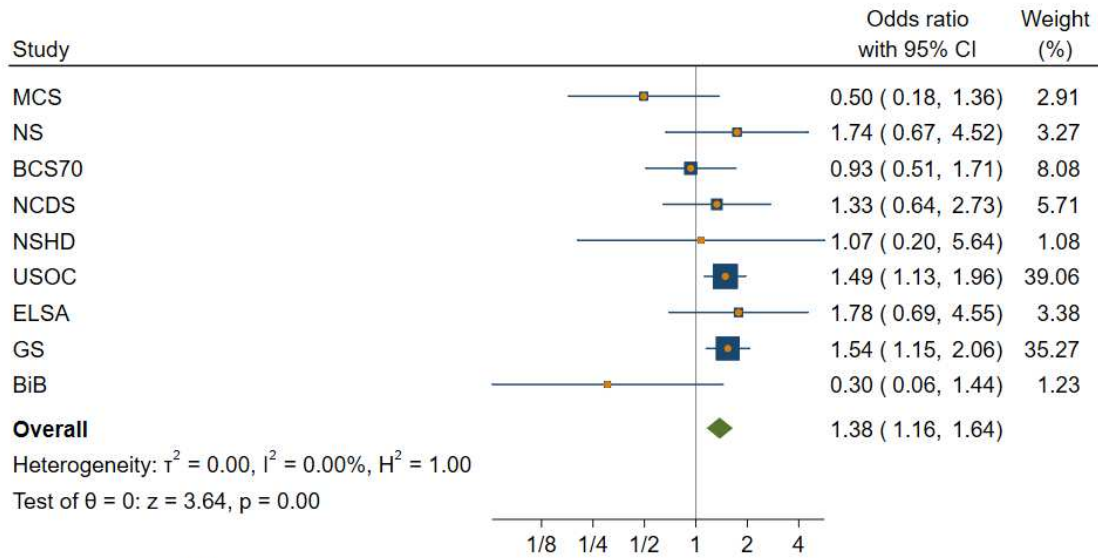
Full adjustment

Occupational class
Unadjusted



Prescription/Medication
Manual/Routine vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

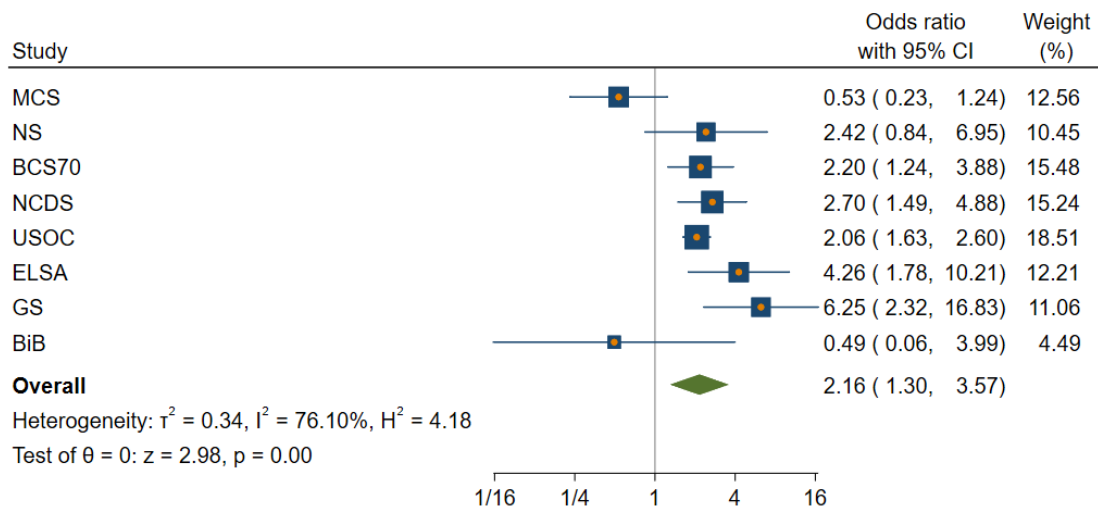
unadjusted



Random-effects REML model

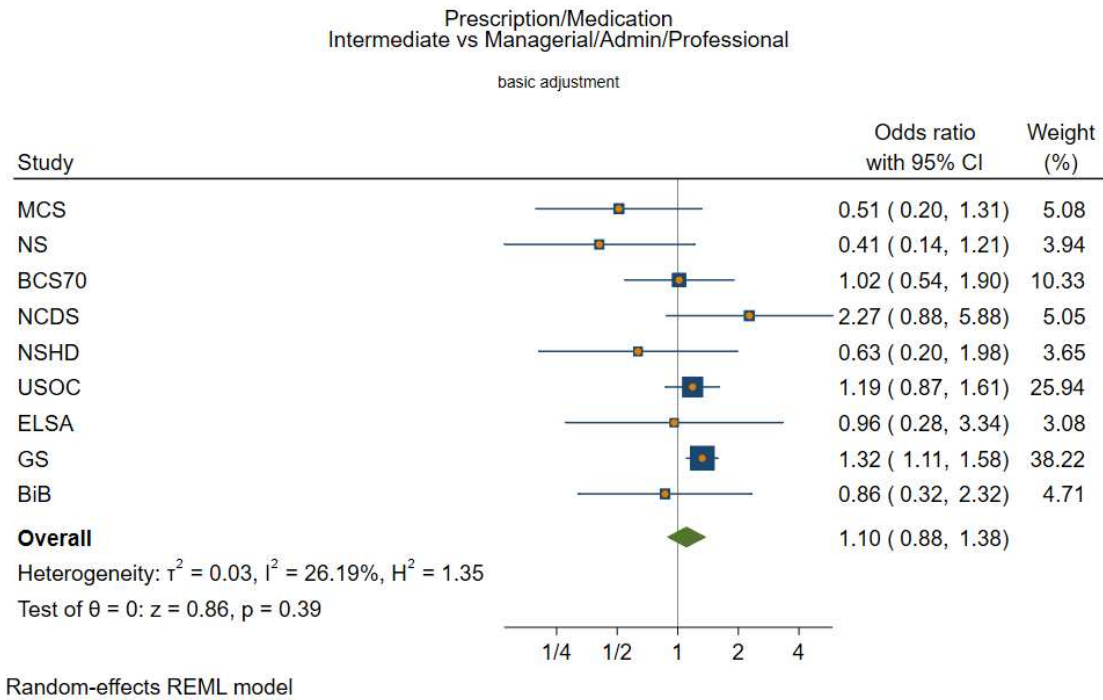
Prescription/Medication
Other social class vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

unadjusted



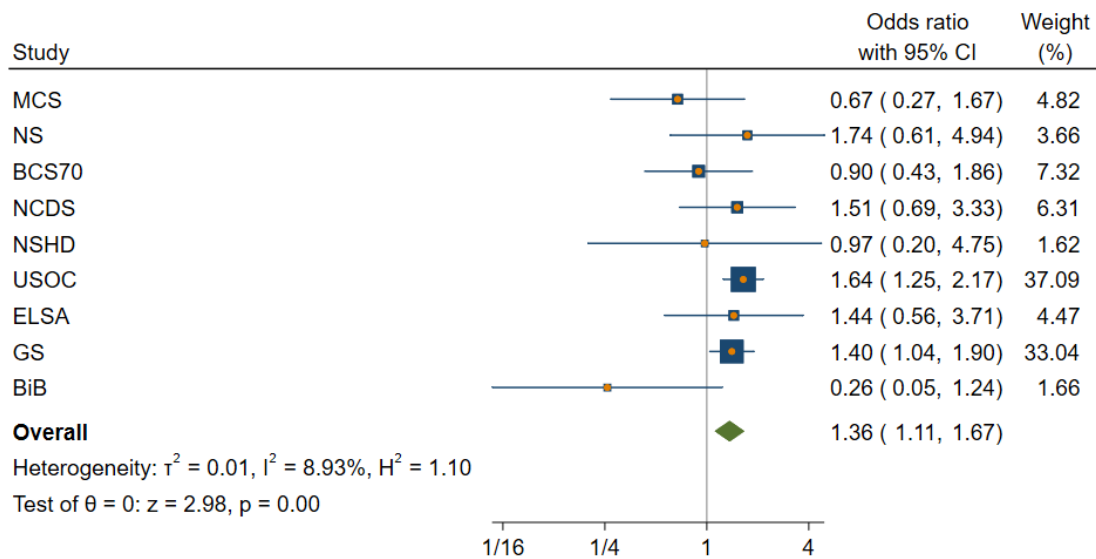
Random-effects REML model

Basic adjustment



Prescription/Medication
Manual/Routine vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

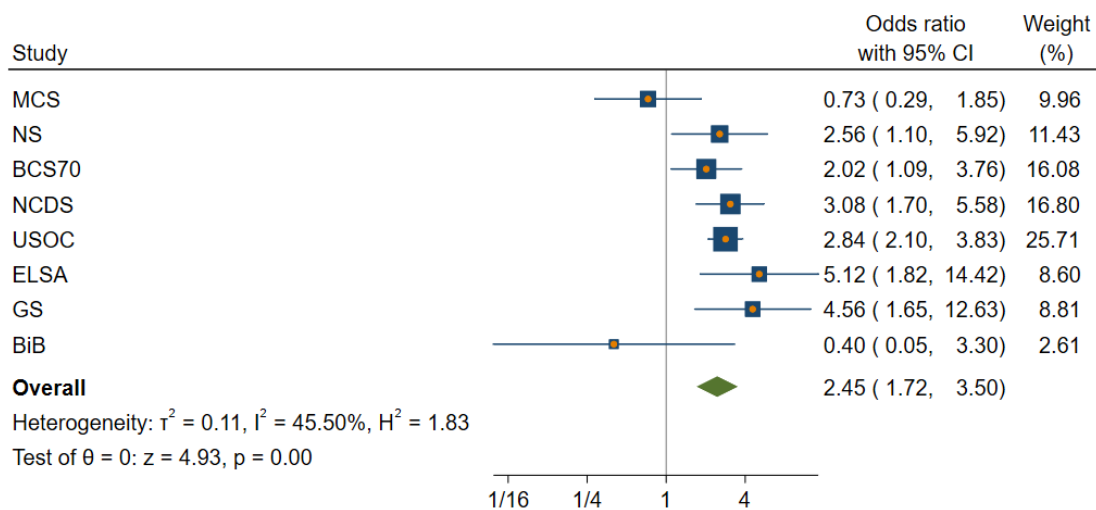
basic adjustment



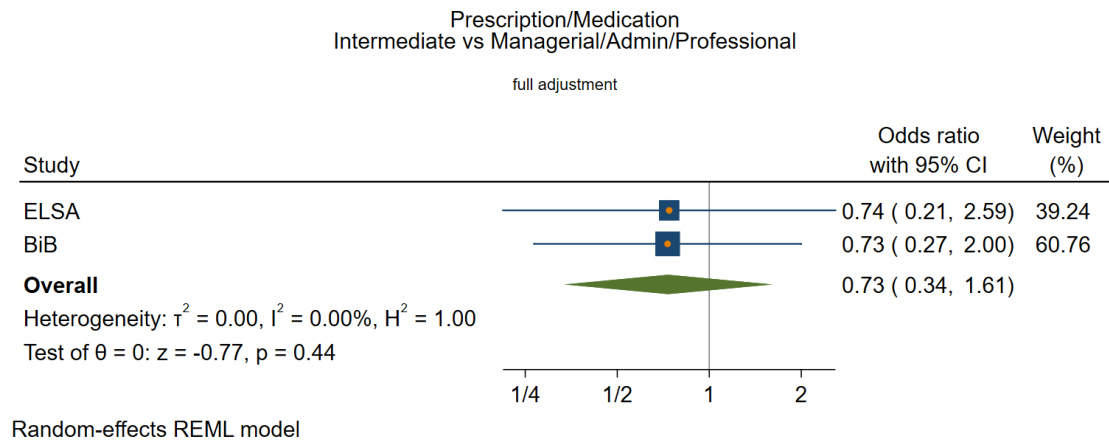
Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
Other social class vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

basic adjustment

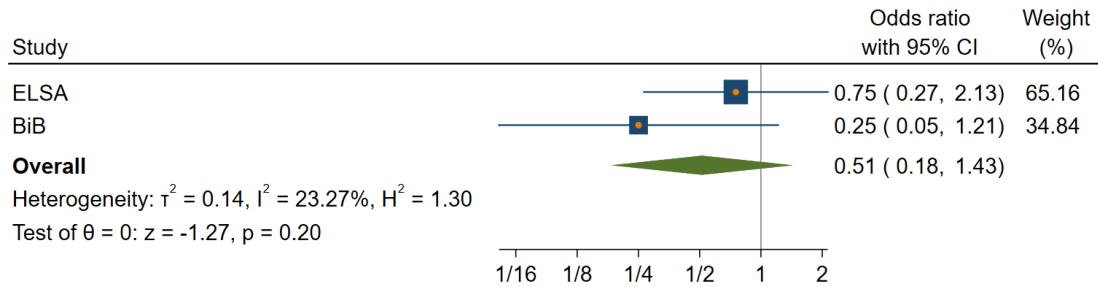


Random-effects REML model

Full adjustment

Prescription/Medication
Manual/Routine vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

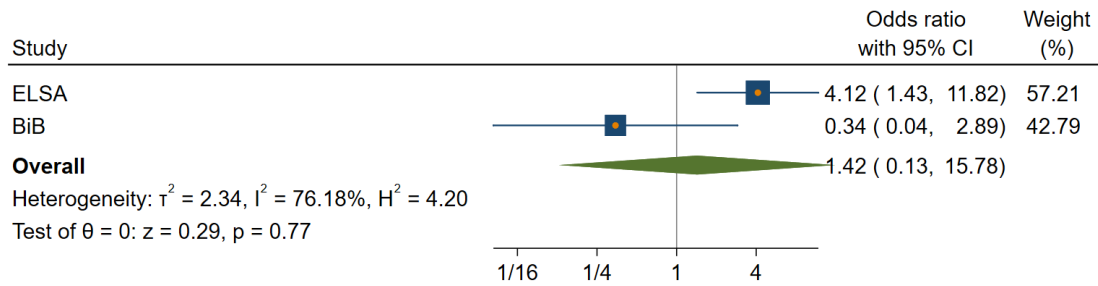
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

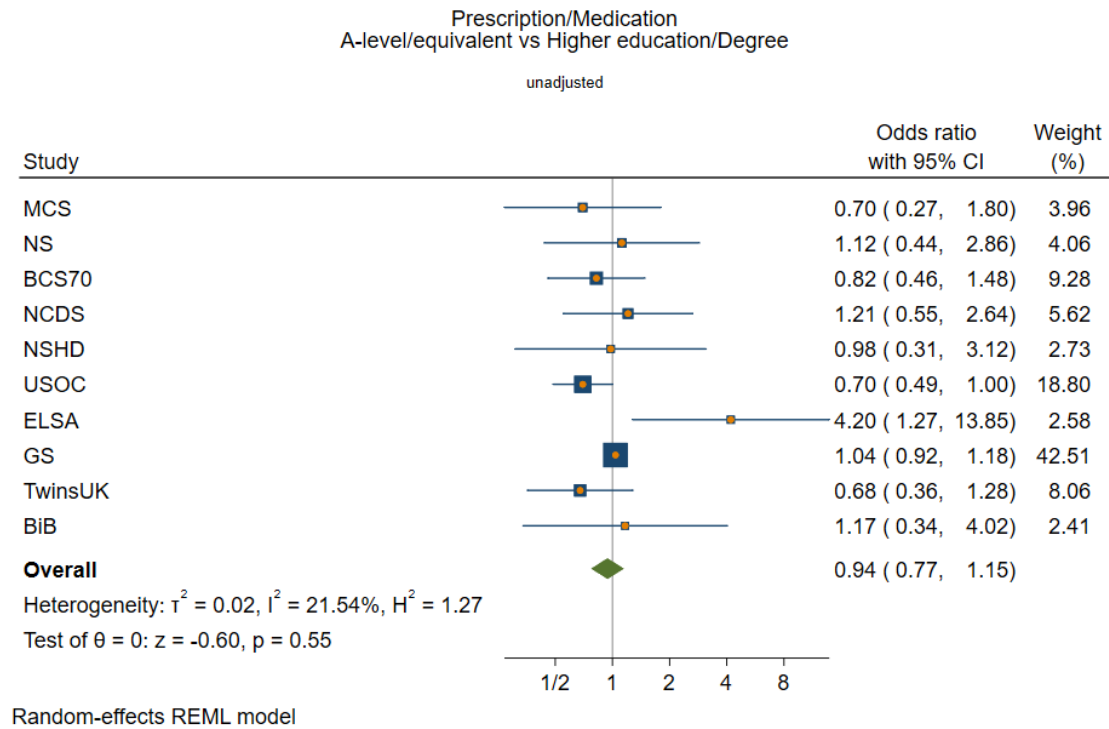
Prescription/Medication
Other social class vs Managerial/Admin/Professional

full adjustment



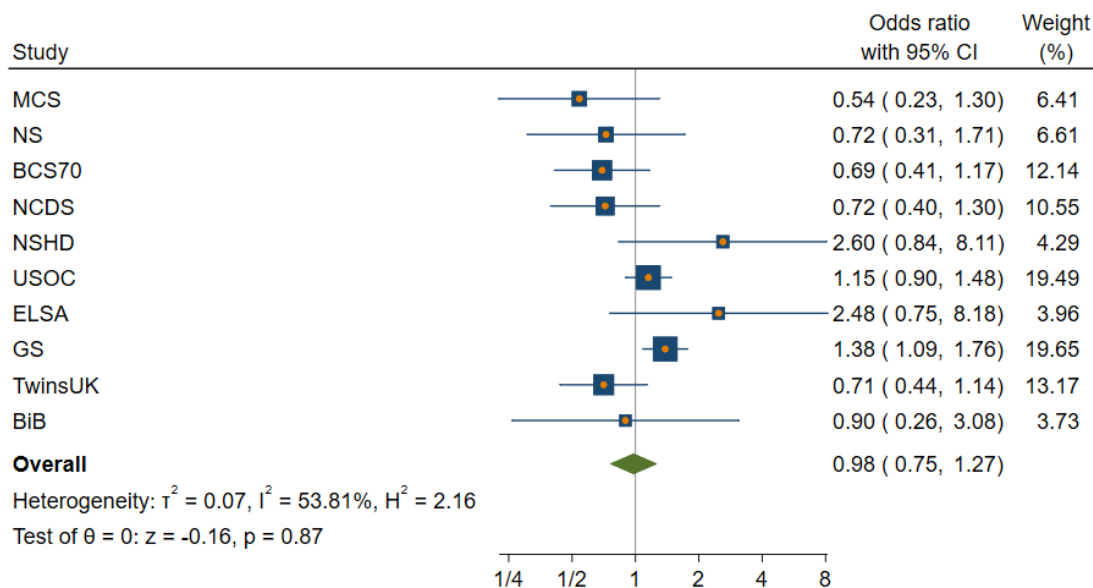
Random-effects REML model

Education
Unadjusted



Prescription/Medication
GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree

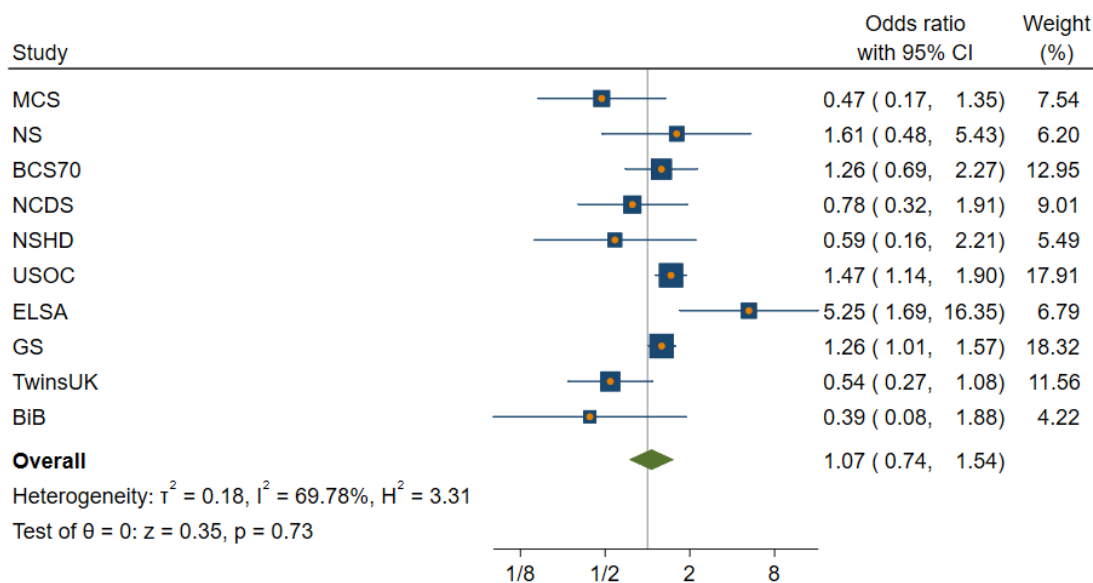
unadjusted



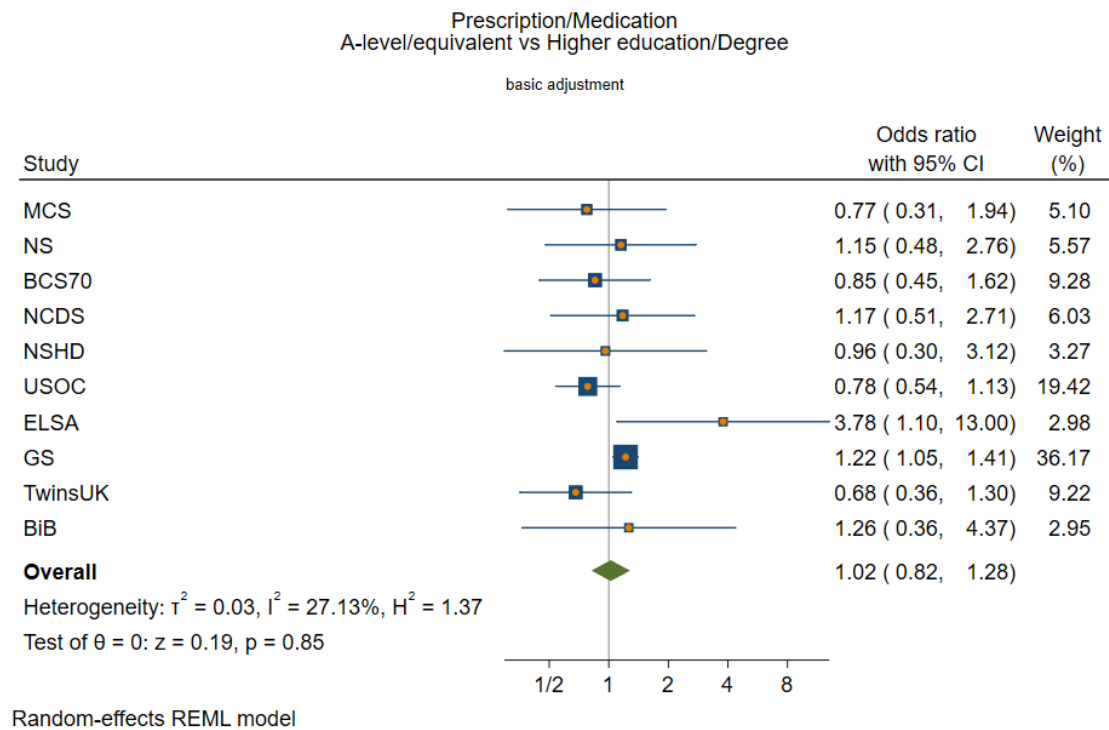
Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
<GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree

unadjusted

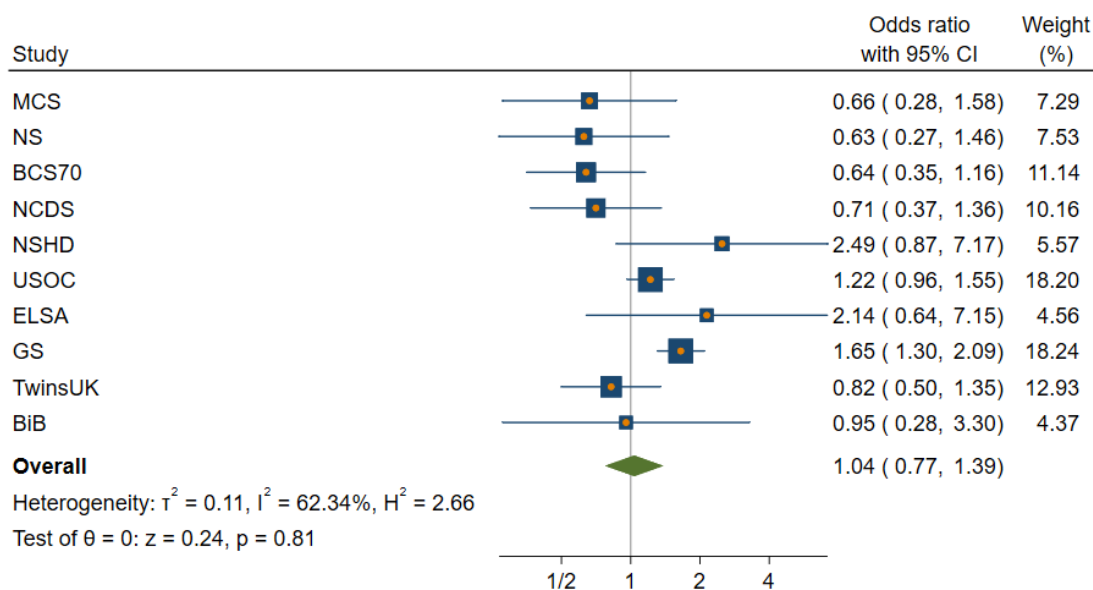


Random-effects REML model

Basic adjustment

Prescription/Medication
GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree

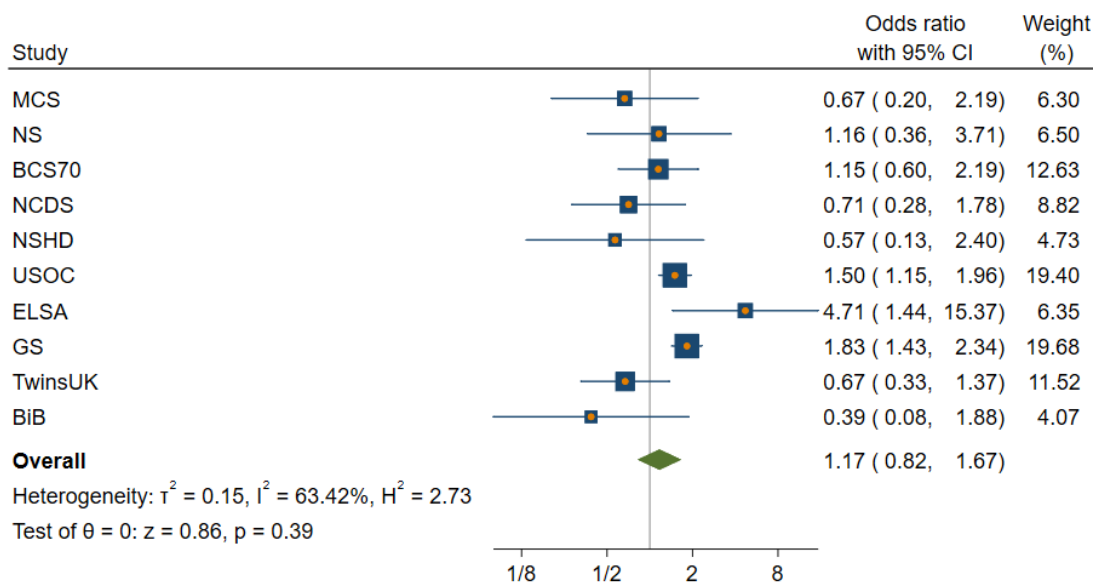
basic adjustment



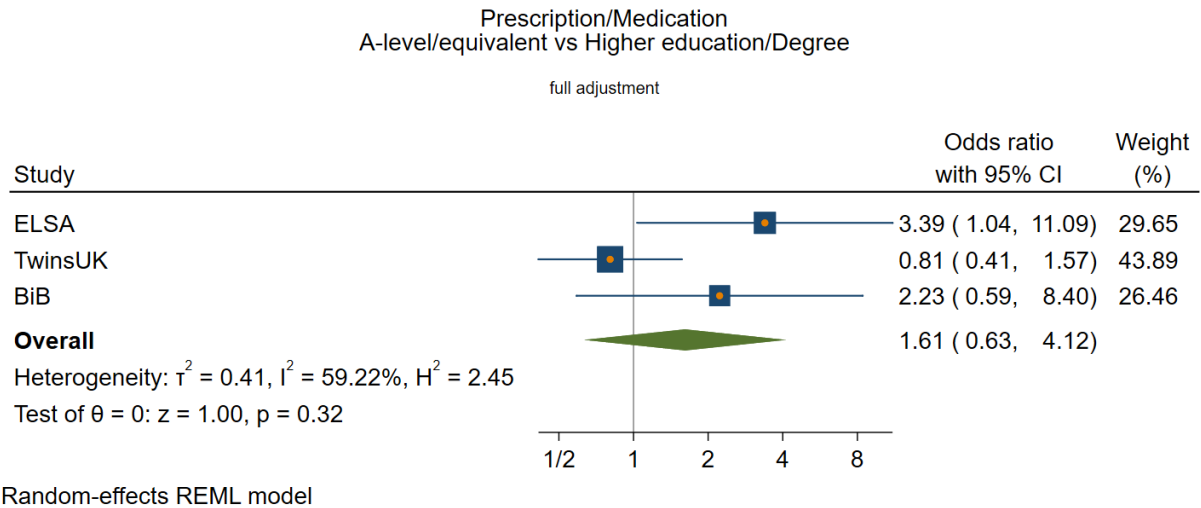
Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
<GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree

basic adjustment

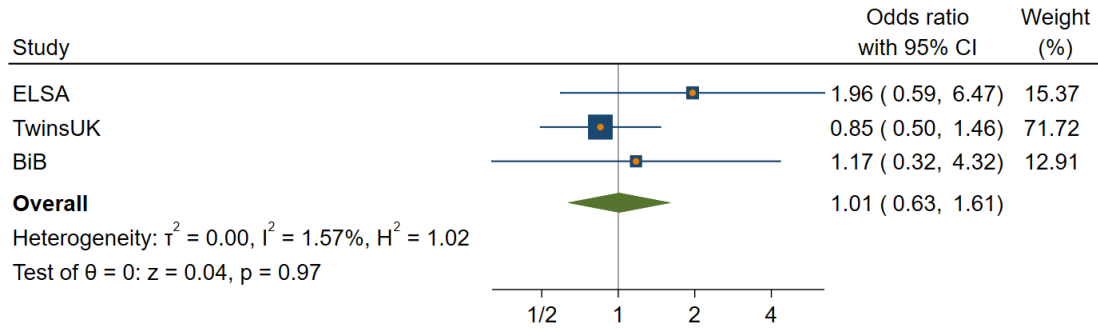


Random-effects REML model

Full adjustment

Prescription/Medication
GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree

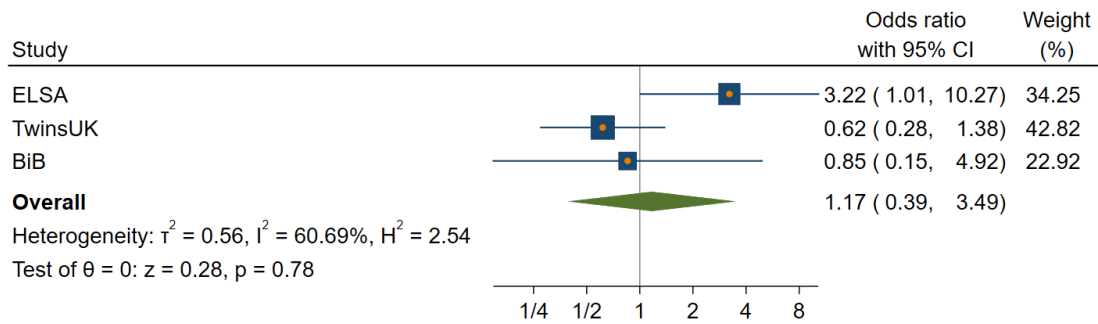
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
<GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree

full adjustment

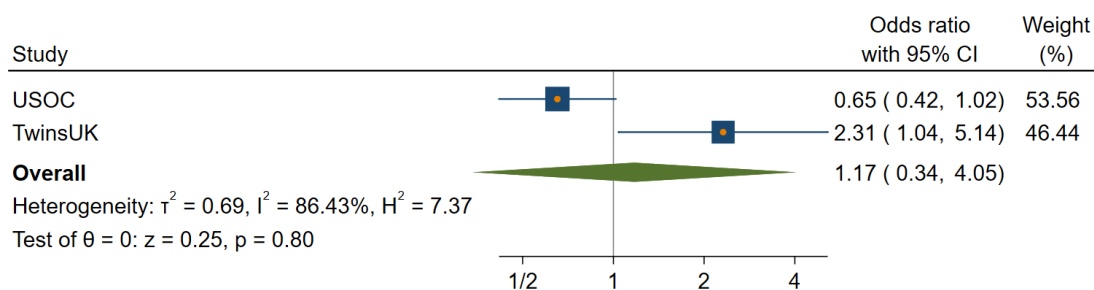


Random-effects REML model

Age
Unadjusted

Prescription/Medication
16-24y vs 45-54y

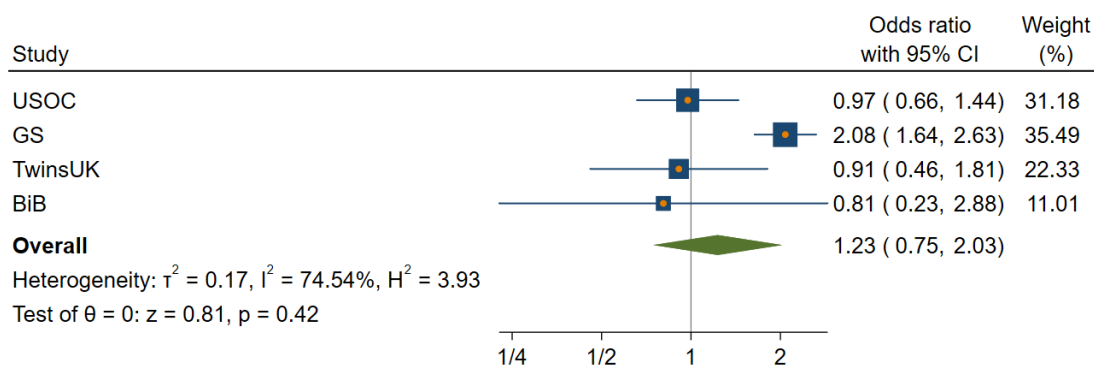
unadjusted



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
25-34y vs 45-54y

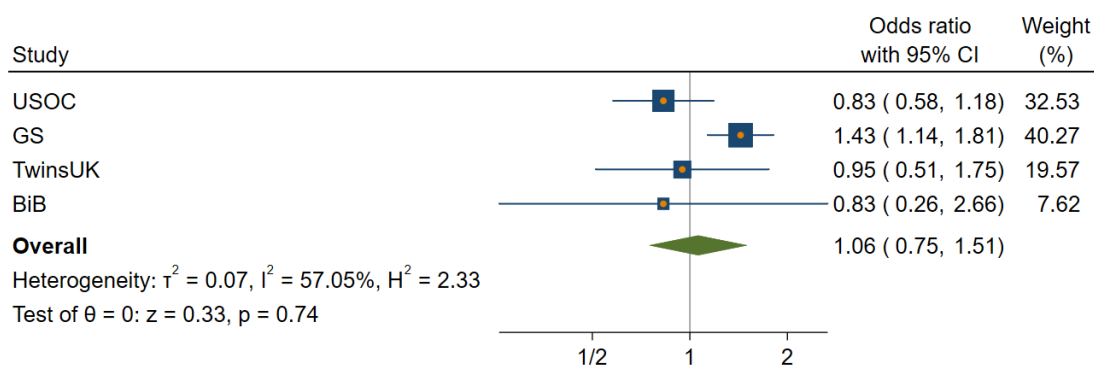
unadjusted



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
35-44y vs 45-54y

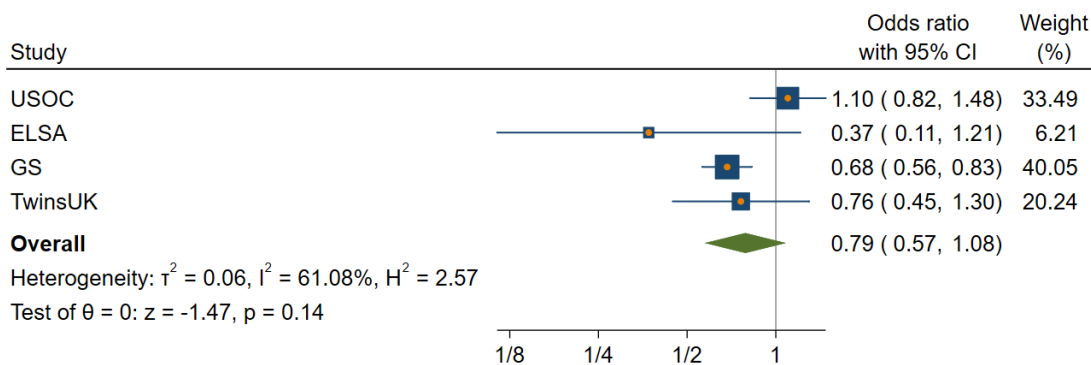
unadjusted



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
55-64y vs 45-54y

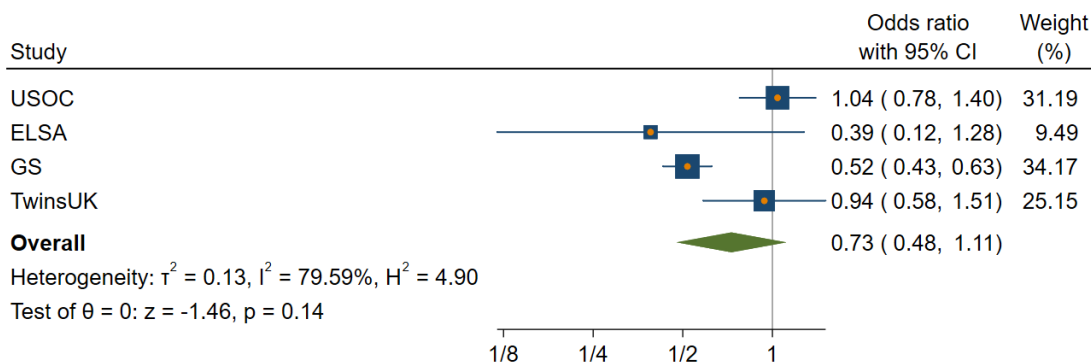
unadjusted



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
65-74y vs 45-54y

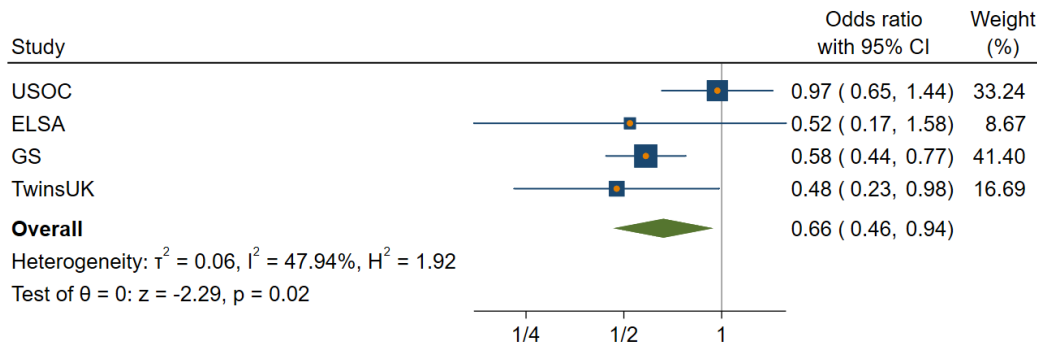
unadjusted



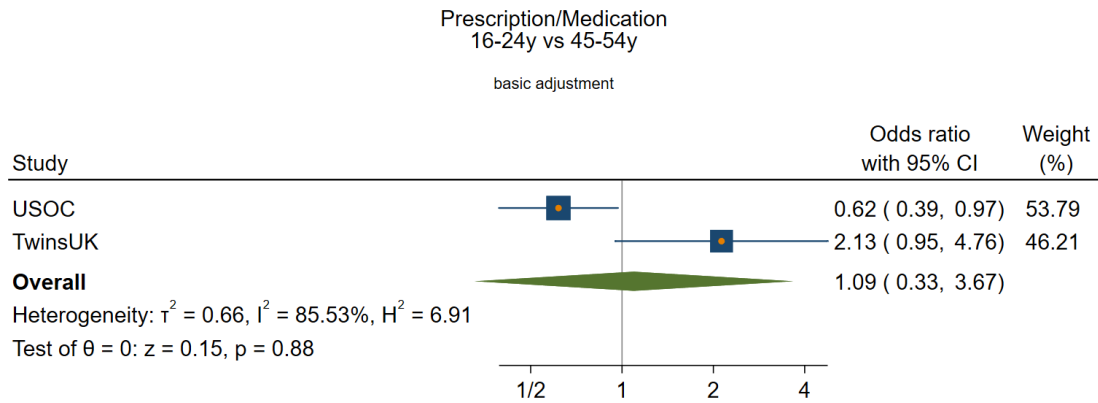
Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
75y+ vs 45-54y

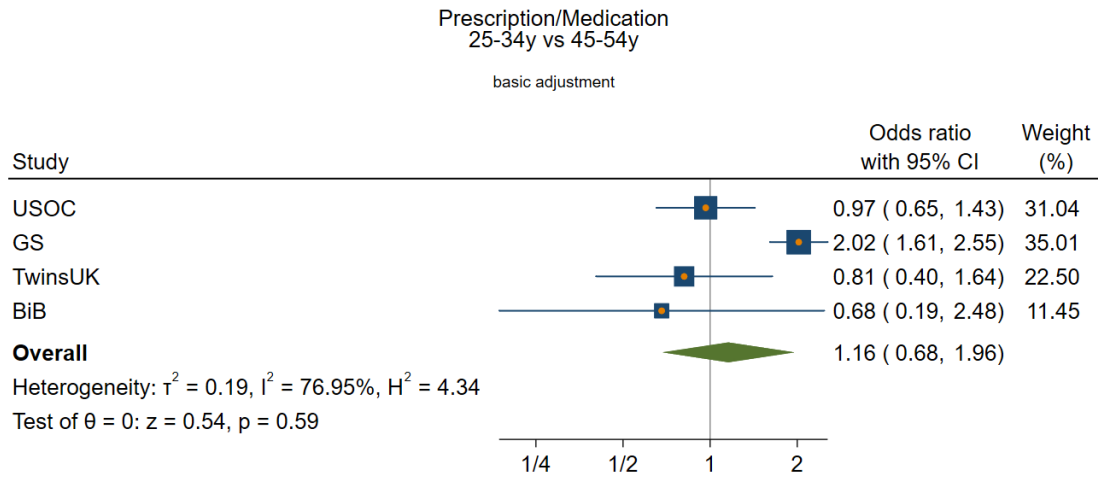
unadjusted



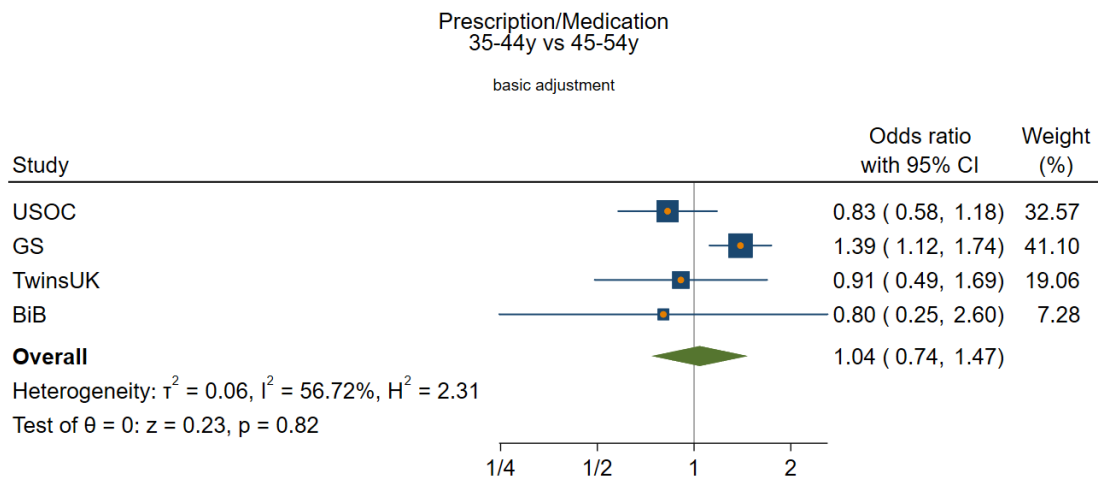
Random-effects REML model

Basic adjustment

Random-effects REML model



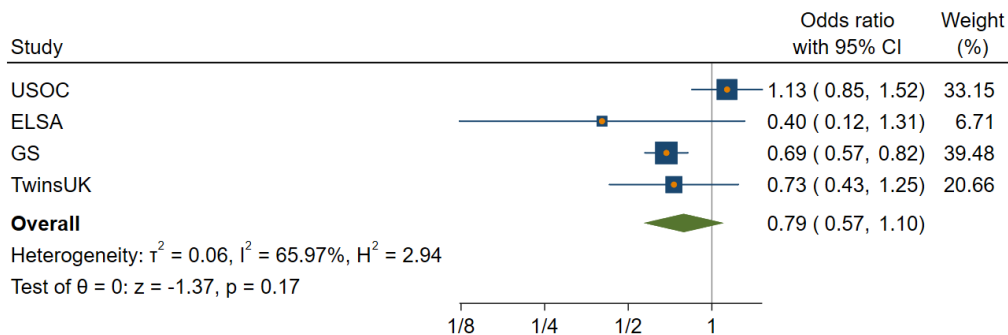
Random-effects REML model



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
55-64y vs 45-54y

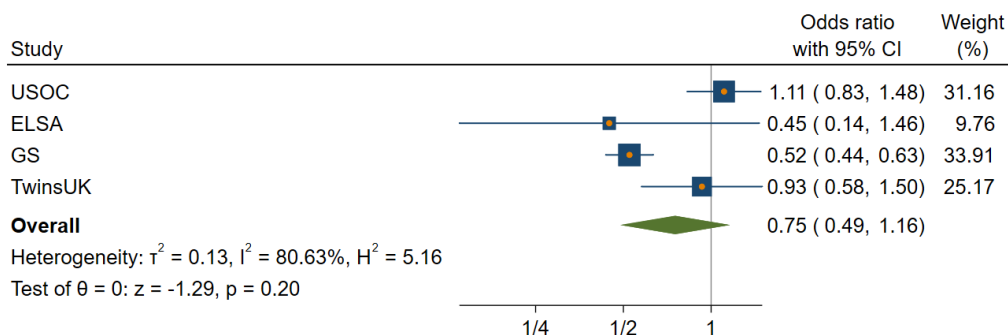
basic adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
65-74y vs 45-54y

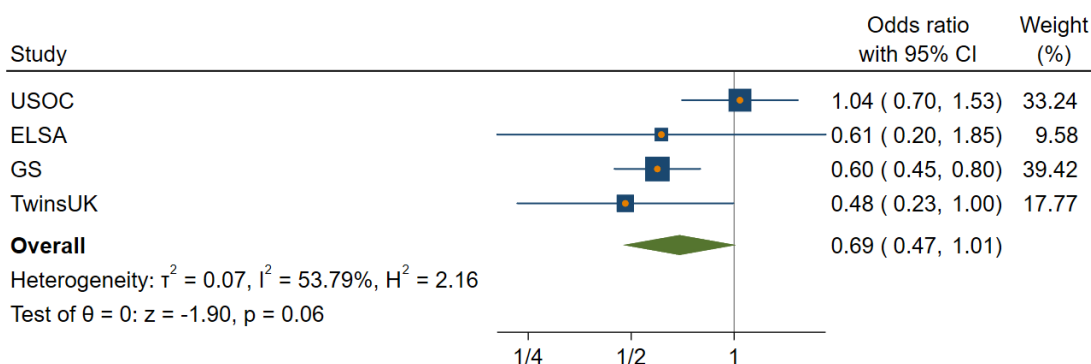
basic adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
75y+ vs 45-54y

basic adjustment

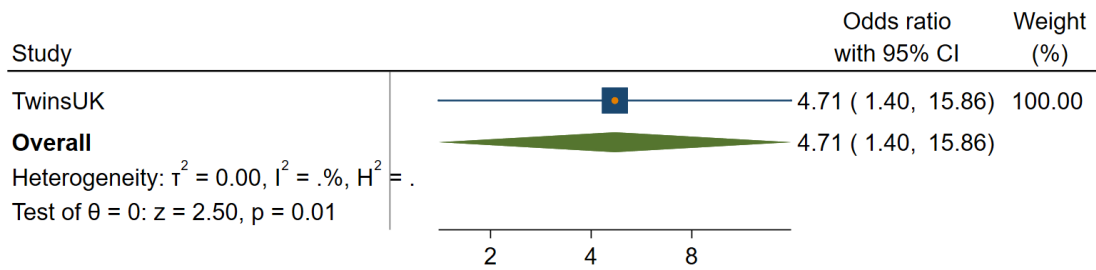


Random-effects REML model

Full adjustment

Prescription/Medication
16-24y vs 45-54y

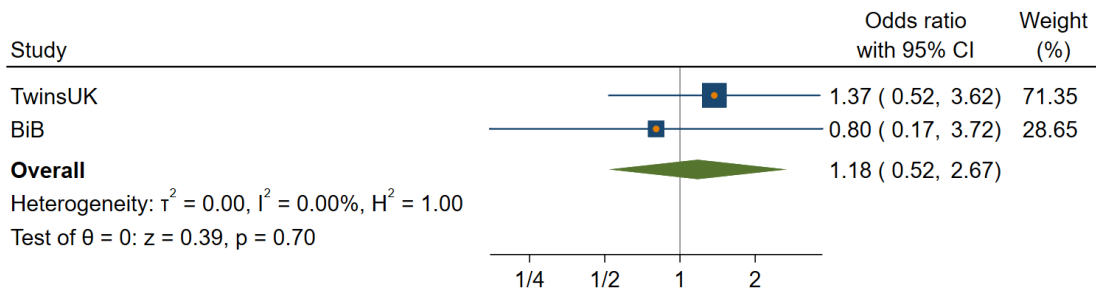
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
25-34y vs 45-54y

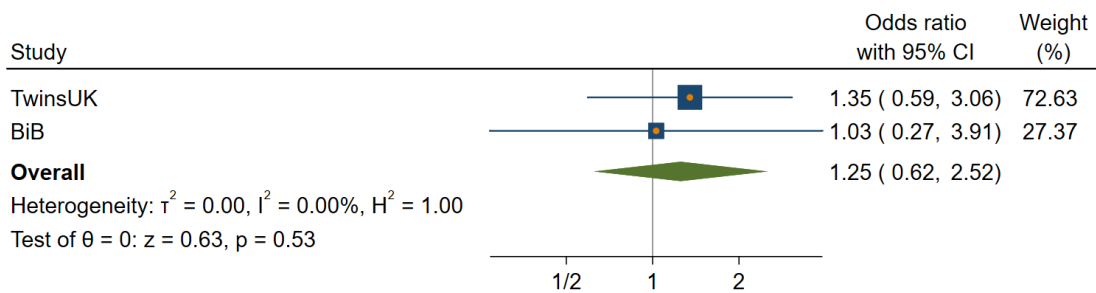
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
35-44y vs 45-54y

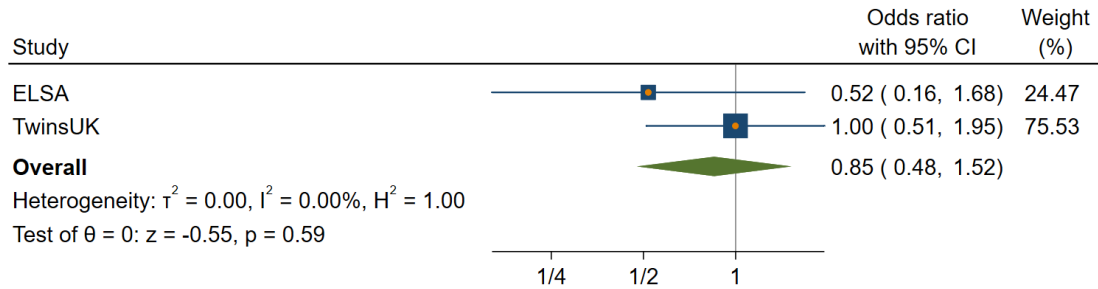
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
55-64y vs 45-54y

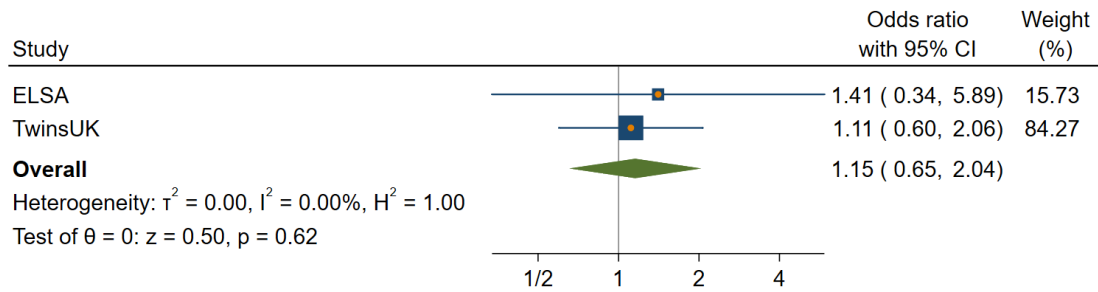
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
65-74y vs 45-54y

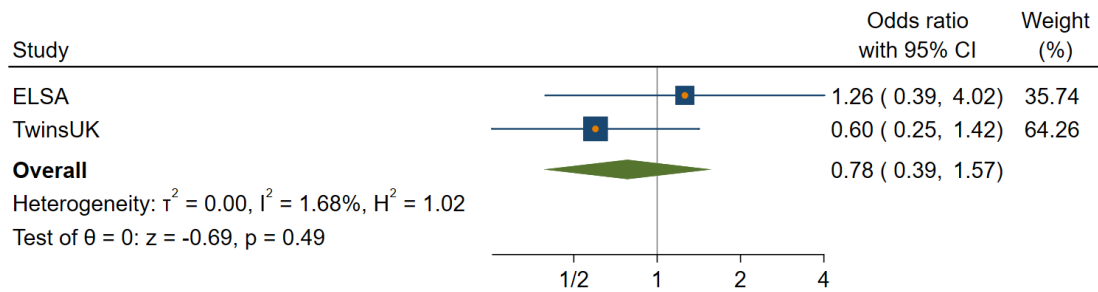
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

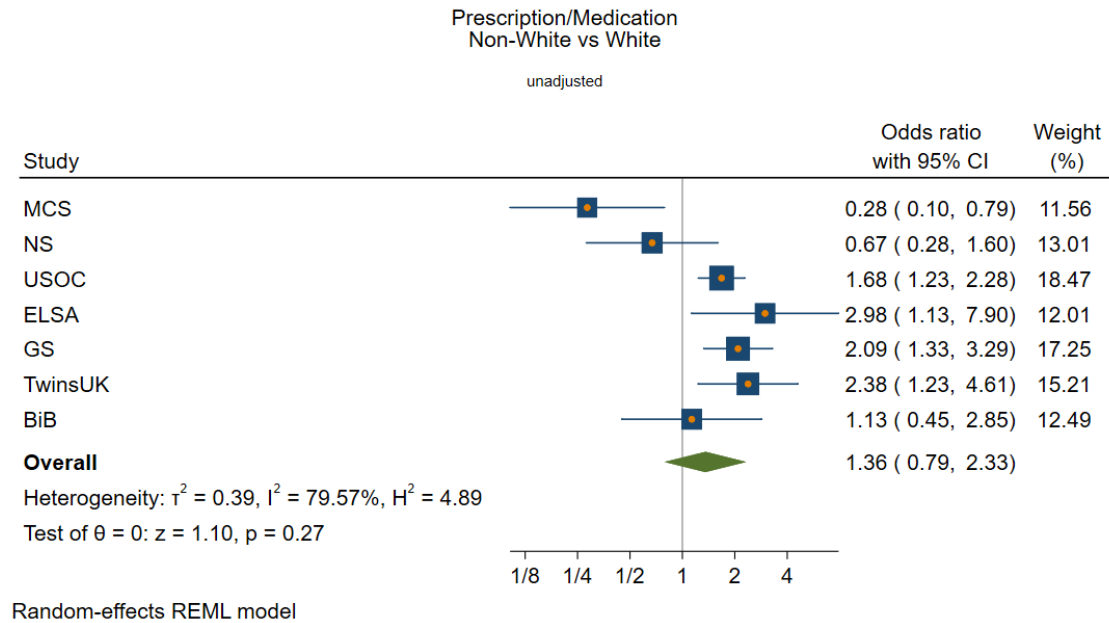
Prescription/Medication
75y+ vs 45-54y

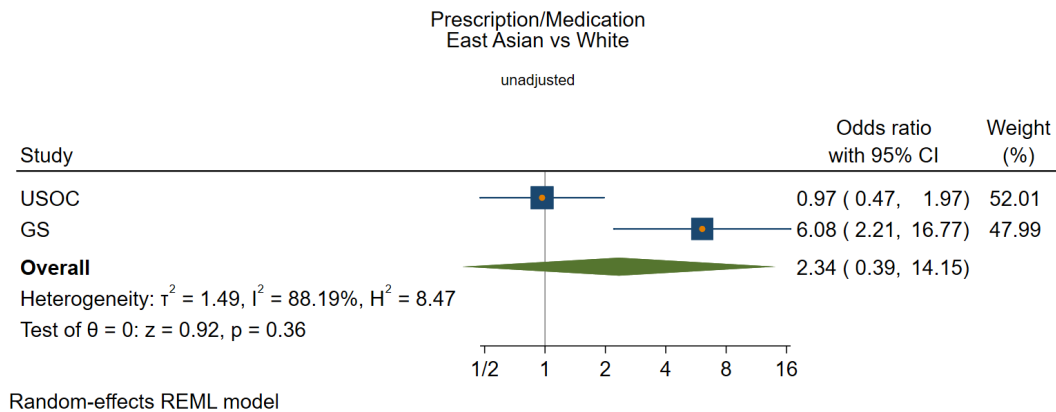
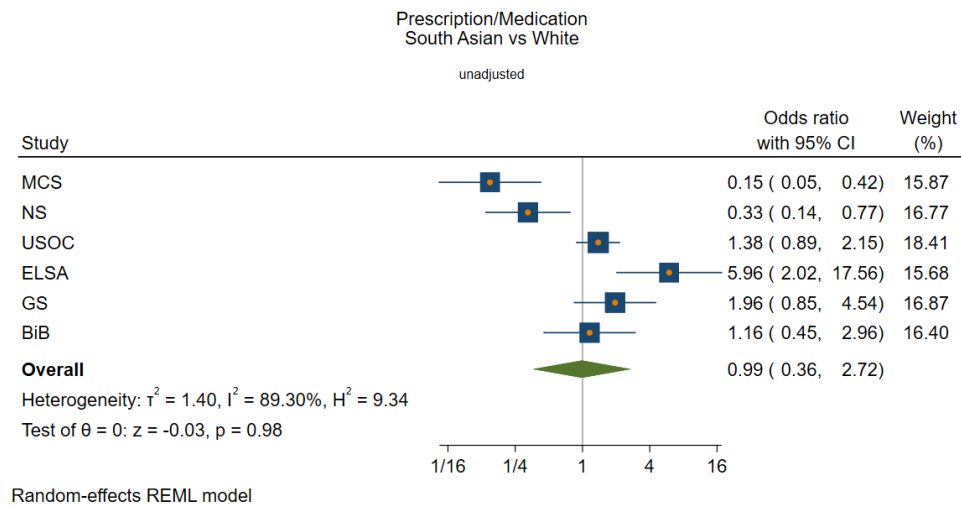
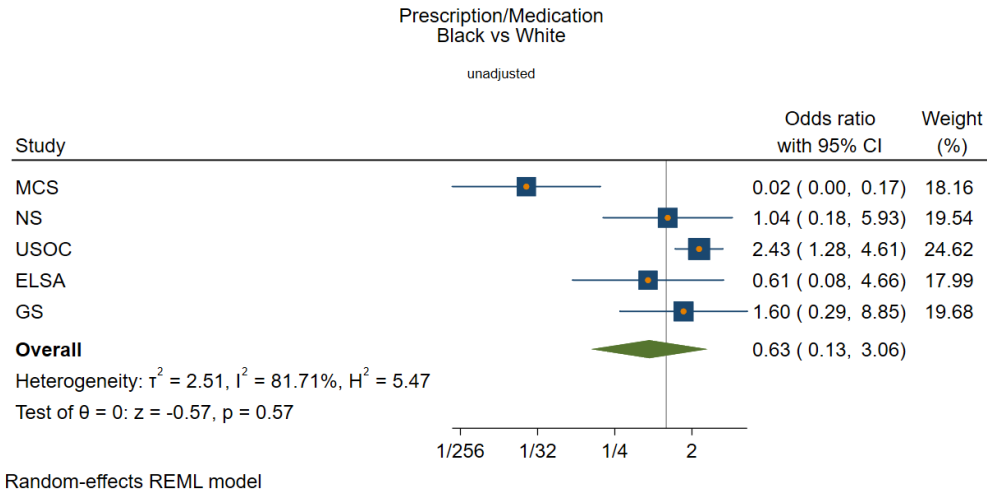
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

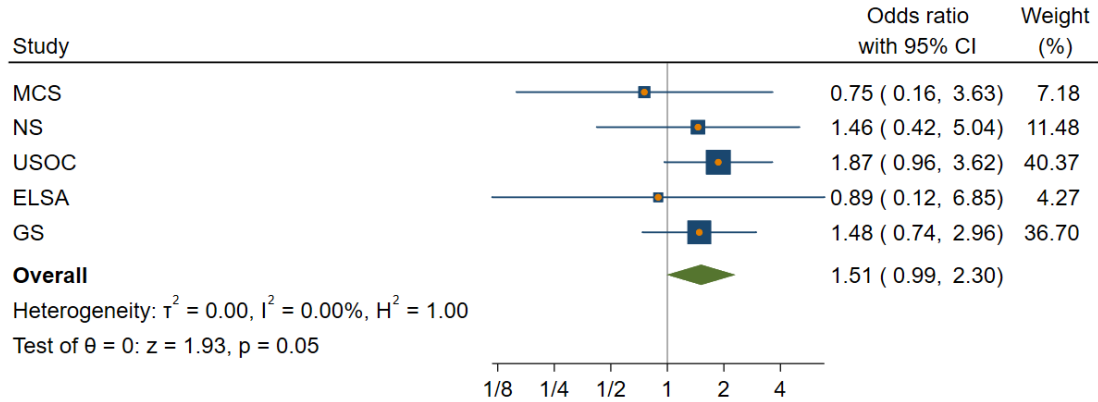
Ethnicity
Unadjusted





Prescription/Medication
Mixed vs White

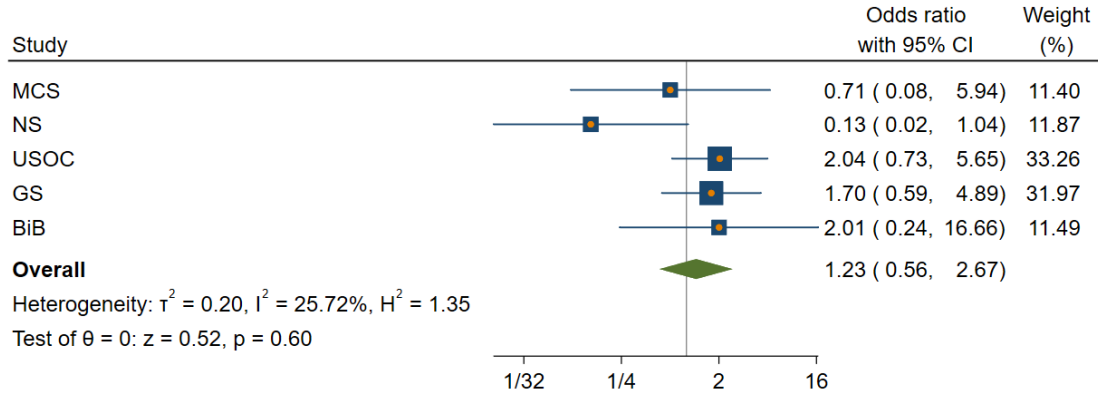
unadjusted



Random-effects REML model

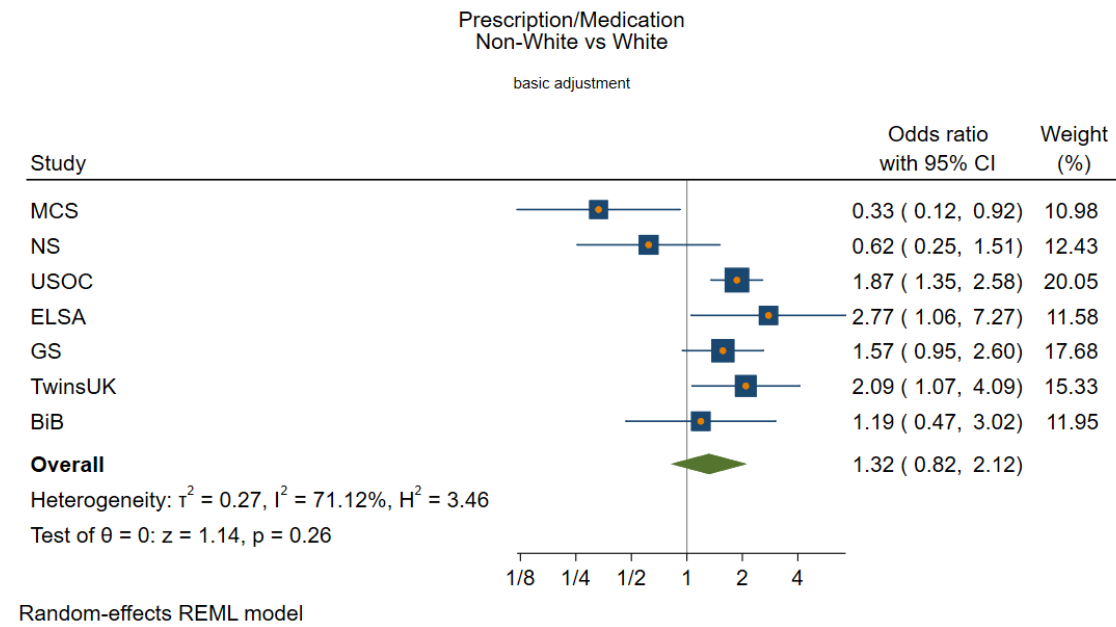
Prescription/Medication
Other Ethnicity vs White

unadjusted



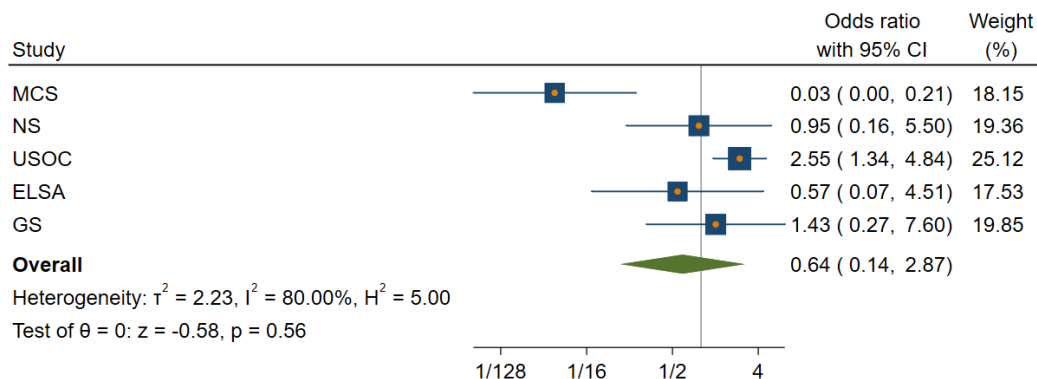
Random-effects REML model

Basic adjustment



Prescription/Medication
Black vs White

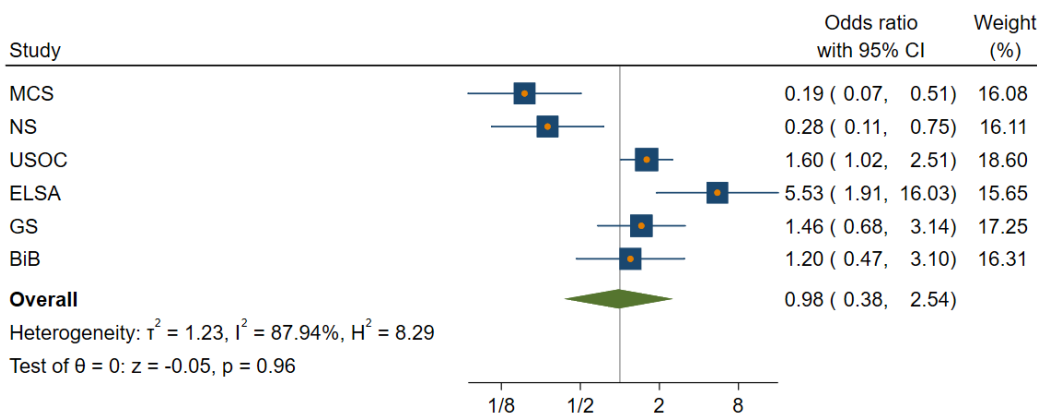
basic adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
South Asian vs White

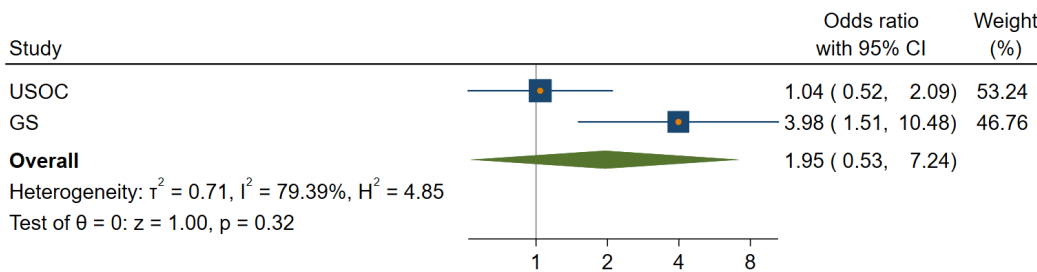
basic adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
East Asian vs White

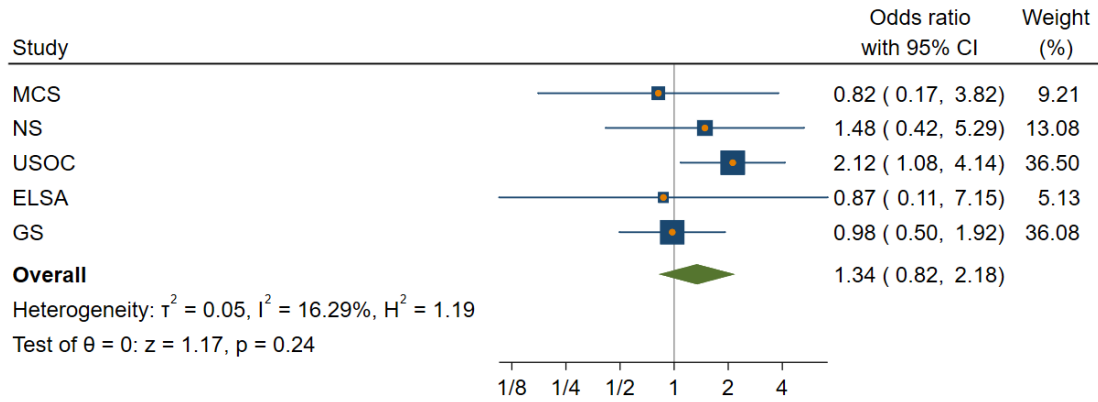
basic adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
Mixed vs White

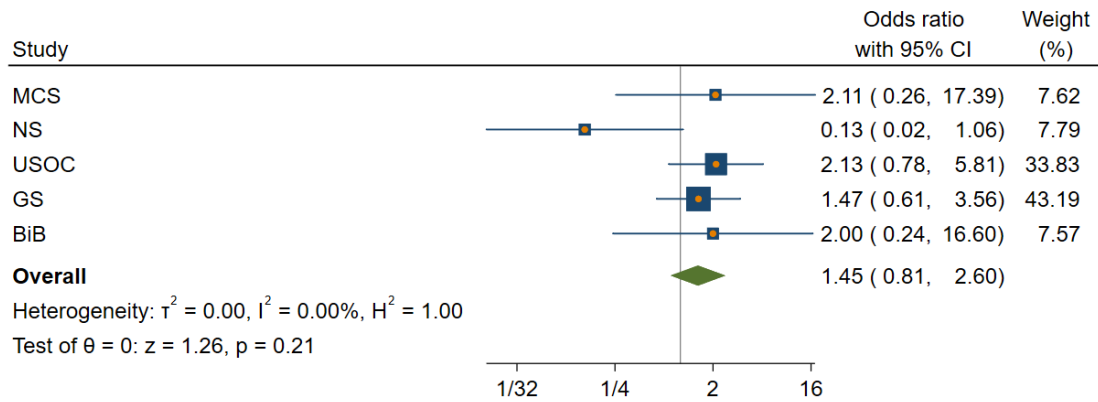
basic adjustment



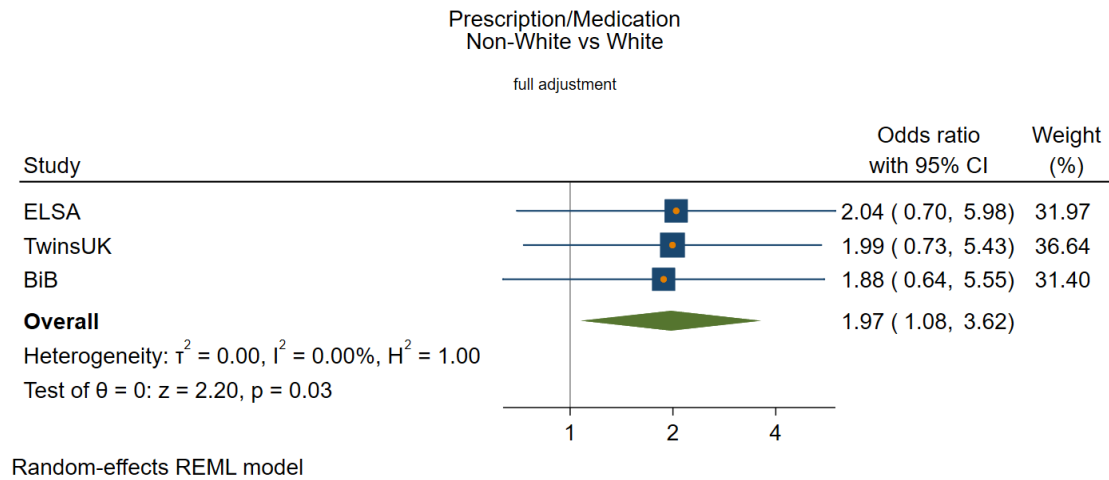
Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
Other Ethnicity vs White

basic adjustment

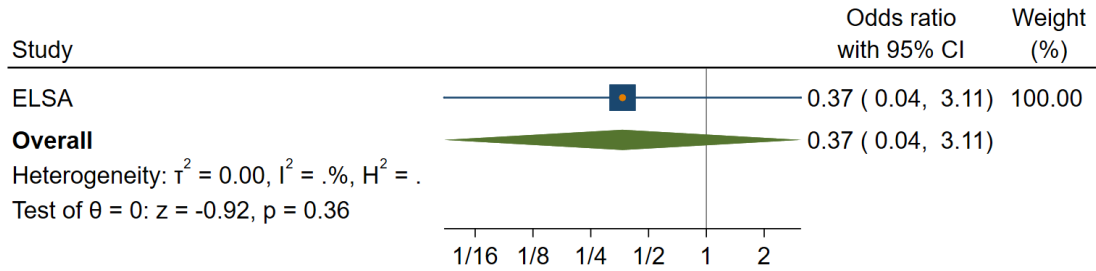


Random-effects REML model

Full adjustment

Prescription/Medication
Black vs White

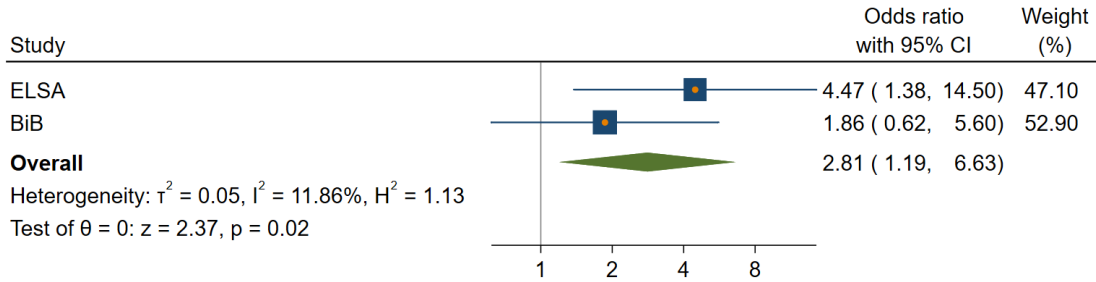
full adjustment



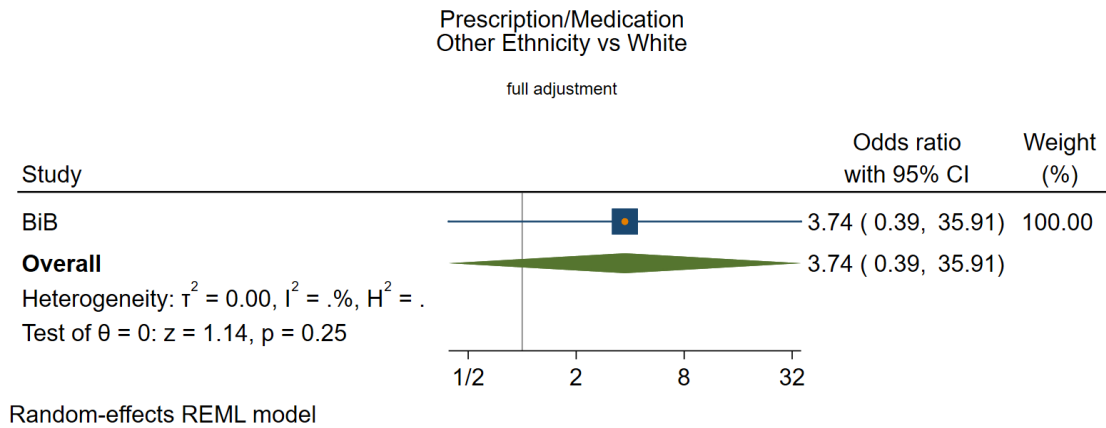
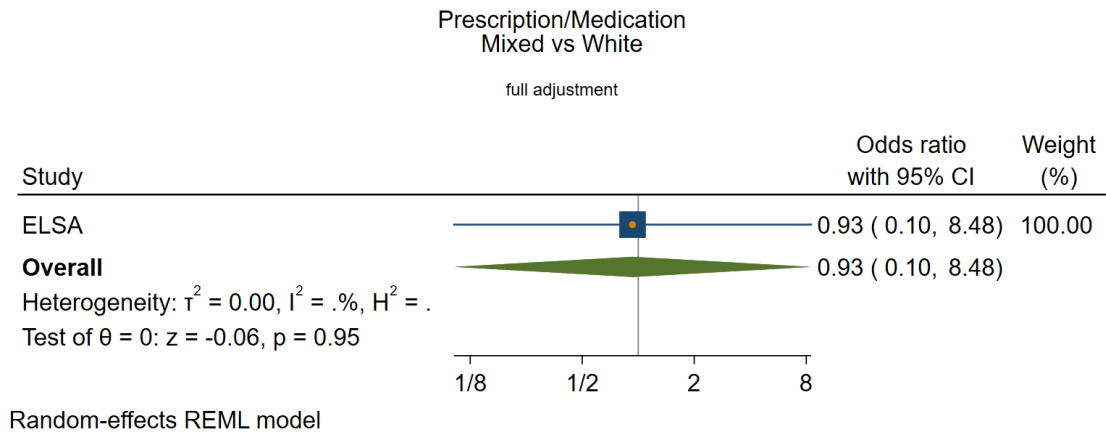
Random-effects REML model

Prescription/Medication
South Asian vs White

full adjustment

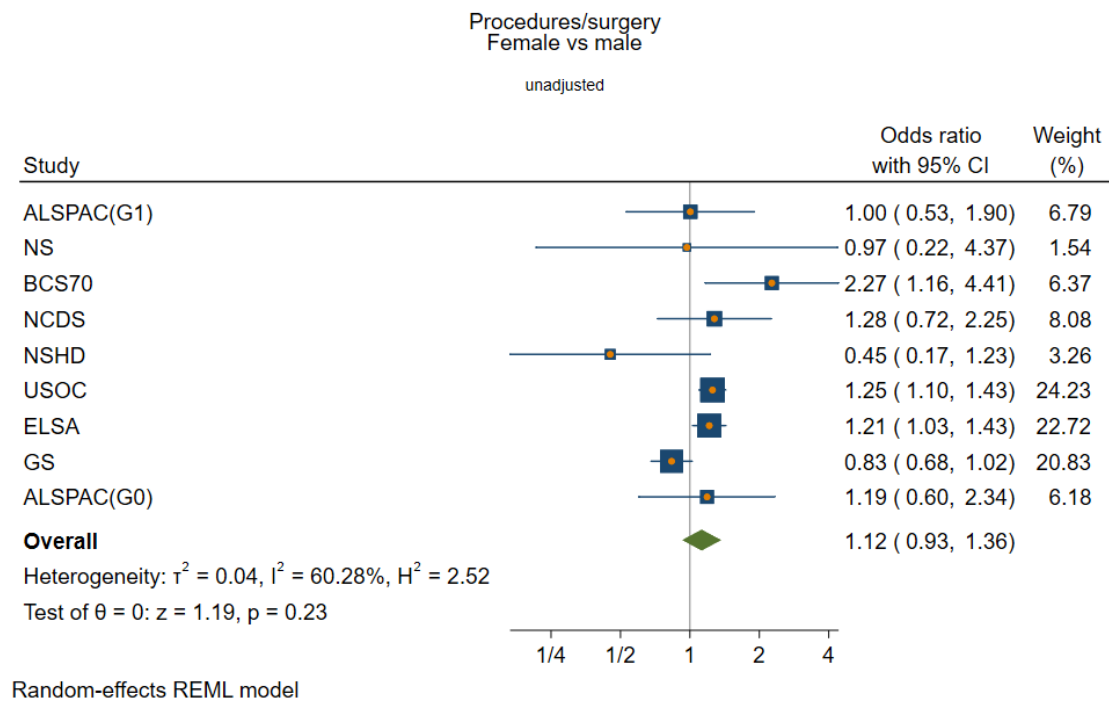


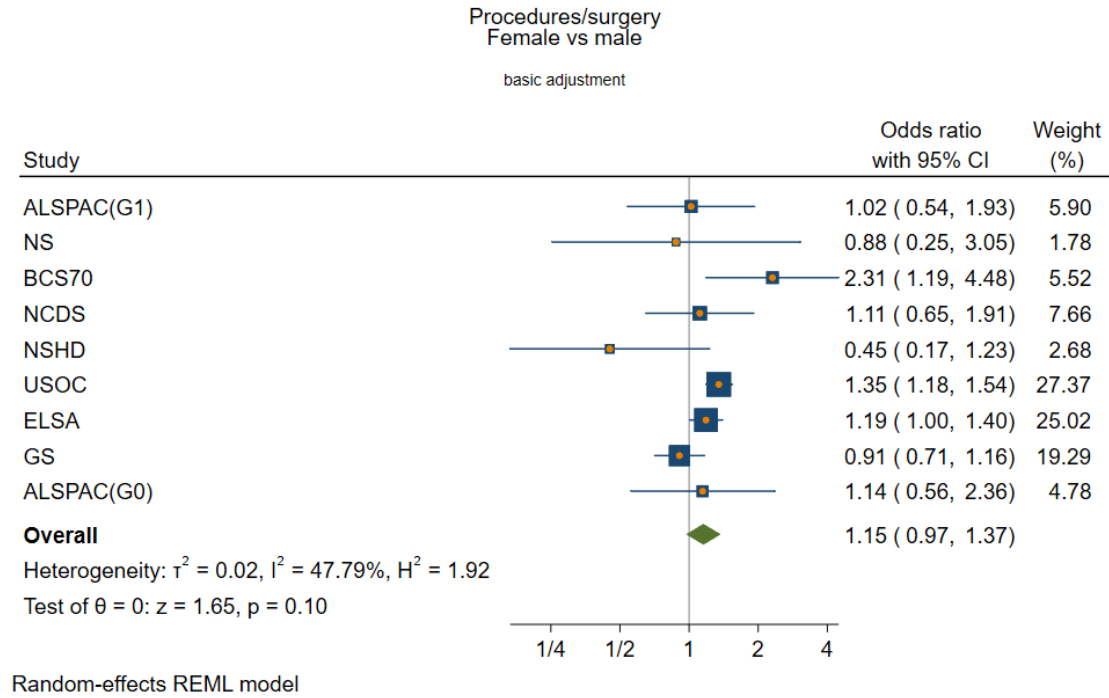
Random-effects REML model

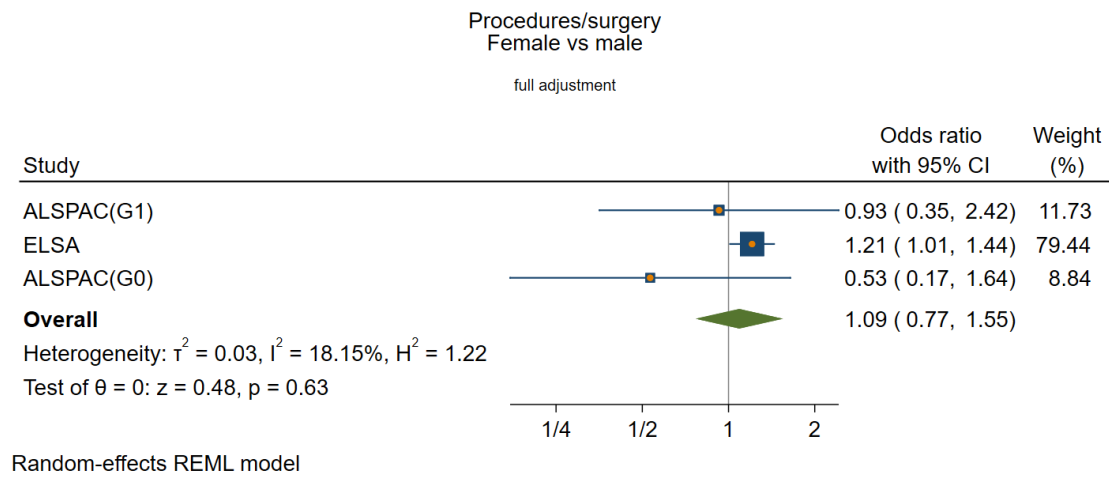


Procedures/surgery

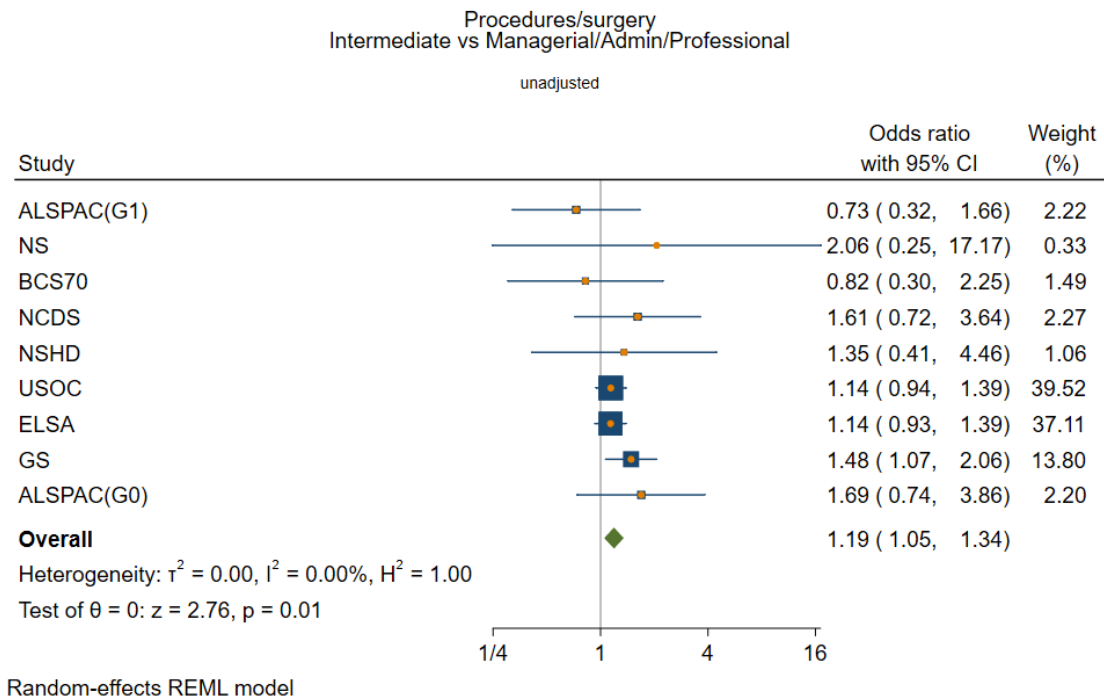
Sex
Unadjusted

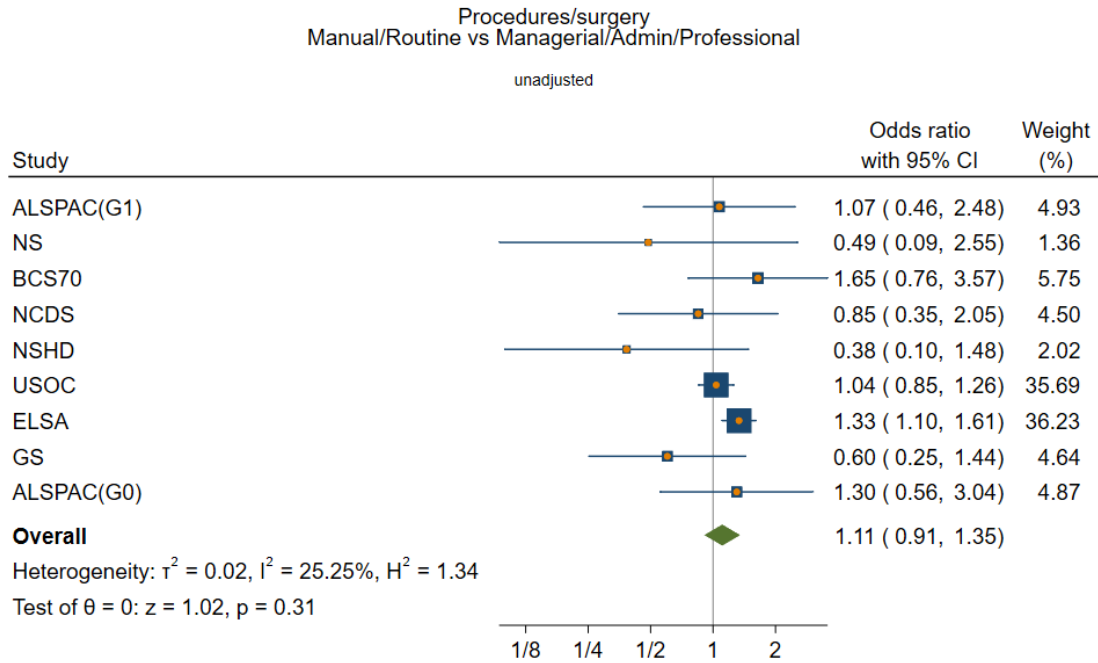


Basic adjustment

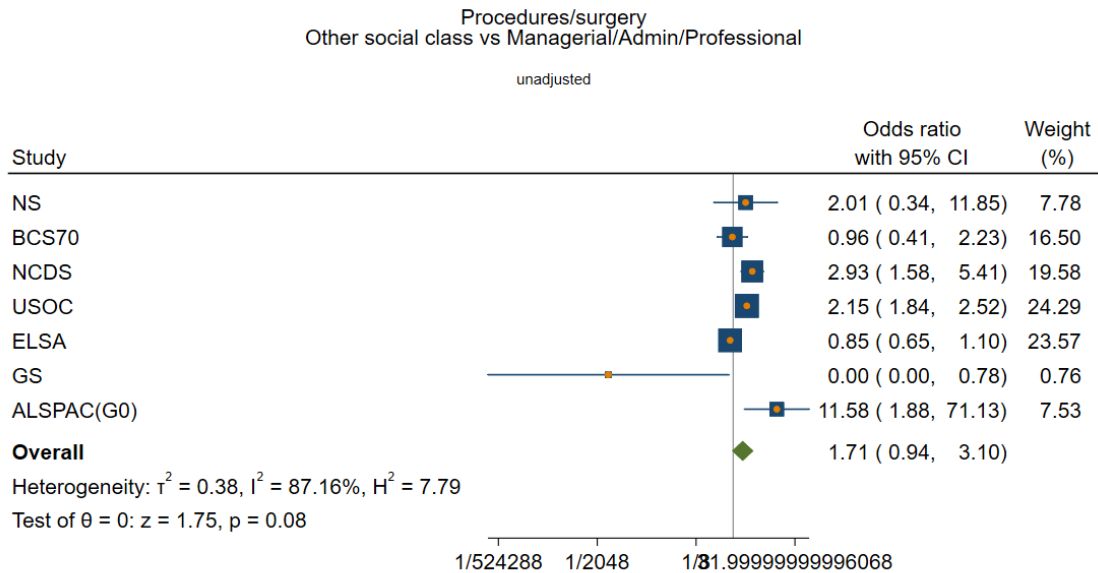
Full adjustment

Occupational class
Unadjusted

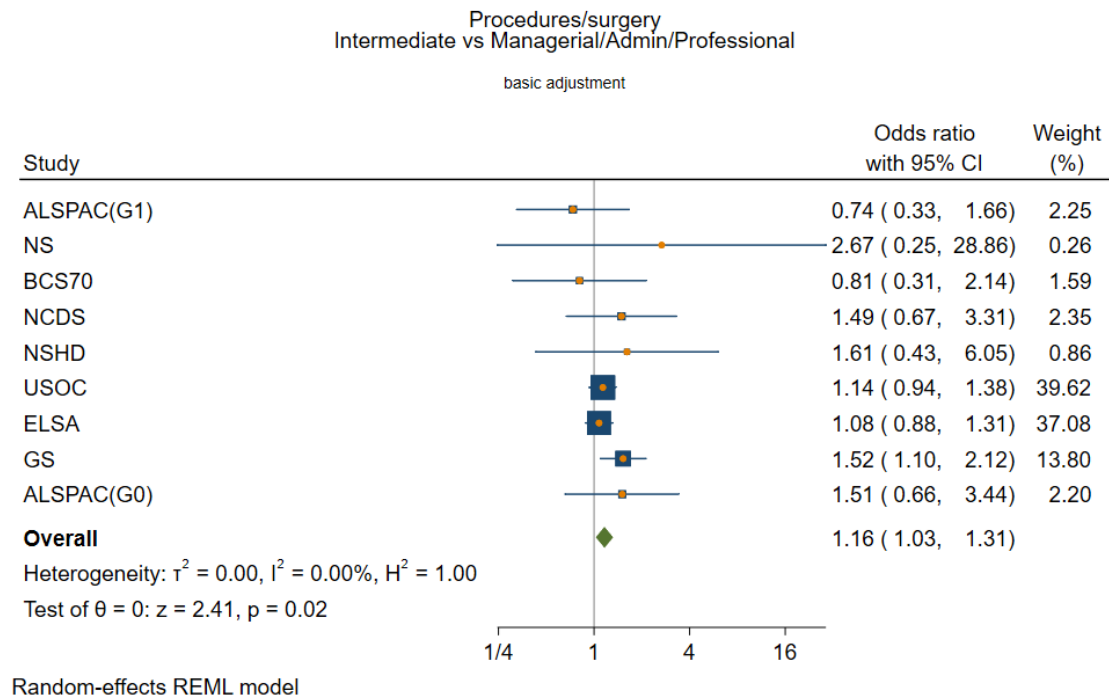


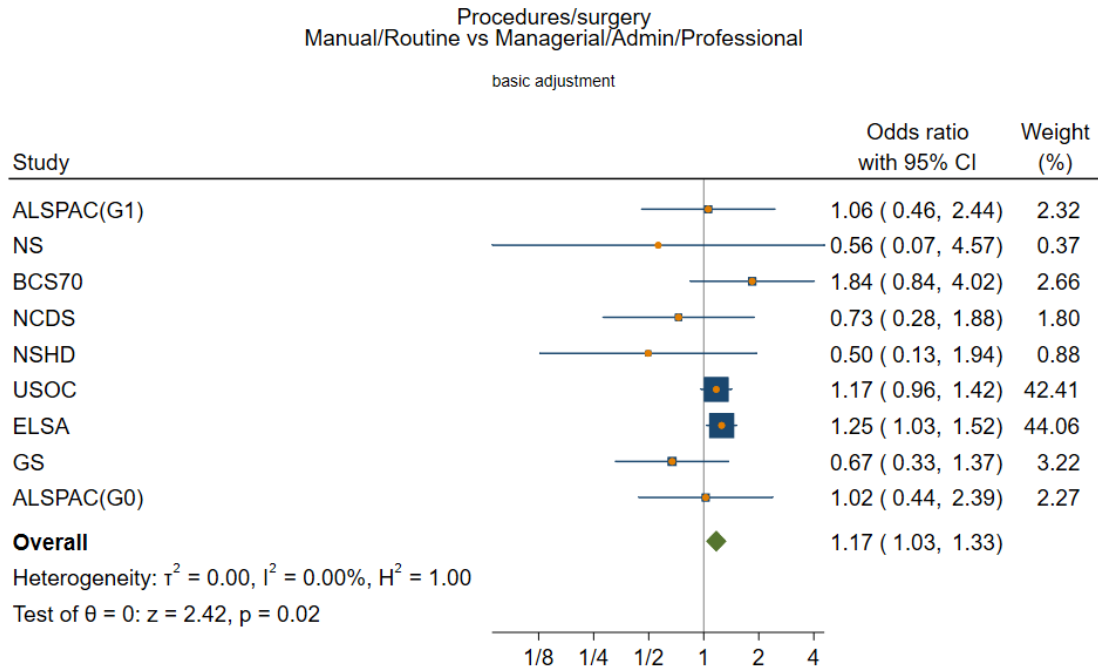


Random-effects REML model

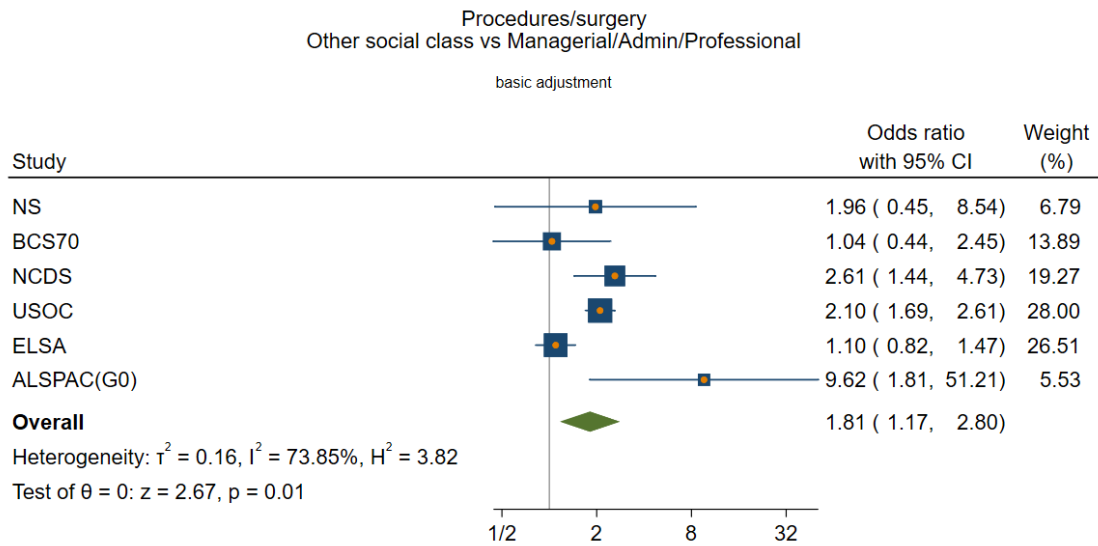


Random-effects REML model

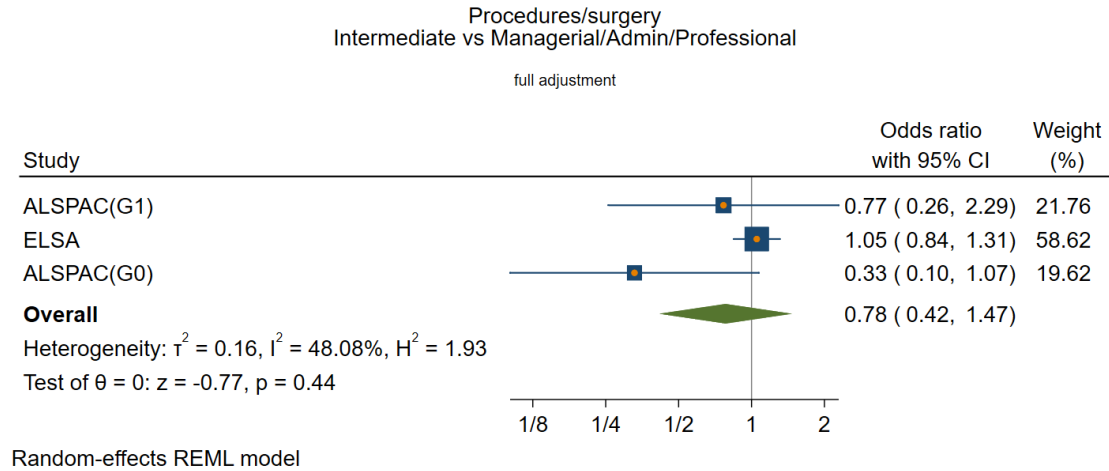
Basic adjustment

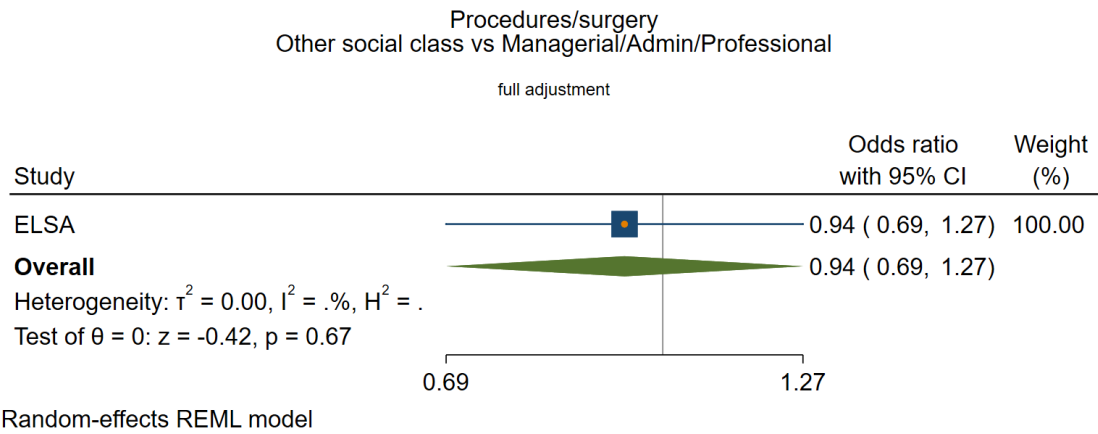
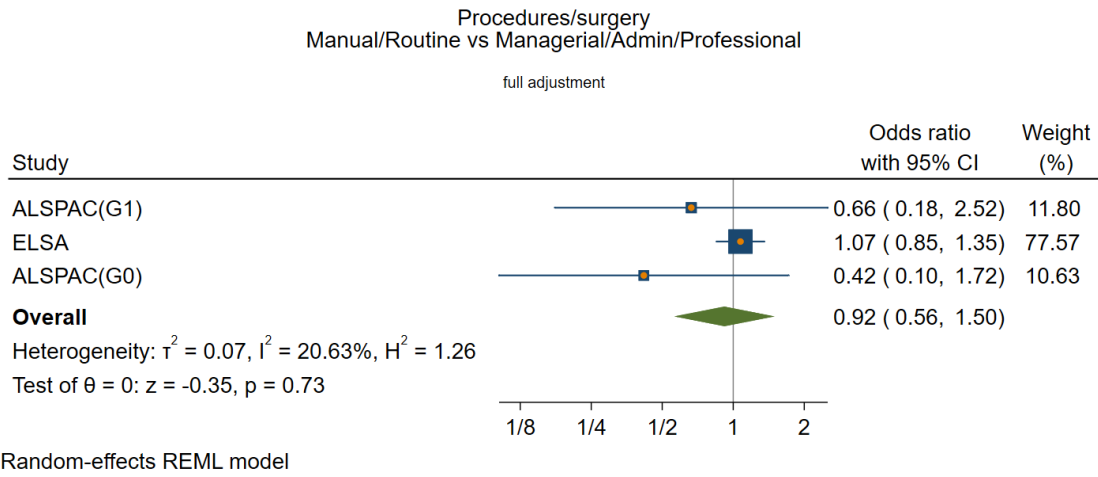


Random-effects REML model

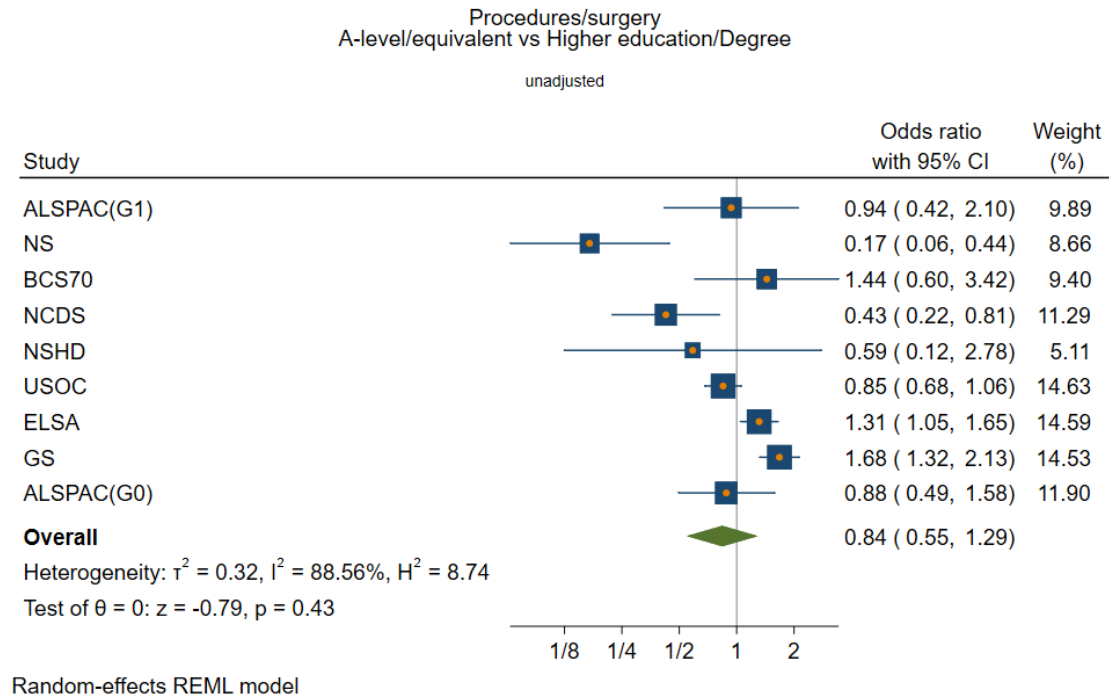


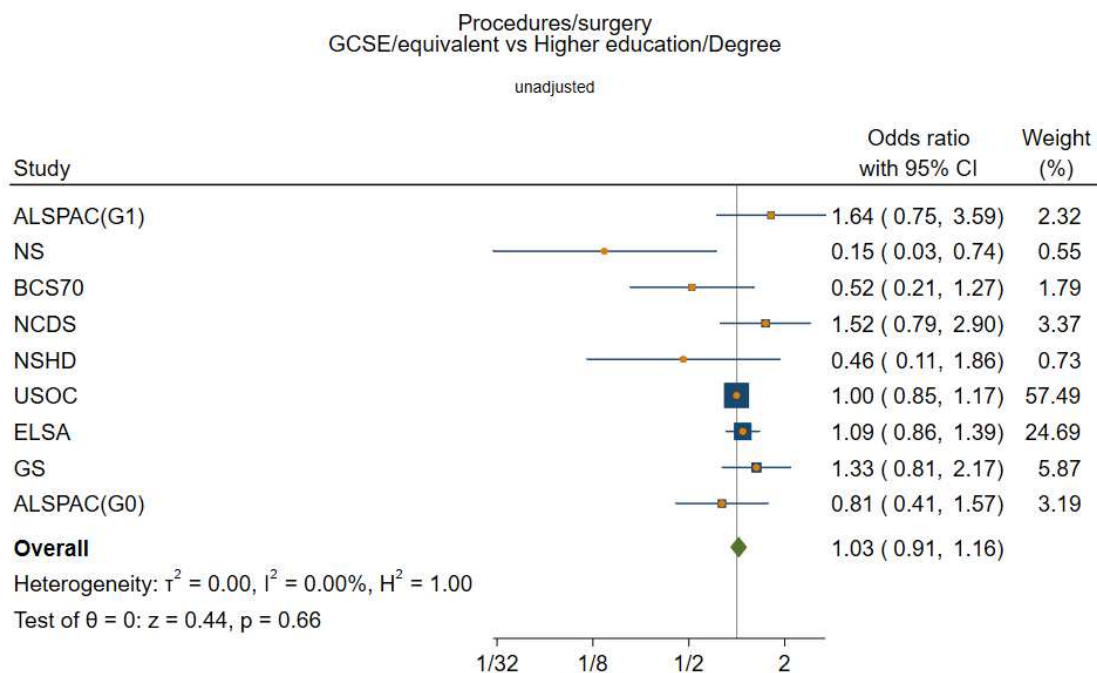
Random-effects REML model

Full adjustment

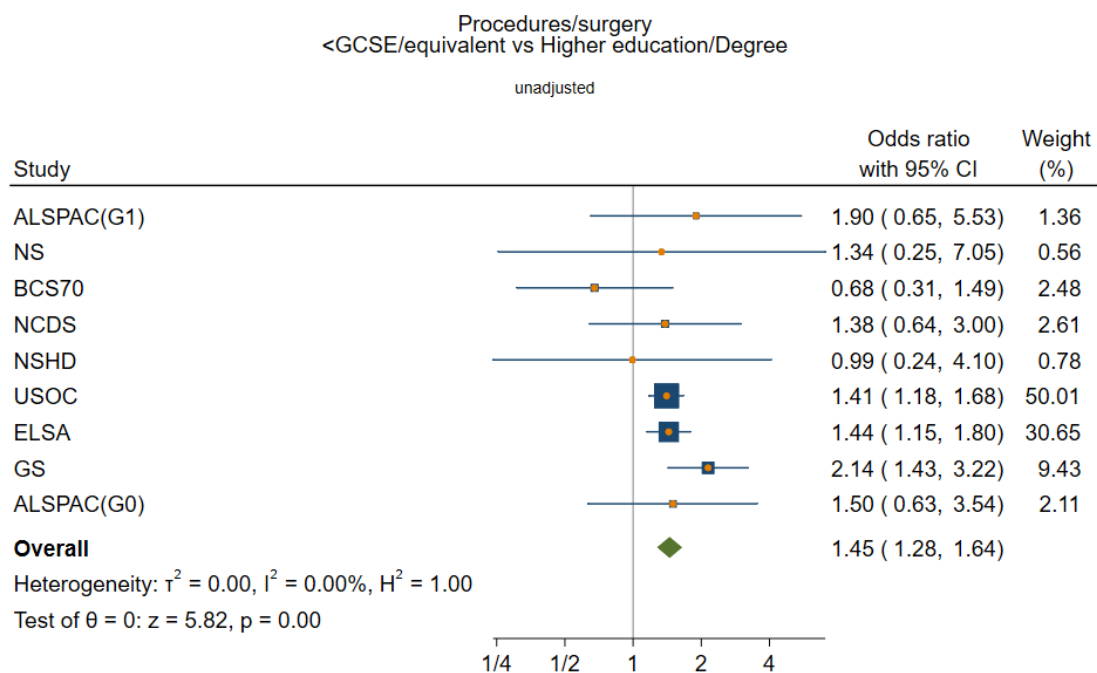


Education
unadjusted

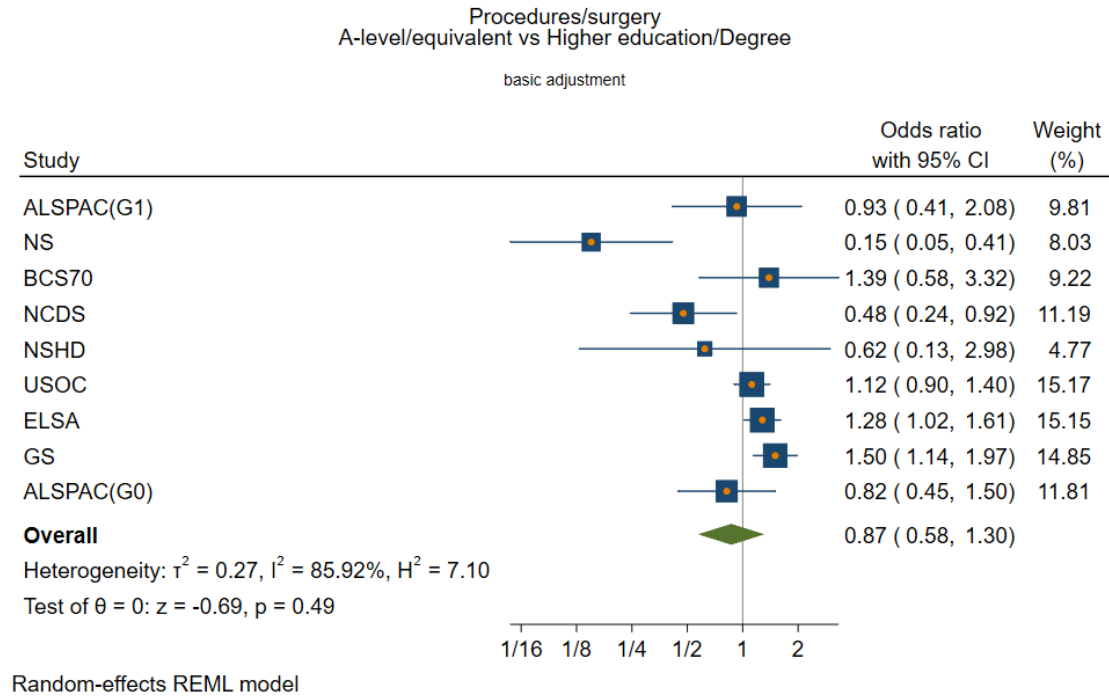


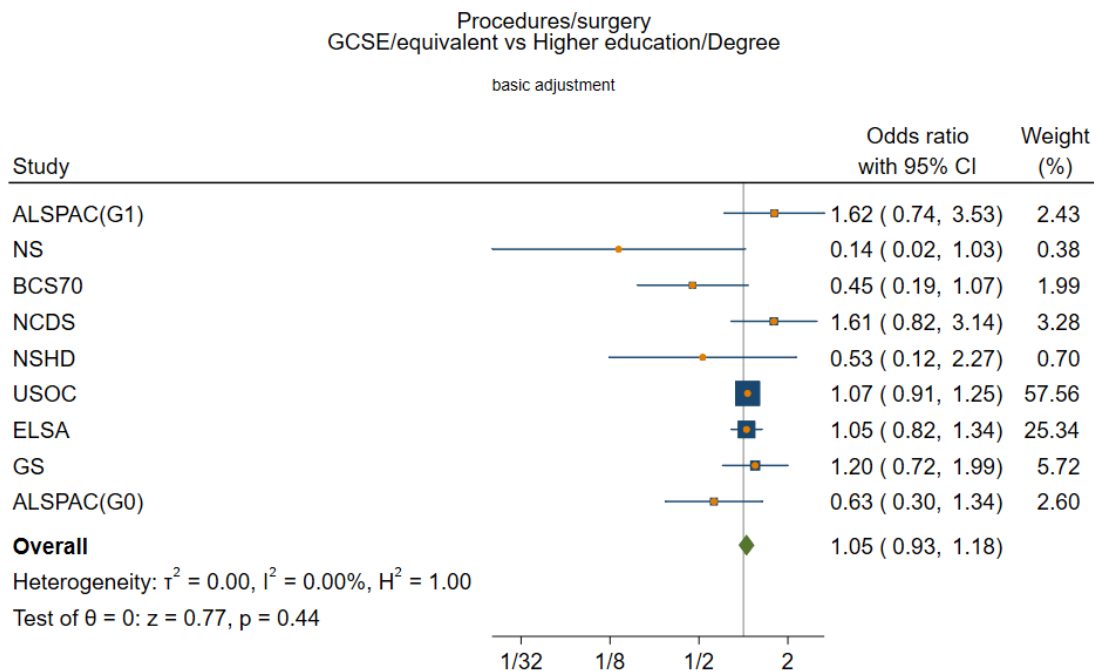


Random-effects REML model

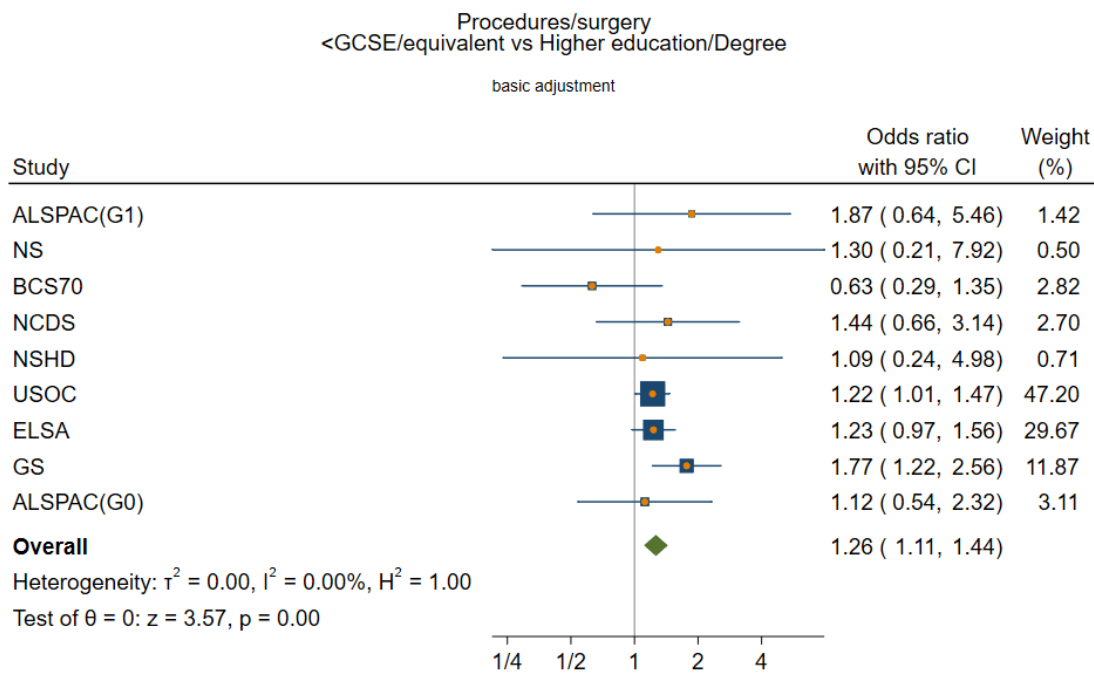


Random-effects REML model

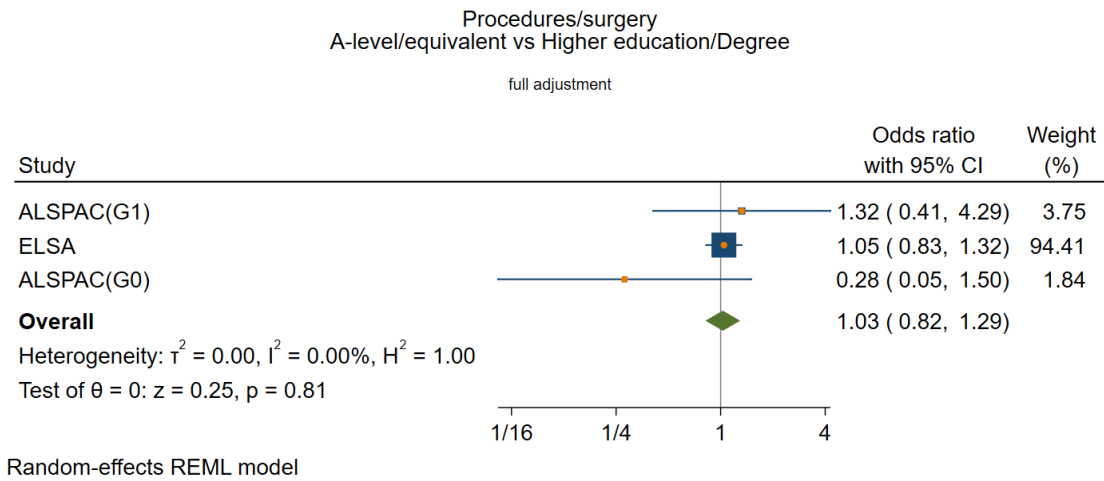
Basic adjustment



Random-effects REML model

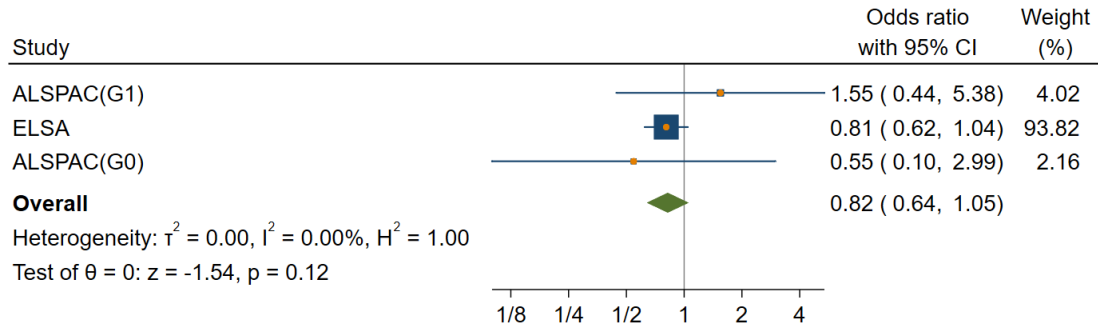


Random-effects REML model

Full adjustment

Procedures/surgery
GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree

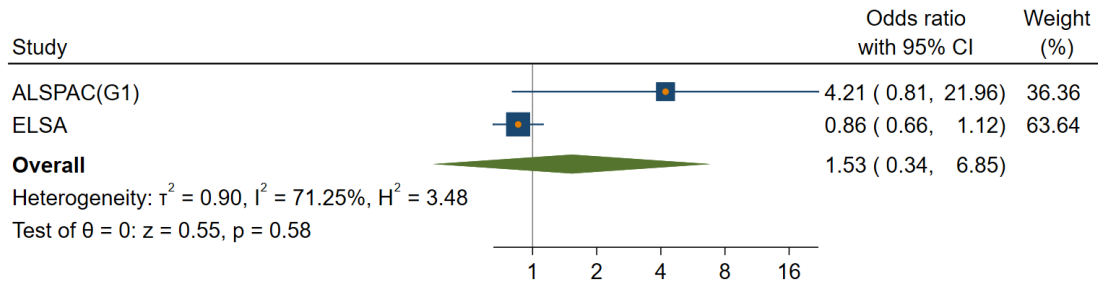
full adjustment



Random-effects REML model

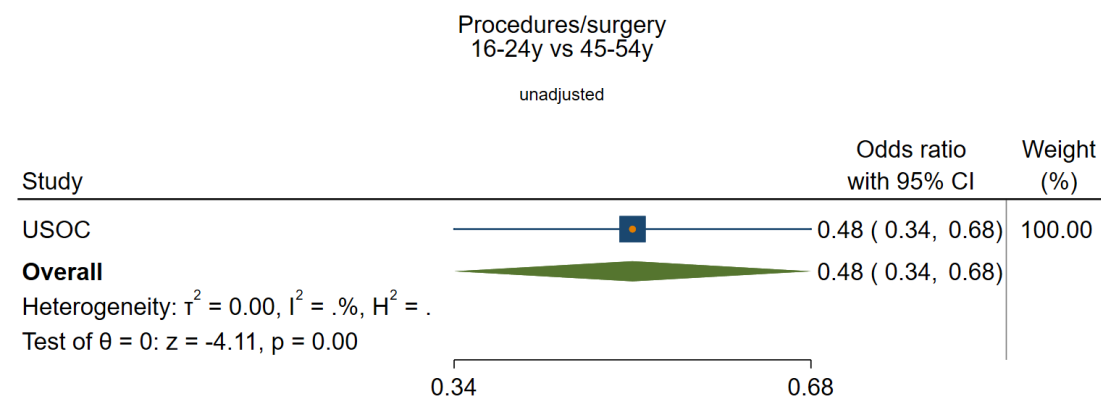
Procedures/surgery
<GCSE/equivalent vs Higher education/Degree

full adjustment

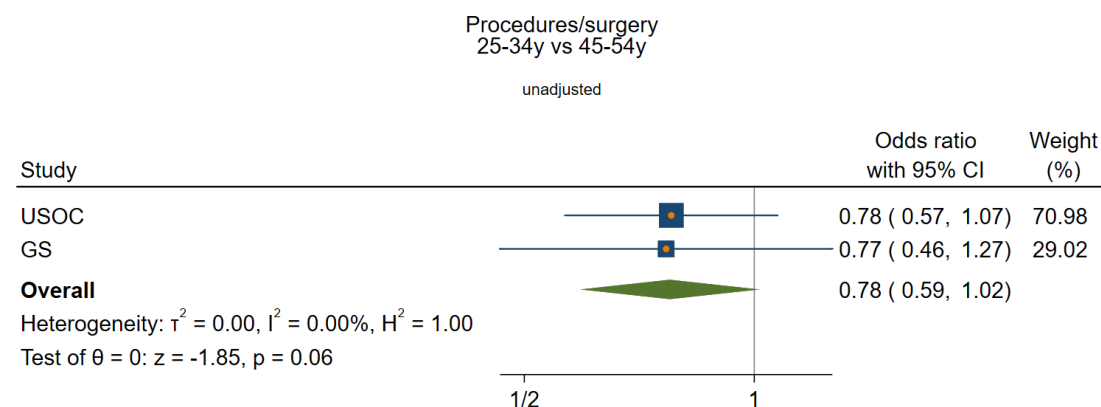


Random-effects REML model

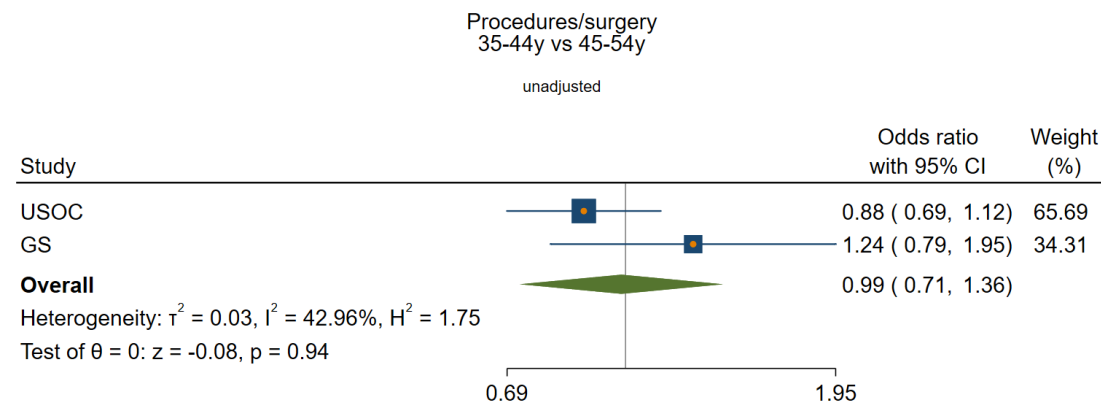
Age
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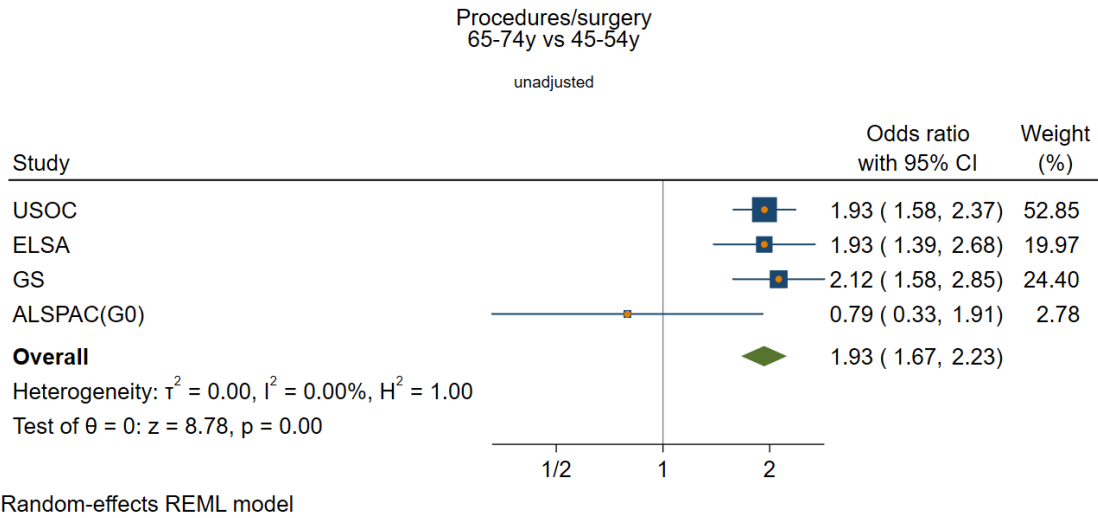
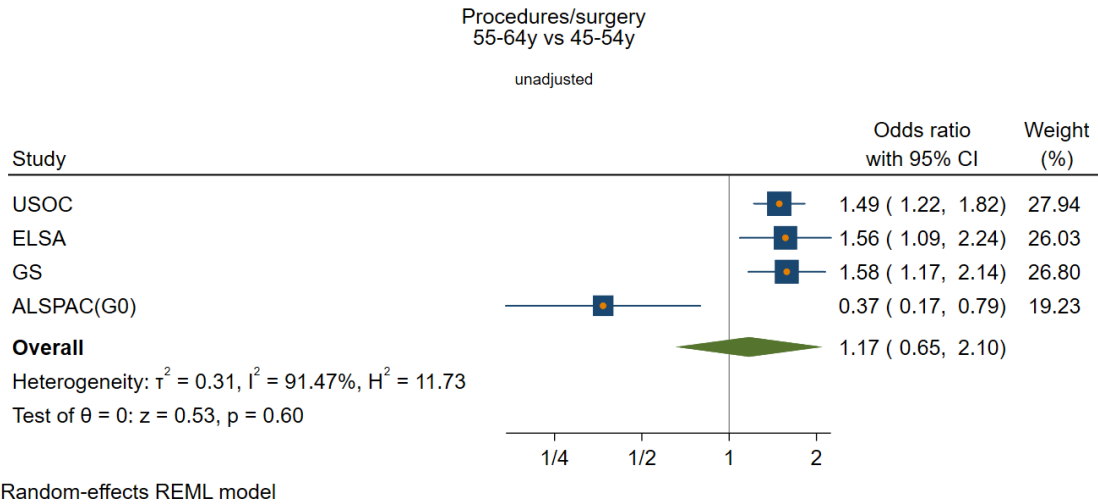
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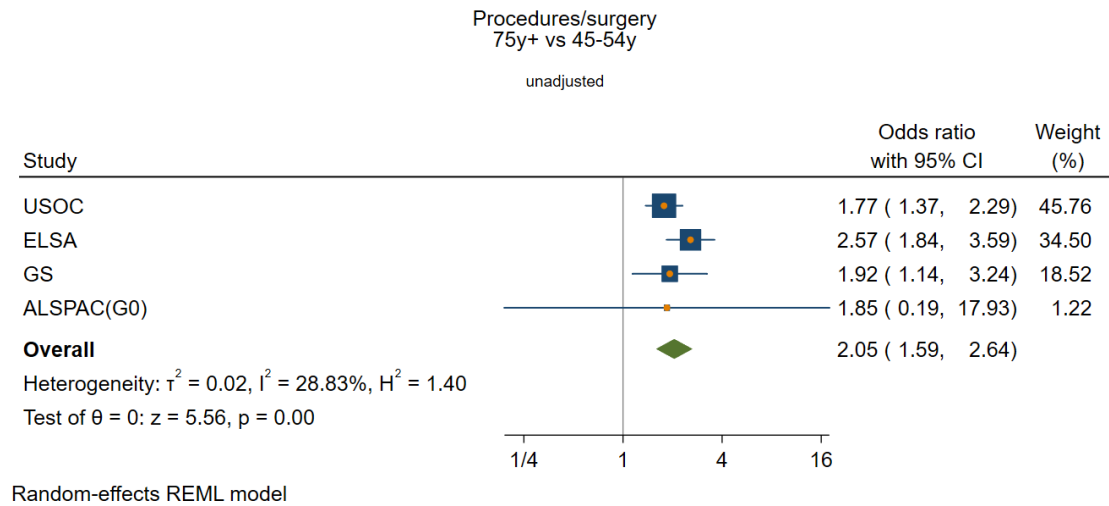


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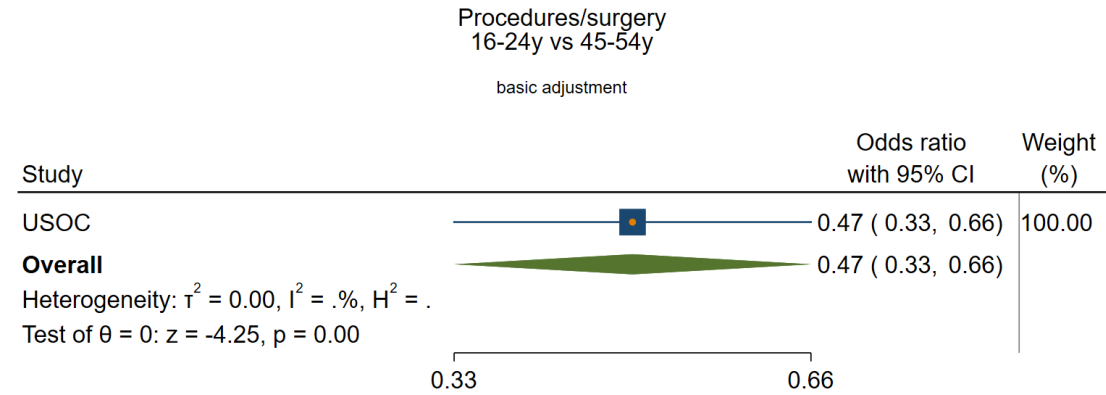


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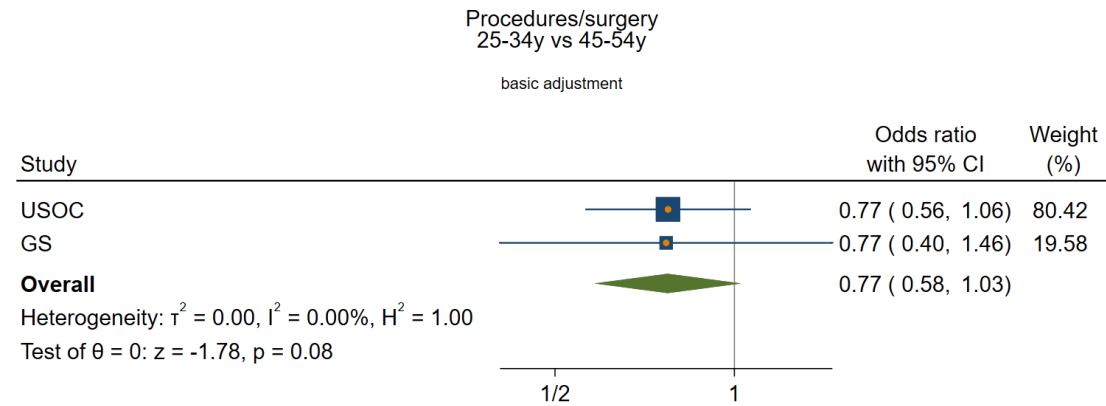




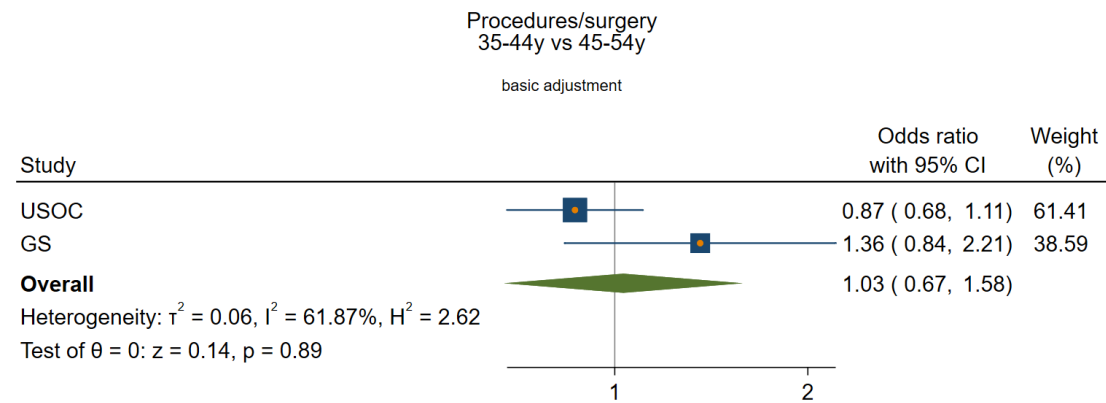
Basic adjustment



Random-effects REML model



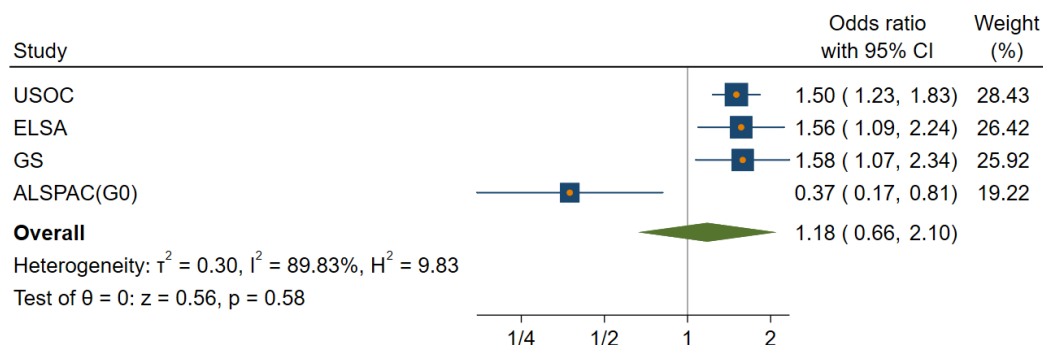
Random-effects REML model



Random-effects REML model

Procedures/surgery
55-64y vs 45-54y

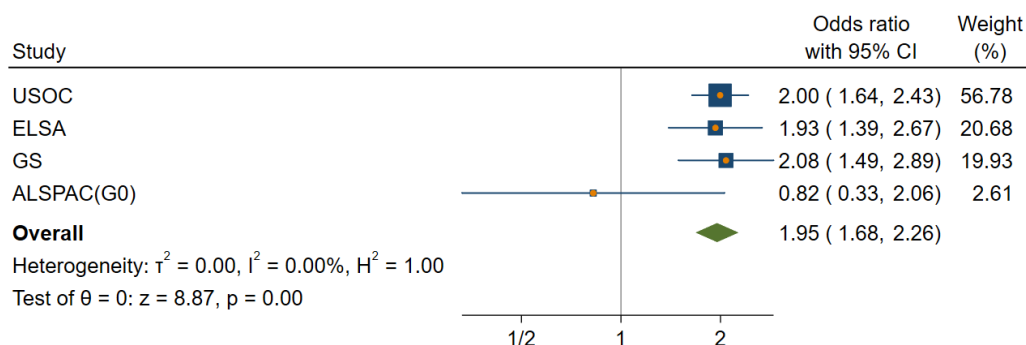
basic adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Procedures/surgery
65-74y vs 45-54y

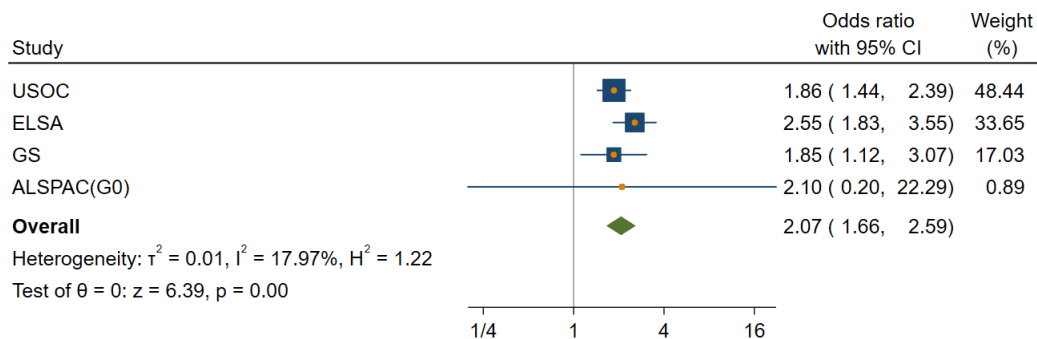
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Random-effects REML model

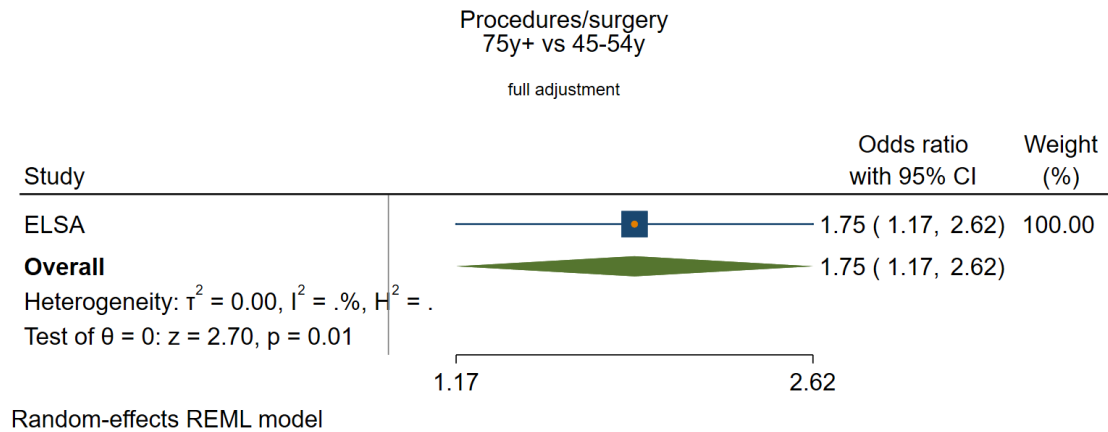
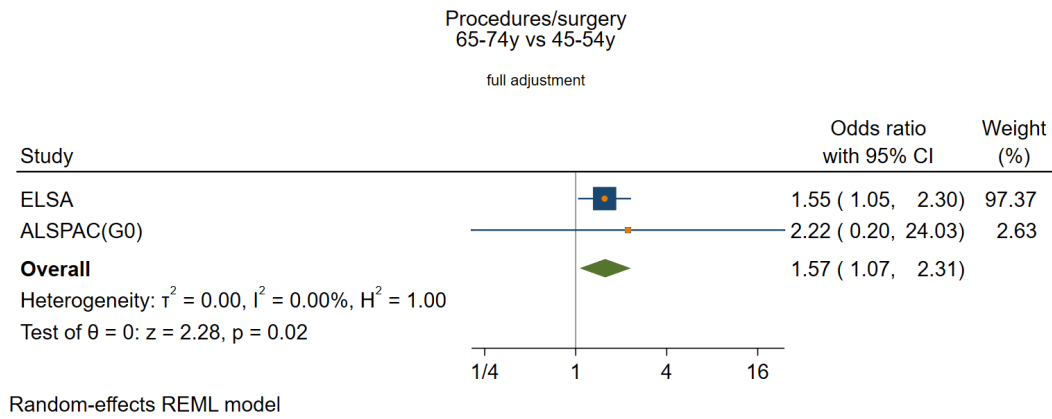
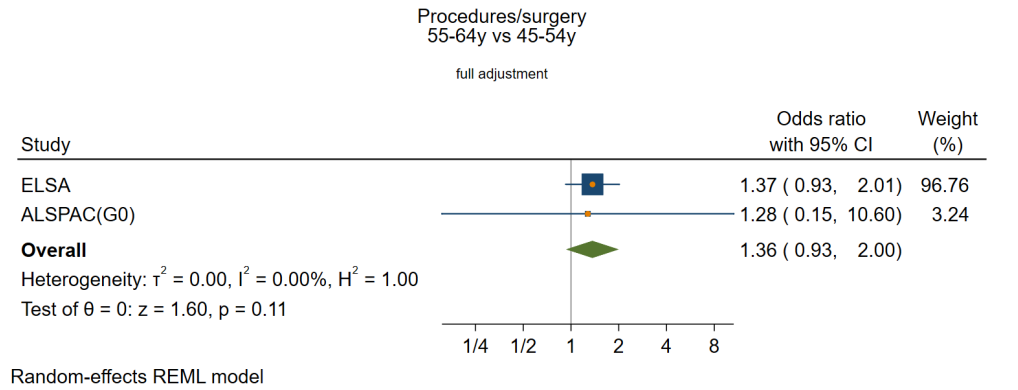
Procedures/surgery
75y+ vs 45-54y

basic adjustment

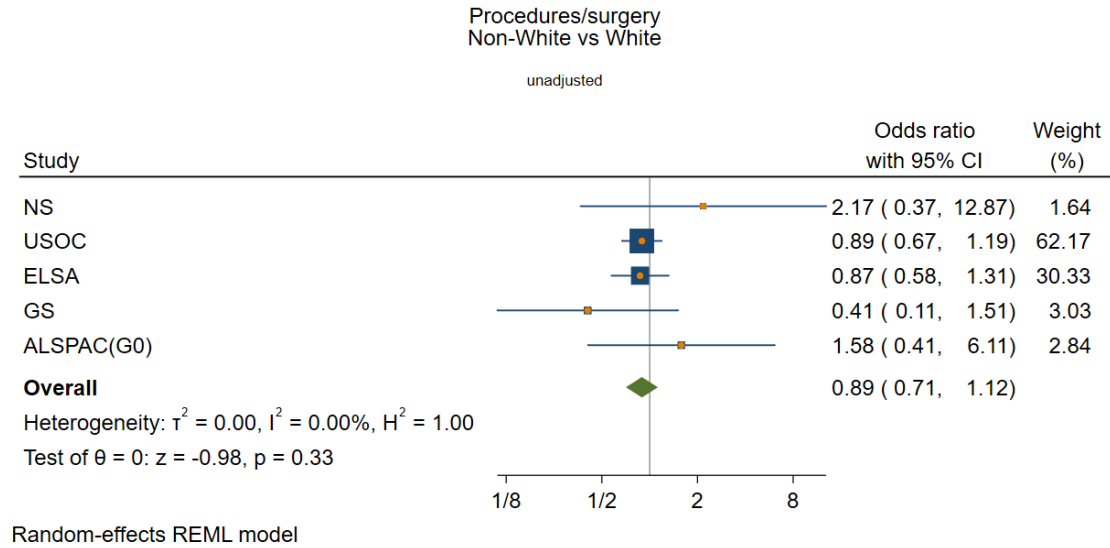


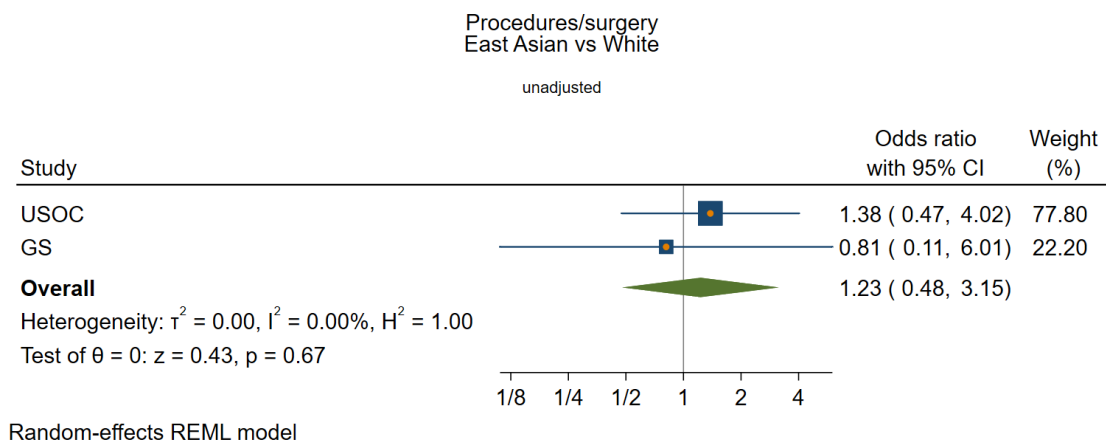
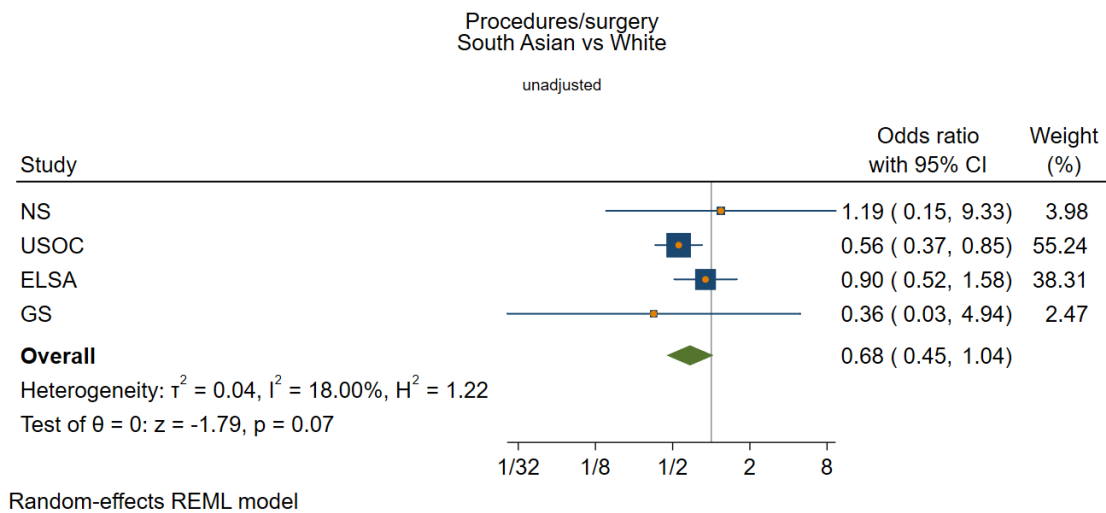
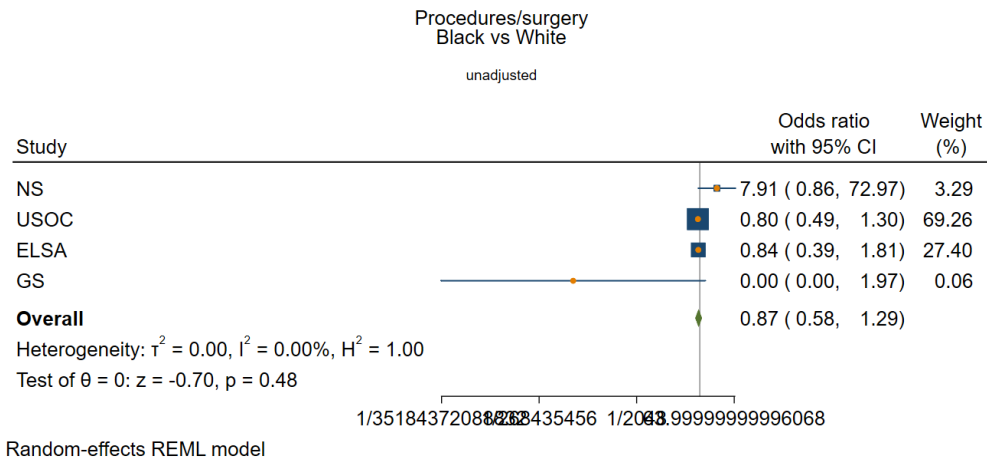
Random-effects REML model

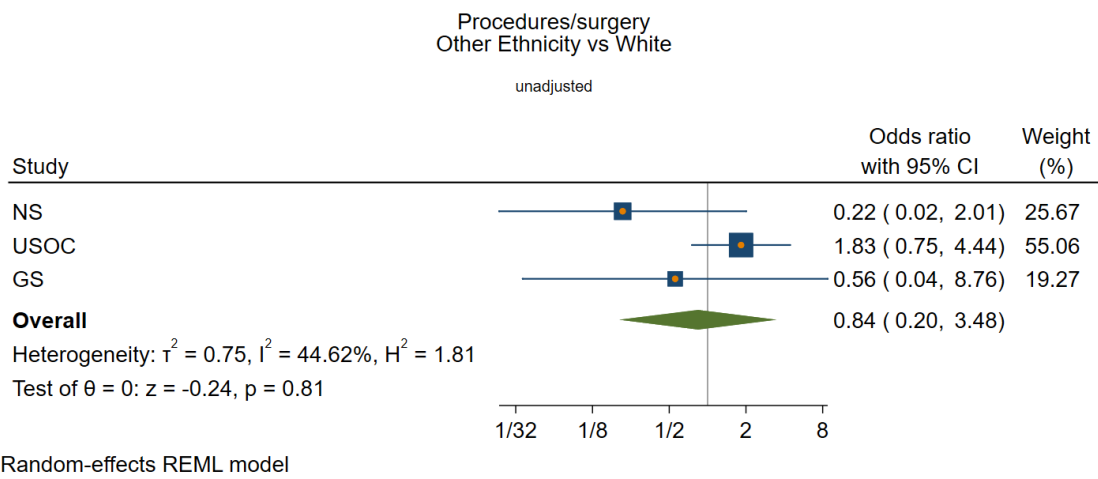
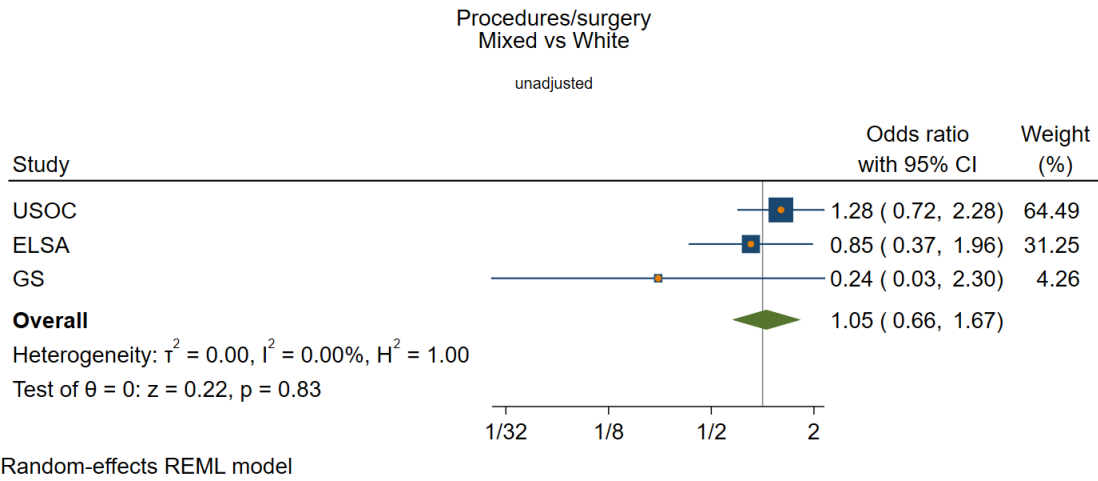
Full adjustment



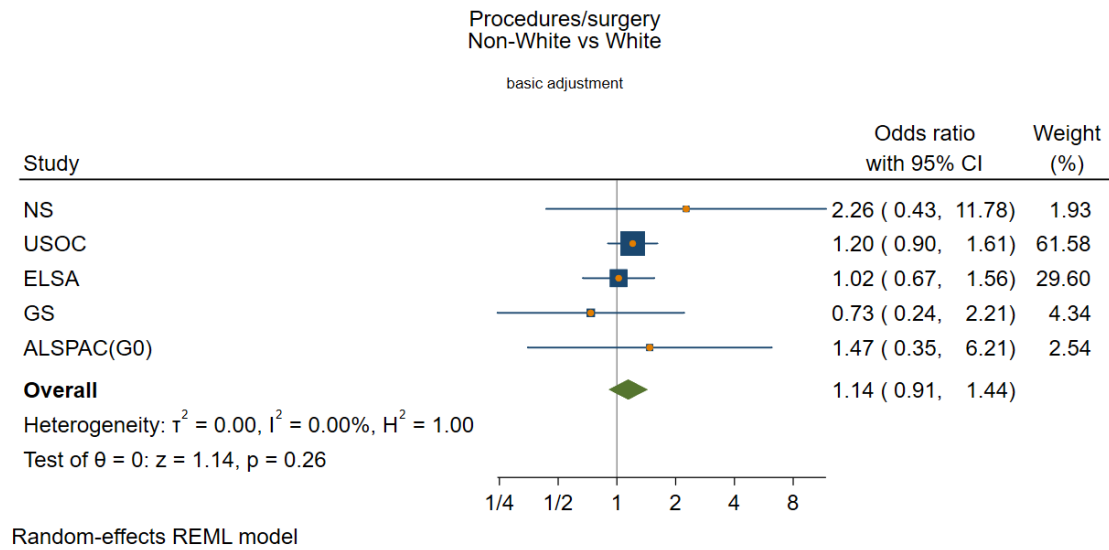
Ethnicity
Unadjusted





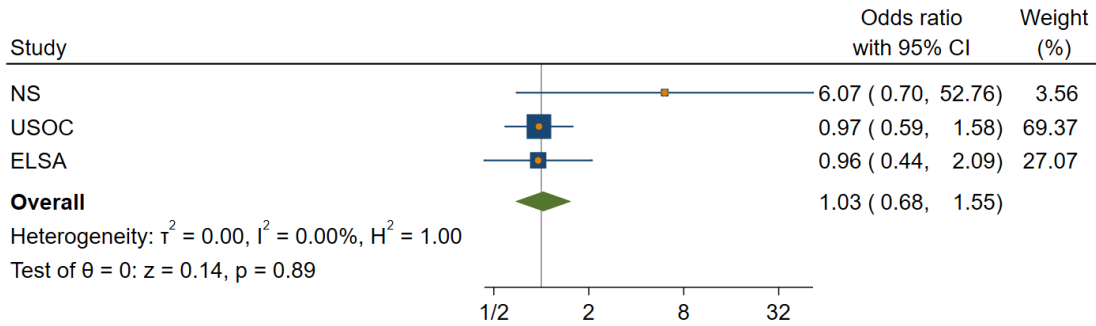


Basic adjustment



Procedures/surgery
Black vs White

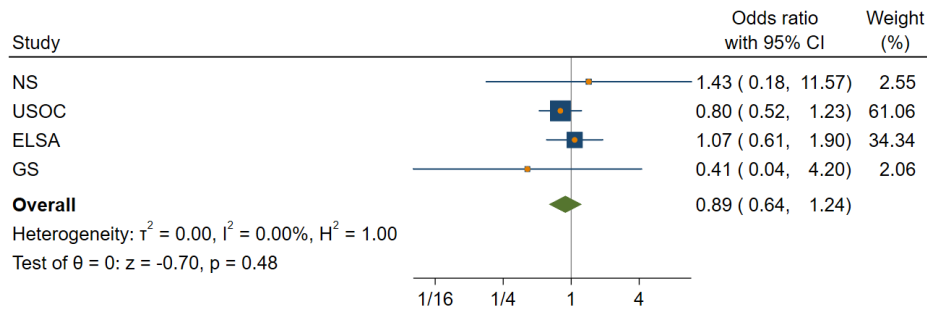
basic adjustment



Random-effects REML model

Procedures/surgery
South Asian vs White

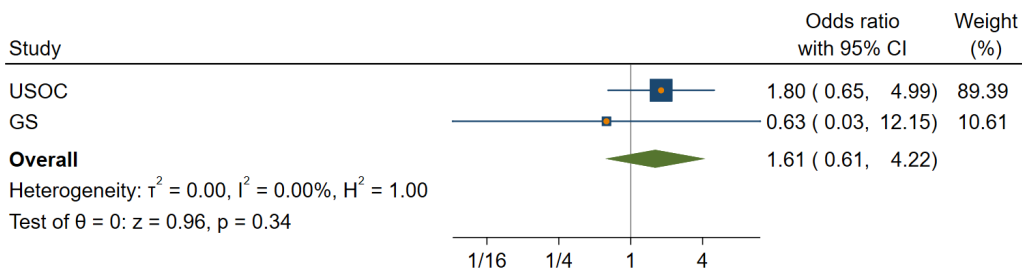
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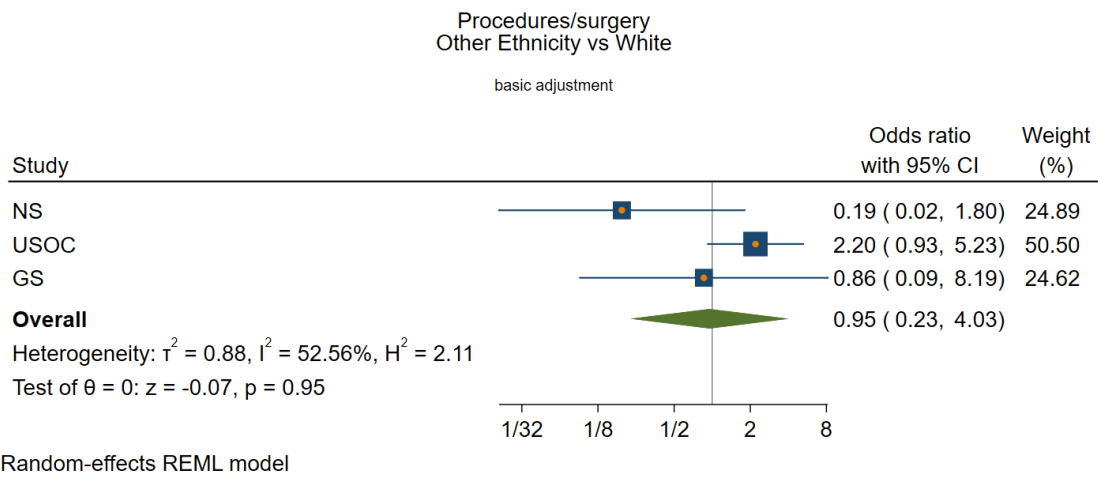
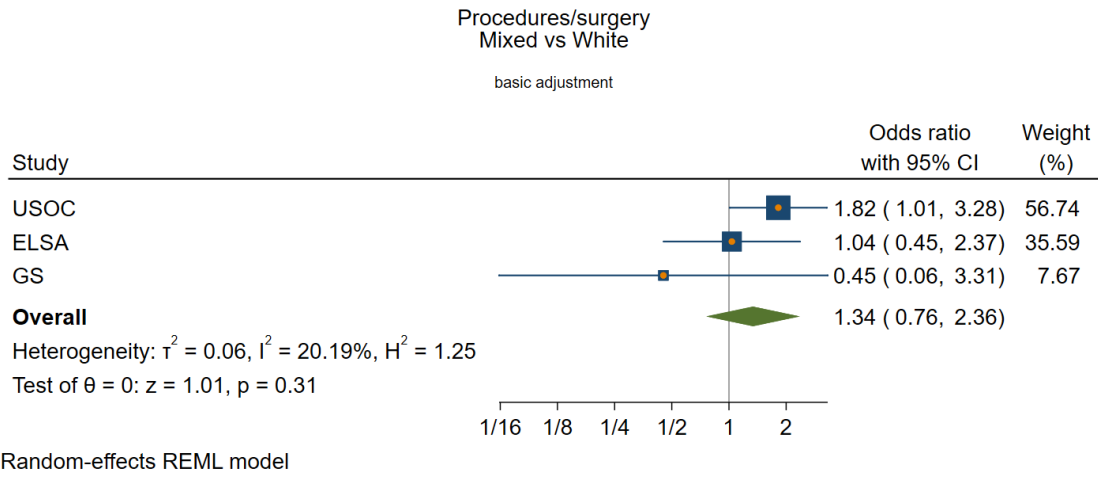
Random-effects REML model

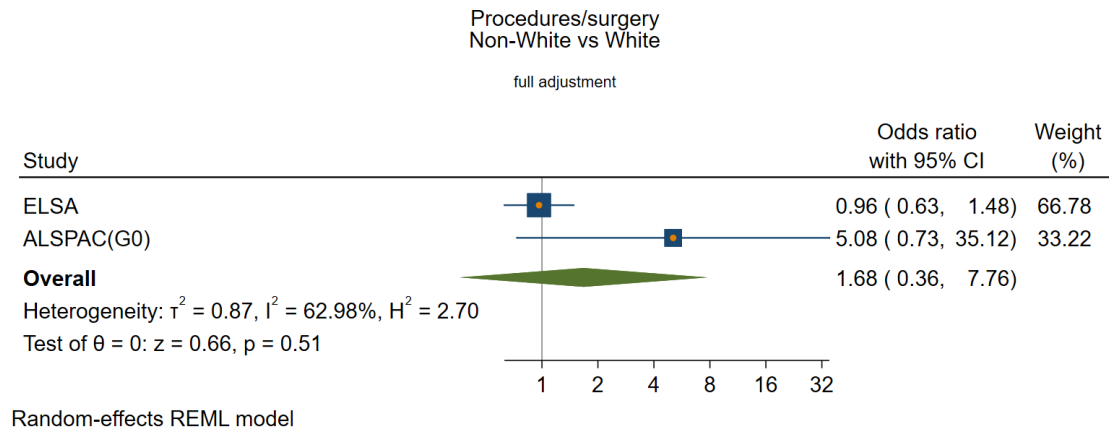
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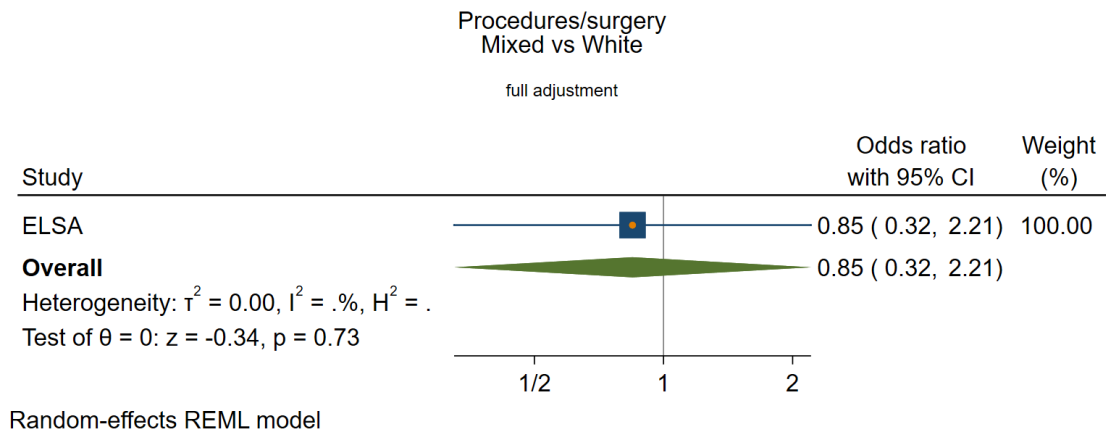
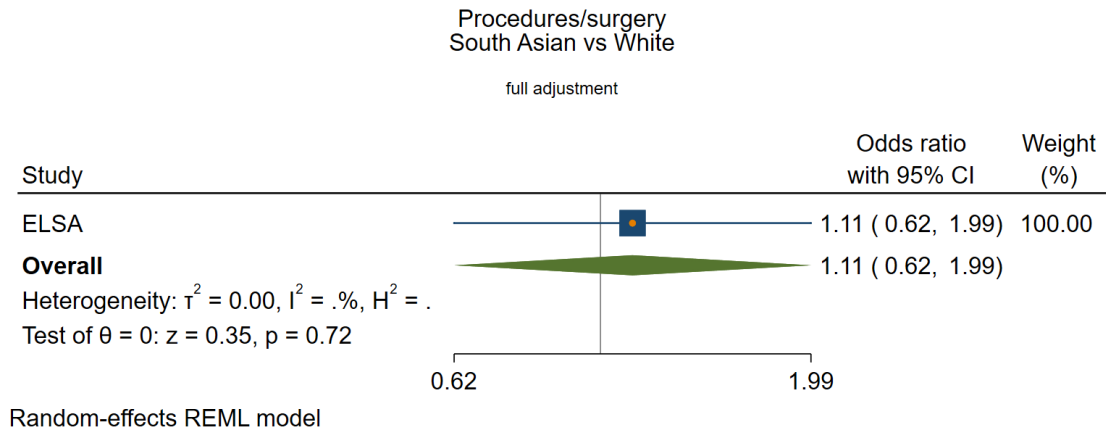
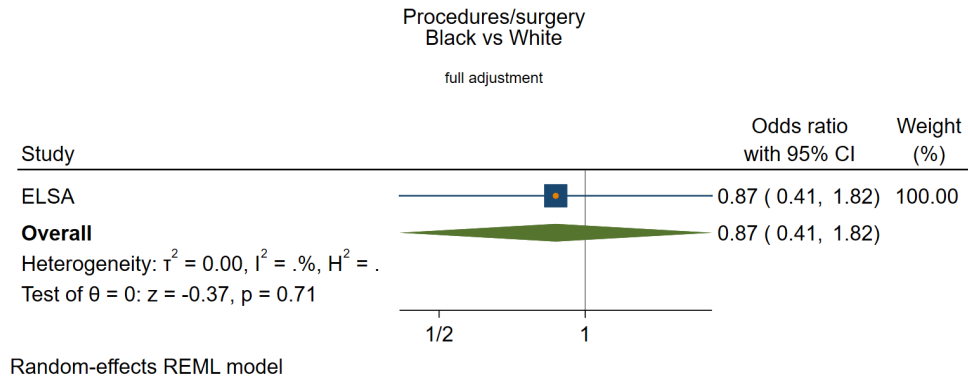
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Random-effects REML model

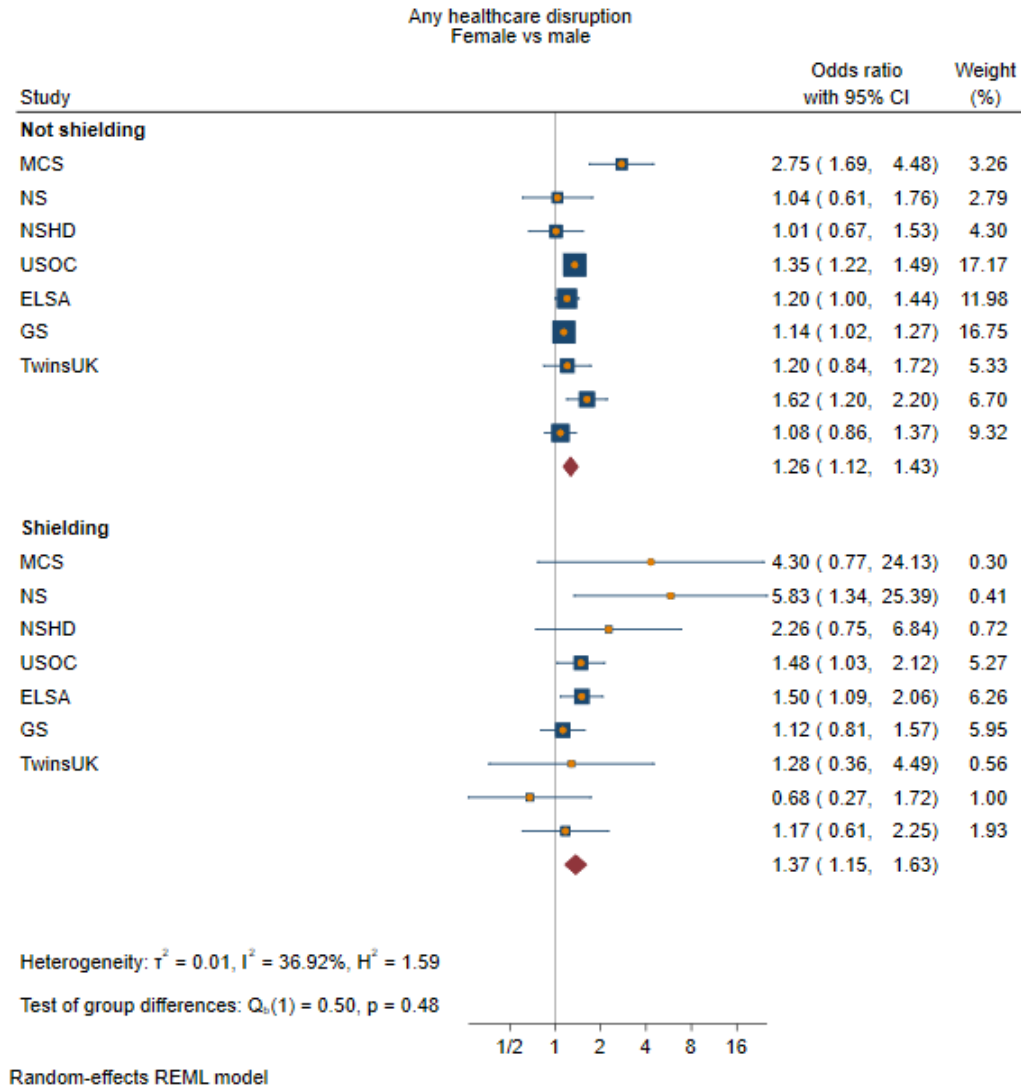


Full adjustment

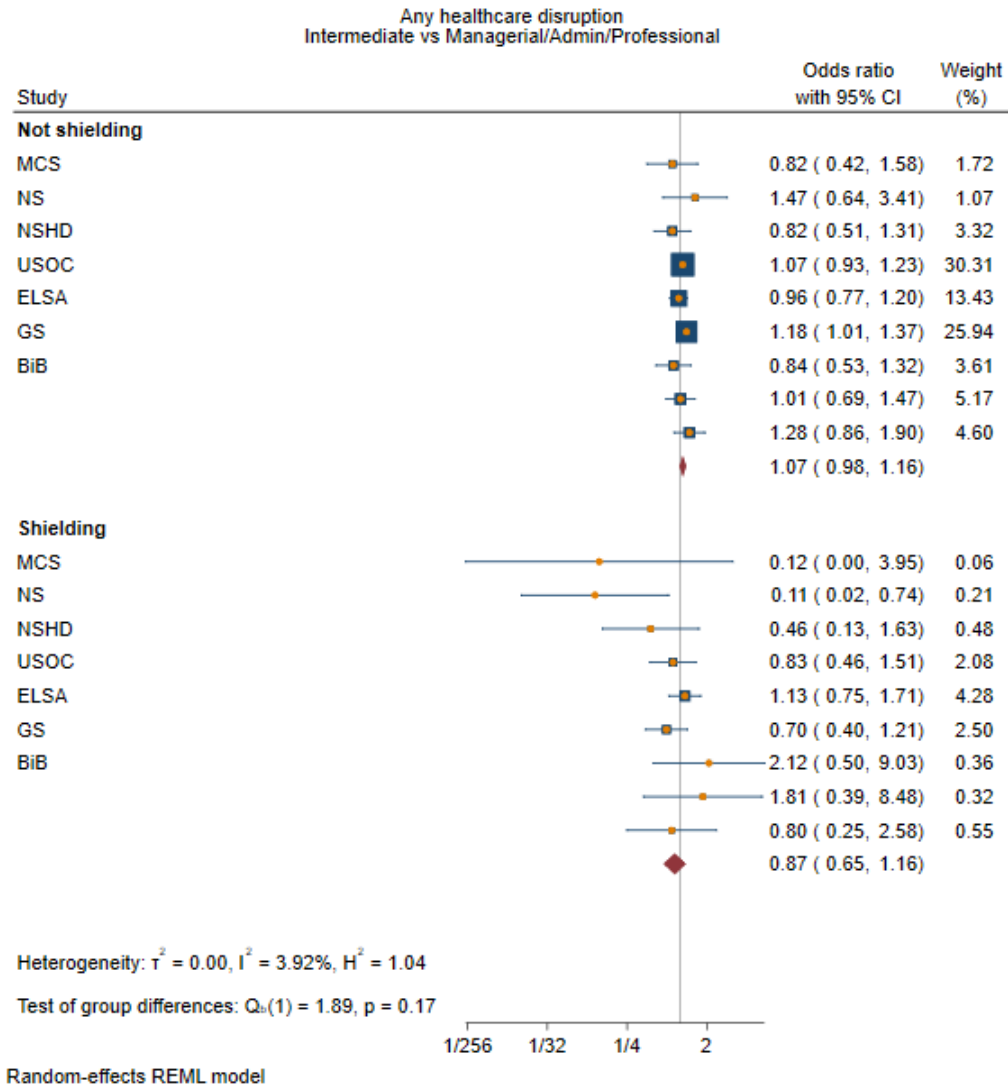


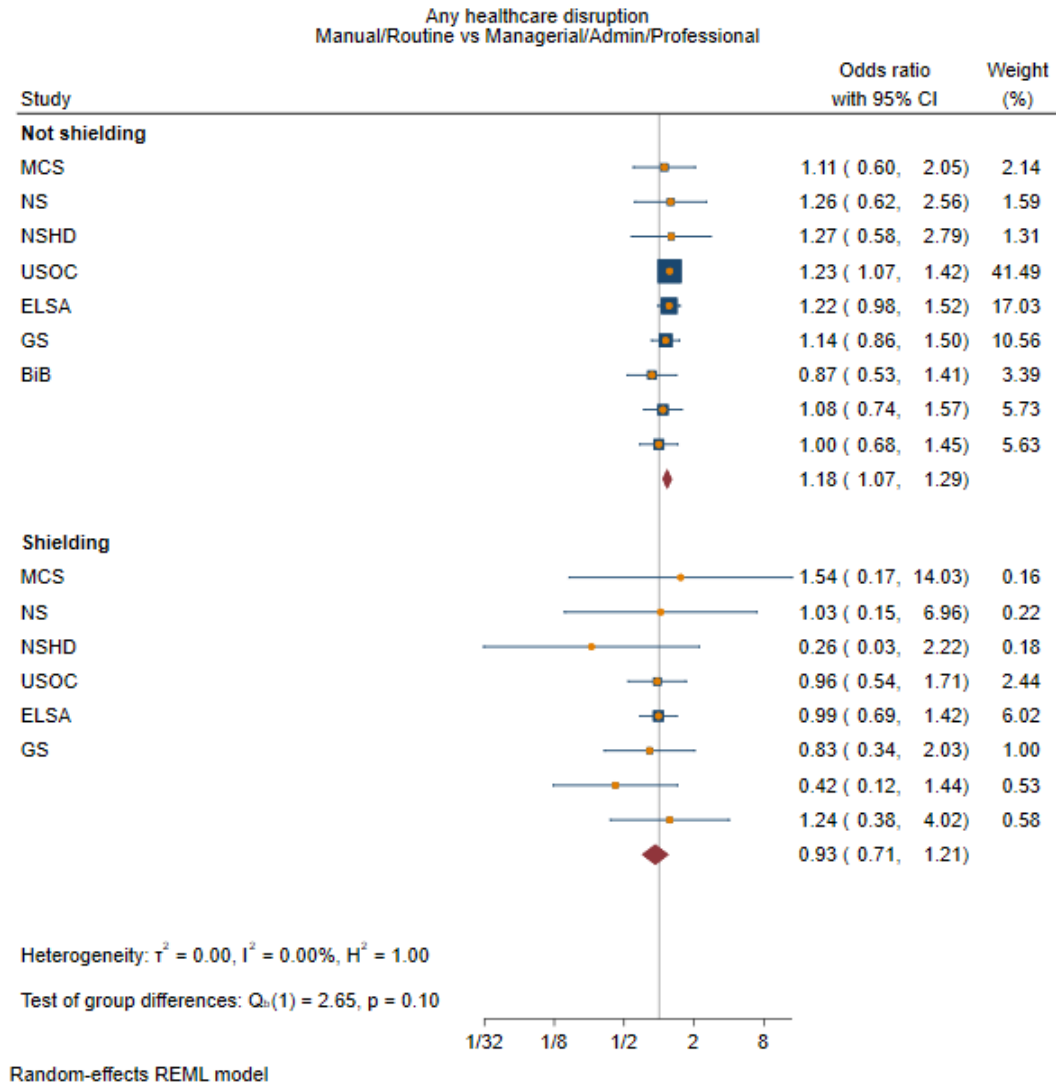
Any healthcare disruption stratified by shielding status

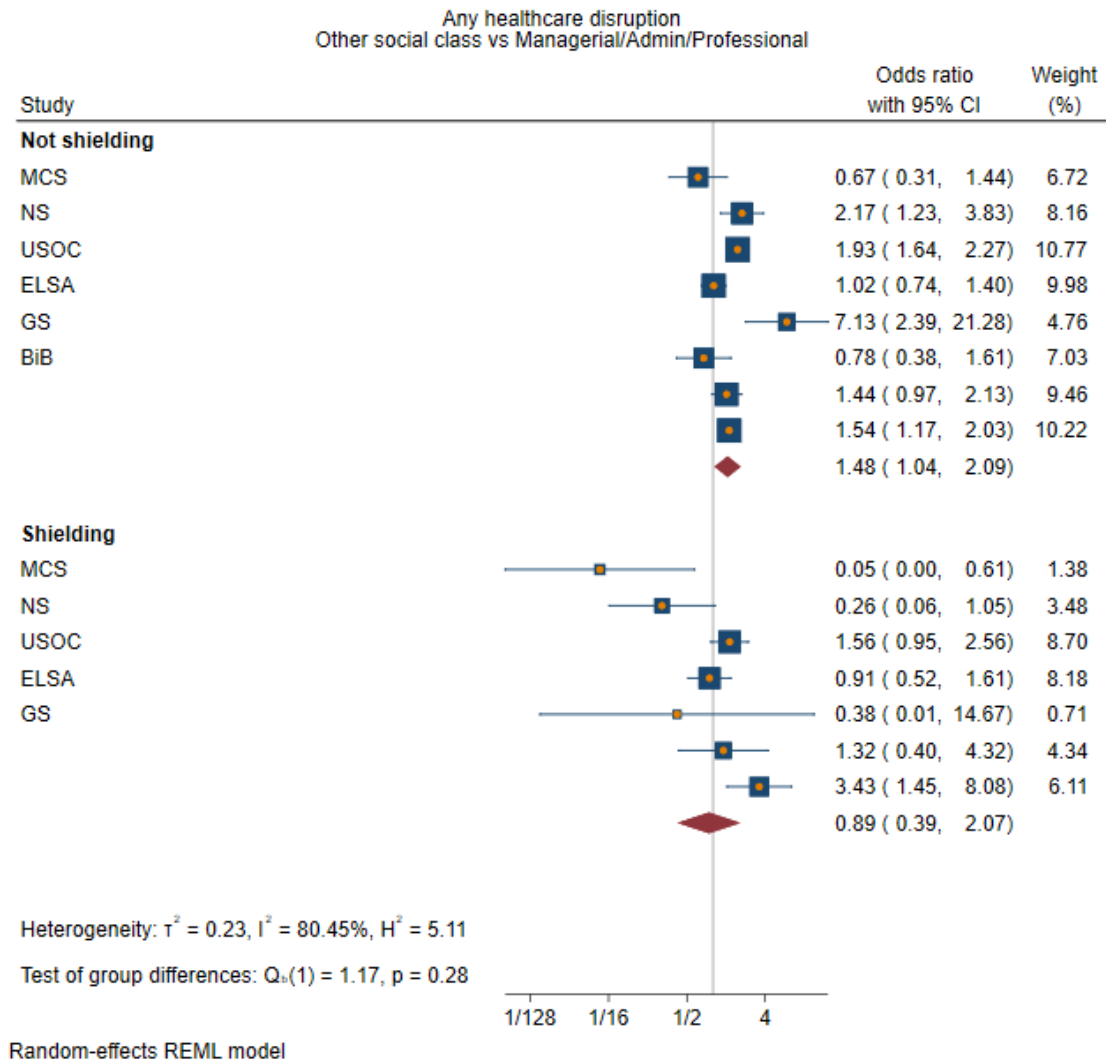
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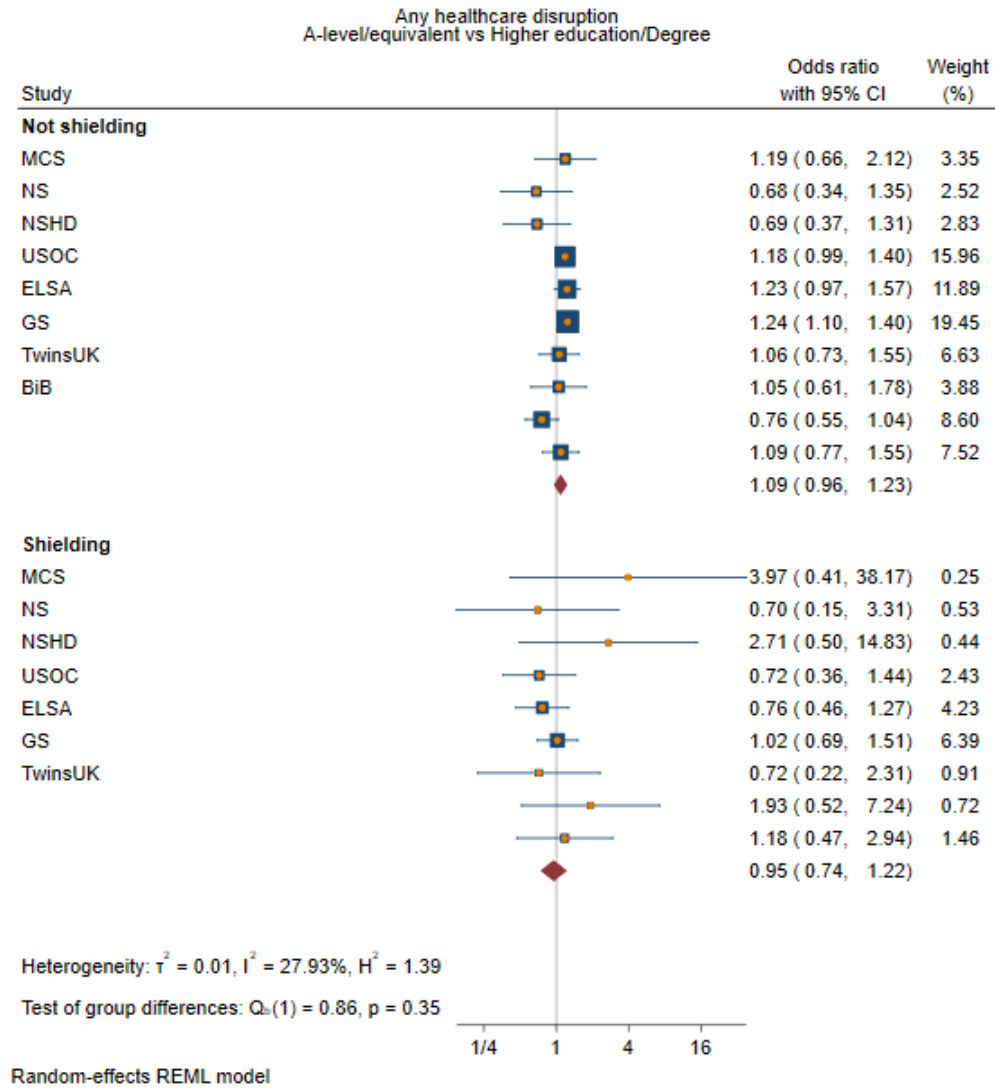
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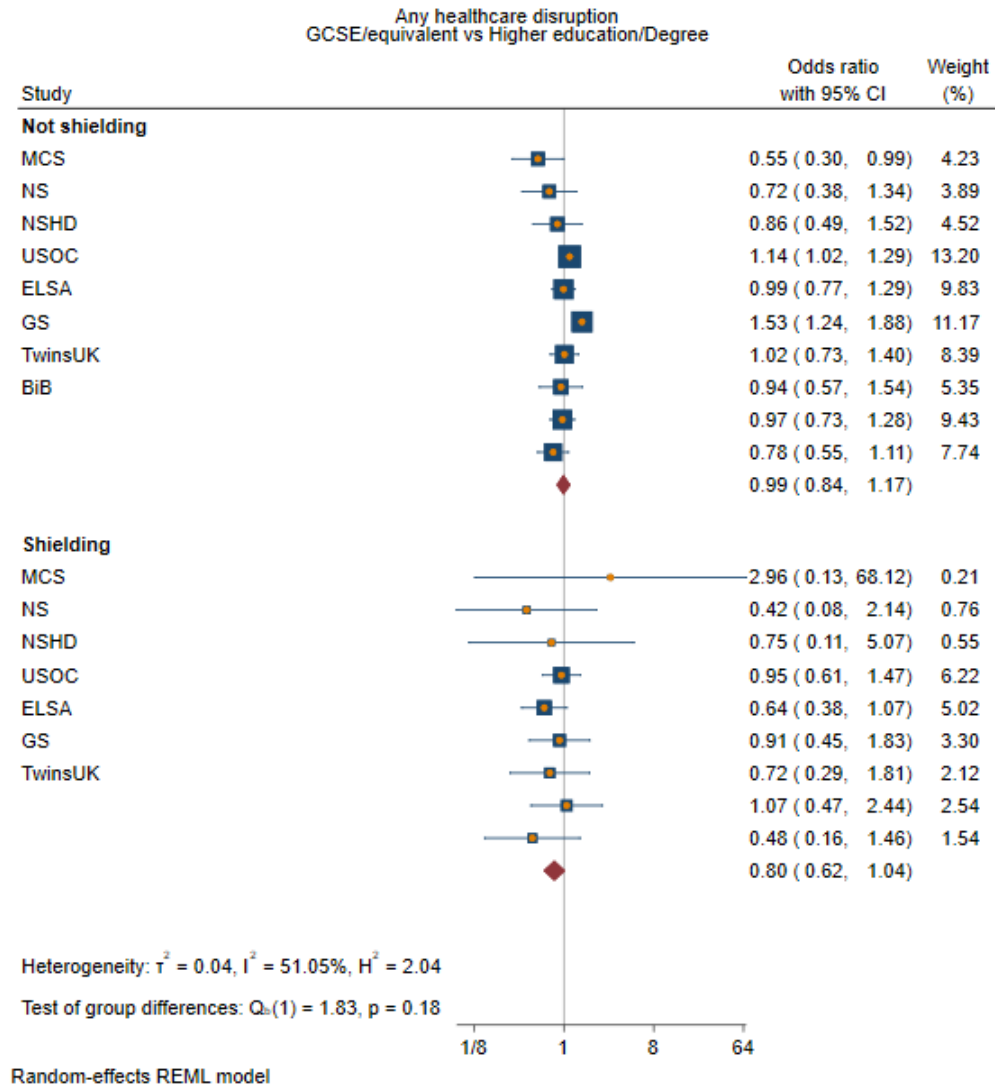


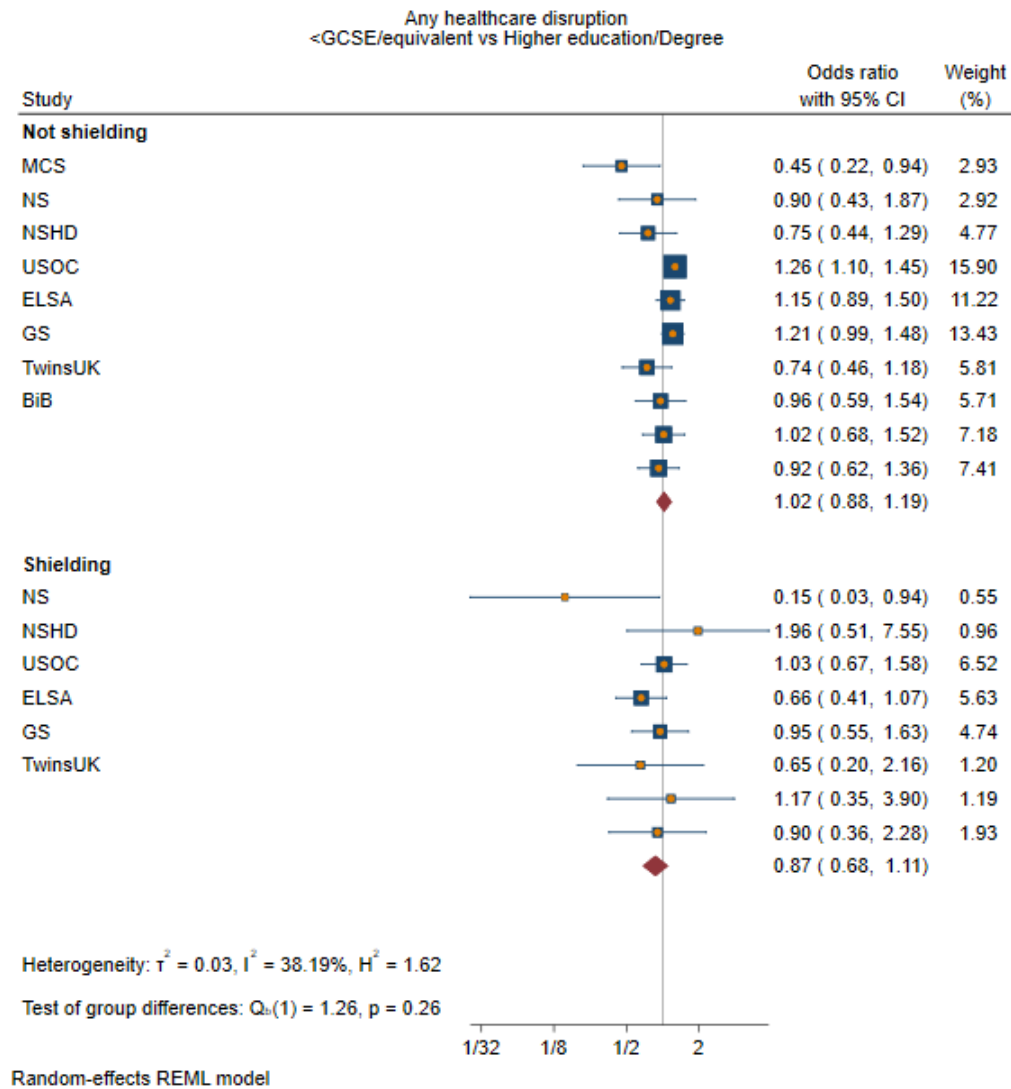




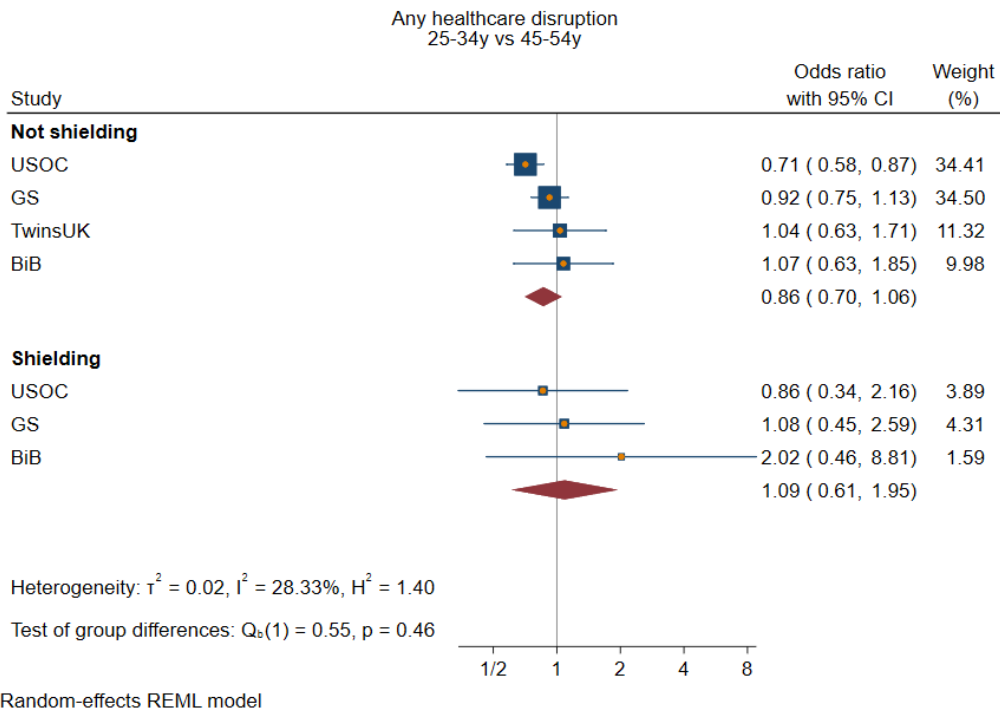
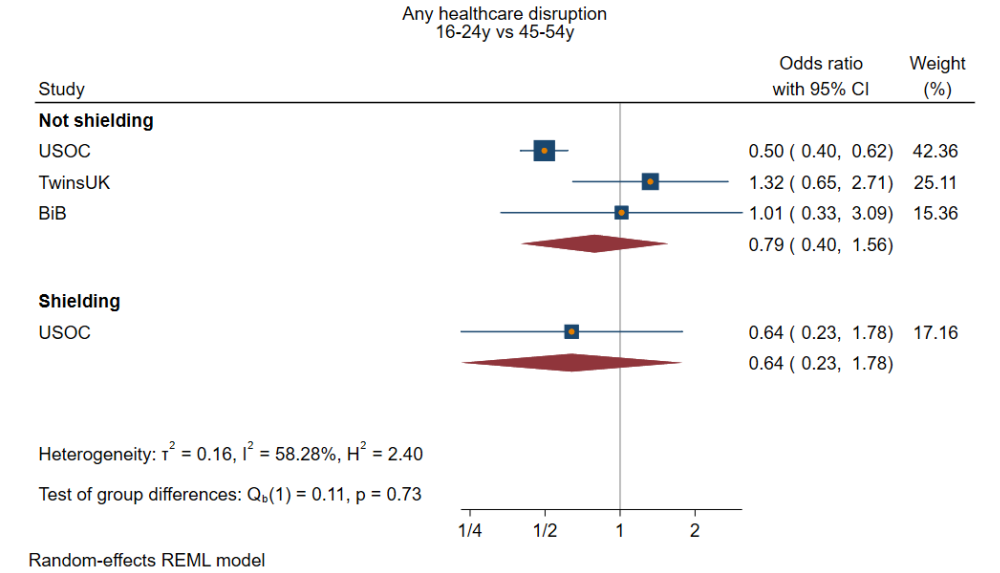
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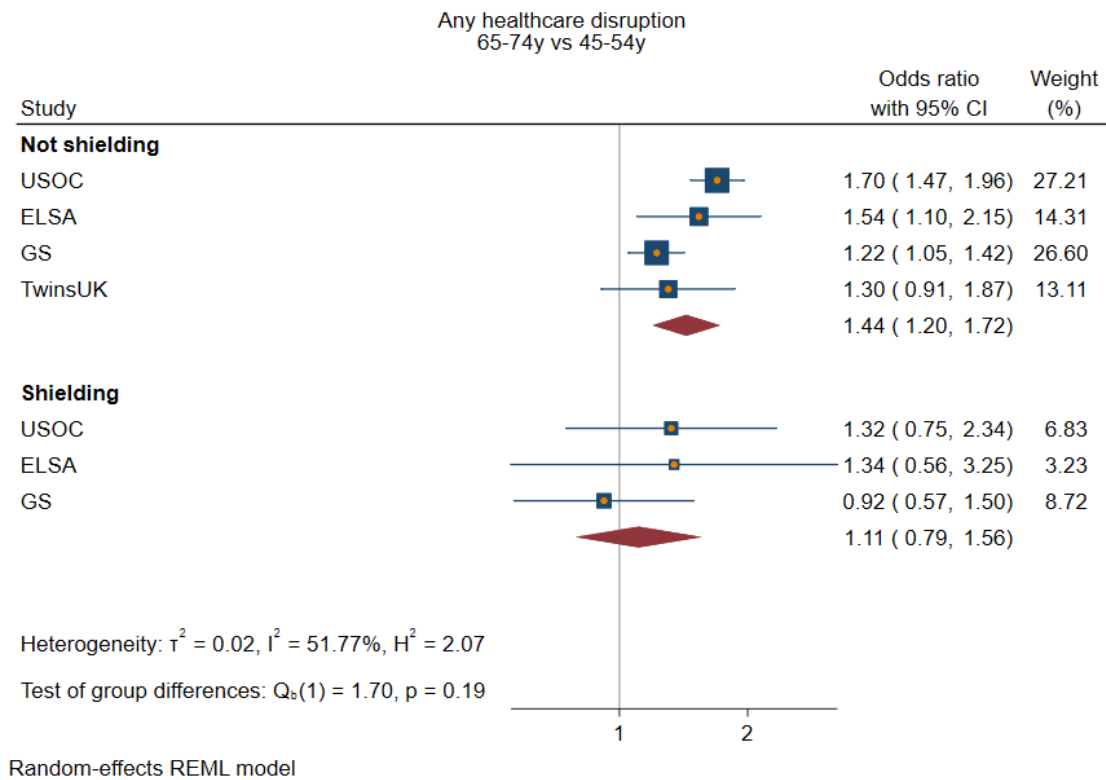
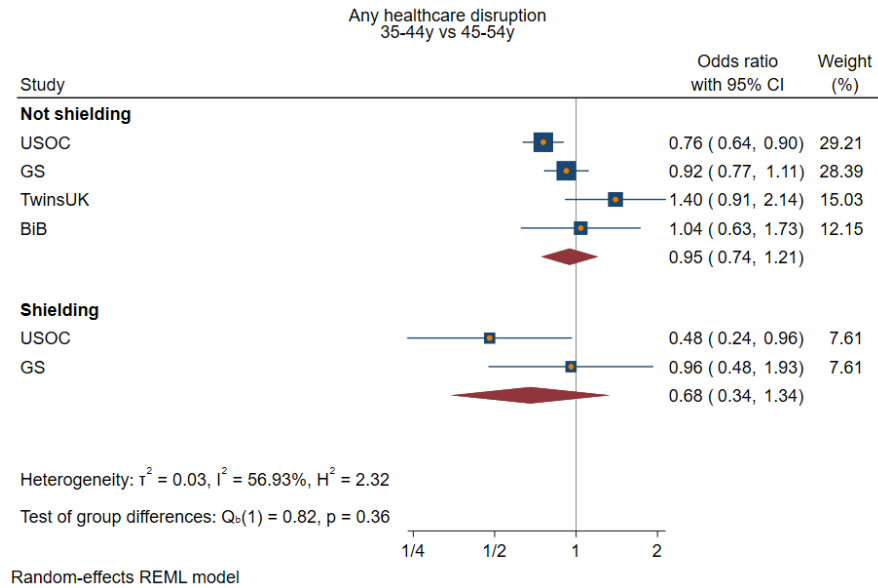


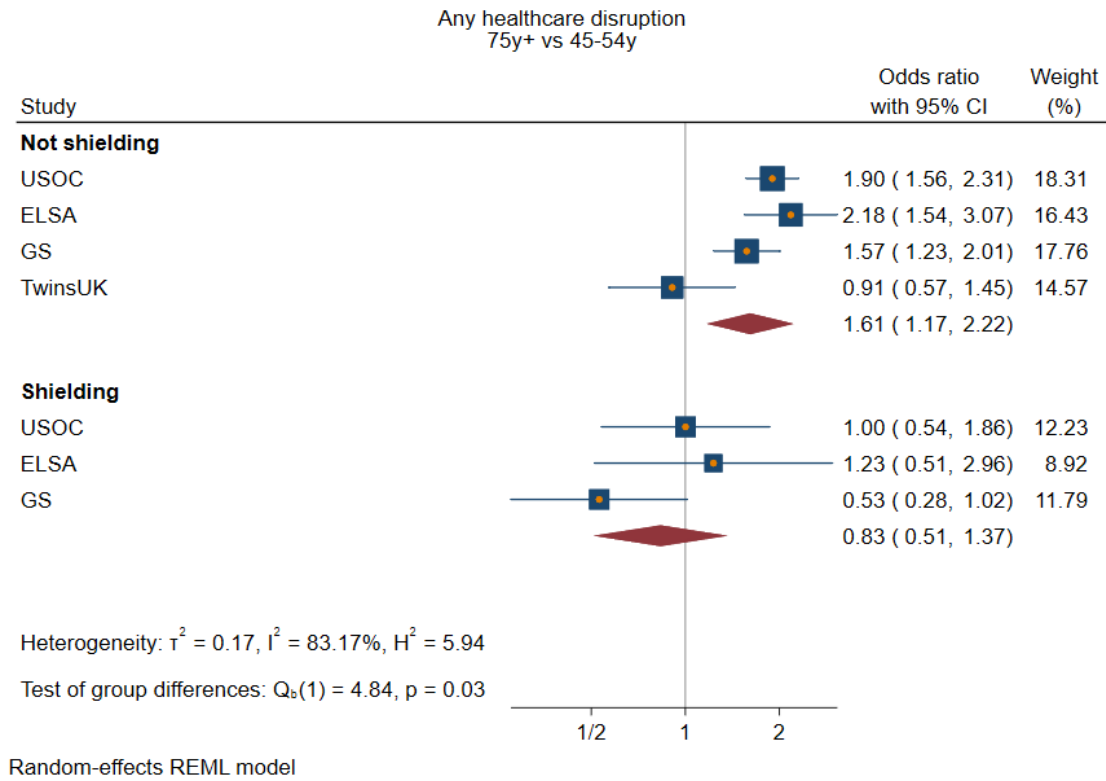




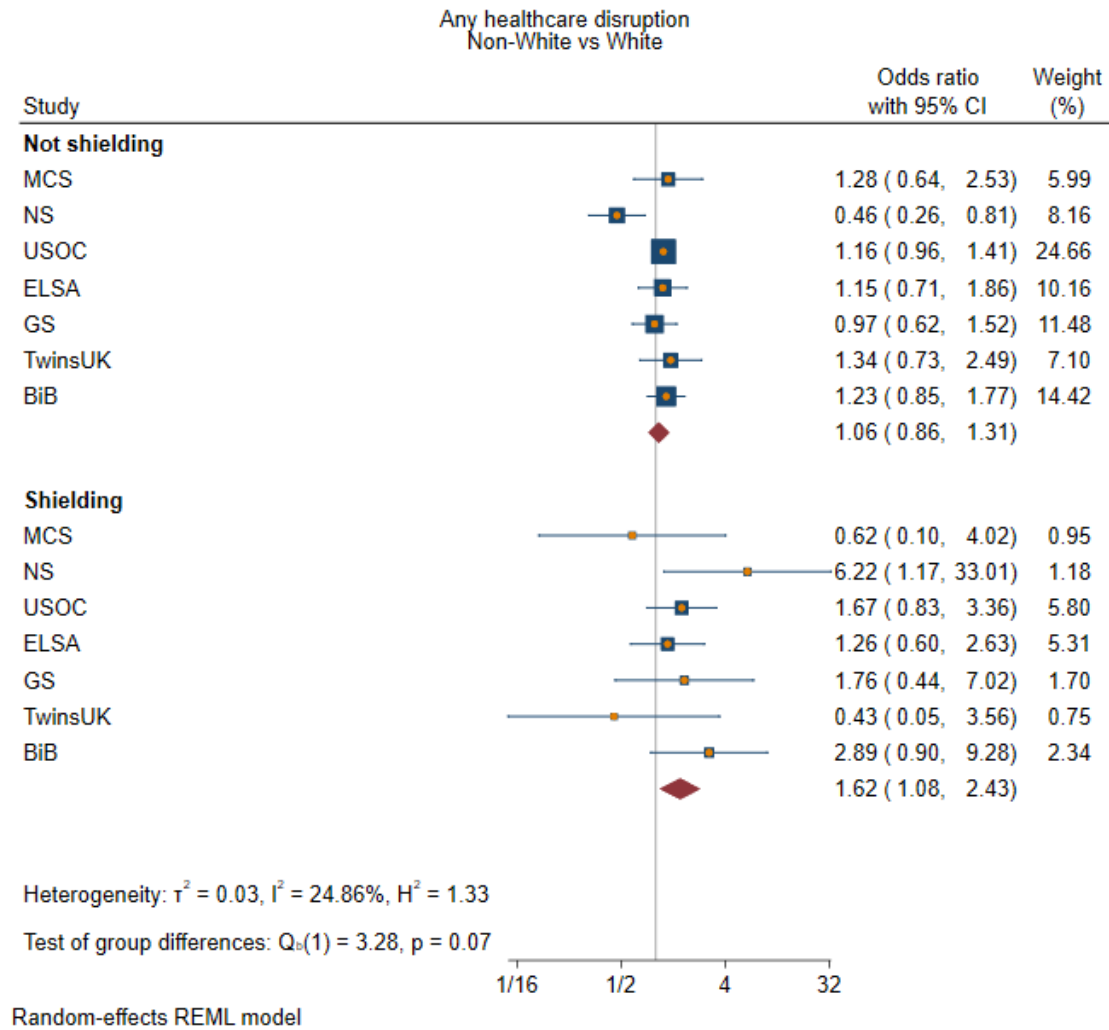
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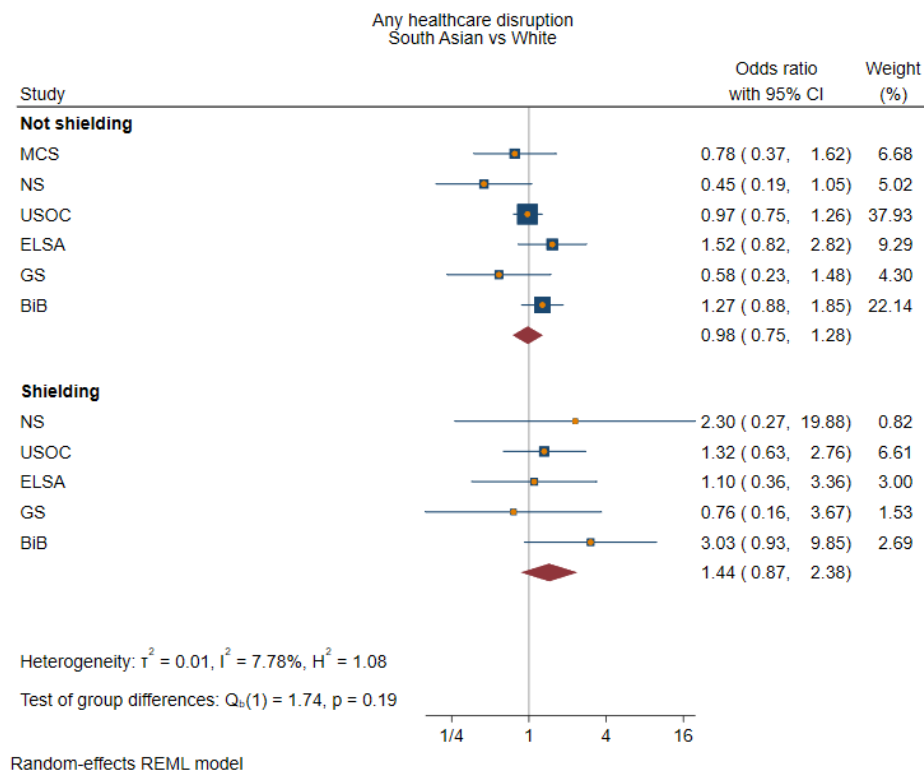
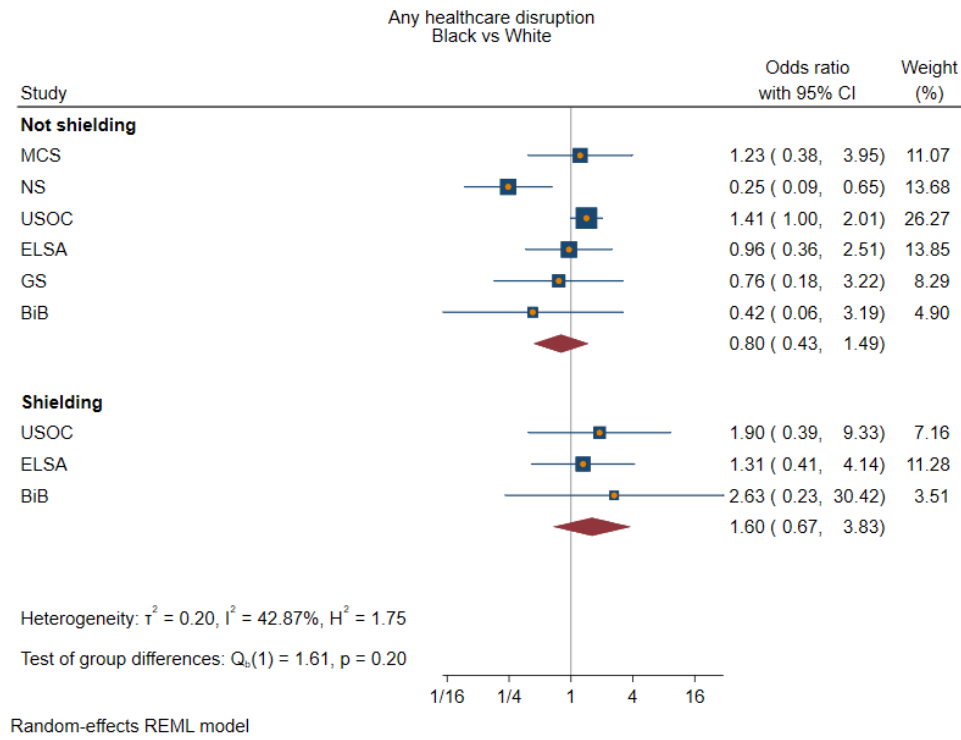


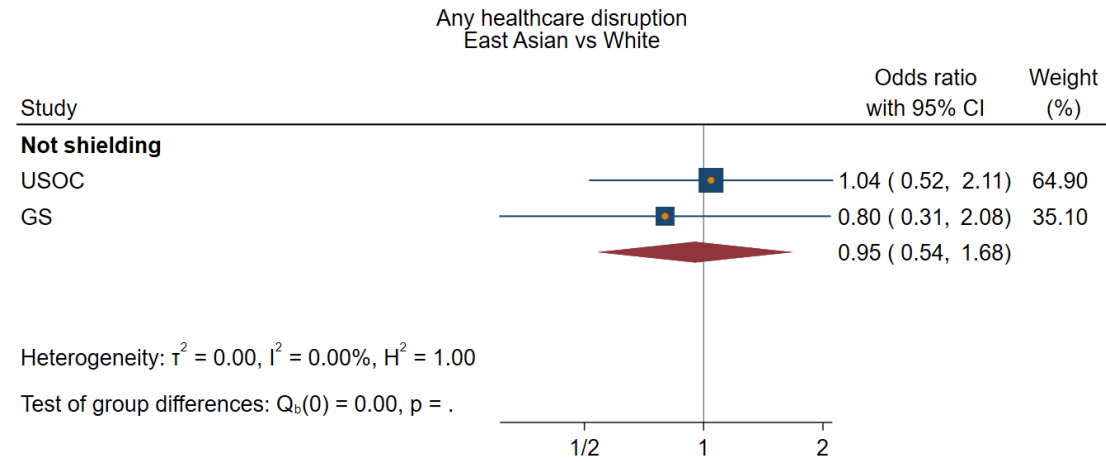




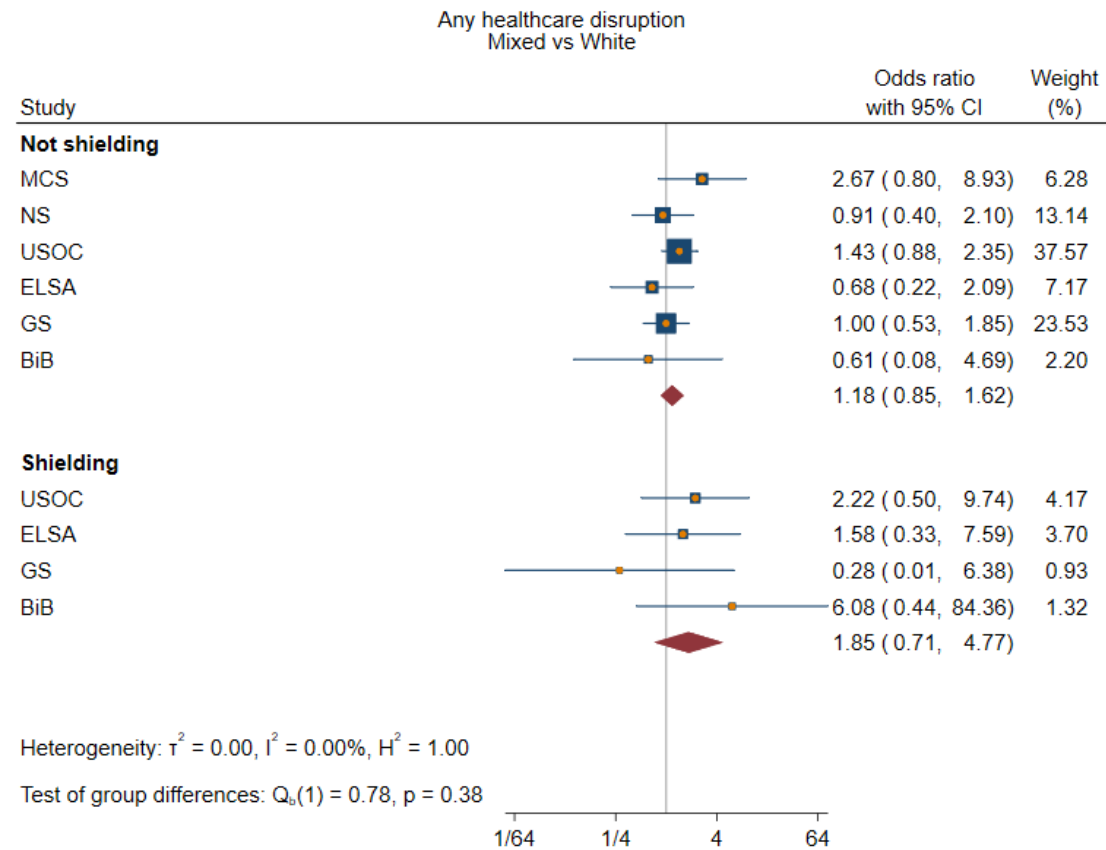
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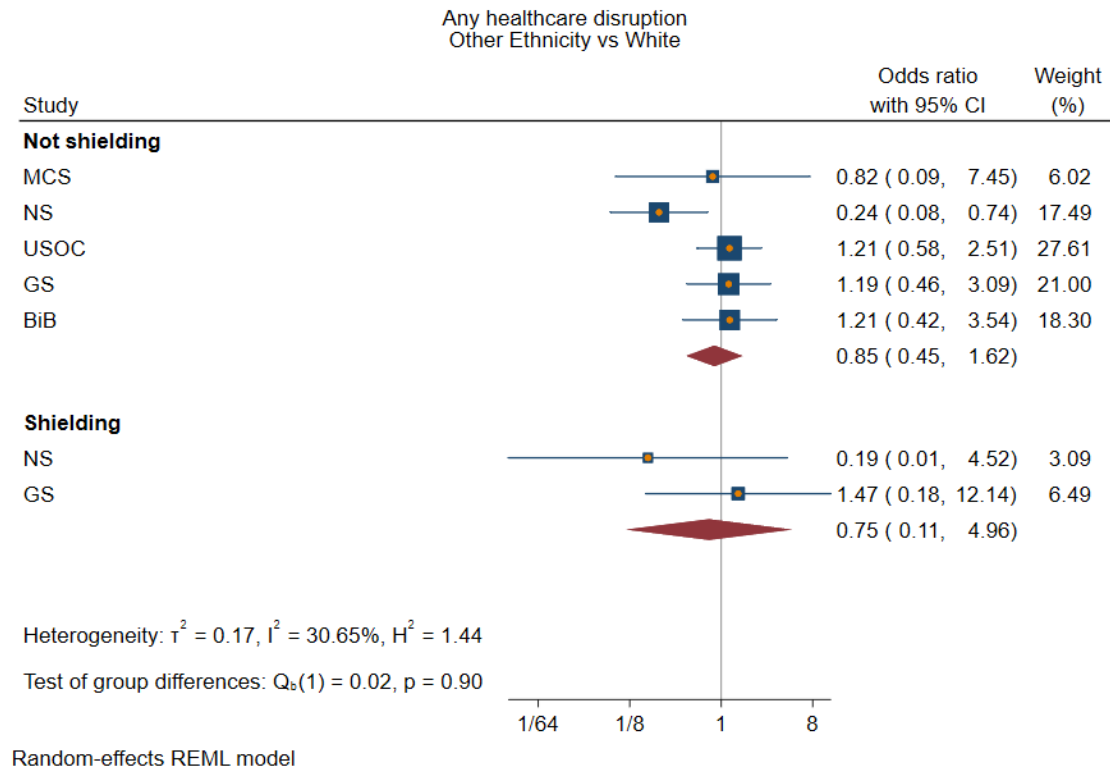




Random-effects REML model

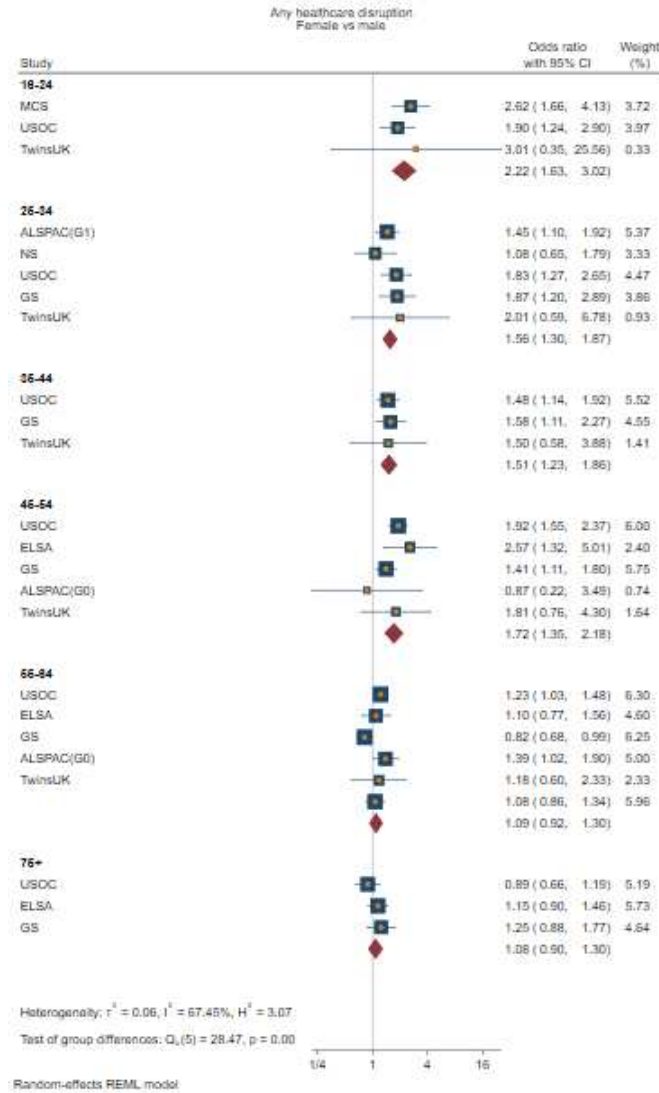


Random-effects REML model

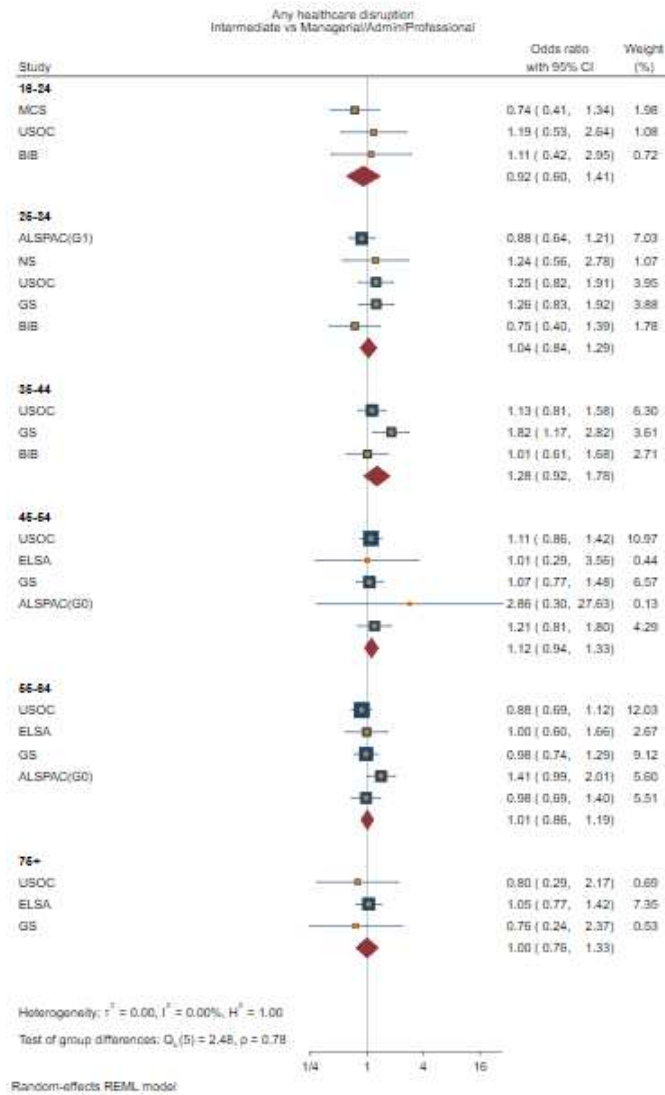


Any healthcare disruption stratified by age

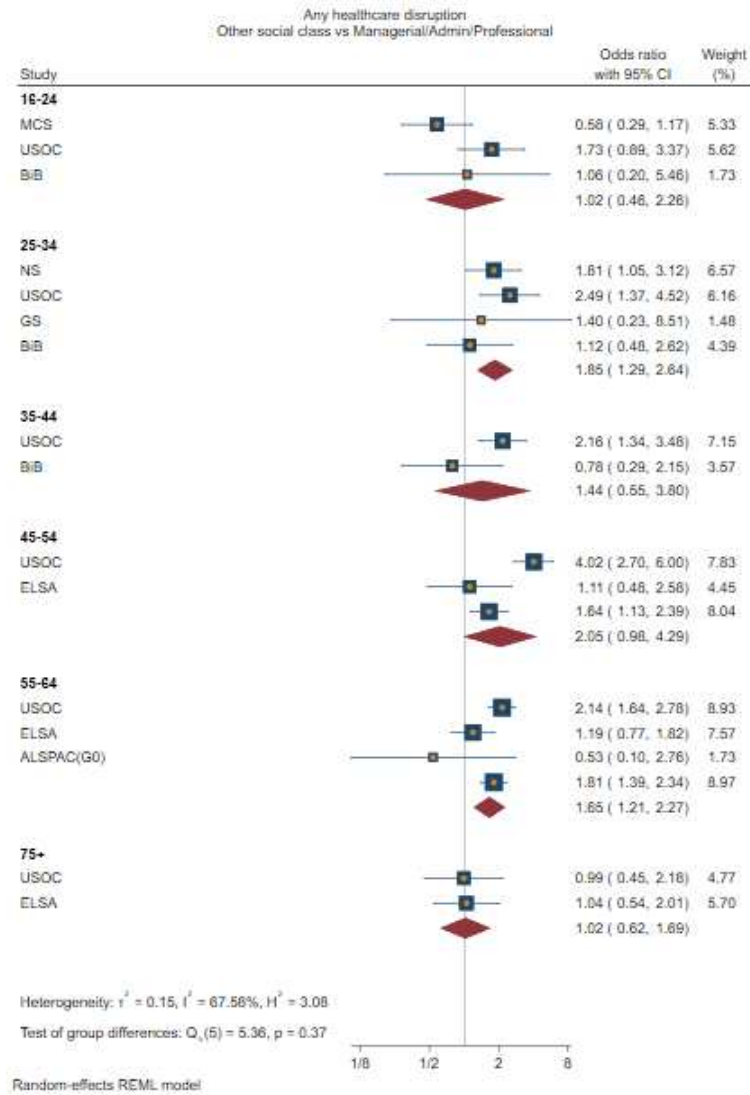
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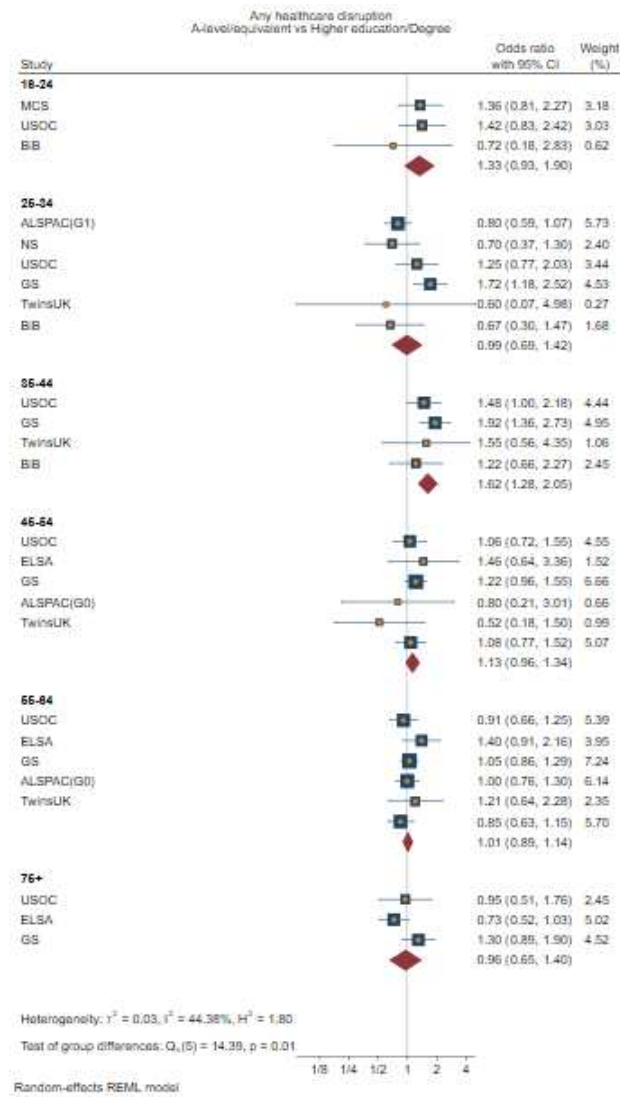
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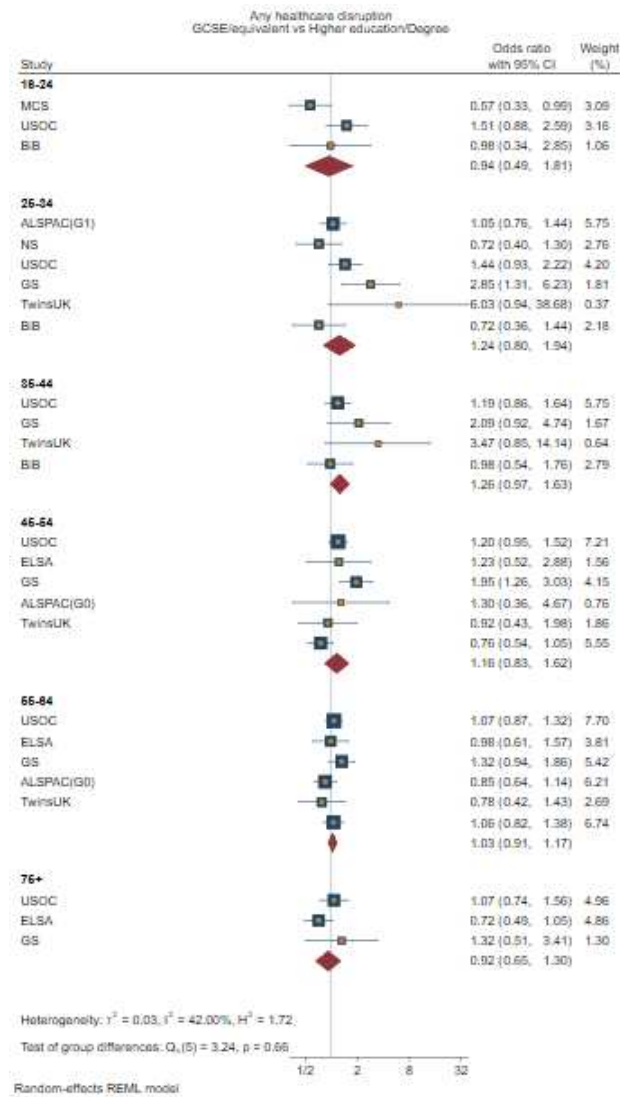


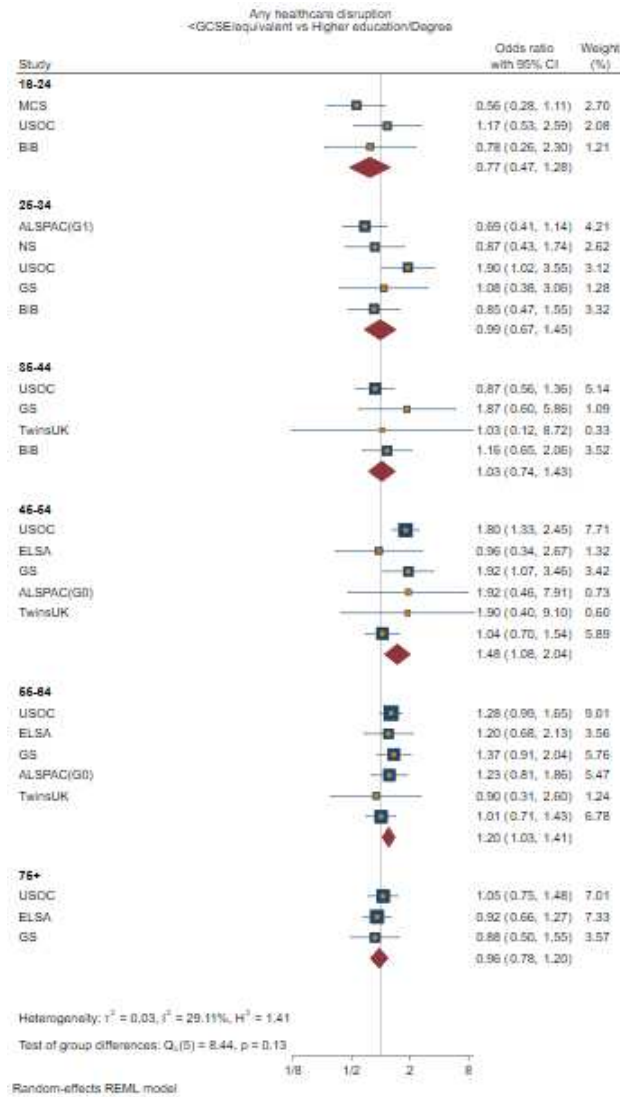




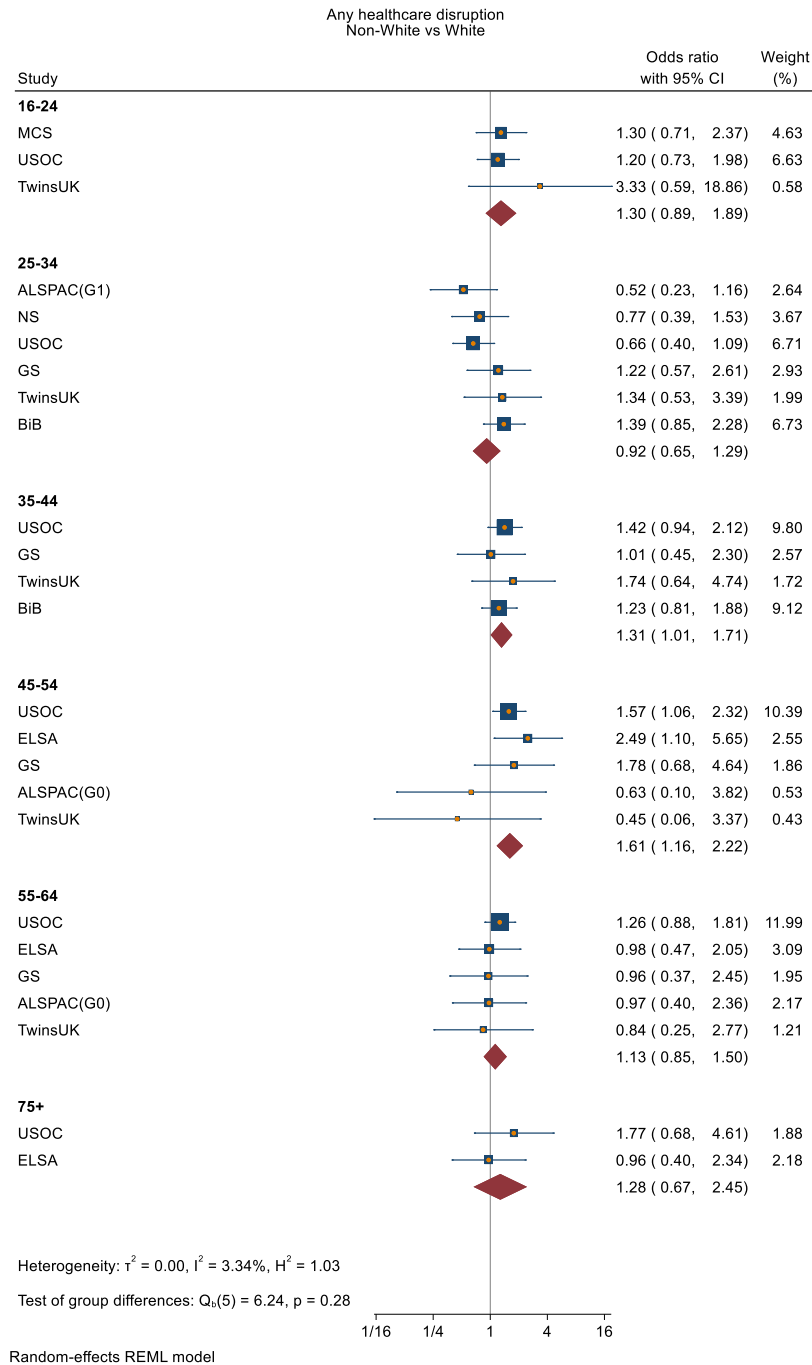
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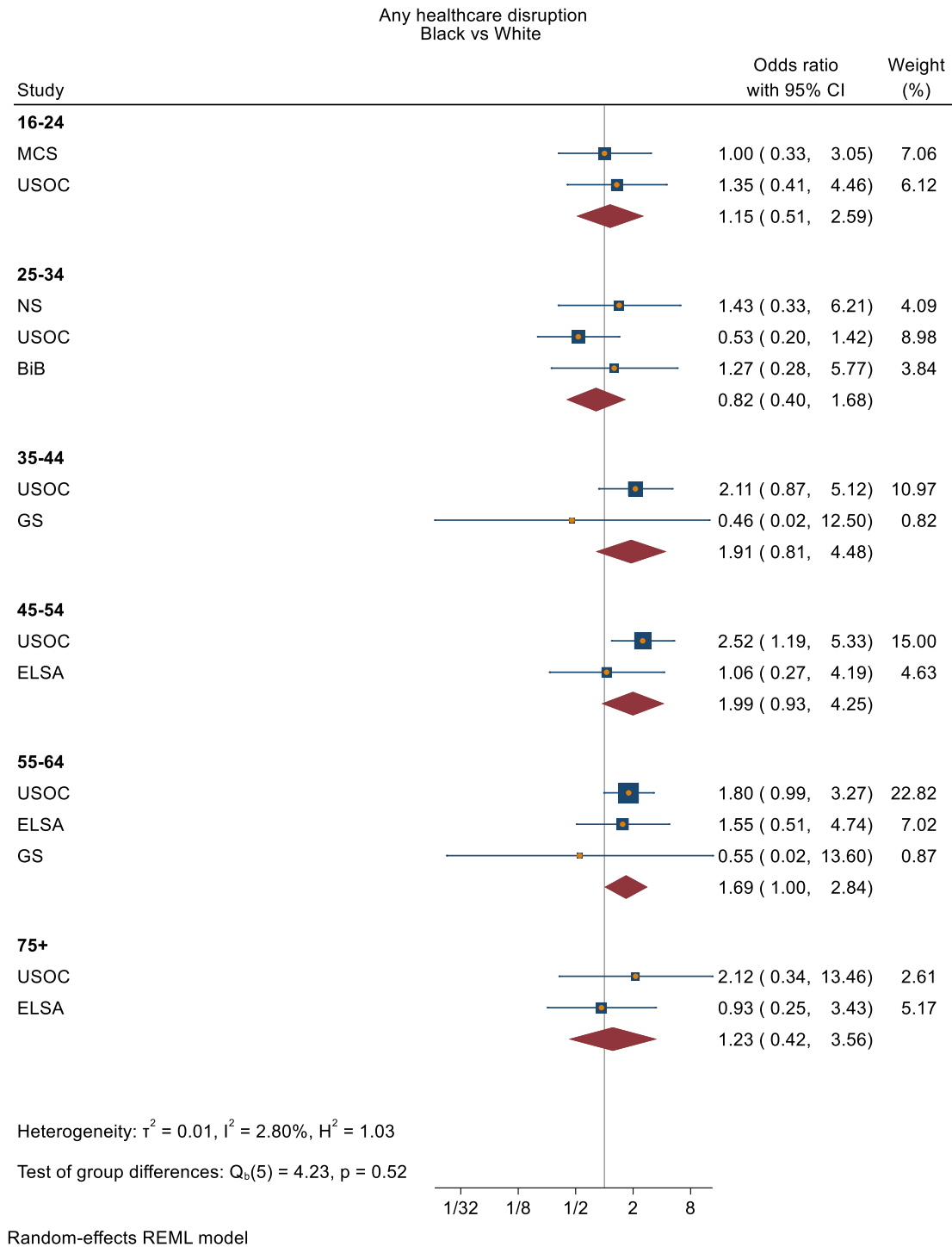


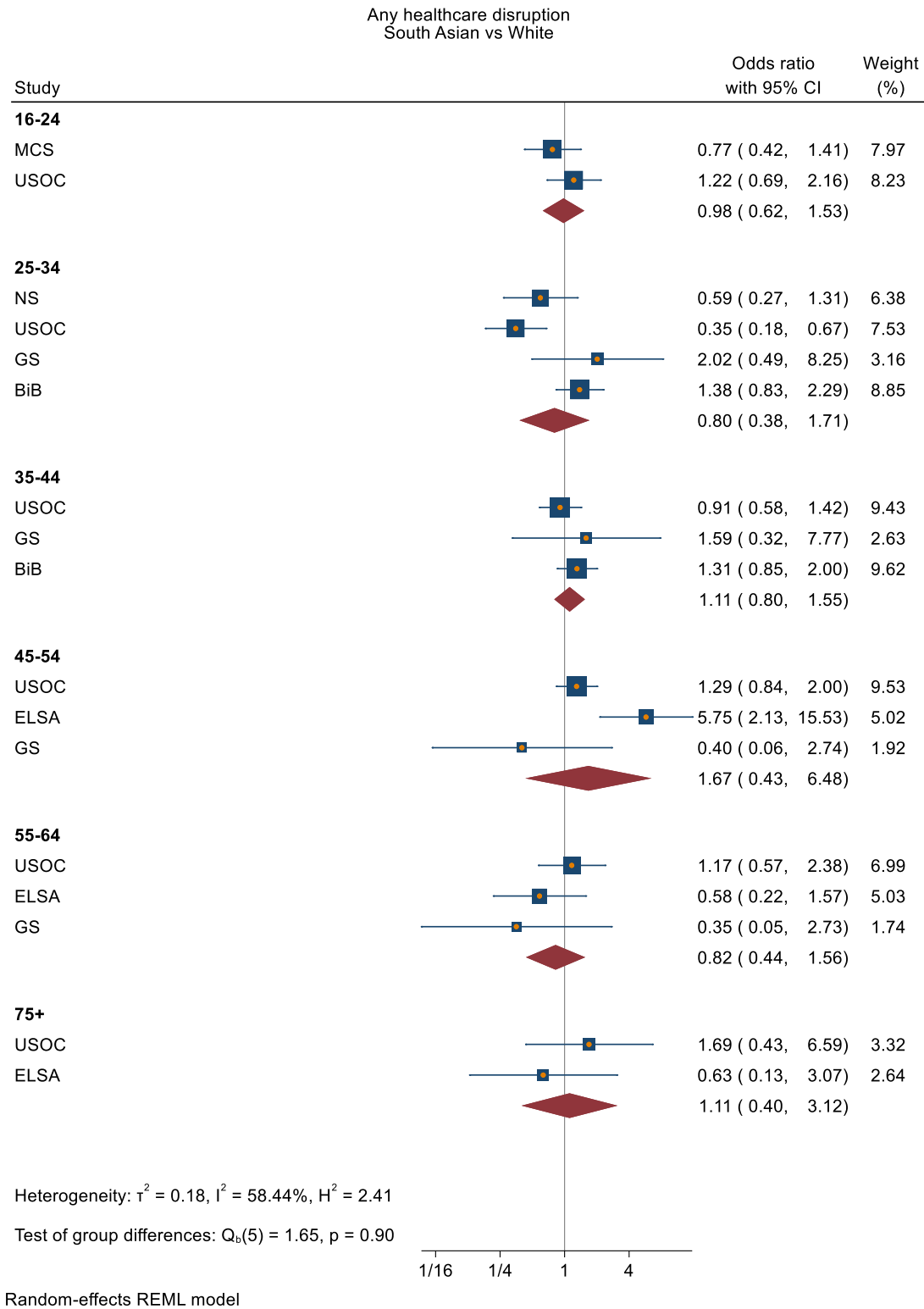


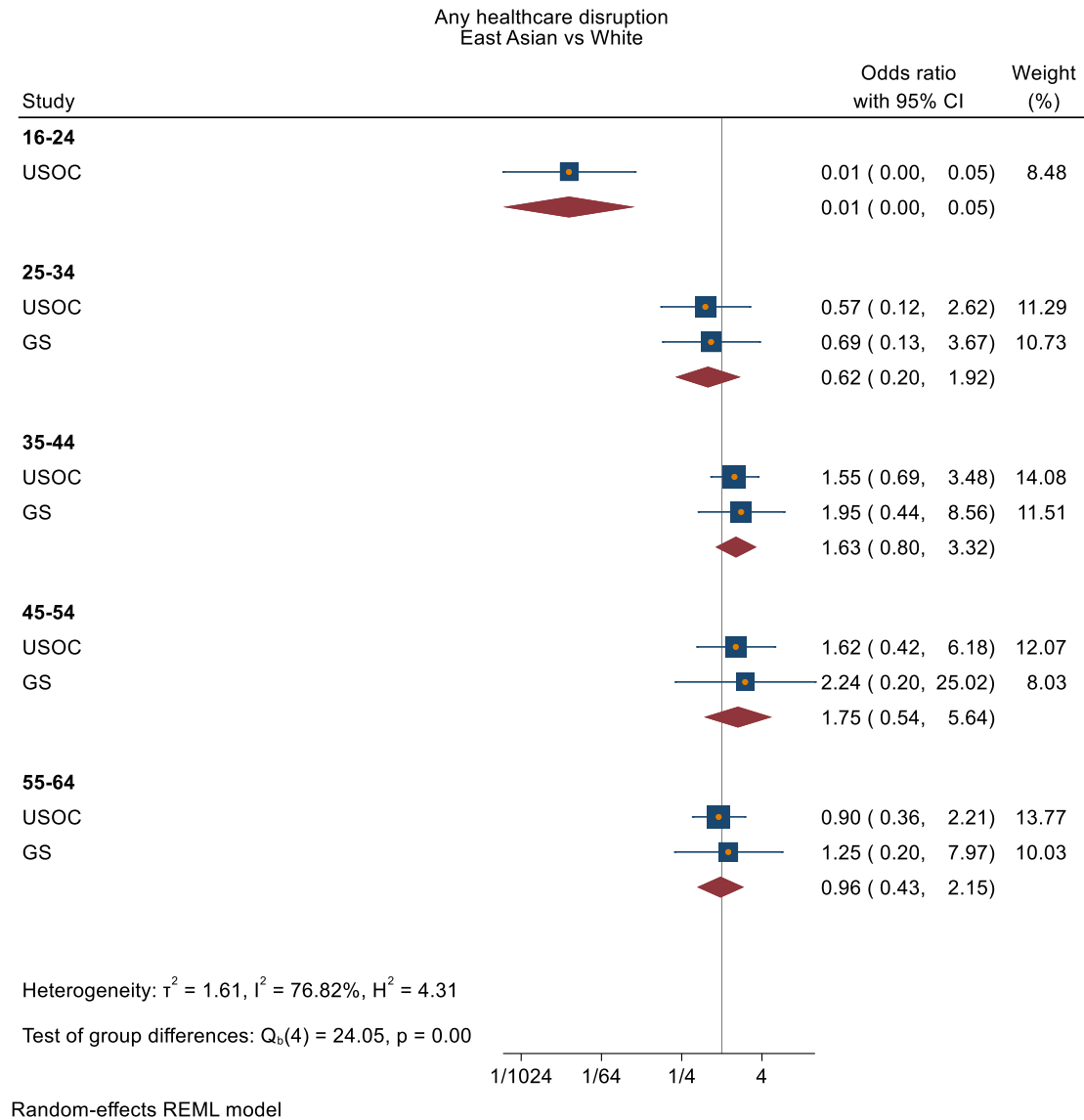


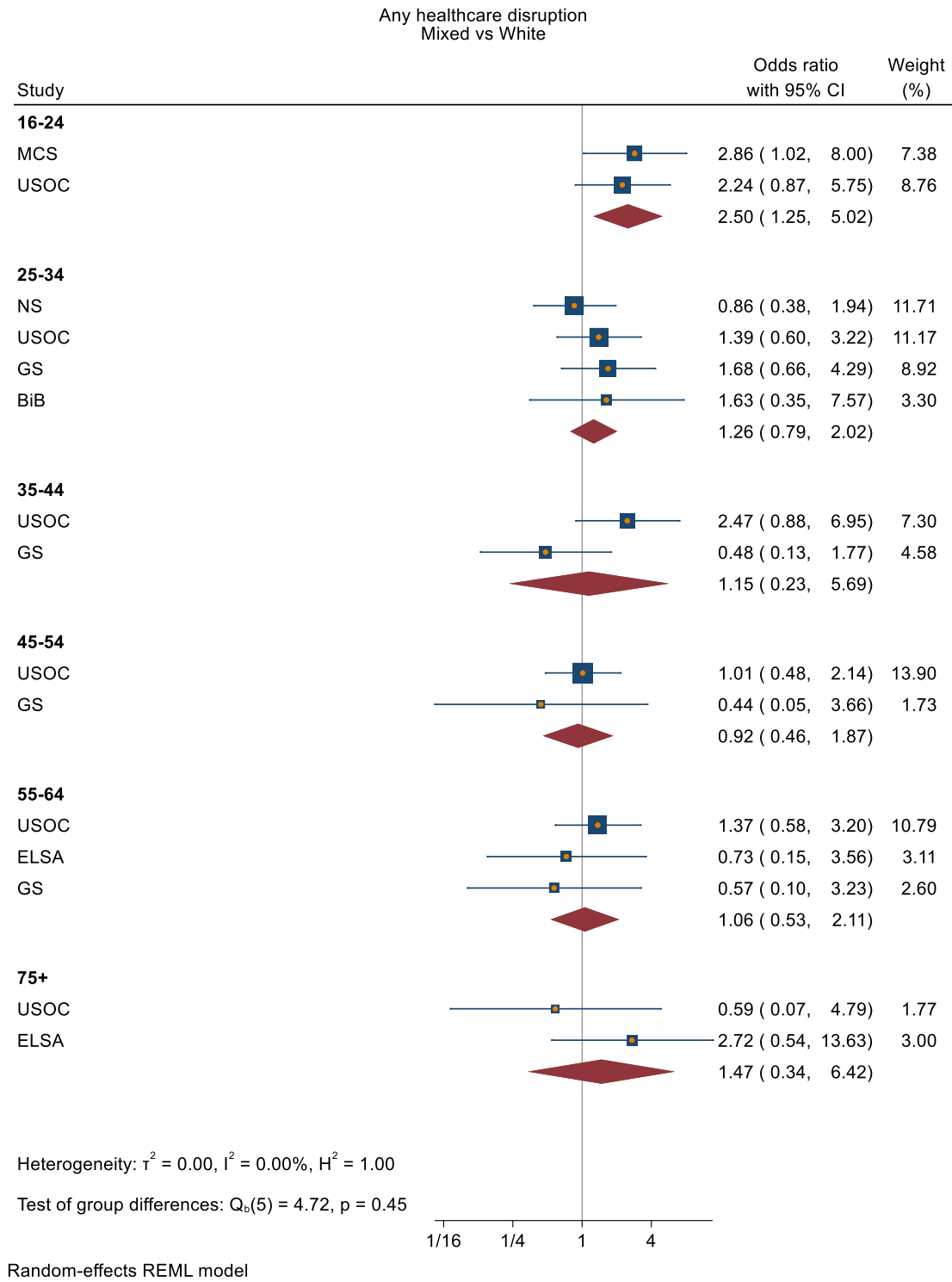
Ethnicity

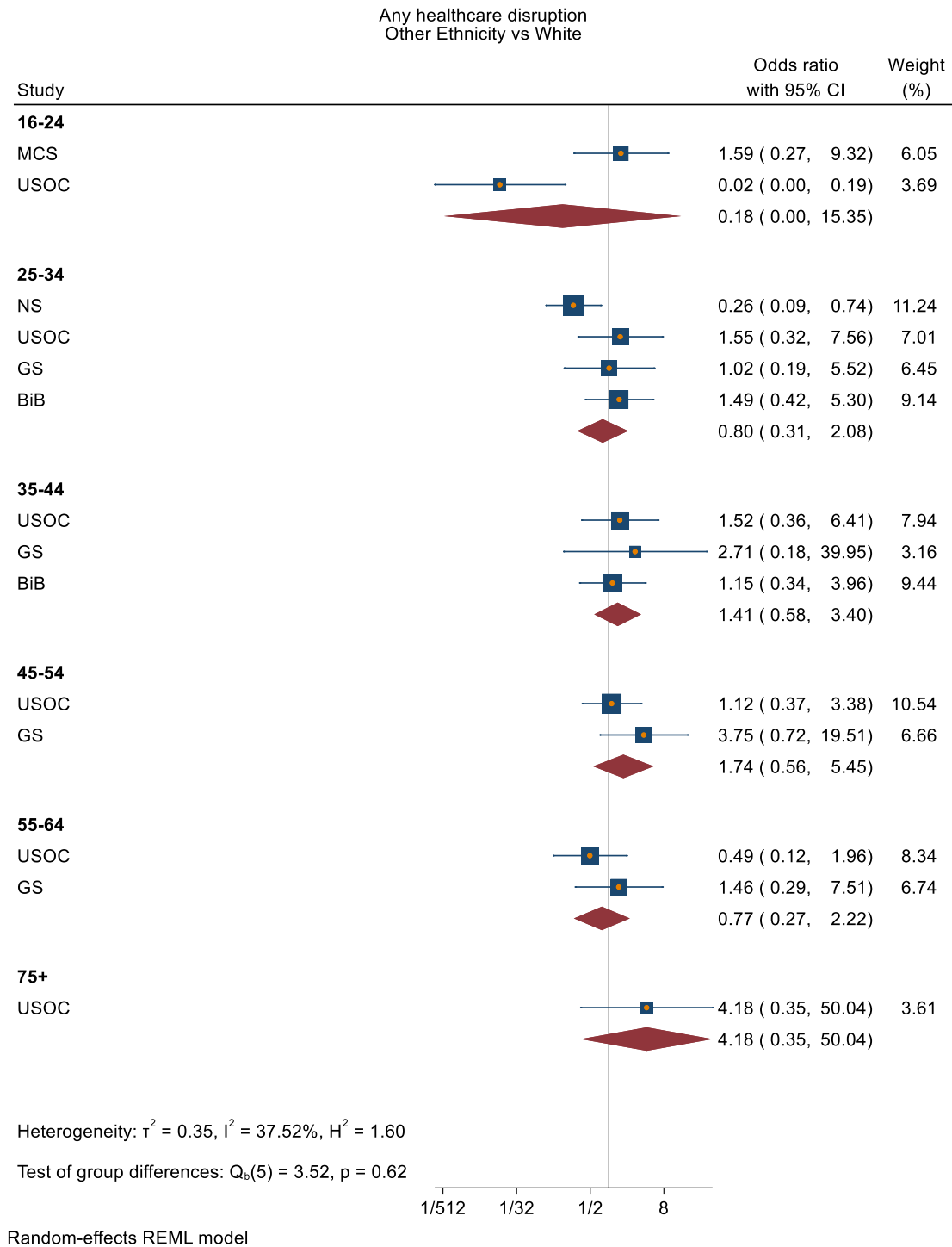












Inequalities in healthcare disruptions during Covid-19 in the UK: Evidence from 12 population-based longitudinal studies

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Supplementary Table S1. Details of each study

Study Population	Design and Sample Frame	2020 Age Range	Pre-pandemic Survey	Details of Covid surveys (response rate)	Analytic N
<i>Age Homogenous Cohorts</i>					
MCS: Millennium Cohort Study	Cohort of UK children born between Sept 2000 and Jan 2002 with regular follow-up surveys from birth.	18-20	2018	Two surveys: May (26.6%) & Sep-Oct (24.2%)	3147
ALSPAC (G1): Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children- Generation 1	Cohort of children born in the South-West of England between April 1991 and Dec 1992, with regular follow-up surveys from birth. (original young people)	27-29	2017-2018	Three questionnaires: April (19%), June (17.4%), December (26.4%)	3430
NS: Next Steps, formerly known as Longitudinal Study of Young People in England	Sample recruited via secondary schools in England at around age 13 with regular follow-up surveys thereafter.	29-31	2015	Two surveys: May (20.3%) & Sep-Oct (31.8%)	3311
BCS70: British Cohort Study 1970	Cohort of all children born in Great Britain (i.e. England, Wales & Scotland) in one week in 1970, with regular follow-up surveys from birth.	50	2016	Two surveys: May (40.4%) & Sep-Oct (43.9%)	5175
NCDS: National Child Development Study	Cohort of all children born in Great Britain (i.e. England, Wales & Scotland) in one week in 1958, with regular follow-up surveys from birth.	62	2013	Two surveys: May (57.9%) & Sep-Oct (53.9%)	5747
NSHD: National Survey of Health and Development	Cohort of all children born in Great Britain (i.e. England, Wales & Scotland) in one week in 1946, with regular follow-up surveys from birth.	74	2015	Two surveys: May (68.2%) & Sep-Oct (61.5%)	1569
<i>Age Heterogeneous Studies</i>					
BIB: Born in Bradford	Birth cohort recruiting pregnant women and their children between 2007 and 2010; and pregnant women and their children in three deprived areas of Bradford between 2016 and 2020	17-54	2016-2020	Two surveys: April-Jun (28%) & Oct-Nov (24%)	1726
USOC: Understanding Society: the UK Household Longitudinal Survey	A nationally representative longitudinal household panel study, based on a clustered-stratified probability sample of UK households, with all adults aged 16+ in chosen households surveyed annually.	16-96	2018-2019	Six: surveys: April (40.3%); May (33.6%); Jun (32.0%); July (31.2%); Sep (29.2%) & Nov (27.3%)	13253
ELSA: English Longitudinal Study of Aging	A nationally-representative population study of individuals aged 50+ living in England, with biennial surveys since 2002/03.	52-90+	2018-2019	First Covid-19 sub-study: Jun-July (75%)	6508
GS: Generation Scotland: the Scottish Family Health Study	A family-structured, population-based Scottish cohort, with participants aged 18-99 recruited between 2006-2011	27-100	2006-2011	Two surveys: April-Jun (21.6%) & Jul-Aug (15.6%)	17139
ALSPAC(G0): Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children- Generation 0	Parents of the ALSPAC(G1) cohort described above, treated as a separate age-heterogenous study population. (original parents)	45-81	2011-2013	Three questionnaires: April (12.4%), June (12.2%), December (14.3%)	3625
TWINSUK: the UK Adult Twin Registry	A cohort of UK volunteer adult twins (55% monozygotic and 43% dizygotic) who were sampled between 18-101 years of age.	22-96	2017-2018	Three surveys: April (64.3%), July (77.6%) & November (76.1%)	4282

Supplementary Table S2. Ethics and data access statements for each study

NSHD, NCDS, BCS70, NS and MCS	The most recent sweeps of the NSHD, NCDS, BCS70, Next Steps and MCS have all been granted ethical approval by the National Health Service (NHS) Research Ethics Committee and all participants have given informed consent. Data for NCDS (SN 6137), BCS70 (SN 8547), Next Steps (SN 5545), MCS (SN 8682) and all four COVID-19 surveys (SN 8658) are available through the UK Data Service. NSHD data are available on request to the NSHD Data Sharing Committee. Interested researchers can apply to access the NSHD data via a standard application procedure. Data requests should be submitted to mrc1ha.swiftinfo@ucl.ac.uk ; further details can be found at http://www.nshd.mrc.ac.uk/data.aspx . doi:10.5522/NSHD/Q101; doi:10.5522/NSHD/Q10.
ALSPAC	Ethical approval was obtained from the ALSPAC Ethics and Law Committee and the Local Research Ethics Committees. The study website contains details of all the data that is available through a fully searchable data dictionary and variable search tool: http://www.bristol.ac.uk/alspac/researchers/our-data . ALSPAC data is available to researchers through an online proposal system. Information regarding access can be found on the ALSPAC website (http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/alspac/documents/researchers/data-access/ALSPAC_Access_Policy.pdf).
BIB	Ethical approval for Born in Bradford was granted by the National Health Service Health Research Authority Yorkshire and the Humber (Bradford Leeds) Research Ethics Committee (reference: 16/YH/0320). Data from the various BiB family studies are available to researchers; see the study website for information on how to access data (https://borninbradford.nhs.uk/research/how-to-access-data/).
USOC	The University of Essex Ethics Committee has approved all data collection for the Understanding Society main study and COVID-19 waves. No additional ethical approval was necessary for this secondary data analysis. All data are available through the UK Data Service (SN 6614 and SN 8644).
ELSA	Waves 1-9 of ELSA were approved through the National Research Ethics Service, while the COVID-19 Sub-study was approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee. All participants provided informed consent. All data are available through the UK Data Service (SN 8688 and 5050).
GS	Generation Scotland obtained ethical approval from the East of Scotland Committee on Medical Research Ethics (on behalf of the National Health Service). Reference number 20/ES/0021. Access to data is approved by the Generation Scotland Access Committee. See https://www.ed.ac.uk/generation-scotland/for-researchers/access or email access@generationscotland.org for further details.
TWINSUK	All wave of TwinsUK have received ethical approval associated with TwinsUK Biobank (19/NW/0187), TwinsUK (EC04/015) or Healthy Ageing Twin Study (H.A.T.S) (07/H0802/84) studies from NHS Research Ethics Committees at the Department of Twin Research and Genetic Epidemiology, King's College London. The TwinsUK Resource Executive Committee (TREC) oversees management, data sharing and collaborations involving the TwinsUK registry (for further details see https://twinsuk.ac.uk/resources-for-researchers/access-our-data/).

Supplementary Table S3. Percentage of USOC respondents who had reported specific disruptions at any point April – November 2020

Percentage of USOC respondents who had reported specific disruptions at any point up to and including the survey in...						
	April	May	June	July	September	November
Prescription/ medication access	2.4	3.3	3.9	4.4	4.7	5.5
Procedures or surgery	7.1	9.1	10.1	11.0	11.6	12.3
Appointments	18.5	22.2	24.0	25.1	26.3	28.4

Supplementary Table S4. Percent prevalence of any healthcare disruptions by selected characteristics and study

		<i>MCS</i>	<i>ALSPAC (G1)</i>	<i>NS</i>	<i>BCS70</i>	<i>NCDS</i>	<i>NSHD</i>	<i>BIB</i>	<i>USOC</i>	<i>GS</i>	<i>ALSPAC (G0)</i>	<i>TWINS UK</i>	<i>ELSA</i>
Sex	<i>Male</i>	6.1	12.8	12.1	11.7	15.6	14.5	NA	29.4	24.9	18.1	7.4	17.5
	<i>Female</i>	14.1	17.5	13.8	16.9	17.4	18.2	9.4	34.0	25.5	20.5	8.5	21.3
Age	<i>16-24</i>	10.1						8.2	18.3	NA	NA	10	NA
	<i>25-34</i>		15.9	12.8				10.4	24.0	22.9	NA	7.7	NA
	<i>35-44</i>							9.1	24.9	23.0	NA	13.2	NA
	<i>45-54</i>				14.3			8.7	30.9	24.2	21.3	13.9	13.0
	<i>55-64</i>					16.7		--	38.6	25.2	19.2	21.6	17.2
	<i>65-74</i>						16.4	--	43.6	26.8	21.8	31.4	20.0
	<i>75+</i>							--	45.6	29.2	30.6	9.2	25.5
Ethnicity	<i>White</i>	10.0	16.1	13.3	--	--	--	7.8	31.9	25.4	19.9	8.3	19.5
	<i>South Asian</i>	6.6	NA	8.4	--	--	--	10.6	25.4	20.0	NA	5.1	22.9
	<i>Other Asian</i>	NA	NA	NA	--	--	--	NA	37.5	27.4	NA	11.1	NA
	<i>Black</i>	7.7	NA	18.8	--	--	--	5.9	35.8	19.0	NA	11.5	21.7
	<i>Mixed</i>	23.5	NA	11.1	--	--	--	8.3	27.7	22.9	NA	10	15.5
	<i>Other</i>	11.1	NA	4.2	--	--	--	8.5	30.2	28.6	NA	9.1	NA
	<i>All ethnic Minorities</i>	10.6	9.0	10.7	--	--	--	10.3	30.4	23.6	19.6	8.3	21.1
Education	<i>Higher Ed</i>	11.2	16.9	14.0	14.5	16.8	16.03	9.0	29.7	23.3	19.4	9.9	16.9
	<i>A-level</i>	14.8	14.4	10.5	15.5	14.0	22.67	9.2	27.0	26.7	20.0	10.3	20.5
	<i>GCSE</i>	6.3	18.1	11.3	12.0	17.6	15.6	9.0	31.3	29.3	17.8	9.2	17.4
	<i><GCSE/None</i>	6.2	12.4	14.5	15.5	17.2	16.3	9.1	39.0	27.8	23.9	6.1	22.4
Social Class	<i>Managerial/ Admin/ Professional</i>	11.6	16.4	11.1	12.6	12.7	17.0	9.7	25.7	24.3	16.4	-	18.3
	<i>Intermediate</i>	8.5	15.2	12.7	15.3	12.6	15.5	9.0	27.2	25.7	21.3	-	19.5
	<i>Manual/Routine</i>	11.2	16.7	11.6	11.6	13.6	18.6	9.3	27.6	25.6	19.6	-	23.4
	<i>Other</i>	6.0	0	18.0	19.3	21.1	0	11.8	42.6	51.9	20.0	-	16.6
Not Instructed to Shield		9.0	--	12.0	12.4	14.6	16.7	--	29.6	23.9	--	8.9	16.2
Instructed to Shield		47.5	--	44.3	49.4	41.9	28.4	--	61.0	42.0	--	15.3	35.5

Sources: MCS (Millennium Cohort Study); ALSPAC G1 (Children of the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children); NS (Next Steps); BCS 70 (1970 British Cohort Study), NCDS (National Child Development Study); NSHD (National Survey of Health and Development); BIB (Born in Bradford); ; USOC (Understanding Society); GS (Generation Scotland: the Scottish Family Health Study); ALSPAC G0 (parents of ALSPAC); TWINS UK (UK Adult Twin Registry); ELSA (English Longitudinal Study of Ageing). Notes: Samples for each study restricted to respondents with non-missing information on healthcare disruptions and valid information on sex, social class, education and (where applicable) age and ethnicity. All information about how information was collected and variables were coded is available in Supplementary File 1. NA= Not available; (--)= Info not collected. Weighted data where applicable