



# Investigating equality of outdoor access in Scotland using SHS data

SHS and SHCS User Day , 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

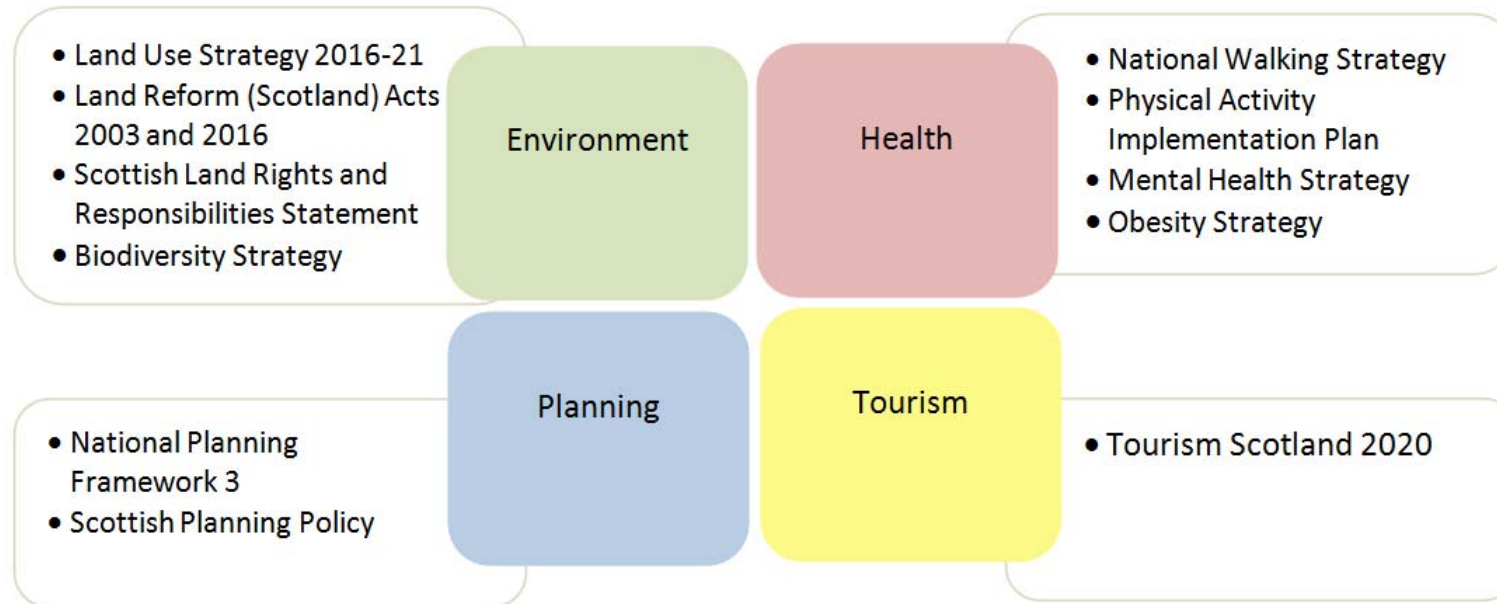
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# Use of the outdoors in Scotland



- Outdoor access - cross-sectoral policy relevance
- National indicator: Increase people's use of Scotland's outdoors (48.5% visited at least once a week in 2016)
- Health and wellbeing benefits associated with outdoor recreation



# Equality issues in outdoor access

- Equality Act Protected characteristics in SHS
  - Age ✓
  - Disability ✓
  - Sex ✓
  - Race ✓
  - Religion or belief ✓
  - Pregnancy and maternity ✗
  - Marriage and civil partnership ✓
  - Sexual orientation ✓
  - Gender reassignment ✗
- Public Sector Equalities Duties
- Reducing inequalities between socio-economic groups, between urban and rural areas



# Research questions

1. Are there statistically significant **differences between population subgroups** in terms of the proportion of people using the outdoors at least once a week?
2. If so, are these differences explained by **geographic/area-level factors** (i.e. area deprivation and urban-rural classification)?
3. To what extent do **other individual characteristics** (e.g. education, employment status, household composition, perceptions of the local area) explain frequency of visits to the outdoors?



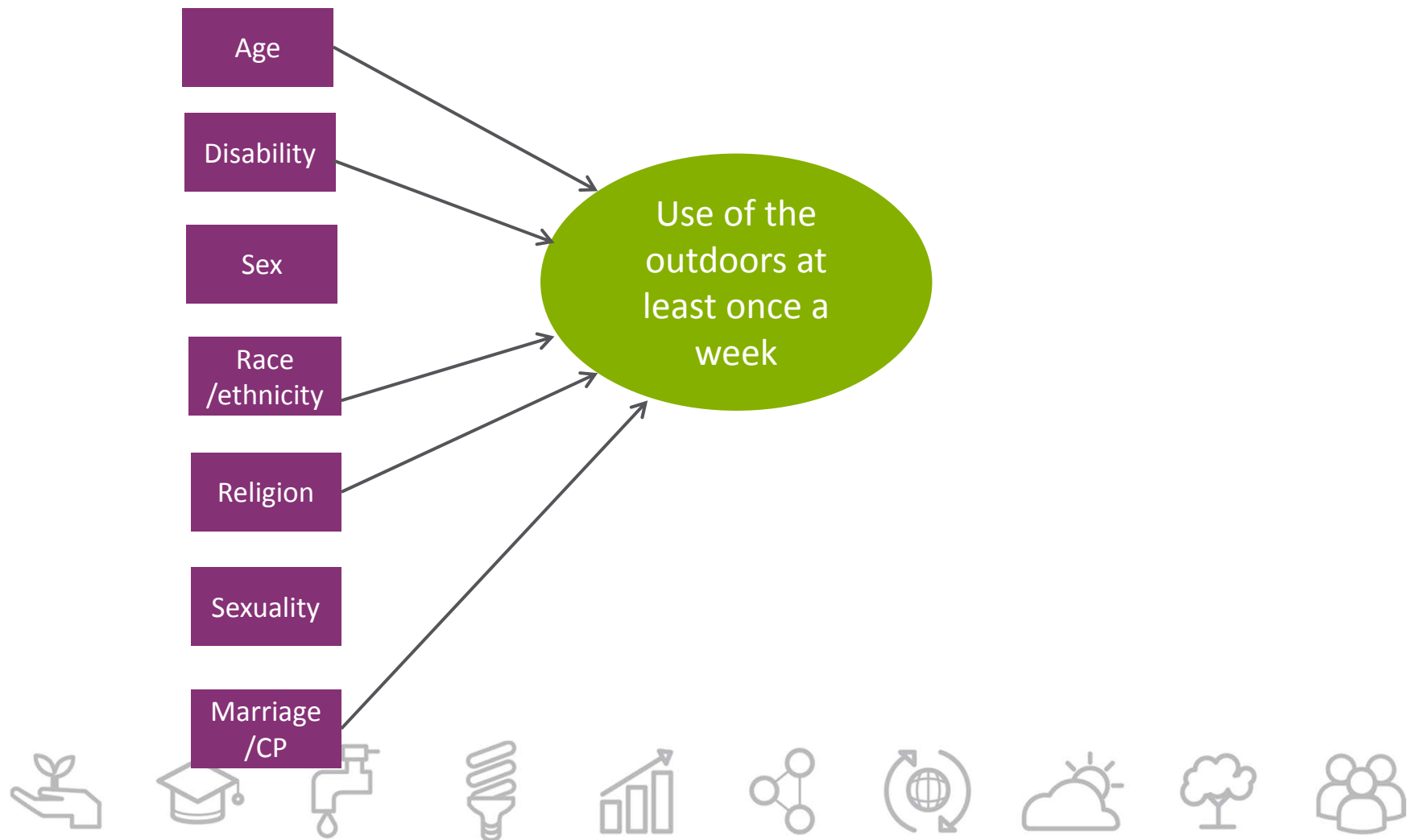
# Methods

- Data: Scottish Household Survey random adult (N=>9000); 2014 and 2016
- Statistical modelling: Hierarchical logistic regression analysis (models run separately for 2014 and 2016 data)
- Dependent variable: **Use of the outdoors at least once a week.**



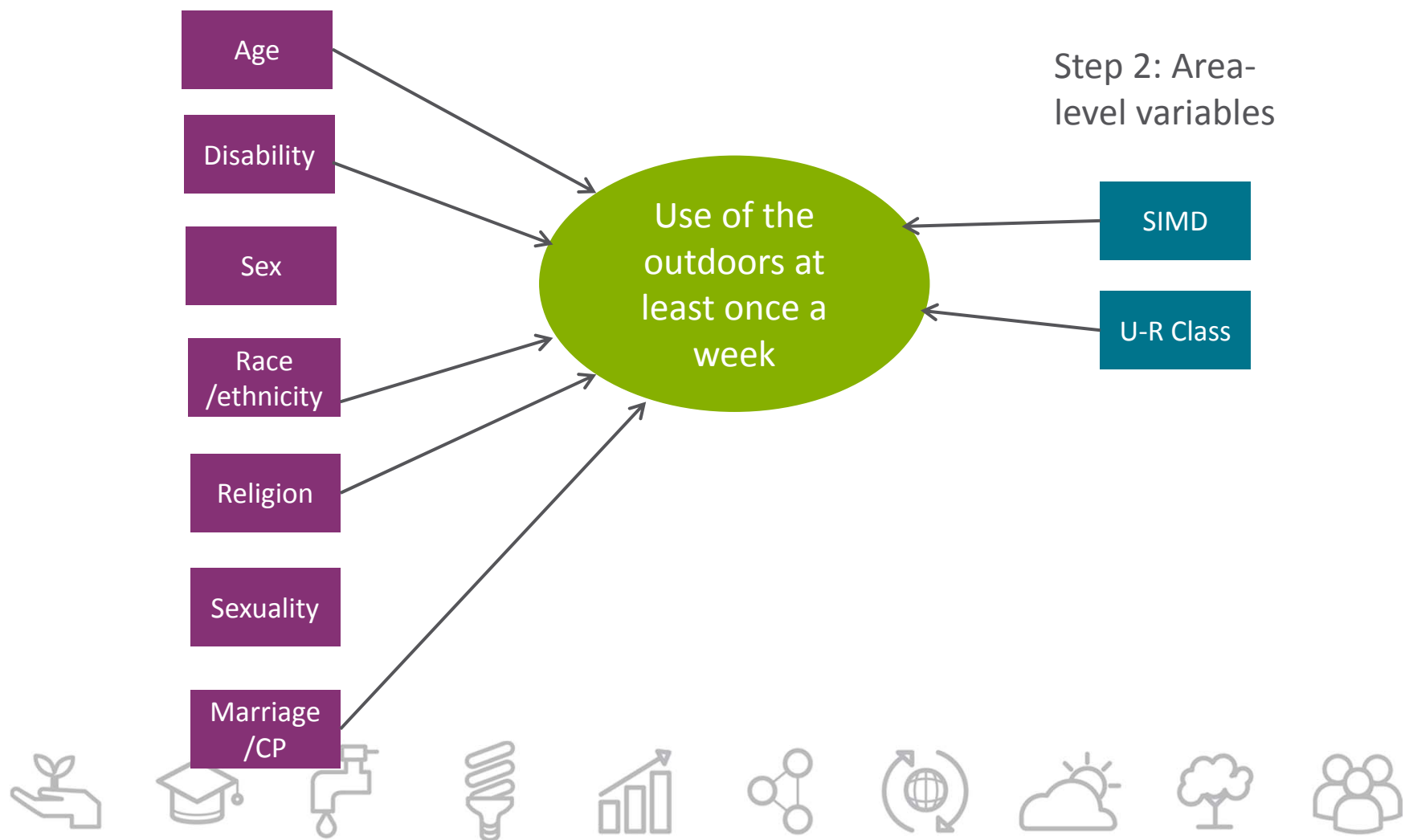
# Model results (2016)

Step 1: Individual level variables



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Step 1: Individual level variables



# Key messages

- Opportunities to investigate equality issues with SHS data
- Value in analysing multiple years of data (single cross-section might be misleading)
- Modelling behaviour with the SHS – Breadth of topics in random adult survey offers lots of scope for investigating how well different factors predict certain behaviours
- SHS is source of many policy indicators – analyses focusing on these outcomes may be of particular interest to policymakers.





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