Figure 1.1 indicates that the more educationally successful a young person is at age 22, the less likely he or she was, or is, or will become, a regular smoker. This pattern of findings is robust across three sets of cohorts spanning ages 14 to 40 and covering the last quarter century—a period during which overall smoking rates changed and levels of educational attainment rose substantially.

Figure 1.1b. Percentage reporting any daily smoking in the last 30 days by academic attainment at modal ages 21–22: females.