

1 **Accelerometer epoch setting is decisive for associations between physical activity and metabolic**  
2 **health in children**

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13 **Running head**

14 Accelerometer epoch and metabolic health

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27 **Abstract**

28 When analyzing physical activity (PA) levels using accelerometry, the epoch setting is critical to  
29 capture intensity-specific PA correctly. The aim of the present study was to investigate the PA  
30 intensity signatures related to metabolic health in children using different epoch settings. A sample  
31 of 841 Norwegian children (age  $10.2 \pm 0.3$  years; BMI  $18.0 \pm 3.0$ ; 50% boys) provided data on  
32 accelerometry (ActiGraph GT3X+) and several indices of metabolic health (aerobic fitness, abdominal  
33 fatness, insulin sensitivity, lipid metabolism, blood pressure) that were used to create a composite  
34 metabolic health score. We created intensity spectra from 0–99 to  $\geq 10000$  counts per minute (cpm)  
35 for files aggregated using 1, 10, and 60-second epoch periods and used multivariate pattern analysis  
36 to analyze the data. The association patterns with metabolic health differed substantially between  
37 epoch settings. The intensity intervals most strongly associated with metabolic health were 7000–  
38 8000 cpm for data analyzed using 1-second epoch, 5500–6500 cpm for data analyzed using 10-  
39 second epoch, and 4000–5000 cpm analyzed using 60-second epoch. Aggregation of data over  
40 different epoch periods has a clear impact on how PA intensities in the moderate and vigorous range  
41 are associated with childhood metabolic health.

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43

44 **Keywords**

45 Multivariate analysis; Risk factors; Child; Accelerometry; Intensity

## 46 Introduction

47 Moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA) has consistently been associated with metabolic  
48 health outcomes in childhood <sup>1-3</sup>. Because clustering of risk factors for cardiovascular disease is  
49 evident already in childhood <sup>4</sup>, and tracks into adulthood <sup>5</sup>, knowledge of how physical activity (PA)  
50 and particularly how different intensities of PA relates to metabolic health in children is needed.  
51 However, the evidence for the association between intensity-specific PA and metabolic health is  
52 limited by several analytic challenges. First, restricting exposure variables to MVPA and sedentary  
53 time (SED) <sup>2</sup>, probably to avoid collinearity, causes a loss of information, increases susceptibility to  
54 residual confounding, and ignores the possible influence of other PA intensities on health outcomes  
55 (i.e., light (LPA), moderate (MPA), vigorous (VPA), and very vigorous intensity PA) <sup>2 3 6</sup>. Second, what  
56 kind of activities and which intensities are captured as MVPA by accelerometry depends on the data  
57 reduction algorithms and scoring protocols applied, which leads to confusion in interpreting results  
58 from studies using different methodology <sup>7 8</sup>. Specifically, the choice of epoch durations used to  
59 aggregate data and the choice of cut points used to score data have a profound influence on the  
60 resulting levels of intensity-specific PA <sup>9 10</sup>.

61 Children's PA is characterized by sporadic and intermittent bursts of PA generally lasting less than 10  
62 seconds <sup>11-14</sup>. Because the vast majority of bouts in the light to vigorous intensity range has a duration  
63 of only some few seconds when analyzed at 1-second epoch <sup>13 14</sup>, summation of PA over longer  
64 epochs leads to loss of time spent in the lower and higher end of the intensity spectrum, as these  
65 intensities are averaged over a long period. Thus, SED, VPA, and MVPA are consistently  
66 underestimated and LPA overestimated, when epoch duration increases from 1 to 60 seconds <sup>9 10 13-</sup>  
67 <sup>17</sup>, suggesting that short epoch settings are recommended to capture PA correctly. Furthermore,  
68 MPA is less affected than VPA <sup>9 10 15 17</sup> or show a pattern contrary to VPA <sup>10 13 16</sup>, when aggregating  
69 data over longer epochs. These effects mask the specific levels, and thus health influence of VPA,  
70 when summing these intensities into MVPA. The influence of epoch settings on PA levels also  
71 depends on the applied PA intensity cut points, because the specific effect of averaging PA intensities  
72 over epochs will differ according to the intensity levels captured <sup>9 10</sup>. Thus, both epoch durations, cut  
73 points, and their interaction will determine levels of intensity-specific PA. The chosen accelerometer  
74 data reduction and scoring protocols therefore likely impact which PA intensities that are revealed as  
75 important to metabolic health.

76 Consistent with studies that have recommended inclusion of the whole intensity spectrum when  
77 analyzing PA data <sup>3 6</sup>, we have recently used multivariate pattern analysis <sup>18 19</sup>, which solves the  
78 collinearity problem related to accelerometer data <sup>20</sup>, to determine the PA signature associated with

79 metabolic health in childhood <sup>14 21</sup>. In one study we analyzed the intensity spectrum from 0–100 to ≥  
80 8000 counts per minute (cpm) and found that the variance in metabolic health outcomes were  
81 mainly explained by VPA and to a lesser extent MPA <sup>21</sup>. However, a limitation of these findings is that  
82 we only analyzed data using a 10-second epoch duration. In another study, however, we evaluated  
83 associations for bouts of PA with metabolic health, and observed a strong dependence on epoch  
84 setting <sup>14</sup>. Both PA in bouts and total PA levels appears to be misclassified by the use of longer epoch  
85 durations compared to shorter, because short bursts of PA are accumulated and averaged over  
86 longer periods, leading to an overestimation of time spent in longer bouts and intermediate  
87 intensities. Furthermore, our findings suggest associations between MPA and metabolic health are  
88 spuriously high when data are analyzed using longer epochs, caused by misclassification of VPA as  
89 MPA when averaging PA over longer durations <sup>14</sup>. These findings <sup>14 21</sup> challenge previous studies and  
90 recommendations <sup>1-3 22</sup> concluding that children should spend time in MPA to improve their  
91 metabolic health, and show that a conscious use of epoch settings is fundamental to our analysis and  
92 understanding of how PA is related to health.

93 Therefore, we aimed to extend our previous analyses <sup>14 21</sup>, using the novel analytic technique of  
94 multivariate pattern analysis, to determine the impact of different epoch settings (1, 10, and 60-  
95 second epoch) on the PA intensity signature associated with metabolic health in children.

96

## 97 **Methods and materials**

### 98 **Participants**

99 The present study uses baseline data obtained from fifth-grade children in the Active Smarter Kids  
100 (ASK) cluster-randomized controlled trial, conducted in Norway during 2014–2015 <sup>23 24</sup>. Sixty schools,  
101 encompassing 1202 fifth-grade children, fulfilled the inclusion criteria, and agreed to participate. This  
102 sample represented 86.2% of the population of 10-year-olds in the county, and 95.2% of those  
103 eligible for recruitment. Later, three schools encompassing a total of 27 fifth-grade children declined  
104 to participate. Thus, 1145 (97.4%) of 1175 available children from 57 schools agreed to participate in  
105 the study.

106 Our procedures and methods conform to ethical guidelines defined by the World Medical  
107 Association's Declaration of Helsinki and its subsequent revisions. The South-East Regional  
108 Committee for Medical Research Ethics in Norway approved the study protocol. We obtained written  
109 informed consent from each child's parents or legal guardian and from the responsible school

110 authorities prior to all testing. The study is registered in Clinicaltrials.gov with identification number:  
111 NCT02132494.

112

113 Procedures

114 We have previously published a detailed description of the study <sup>23</sup>, and therefore provide only a  
115 brief overview of the relevant procedures herein.

116

117 *Physical activity*

118 PA was measured using the ActiGraph GT3X+ accelerometer (Pensacola, FL, USA) <sup>25</sup>. Participants  
119 were instructed to wear the accelerometer at the waist at all times over seven consecutive days,  
120 except during water activities (swimming, showering) or while sleeping. Units were initialized at a  
121 sampling rate of 30 Hz. Files were analyzed at 1, 10 and 60-second epochs using the KineSoft  
122 analytical software version 3.3.80 (KineSoft, Loughborough, UK). Data were restricted to hours 06:00  
123 to 23:59. In all analyses, consecutive periods of  $\geq 60$  minutes of zero counts were defined as non-  
124 wear time <sup>26</sup>. We applied wear time requirements of  $\geq 8$  hours/day and  $\geq 4$  days/week to constitute a  
125 valid measurement <sup>27</sup>.

126 We created 23 PA variables of total time (min/day) to capture movement in narrow intensity  
127 intervals throughout the spectrum, from 0–99 to  $\geq 10000$  cpm. For the purpose of reporting  
128 descriptive statistics, we used the Evenson cut points of 0–99, 100–2295, 2296–4011,  $\geq 4012$ , and  $\geq$   
129 2296 cpm for SED, LPA, MPA, VPA, and MVPA <sup>28,29</sup>, respectively. We also reported achievement of the  
130 guideline PA level (mean of  $\geq 60$  min MVPA/day).

131

132 *Metabolic health measures*

133 Aerobic fitness was measured with the Andersen intermittent running test, which has demonstrated  
134 acceptable reliability and validity in 10-year-old children <sup>30</sup>. Children ran as long as possible in a to-  
135 and-fro movement on a 20-meter track, with 15-second work periods and 15-second breaks, for a  
136 total duration of 10 minutes. Body mass was measured using an electronic scale (Seca 899, SECA  
137 GmbH, Hamburg, Germany) with children wearing light clothing. Height was measured using a  
138 portable Seca 217 (SECA GmbH, Hamburg, Germany). Body mass index (BMI) ( $\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$ ) was  
139 calculated. Waist circumference was measured with a Seca 201 (SECA GmbH, Hamburg, Germany)

140 ergonomic circumference measuring tape two cm over the level of the umbilicus. Systolic (SBP) and  
141 diastolic blood pressures were measured using the Omron HBP-1300 automated blood pressure  
142 monitor (Omron Healthcare, Inc, Vernon Hills, IL, US). Children rested quietly for ten minutes in a  
143 sitting position with no distractions before blood pressures was measured four times; we used the  
144 mean of the last three measurements for analyses. Serum blood samples were collected from the  
145 children's antecubital vein between 08:00 and 10:00 in the morning after an overnight fast. All blood  
146 samples were analyzed for total cholesterol (TC), triglyceride (TG), high-density lipoprotein  
147 cholesterol (HDL), glucose, and insulin at the accredited Endocrine Laboratory of the VU Medical  
148 Center (VUmc; Amsterdam, the Netherlands). Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL) was  
149 estimated using the Friedewald formula <sup>31</sup>. We calculated the TC:HDL ratio and homeostasis model  
150 assessment (HOMA) ( $\text{glucose (mmol/L)} * \text{insulin (pmol/L)} / 22.5$ ) <sup>32</sup>.

151 We calculated a composite score as the mean of six variables (SBP, TG, TC:HDL ratio, HOMA, waist  
152 circumference:height ratio, and aerobic fitness) by averaging standardized scores after adjustment  
153 for sex and age. A similar approach have been used previously <sup>33</sup>.

154

155 Statistical analyses

156 Children's characteristics were reported as frequencies, means, and standard deviations (SD). We  
157 tested for differences in characteristics between boys and girls, as well as between included and  
158 excluded children, using a linear mixed model to account for the clustering among schools. Models  
159 for PA were adjusted for wear time.

160 Associations between PA intensities and metabolic risk were determined using Pearson's correlation  
161 coefficient (r) and multivariate pattern analysis, as previously described <sup>21</sup>. Partial least squares (PLS)  
162 regression analyses <sup>20</sup> were used to determine the multivariate PA association pattern with the  
163 composite metabolic health score, including all standardized PA variables as explanatory variables.  
164 Through decomposing the explanatory variables into orthogonal linear combinations (PLS  
165 components), while simultaneously maximizing the covariance with the outcome variable, PLS  
166 regression can handle collinear variables <sup>20</sup>. Monte Carlo resampling <sup>34</sup> with 100 repetitions was used  
167 to select the number of PLS components optimizing the predictive performance of the models by  
168 randomly keeping 50% of the subjects as an external validation set. For each cross-validated PLS  
169 regression model, a single predictive component was calculated by means of target projection,  
170 expressing all the predictive variance in the PA variables related to the metabolic response variable in  
171 a single vector <sup>18 35</sup>. Selectivity ratios (SRs) were obtained as the ratio of this explained predictive

172 variance to the residual variance for each PA variable<sup>36 37</sup>. The results are shown in an SR plot, which  
173 quantitatively display the PA variables' importance for metabolic health. We compared the  
174 association patterns related to metabolic health between boys and girls, by correlating the variable  
175 loadings from the separate multivariate models using Pearson's r. Adjustment for wear time in these  
176 models did not change any findings<sup>21</sup>, thus, unadjusted models are reported.

177 Multivariate pattern analyses were performed using the commercial software Sirius version 11.0  
178 (Pattern Recognition Systems AS, Bergen, Norway).

179

## 180 **Results**

### 181 Children's characteristics

182 We included 841 children (50% boys) who provided valid data on all relevant variables (Table 1 and  
183 Table 2). Total time spent in SED, LPA, and VPA differed greatly between the epoch settings, while  
184 the influence of epoch setting was minor for overall PA and moderate for MPA and MVPA. In the  
185 total sample, SED and VPA increased substantially, whereas LPA decreased substantially, when data  
186 were analyzed using shorter epochs. Moreover, the number of children achieving the guideline  
187 amount of MVPA differed substantially between epoch settings. Time spent in the 23 PA intensity  
188 intervals (0–99 to  $\geq 10000$  cpm) across epoch setting is shown in Supplemental Table 1.

189 The children included in the present analyses did not differ from the excluded children ( $n = 288$ , 57%  
190 boys) with respect to age ( $p \geq .689$ ) or anthropometry ( $p \geq .166$ ). Yet, the included children  
191 performed better on the Andersen test ( $p < .001$ ), had lower fasting insulin concentrations ( $p = .001$ )  
192 and HOMA scores ( $p = .002$ ), exhibited less SED time ( $p = .002$ ), and spent more time in PA ( $p \leq .031$ )  
193 than the excluded children.

194

### 195 Associations between physical activity intensity and metabolic health

196 The explained variance in models of metabolic health improved when epoch durations decreased (1-  
197 second epoch:  $R^2 = 17.0\%$ ; 10-second epoch:  $R^2 = 13.4\%$ ; 60-second epoch:  $R^2 = 10.8\%$ ). Furthermore,  
198 the multivariate association patterns with metabolic health differed between the epoch settings  
199 (Figure 1) (bivariate correlations are shown in Table 3): The intensities most strongly associated with  
200 metabolic health were 7000–8000 cpm for data analyzed using 1-second epoch, 5500–6500 cpm for  
201 data analyzed using 10-second epoch, and 4000–5000 cpm analyzed using 60-second epoch. Thus,

202 the association patterns were skewed towards lower intensities when using longer compared to  
203 shorter epoch durations. Consistent with this finding, associations with metabolic health for  
204 moderate intensities (2000–4000 cpm) were evident for data analyzed using 60-second epoch,  
205 whereas these associations weakened substantially when using shorter epoch durations. The lowest  
206 intensity range associated with metabolic health was 2000-2499, 2499-2999, and 3000-3499 cpm for  
207 60-, 10-, and 1-second epochs, respectively. SED was weakly positively associated with metabolic  
208 health using all epoch settings in the bivariate analyses. However, SED and LPA were not associated  
209 with metabolic health using any epoch setting in the multivariate pattern analysis.

210 The association patterns were similar for boys ( $R^2 = 16.2\%$ ) and girls ( $R^2 = 17.3\%$ ) ( $r$  for pattern of  
211 variable loading for boys and girls = 0.80,  $p < .001$ ).

212

## 213 **Discussion**

214 Current evidence and PA guidelines recommend that children engage in MVPA to improve metabolic  
215 health<sup>1-3,22</sup>. However, whereas the association with health for accelerometer-derived MPA is clearly  
216 evident when using a 60-second epoch setting, our findings suggest that MPA is only weakly  
217 associated with health when using a 1-second epoch setting, that is, an epoch setting with a  
218 sufficient resolution to capture VPA accurately. These results challenge researchers' understanding of  
219 how PA is accrued, how accelerometer data should be handled optimally, as well as the prevailing PA  
220 guidelines.

221 To handle a high number of strongly correlated intensity variables from accelerometry, we  
222 investigated the multivariate PA signature associated with metabolic health in children by means of  
223 multivariate pattern analyses. Extending on our previous findings<sup>14,21</sup>, we show herein the PA  
224 intensity signature associated with metabolic health using 3 different epoch settings. Consistent with  
225 previous studies<sup>9,10,13,15-17</sup>, we found that a short epoch setting is needed to capture VPA correctly in  
226 children. Using a longer epoch setting will cause averaging of VPA over longer periods, thus, VPA will  
227 be partially captured as MPA. The consequence of this misclassification is a spuriously strong  
228 association between MPA and metabolic health. When using a 60-second vs. a 1-second epoch  
229 setting, the PA intensity signature associated with metabolic health is substantially left-skewed; the  
230 strongest associations with metabolic health was found for 7000-8000 cpm vs. 4000-5000 cpm,  
231 respectively. Nevertheless, consistent with current evidence<sup>3</sup>, our findings, irrespective of epoch  
232 setting, provide further support for encouraging PA of vigorous effort to improve childhood  
233 metabolic health.



234 The implication of our findings may be straight-forward: when researchers analyze their  
235 accelerometer data, the PA intensities of interest (if not analyzing the full intensity specter) must  
236 reflect the chosen epoch setting. Because the dataset underlying the current analyses are identical  
237 for the different epoch settings, the activities performed and their intensity, duration, and frequency  
238 is obviously similar across the analyses. The single difference is therefore how these activities are  
239 captured by the different aggregation methods. Highly intermittent team sports like football,  
240 handball, and basketball will probably be captured very differently across epoch settings. For  
241 example basketball, having a mean cpm of approximately 2400-2500 in lab-based calibration trials <sup>28</sup>  
242 <sup>29</sup>, might be captured solely as MPA using a 60-second epoch setting, but be captured partly as SED,  
243 LPA, MPA, and VPA using a 1-second epoch setting. Considering the sporadic nature of children's PA,  
244 a similar effect might be expected for activities like running, although running could be regarded as a  
245 continuous activity in adults. This epoch effect might further complicate the choice and  
246 interpretation of intensity cut points. To the best of our knowledge, however, no calibration studies  
247 have directly compared equations and cut points between epoch settings. Of major importance,  
248 though, average activity counts of activities used for the purpose of calibration will probably not  
249 capture differences in intensity-specific PA, because such trials average cpm over a period of several  
250 minutes. Nevertheless, the PA intensity signatures presented herein partly circumvent the cut point  
251 challenge by showing how intensity profiles associates with metabolic health. Still, knowledge of the  
252 underlying activities and their metabolic demand are needed to translate our findings into PA  
253 guidelines.

254 As argued above, it might seem like the choice of epoch setting for analysis is a matter of taste, as far  
255 as the interpretation of the findings is adjusted accordingly. However, the explained variance of 17.0,  
256 13.4, and 10.8% for the 1, 10, and 60-second epoch setting clearly illustrates that aggregation of PA  
257 over shorter periods are superior to longer periods, as association patterns become stronger. Thus,  
258 shorter epochs are able to capture relevant information about the children's PA, in relation to health,  
259 that longer epochs are not. This finding is consistent with previous findings that show strong  
260 associations with metabolic health for very short (2-10 seconds) and short (10-40 seconds) bouts of  
261 VPA when data is analyzed at 1 and 10-second epoch, respectively <sup>14</sup>. These findings collectively  
262 indicate that every second of VPA counts.

263 As discussed above, a misclassification of VPA as MPA when using longer versus shorter epochs leads  
264 to a skew in the association pattern for different intensities with metabolic health. In addition, the  
265 misclassification of MVPA versus lower intensities leads to different proportions of children achieving  
266 the guideline amount of PA. Herein, we show that while 74% achieved the recommended PA level of  
267 60 min/day of MVPA using 1-second epochs, only 52% reached this level using 60-second epochs

268 (mean MVPA 76 vs. 65 min/day, respectively). However, this effect will depend on the intensity cut  
269 points<sup>9,10</sup>, because time spent in intermediate intensities (LPA and MPA) will depend on  
270 misclassification of both lower and higher intensities, as opposed to the extreme categories (SED and  
271 VPA). As shown herein, while VPA was 86% higher (39 vs. 21 min/day) for a 1-second epoch setting,  
272 MPA was 22% lower. Still, in sum, MVPA was 17% higher using a 1-second compared to a 60-second  
273 epoch setting. Hence, these findings clearly illustrate that the epoch setting is decisive for  
274 determining both PA levels and associations with other outcomes, and adds to the existing  
275 complexity of data reduction of accelerometry<sup>7,8</sup>. A practical implication is that levels of MVPA, if  
276 accepting that a 1-second epoch setting is the favorable choice, has been underestimated in most  
277 previous studies as the majority of studies in children and adolescents have used 10- to 60-second  
278 epochs<sup>7,8</sup>. This underestimation also apply to the International Children's Accelerometry Database  
279 (ICAD), which synthesize existing evidence that mainly have applied long epochs because of former  
280 memory limitations of accelerometry<sup>38</sup>. However, PA levels in children and youth is still insufficient  
281 for optimal health and development, which calls for global actions of PA promotion. Such efforts may  
282 particularly benefit girls, who are consistently found to exhibit lower PA levels than boys<sup>38</sup>.  
283 Importantly, we found that the association patterns were similar for boys and girls, which suggests  
284 the health-enhancing effects of PA are independent of sex.

285

## 286 Strengths and limitations

287 The main strength of the present study is the use of multivariate pattern analysis, a novel statistical  
288 approach, which allows simultaneously modeling the whole intensity spectra of PA. The use of these  
289 intensity spectra circumvent the challenge of choosing the right accelerometer intensity cut points  
290 that vary considerably between studies<sup>7</sup>, and which hamper the interpretation of results regarding  
291 the different PA intensities' importance for health. We argue that our findings is a breakthrough  
292 relating to the call for solving the collinearity problem accompanying the analysis of PA data. Thus, it  
293 has important implications for understanding and methodology in the field. Also, we included a  
294 moderate to large population-based sample, lending credit to the generalizability of the findings,  
295 despite our analysis indicated selective attrition. Despite recognizing this selection, we believe our  
296 differing findings using different epoch settings would apply to population samples of children  
297 participating in various physical and everyday activities.

298 Because our analyses were restricted to cross-sectional associations, as discussed previously<sup>21</sup>, a  
299 limitation is that we could not infer causality from our findings. Further limitations of the present  
300 study is the narrow age range of the children. Future studies should attempt to replicate our findings

301 using a similar analytic approach applied to data sets including children that are more heterogeneous  
302 in age.

303

#### 304 **Conclusion**

305 This study breaks new ground by using multivariate pattern analysis to investigate the PA signature  
306 of childhood metabolic health including the whole spectrum of PA intensities using 3 different epoch  
307 settings. We conclude that the association pattern associated with health differed substantially  
308 between epoch settings. The use of longer epoch settings caused a skew in association patterns  
309 towards lower intensities and lead to poorer models of childhood metabolic health compared to  
310 shorter epoch settings. Researchers need to be aware of these effects to make the best possible  
311 choice of epoch setting for analysis and make the appropriate interpretation of their findings. We  
312 recommend future studies use short epochs when analyzing accelerometry data in children in order  
313 to mirror their activity patterns and capture VPA correctly. We further recommend that studies adapt  
314 the present multivariate analytic approach to develop the field of PA epidemiology.

315

316

317 **Competing interests**

318 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

319

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439



440 **Figure Legend**

441 **Figure 1. The multivariate PA signature associated with a composite metabolic health score in**  
442 **children using different epoch settings displayed as a selectivity ratio plot.** Explained variance for  
443 the partial least squares regression was 17.0, 13.4, and 10.8% for data analyzed at 1, 10, and 60-  
444 second epoch periods adjusted for age and sex. The selectivity ratio for each variable is calculated as  
445 the ratio of explained to residual variance on the predictive (target projected) component. A negative  
446 bar implies that increased PA are associated with better metabolic health.

447

448 **Table 1.** Children’s characteristics for demography, anthropometry and metabolic health.

	Overall (n = 841)	Boys (n = 424)	Girls (n = 417)	p between groups
<b>Demography</b>				
Age (years)	10.2 (0.3)	10.2 (0.3)	10.2 (0.3)	.803
<b>Anthropometry</b>				
Body mass (kg)	37.0 (8.1)	36.8 (7.8)	37.2 (8.3)	.641
Height (cm)	142.9 (6.7)	143.1 (6.7)	142.6 (6.8)	.197
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	18.0 (3.0)	17.9 (2.9)	18.1 (3.1)	.218
Overweight and obese (%)	20.8	20.0	21.5	.583
Waist circumference (cm)	61.9 (7.5)	62.2 (7.3)	61.6 (7.7)	.169
Waist:height (ratio)	0.43 (0.05)	0.43 (0.05)	0.43 (0.05)	.322
<b>Indices of metabolic health</b>				
Andersen test (m)	898 (103)	925 (112)	871 (85)	< .001
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	105.2 (8.4)	105.3 (8.2)	105.2 (8.6)	.612
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	57.7 (6.2)	57.4 (6.0)	58.1 (6.3)	.180
Total cholesterol (mmol/l)	4.46 (0.69)	4.46 (0.70)	4.46 (0.68)	.976
LDL-cholesterol (mmol/l)	2.51 (0.64)	2.50 (0.65)	2.53 (0.62)	.570
HDL-cholesterol (mmol/l)	1.59 (0.35)	1.63 (0.34)	1.55 (0.35)	.001
Total:HDL-cholesterol (ratio)	2.91 (0.71)	2.82 (0.66)	2.99 (0.74)	.001
Triglyceride (mmol/l)	0.78 (0.38)	0.72 (0.31)	0.84 (0.42)	< .001
Glucose (mmol/l)	4.98 (0.32)	5.02 (0.31)	4.94 (0.33)	.001
Insulin (pmol/l)	7.91 (4.29)	7.05 (3.48)	8.33 (4.83)	< .001
HOMA (index)	1.71 (0.98)	1.54 (0.83)	1.89 (1.09)	< .001
Composite score (1SD)*	0.00 (1.00)	0.00 (0.93)	0.00 (1.07)	-

449 BMI = body mass index; LDL = low density lipoprotein; HDL = high density lipoprotein; HOMA = homeostasis  
 450 model assessment; \*The composite score includes waist circumference, systolic blood pressure, total:HDL  
 451 ratio, triglycerides, HOMA, and the Andersen test.

452

453

454 **Table 2.** Physical activity levels (mean (SD)) by epoch setting.

	<b>1-second epoch</b>	<b>10-second epoch</b>	<b>60-second epoch</b>
Wear time (min/day)	795 (56)	795 (56)	796 (57)
Overall PA (cpm)	708 (272)	707 (271)	705 (269)
SED (min/day)	597 (56)	490 (60)	390 (64)
LPA (min/day)	122 (22)	231 (38)	340 (54)
MPA (min/day)	37 (10)	44 (13)	45 (17)
VPA (min/day)	39 (15)	31 (16)	21 (16)
MVPA (min/day)	76 (23)	74 (25)	65 (28)
Guideline amount (%)	74	69	52

455 PA = physical activity; SED = sedentary time; LPA = light physical activity, MPA = moderate physical activity; VPA  
 456 = vigorous physical activity; MVPA = moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. Intensity-specific PA is calculated  
 457 using the Evenson cut points<sup>28</sup>; The guideline PA levels is defined as a mean of  $\geq 60$  min of MVPA per day.

458

459 **Table 3. Correlations (Pearson's r) for PA intensity intervals with metabolic health, adjusted for age and sex.**

Physical activity intensity (cpm)	1-second epoch	10-second epoch	60-second epoch
0-99	0.07	0.09	0.10
100-249	-0.03	0.01	0.01
250-499	-0.01	0.03	0.08
500-999	0.02	0.03	0.04
1000-1499	0.04	0.00	-0.01
1500-1999	0.03	-0.02	-0.06
2000-2499	0.00	-0.05	-0.15
2500-2999	-0.04	-0.11	-0.21
3000-3499	-0.10	-0.17	-0.27
3500-3999	-0.15	-0.23	-0.29
4000-4499	-0.19	-0.26	-0.31
4500-4999	-0.22	-0.30	-0.30
5000-5499	-0.26	-0.33	-0.27
5500-5999	-0.29	-0.33	-0.24
6000-6499	-0.32	-0.35	-0.19
6500-6999	-0.33	-0.33	-0.18
7000-7499	-0.33	-0.30	-0.10
7500-7999	-0.34	-0.27	-0.09
8000-8499	-0.33	-0.24	-0.11
8500-8999	-0.31	-0.23	-0.07
9000-9499	-0.31	-0.18	-0.06
9500-9999	-0.29	-0.17	-0.04
≥ 10000	-0.14	-0.08	-0.06

460 Associations  $\leq -.07$  and  $\geq .07$  are significant at  $p < .05$  without adjustment for multiple comparisons.

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