

The role of physical activity in prevention and recovery from COVID-19 and the measures introduced to address the pandemic

Professor Nanette Mutrie - 5 minutes- introduction

Professor Sebastien Chastin - 10 minutes – immune function

Dr Paul Kelly - 10 minutes – physical activity

Dr Claire Fitzsimons 10 mins – sedentary behaviour

Questions and discussion – 20 minutes

Physical Activity for Health Research Centre (PAHRC)

Aim

to develop, test and implement interventions which encourage people of all ages to sit less and move more

Key Research Themes

1. The promotion of walking & cycling
2. The investigation of sedentary behaviour
3. Physical activity amongst key 'at risk' groups
4. Measurement & Surveillance
5. Communication of key messages
6. Evaluation



Cycling Scotland

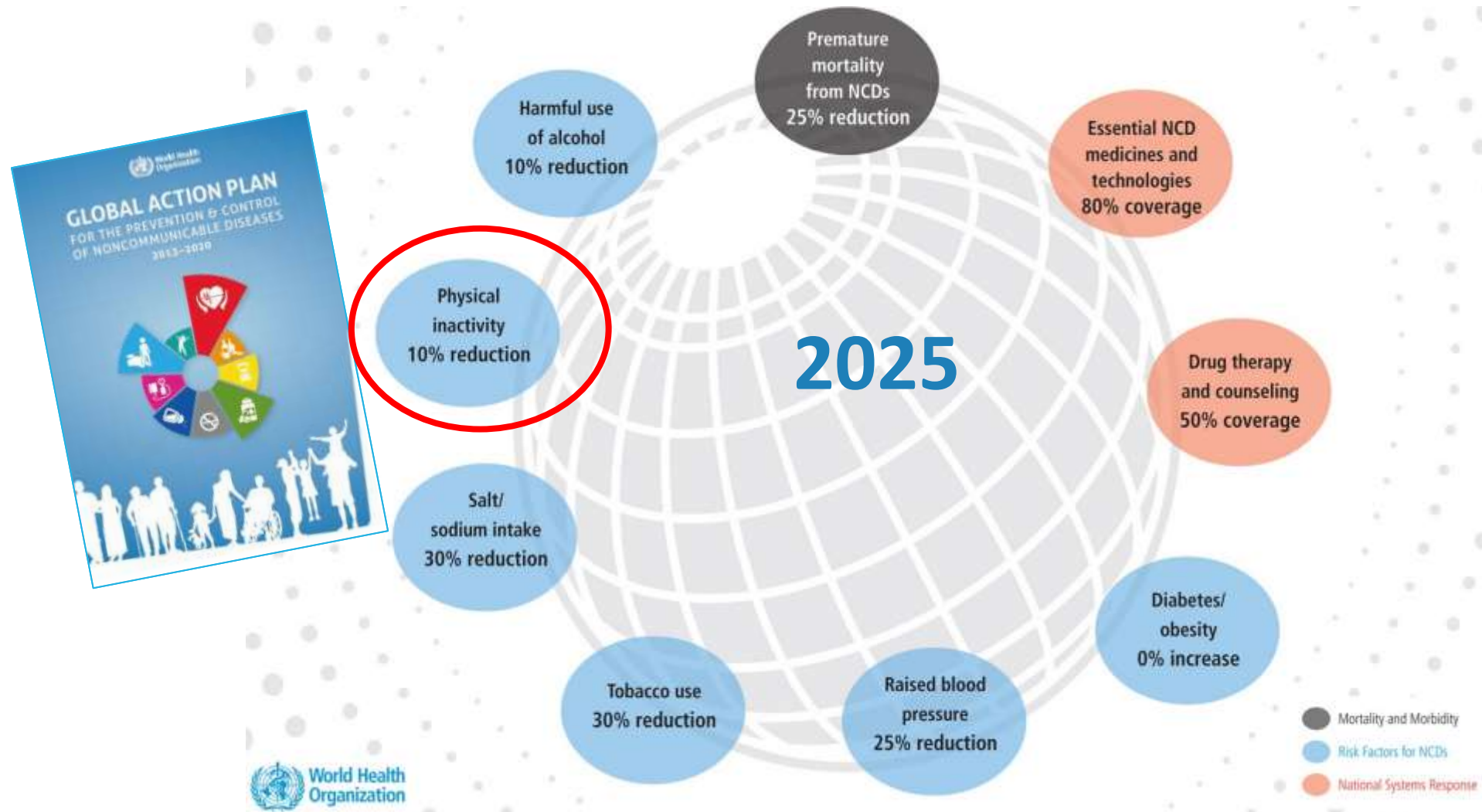


Physical Activity for Health Research Centre (PAHRC)

Background

- Physical activity has considerable evidence that it can prevent and treat most **Non Communicable Diseases [NCDs]** – see for example the US Surgeon General's Report 2018
<https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/sgr/summary.htm>
- WHO global plan focused on **NCDs** and **reducing Physical Inactivity** is one of 9 targets

Global targets for NCDs



Physical activity for adults and older adults



Infographic on the Chief Medical Officers' guidelines

Source:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/829884/3-physical-activity-for-adults-and-older-adults.pdf



**Action on Physical Activity
can contribute to achieving 8SDG**

Physical Activity for Health Research Centre (PAHRC)

Covid 19

- What has been less well known [up until now] is the role in communicable diseases such as COVID viruses [SEB]
- The importance of PA for mental and physical health during lockdown was emphasized by all CMOs of UK saying one reason to leave house was to exercise
- Some people may benefit from increased PA during COVID restrictions but others will find this difficult and this might lead to health inequalities [PAUL]
- An overlooked aspect of the guidelines for PA during COVID restrictions is the recommendation to minimize sitting time [CLAIRE]



Physical Activity, risk of infection and the immune system

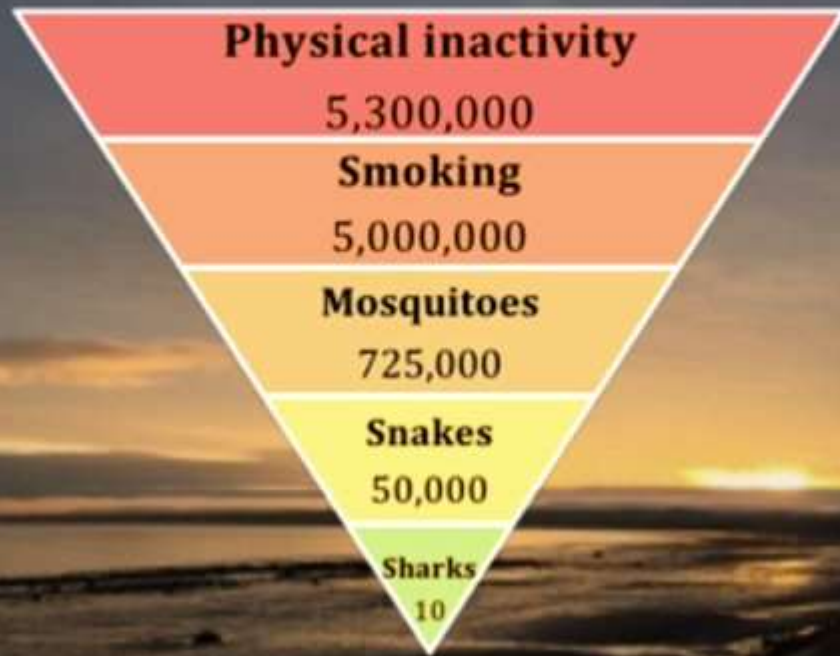
Prof Seb Chastin

Glasgow Caledonian University

Ghent University

Physical activity and Non-Communicable Diseases

People Killed Annually by...



6-10% of NCDs

5.3 million death per annum

Lee et al. Lancet 2012



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Is PA also protective against infectious diseases?

Be active at home during #COVID19 outbreak

- 1 Try exercise classes online
- 2 Dance to music
- 3 Play active video games
- 4 Try skipping rope
- 5 Do some muscle strength & balance training

World Health Organization #BeActive #HealthyAtHome

Staying physically active during self-isolation

How much?

World Health Organisation recommendations for physical activity are:

150 minutes of moderate-intensity, or **75** minutes of vigorous exercise, per week.

+

Muscle-strengthening exercises **two or more days** per week.

And how I do that?

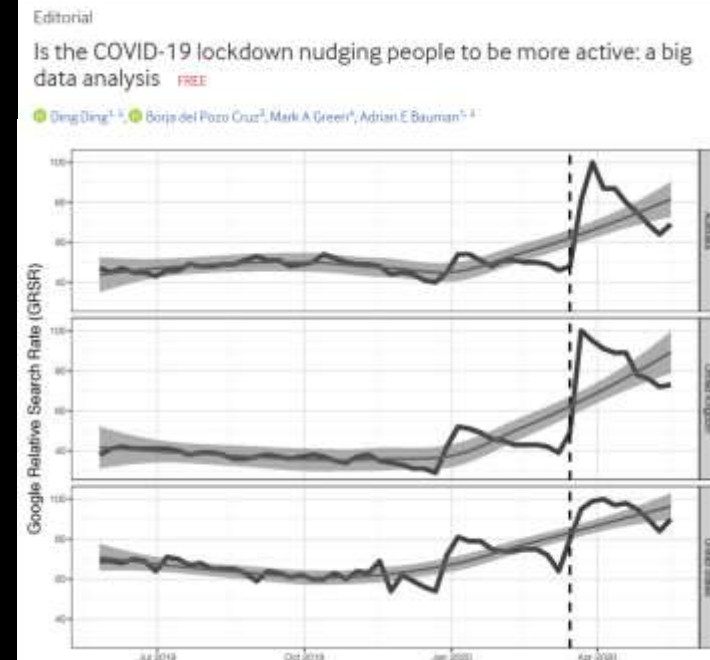
- 1 **Sit less!**
Take breaks from continuously sitting in front of your computer, tablet or smartphone **every 20-30 minutes**. Take a 1-2 minute walk around the house or play with a pet!
- 2 **Make stairs your new best friend**
Stair climbing is an extremely time-efficient way to maintain fitness and **as little as three 20-second fast stair-climbs a day** can improve fitness in only 6 weeks.
- 3 **Maintain strength using your own bodyweight**
Research shows that bodyweight home-based strength exercises such as **press-ups, sit-ups, and planks** are as important for health as aerobic exercise.
Aim for at least a **couple of bodyweight sessions per week**:
 - 2-4 sets of 8-15 repetitions of each exercise
 - 2-3 minutes rest between sets.
- 4 **Dance the COVID-19 blues away!**
Dancing is an excellent way to protect the heart and maintain fitness – it can easily reach **moderate** and even **vigorous intensity exercise**, while **releasing endorphins** to help you get through the lonely days.
- 5 **Give pets and kids more playtime than they've ever had!**
It's a good opportunity to bond more with the little 2 and 4 legged members of your family through active play.
Both kids and dogs will welcome more one-on-one time with you and you'll increase the amount of exercise you get by allocating time to keep them busy.

Coronavirus: Parks must stay open during COVID-19 crisis 'for health of the nation'

sky news

April 2020

British Journal of Sports Medicine



Stamatakis et al. The Conversation 2020

Journal of Sport and Health Science
Volume 9, Issue 4, July 2020, Pages 293-301



Review

Coronavirus disease-2019: A tocsin to our aging, unfit, corpulent, and immunodeficient society

David C. Nieman

Commentary

Physical activity/inactivity and COVID-19

Antonio Crisafulli¹ and Pasquale Pagliaro²

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Preventive
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SAGE

EVIDENCE ????

Elsevier Public Health Emergency Collection
Public Health Emergency COVID-19 Initiative

Med Hypotheses. 2020 Sep; 142: 109835.
Published online 2020 May 12. doi: [10.1016/j.mehy.2020.109835](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mehy.2020.109835)

Exercise as medicine for COVID-19: An ACE in the hole?

Kevin S. Heffernan^{a,*} and Sae Young Jae^b

PMCID: PMC7217098
PMID: [32428811](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32428811/)

Elsevier Public Health Emergency Collection
Public Health Emergency COVID-19 Initiative

Med Hypotheses. 2020 Oct; 143: 109854.
Published online 2020 May 20. doi: [10.1016/j.mehy.2020.109854](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mehy.2020.109854)

Can moderate intensity aerobic exercise be an effective and valuable therapy in preventing and controlling the pandemic of COVID-19?

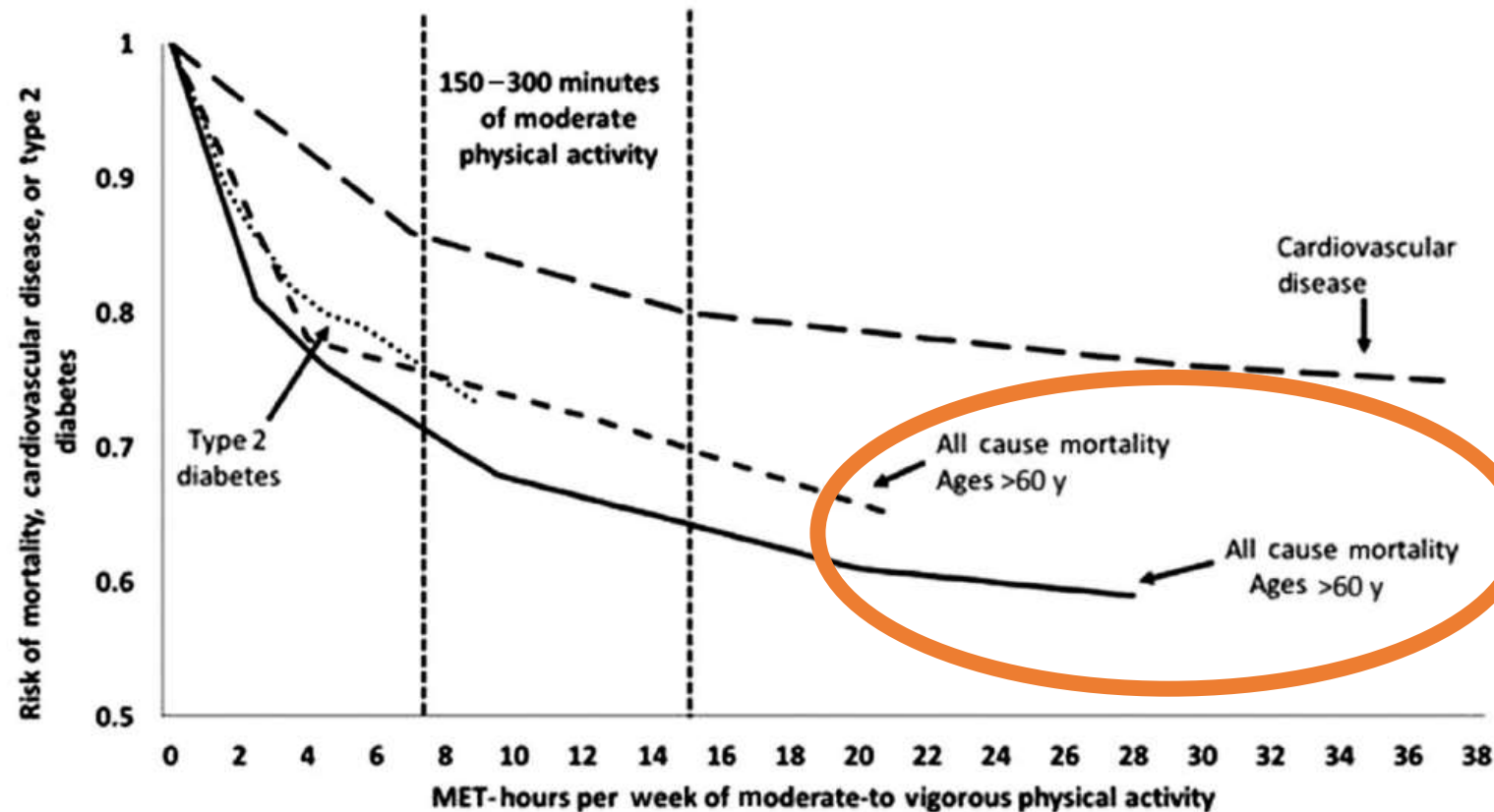
Snehil

PMCID: PMC7237357
PMID: [32464492](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32464492/)

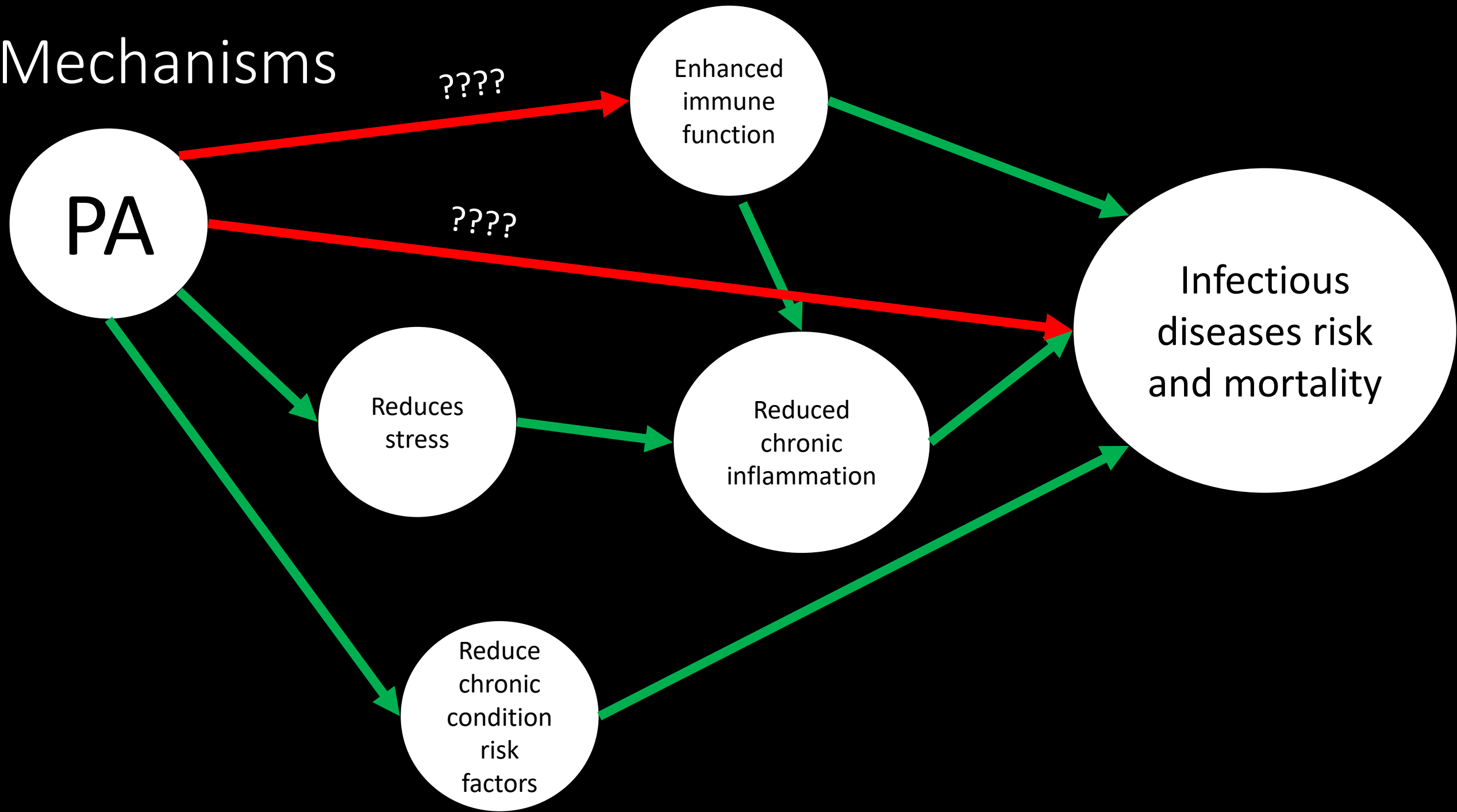


The Scientific Foundation for the *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans*, 2nd Edition

Kenneth E. Powell, Abby C. King, David M. Buchner, Wayne W. Campbell, Loretta DiPietro, Kirk I. Erickson, Charles H. Hillman, John M. Jakicic, Kathleen F. Janz, Peter T. Katzmarzyk, William E. Kraus, Richard F. Macko, David X. Marquez, Anne McTiernan, Russell R. Pate, Linda S. Pescatello, and Melicia C. Whitt-Glover



Mechanisms



Team



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Aim

To examine and summarise evidence about the association between habitual physical activity

- 1) the risk of community acquired infectious disease
- 2) markers of immune function
- 3) immune response to vaccination.

Proviso

Started April 2020 completed 6th June 2020

UNPUBLISHED

BMJ

Lancet

JAMA

Nature

BJSM

“Physical activity not a priority!”

Methods

Design: Systematic review – Meta-analysis (PRISMA) -> pre registered PROSPERO

Inclusion: Prospective studies, longitudinal studies, RCTs comparing different level of PA. Adult population (> 18years age)

Exclusion: Elite athletes, studies on immediate effect of PA on immune function

Databases: MEDLINE, Embase, Cochrane CENTRAL, Web of Science, CINAHL, PsycINFO, and SportDiscus from January 1980 until 14 April 2020

Outcomes: Marker of immune function (cell counts/concentration),

Information flow

Screening: 16,698 articles

Full texts: 606

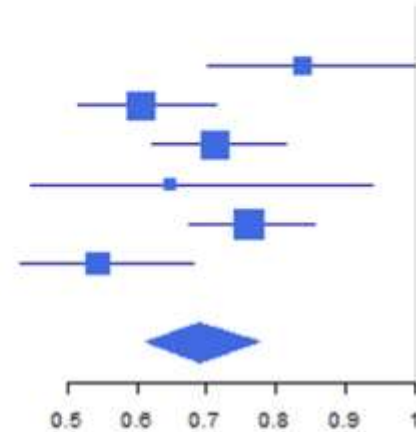
Included: 55 studies

- 7 prospective studies (risk infectious disease/mortality)
- 42 RCTs (*Immune function*)
- 6 RCTs (*Vaccination*)

Results – PA and Risk of Infectious Diseases

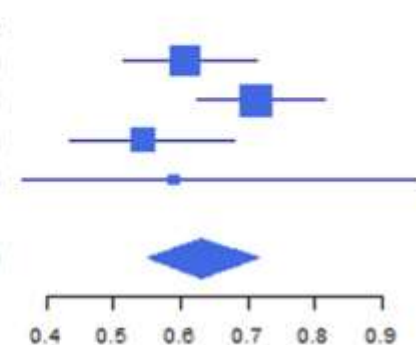
a) Risk of infectious disease

Study	Hazard Ratio	Lower limit	Upper limit	p value
Baik et al 2000	0.838	0.702	1.001	0.05188
Hamer et al 2019	0.606	0.515	0.714	0
Inoue et al 2007	0.712	0.623	0.815	0
Paulsen et al 2017	0.647	0.447	0.938	0.02147
Wang et al 2014	0.76	0.676	0.855	1e-05
Williams et al 2014	0.544	0.434	0.68	0
Summary	0.69	0.612	0.777	0



b) Risk of infectious disease mortality

Study	Hazard Ratio	Lower limit	Upper limit	p value
Hamer et al 2019	0.606	0.515	0.714	0
Inoue et al 2007	0.712	0.623	0.815	0
Williams et al 2014	0.544	0.434	0.68	0
Paulsen et al 2017	0.59	0.365	0.953	0.03116
Summary	0.629	0.551	0.717	0



Results – PA and Immune system

Intervention Characteristics. CONTROL NO PA

Frequency: 3-5 /week

Intensity: MVPA

Time: 30-60 minutes

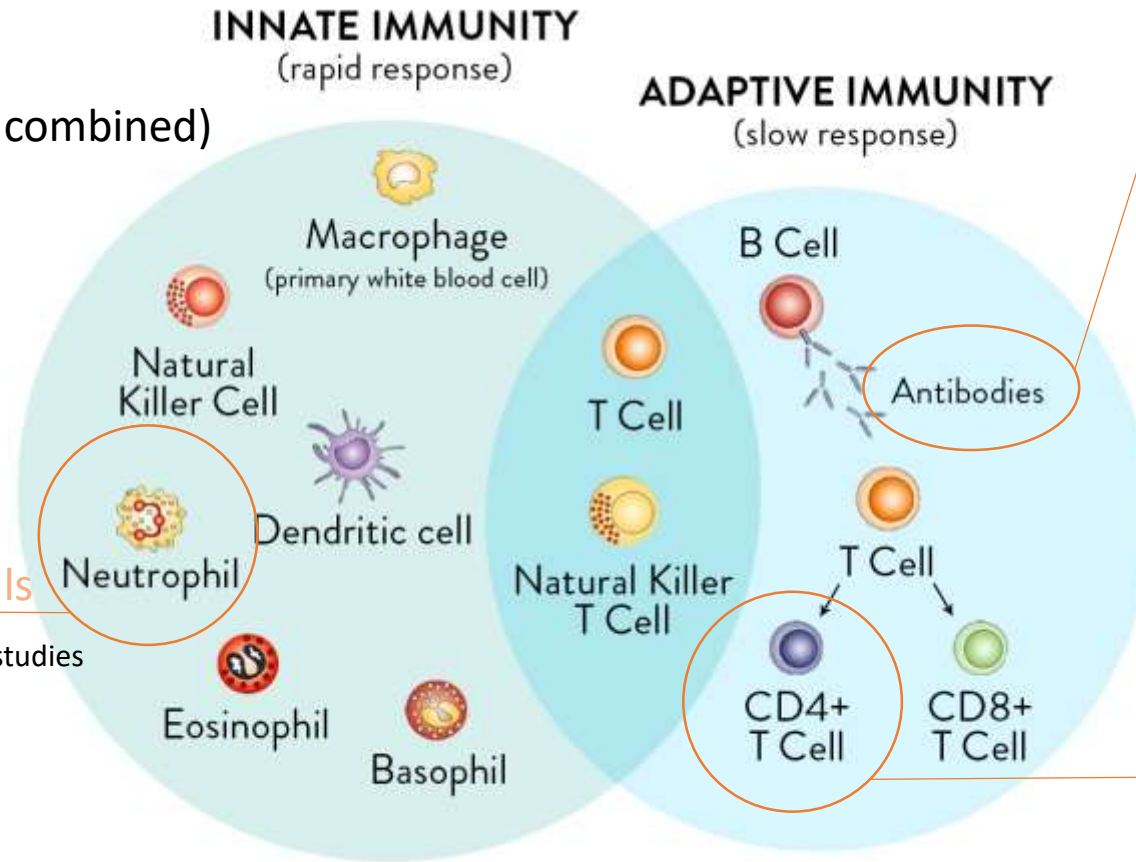
Type: Any (strength, aerobic, combined)

Duration: median 8 weeks

40 to 70% of white blood cells



MD 704 cells/ μ L (CI 68 1340), N = 6 studies



First line of defence (mucosal)



IgA: SMD 0.311 (CI 0.131 0.491), N=11 studies

Immuno-surveillance



MD 32 cells/ μ L (CI 7 – 56), N = 24 studies

PA and vaccination (Antibody titres)

Intervention Characteristics (PRIOR TO VACCINATION) CONTROL NO PA

Frequency: median 3/week

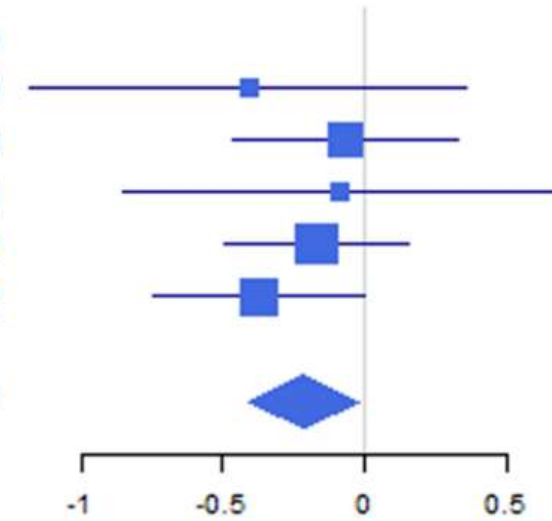
Intensity: MVPA

Time: median 60 minutes

Type: Any (strength, aerobic, combined)

Duration: median 20 weeks

	SMD	Lower limit	Upper limit	p value
Kohut 2005	-0.408	-1.179	0.362	0.29879
Haney 2014	-0.069	-0.465	0.327	0.73309
Kohut 2004	-0.084	-0.85	0.682	0.83024
Woods 2009	-0.169	-0.496	0.159	0.31252
Irwin 2007	-0.374	-0.748	0.001	0.05032
	-0.21	-0.406	-0.015	0.03487



Conclusion

PA protective against infectious disease/mortality

PA improves immune function

- First line of defence in mucosal barriers
- Immunosurveillance
- Overall decrease in innate/rapid response needed

PA enhance response to vaccination

Contact

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USHER INSTITUTE COVID-19 WEBINAR

The role of physical activity in recovery from COVID-19 pandemic measures

Dr Paul Kelly

PAHRC

Institute for Sport, Physical Education and Health Sciences

Sept 2020



***1. PHYSICAL INACTIVITY IS A LEADING
HEALTH RISK FACTOR?***

Physical Inactivity: a risk factor comparable to smoking

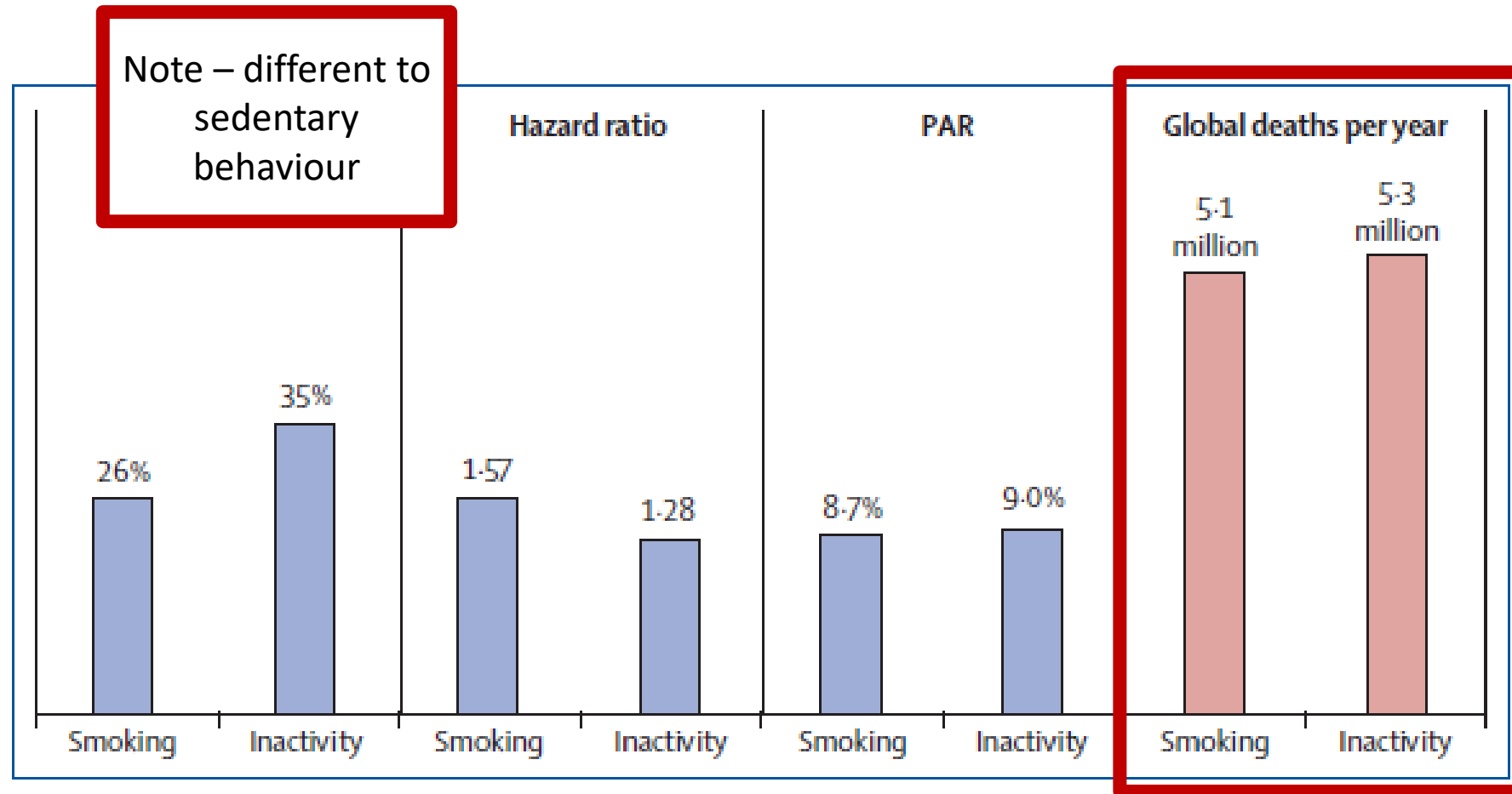


Figure: Comparison of global burden between smoking and physical inactivity

Prevalence of smoking, population attributable risk (PAR), and global deaths for smoking were obtained from WHO.⁷ Hazard ratio for all-cause mortality of smoking was obtained from meta-analysis studies.^{8,9} All inactivity data were obtained from Lee and colleagues.⁵

Use of the prevented fraction for the population to determine deaths averted by existing prevalence of physical activity: a descriptive study

Tessa Strain, Søren Brage, Stephen J Sharp, Justin Richards, Marko Tainio, Ding Ding, Jacques Benichou, Paul Kelly



3·9 million (95% CI 2·5–5·6) premature deaths averted annually by physical activity

THE LANCET

Global Health

Country	Prevalence of activity (95% confidence intervals)	Prevalence of activity amongst those that died (95% confidence intervals)	Main adjusted estimate (0% activity counterfactual) ^a	Unadjusted estimate (0% activity counterfactual) ^b	Partially adjusted estimate (0% activity counterfactual) ^c	Adjusted estimate (54.3% active counterfactual) ^d	Number of deaths averted between ages of 40-74 years (thousands)
Sweden	76.9 (71.1-81.8)	69.4 (62.6-75.3)	16.3 (11.1-21.4)	24.6 (19.9-29.1)	16.8 (11.8-21.6)	5.8 (3.6-8.2)	4.6
Switzerland	76.3 (69.7-81.8)	68.6 (61.0-75.3)	16.0 (10.9-21.1)	24.3 (19.7-28.8)	16.7 (11.6-21.5)	5.6 (3.3-8.1)	3.4
	64.1 (57.1-70.6)	54.8 (47.5-62.0)	13.3 (9.0-17.8)	20.5 (16.5-24.7)	14.0 (9.8-18.2)	2.4 (0.6-4.5)	

26,600 premature deaths prevented each year by physical activity in the United Kingdom

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214109X20302114>

2. WHAT ARE THE KEY BENEFITS?

Evidence for health outcomes of physical activity

Premature mortality

Cardiovascular diseases

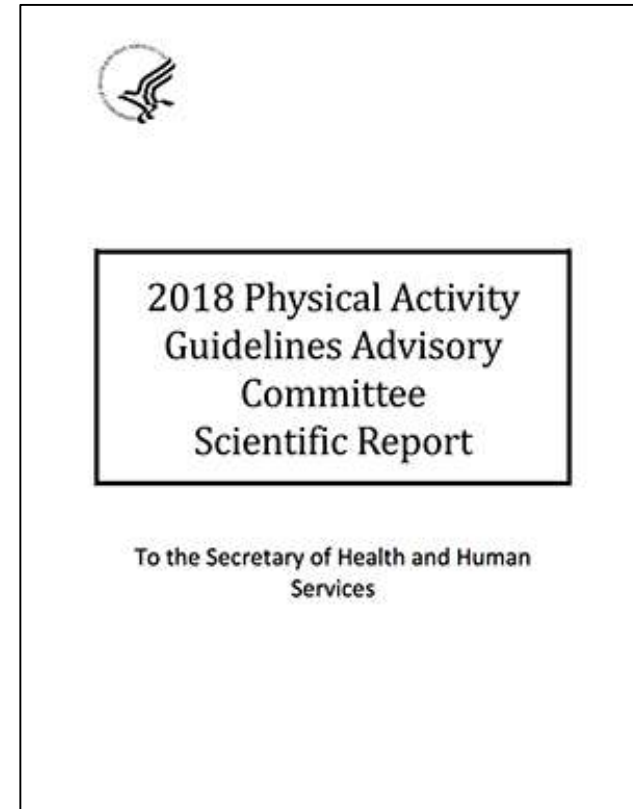
Obesity

Diabetes (Type II)

Cancer

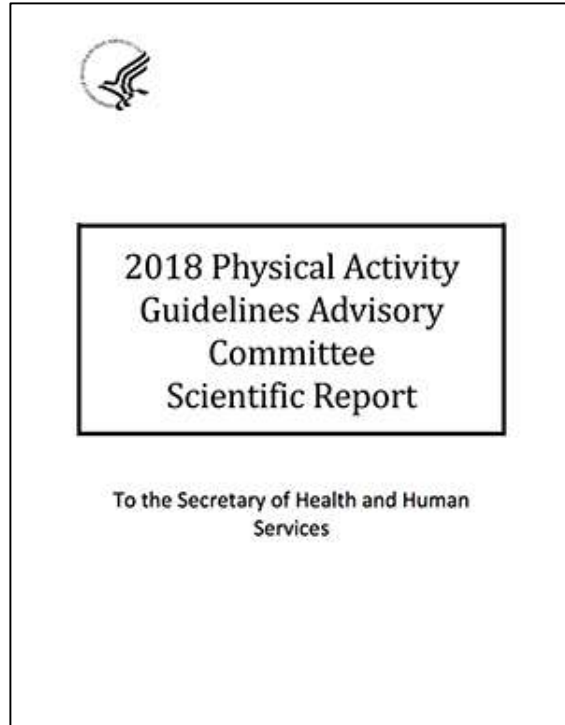
Joint and bone health

Brain Health/Mental health



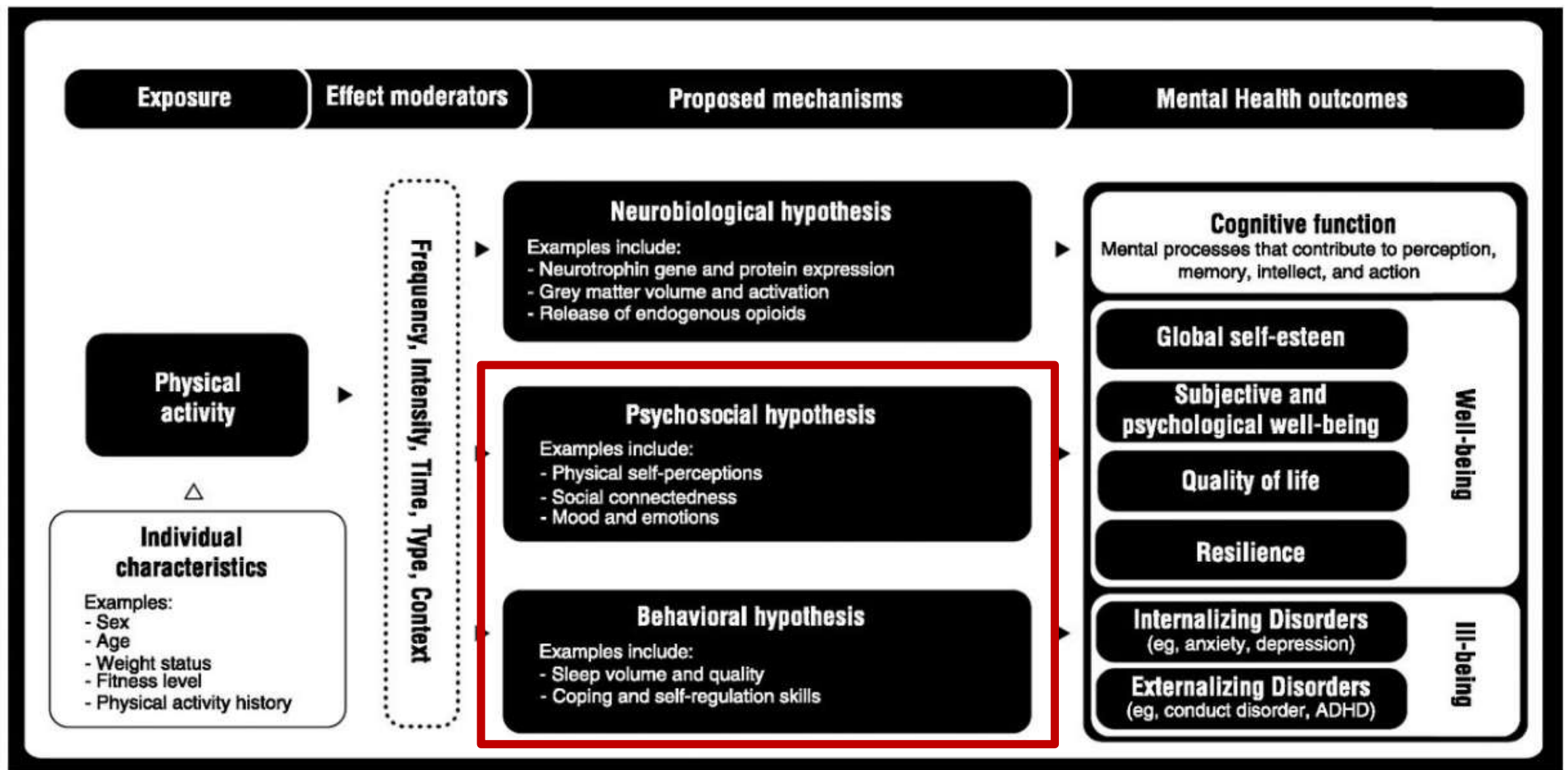
<https://health.gov/paguidelines/second-edition/report.aspx>

Mental Health and well-being benefits



- Quality of life
- Reduced risk of depression
- Reduced depressive symptoms
- Anxiety symptoms
- State anxiety

<https://health.gov/paguidelines/second-edition/report.aspx>



Pediatrics. 2016 Sep;138(3). pii: e20161642. doi: 10.1542/peds.2016-1642. Epub 2016 Aug 19.

Physical Activity for Cognitive and Mental Health in Youth: A Systematic Review of Mechanisms.

Lubans D¹, Richards J², Hillman C³, Faulkner G⁴, Beauchamp M⁴, Nilsson M⁵, Kelly P⁶, Smith J⁷, Raine L³, Biddle S⁸.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27542849>

Health

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity...”

World Health Organisation



IMPACT OF COVID

HOW HAS THE PANDEMIC CHANGED THINGS?

3. COVID Recovery

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY?

Individual recovery?

- Different levels of COVID severity (long COVID)
- Activities of daily living (making a cup of tea, using the stairs, washing)
- Strength and balance
- Deconditioning
- Lung function, breathlessness and and cardio-respiratory fitness

Still feeling the effects?

Find out how you can manage the wide ranging effects of COVID that you may still be feeling.



Breathlessness



Taste and Smell



Managing Fear and Anxiety



Fatigue



Voice and Swallowing



**Managing Your Mood and
Coping with Frustration**



Cough



**Musculoskeletal, Shoulder and
Back Pain**



Memory and Concentration



Managing Your Oxygen

<https://www.yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk/>



Getting Moving Again

Your Wellbeing

Why is getting moving again important?

After being in hospital for a period of time, your muscles will be much weaker than normal and you will certainly be less fit than you were.

It is important to get back to your previous level of activity or possibly aim to be more active!

<https://www.yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk/your-wellbeing/getting-moving-again/>

New Online

Views **100,692** | Citations **0** | Altmetric **1123**

JAMA Cardiology

Viewpoint

May 13, 2020

A Game Plan for the Resumption of Sport and Exercise After Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Infection

Dermot Phelan, MD, PhD¹; Jonathan H. Kim, MD, MSc²; Eugene H. Chung, MD, MSc³

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamacardiology/fullarticle/2766124>

THE LANCET
Respiratory Medicine

SPOTLIGHT | VOLUME 8, ISSUE 6, P557-558, JUNE 01, 2020

Respiratory health in athletes: facing the COVID-19 challenge

James H Hull  • Mike Loosemore • Martin Schwellnus

Published: April 08, 2020 • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600\(20\)30175-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600(20)30175-2) •  Check for updates

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/article/PIIS2213-2600\(20\)30175-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/article/PIIS2213-2600(20)30175-2/fulltext)

Population level recovery?

- Have activity levels (and patterns) changed?
- Have inequalities increased?
- Loneliness and isolation?
- Local sustainable economies?
- Working from home and active travel?

Supporting increased physical activity will provide physical, mental and social health benefits

4. COVID Recovery

***HOW CAN WE SUPPORT PEOPLE TO BE MORE
ACTIVE?***

DOES IT MATTER WHAT ACTIVITIES PEOPLE DO?

What activities would (do) you recommend to promote well-being?



But how do people view activity?



Sit less, move more



Do we understand peoples' motives for physical activity?



Do we understand peoples' motives for physical activity?



open happiness™



Move for
happiness?

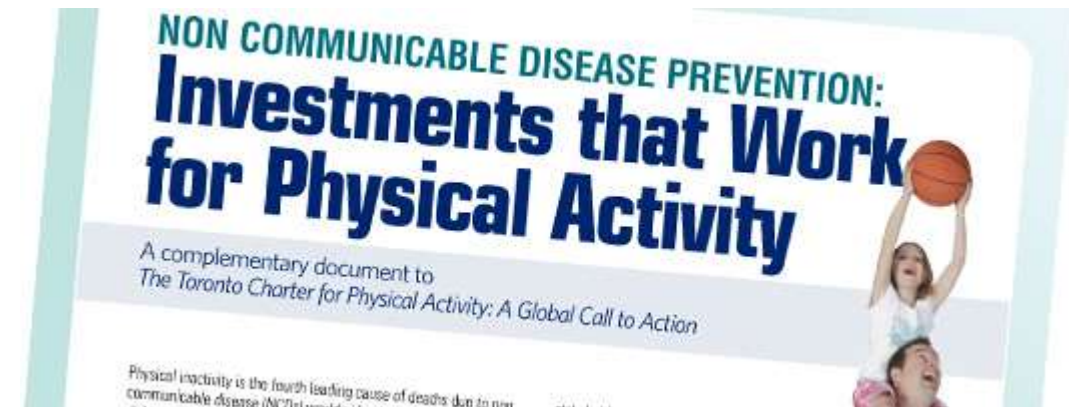


UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines

Published 7 September 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/832868/uk-chief-medical-officers-physical-activity-guidelines.pdf

“Some is good, more is better”

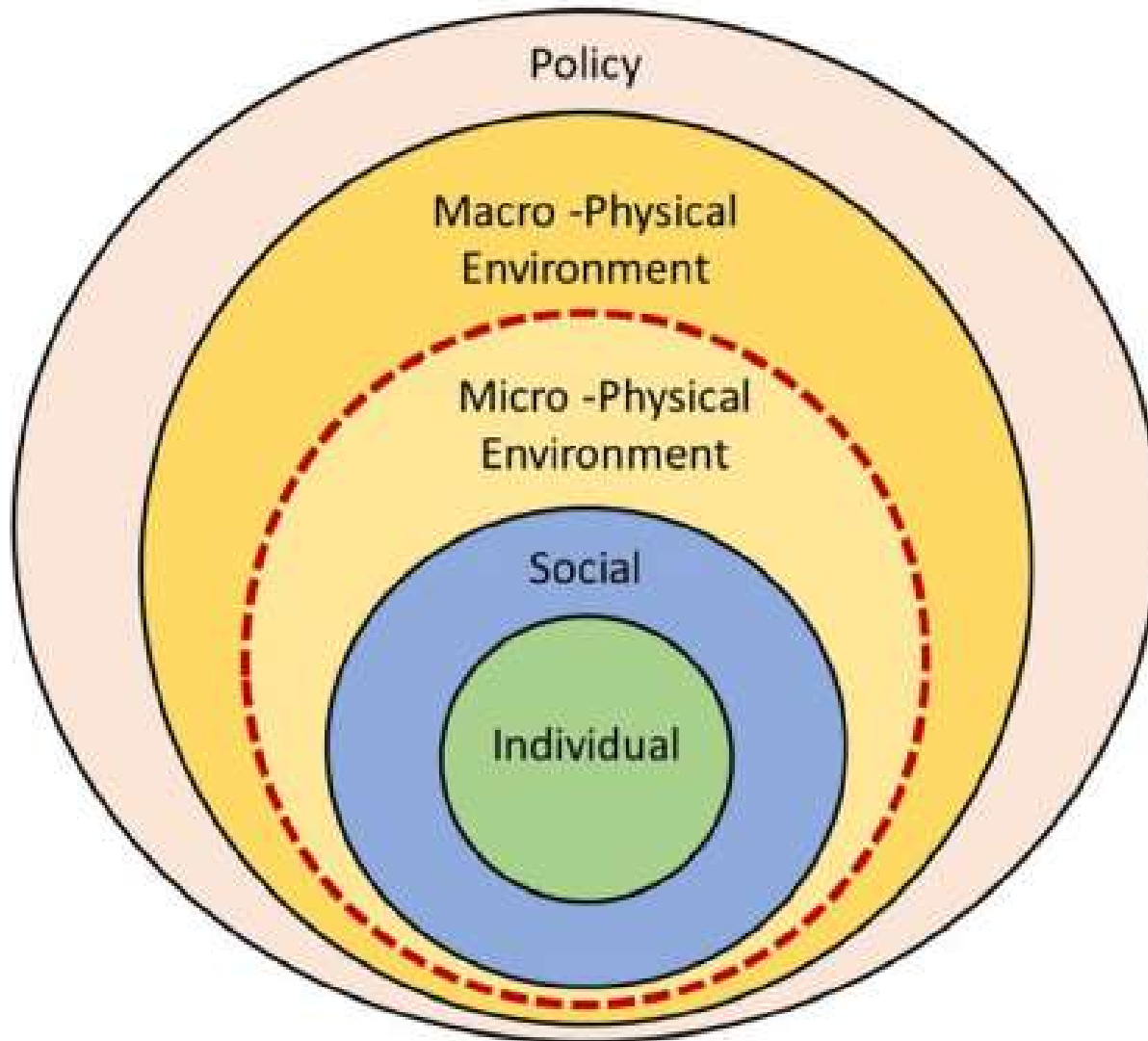


“If these 7 actions are implemented in countries with adequate resources and at a population level they will make a significant contribution to reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases and contribute to improving the quality of life and the environments in which we live”

<https://www.globalpa.org.uk/investments/>



Twitter: @MovementFHealth

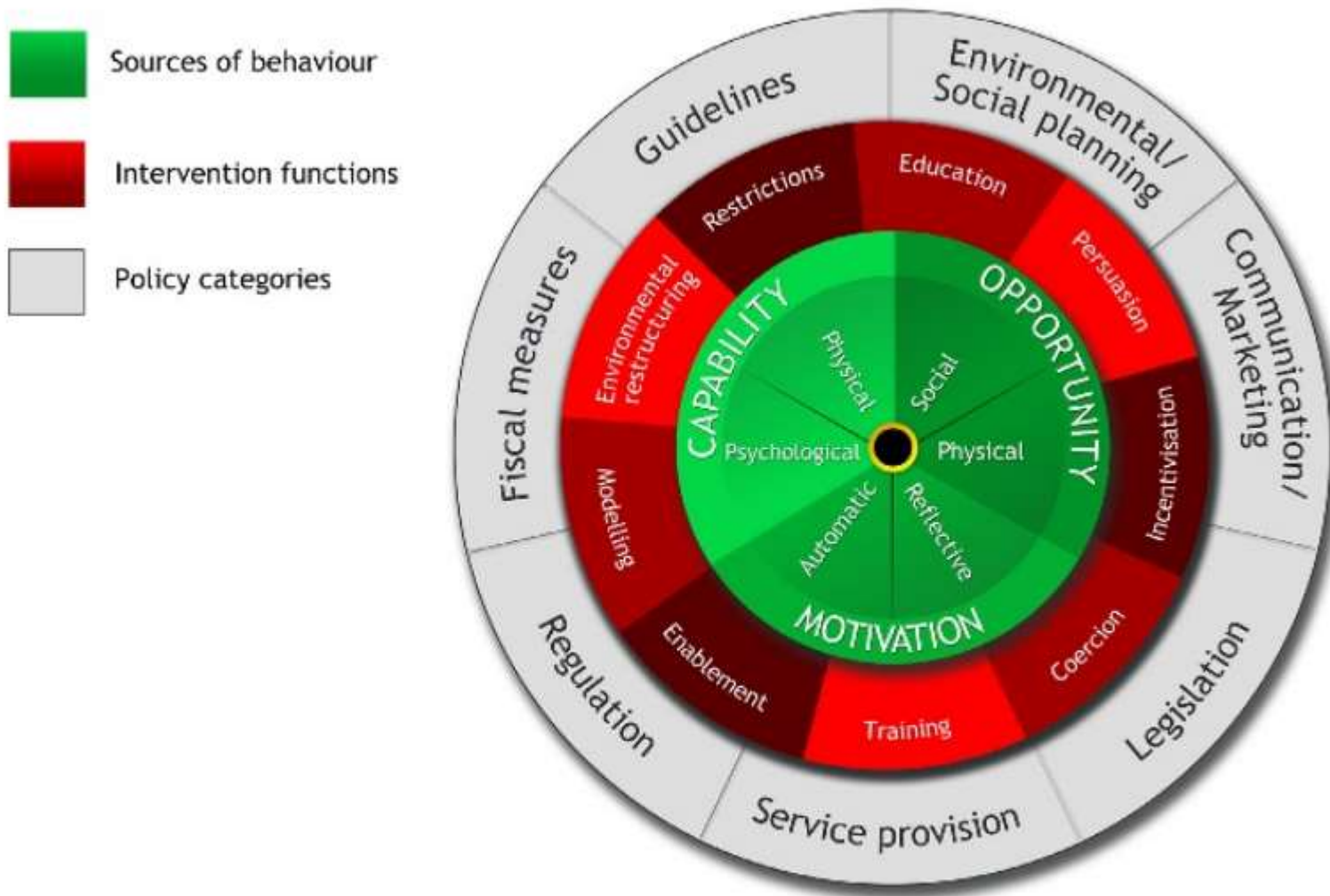


Unlikely to be
feasible for groups
and organisations



(More) Likely to be
feasible for groups
and organisations

Adapted from Ecological model
(Sallis, 1998)



Michie et al (2011)

<https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/1748-5908-6-42>

Figure 2 The Behaviour Change Wheel.

REVIEW

Open Access

Get the message? A scoping review of physical activity messaging



Chloë Williamson*, Graham Baker, Nanette Mutrie, Ailsa Niven and Paul Kelly

- Messages should highlight short-term or immediate benefits;
- Social and mental health benefits are found to be preferred content;
- Messages should be customised for the recipients (in terms of content and design);
- Messages should use formative research, psychological theory, and/or social marketing theory to inform design and delivery;

<https://ijbnpa.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12966-020-00954-3>



Stay calm, be active: simple ways to boost your physical activity during COVID-19

<https://blogs.bmj.com/bjbm/2020/03/30/stay-calm-be-active-simple-ways-to-boost-your-physical-activity-during-covid-19/>

In Summary...

Physical activity will be crucial to help address the physical, social and mental health impacts of COVID pandemic

Coherent approaches to promote physical activity are required

Physical Activity for Health Research Centre (PAHRC)

USHER INSTITUTE COVID-19 WEBINAR

Thanks for listening

p.kelly@ed.ac.uk

[@narrowboat paul](#)

Sept 2020



Are you sitting more due to COVID_19?

The benefits of regularly breaking up sitting and top tips to sit less

Dr Claire Fitzsimons

Lecturer in Physical Activity for Health



Physical Activity for Health Research Centre (PAHRC)

Sedentary behaviours - any waking behaviour in a sitting, reclining or lying posture with low energy expenditure (≤ 1.5 METs)



Time spent in sedentary behaviours and *physical* health



All-cause and cardiovascular disease mortality rates

Risk of type 2 diabetes and incident cardiovascular disease



Risk of incident endometrial, colon and lung cancer

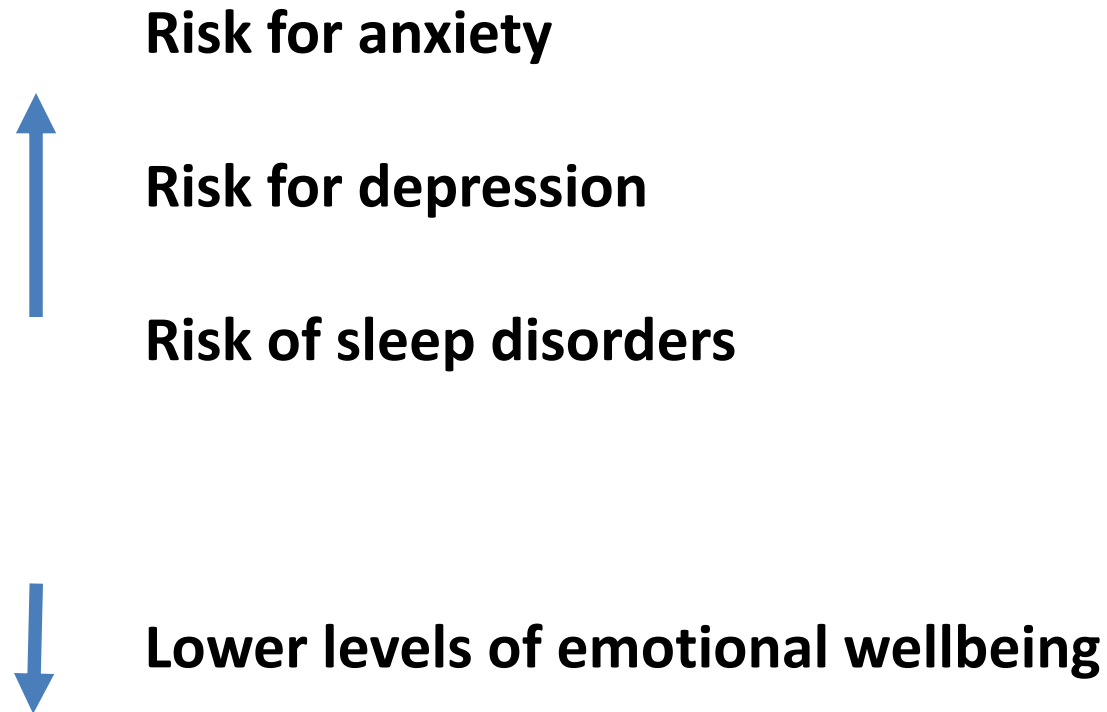


Higher mortality rates from cancer

Weight status: higher levels of adiposity and indicators of weight status



Time spent in sedentary behaviours and *mental* health



UK Guidelines

- Children/young people and adults should:

“aim to minimise the amount of time spent being sedentary, and when physically possible should break up long periods of inactivity with at least light physical activity”



Don't sit for long periods

'The best posture is the next posture'

Top Tips!

- Stand/walk while on the phone
- Stand during video meetings
- Cook from scratch
- Go for a walk or do some stretches
- Water plants
- Get active during commercial breaks when watching TV or between episodes – make a hot drink or tidy the kitchen
- Set a timer or use a fitness tracker to remind you to move



References

- Sedentary Behaviour Research Network Letter to the Editor: Standardized use of the terms “sedentary” and “sedentary behaviours” *Appl. Physiol. Nutr. Metab.* 2012;37:540–542.
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