

Six-year change in youth physical activity & effect on fasting insulin & HOMA

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ABSTRACT

Background: There is a shortage of longitudinal data analyzing associations between physical activity and indicators of insulin resistance among children and adolescents after accounting for adiposity change. To guide future prevention efforts we used data from the Danish arm of the European Youth Heart Study (EYHS) to examine these issues.

Methods: Participants were 384, 9th grade students (15 years of age) from the Municipality of Odense (Denmark) who participated in surveys in 1997 and 2003. Physical activity was monitored for at least 3 days by accelerometer and mean counts per minute (CPM) and minutes > 3000 counts per minute (minutes > 3000 CPM) per day obtained. Blood samples were collected and fasting insulin, glucose, and homeostatic level of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) obtained. **Data were analysed in 2008.**

Results: Physical activity declined from 45 minutes > 3000 CPM in 1997 to 35 minutes in 2003. Longitudinal regression analyses showed that change in minutes >3000 CPM was negatively associated with fasting insulin levels ($z = -2.47$, $p = 0.014$) and HOMA-IR ($z = -2.31$, $p = 0.021$) in 2003. Similar findings were found when CPM was used as the physical activity variable. Results demonstrated that six-year decline physical activity was associated with higher insulin and HOMA-IR levels.

Conclusions: Six-year change in the volume of physical activity in which 15 year old adolescents engaged were negatively associated with fasting insulin and HOMA-IR. Preventing the age-related decline in physical activity may be an effective means of preventing youth insulin resistance.

Key words: Glucose, waist circumference, cohort, children, Type 2 diabetes, prevention

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Results: Physical activity declined from 45 minutes > 3000 CPM in 1997 to 35 minutes in 2003. Longitudinal regression analyses showed that change in minutes >3000 CPM was negatively associated with fasting insulin levels ($z = -2.47$, $p = 0.014$) and HOMA-IR ($z = -2.31$, $p = 0.021$) in 2003. Similar findings were found when CPM was used as the physical activity variable. Results demonstrated that six-year decline physical activity was associated with higher insulin and HOMA-IR levels.

Conclusions: Six-year change in the volume of physical activity in which 15 year old adolescents engaged were negatively associated with fasting insulin and HOMA-IR. Preventing the age-related decline in physical activity may be an effective means of preventing youth insulin resistance.

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1 **BACKGROUND**

2 It has been estimated that in 2006, 22 million children in the European Union (EU) were
3 overweight and of these 5 million children were obese.¹ It is also estimated that over 27,000
4 European children have type 2 diabetes and over 400,000 have impaired glucose levels.² As
5 the prevalence of childhood obesity within the EU is expected to rise by over a million cases
6 per year³, the number of insulin resistant youths is also likely to increase. To prevent future
7 type 2 diabetes we need to develop effective means of limiting the number of youths who
8 become insulin resistant.

9

10 Physical activity is important in the prevention of insulin resistance because it burns calories,
11 leading to decreased body weight and increasing metabolic rate.³⁻⁵ Physical activity also
12 impacts directly on insulin resistance by leading to short term activation of the GLUT-4
13 receptors to improve glucose uptake and stimulating the alpha-adrenergic receptors of the beta
14 cells, which leads to a decrease in circulating insulin levels.⁶⁻⁹

15

16 In previous research physical activity has been cross-sectionally associated with adiposity and
17 insulin resistance (IR) among both children and adolescents, thereby supporting physical
18 activity as a means of preventing the development of insulin resistance.^{10, 11} However, the
19 cross-sectional design of these studies prevents an examination of whether associations
20 change as youth age. Moreover, although adiposity has been associated with IR,
21 current research has not examined if the associations between activity and IR are maintained
22 after controlling for the potential confounding effect of a change in adiposity. Finally, current
23 research provides few clues on whether it is the volume or intensity of physical activity that is
24 important for the prevention of IR. This information is needed to provide better guidance on
25 the type of activity that future intervention programs should promote. This paper uses data

26 from a cohort of Danish adolescents, who were first studied at age nine and then again at
27 fifteen, to examine the extent to which physical activity is associated with indicators of
28 insulin resistance after accounting for adiposity.

29

30 **METHODS**

31 **Participants**

32 Data are from the Danish arm of the European Youth Heart Study (EYHS). The sampling
33 frame has been discussed in detail elsewhere, but in 1997 3rd grade students were recruited
34 from a sample of schools in the Municipality of Odense.^{12, 13} The sample was stratified by the
35 socio-economic status of the area. Data were initially collected on 590, 3rd grade students (310
36 female) in 1997. In 2003, a second survey was completed in which all of the original
37 participants, now 9th grade students, were invited to participate in the study again. Data were
38 analysed in 2008. As the baseline results have been reported in detail elsewhere, the sample
39 for this paper was limited to the 384 participants (214 female) who took part in both
40 assessments.^{11, 13, 14} A Chi-square test indicated no significant difference in the household
41 education of participants who took part in both surveys when compared with those who only
42 took part in 2003 ($p > .05$). Analysis of variance indicated no significant difference in the
43 fasting insulin, glucose or waist circumference of the two groups, but the mean BMI (1997) of
44 participants who took part in both surveys was significantly lower ($f = 4.42$, $p = .038$) than that
45 of the participants who took just took part in the 1997 survey (17.15 vs. 17.59 kg/m²). For the
46 384 participants with data at both time-points, we report cross-sectional associations at the 9th
47 grade as well as longitudinal changes from 3rd to 9th grade. The study was approved by the
48 ethics committee of Vejle and Funen. Written parental and verbal child consent was obtained
49 for all participants.

50

51 **Physical activity assessment**

52 Physical activity assessment has been reported elsewhere.^{15, 16} Briefly, participants wore an
53 accelerometer (Actigraph model 7164, Manufacturing Technologies Inc) programmed to
54 record physical activity in one minute epochs for at least 4 days (including two weekend
55 days), except when swimming or bathing, on their hip. As there is no standard criteria for
56 defining when monitors were not worn, we applied the previously published EYHS criteria
57 whereby periods in which 10 or more minutes of zero counts were obtained were interpreted
58 as time that the monitor was not worn and these periods were removed from the analysis.¹⁷
59 Each day of accelerometer data was considered valid if data were obtained for at least 600
60 minutes. Participants were included in the cross-sectional analyses if they possessed 3 days of
61 valid data in 2003. Participants were included in the longitudinal analyses if they possessed 3
62 days of valid data in 1997 and 2003. Mean counts per minute (CPM), an indication of the
63 volume of activity in which participants engaged, was averaged across valid days. The mean
64 number of minutes engaged in activity that resulted in greater than 3000 CPM was obtained
65 for each participant and treated as minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA)
66 per day.¹⁸ While there is controversy over accelerometer cutpoints, the 3000 CPM is based on
67 a field validation among adolescents¹⁸ and is comparable to the 3200 CPM value obtained
68 from laboratory calorimetry among 6 to 16 year old US youth, thereby providing a value that
69 is appropriate for our participants.¹⁹

70

71 **Insulin resistance (IR) and blood samples**

72 We used three indicators of insulin resistance: fasting insulin, fasting glucose, and the
73 homeostatis model of assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR). HOMA-IR is a simple
74 method of assessing insulin resistance based on fasting insulin and glucose levels.^{20, 21} A

75 recent study highlighted that HOMA-IR provided a better indication of clustered
76 cardiovascular risk factors among young adults than an oral glucose tolerance test, indicating
77 that HOMA-IR is likely to provide a better indication of insulin resistance until beta cell
78 function is reduced.²²

79

80 Fasting intravenous blood samples were taken in the morning from the antecubital vein of
81 children who did not have a current diagnosis of diabetes one hour after the application of an
82 anesthetic cream (lidocaine/prilocaine – EMLA cream, Astra). Blood samples were aliquoted
83 and separated within 30 minutes of veni-puncture and stored at -80°C until transported to a
84 WHO certified lab for analysis. In 1997, blood samples were measured at the University of
85 Bristol. Glucose was measured by the hexokinase method on an Olympus AU600
86 autoanalyser (Olympus Diagnostica, Hamburg, Germany). Insulin was measured by enzyme
87 immunoassay (microtitre plate format – Dako Diagnostics Ltd, Ely, England). In 2003, blood
88 samples were analysed at the University of Cambridge. Plasma specific insulin was
89 determined by two-site immunometric assays with either 125I or alkaline phosphatase labels.
90 Between laboratories correlations for 30 randomly selected samples analyzed at Cambridge
91 and Bristol were 0.94 to 0.98. HOMA-IR was computed ($\text{Glucose} \times \text{Insulin} / 22.5$).^{20, 23} Self-
92 reported non-fasting participants were excluded from analyses.

93

94 **Body composition assessment**

95 Height was assessed to the nearest 0.5cm using a Harpenden stadiometer. Weight was
96 assessed to the nearest 0.1kg using a Seca beam scale. Body mass index ($\text{BMI} = \text{kg}/\text{m}^2$) was
97 calculated and converted into representative Danish age and gender specific BMI z-scores that
98 were previously developed using the Cole LMS method.²⁴ Waist circumference was

99 measured midway between the lower rib and iliac crest after gentle expiration. Puberty was
100 assessed using Tanner Scales.²⁵

101

102 **Statistics**

103 Descriptive statistics were calculated for all variables for each assessment period, histograms
104 plotted and the skewness (<2.0) and kurtosis (<5.0) checked to ensure that the data
105 approximated normality. All variables except the physical activity variables, which were
106 positively skewed, approximated normality. Independent sample t-test's were used to examine
107 whether there were any gender differences in the participants' BMI, waist circumference,
108 insulin, glucose, HOMA-IR, and both indicators of physical activity. As there was a
109 significant drop in physical activity between 1997 and 2003 (Table 1) and we hypothesised
110 that the change in physical activity was likely to be an important predictor of insulin
111 resistance, physical activity change variables (2003 – 1997) were computed for CPM and
112 minutes above 3000 CPM.

113

114 All analyses used linear regression models. As participants were recruited from schools,
115 models employed a hierarchical design in which participants were nested within schools using
116 the *xtreg* procedure in STATA (Version 9, College Station TX). In light of the clustered
117 nature of the data and the skewed physical activity variables, we also used robust standard
118 errors for all models. Robust standard errors apply a sandwich estimate of the variance
119 structure of the data that makes no assumptions about the variance structure of the data
120 (normal or otherwise).²⁶

121

122 Cross-sectional models were run to examine the extent to which fasting insulin, glucose and
123 HOMA-IR values were predicted by physical activity when the participants were in the 9th

124 grade. Fasting insulin, glucose, and HOMA-IR values were the dependent variables with
125 gender, parental education, BMI, waist circumference, and either mean minutes above
126 3000CPM or mean CPM as independent variables.

127

128 Longitudinal models examined whether change (2003 – 1997) in physical activity predicted
129 2003 insulin, glucose, and HOMA-IR after controlling for gender and parental education. To
130 account for the possibility that change in activity could be influenced by change in adiposity
131 indicators, the models also controlled for change in BMI and waist circumference and the
132 relevant 1997 indicator of IR. Tanner stage data indicated that 82.6% of participants were
133 Tanner stage 1 or 2 in 1997 and 94.0% were Tanner stage 4 or 5 in 2003 and therefore given
134 the lack of variability in these values, Tanner stage was not included in the models. The
135 within school R^2 and the overall R^2 (analogous to a traditional R^2) were obtained for all
136 models. Alpha was set 0.05.

137 **RESULTS**

138 Participant characteristics are shown in Table 1. There were 384 participants and of these 216
139 (56.3%) lived in a household with a university graduate. The mean BMI increased from 17.2
140 kg/m^2 in 1997 to 21.2 kg/m^2 in 2003. Mean minutes above 3000 CPM were 45.6 minutes in
141 1997 and 35.1 minutes in 2003. Independent sample t-tests indicated larger 2003 waist
142 circumferences among males (75.94 cm vs. 72.96 cm, $t = -3.84$, $p < 0.001$), higher 2003
143 glucose levels among males (5.16 mmol/l vs. 4.89 mmol/l, $t = -6.67$, $p < 0.001$), higher
144 activity among males with more minutes >3000 cpm (42.73 vs 28.9, $t = -5.69$, $p < 0.001$), and
145 more CPM (492.2 vs 397.9, $t = -5.14$, $p < 0.001$). The mean accelerometer counts for 9th grade
146 males and females in 2003 were 496 and 397 counts per minute (CPM) respectively, which is
147 similar to the 501 and 440 CPM that was previously reported for 9th grade adolescents from
148 the same schools in 1997 when our participants were in the 3rd grade.¹⁶

149

150 Waist circumference was crosssectionally associated with fasting insulin levels ($z = 2.05$, $p =$
151 0.040), while minutes of activity >3000 CPM was negatively associated ($z = -3.17$, $p = 0.002$).

152 The same pattern was evident when mean CPM were used as the physical activity variables.

153 Gender was associated with fasting glucose ($z = 3.76$, $p = 0.001$) and this was largely

154 unchanged when CPM was the physical activity variable. Minutes >3000 CPM was

155 negatively associated with HOMA-IR ($z = 2.69$, $p = 0.007$). When the model was re-run using

156 CPM, physical activity was negatively associated with HOMA-IR ($z = -2.57$, $p = 0.010$)

157 while BMI Z score was positively associated ($z = 2.02$, $p = 0.043$), (Table 2).

158

159 Insulin in 1997 ($z = 2.79$, $p = 0.005$) and change in waist circumference ($z = 3.16$, $p = 0.002$)

160 were positively associated with insulin in 2003, while change in minutes >3000 CPM was

161 negatively associated ($z = -2.47$, $p = 0.014$). Patterns were similar when counts per minute

162 were used as the physical activity variable. Models accounted for 22-23% of the variance

163 within schools and 24% of the overall variance (Table 3). Inspection of the beta coefficients

164 indicated that if all other variables were held constant, the fasting insulin levels of participants

165 whose physical activity level declined by around 22 minutes >3000 CPM per day, or 198

166 counts per minute, between 1997 and 2003 would be 0.5 mmol/l higher than those whose

167 activity level did not decline.

168

169 Glucose from 1997 ($z = 3.55$, $p < 0.001$) and gender ($z = 3.17$, $p = 0.002$) were significant

170 predictors of glucose in 2003, indicating that glucose was higher among males. A comparable

171 pattern was evident when CPM was used in the model. HOMA-IR from 1997 was positively

172 associated with HOMA-IR in 2003 ($z = 2.74$, $P = 0.006$) with change in waist circumference

173 also associated with higher HOMA-IR levels ($z = 3.39$, $p = 0.001$), while change in minutes

174 >3000CPM was negatively associated ($z = -2.31, p = 0.021$). When change in counts per
175 minute was the physical activity variable all three variables remained significant. Beta values
176 indicated that after holding all other variables constant, a 20.6 minutes >3000 CPM per day
177 decline or a 171 count per minute decline in physical activity between 1997 and 2003 was
178 associated with HOMA-IR values that were on average 0.1 units higher. The variance
179 accounted for within schools was 21-22% with the overall variance explained 23%.

180

181 **DISCUSSION**

182 The physical activity levels of Danish adolescents declined from nine to fifteen years of age
183 and this decline was associated with the participants' fasting insulin and HOMA-IR levels at
184 age fifteen. Estimations based on our data indicate that if mean accelerometer counts declined
185 by about 171 counts per minute or 20.6 minutes >3000CPM between 1997 and 2003, the
186 HOMA-IR levels of participants would be 0.1 units higher than those whose activity did not
187 decline. Similarly, the fasting insulin levels of participants whose physical activity declined
188 by about 22 minutes >3000CPM per day, or 198 accelerometer counts per minute, between
189 1997 and 2003 would be 0.5 mmol/l higher than the insulin levels of participants whose
190 activity levels did not decline. Cross-sectional analyses also indicated that physical activity
191 was consistently associated with fasting insulin and HOMA-IR levels at age fifteen. These
192 findings buttress previous studies among children and adolescents which have reported cross-
193 sectional associations between physical activity and indicators of insulin resistance by
194 demonstrating that associations are maintained through childhood into adolescence.^{11,27}
195 Findings therefore provide new longitudinal, support for the promotion of physical activity
196 among youth, as a means of maintaining desirable metabolic health.

197

198 Physical activity levels were lower at age 15 than at age nine. Comparison of the 9th grade
199 participants in this study with previously published data that was obtained from the same
200 schools in 1997 provided little evidence of the difference between the two groups. The
201 decline in activity from age 9 to 15 is therefore unlikely to be a function of a cultural shift in
202 physical activity. Findings are consistent with previous self-reported age related declines in
203 physical activity and cross-sectional studies reporting lower levels of physical activity among
204 older youth.²⁸⁻³⁰ The age related decline is important because youth physical activity
205 interventions have had limited, short-term effects.³¹⁻³⁵ The central premise of all youth
206 interventions has been the addition of physical activity into the participant's day and this
207 increase has required behaviour change.³² Given the low success of these programs,
208 investigators should consider re-examining the design of youth interventions as longitudinal
209 programs that focus on stemming age-related declines in physical activity may be more
210 effective for protection against insulin resistance.

211

212 There has been some debate as to whether the volume of physical activity (as indicated by
213 CPM) or the time spent in activity of a sufficient intensity (minutes > 3000 CPM) is of most
214 benefit for health enhancement.^{36, 37} It has been suggested that the overall volume of physical
215 activity could be important for metabolic health,³⁸ but bursts of moderate to vigorous
216 physical activity could be more important for cardiovascular health.^{39, 40} Our data suggests
217 that both the volume and intensity of physical activity are important for the prevention of
218 insulin resistance among adolescents. Therefore, strategies need to be encouraged to promote
219 all kinds of physical activity among youth.

220

221 Waist circumference was a significant predictor of insulin and HOMA-IR in both the cross-
222 sectional and longitudinal regression models. This finding is consistent with the data from the

223 US National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Growth and Health Study which reported that
224 among girls waist circumference at age 10 was a strong independent predictor of developing
225 the metabolic syndrome at age 18.⁴¹ The same study also showed that the tracking coefficient
226 for waist circumference was 0.83, indicating that girls with a large waist circumference at age
227 10 were likely to still have a large waist circumference at age 18.⁴¹ Collectively the findings
228 of this study and others suggest that routine waist circumference screening, either instead of
229 or as well as BMI, could be particularly important in identifying youth at risk of developing
230 insulin resistance.

231

232 **Strengths and limitations**

233 The major strength of this study is the physical activity and insulin resistance risk factor
234 information on a cohort of children and adolescents that was assessed at two time points six
235 years apart. The study is limited by the relatively small number of participants with complete
236 physical activity, body composition, blood, and parental education information at both time
237 points, which limited our power to detect relationships. Over 56% of participants resided in
238 homes where a parent was degree educated, which limits our ability to relate the findings to
239 wider socioeconomic groups. It is also important to acknowledge that accelerometers provide
240 poor assessments of cycling and, as they are not worn in water, cannot capture the physical
241 activity associated with swimming.

242 **CONCLUSIONS**

243 This paper has provided further cross-sectional and new longitudinal data on the association
244 between physical activity and indicators of insulin resistance among fifteen year old Danish
245 adolescents. Reductions in physical activity between nine and fifteen years of age were
246 associated with higher fasting insulin levels and HOMA-IR levels. New programs that focus

247 on stemming the age related decline in physical activity are likely to be an effective means of
248 preventing insulin resistance.

249

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254

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371 **Tables**

372

373 **Table 1: Participant characteristics**

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375 **Table 2: Cross-sectional regression models predicting indicators of insulin resistance by**
376 **demographics, waist circumference and physical activity when participants were in the**
377 **9th grade (2003)**

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379 **Table 3: Regression models predicting follow-up indicators of insulin resistance by**
380 **demographics, change in physical activity, BMI and waist circumference and baseline**
381 **Insulin Resistance (IR) variables**

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383 **Table 1: Participant characteristics**

	1997 – Participants in 3 rd Grade		2003 – Participants in 9 th Grade	
	N	(%)	N	(%)
Gender				
Female	214	55.7	214	55.7
Male	170	44.3	170	44.3
Highest education in household				
High School	79	20.6	79	20.6
High school & some University	86	22.4	86	22.4
University graduate & higher	216	56.3	216	56.3
Puberty (3 groups)				
1	317	82.6	0	0
2 (Tanner group 2 and 3)	62	16.1	23	6.0
3 (Tanner 4 and 5)	0	0	361	94.0
Missing	5	1.3	0	0
	N	Mean (SD)	N	Mean (SD)
Age (yrs)	383	9.65 (0.43)	384	15.72 (0.35)
BMI (kg/m ²)	384	17.15 (2.25)	384	21.23 (2.99)
Waist circumference (cm)	379	58.16 (5.41)	383	74.28 (7.68)
Insulin (micro iu/ml)	340	7.95 (4.06)	359	8.75 (3.84)
Glucose (mmol/l)	345	5.11 (0.37)	359	5.02 (0.41)
HOMA-IR	340	1.83 (0.98)	359	1.97 (0.93)
Physical activity data				
Mean days of valid accelerometer data	266	4.22 (1.26)	301	4.42 (0.84)
Mean mins accelerometer data per day	266	777.41 (43.96)	301	817.01 (160.71)
Mean min > 3000 CPM	266	45.64 (29.05)	301	35.08 (21.97)
Mean CPM	266	655.10 (234.43)	301	440.00 (164.55)

384 **Table 2: Cross-sectional regression models predicting indicators of insulin resistance by demographics, waist circumference and**
 385 **physical activity when participants were in the 9th grade (2003)**

Dependent Variable = Insulin 2003							
Ind. V (n = 235)	Beta (95% CI)	z	Sig	Ind. V (n = 235)	Beta (95% CI)	z	Sig
Gender	-0.96 (-1.96; 0.05)	-1.87	0.062	Gender	-1.00 (-2.00; -0.00)	-1.96	0.050
High school*	0.36 (-0.85; 1.56)	0.58	0.563	High school*	0.39 (-0.81; 1.60)	0.65	0.517
Some University*	0.16 (-0.75; 1.07)	0.35	0.729	Some University*	0.29 (-0.64; 1.23)	0.61	0.540
BMI Z Score	0.79 (-0.07; 1.64)	1.80	0.071	BMI Z Score	0.88 (-0.00; 1.77)	1.96	0.050
WC (cm)	0.11 (0.00; 0.22)	2.05	0.040	WC (cm)	0.12 (0.01; 0.22)	2.09	0.036
Min > 3000	-0.03 (-0.05; 0.01)	-3.17	0.002	Mean CPM	-0.00 (-0.01; -0.00)	-2.91	0.004
Within R ² = 0.194 Overall R ² = 0.224				Within R ² = 0.206 Overall R ² = 0.235			
Dependent Variable = Glucose 2003							
Ind. V (n = 235)	Beta (95% CI)	z	Sig	Ind. V (n = 2235)	Beta (95% CI)	z	Sig
Gender	0.22 (0.11; 0.34)	3.76	<0.001	Gender	0.23 (0.11; 0.34)	3.82	<0.001
High school*	0.09 (-0.05; 0.22)	1.22	0.224	High school*	0.09 (-0.05; 0.23)	1.27	0.203
Some University*	0.07 (-0.06; 0.19)	1.02	0.308	Some University*	0.09 (-0.04; 0.21)	1.34	0.181
BMI Z Score	0.03 (-.07; 0.12)	0.61	0.541	BMI Z Score	0.03 (-0.06; 0.13)	0.67	0.503
WC (cm)	-0.00 (-0.01; 0.01)	-0.11	0.915	WC (cm)	-0.00 (-0.01; 0.01)	-0.25	0.805
Min > 3000	-0.00 (-0.00; 0.00)	-0.32	0.747	Mean CPM	-0.00 (-0.00; 0.00)	-0.66	0.511
Within R ² = 0.094 Overall R ² = 0.110				Within R ² = 0.098 Overall R ² = 0.111			
Dependent Variable = HOMA-IR 2003							
Ind. V (n = 235)	Beta (95% CI)	z	Sig	Ind. V (n = 235)	Beta (95% CI)	z	Sig
Gender	-0.10 (-0.37; 0.16)	-0.77	0.440	Gender	-0.11 (0.38; 0.15)	-0.83	0.405
High school*	0.13 (-0.19; 0.44)	0.81	0.418	High school*	0.14 (-0.17; 0.46)	0.89	0.375
Some University*	0.05 (-0.17; 0.26)	0.45	0.654	Some University*	0.09 (-0.13; 0.31)	0.77	0.441
BMI Z Score	0.21 (-0.01; 0.42)	1.89	0.059	BMI Z Score	0.23 (0.01; 0.45)	2.02	0.043
WC (cm)	0.02 (-0.01; 0.05)	1.87	0.062	WC (cm)	0.02 (-0.00; 0.05)	1.91	0.057
Min > 3000	-0.01 (-0.01; -0.00)	-2.69	0.007	Mean CPM	-0.00 (-0.00; -0.00)	-2.57	0.010
Within R ² = 0.179 Overall R ² = 0.202				Within R ² = 0.191 Overall R ² = 0.211			

386 * University educated is reference group WC = Waist Circumference CPM = Counts per minute

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Table 3: Regression models predicting follow-up indicators of insulin resistance by demographics, change in physical activity, BMI and waist circumference and baseline Insulin Resistance (IR) variables

Dependent Variable = Insulin 2003							
Ind. V (n = 147)	Beta (95% CI)	z	Sig	Ind. V (n = 147)	Beta (95% CI)	z	Sig
Gender	-0.76 (-1.77; 0.26)	-1.47	0.143	Gender	-0.72 (-1.76; 0.32)	-1.35	0.177
High school*	0.63 (-1.02; 2.29)	0.75	0.453	High school*	0.68 (-0.97; 2.33)	0.81	0.417
Some University*	-0.18 (-1.26; 0.90)	-0.32	0.749	Some University*	0.01 (-1.14; 1.18)	0.02	0.981
Δ BMI Z score	0.67 (-0.32; 1.65)	1.33	0.184	Δ BMI Z score	0.68 (-0.32; 1.68)	1.34	0.181
1997 insulin (mmol/l)	0.17 (0.05; 0.29)	2.79	0.005	1997 insulin (mmol/l)	0.17 (0.04; 0.29)	2.59	0.010
Δ WC (cm)	0.18 (0.07; 0.30)	3.16	0.002	Δ WC (cm)	0.20 (0.08; 0.32)	3.30	0.001
Δ Min > 3000	-0.02 (-0.04; -0.00)	-2.47	0.014	Δ Mean CPM	-0.00 (-0.00; -0.00)	-2.18	0.029
Within R ² = 0.220			Overall R ² = 0.241	Within R ² = 0.234			Overall R ² = 0.241
Dependent Variable = Glucose 2003							
Ind. V (n = 149)	Beta (95% CI)	z	Sig	Ind. V (n = 149)	Beta (95% CI)	z	Sig
Gender	0.21 (0.08; 0.34)	3.17	0.002	Gender	0.21 (0.08; 0.38)	3.14	0.002
High school*	0.08 (-0.10; 0.25)	0.87	0.384	High school*	0.08 (-0.09; 0.26)	0.92	0.359
Some University*	0.02 (-0.15; 0.18)	0.18	0.856	Some University*	0.03 (-0.14; 0.19)	0.30	0.765
Δ BMI Z score	0.02 (-0.09; 0.13)	0.42	0.675	Δ BMI Z score	0.02 (-0.09; 0.13)	0.37	0.712
1997 Glucose (mmol/l)	0.36 (0.16; 0.55)	3.55	<0.001	1997 Glucose (mmol/l)	0.36 (0.16; 0.56)	3.55	<0.001
Δ WC (cm)	0.01 (-0.00; 0.02)	1.19	0.234	Δ WC (cm)	0.01 (-0.01; 0.02)	0.99	0.321
Δ Min > 3000	-0.00 (-0.00; 0.00)	-0.77	0.443	Δ Mean CPM	-0.00 (-0.00; 0.00)	-1.55	0.121
Within R ² = 0.244			Overall R ² = 0.206	Within R ² = 0.239			Overall R ² = 0.206
Dependent Variable = HOMA-IR 2003							
Ind. V (n = 147)	Beta (95% CI)	z	Sig	Ind. V (n = 174)	Beta (95% CI)	z	Sig
Gender	-0.05 (-0.30; 0.20)	-0.41	0.683	Gender	-0.04 (-0.29; 0.21)	-0.33	0.745
High school*	0.21 (-0.25; 0.67)	0.91	0.363	High school*	0.23 (-0.23; 0.69)	0.96	0.336
Some University*	-0.04 (-0.30; 0.21)	-0.32	0.749	Some University*	0.00 (-0.27; 0.27)	0.01	0.995
Δ BMI Z score	0.17 (-0.09; 0.42)	1.26	0.206	Δ BMI Z score	0.17 (-0.09; 0.43)	1.28	0.200
1997 HOMA-IR	0.17 (0.05; 0.29)	2.74	0.006	1997 HOMA-IR	0.17 (-0.04; 0.30)	2.60	0.009
Δ WC (cm)	0.05 (0.02; 0.07)	3.39	0.001	Δ WC (cm)	0.05 (0.02; 0.08)	3.54	<0.001
Δ Min > 3000	-0.00 (-0.01; -0.00)	-2.31	0.021	Δ Mean CPM	-0.00 (-0.00; -0.00)	-2.09	0.037
Within R ² = 0.214			Overall R ² = 0.231	Within R ² = 0.228			Overall R ² = 0.235

392 * University educated is reference group

WC = Waist Circumference

CPM = Counts per minute