

This is a self-archived version of an original article. This version may differ from the original in pagination and typographic details.

Author(s): Tuomola, Essi-Mari; Keskinen, Kirsi E.; Hinrichs, Timo; Rantanen, Taina; Portegijs, Erja

Title: Older Adults' Self-Reported Physical Activity and Distance to and Land Use Around Reported Physical Exercise Destinations

Year: 2023

Version: Accepted version (Final draft)

Copyright: © Human Kinetics 2023

Rights: In Copyright

Rights url: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/?language=en>

Please cite the original version:

Tuomola, E.-M., Keskinen, K. E., Hinrichs, T., Rantanen, T., & Portegijs, E. (2023). Older Adults' Self-Reported Physical Activity and Distance to and Land Use Around Reported Physical Exercise Destinations. *Journal of Aging and Physical Activity*, 31(4), 568-575.
<https://doi.org/10.1123/japa.2022-0105>

1 **Older adults' self-reported physical activity and distance to and land use**
2 **around reported physical exercise destinations**

3
4 Essi-Mari Tuomola¹, MSc, Kirsi E. Keskinen¹, PhD, Timo Hinrichs², MD, Taina Rantanen¹, PhD,
5 Erja Portegijs³, PhD.

6 1 Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences and Gerontology Research Center, University of Jyväskylä,
7 Jyväskylä, Finland

8 2 Division of Sports and Exercise Medicine, Department of Sport, Exercise and Health, University of
9 Basel, Basel, Switzerland

10 3 University Medical Center Groningen, Center for Human Movement Sciences, University of
11 Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands

12
13
14 Corresponding author:

15 Essi-Mari Tuomola

16 Gerontology Research Center and Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences

17 University of Jyväskylä

18 P.O. Box 35 (viv)

19 FI-40014 University of Jyväskylä

20 Finland

21 email: essi-mari.m.k.tuomola@jyu.fi

22 phone: +358 40 1857370

23
24 Suggested running head: Physical activity & physical exercise destinations

- 1 **Older adults' self-reported physical activity and distance to and land use**
- 2 **around reported physical exercise destinations**

1

Abstract

2 Little is known about older adults' physical exercise destinations. We studied associations between
3 physical activity (PA) level and physical exercise destinations (total number and surrounding
4 environment) in community-dwelling 75–85-year-old people living in Central Finland. Participants
5 (N=901) reported the amount of at least moderate intensity PA and physical exercise destinations.
6 Distance from home, land use and locations of sport facilities were defined using a geographic
7 information system. General linear model showed that older adults with higher PA reported higher
8 numbers of physical exercise destinations and destinations further away from home than those reporting
9 lower PA. Binary logistic regression showed that higher PA increased the odds of reporting a distant
10 destination identified as a sports facility and of reporting destinations located in residential, service,
11 forest and water body areas respectively. Physical exercise destinations in different environments may
12 attract older people to go out and be more physically active.

13

Keywords: sports facility, active aging, built environment, geographic information system

Introduction

Outdoor environments that enhance older people's physical activity ideally consist of diverse facilities, destinations and walking trails near home (Sugiyama et al., 2012). Specific physical exercise destinations may encourage older people to go outdoors and spend time in these locations. Sport and physical exercise destinations include, for example, outdoor and indoor sports facilities such as sports grounds, public parks, outdoor gyms, swimming halls and gyms (Gul et al., 2016).

Knowledge on the associations between older adults' physical activity levels and use of physical exercise destinations is quite sporadic and mostly focused on neighborhood environments (Bonaccorsi et al., 2020). The general idea is that older adults prefer easily accessible destinations near home which provide opportunities for physical and social activities, such as parks, trails and recreational centers, swimming halls and gyms (Chaudhury et al., 2016; Gough et al., 2021; Moran et al., 2014; Van Cauwenberg et al., 2018). Streets, local squares and parks have been reported as recreational physical activity locations (Liu et al., 2021). Reporting a range of physical exercise destinations correlated with accumulating higher PA (Kerr et al., 2012). For example, older people who reported outdoor exercise destinations or both indoor and outdoor physical exercise destinations accumulated more moderate-to-vigorous physical activity than those who reported only indoor physical exercise or no regular physical exercise destinations (Kerr et al., 2012).

Environmental factors of neighborhood, such as walkability, residential density, greenery, land use mix and access to destinations, have been positively associated with older adults' physical activity (Bonaccorsi et al., 2020). Furthermore, physical activity was higher among older people reporting destinations that attract them to move outdoors, such as nature, parks and services, especially when destinations were located further away from home (over 500m) (Portegijs et al., 2020). Older people may prefer to travel outside their neighborhood to use specific physical exercise destinations (McCormack et al., 2006). Among younger adults, those who participated in vigorous physical activity traveled further to use recreational destinations than those who didn't do any vigorous activities (McCormack et al., 2006). Going to physical exercise destinations further away from home may be related to environmental characteristics around these destinations (Liu et al., 2021; McCormack et al.,

1 2006; Vale & Pereira, 2016). There is limited understanding about how far from home older adults’
2 physical exercise destinations are typically located and what type of land use is surrounding these
3 destinations.

4 Online participatory mapping provides an inexpensive method with low participant burden
5 and moderate data computation requirements while it accurately describes where people move
6 (Hasanzadeh et al., 2017; Laatikainen et al., 2018; Portegijs et al., 2020; Schmidt et al., 2019). Self-
7 reported destinations on an interactive map can provide representative descriptions of locations where
8 people move around (Kestens et al., 2017). Online participatory mapping is also feasible in large
9 interdisciplinary studies with extensive participant samples. Map-based questionnaires enable asking
10 participants about motives for visiting the destination or the type of activity carried out there (Portegijs
11 et al., 2021) and location data enables it to be combined with geospatial data on physical features of the
12 environment (Rantanen & Kahila, 2009).

13 This research focuses on studying older adults’ physical activity, physical exercise
14 destinations of choice, and distance to and land use type around the physical exercise destinations. We
15 study the associations between older people’s physical activity level and the number of the self-reported
16 physical exercise destinations, and their distance from home and land use type characteristics assessed
17 based on a geographic information system.

18 **Methods**

19 **Study design**

20 This study is part of the Places of Active Aging project, which studies older people’s exercise
21 destinations and the physical environment around the destination. Participant data on health and
22 function are derived from the “Active aging – resilience and external support as modifiers of the
23 disablement outcome” (AGNES) cohort study. As described previously AGNES baseline data were
24 collected from September 2017 to December 2018 (Rantanen et al., 2018). A random sample of 75-
25 80-, and 85-year-old adults living in the city of Jyväskylä in Central Finland was drawn from the Digital
26 and Population Data Services Agency in Finland (Rantanen et al., 2018). The inclusion criteria were
27 being resident in the study area, living independently, being able to communicate and willing to

1 participate. At baseline, 1018 (Rantanen et al., 2018) respondents participated in structured interviews
2 at their home and 908 of them participated in physical assessments in the research center, which
3 included a map-based assessment. Of those who participated in map-based assessments, 901
4 participants located their physical exercise destinations on a digital map with the assistance of an
5 interviewer (Portegijs et al., 2019, 2021). The interviewer assisted participants technically with the
6 orientation on the map and navigation to desired location. Seven of the respondents were unable to
7 locate physical exercise destinations due the lack of time, health problems or limited cognitive function.
8 Altogether 883 participants reported physical activity and completed map-based assessment.
9 Participants' home addresses were derived from the population register and addresses were geocoded
10 using the Digiroad dataset (Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency, 2019).

11 The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. The ethical
12 statement has been provided by the Ethical Committee of the Central Finland Health Care District.
13 Study participants gave a written informed consent at the start of the home interview.

14 **Main measures**

15 **Physical activity** time of at least moderate intensity was self-reported using the Yale Physical Activity
16 Survey for older adults (Dipietro et al., 1993). Participants were asked about the frequency and the usual
17 duration per occasion of performing vigorous intensity physical activity as well as walking for at least
18 10 min during the past month. Response categories for frequency were (0) not at all, (1) 1–3 times per
19 month, (2) 1–2 times per week, (4) 3–4 times per week and (6) 5+ times per week and for activity
20 duration (20) 10–30 minutes, (40) 30–60 minutes, (60) over 60 minutes. Using these frequency and
21 duration categories daily minutes were computed using the following formula $[(\text{frequency} \times \text{duration}) / 7]$
22 for each separate activity and then summed to create total time in at least moderate intensity physical
23 activity (Portegijs et al., 2019). For subsequent analyses, the responses were dichotomized into higher
24 physical activity (≥ 30 min/day) and lower physical activity (< 30 min/day).

25 Information about physical exercise destinations was collected using the interactive online
26 Maptionnaire® tool (Mapita LTD, Espoo, Finland). Participants were asked to locate physical exercise
27 destinations, which they had visited several times in the past month. Physical exercise destinations

1 included indoor sports facilities, and outdoor sports facilities and recreational areas. For each
2 participant, reported outdoor and indoor physical exercise destinations were counted separately, and
3 summed for the **total number** of reported physical exercise destinations. Participants were categorized
4 into four groups according to **destination type**; only indoor physical exercise destinations, only outdoor
5 physical exercise destinations, both destination types and no physical exercise destinations reported.

6 Participants' physical exercise destinations were linked to their home addresses using the
7 geographic information system software ArcMap 10.6.1 (Esri Inc, Redlands, CA, USA). Distances
8 between participants' homes and their located physical exercise destinations were computed as
9 Euclidean distances (expressed in meters). The **maximal distance** from home to any of their physical
10 exercise destinations was determined. For each participant, we used the distance of the most distant
11 located physical exercise destination. Participants were categorized into four groups according to
12 **distance** to only proximal physical exercise destinations (<1 km from home), only distant physical
13 exercise destinations (>1 km from home), destinations at both distances, and no physical exercise
14 destinations reported.

15 The data of land use (Finnish Environment Institute 2018) and Lipas sports facilities (Lipas
16 sport facility database, 2018) was integrated with the participant data and the locations of reported
17 physical exercise destinations. To characterize the predominant **land use type** around reported physical
18 activity destinations we created 150-m buffer areas around each reported destination. According to
19 Hasanzadeh et al. (2017), 130–150 m has been identified as a convenient estimation to indicate the
20 surroundings of a single location. For the analyses, the original 49 land use classes of the Corine Land
21 Cover dataset were reclassified into five land use types, which included natural and built environments:
22 (1) residential areas, (2) services and sports and leisure facilities (3) industrial units, (4) agricultural and
23 private garden areas, forest and semi-natural areas or marshes and bogs, (5) water bodies (Finnish
24 Environment Institute 2018). For the analyses, we formed two variables for each land use type: reporting
25 at least one proximal and at least one distant physical exercise destination at the respective land use
26 type (yes/no).

1 We identified **sports facilities** from secondary data source “Public geographical information
2 system for sports facilities in Finland” (Lipas sport facility database, 2018). This database contains
3 information on publicly maintained sports facilities (such as indoor and outdoor gyms, sports and
4 swimming halls, neighborhood sports areas, ball and athletics fields and tennis courts etc.), routes for
5 outdoor activities and recreation areas. The information and data of Lipas is produced by experts of
6 municipal sport services and by associations for recreational areas and sports federations. If a reported
7 physical exercise destination was located within 150 m of a sports facility, it was considered to be the
8 respective maintained indoor or outdoor sports facility. For the analyses we formed two variables for
9 each participant: reported at least one proximal and at least one distant physical exercise destination
10 identified as maintained sports facility (yes/no).

11 **Covariates**

12 Age, sex, years of education, chronic conditions, cognitive function, and difficulty walking were
13 considered as covariates in the analyses. Participants’ age and sex were derived from the Digital and
14 Population Data Services Agency recruitment. Education was described as years of full-time education
15 (range from 0 to 33). Sociodemographics, such as gender, may affect older adults’ physical exercise
16 destination choices (Liu et al., 2021). During the home interview, self-reported chronic conditions were
17 queried using a list of ten categories including 34 diseases (Rantanen et al., 2018). Number of chronic
18 conditions was calculated as the sum of individual chronic conditions varying from 0 to 12 diseases.
19 Cognitive function was measured using the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) (Folstein et al.,
20 1975). The MMSE score ranges from 0 to 30 and a higher score indicates better function. Difficulty in
21 walking two kilometers was asked about with a 5-point response scale ranging from “no walking
22 difficulty” to “unable even with help of another person”. A dichotomous variable of difficulty walking
23 2 km was created (no difficulty vs. at least some difficulty or unable). Previous studies have shown that
24 low physical functioning may decrease mobility outdoors (Kerr et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2021).

25 **Statistical analyses**

1 Descriptive characteristics of participants and values of the destination's features were compared
2 between participants with lower and higher physical activity levels using Mann Whitney U test or
3 Chi-square test. In addition, participants who reported physical exercise destinations were compared
4 with those who did not report physical exercise destinations. Participant characteristics and
5 environment features were reported as medians and interquartile ranges (IQR) or as percentages
6 depending on variable distribution.

7 A general linear model was used to study associations between physical activity level and
8 total number of physical exercise destinations and maximum distance from home to a reported
9 destination. Separate analyses were conducted using the total number of physical exercise destinations
10 and maximum distance from home as dependent variables. Analyses were first adjusted for age, sex
11 and then difficulty walking, MMSE, chronic conditions and years of education. Logistic regression
12 models were used to study the association between physical activity and reported distant physical
13 exercise destinations located in residential areas, service areas, agricultural or forest areas and water
14 bodies. In addition, logistic regression models were utilized to study associations between physical
15 activity and reported distant physical exercise destinations identified as a sports facility. In these
16 models, predominant land use type and sports facility variables were used as dependent variables and
17 physical activity as an independent variable. Separate logistic regression models were run for each land
18 use type variable and sports facility variable. Analyses were adjusted for age, sex, difficulty walking,
19 MMSE, chronic conditions and years of education. SPSS Statistics for windows (version 26.0; IBM
20 Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) was used for all statistical analyses and statistical significance was set at p
21 < 0.05 in all tests.

Results

Overall, 89% percent of participants reported 1 to 8 outdoor physical exercise destinations and 47% 1 to 4 indoor physical exercise destinations, while 7% did not report any destinations for physical exercise. The 61 participants who reported not to use any physical exercise destinations were less physically active and had more difficulty walking than those who reported physical exercise destinations (median = 17.1 min, IQR = 22.9 vs. median = 34.3 min, IQR = 22.9; $p < 0.001$; 68.3% vs. 20.8%; $p < 0.001$, respectively), but they did not differ in any other variables. Table 1 shows descriptive characteristics of participants reporting lower ($N = 412$) and higher ($N = 471$) physical activity. Participants with lower physical activity were older, had fewer years of education, more walking difficulties, and diseases.

Those who had higher physical activity reported more physical exercise destinations than those with lower physical activity (median = 3.0, IQR = 2.0 vs. median = 2.0, IQR = 2.0; $p < 0.001$) (Table 1). The maximum distance of physical exercise destinations was longer for those who reported higher physical activity compared to those with lower physical activity (median = 3.4 km, IQR = 560 m vs. median = 3.1 km, IQR = 850 m; $p = 0.001$).

Older adults with higher physical activity more often reported both indoor and outdoor destinations for physical exercise and those with lower physical activity, only one of these (Figure 1a). There weren't statistically significant group differences in reporting indoor physical exercise destinations. Those with lower physical activity more frequently reported solely proximal physical exercise destinations than those who reported higher physical activity (Figure 1b). Whereas those who reported higher physical activity more frequently reported distant physical exercise destinations than did those who reported lower physical activity.

Participants reporting lower physical activity more frequently reported proximal physical exercise destinations in environments predominantly characterized by residential areas than those who reported higher physical activity (Figure 2a). The differences between groups were not statistically significant ($p = 0.068$). Whereas those who had higher physical activity more frequently reported proximal destinations in environments characterized by agricultural or forest areas, which was also

1 statistically significantly more often than in the low physical activity group. Both physical activity
2 groups more frequently reported at least one distant physical exercise destination in environments
3 predominantly characterized by service areas (Figure 2b). Distant destinations in environments
4 predominantly characterized by residential, service, agricultural or forest and water bodies land use
5 types were reported more often by those who had higher physical activity. There were no significant
6 differences between physical activity groups in reporting destinations characterized by industrial land
7 type.

8 Those who reported higher physical activity more often reported distant physical exercise
9 destinations identified as sports facilities than did those who reported lower physical activity ($p < 0.001$)
10 (Figure 2b). There were no group differences in reporting proximal sports facilities (Figure 2a).

11 Table 2 shows those with higher physical activity reported higher numbers of physical
12 exercise destinations ($b = 0.95$, 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.75–1.14) and destinations further from
13 home ($b = 0.49$, 95% CI 0.37–0.62) compared to older adults in the lower physical activity group. The
14 associations weakened somewhat, but remained statistically significant after adjusting for age, sex,
15 difficulty walking, MMSE, chronic conditions and years of education.

16 The logistic regression analysis showed that those who reported higher physical activity had
17 over twofold higher odds for reporting at least one distant physical exercise destination identified as a
18 sports facility compared to those who reported lower physical activity (Table 3). The association
19 remained significant after adjusting for age, sex, difficulty walking, MMSE, chronic conditions and
20 years of education.

21 Higher physical activity increased the odds for reporting more distant physical exercise
22 destinations in environments characterized by residential areas (Odds ratio [OR] 1.71, 95% CI 1.23–
23 2.39). Reporting higher physical activity showed twofold higher odds for reporting more distant
24 physical exercise destinations in environments characterized by service, agricultural or forest areas and
25 water bodies. Adjusting for difficulty walking, MMSE, chronic conditions and years of education, the
26 associations were attenuated somewhat and rendered the association between physical activity and
27 physical exercise destinations located in areas with predominantly water bodies non-significant.

Discussion

The main results showed that older people reporting higher physical activity reported more physical exercise destinations, and their destinations reported were located further from home compared to those with lower physical activity. In addition, higher physical activity increased the odds of reporting one distant physical exercise destination identified as a sports facility and of reporting destinations predominantly located in all types of land use. Proximal physical exercise destinations were more frequently reported at locations predominantly characterized by residential and agricultural or forest areas whereas distant destinations were located in service areas.

A previous study in working-age adults has shown that higher self-reported leisure time physical activity was associated with a higher amount of sports facilities in the neighborhood and visiting indoor and outdoor sports facilities more often (Kajosaari & Laatikainen, 2020). The current results showed similar associations among older adults. Older adults reporting higher physical activity reported more physical exercise destinations. Those who are physically more active may use a larger variety of indoor and outdoor physical exercise destinations whereas those who have lower physical activity may choose a specific location where they visit multiple times. In line with previous research (Kerr et al., 2012), older adults who reported higher physical activity more often reported both indoor and outdoor destinations than only one of them. Furthermore, it was previously suggested that different recreational destinations may promote older adults' physical activity (Barnett et al., 2017). In our study, older adults reported more outdoor physical exercise destinations than indoor physical exercise destinations. Participants were quite active which may affect choices of physical exercise destinations. Older people with lower activity or walking difficulties may not be able to access outdoor destinations and may prefer indoor destinations.

Different neighborhood environment factors have been associated with older people's physical activity (Barnett et al., 2017). The physical environment may encourage older people to go outdoors and visit different kinds of destinations (Sugiyama et al., 2012). When choosing a physical exercise destination, distance from home and type of land use around destinations may be relevant, but also, different kind of destinations use by older people regardless of environmental features. For

1 example, distance may affect the use of physical exercise destinations, as does the type of exercising
2 possibilities at the destination. The distance to physical exercise destinations may be connected to the
3 use of those destinations, and specific destinations may encourage people to travel further away from
4 home (McCormack et al., 2006), which is in line with the present study. According to our study older
5 adults may travel further for exercise purposes. When moving further away from home, older people
6 may choose physical exercise destinations, which are important to them and in a pleasing environment
7 potentially motivating them to be physically active. In our study, physically more active persons
8 reported more distant physical exercise destinations. Physically active older adults can participate more
9 easily in daily activities, they have better physical condition (Piercy et al., 2018) and their life-space
10 may be greater (Portegijs et al., 2015). Regular physical activity may improve physical function and
11 decrease the risk of developing cardiovascular and metabolic diseases (McPhee et al., 2016). In addition
12 to environmental features, various individual-level factors may be associated with physical activity,
13 such as age, sex, and self-rated health (Rai et al., 2019). In our study, older people reporting lower
14 physical activity were older, had fewer years of education, had more walking difficulties and diseases,
15 which may affect their destinations of choice, that is, they may favor destinations closer to home.

16 The neighborhood area is important for physical activity, especially for older adults
17 (Chaudhury et al., 2016). The availability of recreational destinations and land use mix has been
18 associated with older people's physical activity (Barnett et al., 2017). Parks and small green areas near
19 home comprise a low-threshold to being physically active (Van Cauwenberg et al., 2015). According
20 to a study by Kajosaari & Laatikainen, (2020), adults' green and built public spaces, such as parks and
21 forests, were located closer to home compared to indoor and outdoor sports facilities. In our study, older
22 people more frequently reported proximal physical exercise destinations predominantly characterized
23 by residential and agricultural or forest land types, and more distant destinations were more often
24 located in service-dominated areas. Different kinds of services may motivate older people to go out and
25 be active (Barnett et al., 2017). Older people may use specific physical exercise destinations because
26 these are near other services, and they can visit multiple destinations during the same trip. In our study,
27 those with higher physical activity more frequently reported distant physical exercise destinations
28 identified as sports facilities. Maintained sports facilities have surroundings and facilities that are built

1 for physical activity. Older people may be motivated to travel further from home to reach sports
2 facilities where they can be physically active and participate in different sports. The built environment
3 of green areas may be more important for physical activity than the built environment of sports facilities
4 where individual factors, such as social support and self-efficacy, may have a greater role (Kajosaari &
5 Laatikainen, 2020).

6 The strengths of this study include a population-based sample of older adults above 75 years
7 that contributes relevant information on the association between physical activity and reported physical
8 exercise destinations. By combining environmental datasets and subjective methods, such as a map-
9 based questionnaire, we were able to study the environmental context where older people are active.
10 Map-based questionnaires are a suitable way to study older adults' mobility (Laatikainen et al., 2018).
11 This is one of the first studies looking at associations between older people's physical activity, physical
12 exercise destinations and environmental features around these destinations. We had few missing data
13 and participants had a relatively good health condition. Overall, study participants were relatively
14 physically active.

15 The following limitations should be noted when interpreting results. Participants with lower
16 physical activity had more walking difficulties than those with higher physical activity, which may be
17 one reason why people with lower activity reported fewer destinations and destinations closer to home.
18 This study was conducted in Finland and therefore generalization to different cultural and
19 environmental contexts should happen with caution. Responsibility for updating the Lipas database lies
20 with experts of municipal sports services and associations for recreational areas and sports federations,
21 which may lead to inaccuracies regarding the sports facilities listed or delays in reporting changes.

22 In addition, there are a few limitations concerning variables. Physical activity and physical
23 exercise destinations were both self-reported. Self-reported physical activity may be overestimated
24 (Steene-Johannessen et al., 2016). Daily minutes of self-reported walking bouts and vigorous physical
25 activity were summed and categorized to describe the overall physical activity level. Categorization of
26 an originally continuous variable may result in loss of some information. Older adults reported only
27 physical exercise destinations, which they had visited several times during the past month, and thus,
28 excluding single visits. Distance from home to physical exercise destination was measured with the

1 Euclidean distance, which may underestimate actual distances (Shadid et al., 2009) but correlates well
2 with driving distances (Boscoe et al., 2012). The accuracy of locating destinations should be also noted.
3 Older adults located their physical exercise destinations on a digital map with the assistance of an
4 interviewer. The accuracy of the located destinations is unknown and may to some extent affect the
5 environmental analyses in the 150-m buffer area used around the participant's reported destinations.
6 However, we took this into account by requiring a sufficiently detailed zoom level for locating
7 destinations in the map-based questionnaire app.

8 **Conclusions**

9 In the current study, older adults reporting higher physical activity used a larger variety of
10 physical exercise destinations (i.e., locating in different types of land use and type of sports facility)
11 and destinations located further away from home than did those with lower physical activity. Proximal
12 destinations located in residential and forest areas may be important especially for those with lower
13 activity and walking difficulties. Especially among older people with higher physical activity,
14 willingness to travel further away from home and to physical exercise destinations in various land use
15 types indicates the importance of these destinations to the persons visiting them. Information on
16 physical exercise destinations and surrounding environments could help to create a more comprehensive
17 picture of older adults' activity behavior outside the home and the meaning of activity locations. Further
18 research is needed to study how specific physical exercise modes affect older adults' destination
19 choices. In addition, it will also be interesting to find out how older adults' physical activity and use of
20 physical exercise destinations change over time.

21 **Acknowledgements**

22 The Gerontology Research Center is a joint effort between the University of Jyväskylä and the
23 University of Tampere. We thank the participants for giving freely of their time and effort in supporting
24 our study. This work was financially supported by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture [to
25 EP]; the European Research Council [Grant No. 693045; Advanced Grant to TR]; the Academy of
26 Finland [Grant No.310526 to TR]; and the Juho Vainio Foundation [to EP and KK]. The funders had

- 1 no role in study design, the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, the writing of the report and
- 2 the decision to submit this article for publication. The content of this article does not reflect the official
- 3 opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the article
- 4 lies entirely with the authors.

References

- 1
- 2 Barnett, D. W., Barnett, A., Nathan, A., Van Cauwenberg, J., Cerin, E., & Council on Environment
3 and Physical Activity (CEPA) – Older Adults working group. (2017). Built environmental
4 correlates of older adults' total physical activity and walking: A systematic review and meta-
5 analysis. *The International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*, *14*(1), 103.
6 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12966-017-0558-z>
- 7 Bonaccorsi, G., Manzi, F., Del Riccio, M., Setola, N., Naldi, E., Milani, C., Giorgetti, D., Dellisanti,
8 C., & Lorini, C. (2020). Impact of the built environment and the neighborhood in promoting the
9 physical activity and the healthy aging in older people: An umbrella review. *International*
10 *Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, *17*(17).
11 <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17176127>
- 12 Boscoe, F. P., Henry, K. A., & Zdeb, M. S. (2012). A Nationwide Comparison of Driving Distance
13 Versus Straight-Line Distance to Hospitals. *The Professional Geographer*, *64*(2), 188–196.
14 <https://doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2011.583586>
- 15 Chaudhury, H., Campo, M., Michael, Y., & Mahmood, A. (2016). Neighbourhood environment and
16 physical activity in older adults. *Social Science & Medicine*, *149*, 104–113.
17 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.12.011>
- 18 Dipietro, L., Caspersen, C. J., Ostfeld, A. M., & Nadel, E. R. (1993). A survey for assessing physical
19 activity among older adults. *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*, *25*(5).
20 <https://journals.lww.com/acsm->
21 [msse/Fulltext/1993/05000/A_survey_for_assessing_physical_activity_among.16.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/acsm-msse/Fulltext/1993/05000/A_survey_for_assessing_physical_activity_among.16.aspx)
- 22 Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) (partly LUKE, MAVI, LIVI, DVV, EU, NLS Topographic
23 Database 01/2017). (2018). Corine Land Cover 2018, 20m. Helsinki: Finnish Environment
24 Institute. Available in: [https://www.syke.fi/en-](https://www.syke.fi/en-US/Open_information/Spatial_datasets/Downloadable_spatial_dataset)
25 [US/Open_information/Spatial_datasets/Downloadable_spatial_dataset](https://www.syke.fi/en-US/Open_information/Spatial_datasets/Downloadable_spatial_dataset) . Accessed: 7.4.2021.

- 1 Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency. (2019). Digiroad Publication 1/2019. Retrieved February 22,
2 2019 from <https://ava.vaylapilvi.fi/ava/Tie/Digiroad/Aineistojulkaisut>
- 3 Folstein, M. F., Folstein, S. E., & McHugh, P. R. (1975). "Mini-mental state". A practical method for
4 grading the cognitive state of patients for the clinician. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 12(3),
5 189–198. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-3956\(75\)90026-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-3956(75)90026-6)
- 6 Gough, C., Weber, H., George, S., Maeder, A., & Lewis, L. (2021). Location monitoring of physical
7 activity and participation in community dwelling older people: A scoping review. *Disability*
8 *and Rehabilitation*, 43(2), 270–283. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2019.1618928>
- 9 Gul, Y., Sultan, Z., & Johar, F. (2016). Effects of neighborhood's built environment on physical
10 activities in gated communities: A review. *International Journal of Built Environment and*
11 *Sustainability*, 3(1), 60-69. <https://doi.org/10.11113/ijbes.v3.n1.112>
- 12 Hasanzadeh, K., Broberg, A., & Kytä, M. (2017). Where is my neighborhood? A dynamic individual-
13 based definition of home ranges and implementation of multiple evaluation criteria. *Applied*
14 *Geography*, 84, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2017.04.006>
- 15 Kajosaari, A., & Laatikainen, T. E. (2020). Adults' leisure-time physical activity and the
16 neighborhood built environment: A contextual perspective. *International Journal of Health*
17 *Geographics*, 19(1), 35. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12942-020-00227-z>
- 18 Kerr, J., Sallis, J. F., Saelens, B. E., Cain, K. L., Conway, T. L., Frank, L. D., & King, A. C. (2012).
19 Outdoor physical activity and self rated health in older adults living in two regions of the U.S.
20 *The International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*, 9(1), 89.
21 <https://doi.org/10.1186/1479-5868-9-89>
- 22 Kestens, Y., Wasfi, R., Naud, A., & Chaix, B. (2017). "Contextualizing Context": Reconciling
23 Environmental Exposures, Social Networks, and Location Preferences in Health Research.
24 *Current Environmental Health Reports*, 4(1), 51–60. [https://doi.org/10.1007/s40572-017-0121-](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40572-017-0121-8)
25 8

- 1 Laatikainen, T. E., Hasanzadeh, K., & Kyttä, M. (2018). Capturing exposure in environmental health
2 research: Challenges and opportunities of different activity space models. *International Journal*
3 *of Health Geographics*, 17(1), 29. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12942-018-0149-5>
- 4 Lipas sport facility database. (2018). Lipas-data 2/2018. University of Jyväskylä.
5 <https://doi.org/10.17011/dvn/dataset/11302/10084>. Accessed 31.5.2021.
- 6 Liu, Z., Kemperman, A., & Timmermans, H. (2021). Correlates of frequency of outdoor activities of
7 older adults: Empirical evidence from Dalian, China. *Travel Behaviour and Society*, 22, 108–
8 116. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tbs.2020.09.003>
- 9 McCormack, G. R., Giles-Corti, B., Bulsara, M., & Pikora, T. J. (2006). Correlates of distances
10 traveled to use recreational facilities for physical activity behaviors. *International Journal of*
11 *Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*, 10.
- 12 McPhee, J. S., French, D. P., Jackson, D., Nazroo, J., Pendleton, N., & Degens, H. (2016). Physical
13 activity in older age: perspectives for healthy ageing and frailty. *Biogerontology*, 17(3), 567–
14 580. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10522-016-9641-0>
- 15 Moran, M., Van Cauwenberg, J., Hercky-Linnewiel, R., Cerin, E., Deforche, B., & Plaut, P. (2014).
16 Understanding the relationships between the physical environment and physical activity in
17 older adults: A systematic review of qualitative studies. *International Journal of Behavioral*
18 *Nutrition and Physical Activity*, 11(Journal Article), 79. [https://doi.org/10.1186/1479-5868-11-](https://doi.org/10.1186/1479-5868-11-79)
19 79
- 20 Piercy, K. L., Troiano, R. P., Ballard, R. M., Carlson, S. A., Fulton, J. E., Galuska, D. A., George, S.
21 M., & Olson, R. D. (2018). The Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans. *JAMA : The*
22 *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 320(19), 2020–2028.
23 <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2018.14854>
- 24 Portegijs, E., Karavirta, L., Saajanaho, M., Rantalainen, T., & Rantanen, T. (2019). Assessing
25 physical performance and physical activity in large population-based aging studies: Home-

- 1 based assessments or visits to the research center? *BMC Public Health*, 19(1), 1570.
2 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-7869-8>
- 3 Portegijs, E., Keskinen, K. E., Eronen, J., Saajanaho, M., Rantakokko, M., & Rantanen, T. (2020).
4 Older Adults' physical activity and the relevance of distances to neighborhood destinations and
5 barriers to outdoor mobility. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 8(Journal Article), 335.
6 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2020.00335>
- 7 Portegijs, E., Keskinen, K. E., Tuomola, E.-M., Hinrichs, T., Saajanaho, M., & Rantanen, T. (2021).
8 Older adults' activity destinations before and during COVID-19 restrictions: From a variety of
9 activities to mostly physical exercise close to home. *Health & Place*, 68, 102533.
10 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2021.102533>
- 11 Portegijs, E., Tsai, L.-T., Rantanen, T., & Rantakokko, M. (2015). Moving through life-space areas
12 and objectively measured physical activity of older people. *PloS One*, 10(8), e0135308.
13 <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0135308>
- 14 Rai, R., Jongenelis, M. I., Jackson, B., Newton, R. U., & Pettigrew, S. (2019). Exploring Factors
15 Associated With Physical Activity in Older Adults: An Ecological Approach. *Journal of aging
16 and physical activity*, 27(3), 343–353. <https://doi.org/10.1123/japa.2018-0148>
- 17 Rantanen, H., & Kahila, M. (2009). The SoftGIS approach to local knowledge. *Journal of
18 Environmental Management*, 90(6), 1981–1990. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2007.08.025>
- 19 Rantanen, T., Saajanaho, M., Karavirta, L., Siltanen, S., Rantakokko, M., Viljanen, A., Rantalainen,
20 T., Pynnönen, K., Karvonen, A., Lisko, I., Palmberg, L., Eronen, J., Palonen, E.-M., Hinrichs,
21 T., Kauppinen, M., Kokko, K., & Portegijs, E. (2018). Active aging - Resilience and external
22 support as modifiers of the disablement outcome: AGNES cohort study protocol. *BMC Public
23 Health*, 18(1). Scopus. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-5487-5>

- 1 Schmidt, T., Kerr, J., Kestens, Y., & Schipperijn, J. (2019). Challenges in using wearable GPS
2 devices in low-income older adults: Can map-based interviews help with assessments of
3 mobility? *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, 9(1), 99–109. <https://doi.org/10.1093/tbm/iby009>
- 4 Shahid, R., Bertazzon, S., Knudtson, M.L. et al. Comparison of distance measures in spatial analytical
5 modeling for health service planning. *BMC Health Serv Res* 9, 200 (2009).
6 <https://doi.org/10.1186/1472-6963-9-200>
- 7 Steene-Johannessen, J., Anderssen, S. A., Van Der Ploeg, H. P., Hendriksen, I. J. M., Donnelly, A. E.,
8 Brage, S., & Ekelund, U. (2016). Are self-report measures able to define individuals as
9 physically active or inactive? *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*, 48(2), 235–244.
10 <https://doi.org/10.1249/MSS.0000000000000760>
- 11 Sugiyama, T., Neuhaus, M., Cole, R., Giles-Corti, B., & Owen, N. (2012). Destination and route
12 attributes associated with adults' walking: A review. *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*,
13 44(7), 1275–1286. <https://doi.org/10.1249/MSS.0b013e318247d286>
- 14 Vale, D. S., & Pereira, M. (2016). Influence on pedestrian commuting behavior of the built
15 environment surrounding destinations: A structural equations modeling approach. *International*
16 *Journal of Sustainable Transportation*, 10(8), 730–741.
17 <https://doi.org/10.1080/15568318.2016.1144836>
- 18 Van Cauwenberg, J., Cerin, E., Timperio, A., Salmon, J., Deforche, B., & Veitch, J. (2015). Park
19 proximity, quality and recreational physical activity among mid-older aged adults: Moderating
20 effects of individual factors and area of residence. *International Journal of Behavioral*
21 *Nutrition and Physical Activity*, 12(1), 46. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12966-015-0205-5>
- 22 Van Cauwenberg, J., Nathan, A., Barnett, A., Barnett, D. W., Cerin, E., & the Council on
23 Environment and Physical Activity (CEPA)-Older Adults Working Group. (2018).
24 Relationships between neighbourhood physical environmental attributes and older adults'
25 leisure-time physical activity: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Sports Medicine*, 48(7),
26 1635–1660. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40279-018-0917-1>

Table 1. Descriptive characteristics and reported physical exercise destinations of participants with higher vs. lower physical activity ($N = 883$)

	Lower physical activity ^a $N = 412$ Median (IQR)	Higher physical activity ^b $N = 471$ Median (IQR)	p value
Age (years)	79.4 (4.8)	76.0 (4.5)	0.003^c
Chronic conditions (n)	4.0 (3.0)	3.0 (2.0)	<0.001^c
MMSE score	28.0 (3.0)	28.0 (3.0)	0.017^c
Education (years)	10.0 (6.0)	11.0 (6.0)	0.004^c
Number of reported exercise destinations	2.0 (2.0)	3.0 (2.0)	<0.001^c
Maximum distance to reported exercise destinations (km)	3.1 (0.9)	3.4 (0.6)	0.001^c
Men, % (n)	39.8 (164)	45.6 (215)	0.088 ^d
Difficulty walking, % (n)	51.1 (208)	18.1 (85)	<0.001^d

IQR, interquartile range; MMSE, Mini-Mental State Examination

^a Lower physical activity, <30 min/day

^b Higher physical activity, \geq 30 min/day

^c Mann-Whitney U test

^d Chi-Square test

Table 2. The association between physical activity level and the number of and maximum distance to reported physical exercise destinations ($N = 883$)

	Number of physical exercise destinations				Maximum distance to physical exercise destinations (km)			
	Crude ^a		Fully adjusted ^b		Crude ^a		Fully adjusted ^b	
	b	95% CI	b	95% CI	b	95% CI	b	95% CI
Higher physical activity (vs. Lower physical activity)	0.95	0.75–1.14	0.74	0.54–0.94	0.49	0.37–0.62	0.36	0.23–0.49
Age	-0.01	-0.04–0.01	0.01	-0.02–0.04	-0.04	-0.06–0.02	-0.02	-0.04–0.00
Men (vs. Women)	0.35	0.16–0.54	0.40	0.21–0.59	-0.07	-0.19–0.06	-0.03	-0.16–0.09
Difficulty walking (vs. No difficulty walking)			0.47	0.25–0.67			0.41	0.26–0.56
MMSE score			0.09	0.05–0.13			0.04	0.01–0.07
Chronic conditions			-0.05	-0.10–0.01			-0.01	-0.04–0.03
Years of education			0.02	-0.01–0.04			0.01	-0.01–0.02

Note. Values in bold; If the 95% CI does not contain the value 0, $p < 0.05$. b = Regression coefficient, CI = confidence interval
 General linear models adjusted for ^aage, sex, ^bage, sex, difficulty walking, MMSE, chronic conditions and years of education. Higher physical activity, ≥ 30 min/day; lower physical activity, < 30 min/day.

Table 3. Odds ratios (95% CI) for reporting at least one distant physical exercise destination identified as a sports facility and according to predominant land use type for those with higher physical activity (vs. lower physical activity) ($N=883$)

Dependent variable	Crude ^a		Fully adjusted ^b	
	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI
Sports facility	2.51	1.87–3.36	2.07	1.51–2.82
Residential areas	1.71	1.23–2.39	1.55	1.08–2.21
Service areas	2.12	1.59–2.82	1.81	1.33–2.47
Agricultural or forest areas	2.17	1.62–2.91	1.63	1.19–2.24
Water bodies	2.14	1.44–3.17	1.46	0.97–2.21

Note. Values in bold; If the 95% CI does not contain the value 1, $p < 0.05$. Lower physical activity as a reference category. Logistic regression model adjusted for ^aage, sex, ^bage, sex, difficulty walking, MMSE, chronic conditions and years of education. Reporting distant physical exercise destination in industrial land use type was too rare to compute valid logistic regression, and thus omitted from the table.

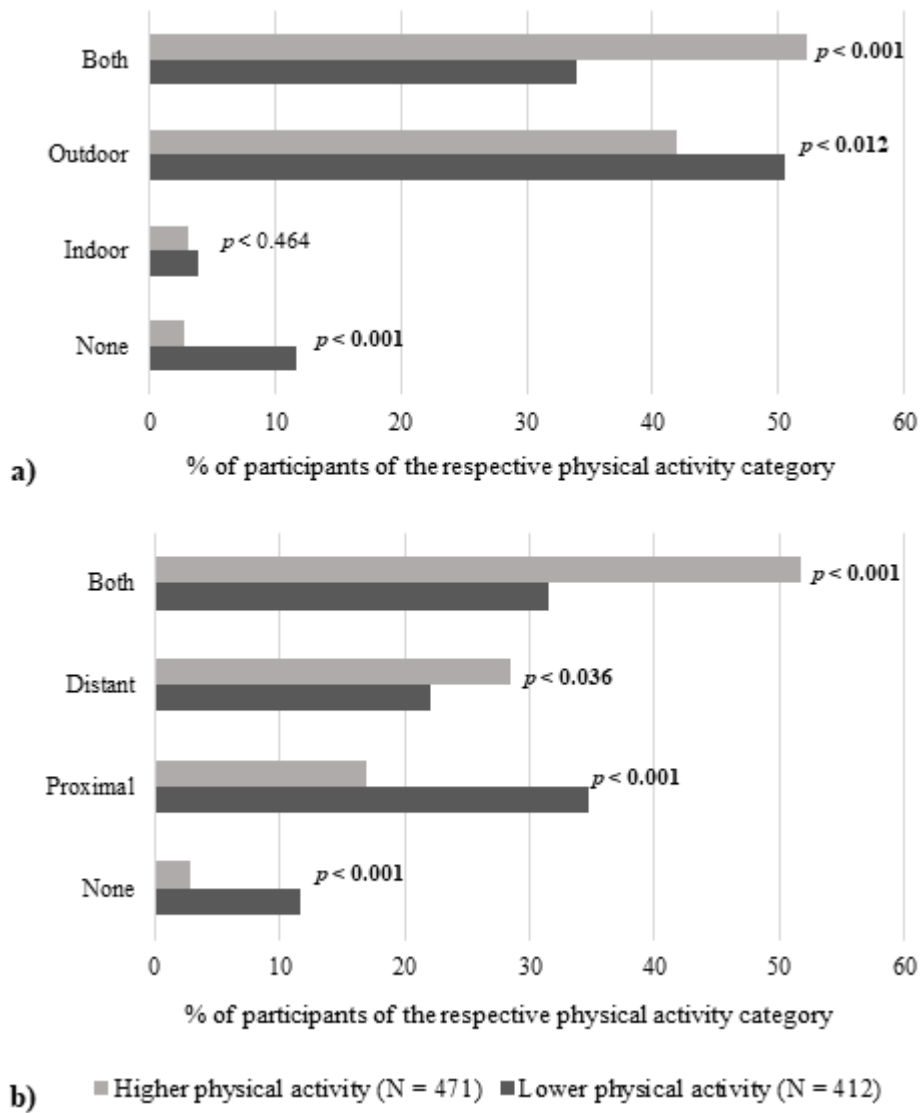


Figure 1. Proportions of participants reporting physical exercise destinations by (a) type and (b) distance according to physical activity group (%; $N = 883$). Statistical significance between physical activity groups in Chi-square test are indicated in the figure.

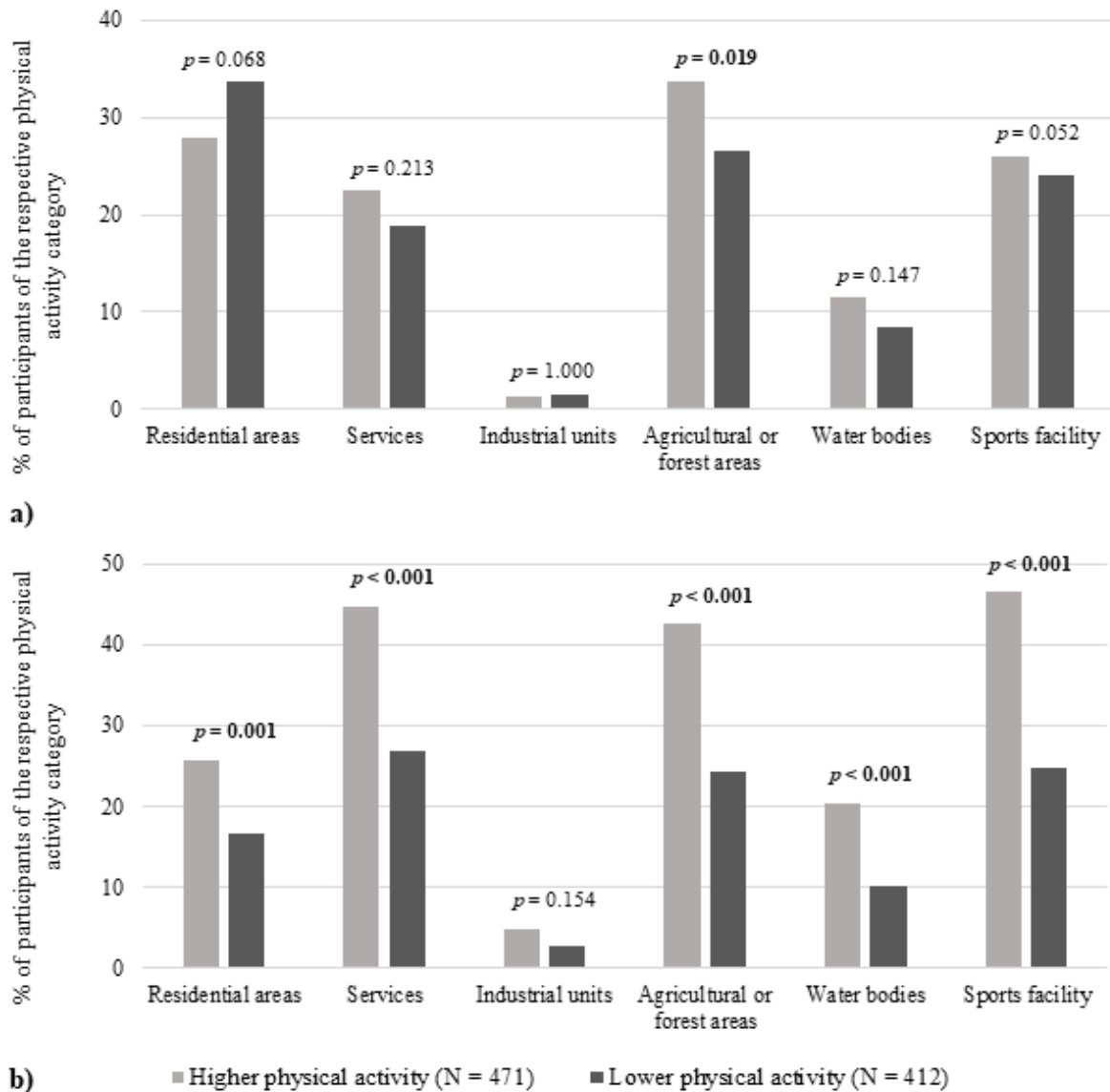


Figure 2. Proportion of participants reporting at least one (a) proximal and (b) distant physical exercise destination in predominant land type or identified as sports facility according to physical activity group ($N = 883$). Statistical significance between physical activity groups in Chi-square test are indicated in the figure.