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Original Article

Reliability of accelerometer-determined physical activity and sedentary behavior in school aged children: A 12- country study

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Running Head: Reliability of accelerometer-derived metrics

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1 **Abstract**

2 **Objective:** Focused on accelerometer-determined physical activity and sedentary time metrics
3 in 9-11 year old children, we sought to determine: (1) the number of days that are necessary to
4 achieve reliable estimates ($G \geq 0.8$); (2) the proportion of variance attributed to different facets
5 (Participants and Days) of reliability estimates; and (3) the actual reliability of data as collected
6 in The International Study of Childhood Obesity, Lifestyle and Environment (ISCOLE).

7 **Subjects/Methods:** The analytical sample consisted of 6025 children (55% girls) from sites in
8 12 countries. Physical activity and sedentary time metrics measures were assessed for up to 7
9 consecutive days for 24 h/day with a waist-worn ActiGraph GT3X+. Generalizability theory using
10 R software was used to investigate objectives 1 and 2. Intra-class correlation coefficients (ICC)
11 were computed using SAS PROC GLM to inform objective 3.

12 **Results:** The estimated minimum number of days required to achieve a reliability estimate of
13 $G \geq 0.8$ ranged from 5-9 for boys and 3-11 for girls for LPA; 5-9 and 3-10 respectively for MVPA;
14 5-10 and 4-10 for total activity counts; and 7-11 and 6-11 for sedentary time. For all variables
15 investigated, the Participant facet accounted for 30-50% of the variability whereas Days
16 accounted for $\leq 5\%$, and the interaction (PxD) accounted for 50-70% of the variability. The actual
17 reliability for boys in ISCOLE ranged from ICCs of 0.78-0.86, 0.73-0.85, and 0.72-0.86 for LPA,
18 MVPA, and total activity counts, respectively, and 0.67-0.79 for sedentary time. The
19 corresponding values for girls were 0.80-0.88, 0.70-0.89, 0.74-0.86, and 0.64-0.80.

20 **Conclusion:** It was rare that only 4 days from all participants would be enough to achieve
21 desirable reliability estimates. However, asking participants to wear the device for 7 days and
22 requiring ≥ 4 days of data to include the participant in the analysis might be an appropriate
23 approach to achieve reliable estimates for most accelerometer-derived metrics.

24 **Key Words:** accelerometry, stability, repeatability, validity

25 **Trial Registration:** ClinicalTrials.gov: Identifier NCT01722500

26 Introduction

27 It is imperative that measurements used in research are both reliable and valid. The
28 degree of reliability represents the stability of the measured value and this will influence the
29 strength of relationships observed between variables and the ability to detect changes in a
30 measured outcome.¹ Accelerometers are now widely used and becoming the standard objective
31 measure of physical activity and sedentary behavior.^{2,3} For this reason, it is important for
32 physical activity and sedentary behavior researchers to evaluate both the reliability (i.e.,
33 repeatability) of the instrument *per se* and the reliability (i.e., stability) of the measured behavior
34 (physical activity, sedentary behavior, etc.).⁴⁻⁶ When tested in mechanical shakers, it has been
35 demonstrated that accelerometers can output repeatable and reliable measures.⁶⁻⁹ The stability
36 of behaviors is commonly evaluated by determining how many days are necessary to achieve a
37 desired reliability level for the variable being investigated.^{4,10-13}

38 Based on prior pediatric accelerometer- and pedometer-based studies, it is currently
39 common practice to ask children to wear accelerometers for 7 consecutive days and then to
40 only use data from those that provide at least 3 or 4 days of valid data.¹⁴⁻¹⁶ We employed a
41 similar strategy in the International Study of Childhood Obesity, Lifestyle and the Environment
42 (ISCOLE), by implementing an *a priori* decision rule to only include participants with ≥ 4 days of
43 accelerometer data, including at least 1 weekend day.¹⁷ However, there is limited evidence that
44 this protocol is actually sufficient to achieve the commonly desired intra-class correlation
45 coefficient (ICC) of ≥ 0.8 . While an ICC of 0.8 is not an absolute criterion, it is commonly used in
46 physical activity research^{13,18,19} and it is enough to decrease correlation between variables by
47 10%.¹ Reliability estimates have been previously derived from studies conducted with small
48 sample sizes, wide age ranges, and sex-combined (boys and girls) results. However, some
49 studies have provided a thorough investigation of the reliability of accelerometer-derived
50 physical activity in youth. For example, Trost et al.¹⁹ tested a total of 381 children and
51 adolescents and concluded that 4-5 days were necessary to achieve $ICC \geq 0.8$ for children's

52 accelerometer-derived MVPA measurement while 8-9 days were necessary for adolescents. In
53 the same study, the ICC for 4 days ranged from 0.64 to 0.79 for the different groups. Hinkley et
54 al.¹³ investigated the number of days required to achieve different levels of reliability for
55 percentage of time at MVPA in a sample of 799 preschool children, taking into consideration
56 different numbers of hours per day to be included in the analysis and determined that > 4 days
57 were necessary for ICC \geq 0.8 when 10 h/day was used. In a more recent investigation by
58 Wickel,²⁰ detailed reliability information for accelerometer-derived MVPA was presented for both
59 complete data (only those with 7 days) and incomplete data (1-7 days of data) using different
60 wear time standards in a sample of 1082 children. For the most commonly accepted wear time
61 definition of a valid day (\geq 10 h/day), reliability coefficients ranged from 0.77 to 0.84 for complete
62 data and 0.54 to 0.65 for incomplete data. Two of these studies^{19,20} suggest that > 4 days might
63 be necessary to achieve target reliability in estimates of MVPA in youth. However, the
64 aforementioned studies did not investigate the reliability of other physical activity metrics,
65 including time spent in different physical activity intensities and sedentary time. In one of the few
66 studies that investigated sedentary behavior, Basterfield et al.²¹ studied 291, 6- to 8- years-old
67 children and demonstrated that \geq 5 days were necessary to achieve the desirable level of
68 reliability for estimating percentage of time spent in sedentary behavior.

69 ISCOLE was conducted at 12 different sites in countries around the globe representing a
70 wide range of cultures and levels of human development.¹⁷ Thus, ISCOLE provides a unique
71 opportunity to test the reliability of accelerometer-determined activities in a large and culturally
72 diverse sample of children. Focused on accelerometer-determined physical activity and
73 sedentary time metrics in 9-11 year old children, we sought to determine: (1) the number of
74 days that are necessary to achieve reliable estimates ($G \geq 0.8$); (2) the proportion of variance
75 attributed to different facets (Participants and Days) of reliability estimates; and (3) the actual
76 reliability of accelerometry data as collected in ISCOLE.

77

78 **Subjects and Methods**

79 Detailed information about ISCOLE's design, methods and accelerometry procedures
80 have been previously published, including open access publication of a detailed Manual of
81 Operations^{17,22} For this reason, only those procedures directly related to this study are
82 presented here. The Institutional Review Board at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center
83 (coordinating center) approved the overarching ISCOLE protocol, and approval was also
84 obtained by each institution with their respective Institutional/Ethical Review Boards. Written
85 informed consent was obtained from parents or legal guardians, and child assent was also
86 obtained as required by local Institutional/Ethical Review Boards before participation in the
87 study.

88 *Study Sample*

89 From the original sample of 7372 participants, 31 were excluded because they did not
90 have BMI data and further 793 did not have valid accelerometer data (standard described
91 below). The final sample included in this analysis consisted of 6548 children aged 9-11 years
92 (55% girls) from sites in 12 countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Finland,
93 India, Kenya, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom, and United States). Recruitment was
94 conducted with students nested within schools that were nested within country sites with a goal
95 to enroll a sex-balanced sample of at least 500 children per site. Data was collected when
96 children were attending school and excluded major holidays.

97 *Accelerometer-Derived Activities*

98 Participants were asked to wear an ActiGraph GT3X+ accelerometer (ActiGraph LLC,
99 Pensacola, FL, USA) at the waist on an elasticized belt, and positioned in-line with the right mid-
100 axillary line, for at least 7 consecutive days (plus an initial familiarization day and the morning of
101 the final day). Children were asked to wear the accelerometer 24 h/day (removing only for
102 water-related activities). The accelerometer assessment was conducted when school was in
103 session. Data were collected at a sampling frequency of 80 Hz, and subsequently downloaded

104 using ActiLife Software (version 5.64 or later, ActiGraph LLC). Raw accelerometer data were
105 integrated into 1 s epochs and later re-integrated into 60 and 15 s epochs with the low-
106 frequency extension filter enabled. Since the accelerometer was worn for 24 h/day, it was
107 necessary to identify nocturnal sleep episode time distinct from waking non-wear time, and this
108 was done using a 60 sec epoch and published automated algorithms.^{23,24} After exclusion of the
109 nocturnal sleep episode time, non-wear time was determined as any sequence of at least 20
110 consecutive min of zero activity counts.²⁵ Once nocturnal sleep episode time and non-wear time
111 were computed, waking wear time and the different activity levels and sedentary time were
112 calculated and identified using the 15 s epoch data. Children were only included in this analysis
113 if they had ≥ 4 days of monitoring with at least 10 h/day of waking wear time, including at least 1
114 weekend day. Time spent in light physical activity (LPA), MVPA, and sedentary time were
115 estimated using the Evenson cut-points.²⁶ In addition, total activity counts were calculated for
116 valid wake wear time.

117 *Statistical Analysis*

118 We performed reliability analyses following the generalizability theory framework using R
119 statistical software. Generalizability theory is an extension of intra-class reliability and ANOVA
120 which is typically divided into two parts, the G-study and the D-study.¹⁰ The G-study is used to
121 quantify the proportion of variance associated with each facet and its interactions. For the G-
122 study, participant (P) and day (D) were considered random facets in a fully crossed design (P x
123 D). Variance components corresponding to P, and D for accelerometer-determined physical
124 activity and sedentary time metrics were estimated using restricted maximum likelihood with the
125 “lme4” package’s “lmer” function in R.²⁷ Using the aforementioned estimated variance
126 components, we subsequently conducted a D-study to calculate Generalizability coefficients
127 (G), which can be interpreted in the same manner that ICC values are interpreted and can be
128 used to compute and extrapolate the minimum number of days required to achieve a reliability
129 estimate of ≥ 0.8 .^{4,18} Descriptive statistics and ICC were calculated using SAS version 9.4 (SAS

130 Institute, Cary, NC, USA). A macro that uses PROC GLM was used to calculate ICC(2,1).²⁸
131 ICC(2,1) was chosen because the days that the participants were tested were a random
132 selection.

133 **Results**

134 The number of participants from each site, average body mass index (BMI), and the
135 average number of valid days of accelerometry are presented in Table 1. All but one site
136 averaged ≥ 6 days of valid accelerometer data and only one site had < 200 participants for each
137 sex.

138 The minimum theoretical number of days necessary to achieve a $G \geq 0.8$ is presented in
139 Figures 1-4. For LPA, the estimated number of days required to achieve desirable reliability
140 ranged from 5-9 for boys and 3-11 for girls. For boys' LPA when compared to girls', an equal or
141 higher number of days was required to achieve a $G \geq 0.8$ in 9 of the sites. The estimated
142 number of days required to achieve minimal reliability estimates for MVPA ranged from 5-9 for
143 boys and 3-10 for girls. More days were required for boys versus girls in only 3 sites. For total
144 activity counts, the results were very close to the MVPA results: the estimated minimum number
145 of days ranged from 5-10 for boys and 4-10 for girls. For sedentary time, the estimated
146 minimum number of days ranged from 7-11 for boys and 6-11 for girls.

147 The detailed variance results for boys and girls in each site are presented in Table 2.
148 The Participant (P) facet accounted for 30-50% of the variability, Days (D) accounted for less
149 than 5%, and the interaction (PxD) accounted for 50-70% of the variability. This demonstrates
150 that a large percentage of observed variability was not explained by the Participant and Days
151 facets.

152 ICC results are presented in Table 3. For boys, ICCs ranged from 0.78-0.86, 0.73-0.85,
153 0.72-0.86, and 0.67-0.79, for LPA, MVPA, total activity counts, and sedentary time, respectively.
154 For girls, ICCs ranged from 0.80-0.88, 0.70-0.89, 0.74-0.86, and 0.64-0.80, for LPA, MVPA,
155 total activity counts, and sedentary time, respectively. For both boys and girls combined, the

156 ranges were similar and the mean ICCs were 0.83, 0.82, 0.82, and 0.75, for LPA, MVPA, total
157 activity counts, and sedentary time, respectively.

158 **Discussion**

159 The generalizability theory results, specifically the D-study results, demonstrated that
160 there is large variability between sites and between boys and girls in the estimated number of
161 days necessary to achieve the desirable level of reliability for all intensities of physical activity
162 and sedentary time. This was also true for the ICC results. This level of variability with different
163 samples and different metrics has not been previously reported. In addition, it became clear that
164 it is very rare that only 4 days of valid data from all participants would be required to achieve
165 desirable levels of reliability. However, as was implemented in ISCOLE, asking participants to
166 wear the device for 7 days and only including participants with ≥ 4 days of data in the analysis
167 might produce a data set with on average ≥ 6 days of valid data and be an appropriate approach
168 to achieve reliable estimates for most of the accelerometer-derived activity metrics.

169 For LPA, 4-8 days were necessary for the desirable reliability values in almost all the
170 sites and only for girls in the Kenya site < 4 days was required (3 days). The G-study variance
171 components for Participants and Days explained around 40% of the variability which still left
172 room for a large amount of unexplained variance. The ICC values were almost all in the
173 desirable level and were the highest among the physical activity measures investigated. This
174 indicates that asking children to wear the devices for 7 days and requiring ≥ 4 days is
175 acceptable to obtain reliable measures of LPA. We are unaware of other studies that have
176 investigated the reliability of LPA measurement in children.

177 For both MVPA and total activity counts, the results were very similar. Once again in
178 most cases it was estimated that > 4 days were required for a $G \geq 0.8$ and as many as 10 days
179 would be required to achieve this level of reliability. The interaction term or unexplained
180 variances from the D-study were as high as 68%, leaving much of the variance unaccounted for.
181 However, almost all ICC values were in the desirable range or very close to it. The ICC values

182 were relatively high even though we included participants with as few as 4 days of valid data;
183 however, the average number of days considered was closer to 7 days. These results are in line
184 with the findings reported by Trost et al.¹⁹, which concluded that 4-5 days were necessary to
185 achieve $ICC \geq 0.8$ for children's accelerometer-derived MVPA measurement while 8-9 days
186 were necessary for adolescents. Our results also agree with the results from Hinkley et al.¹³ that
187 > 4 days are necessary to achieve an $ICC \geq 0.8$ for percentage of time in MVPA in preschool
188 children and the recent study by Wickel,²⁰ which reported reliability coefficients ranging from
189 0.77 to 0.84 for participants with 7 days of data and 0.54 to 0.65 for when including participants
190 with 1-7 days of data. Both of those studies^{19,20} suggested that ≥ 4 days might be necessary to
191 achieve reliable estimates of MVPA in youth. Basterfield et al.²¹ demonstrated that ≥ 6 days
192 were necessary to achieve $\geq 80\%$ reliability for total volume of physical activity and percentage
193 time in MVPA.

194 For sedentary time specifically, the results from the D-study showed that the minimum
195 amount of days necessary to achieve reliability coefficients ≥ 0.80 was 6 in only one site (and
196 only for girls) and for all other sites it was ≥ 7 days. These results indicate that it is unlikely for
197 researchers to realize high levels of reliability for sedentary time measurement with a period of
198 only 7 days of data collection since it is rare to obtain complete valid data from all participants.
199 In addition, the G-study results displayed large interaction term values indicating that a large
200 percentage of the variability was not explained by the PxD model. The ICC reliability estimates
201 realized for sedentary time fall in line with the generalizability results. An $ICC \geq 0.8$ was only
202 realized for girls assessed at one of the ISCOLE sites. This clearly demonstrates that sedentary
203 time is not as reliably measured as physical activity. Although research in this area is scarce,
204 Davies et al.²⁹ reported that ≥ 5 days were necessary for $ICC \geq 0.8$ in a sample of 30 children.
205 Similar results were also reported by Basterfield et al.²¹ when estimating the reliability of percent
206 time spent in sedentary behavior for 6-8 year-old children. In another study with 56 children, it
207 was found that ICC values from week-to-week (not between days) ranged from 0.40 to 0.79

208 during week days and 0.25-0.60 during weekends for different sedentary behavior measures.³⁰
209 The need to assess more days to establish a reliable estimate of sedentary time when
210 compared to other physical activity indicators could be because of the levels of day to day
211 variability in sedentary time and/or the possible lack of accuracy of sedentary time
212 measurement by waist-worn accelerometry.^{31,32}

213 While this study was carefully conducted, it is not free of limitations. The samples are not
214 representative of the countries from where they were drawn. Moreover, the samples in most
215 cases were from just one city and sampling was conducted to maximize variability in socio-
216 economic status.¹⁷ Data was collected when children were attending school and it is possible
217 that results might be different when they are not in school. We only tested the reliability of the
218 different physical activity metrics and sedentary time using one set of cut points and therefore it
219 is possible that other cut points might provide different results. However, we chose the cut point
220 that appears to be the most valid for this age group.³³ We used the data for participants with ≥ 4
221 valid days (defined as ≥ 10 h of wake wear), and other *a priori* standards might produce different
222 results as shown by Wickel.²⁰ However, this is a very common standard for inclusion criteria.³⁴
223 This study only investigated a narrow age range and the results cannot be generalized across
224 all children and adolescent age groups as demonstrated in the study by Trost et al.¹⁹ Lastly, we
225 focused on the 0.8 standard for reliability, however 0.7 and 0.9 have also been used in physical
226 activity research.^{13,19}

227 This study highlights the variability in reliability estimates for accelerometer-derived
228 variables. The same accelerometer and nearly identical protocol (slight variations in the
229 compliance checks and incentives to wear were allowed as indicated by local customs) was
230 used at all sites. However, a large amount of variability was observed in the number of days
231 required to achieve a reliability estimate of $G \geq 0.8$. A large variability was also seen for the ICC
232 values for all accelerometer-derived variables investigated. This study also highlights the
233 importance of reporting reliability estimates achieved in the study even if *a priori* decisions guide

234 analyses. The range in the ICC estimate between sites for the same variable was usually within
235 0.10 but was as large as 0.19. This difference can have a dramatic influence in correlate
236 estimates¹ with other studied variables like BMI for example. It is possible that differences in the
237 strength of the correlations between physical activity, sedentary time, and BMI across studies
238 could be solely attributed to this difference in reliability estimates; however, this is not known
239 because of lack of reliability reports.

240 **Conclusion**

241 In summary, we reported that there is a large amount of variability in the reliability
242 estimates of different accelerometer-derived variables among different samples. In addition, it
243 became clear that it is rare that only 4 days for all participants is required to achieve desirable
244 levels of reliability estimates. However, asking participants to wear the accelerometer for 7 days
245 and requiring ≥ 4 days of data to include the participants in the analysis might be an appropriate
246 approach to achieve reliable estimates for most of the accelerometer-derived activities.

247

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254
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257

258 **Conflicts of Interest**

259 MF has received a research grant from Fazer Finland and has received an honorarium for
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261 Foods. RK has received a research grant from Abbott Nutrition Research and Development. VM
262 is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Actigraph and has received an honorarium for
263 speaking for The Coca-Cola Company. TO has received an honorarium for speaking for The
264 Coca-Cola Company. The authors reported no other potential conflicts of interest.
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359 **Figure Legends**

360 **Figure 1.** Number of days necessary to achieve a reliability coefficient $G \geq 0.80$ for
361 accelerometry-derived light physical activity (LPA).

362 **Figure 2.** Number of days necessary to achieve a reliability coefficient $G \geq 0.80$ for
363 accelerometry-derived moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA).

364 **Figure 3.** Number of days necessary to achieve a reliability coefficient $G \geq 0.80$ for
365 accelerometry-derived total activity counts.

366 **Figure 4.** Number of days necessary to achieve a reliability coefficient $G \geq 0.80$ for
367 accelerometry-derived sedentary time.

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369 Table 1. Descriptive characteristics of study sample

Site	Boys			Girls		
	N	BMI (kg/m ²)	Number of valid days	N	BMI (kg/m ²)	Number of valid days
Australia (Adelaide)	225	18.6 ± 2.9	6.7 ± 0.6	266	19.1 ± 3.5	6.6 ± 0.7
Brazil (Sao Paulo)	242	19.9 ± 4.7	6.7 ± 0.6	252	19.5 ± 4.2	6.7 ± 0.7
Canada (Ottawa)	217	18.5 ± 3.4	6.8 ± 0.6	306	18.2 ± 3.3	6.7 ± 0.6
China (Tianjin)	261	19.8 ± 4.4	6.8 ± 0.5	240	17.9 ± 3.6	6.9 ± 0.4
Colombia (Bogota)	422	17.8 ± 2.6	6.7 ± 0.7	435	17.4 ± 2.4	6.6 ± 0.7
Finland (Helsinki, Espoo & Vantaa)	235	17.6 ± 2.5	5.8 ± 0.6	269	17.9 ± 2.6	5.8 ± 0.6
India (Bangalore)	254	17.7 ± 3.4	6.6 ± 0.7	299	18.2 ± 3.3	6.3 ± 0.7
Kenya (Nairobi)	233	17.1 ± 2.8	6.0 ± 0.9	269	17.3 ± 3.3	6.0 ± 0.9
Portugal (Porto)	305	19.5 ± 3.5	6.7 ± 0.6	381	19.4 ± 3.4	6.8 ± 0.5
South Africa (Cape Town)	184	17.7 ± 3.2	6.7 ± 0.6	284	18.1 ± 3.8	6.6 ± 0.7
United Kingdom (Bath & NE Somerset)	211	18.2 ± 2.7	6.6 ± 0.7	267	18.7 ± 3.2	6.6 ± 0.8
United States (Baton Rouge)	203	18.7 ± 3.6	6.4 ± 0.8	288	19.0 ± 4.1	6.4 ± 0.7

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Note: BMI = body mass index

Table 2. Percent variance of different components of reliability estimates of accelerometer-determined metrics

Site	Factor	Boys				Girls			
		LPA	MVPA	Activity Counts	Sedentary Time	LPA	MVPA	Activity Counts	Sedentary Time
Australia (Adelaide)	Participant	45.1	32.4	31.6	33.3	42.8	35	35.6	28.1
	Day	3.7	6.1	1.7	2.0	4.6	4.7	2.2	3.3
	Residual	51.1	61.5	66.7	64.7	52.5	60.3	62.2	68.6
Brazil (Sao Paulo)	Participant	38.9	40.2	41.0	28.0	42.1	36.7	36.4	34.7
	Day	1.4	1.8	1.2	0.2	1.5	2.8	2.8	3.1
	Residual	59.7	58.0	57.8	71.8	56.4	60.5	60.8	62.2
Canada (Ottawa)	Participant	38.1	29.3	27.3	35.5	40.4	36	34.4	34.3
	Day	6.6	8.7	4.8	3.5	4.8	3.6	2.5	2.2
	Residual	55.3	62.0	67.9	61.0	54.8	60.4	63.1	63.5
China (Tianjin)	Participant	46.5	35.0	35.8	34.1	52.7	38.8	42.0	38.2
	Day	2.7	2.9	3.2	10.2	2.1	2.7	3.8	13.9
	Residual	50.8	62.0	61.0	55.8	45.2	58.5	54.2	47.9
Colombia (Bogota)	Participant	39.1	36.7	37.4	34.8	42.7	39.6	43.1	31.2
	Day	3.8	2.5	0.7	4.3	1.8	2.2	0.9	9.5
	Residual	57	60.8	61.9	60.9	55.5	58.2	56.1	59.3
Finland (Helsinki, Espoo & Vantaa)	PID	38.9	35.5	36.2	31.0	41.5	30.1	35.3	31.4
	Day	1.8	2.7	0.2	0.7	3.4	5.5	0.9	2.6
	Residual	59.3	61.8	63.6	68.3	55.1	64.5	63.8	66
India (Bangalore)	Participant	37.8	43.7	40.7	37.4	42.8	47.6	47.8	34.9
	Day	3.6	1.4	0.8	1.6	0.5	1.1	0.2	9.7
	Residual	58.6	54.9	58.5	61.0	56.7	51.3	52	55.3
Kenya (Nairobi)	Participant	38.0	47.1	42.8	29.1	41.6	57.2	49.5	24.1
	Day	0.9	2.2	2.5	9.7	0.5	0.9	2.1	12.5
	Residual	61.1	50.6	54.7	61.2	57.8	41.9	48.4	63.4
Portugal (Porto)	Participant	46.1	31.4	31.5	30.5	44	26.4	28.6	27.9
	Day	1.5	7.6	6.3	0.4	1.8	7.1	7.9	2.7
	Residual	52.3	61.0	62.2	69.1	54.2	66.4	63.5	69.3

South Africa (Cape Town)	Participant	47.4	46.4	47.3	35.1	51.7	49.7	48.5	30.6
	Day	2.5	0.8	0.3	6.8	2.2	0.6	1.2	14.6
	Residual	50.2	52.9	52.3	58.2	46.1	49.7	50.4	54.8
United Kingdom (Bath & NE Somerset)	Participant	39.1	32.1	32.5	29.3	45.1	32.7	32.4	28.4
	Day	5.5	4.4	0.7	0.9	4.4	4.5	0.7	3.6
	Residual	55.4	63.5	66.8	69.8	50.5	62.7	66.9	67.9
United States (Baton Rouge)	Participant	43.3	30.6	30.6	24.3	44.1	35.5	33.3	27.1
	Day	2.7	7.9	4.9	14.7	5.3	4.1	3.3	16.8
	Residual	54.0	61.6	64.5	61.0	50.6	60.4	63.4	56.1

371 Note: LPA - light physical activity; MVPA - Moderate-to-vigorous physical activity

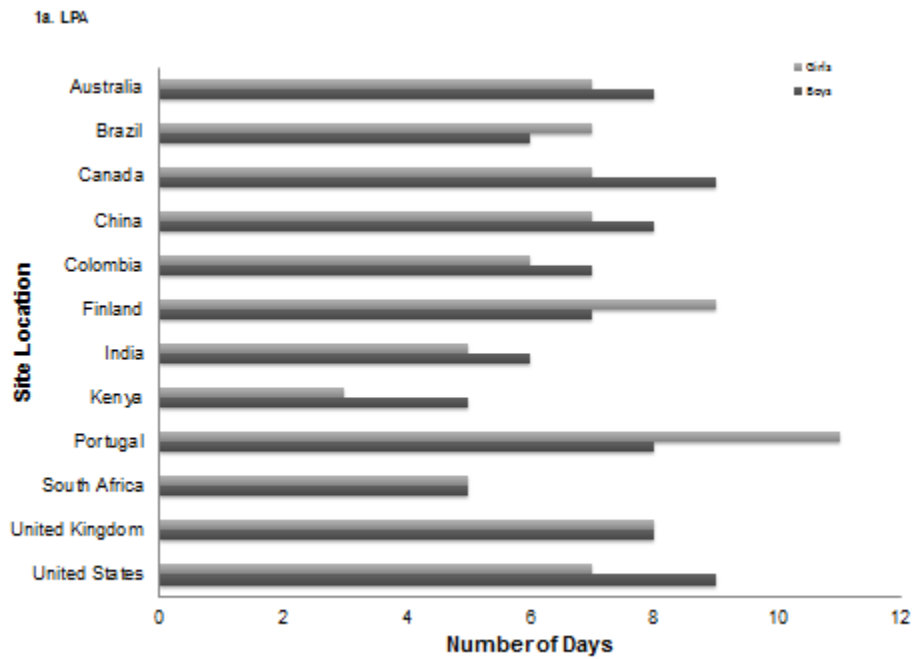
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373 Table 3. Intra-class correlation coefficients (ICC) values for different accelerometer-derived metrics.

Site	Boys				Girls				Total Sample			
	LPA	MVPA	Activity Counts	Sedentary Time	LPA	MVPA	Activity Counts	Sedentary Time	LPA	MVPA	Activity Counts	Sedentary Time
Australia (Adelaide)	0.84	0.76	0.76	0.77	0.83	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.84	0.80	0.79	0.75
Brazil (Sao Paulo)	0.81	0.82	0.82	0.72	0.83	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.82	0.85	0.84	0.75
Canada (Ottawa)	0.81	0.73	0.72	0.79	0.82	0.79	0.78	0.78	0.82	0.79	0.77	0.78
China (Tianjin)	0.86	0.79	0.79	0.77	0.88	0.81	0.83	0.80	0.88	0.81	0.83	0.8
Colombia (Bogota)	0.81	0.79	0.80	0.78	0.83	0.81	0.83	0.74	0.82	0.82	0.83	0.76
Finland (Helsinki, Espoo & Vantaa)	0.78	0.75	0.77	0.72	0.80	0.70	0.76	0.72	0.80	0.78	0.79	0.72
India (Bangalore)	0.80	0.84	0.82	0.79	0.83	0.85	0.85	0.77	0.89	0.82	0.88	0.81
Kenya (Nairobi)	0.79	0.85	0.82	0.69	0.82	0.89	0.86	0.64	0.8	0.88	0.85	0.67
Portugal (Porto)	0.86	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.84	0.72	0.74	0.73	0.85	0.80	0.80	0.75
South Africa (Cape Town)	0.86	0.85	0.86	0.78	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.74	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.75
United Kingdom (Bath & NE Somerset)	0.81	0.76	0.76	0.73	0.85	0.76	0.76	0.73	0.83	0.79	0.78	0.73
United States (Baton Rouge)	0.83	0.75	0.75	0.67	0.84	0.78	0.76	0.71	0.79	0.83	0.77	0.68
Mean	0.82	0.79	0.79	0.75	0.84	0.80	0.80	0.74	0.83	0.82	0.82	0.75

Note: LPA - light physical activity; MVPA - Moderate-to-vigorous physical activity

374 **Figure 1.** Number of days necessary to achieve a reliability coefficient $G \geq 0.80$ for
375 accelerometry-derived light physical activity (LPA).

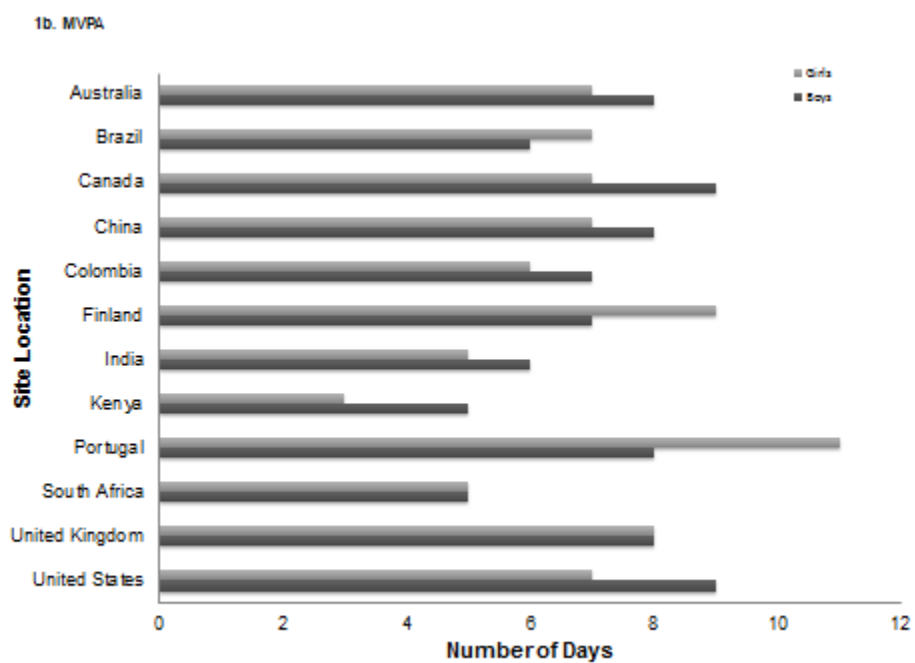


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379 **Figure 2.** Number of days necessary to achieve a reliability coefficient $G \geq 0.80$ for
380 accelerometry-derived moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA).



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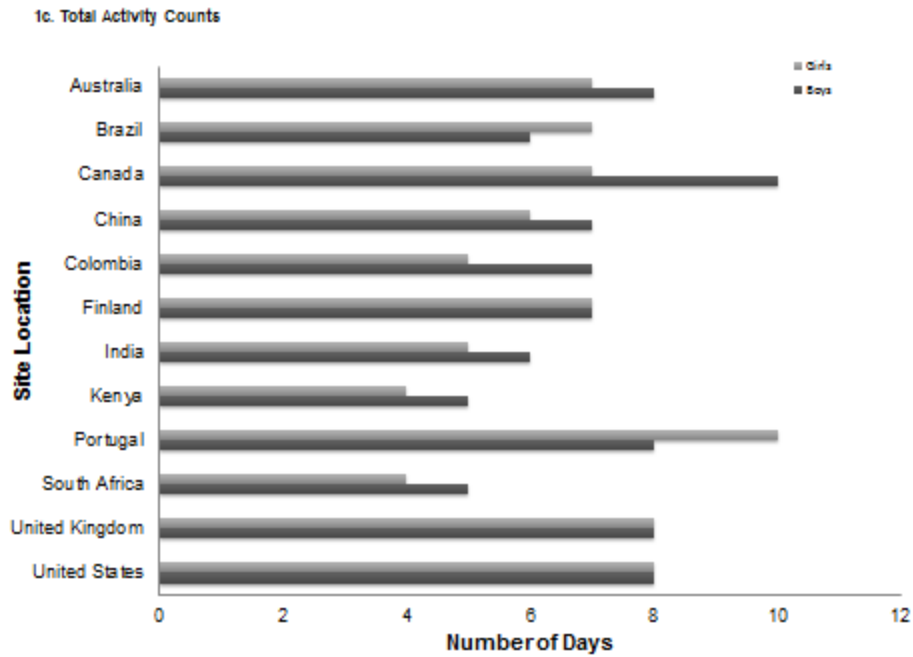
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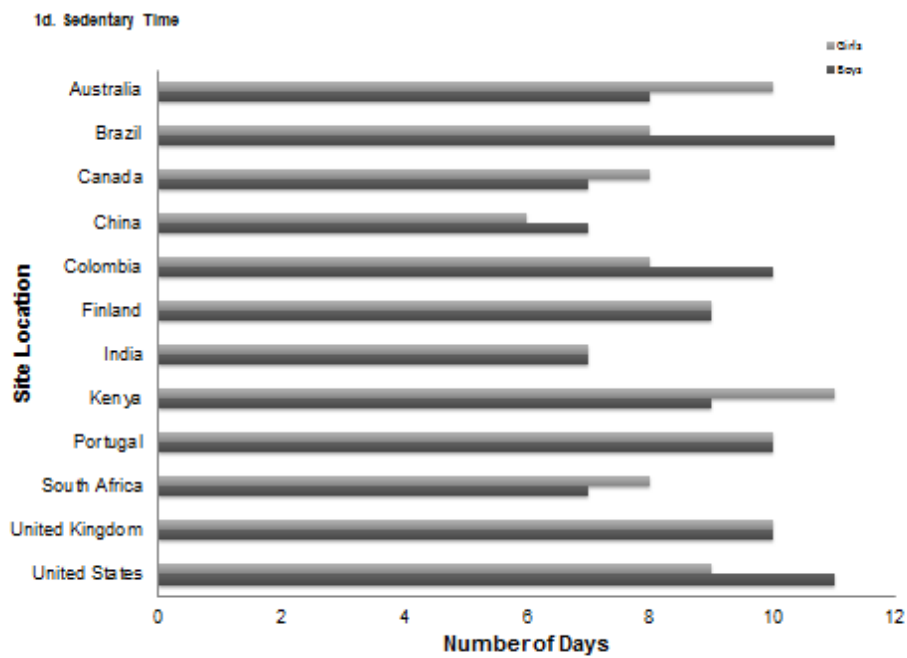
392 **Figure 3.** Number of days necessary to achieve a reliability coefficient $G \geq 0.80$ for
393 accelerometry-derived total activity counts.



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395 **Figure 4.** Number of days necessary to achieve a reliability coefficient $G \geq 0.80$ for

396 accelerometry-derived sedentary time.



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