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**Original Article**

**Associations Between Sleep Patterns and Lifestyle Behaviors  
in Children: An International Comparison**

Jean-Philippe Chaput<sup>1,\*</sup>, Peter T. Katzmarzyk<sup>2</sup>, Allana G. LeBlanc<sup>1,3</sup>, Mark S. Tremblay<sup>1</sup>,  
Tiago V. Barreira<sup>2,4</sup>, Stephanie T. Broyles<sup>2</sup>, Mikael Fogelholm<sup>5</sup>, Gang Hu<sup>2</sup>, Rebecca Kuriyan<sup>6</sup>,  
Anura Kurpad<sup>6</sup>, Estelle V. Lambert<sup>7</sup>, Dale E. Rae<sup>7</sup>, Carol Maher<sup>8</sup>, Jose Maia<sup>9</sup>, Victor Matsudo<sup>10</sup>,  
Vincent Onywera<sup>11</sup>, Olga L. Sarmiento<sup>12</sup>, Martyn Standage<sup>13</sup>, Catrine Tudor-Locke<sup>14,2</sup>, Pei Zhao<sup>15</sup>  
and Timothy Olds<sup>8</sup> for the ISCOLE Research Group

<sup>1</sup>Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada

<sup>2</sup>Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Baton Rouge, USA

<sup>3</sup>University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada;

<sup>4</sup>Department of Exercise Science, University of Syracuse, Syracuse, USA

<sup>5</sup>Department of Food and Environmental Sciences, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

<sup>6</sup>St. Johns Research Institute, Bangalore, India

<sup>7</sup>Division of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine, Department of Human Biology, Faculty of  
Health Sciences, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

<sup>8</sup>Alliance for Research in Exercise Nutrition and Activity (ARENA), School of Health Sciences,  
University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia

<sup>9</sup>CIF12D, Faculdade de Desporto, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

<sup>10</sup>Centro de Estudos do Laboratório de Aptidão Física de São Caetano do Sul (CELAFISCS),  
Sao Paulo, Brazil

<sup>11</sup>Department of Recreation Management and Exercise Science, Kenyatta University, Nairobi,  
Kenya

<sup>12</sup>School of Medicine Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia

<sup>13</sup>Department for Health, University of Bath, Bath, United Kingdom;

<sup>14</sup>Department of Kinesiology, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, USA

<sup>15</sup>Tianjin Women's and Children's Health Center, Tianjin, China

**Running Head:** Sleep patterns and lifestyle behaviors in children

**Address for Correspondence and Reprints:** Jean-Philippe Chaput, Ph.D., Healthy Active  
Living and Obesity Research Group, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute,  
401 Smyth Road, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1H 8L1. Phone: +1 613 737 7600 ext. 3683. Fax:  
+1 613 738 4800. E-mail: [jpchaput@cheo.on.ca](mailto:jpchaput@cheo.on.ca)

47 **ABSTRACT**

48 **Background/Objectives:** Although evidence is accumulating on the importance of a good  
49 night's sleep for healthy eating and activity behaviors, existing research has mainly been  
50 conducted in high-income, developed countries with limited socio-cultural variability. This study  
51 is the first to examine the associations between sleep patterns and lifestyle behaviors in children  
52 from 12 countries in five major geographic regions of the world.

53 **Subjects/Methods:** This observational, multi-national cross-sectional study included 5777  
54 children aged 9-11 years from sites in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Finland, India,  
55 Kenya, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States. Nocturnal sleep duration  
56 (h/night), sleep efficiency (%) and bedtime (h:min) were monitored over 7 consecutive days  
57 using an accelerometer. Lifestyle behaviors included moderate-to-vigorous physical activity  
58 (MVPA), total sedentary time (SED), self-reported screen time (ST), and healthy/unhealthy diet  
59 patterns (HDP/UDP). Multi-level modeling analyses were used to account for the hierarchical  
60 nature of the data.

61 **Results:** Overall, participants averaged 8.8 (SD 0.9) hours of sleep with 96.2% (SD 1.4) sleep  
62 efficiency and a mean bedtime of 22:18. After adjustment for age, sex, highest parental  
63 education and BMI z-score, results showed that (i) sleep duration was negatively associated with  
64 MVPA, SED and UDP score; (ii) sleep efficiency was negatively associated with MVPA and UDP  
65 score, and positively associated with SED; and (iii) later bedtime was positively associated with  
66 SED, ST and UDP score, and negatively associated with MVPA and HDP score. Results using  
67 categories of sleep patterns were consistent with the linear associations. Results also revealed  
68 that associations between sleep patterns and MVPA, SED and ST were significantly different  
69 between study sites, with stronger associations in high-income countries compared to low/middle  
70 income countries.

71 **Conclusions:** Sleep characteristics are important correlates of lifestyle behaviors in children.  
72 Differences between countries suggest that interventions aimed at improving sleep and lifestyle  
73 behaviors should be culturally adapted.

74 **Keywords:** sleep, physical activity, sedentary behavior, screen time, eating behavior, children

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

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97 **INTRODUCTION**

98       Insufficient sleep (short sleep duration and/or poor sleep quality) has become pervasive in  
99 contemporary societies with 24/7 availability of commodities.<sup>1,2</sup> School-aged children and  
100 adolescents generally sleep less now compared to decades ago,<sup>3,4</sup> and factors responsible for  
101 this secular decline in sleep duration are generally ascribed to the modern way of living (e.g.  
102 artificial light, late-night screen time, no bedtime rules in the household).<sup>5</sup> Insufficient sleep has  
103 consistently been shown to exert wide-ranging adverse effects on a variety of body systems,<sup>6</sup>  
104 and epidemiological evidence shows that curtailed sleep is associated with a higher risk of  
105 chronic diseases including obesity.<sup>7-9</sup>

106       Beyond sleep duration and quality, sleep timing (combination of bedtime and wake-up time)  
107 is gaining recognition as an important additional factor to consider for the promotion of good  
108 health outcomes and behaviors.<sup>10-12</sup> A recent cross-sectional study in Australian children showed  
109 that a combination of late bedtimes and late wake-up times was associated with a higher risk of  
110 obesity and poorer diet quality, independent of sleep duration, physical activity level and socio-  
111 demographic characteristics.<sup>13</sup> Likewise, children with late bedtimes/wake-up times have been  
112 reported to engage in less moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA) and more screen time  
113 (ST) compared to a group of children with early bedtimes/wake-up times, despite having similar  
114 sleep durations.<sup>14</sup>

115       Although empirical evidence is accumulating on the importance of a good night's sleep for  
116 adequate eating and activity behaviors, existing research has mainly been conducted in high-  
117 income, developed countries with limited socio-cultural variability.<sup>15</sup> The present multi-national  
118 study is unique in its international diversity and provides an opportunity to determine whether the  
119 relationships between sleep characteristics and lifestyle behaviors differ across countries and  
120 across different environmental and socio-cultural settings. Such information is key to informing  
121 the development of interventions that can be culturally adapted for implementation around the  
122 world.

123 The objective of this study was thus to examine the associations between sleep  
124 characteristics (duration, efficiency, bedtime) and lifestyle behaviors (physical activity, sedentary  
125 behavior, eating patterns) in children from 12 countries representing a wide range of geographic  
126 and socio-cultural variability. We hypothesized that shorter sleep duration, poorer sleep  
127 efficiency, and later bedtimes would be associated with unfavorable lifestyle behaviors. We also  
128 hypothesized that the associations between sleep characteristics and lifestyle behaviors would  
129 differ across study sites.

## 130 **SUBJECTS AND METHODS**

### 131 ***Setting***

132 The International Study of Childhood Obesity, Lifestyle and the Environment (ISCOLE) is a  
133 cross-sectional, multi-national study designed to determine the relationships between lifestyle  
134 behaviors and obesity in 12 study sites located in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia,  
135 Finland, India, Kenya, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States. These  
136 countries represent a wide range of economic development (low to high income), Human  
137 Development Index (0.509 in Kenya to 0.929 in Australia) and inequality (GINI coefficient).<sup>16</sup> The  
138 design and methods have been published in detail elsewhere.<sup>16</sup> By design, the within-site  
139 samples were not intended to be nationally representative. Rather, the primary sampling frame  
140 was schools, which was typically stratified by an indicator of socio-economic status to maximize  
141 variability within sites.<sup>16</sup> A standard protocol was used to collect data across all sites, and all  
142 study personnel underwent rigorous training and certification before and during data collection to  
143 ensure the quality of data collected.<sup>16</sup> The Institutional Review Board at the Pennington  
144 Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, USA (coordinating center) approved the ISCOLE  
145 protocol, and the Ethical Review Boards at each participating institution also approved the local  
146 protocol. Written informed consent was obtained from parents or legal guardians, and child  
147 assent was also obtained as required by local Ethical Review Boards before participation in the  
148 study. Data were collected from September 2011 through December 2013.

149 **Participants**

150 The sample included 9-11 year old children from the 12 ISCOLE sites. The recruitment goal  
151 was to enroll at least 500 children per site. A total of 7372 children participated in ISCOLE, of  
152 which 5777 remained in the present analytic dataset after excluding participants without valid  
153 accelerometry ( $n=1214$ ), information on ST ( $n=2$ ), diet ( $n=127$ ), parental education ( $n=247$ ) or  
154 BMI z-score ( $n=5$ ). Participants who were excluded due to missing data did not differ in their  
155 descriptive characteristics (except for BMI z-scores which were significantly higher) compared to  
156 those who were included in the analysis.

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159 **Measurement of sleep patterns and lifestyle behaviors**

160 Sleep patterns (nocturnal sleep time, sleep efficiency, bedtime), MVPA and total sedentary  
161 time (SED) were all objectively assessed using 24-h, waist-worn accelerometry. An Actigraph  
162 GT3X+ accelerometer (ActiGraph LLC, Pensacola, FL, USA) was worn at the waist on an  
163 elasticized belt at the right mid-axillary line. Participants were encouraged to wear the  
164 accelerometer 24 h per day (removing only for water-related activities) for at least 7 days,  
165 including 2 weekend days. The minimal amount of daytime data that was considered acceptable  
166 for inclusion in the sample was at least 4 days with at least 10 h of wake wear time per day,  
167 including at least one weekend day. Data were collected at a sampling rate of 80 Hz,  
168 downloaded in 1-s epochs with the low frequency extension filter using the ActiLife software  
169 version 5.6 or higher (ActiGraph LLC, Pensacola, FL, USA). Data were later reintegrated to 15-s  
170 and 60-s epochs for the different analyses. Nocturnal sleep duration was estimated from the  
171 accelerometry data using 60-s epochs and a fully automated algorithm for 24-h waist-worn  
172 accelerometers that was recently validated for ISCOLE.<sup>17</sup> This new algorithm produces more  
173 precise estimates of sleep duration than previous algorithms and captures total sleep time from  
174 sleep onset to the end of sleep, including all epochs and wakefulness after onset.<sup>17,18</sup> The

175 weekly total sleep time averages were calculated using only days where valid sleep was  
176 accumulated (total sleep period time  $\geq 160$  min) and only for participants with at least 3 nights of  
177 valid sleep, including one weekend night (Friday or Saturday). The same device was used to  
178 determine sleep efficiency (total sleep episode time divided by sleep period time) and bedtime  
179 (first 5 consecutive minutes defined as sleep).<sup>17,18</sup> After exclusion of total sleep time and awake  
180 non-wear time (any sequence of  $\geq 20$  consecutive minutes of zero activity counts), MVPA was  
181 defined as all activity  $\geq 574$  counts per 15 s and total SED as all movement  $\leq 25$  counts per 15 s,  
182 consistent with the widely used Evenson cutoffs.<sup>19</sup> After testing for normality, MVPA was log-  
183 transformed for analysis.

184 Child-reported ST was determined from a lifestyle questionnaire,<sup>16</sup> and questions were  
185 obtained from the United States Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.<sup>20</sup> Children were  
186 asked how many hours they typically watched TV, and how many hours they played video  
187 games and/or used the computer per week day, and per weekend day. Response options were  
188 *0, <1, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 or more hours per day*. A daily average score was computed by recording  
189 “<1” to “1” and “5 or more hours” to “5”, and weighting the responses (2/7 for weekend; 5/7 for  
190 weekday). For analysis, this is presented as a ST score, rather than total hours of screen time  
191 since after 5 hours per day, we could not ascertain the participant’s actual amount of ST. Self-  
192 report methods of quantifying ST have been reported to have acceptable reliability and validity in  
193 children.<sup>21,22</sup> After testing for normality, ST was log-transformed and analyzed as a continuous  
194 variable.

195 Finally, dietary patterns were assessed using a food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) adapted  
196 from the Health Behavior in School-aged Children Survey (HBSC).<sup>23</sup> The FFQ asks the  
197 participant about “usual” consumption of 23 different food groups, with response categories  
198 including *never, less than once per week, once per week, 2-4 days per week, 5-6 days per*  
199 *week, once a day every day, and more than once a day*. A version of this FFQ has been shown  
200 to be reliable ( $r=0.52-0.82$ ) for ranking the frequency of consumption of food items in children.<sup>24</sup>



201 Dietary patterns were investigated by employing principal components analyses to identify  
202 derived variables (factors). Reported frequencies were converted into portions/week. The  
203 analyses were performed firstly using the total dataset and secondly for each country separately.  
204 Eigenvalues and a scree plot analysis were used as the criteria for deciding the number of  
205 factors extracted. The two criteria led to similar conclusions and two factors were chosen for  
206 analysis. The factors were then rotated using an orthogonal varimax transformation to force non-  
207 correlation of the factors and to enhance the interpretation. The two factors represented an  
208 “unhealthy diet pattern” (UDP, with positive loadings for fast food, hamburgers, soft drinks,  
209 sweets, fried food, etc.) and a “healthy diet pattern” (HDP, with positive loadings for vegetables,  
210 fruit, whole grains, low-fat milk, etc.). The factor scores computed for each participant for both  
211 eating patterns were standardized to ensure normality, and higher values for each score  
212 represent either an “unhealthier” or “healthier” eating pattern, respectively. Most of the food  
213 items in both factors were common for all 12 countries. For this analysis we have chosen to use  
214 the country-specific factor scores to be more representative of each site, although the difference  
215 between these and the factor scores from the pooled data were small.

### 216 ***Covariates***

217 Age, sex, highest parental education, and body mass index (BMI) z-score were included as  
218 covariates in statistical models. Age was computed from birth and observation dates and sex  
219 was recorded on a questionnaire. The highest level of parental education (with options ranging  
220 from less than high school to graduate degree) was reported by the parent or guardian and three  
221 categories were created to facilitate analysis across sites (i.e. did not complete high school,  
222 completed high school or some college, and bachelor’s or postgraduate degree). Overall, 594  
223 participants (10%) were missing data on household income so education was used instead as a  
224 proxy for socio-economic status. Body weight and height were measured according to  
225 standardized procedures by trained ISCOLE staff.<sup>16</sup> BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>) was calculated, and BMI z-  
226 scores were computed using age- and sex-specific reference data from the World Health

227 Organization.<sup>25</sup> Of note, biological maturity was estimated using the maturity offset method in  
228 ISCOLE; however, because age and weight are included in the maturity offset calculation,  
229 biological maturity could not be included as a covariate in our analyses.

### 230 **Statistical Analysis**

231 Statistical analyses were conducted using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA).  
232 Means and standard deviations (SD) of descriptive characteristics were computed by study site.  
233 Multi-level multivariable linear regression (PROC MIXED) was used to examine the associations  
234 between sleep patterns and lifestyle behaviors. Age, sex, highest parental education and BMI z-  
235 score were included as covariates in the models. Multi-level modeling analyses were used to  
236 properly account for the hierarchical nature of data. Study sites were considered to have fixed  
237 effects, and schools nested within study sites were viewed as having random effects. The  
238 denominator degrees of freedom for statistical tests pertaining to fixed effects were calculated  
239 using the Kenward and Roger approximation.<sup>26</sup> Trends in lifestyle behaviors were examined  
240 across ordered sex-specific quintile categories for each of the sleep variables, with adjustments  
241 for age, highest parental education and BMI z-score. Differences across sites in the associations  
242 were examined using interaction terms; site by sleep interactions were retained when  $P < 0.05$ .  
243 The level of significance was set at  $P < 0.05$ .

### 244 **RESULTS**

245 Descriptive characteristics of the sample are shown in Table 1. The average sleep duration  
246 was  $8.8 \pm 0.9$  h/night, below the National Sleep Foundation's recommendation<sup>27</sup> of 9-11 h of  
247 sleep per day for school-aged children (58% of kids were below this threshold). Children were  
248 very sleep efficient ( $96.2 \pm 1.4\%$ ) and had a mean bedtime of 22:18. Data on HDP and UDP are  
249 not reported in the table as they are meaningless for descriptive purposes, since by definition  
250 they have an overall mean of  $0.00 \pm 1.00$  SD.

251 Based on results from the multi-level models, the largest fraction of the total variance in  
252 lifestyle behaviors occurred at the individual level (from 62.1% for MVPA to 96.0% for UDP),

253 followed by schools (from 4.0% for HDP to 24.3% for MVPA) and sites (from 0% for HDP/UDP to  
254 18.1% for SED). After adjustment for covariates, (i) sleep duration was negatively associated  
255 with MVPA, SED and UDP score; (ii) sleep efficiency was negatively associated with MVPA and  
256 UDP score, and positively associated with SED; and (iii) bedtime was positively associated with  
257 SED, ST and UDP score, and negatively associated with MVPA and HDP score (Table 2).  
258 Additional adjustments for sleep duration and bedtime (when not already in the model) did not  
259 affect the strength of associations (data not shown). Also, expressing MVPA and SED as a  
260 percentage of the wake time (as opposed to h/day) did not affect the relationships with sleep  
261 patterns (data not shown).

262 Results also revealed that associations between sleep patterns (duration, efficiency,  
263 bedtime) and MVPA, SED and ST were different between study sites (i.e. site by sleep  
264 interactions were found in the adjusted models) (data not shown). Interestingly, results showed  
265 that the associations between sleep patterns and these lifestyle behaviors were significantly  
266 stronger in high-income countries (especially United Kingdom, USA and Australia) compared to  
267 low/middle income countries (especially Kenya and India) (data not shown). However, the  
268 relationships between sleep patterns and HDP/UDP were similar across sites (*P* for interaction  
269 between 0.11 and 0.86).

270 Figures 1-3 present trends in lifestyle behaviors across quintiles of sleep duration (Figure 1),  
271 sleep efficiency (Figure 2), and bedtime (Figure 3). Findings observed while categorizing sleep  
272 patterns are generally consistent with the linear associations found in Table 2 and do not  
273 suggest U-shaped relationships with the outcomes variables.

## 274 **DISCUSSION**

275 The present study was the first to examine the associations between sleep patterns and  
276 lifestyle behaviors in children across five major geographic regions of the world (Europe, Africa,  
277 the Americas, South-East Asia, and the Western Pacific) representing a wide range of socio-  
278 cultural variability. Findings from this study revealed that sleep characteristics (duration,

279 efficiency, bedtime) are important correlates of lifestyle behaviors in children. Relationships  
280 between sleep patterns and MVPA, SED and ST were also found to significantly differ among  
281 study sites, with stronger associations in high-income countries compared to low/middle income  
282 countries. Collectively, these findings suggest that interventions aimed at improving sleep and  
283 lifestyle behaviors should be culturally adapted to maximize success. More sleep studies in  
284 low/middle income countries are also needed to understand and determine if the connection  
285 between sleep patterns and lifestyle behaviors differs compared to high-income countries.

286 The observation that short sleep duration and poor sleep efficiency were associated with  
287 higher levels of MVPA contradicts our hypothesis and the idea that fatigue and tiredness  
288 generally associated with inadequate sleep could result in reduced voluntary physical activity in  
289 some individuals.<sup>28</sup> However, studies investigating the association between sleep and physical  
290 activity are far from being consistent and report large inter-individual variations.<sup>29</sup> Our results  
291 agree with other cross-sectional studies showing that children who are more physically active  
292 during the day have shorter total sleep time than less active children.<sup>14,30,31</sup> Several theories may  
293 explain this finding, including the fact that there are only a certain number of hours in the day  
294 and sleeping longer produces an overall time deficit thereby reducing time in other activities.<sup>32</sup>  
295 Also, the fact that sleep and MVPA were measured over a week with average values used in the  
296 analyses means that days with high MVPA are not compared with sleep that night. In other  
297 words, it is possible that days with high MVPA are days with longer sleep durations, but this is  
298 washed out when behaviors are averaged. In contrast, results obtained with bedtime as the  
299 exposure variable are in line with our hypothesis and previous evidence showing that later  
300 bedtimes are associated with lower MVPA in children.<sup>14,33,34</sup>

301 The associations between sleep timing and SED/ST are consistent with our hypothesis and  
302 previous research showing that later bedtimes are associated with greater sedentary  
303 behaviors.<sup>14,15,34,35</sup> Likewise, short sleep duration was associated with more SED. However, in  
304 contrast to our hypothesis, good sleep efficiency was associated with longer SED. Reasons

305 behind this finding are unknown and warrant further investigation. Given the cross-sectional  
306 nature of the data, the temporal sequence of events cannot be inferred, and one must be  
307 cautious in the interpretation of this observation.

308 Relationships between sleep patterns and eating patterns are in line with our hypothesis and  
309 previous evidence in the field.<sup>12,36,37</sup> We found that shorter sleep duration, poorer sleep efficiency  
310 and later bedtimes were associated with unhealthy eating patterns in this sample of children.  
311 There is accumulating evidence showing that sleep has an influence on eating behaviors.  
312 Inadequate sleep habits have been reported to increase snacking, the number of meals eaten  
313 per day, and the preference for energy-dense foods.<sup>15</sup> Proposed mechanisms by which  
314 insufficient sleep may increase energy intake include: more time and opportunities for eating,  
315 psychological distress, greater sensitivity to food reward, disinhibited eating, more energy  
316 needed to sustain extended wakefulness, and changes in appetite hormones.<sup>15</sup>

317 Although the multi-level analysis used in the present study does not provide estimates of  
318 effect size for the reported associations, Figures 1-3 reveal that some of the relationships are  
319 clinically meaningful from a public health standpoint. For example, children in the highest quintile  
320 of sleep duration (i.e. longer sleep) averaged 1.2 h less SED than those in the opposite quintile  
321 (i.e. shorter sleep). Likewise, children with later bedtimes averaged 1 h more SED than those  
322 with earlier bedtimes (for both boys and girls). At the very least, these findings remind us that  
323 multiple connections exist between sleep patterns and lifestyle behaviors. Sleep should not be  
324 overlooked by health care practitioners and should also be part of the lifestyle package that  
325 traditionally has focused on diet and exercise.<sup>5,7</sup>

326 The fact that the associations between sleep patterns and MVPA, SED and ST were  
327 significantly different between study sites also reminds us that strategies aimed at improving  
328 sleep and lifestyle behaviors should be culturally adapted to optimize results of interventions. It is  
329 possible that children's days are more structured or regulated in high-income countries and that  
330 there is more flexibility and discretionary time in low-income countries. Not only can the

331 associations between sleep and lifestyle habits be influenced by numerous factors at the  
332 individual level (e.g. age, sex, socioeconomic status, body size, etc.) but interventions that have  
333 shown success in one country may not necessarily be replicated in another setting. The  
334 observation that stronger associations were found in high-income countries compared to  
335 low/middle income countries highlights the need for a better understanding of the link between  
336 sleep and lifestyle behaviors in underdeveloped and developing countries before generalizing  
337 findings in this area of research. Also, the fact that similar and stronger associations were found  
338 in high-income countries in which the obesogenic environment is more prevalent suggests that  
339 increased efforts may be needed in these countries to reduce the adverse effects of clustering  
340 unhealthy lifestyle behaviors.

341 This study has several strengths and limitations that warrant discussion. An important  
342 strength is the large multi-national sample of children from low to high income countries across  
343 several regions of the world. We also used a highly standardized measurement protocol, the use  
344 of objective measurements whenever possible, and a rigorous quality control program to ensure  
345 high quality data across all sites.<sup>16</sup> However, our results need to be interpreted in light of the  
346 following limitations. First, the direction of causality cannot be determined from cross-sectional  
347 data. Second, accelerometers may be limited in their ability to properly distinguish between  
348 sleep and waking state, as they are based on movement detection. Furthermore, waist-worn  
349 accelerometers have been shown to overestimate absolute sleep duration and sleep efficiency  
350 compared to wrist-worn devices,<sup>38</sup> which may in part explain the high sleep efficiency values  
351 observed in this cohort. However, the use of one single device to assess both sleep and  
352 MVPA/SED is less cumbersome for children and still provides valid proxy measurements of  
353 sleep.<sup>38</sup> Third, we relied on self-reported estimates of ST and eating patterns, which are  
354 challenging behaviors to measure in young children. However, we used validated and reliable  
355 scales to measure these behaviors in an effort to minimize error and bias. Fourth, ISCOLE was  
356 not designed to provide nationally representative data and therefore the degree to which the

357 results are generalizable are not known. Finally, residual confounding by unmeasured variables  
358 is always a possibility in observational studies.

### 359 **CONCLUSION**

360 The present study provides evidence that waist-worn 24-hour accelerometer-determined  
361 nocturnal sleep patterns are associated with several lifestyle behaviors in children selected from  
362 around the world. Differences in the reported relationships between study sites suggest that the  
363 geographic area in the world and socio-cultural variability are important factors to consider.  
364 Future work in low/middle income countries is needed to better understand whether sleep is  
365 associated with lifestyle behaviors in these countries and further elucidate this possible  
366 discrepancy between settings.

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383 Suppl. (This Issue).  
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385 collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.  
386



387 **Conflicts of Interest**

388 MF has received a research grant from Fazer Finland and has received an honorarium for  
389 speaking for Merck. AK has been a member of the Advisory Boards of Dupont and McCain  
390 Foods. RK has received a research grant from Abbott Nutrition Research and Development. VM  
391 is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Actigraph and has received an honorarium for  
392 speaking for The Coca-Cola Company. TO has received an honorarium for speaking for The  
393 Coca-Cola Company. The authors reported no other potential conflicts of interest.

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525 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

526 **Figure 1.** Trends in lifestyle behaviors across quintiles of nocturnal sleep duration in boys (black  
527 bars) and girls (white bars). Error bars represent standard deviations for moderate-to-vigorous  
528 physical activity (MVPA), sedentary time and screen time score. Standard errors are represented  
529 for healthy/unhealthy diet pattern scores. *P* values for linear trends across quintiles in both boys  
530 and girls are shown in the figure. The models are adjusted for age, highest parental education  
531 and BMI z-score.

532  
533 **Figure 2.** Trends in lifestyle behaviors across quintiles of nocturnal sleep efficiency in boys  
534 (black bars) and girls (white bars). Error bars represent standard deviations for moderate-to-  
535 vigorous physical activity (MVPA), sedentary time and screen time score. Standard errors are  
536 represented for healthy/unhealthy diet pattern scores. *P* values for linear trends across quintiles  
537 in both boys and girls are shown in the figure. The models are adjusted for age, highest parental  
538 education and BMI z-score.

539  
540 **Figure 3.** Trends in lifestyle behaviors across quintiles of nocturnal bedtime in boys (black bars)  
541 and girls (white bars). Error bars represent standard deviations for moderate-to-vigorous  
542 physical activity (MVPA), sedentary time and screen time score. Standard errors are represented  
543 for healthy/unhealthy diet pattern scores. *P* values for linear trends across quintiles in both boys  
544 and girls are shown in the figure. The models are adjusted for age, highest parental education  
545 and BMI z-score.

Table 1. Descriptive characteristics of participants stratified by study site ( $n=5\ 777$ ).

Country (site)	Participants (n, % males)	Age (years)	MVPA (min/day)	SED (h/day)	Screen time score	Sleep duration (h/night)	Sleep efficiency (%)	Bedtime (h:min)
Australia (Adelaide)	433 (46.7)	10.7 (0.4)	65.6 (23.0)	8.0 (1.0)	2.8 (1.7)	9.4 (0.7)	95.4 (1.3)	21:53
Brazil (Sao Paulo)	435 (48.5)	10.5 (0.5)	59.3 (26.3)	8.4 (1.1)	3.7 (2.2)	8.6 (0.8)	95.5 (1.3)	23:10
Canada (Ottawa)	496 (40.9)	10.5 (0.4)	58.5 (19.5)	8.6 (1.0)	2.5 (1.9)	9.1 (0.8)	96.1 (1.3)	22:10
China (Tianjin)	459 (51.6)	9.9 (0.5)	44.8 (15.7)	9.5 (1.1)	1.9 (1.6)	8.8 (0.6)	96.5 (1.2)	22:03
Colombia (Bogotá)	820 (49.2)	10.5 (0.6)	68.2 (24.9)	8.4 (1.1)	2.9 (1.5)	8.8 (0.8)	95.9 (1.2)	21:53
Finland (Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa)	526 (45.3)	10.4 (0.5)	70.5 (26.7)	8.6 (1.1)	1.8 (1.3)	8.6 (0.7)	96.6 (1.2)	22:46
India (Bangalore)	433 (45.1)	10.5 (0.4)	48.5 (20.7)	8.9 (1.1)	2.8 (1.7)	8.5 (0.9)	96.8 (1.1)	22:35
Kenya (Nairobi)	452 (45.4)	10.2 (0.7)	72.1 (31.4)	8.3 (1.1)	2.4 (1.7)	8.6 (0.9)	95.9 (1.4)	21:42
Portugal (Porto)	563 (41.6)	10.4 (0.3)	55.1 (21.5)	9.3 (1.0)	2.3 (1.5)	8.3 (0.9)	97.2 (0.9)	23:17
South Africa (Cape Town)	452 (38.6)	10.2 (0.7)	63.4 (25.4)	8.2 (1.1)	3.1 (2.1)	9.2 (0.7)	96.1 (1.4)	21:47
UK (Bath, North East Somerset)	374 (42.8)	10.9 (0.4)	64.4 (22.7)	8.3 (0.9)	3.0 (1.7)	9.5 (0.7)	95.7 (1.4)	22:03
USA (Baton Rouge)	421 (40.4)	9.9 (0.6)	50.0 (19.0)	8.7 (1.0)	3.2 (2.3)	8.9 (0.9)	96.0 (1.2)	22:12
All sites	5777 (45.0)	10.4 (0.6)	60.2 (24.9)	8.6 (1.1)	2.7 (1.8)	8.8 (0.9)	96.2 (1.4)	22:18

MVPA, moderate-to-vigorous physical activity; SED, sedentary time.  
Data are shown as mean (SD) unless otherwise indicated.



Table 2. Associations between sleep patterns and lifestyle behaviors in 5 777 9-11 year old children.

	MVPA (min/day)			SED (h/day)			Screen time score			Healthy Diet Pattern			Unhealthy Diet Pattern		
	$\beta$	95% CI	<i>P</i>	$\beta$	95% CI	<i>P</i>	$\beta$	95% CI	<i>P</i>	$\beta$	95% CI	<i>P</i>	$\beta$	95% CI	<i>P</i>
<b>Sleep duration (h/night)</b>															
Model 1	-1.15	-1.19; -1.11	<0.0001	-0.38	-0.41; -0.34	<0.0001	-1.01	-1.05; 1.03	0.63	0.01	-0.03; 0.04	0.75	-0.05	-0.09; -0.02	<0.01
Model 2	-1.13	-1.16; -1.09	<0.0001	-0.37	-0.41; -0.34	<0.0001	1.03	-1.01; 1.54	0.16	0.001	-0.03; 0.04	0.97	-0.04	-0.07; -0.01	0.04
<b>Sleep efficiency (%)</b>															
Model 1	-3.63	-4.40; -2.87	<0.0001	8.45	6.33; 10.57	<0.0001	-10.47	-96.81; -1.13	0.04	-0.15	-2.21; 1.91	0.89	-4.37	-6.37; -2.37	<0.0001
Model 2	-2.65	-3.36; -1.94	<0.0001	8.03	5.92; 10.14	<0.0001	1.03	-8.84; 9.30	0.98	-0.46	-2.54; 1.61	0.66	-3.47	-5.47; -1.47	<0.001
<b>Bedtime (h:min)</b>															
Model 1	-1.1	-1.15; -1.05	<0.0001	0.36	0.31; 0.41	<0.0001	1.2	1.14; 1.26	<0.0001	-0.07	-0.11; -0.02	<0.01	0.08	0.03; 0.12	<0.001
Model 2	-1.08	-1.13; -1.03	<0.0001	0.36	0.31; 0.41	<0.0001	1.19	1.14; 1.25	<0.0001	-0.07	-0.11; -0.02	<0.01	0.08	0.04; 0.13	<0.001

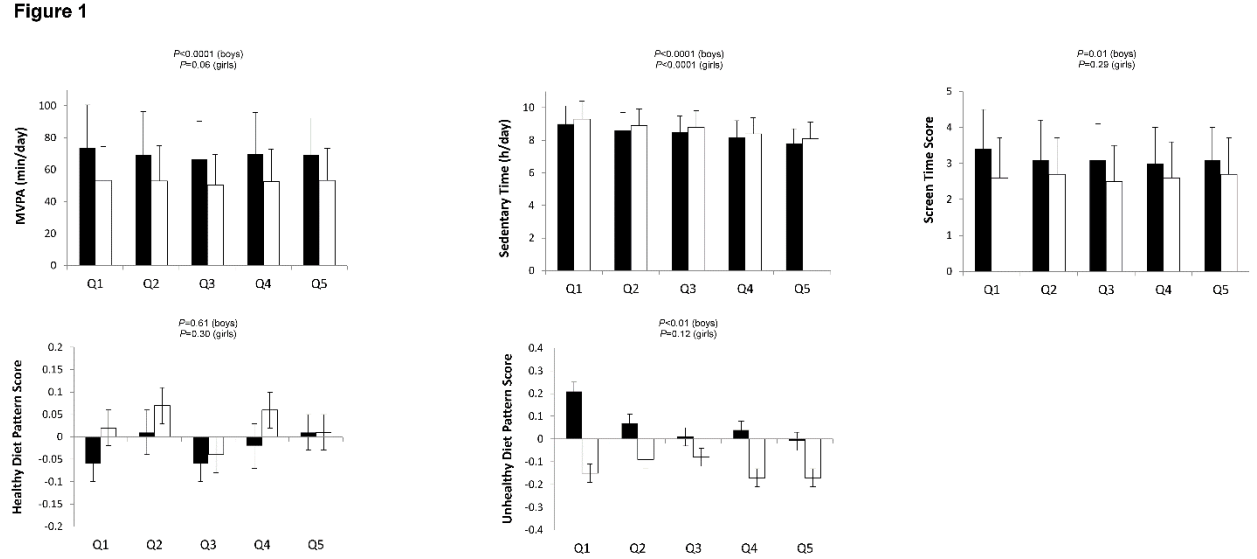
MVPA, moderate-to-vigorous physical activity; SED, sedentary time; CI, confidence interval.

Model 1: unadjusted.

Model 2: adjusted for age, sex, highest parental education and body mass index z-score.

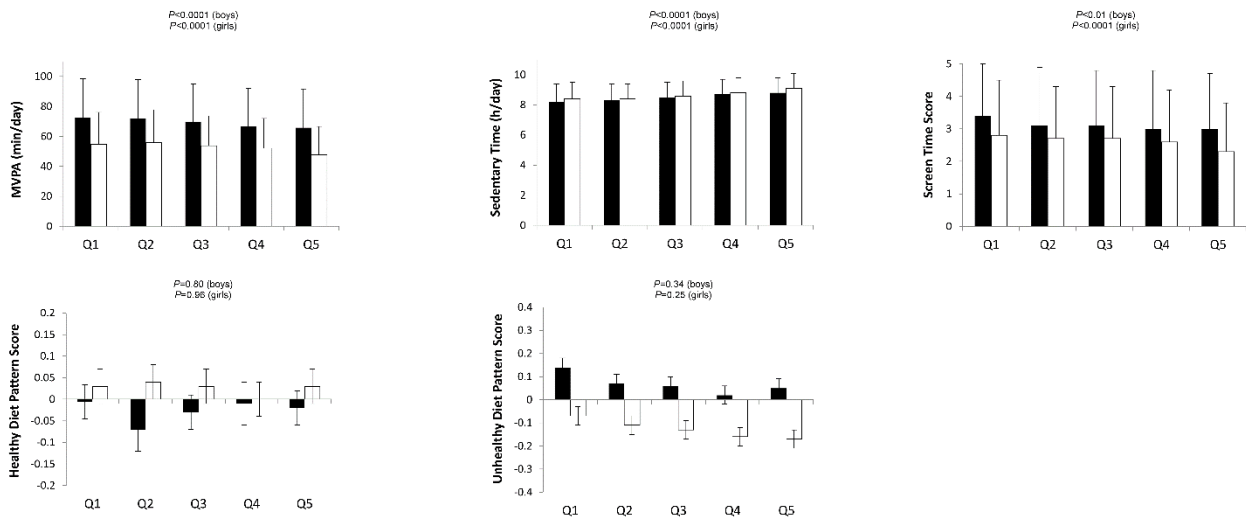
Unstandardized beta coefficients are presented; data for MVPA and screen time have been back-transformed to their original units.

**Figure 1.** Trends in lifestyle behaviors across quintiles of nocturnal sleep duration in boys (black bars) and girls (white bars). Error bars represent standard deviations for moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA), sedentary time and screen time score. Standard errors are represented for healthy/unhealthy diet pattern scores. *P* values for linear trends across quintiles in both boys and girls are shown in the figure. The models are adjusted for age, highest parental education and BMI z-score.



**Figure 2.** Trends in lifestyle behaviors across quintiles of nocturnal sleep efficiency in boys (black bars) and girls (white bars). Error bars represent standard deviations for moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA), sedentary time and screen time score. Standard errors are represented for healthy/unhealthy diet pattern scores. *P* values for linear trends across quintiles in both boys and girls are shown in the figure. The models are adjusted for age, highest parental education and BMI z-score.

**Figure 2**



**Figure 3.** Trends in lifestyle behaviors across quintiles of nocturnal bedtime in boys (black bars) and girls (white bars). Error bars represent standard deviations for moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA), sedentary time and screen time score. Standard errors are represented for healthy/unhealthy diet pattern scores. *P* values for linear trends across quintiles in both boys and girls are shown in the figure. The models are adjusted for age, highest parental education and BMI z-score.

**Figure 3**

