Cycling and health

Lars Bo Andersen Prof., Ph. D., Dr. Med. Sci. University of Southern Denmark

It is possible to change behaviour!

• The City of Odense did a three year intervention with the purpose of increasing commuter cycling







































Safe Routes to School in Odense

- Analyses on children's insecurity in traffic
 45 schools around 1980
- App. 200 construction projects are established
- Free school transport by law if the roads are too dangerous



Safe Routes to School in Odense

Traffic accidents with children:
Injuries 2000, police and hospital













Potential increase in life expectancy for a change in cycling from none to >1 h/w



Active Travel to School and Cardiovascular Fitness in Danish Children and Adolescents

ASHLEY R. COOPER¹, NIELS WEDDERKOPP², HAN WANG¹, LARS BO ANDERSEN³, KARSTEN FROBERG², and ANGIE S. PAGE¹

¹Department of Exercise, Nutrition and Health Sciences, University of Bristol, UNITED KINGDOM; ²Institute of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, DENMARK; and ³Department of Sports Medicine, Norwegian School of Sports Sciences, Oslo, NORWAY

First we published cross-sectional analysis of travel mode and fitness

Med. Sci. Sports Exerc., Vol. 38, No. 10, pp. 1724-1731, 2006.



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Preventive Medicine

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ypmed

Longitudinal associations of cycling to school with adolescent fitness

Ashley R. Cooper ^{a,*}, Niels Wedderkopp ^b, Russell Jago ^a, Peter L. Kristensen ^c, Niels C. Moller ^c, Karsten Froberg^c, Angie S. Page^a, Lars Bo Andersen^{c,c}

⁴ Deercise, Nutrition and Health Sciences, University of Bristol, UK ^b The Back Research part of Chirical Boomotion Science, University of Southern Deumark, Odense, Deumark ^c Institute of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, University of Southern Deumark, Odense, Deumark ^d Department of Sports Medicine, Norwegian School of Sports Sciences, Oslo, Norway

Open Access Research Bicycling to school improves the BMI **Open** cardiometabolic risk factor profile: a randomised controlled trial

Lars Østergaard,¹ Line A B Børrestad,^{1,2} Jakob Tarp,¹ Lars Bo Andersen^{1,3}

Finally

- We have just finished a school based intervention promoting cycling in 12 schools using another 12 schools as controls
- It works, but our problem is that the main reason for not cycling to school in Denmark is distance
- Two third of teenagers cycle and most of the others walk, because the distance is too short!

