

# Most physical activity helps you sleep better

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But housework and child care linked to poorer slumber.

(HealthDay)—Certain types of physical activity help you sleep better, while others might leave you tossing and turning, a new study finds.

Researchers looked at data from a survey of more than 429,000 American adults. They found that activities such as walking, bicycling, running, [weight lifting](#), aerobics/calisthenics, gardening, yoga/Pilates and golfing were all linked to better odds of a good night's slumber.

But, people who got [physical activity](#) from household chores and child care had a greater risk of [poor sleep](#), according to the study.

Results of the study were presented this week at the annual meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies, in Seattle. Findings presented at meetings are generally viewed as preliminary until they've been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

The results of this study were surprising, according to study leader

Michael Grandner, a psychiatry instructor at the Center for Sleep and Circadian Neurobiology at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

"Not only does this study show that those who get exercise simply by walking are more likely to have better [sleep](#) habits, but these effects are even stronger for more purposeful activities, such as running and yoga, and even gardening and golf," Grandner said in a university news release.

"It was also interesting that people who receive most of their activity from housework and [child care](#) were more likely to experience insufficient sleep—we know that home and work demands are some of the main reasons people lose sleep," Grandner added.

"These results are consistent with the growing scientific literature on the role of sleep in human performance. Lab studies show that [lack of sleep](#) is associated with poor physical and mental performance, and this study shows us that this is consistent with real-world data as well," he explained.

But since the study design only allowed the researchers to find associations between activity and sleep, instead of proof of a cause-and-effect relationship, more studies are needed, according to Grandner.

**More information:** The National Sleep Foundation offers [healthy sleep tips](#).

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