

# Brits risk unhealthy lifestyle as half the population walk less than an hour a day

March 1 2019

---



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Almost half (45 percent) of GB adults sit for six hours or more every day and might not be getting enough exercise, according to new research by Cancer Research UK's Walk All Over Cancer campaign published

today. Almost half (46 percent) of GB adults in employment walk for less than an hour every work day.

The research, conducted by YouGov, also shows 28 percent of GB [adults](#) walk 35 minutes a day or less when they are not working, with lack of time cited as the primary reason for not walking more (17 percent).

The study highlights that your choice of profession has a big impact on the amount of walking you do, with manual workers clocking up more steps than professionals. Almost half (45 percent) of manual workers like plumbers and electricians walk for more than an hour and a half each working day, whilst only 13 percent of professionals such as accountants, or analysts walk for the same length of time each working day. Office workers are the worst offenders, with around a third (34 percent) sitting for 9 hours or more every day.

The study also found that dog-owners are more likely to be active, with over half (54 percent) walking for an hour or more each day compared to only 44 percent of people who don't own a dog walking the same amount of time. On average dog owners are walking their dog for 35 minutes each day.

Whether it's walking the children to school, walking to the shops, or taking your dog to the park, everyday changes can help you or your family stay healthy. Being more active can have many [health benefits](#), including reducing cancer risk. Regularly doing exercise that gets you warm and slightly out of breath, like brisk walking, can help people maintain a healthy weight, and in doing so, reduce this risk of 13 different types of cancer.

Katie Edmunds, health information manager at Cancer Research UK said: "It's worrying to see that almost half of UK adults are sitting for more than six hours per day, as being physically active comes with many

health benefits, including helping you keep to a healthy weight and reducing the risk of [cancer](#). The government recommendation is 150 minutes of moderate activity per week.

"The main reason people gave for not walking more is that they don't have enough time. While our hectic lifestyles can make it hard for people to find time to keep active, the best thing to do is build it into your everyday life. Any level of [exercise](#) is better than none, so building some moderate activity into your daily routine can really make a difference.

"For many people, walking is probably the easiest way to start being more active as you don't need any special kit or to join a gym. There are lots of simple ways to rack up daily steps, and if you usually commute to work then walking as part of your usual journey is a great way to squeeze in some extra physical activity to your day, alternatively you could take a quick stroll around your local park at lunch. Signing up to our Walk All Over Cancer campaign, is a great way to kickstart a change to your physical health and wellbeing."

- Almost half (45 percent) of GB adults are sedentary for at least six hours every day
- Almost half (46 percent) of GB working adults walk for less than an hour every work day
- Around a third (34 percent) of [office workers](#) sit for nine hours or more every day
- Lack of time cited as the primary reason for not walking more
- Dog-owners are more active

Provided by Cancer Research UK

Citation: Brits risk unhealthy lifestyle as half the population walk less than an hour a day (2019,

March 1) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-03-brits-unhealthy-lifestyle-population-hour.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.