

**Supplement Table 1.** Internal drop-out analyses within the available database, comparing individuals with (included) and without (excluded) VO<sub>2</sub>max.

Year	n	Gender		Age		Height		Weight		>12 years of education	
		Included % women	Excluded n % women	Included Mean (SD)	Excluded Mean (SD)	Included Mean (SE) <sup>#</sup>	Excluded Mean (SE) <sup>#</sup>	Included Mean (SE) <sup>#</sup>	Excluded Mean (SE) <sup>#</sup>	Included %	Excluded %
1995-1997	4 574	52.4	815 41.6 <sup>a</sup>	40.9 (10.0)	43.3 (10.6) <sup>a</sup>	172.6 (9.3)	173.8 (9.7) <sup>a</sup>	74.8 (14.0)	78.2 (14.8) <sup>a</sup>	13.7	12.3
1998-1999	6 543	45.3	1 577 44.6	42.0 (10.3)	44.1 (10.8) <sup>a</sup>	173.9 (9.1)	174.0 (9.4)	76.1 (14.0)	77.9 (15.2) <sup>a</sup>	19.1	19.5
2000-2001	12 545	49.5	3 370 48.4	42.3 (10.7)	45.4 (11.2) <sup>a</sup>	173.3 (9.2)	173.3 (9.5)	76.0 (14.2)	79.1 (15.6) <sup>a</sup>	20.8	19.4
2002-2003	22 629	52.4	5 167 53.3	41.9 (11.2)	47.3 (11.1) <sup>a</sup>	172.8 (9.2)	172.4 (9.6) <sup>a</sup>	75.4 (14.4)	79.0 (16.4) <sup>a</sup>	19.9	17.7 <sup>a</sup>
2004-2005	37 420	52.1	9 704 48.7 <sup>a</sup>	42.8 (10.9)	47.5 (11.1) <sup>a</sup>	173.0 (9.2)	173.3 (9.5) <sup>a</sup>	75.9 (14.6)	80.0 (16.4) <sup>a</sup>	25.3	20.5 <sup>a</sup>
2006-2007	38 519	48.6	9 703 46.0 <sup>a</sup>	42.9 (11.1)	47.1 (11.4) <sup>a</sup>	173.5 (9.3)	173.6 (9.7)	77.1 (15.0)	80.5 (17.0) <sup>a</sup>	24.5	20.3 <sup>a</sup>
2008-2009	43 479	46.2	9 672 47.8 <sup>a</sup>	42.8 (11.3)	46.7 (12.0) <sup>a</sup>	173.9 (9.3)	173.3 (9.7) <sup>a</sup>	77.9 (15.3)	80.6 (17.9) <sup>a</sup>	25.9	22.5 <sup>a</sup>
2010-2011	39 177	44.2	7 758 45.6 <sup>a</sup>	42.4 (11.2)	46.0 (12.0) <sup>a</sup>	174.3 (9.4)	173.8 (9.7) <sup>a</sup>	78.7 (15.5)	82.0 (18.1) <sup>a</sup>	27.3	22.9 <sup>a</sup>
2012-2013	57 246	40.8	12 135 40.6	42.1 (11.3)	46.2 (11.7) <sup>a</sup>	174.9 (9.3)	174.9 (9.7)	79.0 (15.4)	82.8 (17.9) <sup>a</sup>	31.5	26.2 <sup>a</sup>
2014-2015	55 584	37.6	13 070 38.2	41.7 (11.5)	45.0 (12.3) <sup>a</sup>	175.3 (9.2)	175.2 (9.8)	79.9 (15.7)	83.2 (18.6) <sup>a</sup>	29.7	24.6 <sup>a</sup>
2016-2017	36 561	36.8	8 878 37.9	41.1 (11.7)	43.9 (12.4) <sup>a</sup>	175.4 (9.3)	175.6 (9.6)	80.3 (16.0)	83.3 (18.4) <sup>a</sup>	29.5	26.5 <sup>a</sup>
Total	354 277	44.2	81 849 44.0	42.2 (11.2)	46.0 (11.8) <sup>a</sup>	174.2 (9.3)	174.1 (9.7) <sup>a</sup>	78.1 (15.3)	81.4 (17.4) <sup>a</sup>	26.9	22.8 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Different from individuals with VO<sub>2</sub>max during the same time period ( $p > 0.05$ ) using chi<sup>2</sup>-test for percentages, independent t-test for age and general linear modelling for height and weight.

<sup>#</sup> Mean and SE values adjusted for age and gender

SD, standard deviation

SE, standard error