

URBAN LIFE ACCOUNTS

► TRENDS IN COPENHAGEN'S URBAN LIFE 2010

3 MORE PEOPLE TO STAY LONGER

95% of Copenhageners find it important or very important that their city offer a dynamic and varied urban life.*

A good urban life is an important fact for the quality of life for Copenhageners, and it is one of Copenhagen's advantages in the competition with other cities.

Therefore, Copenhagen has a vision of being a metropolis for people. A city with a diverse and unique urban life for all. We have set three goals for urban life in Copenhagen in 2015: More urban life for all, More people to walk more and More people to stay longer.

This booklet focuses on the last of the three goals: More people to stay longer. The booklet presents a snapshot of where Copenhageners go when they go out, and how they rate the quality of recreational spaces in the city. On this background we take stock of the use of Copenhagen as an outdoor recreational space on a general level and describe some development trends.

* Source: Catinet



**COPENHAGEN
TOGETHER**

CITY OF COPENHAGEN
The Technical and
Environmental Administration

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The urban life accounts are based on figures from several studies, including counts and surveys of pedestrians and the recreational use of streets, city squares and parks, two polls carried out by Catinét, a poll carried out by Megafon, a study of transport habits carried out by the Technical University of Denmark and many other figures and statistics from the City of Copenhagen, Technical and Environmental Administration. Most of the figures are from 2010, although some date back to 2008 and 2009.

In cases where the statistical uncertainty is particularly pronounced, this is mentioned in a note.

Some of the raw data material is available on www.kk.dk. Here you will also find additional information about urban life in Copenhagen to supplement the stories that have been highlighted in this booklet.



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1. HOW COPENHAGENERS USE THE URBAN SPACE

A GOOD CITY IS A CITY WHERE MANY PEOPLE ENJOY SPENDING TIME OUTDOORS

To many Copenhageners the city's parks, squares and shopping streets are a natural extension of the home. Many eat outdoors and meet family and friends in the park or in a cafe, and the children play in the playground.

The urban space is also used for exercise. In particular, runners use the streets, parks and paths around the lakes. And in recent years, street sport has become popular: skaters and parkour enthusiasts do not stick to dedicated courts but seek out the city squares and find new uses for the hard surfaces of the city.

Some urban spaces offer fixed installations for recreational use. For example, benches invite anyone to sit down and take a break. Other elements in the urban space are variable, as when festivals temporarily transform an urban space to a zone with a unique identity. Others in turn are temporary elements that may turn the urban space into a stage, for example while a street artist performs, or into a coffee shop when a mobile coffee shop pulls up.

When many people enjoy spending time outside it is an indication that the city feels safe, and that many people are attracted to the possibilities and experiences offered by the outdoor space.

COPENHAGEN'S 2015 GOAL

BY 2015 COPENHAGENERS SHOULD SPEND 20% MORE TIME IN THE URBAN SPACE THAN THEY DO TODAY.

2015 GOAL

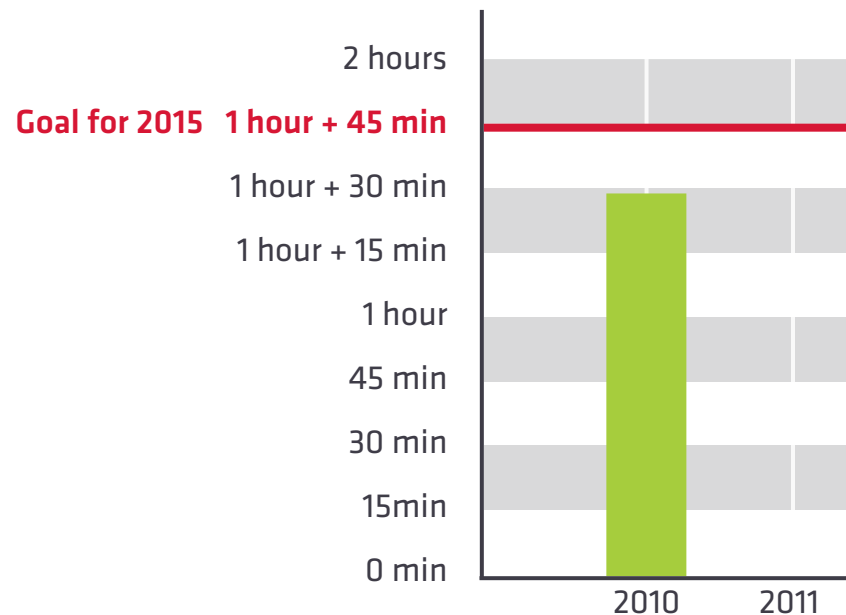
Copenhagen has a goal of encouraging more people to spend more time in the urban space. The specific goal for 2015 is that people should spend 20% more time in the outdoor space than they did in 2010.

Various strategies have been developed for achieving this goal, including urban gardens, renovation of the city's playgrounds and Integrated Urban Renewal projects that create new recreational possibilities in run-down urban areas.

2010 STATUS

IN 2010 AN AVERAGE COPENHAGENER SPENT 1 HOUR AND 28 MINUTES A WEEK IN THE CITY'S SQUARES AND SHOPPING STREETS.

BY 2015, THIS SHOULD HAVE INCREASED TO 1 HOUR AND 45 MINUTES A WEEK.



The figure for 2010 is based on data from polls concerning both frequency and duration.

Source: Catinét



2010 STATUS

2010 STATUS

A poll in 2010 examined how often and how long Copenhageners spend time city squares and shopping streets, and how often they visited parks, nature areas, harbour baths and beaches. The answers showed a seasonal variation.

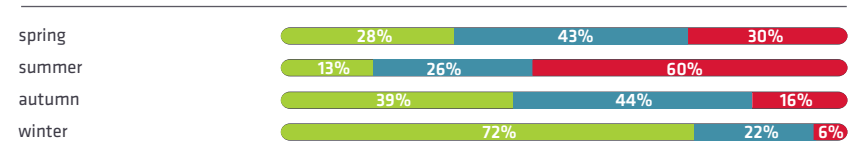
Spending time is defined as a “staying for a while”. If the 2015 goal is to be achieved, Copenhageners need to spend time outdoors more often or longer than they do now, both in summer and winter.

HOW OFTEN COPENHAGENERS VISIT CITY SQUARES AND SHOPPING STREETS

42% visit at least twice a week in spring
59% visit at least twice a week in summer
31% visit at least twice a week in autumn
31% visit at least twice a week in winter

Source: Catinét

HOW LONG WE SPEND ON AVERAGE IN CITY SQUARES AND SHOPPING STREETS



● less than 30 minutes ● 30-60 minutes ● more than 60 minutes

Source: Catinét

HOW OFTEN COPENHAGENERS VISIT PARKS, NATURE AREAS, HARBOUR BATHS AND BEACHES

46% visit at least twice a week in spring
64% visit at least twice a week in summer
41% visit at least twice a week in autumn
25% visit at least twice a week in winter

Source: Catinét



THE MOST POPULAR PLACES

In June 2010 a traffic count of city squares, parks and shopping streets in Copenhagen surveyed 72 different outdoor recreational locations in the city. The counts were carried out on weekdays in June between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. under varying weather conditions. Changes in weather affect the number of people who spend time outdoors; the count does not correct for this factor. The number of people does not give any direct indication of the quality of the location. Less frequented sites might offer other valuable experiences.

TOP 10 URBAN SPACES IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF VISITS

1.	Nyhavn	636
2.	Havneparken	407
3.	Amager Torv – Strøget	208
4.	Nørre Voldgade – Nørreport Station	151
5.	Kultorget	146
6.	Strædet – Kompagnistræde	144
7.	Vimmelskiftet – middle section of Strøget	128
8.	Valbyparken – nature playground	125
9.	Istedgade	116
10.	Østerbrogade (not including Nu Hansens Plads)	116

And further down on the list...

12.	Gunnar Nu Hansens Plads	89
24.	Enghave Plads	44
29.	Sankt Hans Torv	42
32.	Sundbyvester Plads	28
36.	Bopa Plads	25
47.	Sundbyøster Plads	15
53.	Husum Torv	11
54.	Vanløse Torv	11
55.	Utterslev Torv	10
72.	Silkeborg Plads	0



The figures are based on an hourly average of the number of people spending time outdoors. Source: Traffic Department, City of Copenhagen



HOW TO MAKE US SPEND MORE TIME OUTDOORS

What will it take to encourage Copenhageners to spend more time outdoors? In polls, 54% said that they would spend more time outside if there were more trees, bushes and flowers. 46% think that they would spend more time outside if the city were cleaner. But behind these averages lie some important differences in what would make different categories of residents spend more time in the urban space than they do today.

Of the Copenhageners who only use the city to go shopping, 45% think that more benches would make them spend more time in the urban space. This point of view is shared by 33% of Copenhageners in general.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT BENCHES WOULD MOTIVATE THEM TO SPEND MORE TIME IN THE URBAN SPACE

Copenhageners who only use the city to go shopping	45%
All Copenhageners	33%

Source: Catinét

Of the people who prefer to stay in their local area, 28% say that improved lighting and paving will motivate them to stay longer, compared with 21% of the Copenhageners in general.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT IMPROVED LIGHTING AND PAVING WOULD MOTIVATE THEM TO STAY LONGER

Copenhageners who prefer to stay in their local area	28%
All Copenhageners	21%

Source: Catinét

TOP 5 FACTORS THAT WOULD MAKE COPENHAGENERS SPEND MORE TIME IN THE URBAN SPACE

1. The city should be greener (more trees, bushes and flowers)
2. The city should be cleaner
3. Less traffic
4. More information about possible activities, beautiful sites in the city, cultural experiences etc.
5. More benches

Source: Catinét

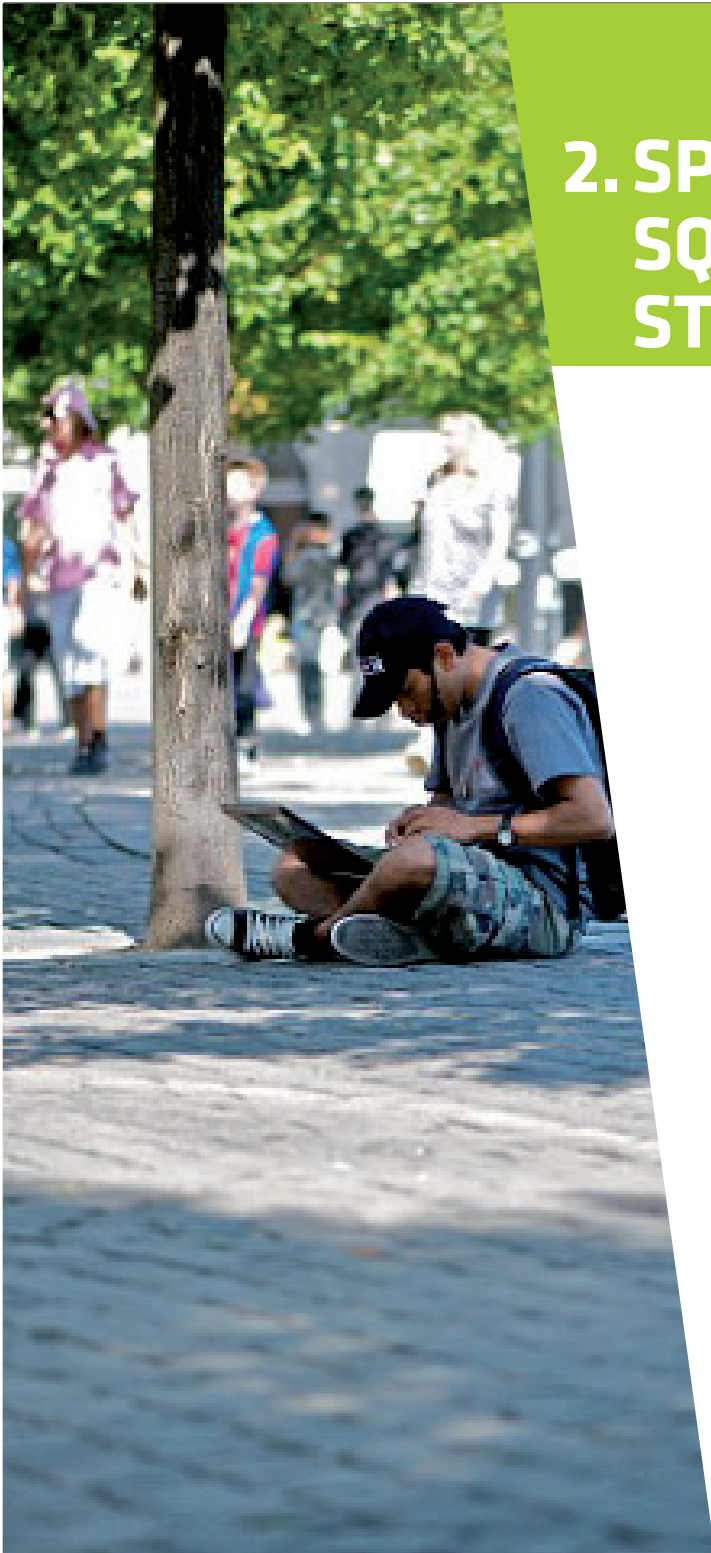
This Top 5 list does not mean that if the city were covered in trees and benches, all residents would spend more time outdoors. Some groups prefer a different aesthetic and have other expectations of the city. Thus, to be truly diverse, Copenhagen should not only offer the types of urban spaces that appeal to the majority but also make room for the secret, the eccentric and the temporary to flourish.

COPENHAGENERS' GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE CITY

- 89% are satisfied with the availability of peace and quiet and places to relax in local green areas.
- 98% of Copenhageners feel that they have good opportunities for meeting in the green areas of the city.
- 87.5% are satisfied with the opportunities for playing outdoors in their local area, for example in city squares and nature areas.
- 96% find the more cultural gardens and historical facilities to be presentable and clean.
- However, 26% do not think that their local area offers good outdoor recreational facilities in the daytime, and 29% in the night-time.

Source: Megafon, Catinét

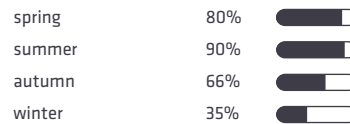
2. SPENDING TIME IN CITY SQUARES AND SHOPPING STREETS



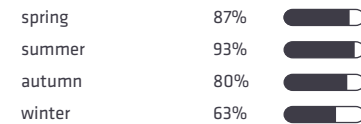
COPENHAGENERS SPEND TIME OUTDOORS ALL YEAR ROUND

In the summer, Copenhagen squares and parks are filled with people eating ice cream, chatting or people-watching. And Copenhageners also spend time outdoors in the wintertime. 35% of Copenhageners say that they visit squares and shopping streets at least twice a month in the winter time. And 63% say that they visit parks and nature areas at least twice a month.

I spend time outdoors (stay for a while) in city squares and shopping streets at least twice a month:

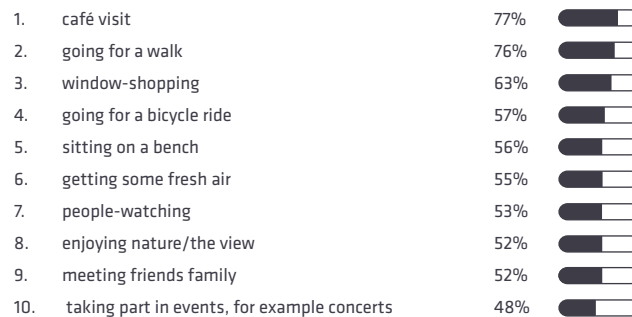


I spend time outdoors (stay for a while) in parks, nature areas, harbour baths and beaches at least twice a month:



Source: Catinét

TOP 10 REASONS FOR COPENHAGENERS TO SPEND TIME IN CITY SQUARES AND SHOPPING STREETS



Source: Catinét



GENDER AND AGE DIFFERENCES

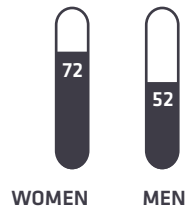
There are considerable gender and age differences in what Copenhageners do when they visit city squares and shopping streets.

The main gender difference is that women do far more window-shopping than men, while men do far more people-watching.

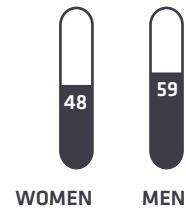
Young Copenhageners are more likely than other age groups to say that they visit cafés, exercise, eat food that they brought along, take part in events or simply go to get some fresh air.

IN SHOPPING STREETS AND CITY SQUARES, WOMEN GO WINDOW-SHOPPING, WHILE MEN ENJOY PEOPLE-WATCHING

WINDOW-SHOPPING

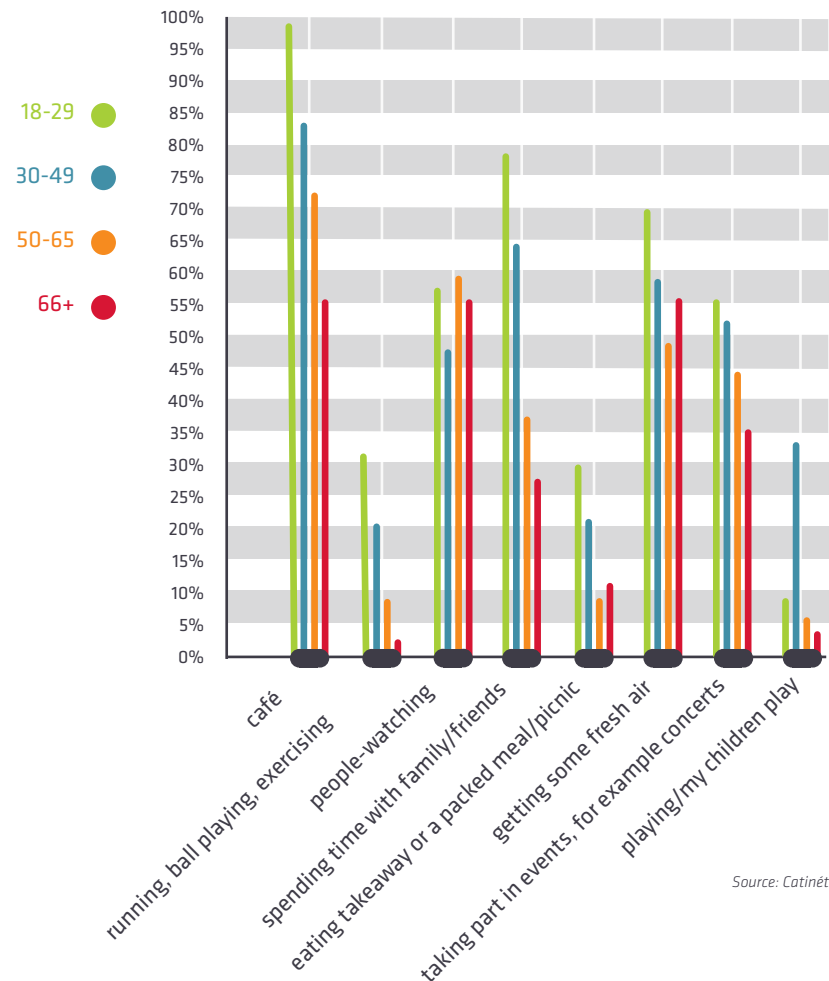


PEOPLE-WATCHING



Source: Catinét

AGE DIFFERENCES IN WHAT COPENHAGENERS DO IN CITY SQUARES AND SHOPPING STREETS



Source: Catinét



PEOPLE DENSITY IN CITY SQUARES

A traffic count in 2010 found that Nyhavn was the urban space in Copenhagen that had the largest number of people. However, measured per square metre, Nyhavn is not the most crowded urban space. Measured in density, Amagertorv in Strøget is the most intense urban space in Copenhagen on a summer's day.

SQUARE METRES PER PERSON IN CITY SQUARES

	per person per hour
Amagertorv	0,8 m ²
Kongens Nytorv	1,3 m ²
Nyhavn	1,5 m ²
Enghave Plads	1,6 m ²
Kultorvet	1,9 m ²
Gl Torv/Nytorv	2,4 m ²
Axeltorv	3,4 m ²
Gråbrødre Torv	4,3 m ²
Sankt Hans Torv	4,3 m ²
Rådhuspladsen	5,2 m ²

Some of the urban spaces are difficult to measure precisely. Therefore, the figures should be read as estimates, not as precise indications. Furthermore, the duration of visits may vary considerably depending on whether there are many outdoor food vendors, and whether they are restaurants or ice cream vendors. These differences are not factored in. Source: Traffic Department, City of Copenhagen



3. SPENDING TIME IN PARKS, ON BEACHES AND IN NATURE AREAS



PARKS











Parks are the Copenhageners' shared gardens and some of the most important outdoor recreational areas in the city. Especially in spring and summer, many like to bring a book, a newspaper or some music along, enjoy the green surroundings and maybe take a nap. Others organise social events, share a meal, play ball and croquet, celebrate birthdays or even host wedding receptions in the park.

80% of Copenhageners are satisfied or very satisfied with the design of and facilities in the green and blue areas in their local neighbourhood

80% 

Source: Catinét

TOP 10 REASONS WHY COPENHAGENERS VISIT PARKS, BEACHES AND NATURE AREAS

1. going for a walk	72%	
2. enjoying nature/views	67%	
3. fresh air	66%	
4. going for a bicycle ride	53%	
5. meeting friends/family	47%	
6. enjoying the peace and quiet	45%	
7. sitting on a bench	45%	
8. people-watching	43%	
9. café visit	35%	
10. taking part in events, for example concerts	33%	

Source: Catinét



PEOPLE DENSITY IN THE PARKS

To discover how much people use the parks we carried out traffic counts in 2010 in five Copenhagen parks. The parks differ in size and location and offer different types of nature experiences.

Of the five, Fælledparken clearly had the largest number of visitors with an hourly average of more than 2,000 visitors, compared with only 200 visitors an hour in Enghaveparken in Vesterbro. But since the parks are very different in size, these numbers do not reflect how much room is available to the individual visitor. Therefore we also calculated the number of visitors compared to the size of the park.

	Number of visitors an hour:
Fælledparken	2110
Amager Fælled	556
Østre Anlæg	357
Enghaveparken	194
Kastrup Fort	38

	Number of square metres available per hour per person:
Enghaveparken	184 m ²
Fælledparken	279 m ²
Østre Anlæg	379 m ²
Kastrup Fort	2920 m ²
Amager Fælled	4737 m ²

The numbers include both pedestrians and bicyclists who enter the parks. The count was based on the number of people entering through the park entrances. Therefore they do not give a precise indication of time spent in the parks but should be seen as estimates. Sources: Parks and Nature Department, City of Copenhagen; Department of Traffic, City of Copenhagen.



WHAT WE DO WHEN WE ARE OUTSIDE

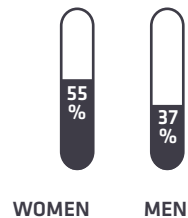
Copenhageners do many different things when they visit parks, beaches and nature areas. The most common answer to the question about the purpose of the visit was 'taking a walk'. However, there are considerable gender and age differences in Copenhageners' purpose with visiting parks and nature areas.

18% more women than men say that they go to meet with friends or family, and 14% more women than men say that they eat food that they brought along. 36% more of young people between 15 and 29 years of age eat a packed meal or takeaway in nature areas compared with people over 66 years of age. In the 66+ group, on the other hand, people are 19% more likely to engage in people-watching in nature areas, compared with the 15-29-year-olds.

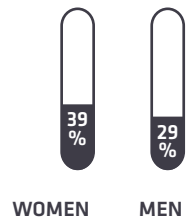
Similarly, there are considerable age and gender differences in what Copenhageners do in city squares and shopping streets.

WOMEN ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY THAN MEN TO USE THE GREEN AREAS FOR SOCIAL PURPOSES.

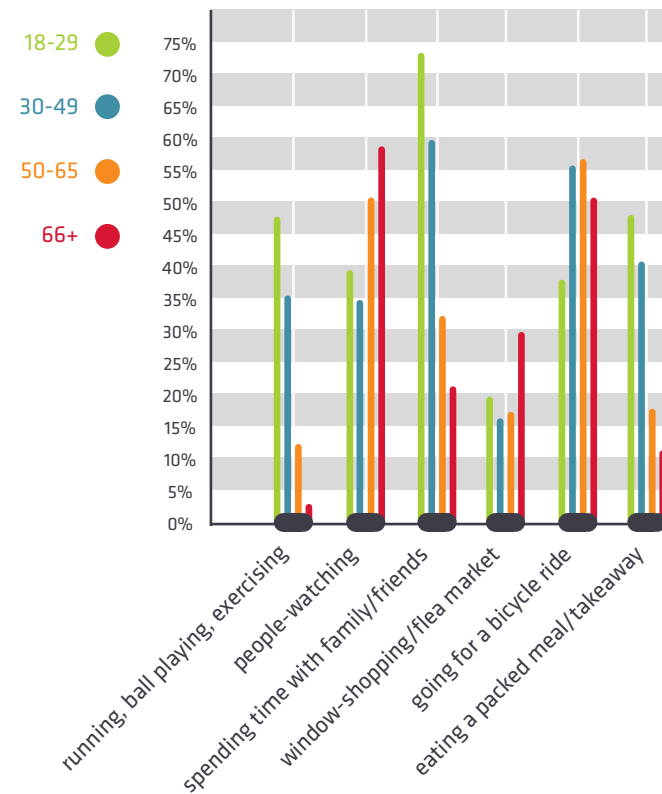
MEETING WITH FAMILY/FRIENDS



TAKING PART IN EVENTS



AGE DIFFERENCES IN WHAT COPENHAGENERS DO IN PARKS, ON BEACHES AND IN NATURE AREAS



Kilde: Catinét

Source: Catinét

4. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, PLAY AND PLAYGROUNDS



EXERCISING IN THE CITY

Copenhageners have long used the city's streets and parks for jogging, and a growing number of people use the urban space for exercising. Recent years have seen an increased emphasis on the positive effects of engaging in outdoor physical activity for the health of the individual as well as urban life. Play and exercise are incorporated in the design of the urban spaces, outdoor fitness centres pop up next to basket ball courts, and urban spaces are redesigned to accommodate the growing popularity of street sports.

LOCAL VARIATION IN THE DEGREE OF SATISFACTION

Generally, the residents of Copenhagen are quite satisfied with the opportunities for ball playing, exercise and physical activity in their local area. As many as 84% of the Copenhageners say that they are somewhat or very satisfied. If we break the poll numbers down to see the degree of satisfaction in the individual districts, there are differences. The highest degree of satisfaction is found in Vanløse, Brønshøj-Husum and Østerbro; the lowest degree of satisfaction is found in the inner city.

DEGREE OF SATISFACTION IN LOCAL DISTRICTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BALL PLAYING, EXERCISE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Vanløse	89%	
Brønshøj-Husum	89%	
Østerbro	89%	
Valby	88%	
Bispebjerg	84%	
Vesterbro/Kgs. Enghave	82%	
Amager Øst	81%	
Nørrebro	78%	
Amager Vest	77%	
Indre by	76%	

SEASONAL DIFFERENCES IN THE USE OF THE CITY'S OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

spring	23%	
summer	29%	
autumn	22%	
winter	14%	

Percentage of people using the city's outdoor sports facilities at least twice a month. Source: Catinét

Source: Megafon



PLAYGROUNDS - COPENHAGEN'S OVERLOOKED RECREATIONAL AREAS

While many Copenhageners never or rarely visit one of the city's many playgrounds, the playgrounds are a natural and essential part of everyday life for many families. And the playgrounds have many visitors. The Top 10 list (page 5) of Copenhagen sites with the most visitors includes a single playground, in 8th place: the nature playground in Valbyparken.

Playgrounds should give children a safe place for rough-and-tumble play. A playground is good when it is safe, and when the equipment is fun, sturdy and of high quality. However, the playgrounds are also recreational areas for adults, who play with their children and chat with other adults. Today, playgrounds are important social meeting places for both children and adults.

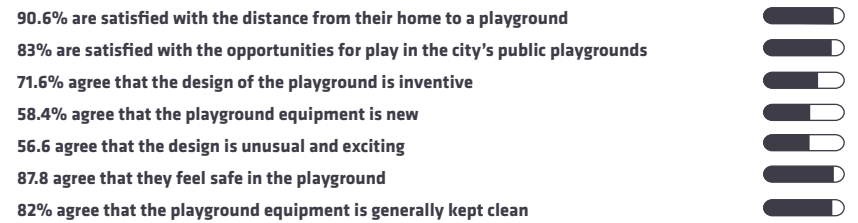
Copenhagen is currently upgrading all the city's playgrounds. From 2008 through 2011, all the city's playgrounds will be renovated. Some renovation processes have been completed, while others are ongoing or under preparation.

PLAYGROUND USE

In 2010 a poll asked Copenhageners how often and for how long they visit the city's playgrounds. The figures only include replies from people with children or grandchildren. Of this group, 31% visit the playgrounds at least once a week. Of the people who visit the playgrounds, 27% spend one to three hours on each visit together with the children. 60% stay less than an hour.

DEGREE OF SATISFACTION WITH PLAYGROUNDS

In a poll, Copenhageners with children or grandchildren were asked how satisfied they were with the distance from their home to the playground and with the state of the playgrounds.



Source: Catinét, Megafon

LOCAL VARIATION IN THE DEGREE OF SATISFACTION WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLAY IN PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS



Source: Megafon



NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER PLAYGROUND

There are 125 public playgrounds in Copenhagen, evenly distributed across the districts. The largest number is found in Nørrebro and Valby, with 14 playgrounds each. The smallest number is found in Bispebjerg and Vesterbro/Kongens Enghave, with 8 playgrounds each. The number of playgrounds does not in itself indicate how many children share a playground on average. The number of children varies a great deal between districts.

To illustrate these differences, we have calculated how many children there are per playground, on average, in the inner city and in Vesterbro, Nørrebro and Østerbro.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN BETWEEN ZERO AND TEN YEARS OF AGE PER PLAYGROUND IN THE DIFFERENT DISTRICTS

District	Number of children
Indre by	487
Nørrebro	616
Østerbro	765
Vesterbro/Kongens Enghave	839

The figures should be read with the reservation that a given playground may be frequented by children from other districts. This is especially true of playgrounds located close to the boundary between districts.

Source: Center for park and nature, City of Copenhagen

AVAILABLE PLAYGROUND SPACE PER CHILD

As mentioned above, the 2010 count found that the playground in Valbyparken was the most popular playground in Copenhagen. But as this is a very large playground, the count does not indicate whether the sandboxes are crowded, or the children have to wait in line to use the slides. A count of the number of square metres per child reveals that there is plenty of room for each child in the popular playground in Valbyparken.

NUMBER OF SQUARE METRE PER VISITOR TO THE PLAYGROUND

Playground	per person per hour
Enghaveparken legeplads	81 m ²
Elefantens bastion	91 m ²
Skydebanehaven	122 m ²
Valbyparken legeplads	139 m ²

The figures should be read as estimates, not as precise data, as the measurements of the size of the playgrounds is based on maps and is not 100% accurate.

Source: Center for park and nature, City of Copenhagen

URBAN LIFE ACCOUNTS
- Trends in Copenhagen's urban life 2010

URBAN LIFE ACCOUNTS 2010 are the first of their kind in Copenhagen. The purpose of the accounts is to measure the quality of and satisfaction with urban life in Copenhagen. The City of Copenhagen is currently pursuing strategies and efforts to improve urban life.

The urban life accounts were prepared by
Technical and Environmental Administration, City of Copenhagen

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