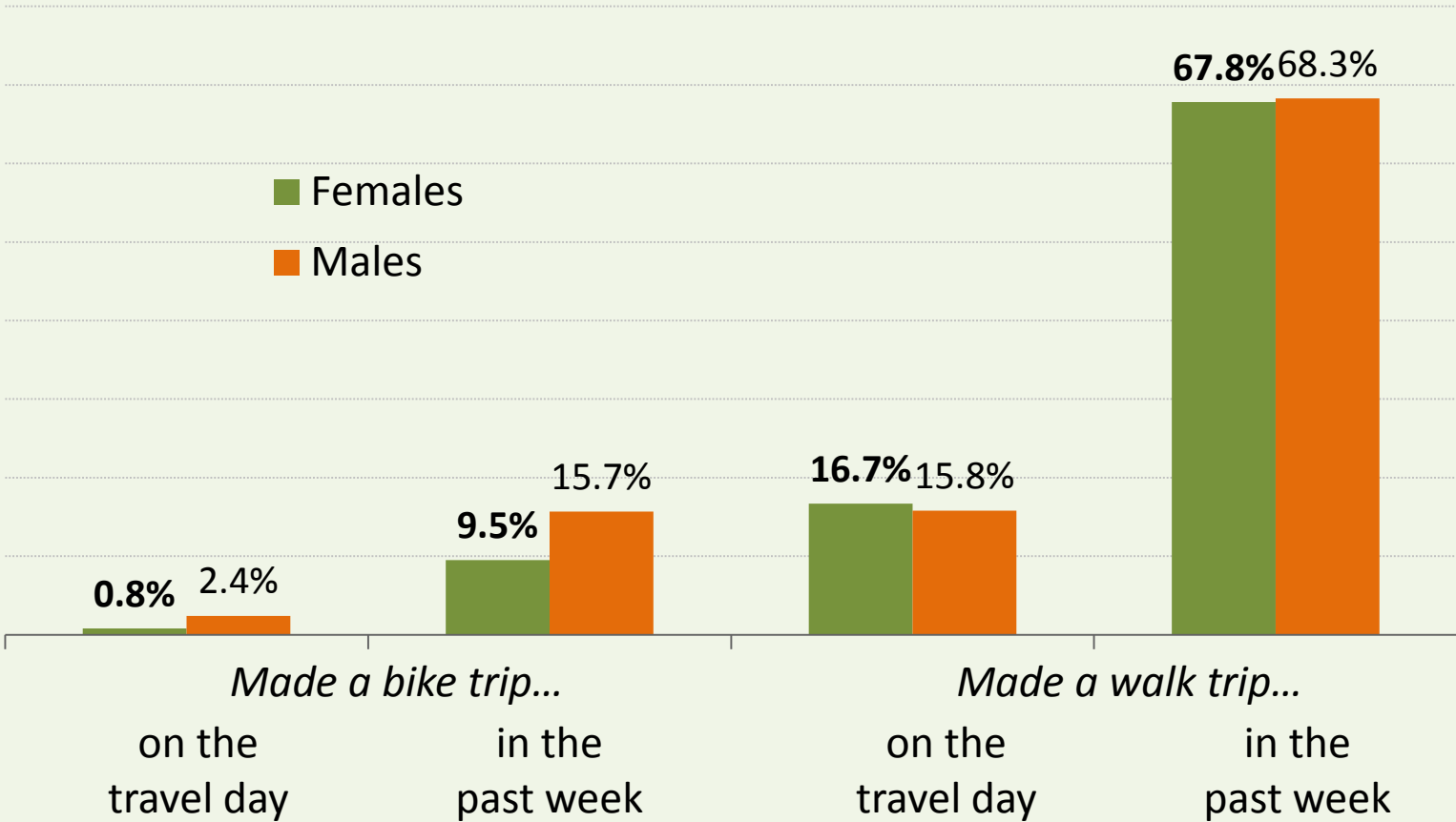


Comfort + Convenience = More Women Biking

- Jennifer Dill, Portland State University
 - Quick overview of the gender gap in cycling
 - Why is there a gap?
Using data from Portland and elsewhere, explain how comfort and convenience are important to women and girls and how new facilities might change that

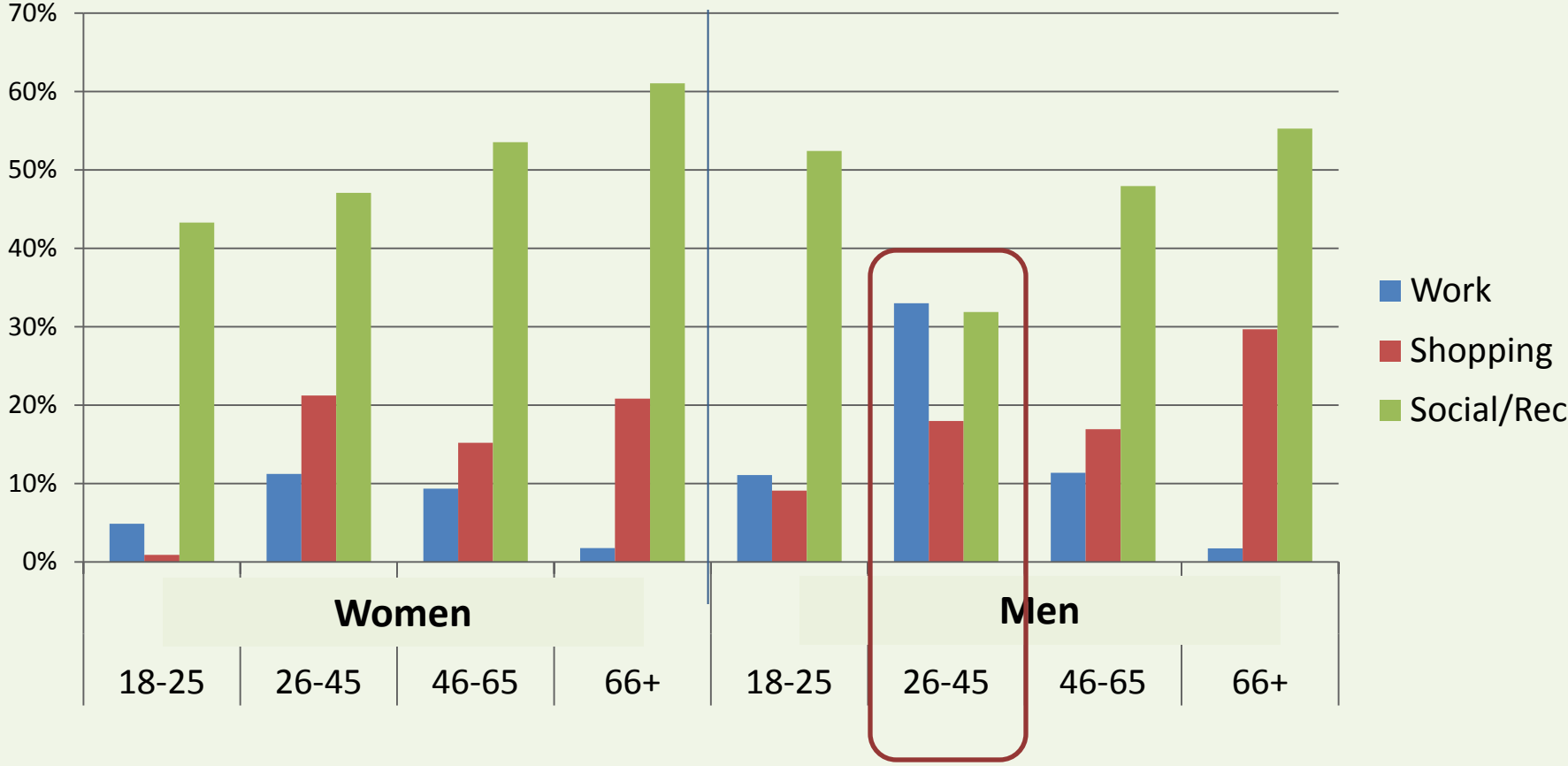


Gender gap in the US: Bicycling vs. Walking



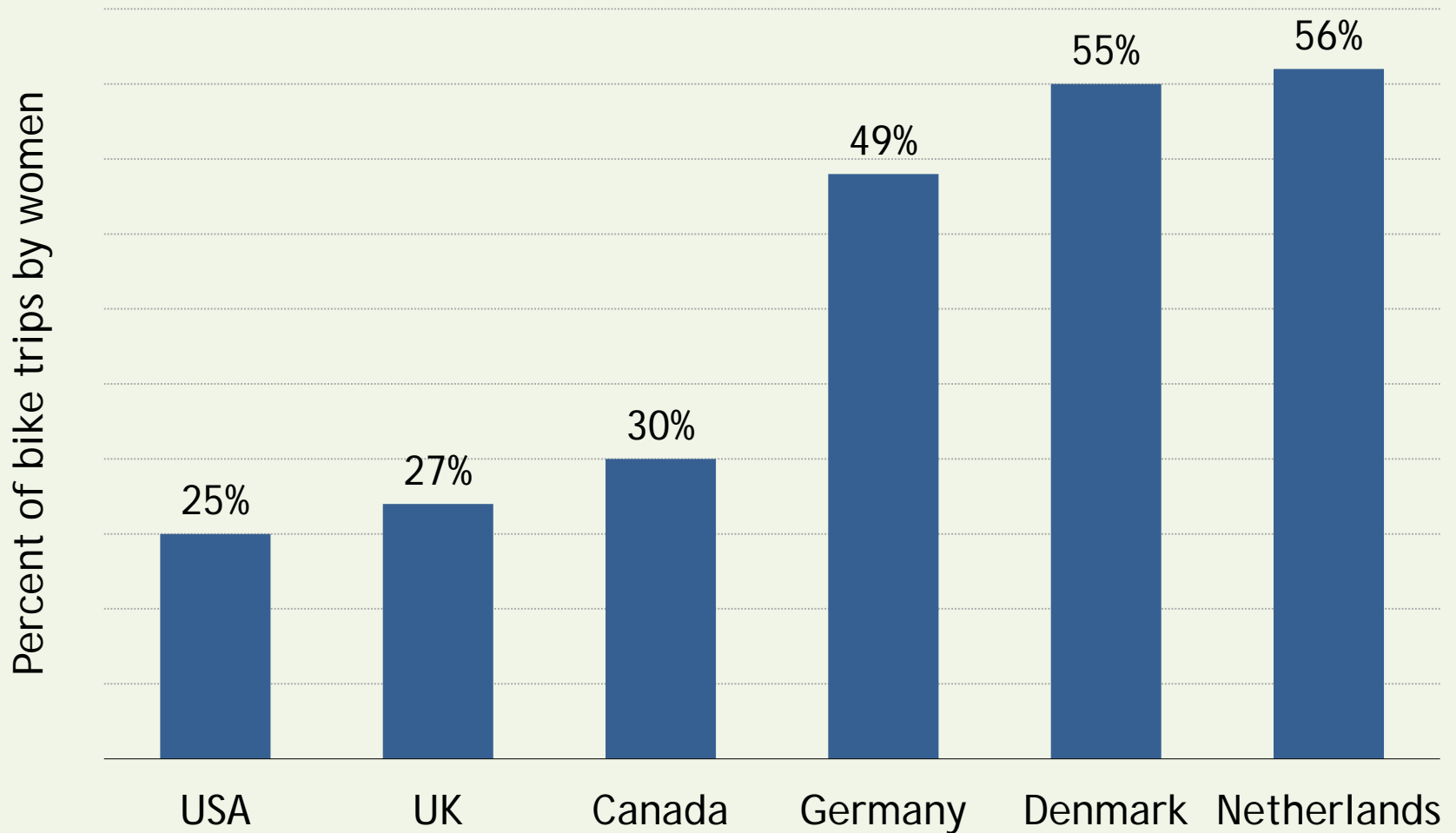
Source: 2009 National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)

Women who do ride, bicycle for recreation, not commuting

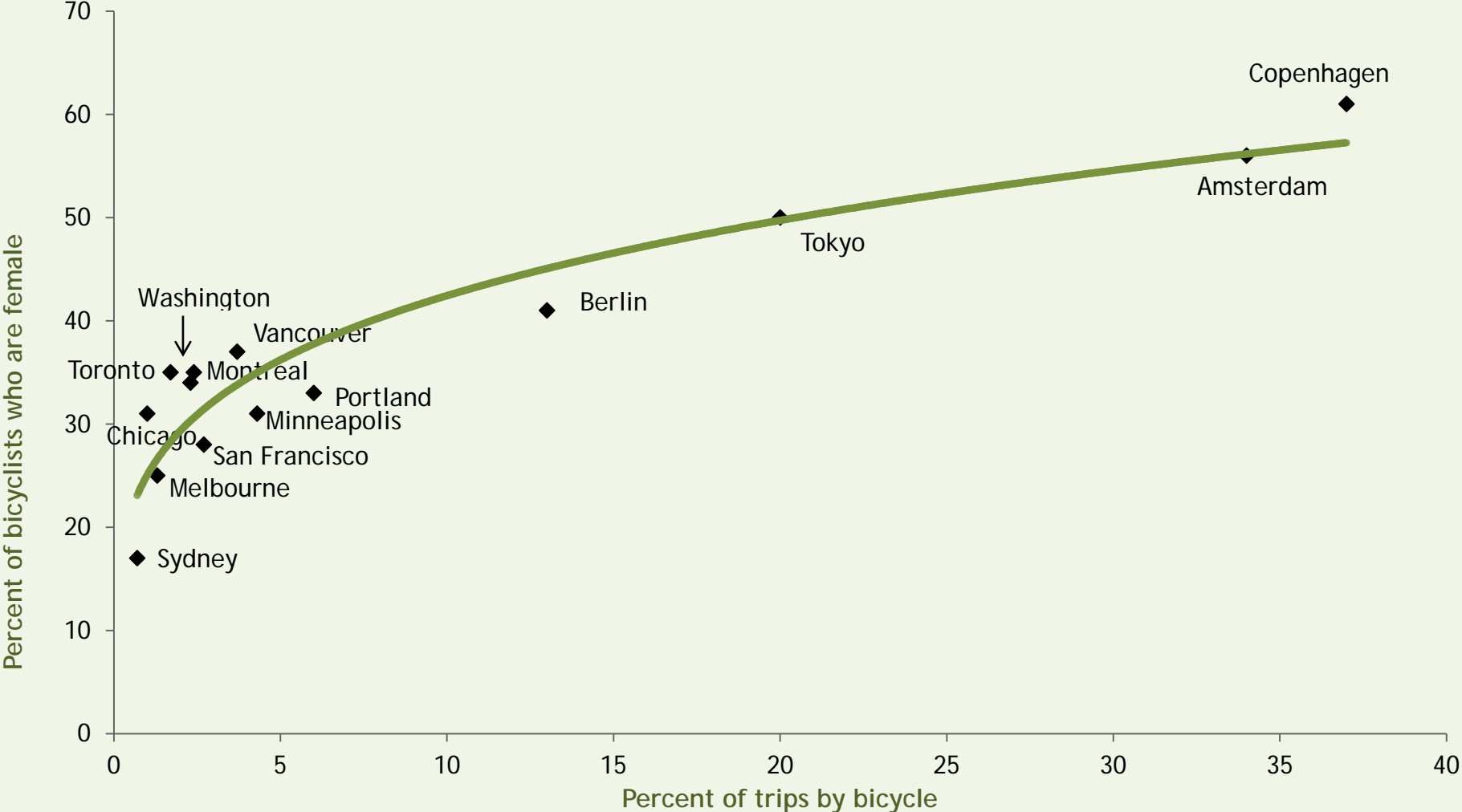


Source: 2009 National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)

Gender Gap: It's not everywhere



City Level: Correlation between cycling & share of bicyclists who are women



Source: Garard, Handy, and Dill, "Women and Cycling," in Pucher and Buehler (eds.), *City Cycling*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2012

Why is there a gender gap?

... in the U.S.

Several surveys indicate that men have more positive attitudes about cycling than women.

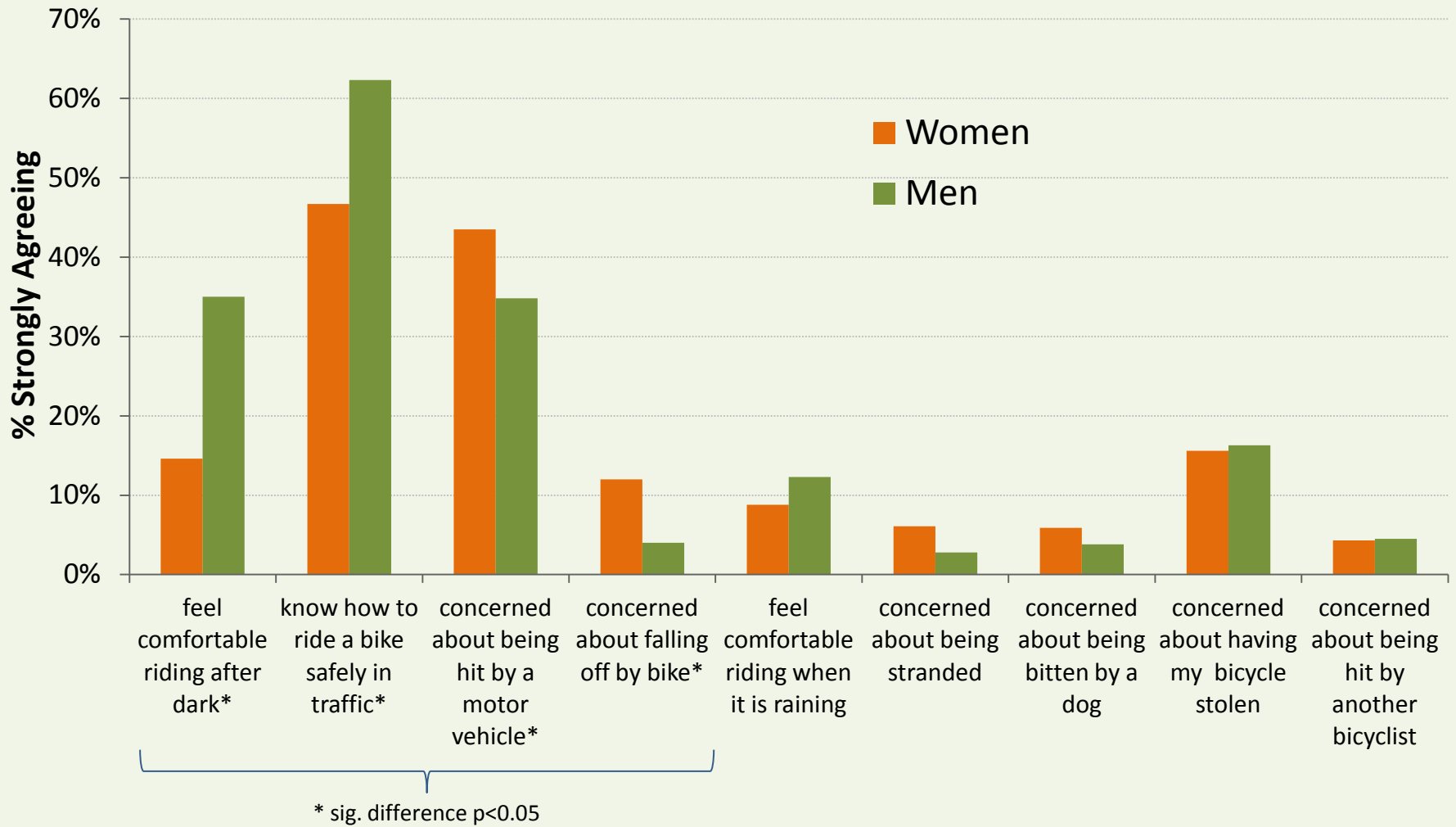
... but why? I will try to answer using...

Random phone survey of ~900 adults in the Portland, OR region

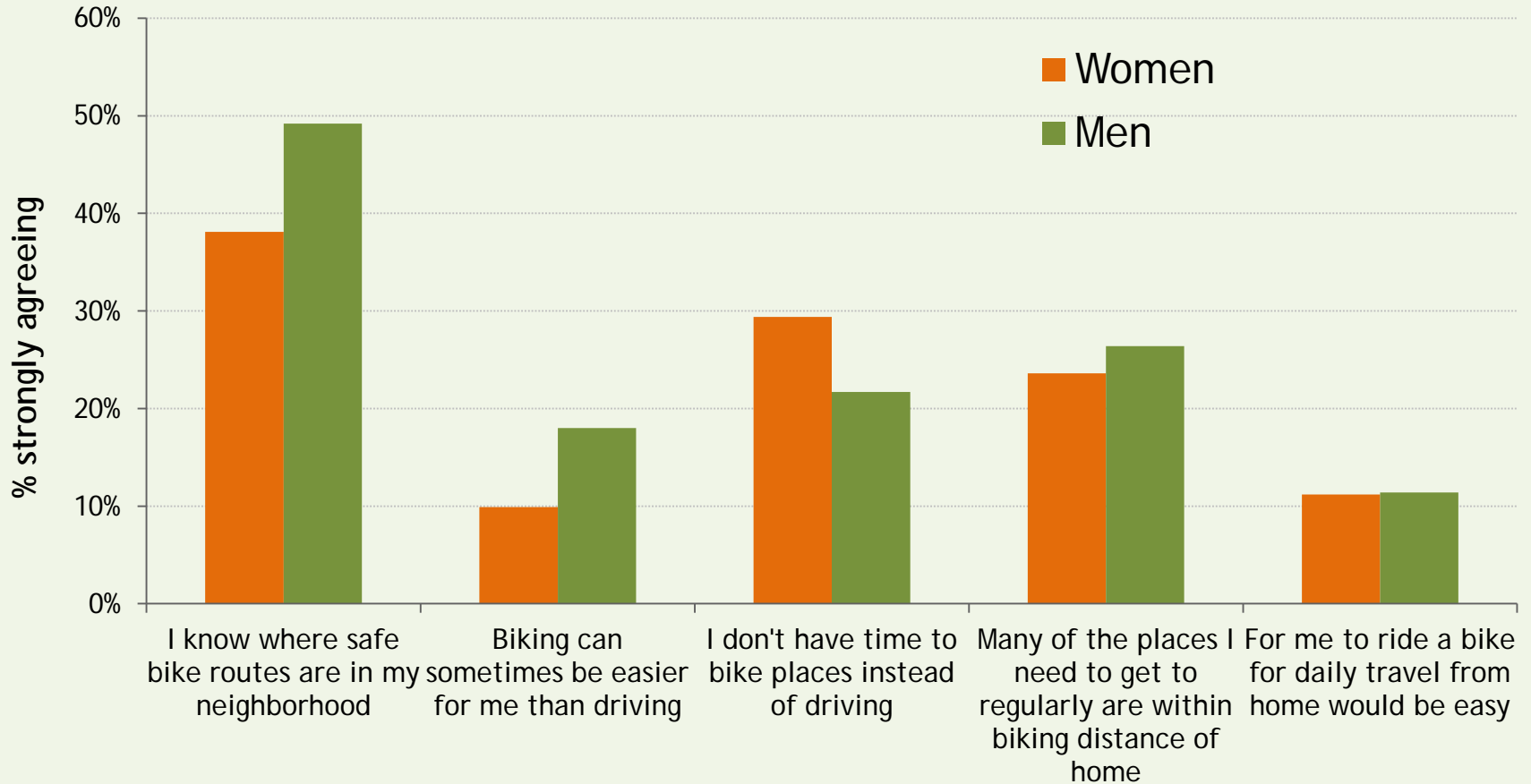
Family Activity Study with ~300 families in Portland

Intercept surveys of cyclists on new facilities in DC & San Francisco

Comfort: Concerns about safety

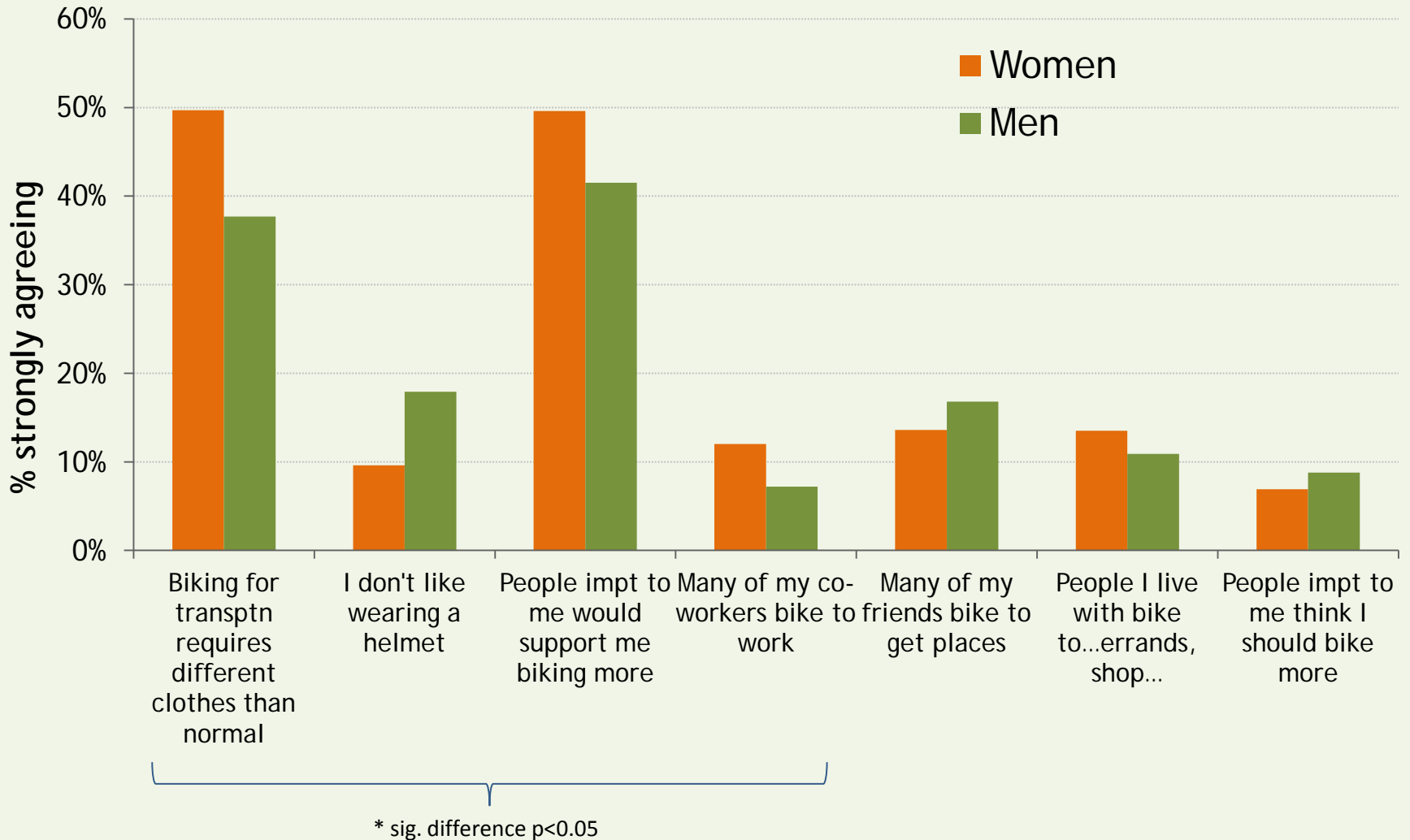


Convenience



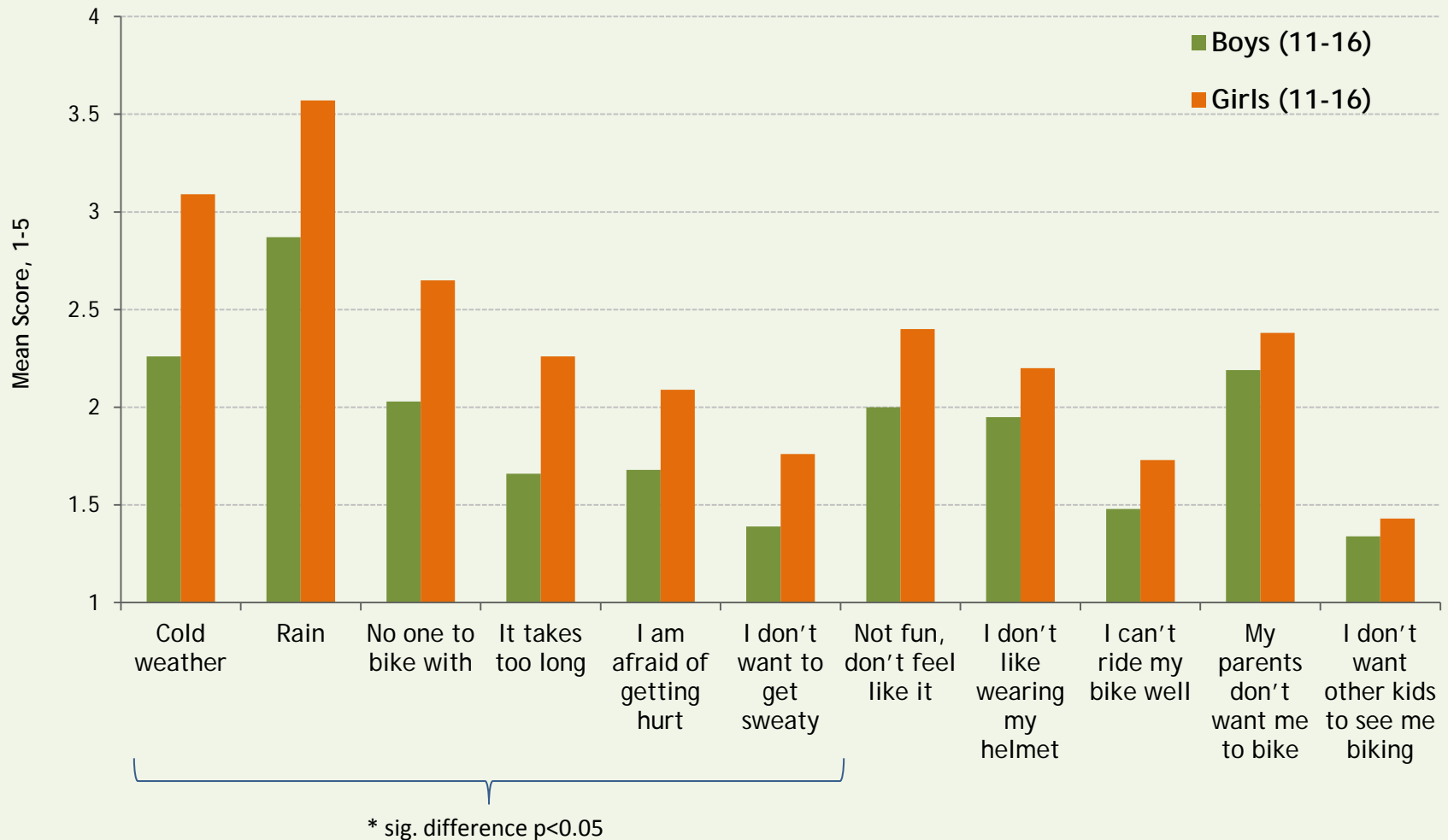
* sig. difference $p < 0.05$

Comfort and Social Support



Differences start in childhood

Barriers to bicycling among 11-16 year olds



1=This does not at all keep me from biking
 5=This really keeps me from biking

Possible solutions: Infrastructure

- Women are more concerned about safety, particularly from traffic



Bike path



Bicycle Boulevards
(aka Neighborhood Greenways)

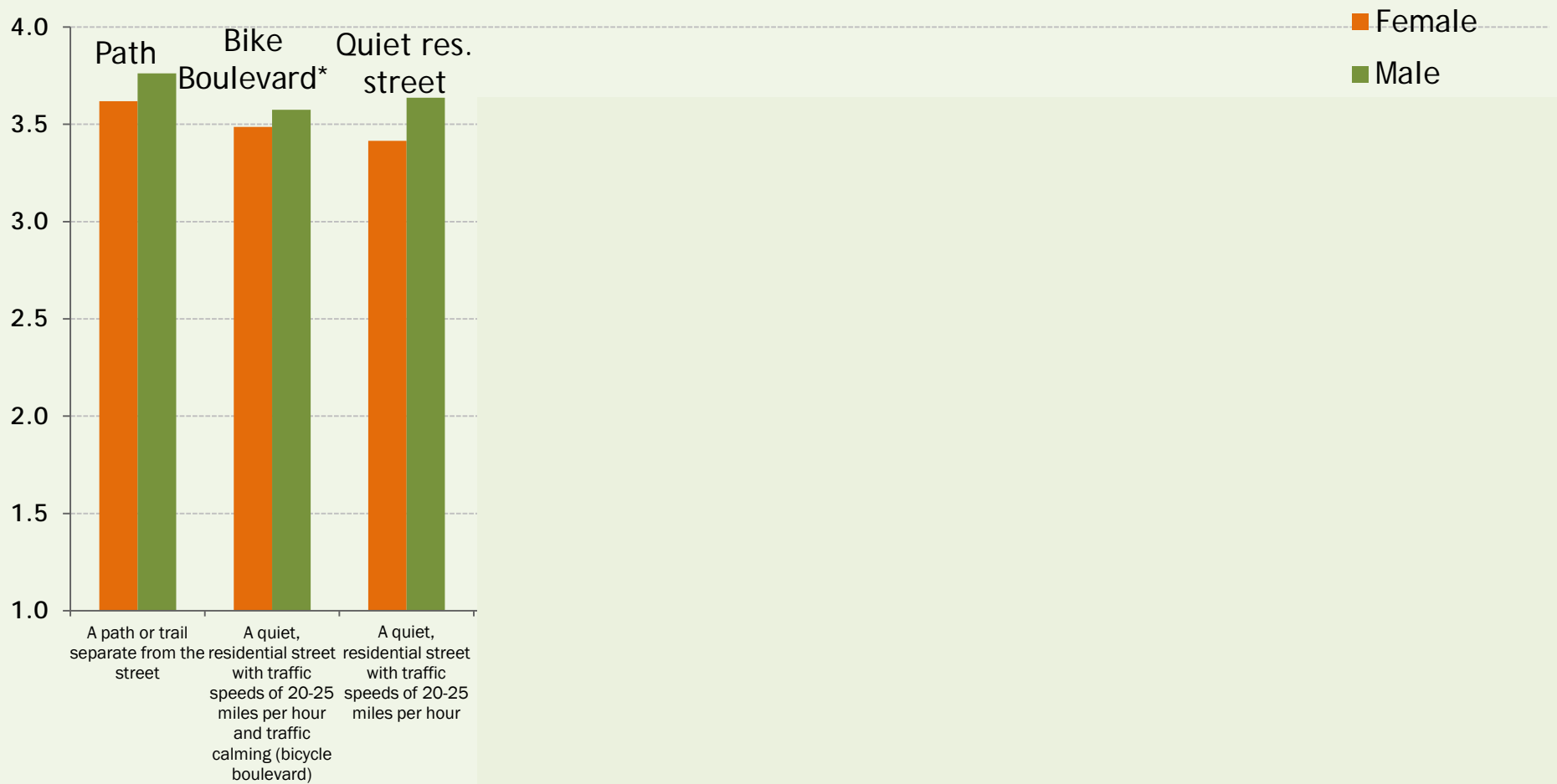


Bike lane



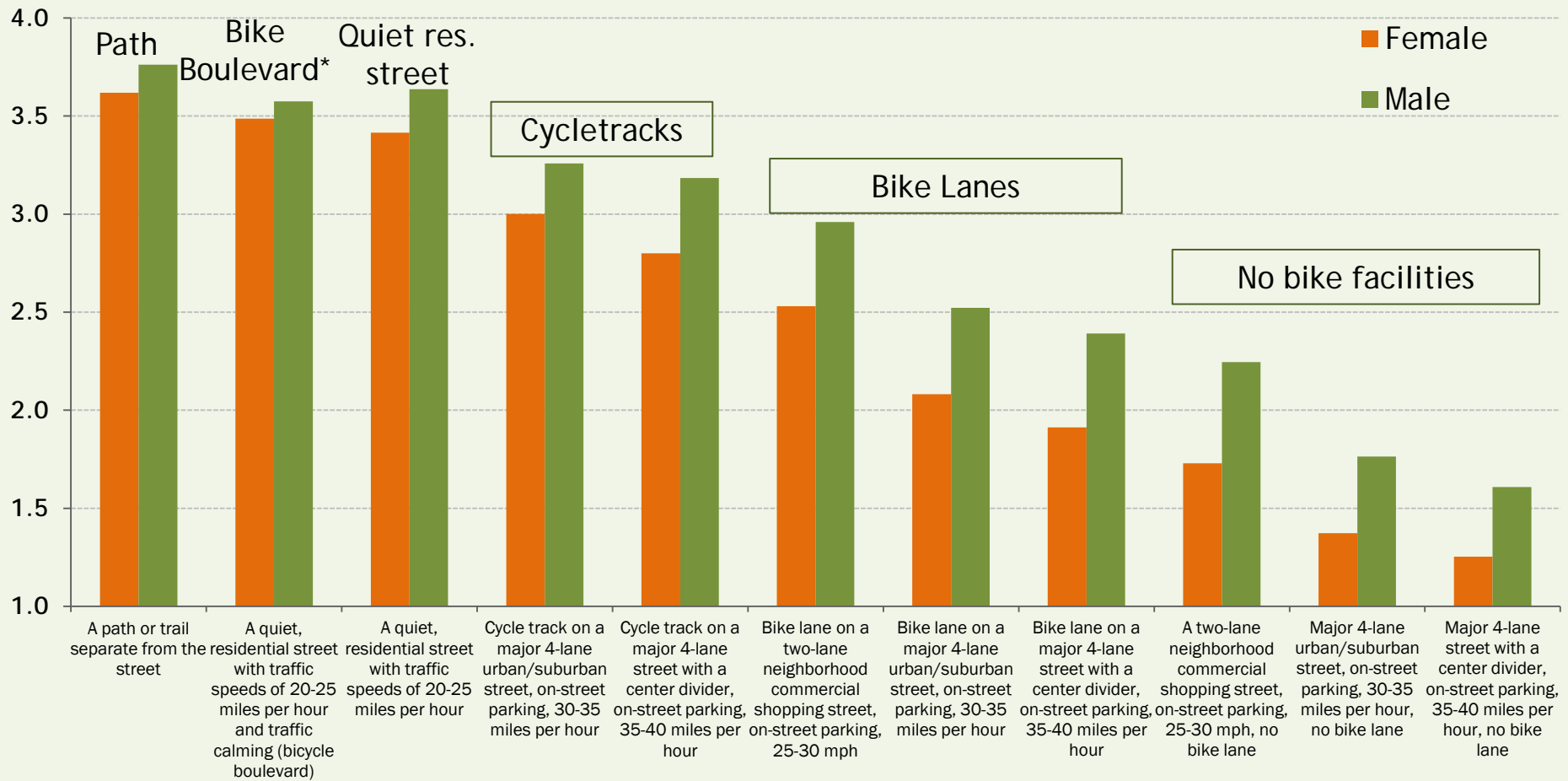
Cycle track
(aka separated lane)

Level of Comfort on Facilities



Respondents' Level of Comfort Bicycling on Different Facility Types
Level of Comfort (1-4 scale,, 4=Very Comfortable)

Level of Comfort on Facilities

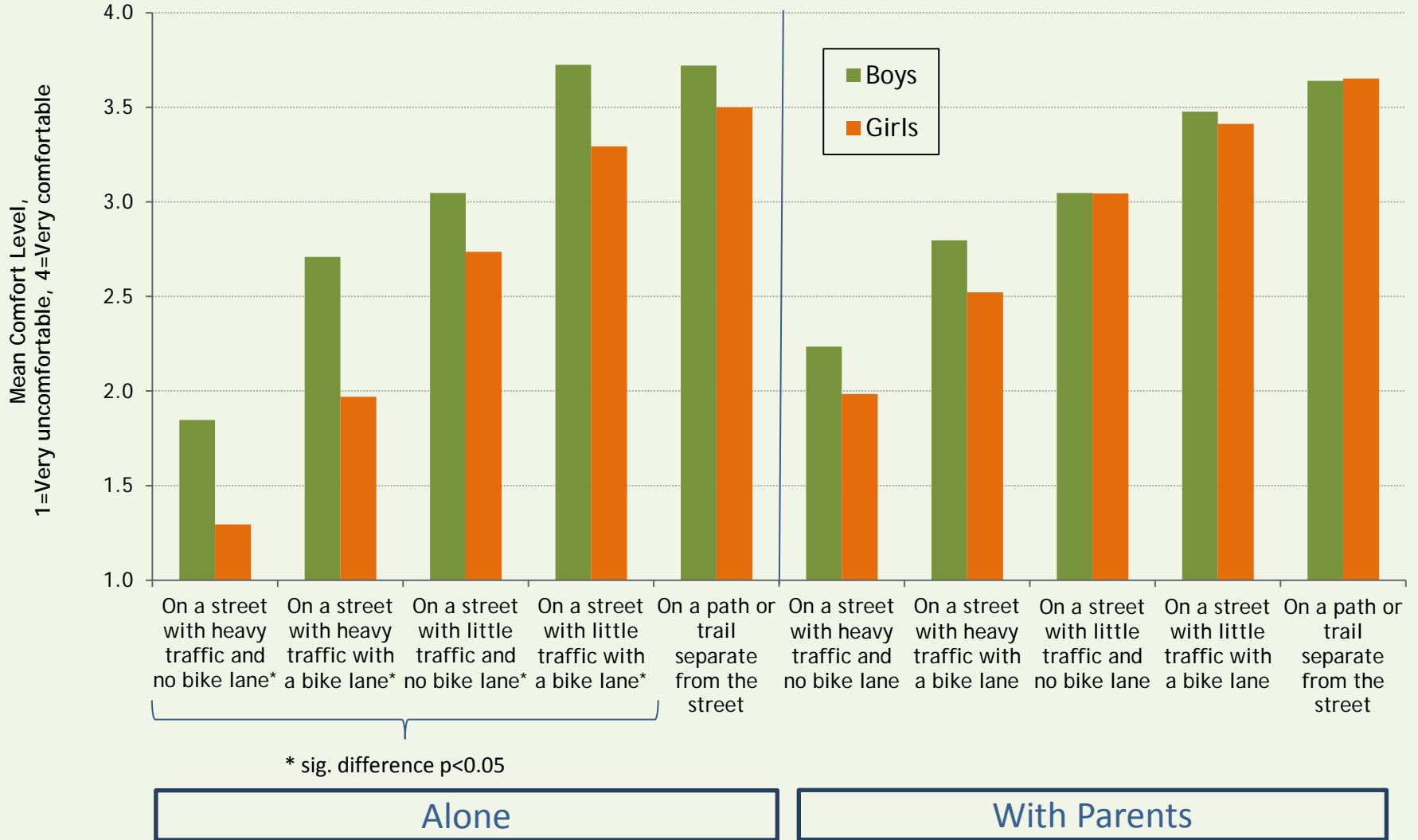


All significantly different except bicycle boulevard

Respondents' Level of Comfort Bicycling on Different Facility Types
 Level of Comfort (1-4 scale, 4=Very Comfortable)

Source: Portland regional phone survey, 2011 (Dill)

Comfort on facilities among 11-16 year olds



Could cycle tracks increase women's cycling?

- 6-city Green Lane evaluation underway
- Intercept surveys of bicyclists on cycle tracks
- Because of the [street] cycle track...how often I ride a bicycle overall has increased
 - Washington DC L Street
Women: 39% Men: 26%
 - San Francisco Oak Street (preliminary numbers)
Women: 29% Men: 17%
 - San Francisco Fell Street (preliminary numbers)
Women: 29% Men: 20%