

Municipal Opportunities for Physical Activity

2009 SURVEY OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES: FACTS & FIGURES



Strategic partnerships

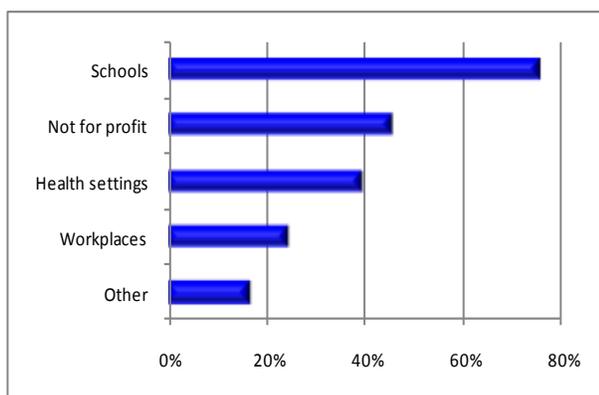
The 2009 *Survey of Physical Activity in Canadian Communities* asked municipalities if they work with various community organizations or institutions to encourage participation of physical activity of their citizens. Municipalities were also asked whether they have formal agreements with local school boards to share municipal and school facilities. Additionally, municipalities were also asked to describe how often their recreation departments work with other municipal departments when developing physical activity and sport facilities, programs and services.

In 2009, the following proportions of municipalities reported working with the below-listed organizations and institutions:

- Schools, 76%
- Local not-for-profits, 46%
- Health settings, 40%
- Workplaces, 25%
- Other organizations (e.g., clubs for seniors, recreation centres), 17%

FIGURE 1

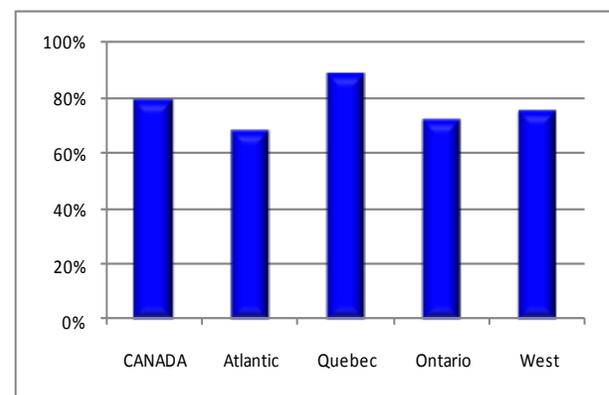
Organizations and institutions collaborated with by municipalities to encourage physical activity, overall



Survey of Physical Activity in Canadian Communities 2009, CFLRI

FIGURE 2

Formal shared use agreements with local school boards, by region*



*North excluded due to small numbers - see Methodology bulletin for more detail

Survey of Physical Activity in Canadian Communities 2009, CFLRI

Given the high proportion of municipalities who report working with schools, it is perhaps not surprising that 79% of municipalities indicate that they currently have agreements with one or more local school boards regarding shared use of school or municipal facilities.

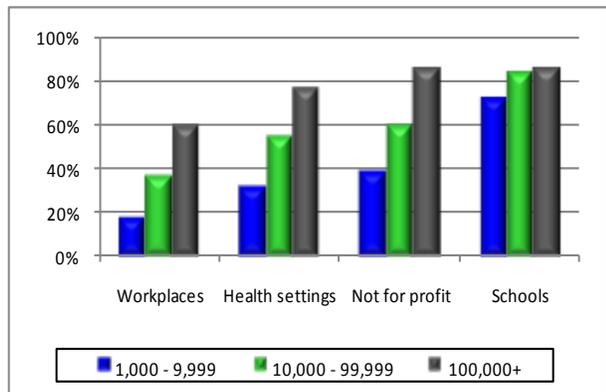
When municipal recreation departments develop physical activity and sport facilities, programs, and services:

- 14% report that they work most or all of the time with their planning department,
- 11% indicate that they work most or all of the time with public health department,
- 5% report that they work most or all of the time with the department responsible for transportation, and
- 10% report that they work most or all of the time with other departments (e.g., public works, police, tourism).



FIGURE 3

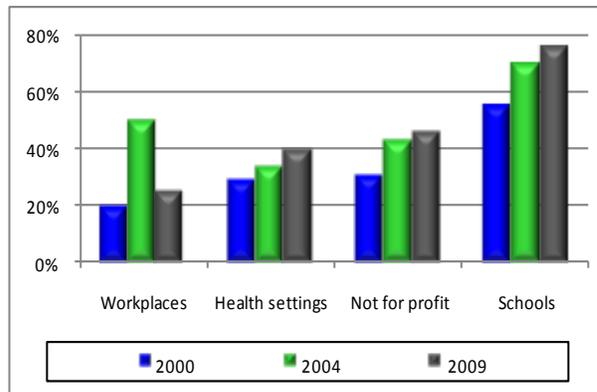
Organizations and institutions collaborated with by municipalities to encourage physical activity, by community size



Survey of Physical Activity in Canadian Communities 2009, CFLRI

FIGURE 4

Organizations and institutions collaborated with by municipalities to encourage physical activity, trends



Survey of Physical Activity in Canadian Communities 2000, 2004 & 2009, CFLRI

The proportions reporting that they infrequently or never work with each of these other municipal departments are 35% or greater. Further, a number of municipalities report that working with other municipal departments is ‘not applicable’ to them; not surprisingly, these responses are more frequent among smaller municipalities whose municipal structures may not include these departments.

Region

Compared to the national average, Atlantic Canadian municipalities are more likely to report working with schools, workplaces, and local not-for-profit organizations to encourage people to be active. Quebec municipalities are less likely than average to work with workplaces, while Ontario and Western Canadian municipalities are more likely than average to report this.

Compared to the Canadian average, municipalities in Atlantic Canada and Ontario are less likely to report agreements to share facilities with school boards, whereas those in Quebec are more likely to report this.

Due to the small proportions of municipalities who report that they work with other municipal departments when developing physical activity and sport facilities, services, and programs, it is difficult to compare regions on these figures. Compared to the national average, however, Ontario municipalities appear to be nearly twice as likely to report that they work with their public

health departments most of the time when developing physical activity and sport facilities, programs, and services.

Community size

Generally, larger municipalities are substantially more likely to work with schools, workplaces, health settings, and local not-for-profit organizations to encourage people to be more active. As noted above, many small municipalities indicate that working with planning, public health, and transportation departments is not applicable to them.

Larger municipalities are somewhat more likely than small municipalities to have formed agreements with school boards for shared use of facilities; still, municipalities of all sizes are likely to have such agreements, ranging from 76% of municipalities with 1,000 to 9,999 residents to 89% of municipalities with 100,000 residents or more.

Trends

The proportion of municipalities that report working with schools, health settings, and local not-for-profit organizations has increased by 10% to 20% since 2000. Conversely, the proportion of municipalities overall who report working with workplaces has halved since 2004 (50% in 2004 to 25% in 2009), though remains slightly higher than in 2000 (20%).

Since 2000, a small increase (7%) in the proportion of municipalities reporting shared-use agreements with school boards has appeared; similar increases appear within each region, and in small (1,000 to 9,999 residents) and large (100,000+ residents) municipalities.

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