

Sport Participation in Canada

2011-2012 SPORT MONITOR



Government involvement in sport

Policies, initiatives, and strategies at the government level can affect activity levels and participation in sport, such as through the availability of policy, infrastructure, and safety regulations. The 2011-2012 Sport Monitor explores Canadians' views on the role and responsibility that governments should have related to sport. This data is described in the following bulletin.

Responsibility for sport information and services

Many Canadians consider the provision of information and services regarding health, physical activity and sport to be a key responsibility of government. The majority of Canadians agree that government should hold *a lot* of responsibility (70%) for these provisions, whereas 7% state that government should have *little or no* responsibility in this regard. Similarly, 62% indicate that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for the provision of public information on the benefits of physical activity and sport, whereas 11% say that they should have *little or no* responsibility.

Compared to Canada overall, relatively more adults living in Quebec say that government should have *a lot* of responsibility

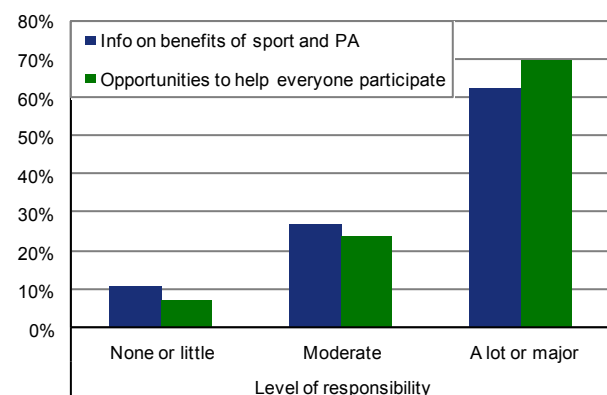
when it comes to public information on benefits of sport and physical activity, whereas relatively fewer adults in Saskatchewan and Alberta indicate this.

Although there are no age-related differences among men with respect to views on responsibility for the provision of information on the benefits of activity, relatively more women aged 18 to 24 say that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for providing this compared to both women 25 and older and 18 to 24 year old men. Older adults (65 years and older) are less likely to say that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for the provision of services, programs, and facilities to help everyone participate, compared to those aged 18 to 64 years. Among the sexes, older men are less likely to report this compared to 25 to 64 year old men, whereas older women are less likely to say this compared to 18 to 44 year old women.

Single or never married adults are less likely than others to say that governments should have *little or no* responsibility for providing information on the benefits of activity, or providing information on services, programs, and facilities on sport.

FIGURE 1

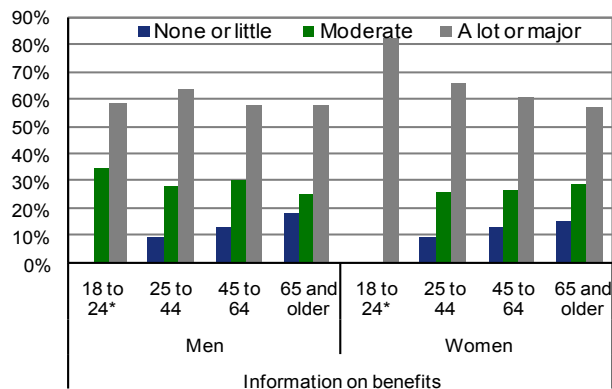
Responsibility of governments for providing sport information and services, overall



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FIGURE 2

Responsibility of governments for providing sport information by age and sex



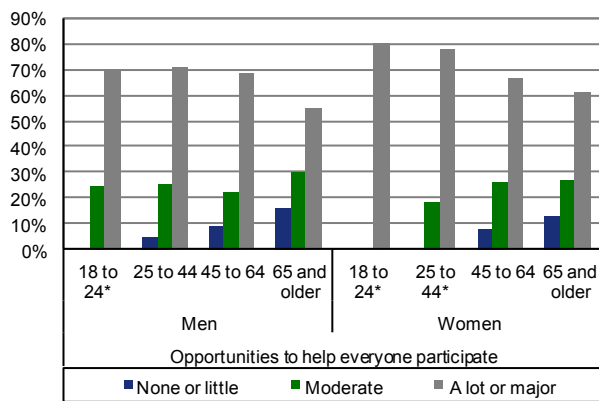
*Data unavailable due to cell size.

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FIGURE 3

Responsibility of governments for sport services by age and sex



*Data unavailable due to cell size.

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A greater proportion of adults with a university education agree that governments should be responsible for providing information on the benefits of sport and physical activity compared to those with a high school education. Compared to the national average, a greater proportion of retirees say that governments should have *little or no* responsibility for providing information on the benefits or providing services, programs, and facilities to help everyone participate.

Relatively more adults who participate in sport, or are active, indicate that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for the provision of services, programs and facilities compared to those who do not participate in sports, or are less active, respectively.

Trends over time

The proportions of Canadians who consider the provision of information on the benefits of physical activity and sport, and information on services regarding health, physical activity, and sport, to be key responsibilities of governments have decreased since 2006-2007.¹ Several new relationships have emerged as significant since 2006-2007,¹ namely:

- slight differences in the relationships with age and sex, as well as those with marital status
- emerging relationships with region, education, employment status, and activity level.

The relationship regarding sport participation has generally persisted over time.

Responsibility for sport infrastructure

Most Canadians indicate that governments should have a major responsibility for sport infrastructure, including:

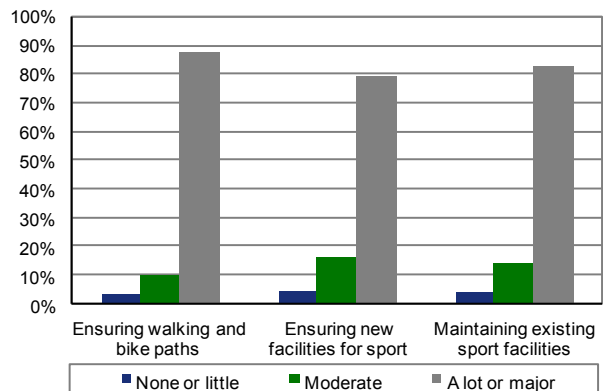
- ensuring that community development plans including walking and bicycling paths (87% say they should have *a lot* of responsibility, whereas 3% say governments should have *little or no* responsibility);

- maintaining existing sport facilities (83% say they should have *a lot* of responsibility, whereas 4% say that the governments should have *little or no* responsibility); and,
- ensuring that community development plans include building new sport facilities (79% say they should have *a lot* of responsibility, whereas 4% say governments they should have *little or no* responsibility).

Compared to the national average, relatively more adults living in Newfoundland and Labrador say that governments should be very responsible for ensuring that community development plans include the construction of new sport facilities.

FIGURE 4

Responsibility of governments for sport infrastructure, overall



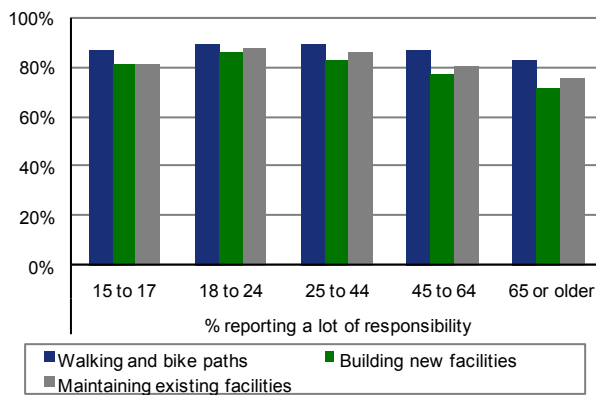
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More women than men indicate that governments should have a great deal of responsibility for including walking and bicycling paths in community development plans. Adults aged 25 to 44 years are more likely to say that governments should be very responsible for ensuring that community development plans incorporate the construction of new sport facilities, as well as the maintenance of existing sport facilities, compared to adults 45 years and older. Similarly, adults aged 25 to 44 years are more likely than adults 65 years and older to say that governments should be responsible for ensuring that community development plans incorporate walking and bicycling paths. Among men, these age-related differences in perceptions about infrastructure are significant between those aged 25 to 44 and those 65 years and older. Among women, however, the only significant differences appear among 18 to 24 year olds and those 65 years and older when considering the maintenance of sport facilities as a major responsibility of governments.

A greater proportion of adults who are widowed, divorced, or separated indicate that governments should have *little or no* responsibility for ensuring that new sport facilities are incorporated into community development plans compared to those who are single or never married.

FIGURE 5

Responsibility of governments for sport infrastructure by age



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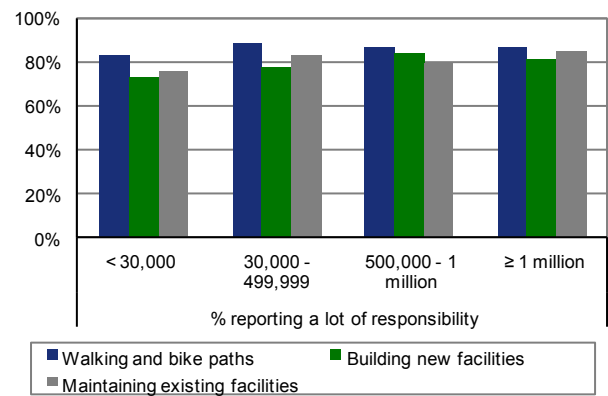
Adults with a university education are more likely than those with lower levels of education to say that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility to ensure that plans for community development include walking and bicycling paths and the construction of new sport facilities. In addition, a greater proportion of those from the highest income households indicate that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility ensuring that walking and bicycling paths are incorporated into development plans, compared to those with incomes of \$30,000 to \$39,999; they are also more likely than those from lower income households to say that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for the maintenance of existing sport facilities. Income-specific differences also appear with respect to the construction of new sport facilities although the relationships are not clear. Compared to the national average, relatively fewer retirees say that governments should hold a high level of responsibility for maintaining existing sport facilities and ensuring the construction of new facilities within community development plans.

Differences with respect to community size also exist. Compared to the national average, adults living in small communities (<30,000 residents) are less likely to say that governments should hold *a lot* of responsibility for the maintenance of existing sports facilities. Residents of mid-sized communities (30,000 to 499,999 residents) are more likely to say that governments should be responsible for ensuring walking and bicycling paths in community development plans, compared to those from communities with fewer residents. A greater proportion of residents from the largest communities indicate that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for ensuring the construction of new sport facilities in development plans compared to those living in small communities. Those living in suburban neighbourhoods are also more likely to say this, compared to those living in the downtown core.

A greater proportion of adults who are active indicate that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for providing

FIGURE 6

Responsibility of governments for providing sport infrastructure by community size



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walking and bicycling paths, constructing new sport facilities, and maintaining existing facilities, compared to those who are inactive. Similarly, sport participants are more likely to say that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for ensuring that community development plans incorporate new sport facility construction, and maintain existing facilities.

Trends over time

There have been no changes over time in the proportion of Canadians who say that governments should have a major responsibility for sport infrastructure (as described in this bulletin). Compared to 2006-2007,¹ there have been differences in certain relationships, including:

- varying regional differences between the two time periods
- emerging relationships with income, employment status, and activity level.

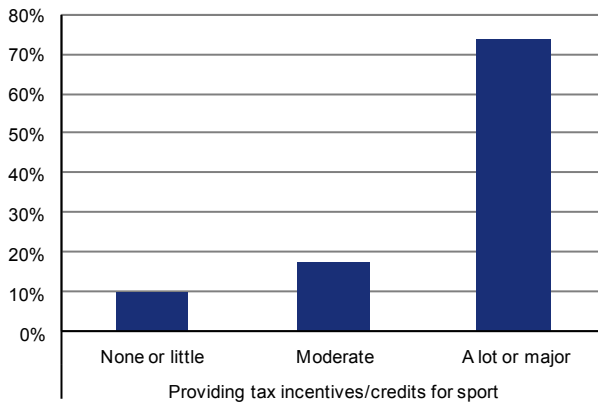
The relationships with education and sport participation are generally the same between the two time periods.

Responsibility for sport tax incentives or credits

Roughly three-quarters (73%) of Canadians agree that governments should be very responsible for the provision of tax incentives or credits for sport. More women (77%) than men (70%) say that governments should have a major responsibility to provide tax incentives or credits for sport. Older adults (65 years and older) and retirees are less likely than the average to say this, and are more likely to say that that government should have *little* or *no* responsibility for this. Among men, 25 to 64 year old men are more likely than their older counterparts to indicate that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for providing tax incentives or credits for sport, whereas among women, 18 to 64 year old women are more likely than women 65 years and older to say this.

FIGURE 7

Responsibility of governments for providing sport tax incentives or credits, overall

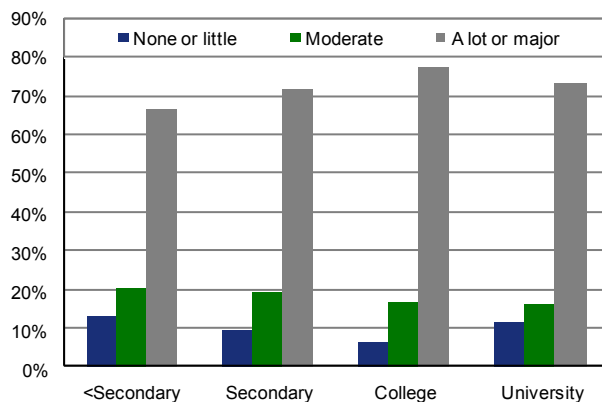


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Compared to those with *less* than a high school education, a greater proportion of adults with a college education indicate that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for the provision of tax incentives or credits for sport. Similarly, adults from the highest income households are more likely to say this compared to those from lower income households.

FIGURE 8

Responsibility of governments for providing sport tax incentives or credits by education



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Although there are no significant differences with respect to community size, adults living in suburban neighbourhoods are more likely to say that governments should have considerable responsibility for providing tax incentives or credits for sport, compared to those living in downtown neighbourhoods. A greater proportion of adults who are married (or living with a partner) say this, compared to those who are widowed, divorced or separated.

Trends over time

There has been an increase in the proportion of adults who say that governments should be responsible for the provision of tax incentives or credits for sport. Changes in relationships since 2006-2007¹ include a:

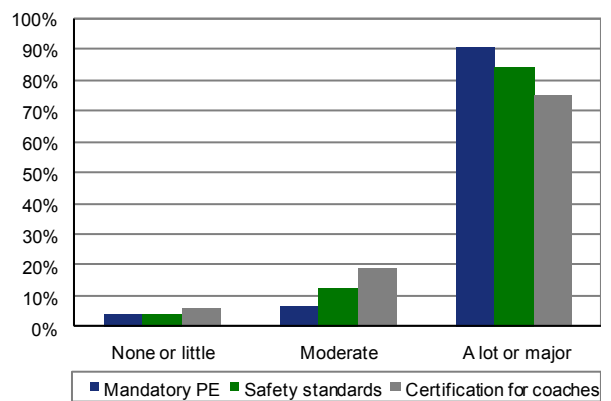
- new relationship with gender, employment status, and household income
- slightly different relationship with education, and marital status.

Responsibility for policy and regulation

The majority of Canadians (90%) say that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for ensuring mandatory daily physical education in schools, whereas 3% feel that they should have *little* or *no* responsibility. Similarly, 84% agree that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for setting safety standards for things like protective equipment used in sports, whereas 4% say that government should have *little* or *no* responsibility. Three-quarters of Canadians (75%) indicate that governments should be responsible for ensuring certification and training for coaches and sport leaders, whereas 6% reported that the government should have *little* or *no* responsibility for this.

FIGURE 9

Responsibility of governments for policy and regulation, overall



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Compared to the national average, residents of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick are more likely to agree that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for setting safety standards, such as the use of protective equipment in sports.

More women than men indicate that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for ensuring the certification and training for coaches and sport leaders and setting safety standards in sports. Adults aged 25 to 44 are more likely than those aged 15 to 17 to say that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility of setting safety standards.

Men aged 25 to 44 years are more likely than older men (65 years and older) to say that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for ensuring mandatory physical education in schools.

Generally speaking, those with less than a high school education are less likely than the average to say that governments should have *a lot* of responsibility for ensuring daily physical education in schools. Adults from higher income households are more likely to indicate *a lot* of responsibility for this compared to those from lower income households. A greater proportion of adults who are widowed, divorced, or separated indicate that governments should have *little* or *no* responsibility for ensuring mandatory daily physical education, compared to those who are married or living with a partner.

Trends over time

There have been no changes over time in the proportion of Canadians who say that government should have a considerable amount of responsibility for policy and regulation (as described above). Compared to 2006-2007,¹ there have been differences in relationships, such as:

- varying regional differences between the two time periods
- differences with respect to age, or age and sex, and,
- emerging relationships with education, household income, and marital status.

FIGURE 10

Responsibility of governments for policy and regulation by gender



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Reference

- 1 Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute. Bulletin 08: Government Involvement in Sport. 2006-07 sport Monitor. Available at http://cflri.ca/media/node/365/files/CFLRISportMonitor-Bulletin8_english.pdf

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