

Municipal Opportunities for Physical Activity

2015 SURVEY OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES IN CANADIAN COMMUNITIES



Networking with partners for the provision of physical activity opportunities

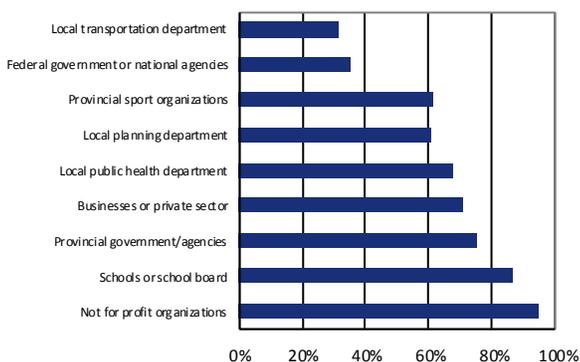
The 2015 Survey of Physical Opportunities in Canadian Communities asked communities with at least 1,000 residents whether they worked with various community organizations and/or institutions when developing physical activity and sport facilities, programs and services. In addition, communities were also asked if they have agreements with local school boards and sports organizations regarding: shared use of school and municipal facilities, and shared resources and programming (e.g., instructors, officials, equipment). This bulletin summarizes the findings in these two regards: partnerships and shared use agreements.

Partnerships

Regarding partnerships, the majority of communities indicate that they collaborate with non-profit organizations (94%), schools or school boards (86%), provincial government/agencies (75%) and business/private sector (71%) when developing physical activity and sport opportunities.

FIGURE 1

Organizations and institutions collaborated with by municipalities, overall



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Moreover, more than half of communities report working with their local public health department (67%), planning department (61%), and provincial sport organizations (61%), and roughly one-third of communities indicate collaborative partnerships with federal government/national agencies (35%) and local transportation department (32%) in developing physical activity and sport opportunities.

Region

Regarding partnerships, regional differences are noted in collaborations between communities and various organizations. Atlantic communities are considerably more likely than the national average to collaborate with provincial government/agencies and sport organizations, whereas they are slightly less likely than the national average to work with non-profit organizations.

A considerably higher proportion of communities in Ontario report working with their local public health department, however, relatively fewer communities in this province report working with local planning departments, schools/school boards, provincial government/agencies and provincial sport organizations compared to the national average.

Compared to the national average, relatively fewer communities in Quebec work with provincial sport organizations and local public health departments. Conversely, communities in the West are relatively more likely than the national average to collaborate with provincial sport organizations, provincial government or agencies, and also local planning departments. These findings are summarized in Table 1.



TABLE 1

Regional differences in community partnerships in providing physical activity and sport opportunities

Partnerships	Regional differences in community partnerships compared to national average				
	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	West	North
Not-for-profit organizations	↓				
Schools/School boards			↓		
Provincial government/agencies	↑↑		↓	↑	
Local public health departments		↓↓	↑↑		
Local planning departments			↓	↑	
Provincial sport organizations	↑↑	↓	↓↓	↑↑	

↓ = Slightly less likely than the Canadian average

↓↓ = Substantially less likely than the Canadian average

↑ = Slightly more likely than the Canadian average

↑↑ = Substantially more likely than the Canadian average

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Community Size

A greater proportion of large communities (those with 10,000 residents or more) compared to smaller communities (between 1,000 to 9,999 residents) report collaborating with various organizations. For example, a substantially greater proportion of larger communities indicate that they collaborate with local planning, transportation, and public health departments, provincial sport organizations, businesses, and federal government or national agencies. In addition, a slightly higher proportion of larger communities cite partnerships with schools or school boards, provincial government or agencies, and not-for-profit organizations.

Shared use agreements

Regarding agreements with other organizations, a considerable proportion of communities (81%) report having agreements with one or more school boards regarding the shared use of school or municipal facilities. Moreover, 52% have agreements with at least one school board regarding the sharing of resources or programming (i.e., human resources, programming, or equipment).

Likewise, the majority of communities (88%) report having agreements with sport organizations or physical activity clubs regarding the shared use of municipal facilities and the sharing resources and programming (64%).

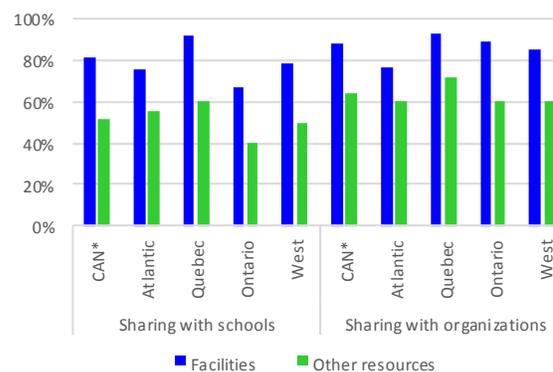
Region

Regional differences are also evident in whether or not agreements exist between municipalities and schools or school boards, and sport organizations. Quebec communities are considerably more likely, while those in Ontario and the Atlantic region are less likely than the national average to have agreements with schools or school boards regarding shared use of facilities.

Compared to the national average, considerably fewer Atlantic communities have agreements with sports organizations or physical activity clubs regarding shared use of facilities, whereas those in Quebec are slightly more likely to indicate this. Communities in Quebec are slightly more likely than the national average to have agreements with schools/school boards and sport organizations and physical activity clubs about sharing resources and programming. On the contrary, considerably fewer communities in Ontario have agreements with school boards regarding the sharing of resources or programming.

FIGURE 2

Shared use agreements with local schools/school boards by region



*Data for Canada includes the North. Individual North data cannot be released due to sample size.

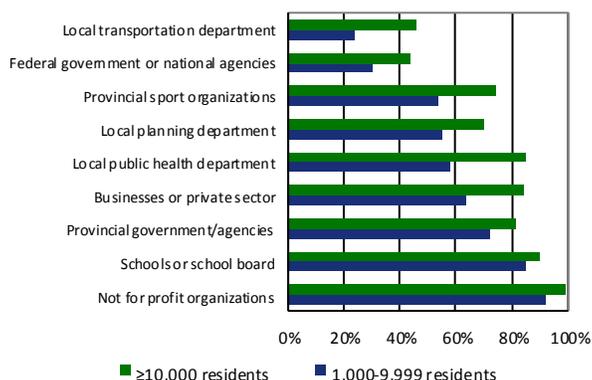
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Community Size

Compared to smaller communities (between 1,000 and 9,999 residents), substantially more larger communities (10,000 and more residents) indicate that they have agreements with at least one school regarding the shared use of physical activity facilities, and similarly slightly more larger communities have agreements with sport organizations regarding shared facilities.

On the contrary, there are no statistically significant differences in the availability of agreements with schools/school boards and sport organizations regarding shared use of resources and programming.

FIGURE 3
Organizations' collaboration with municipalities to encourage physical activity by community size



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