

KAB Surveys Topic Summary

Physical Activity Policies related to
Urban Planning and Community Design



Background

The POWER UP! (Policy Opportunity Windows: Enhancing Research Uptake in Practice!) Project is funded by the federal government through the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer's Coalitions Linking Action and Science for Prevention (CLASP) initiative. We provide leadership, tools, and support to decision makers, researchers, practitioners, and the public with the aim of supporting policy change for a healthy Canada.

POWER UP! KAB Survey Objectives

A key objective of POWER UP! is to measure the knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of policy influencers and the public on the topics of obesity and policy relevant to chronic disease prevention. Understanding how policy influencers and the public perceive the problem of obesity and chronic diseases, and whether they support policies to address it, can help to identify normative concepts that influence the process of evidence-based decision-making.

The first POWER UP! Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs (KAB) surveys were completed in 2014 and follow-up surveys will be conducted in 2016. To date, we have surveyed over 3400 policy influencers and members of the public across Alberta, Québec, and the Northwest Territories.

Within an Alberta context, the response rate for policy influencers surveyed was 13.8% in 2014. For the public, the response rate was 10.6%.

This document provides an overview of results outlining support for selected physical activity policies related to urban planning and community design from the 2014 POWER UP! KAB surveys of policy influencers and the public.

POWER UP! KAB Survey Information

The following tables provide sample information for the 2014 POWER UP! KAB surveys of policy influencers and the public.

Table 1: Policy influencers surveyed in the 2014 POWER UP! KAB survey*

Organization	Total		Alberta		Québec		Northwest Territories	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Municipal Authorities	102	46.2%	27	26.0%	72	75.8%	3	13.6%
Workplace Managers	32	14.5%	20	19.2%	11	11.2%	1	4.5%
School Board Members	29	13.1%	23	22.1%	3	3.2%	3	13.6%
Provincial/Territorial Governments	29	13.1%	13	12.5%	3	3.2%	13	59.1%
Print Media Reporters or Editors	18	8.1%	15	14.4%	3	3.2%	0	0.0%
Other	11	4.8%	6	5.8%	3	3.2%	2	9.1%
Total (Missing)	221 (10)	99.8%	104 (4)	100.0%	95 (5)	99.8%	22 (1)	99.9%

*Note: Columns may not exactly total 100% due to rounding.

Table 2: Public surveyed in the 2014 POWER UP! KAB survey

Demographics	Total		Alberta		Québec		Northwest Territories	
	Number/Percent		Number/Percent		Number/Percent		Number/Percent	
Employment								
Full-Time or Self-Employed	1995	62.8%	717	59.9%	712	59.4%	566	72.1%
Part-Time	233	7.3%	108	9.0%	75	6.3%	50	6.4%
Unemployed	95	3.0%	30	2.5%	36	3.0%	29	3.7%
Student	87	2.7%	18	1.5%	55	4.6%	14	1.8%
Household Income								
Up to \$70,000	1079	38.6%	345	33.5%	563	54.0%	171	23.6%
\$70,000 to \$125,000	920	32.9%	368	35.8%	313	30.0%	239	33.0%
Over \$125,000	799	28.6%	317	30.8%	167	16.0%	315	43.4%
Education								
Less than High School	268	8.4%	98	8.2%	80	6.7%	90	11.3%
High School/Some Post-secondary	899	28.3%	387	32.4%	293	24.5%	219	27.5%
Post-Secondary Graduate	2014	63.4%	708	59.4%	820	68.7%	486	61.2%
Self-Identified Minority								
No	2432	84.2%	961	82.1%	964	80.3%	507	88.2%
Yes	456	15.8%	209	17.9%	179	14.9%	68	11.8%
Health								
Good to Excellent	2762	86.3%	1028	85.7%	1057	88.1%	677	84.6%
Fair	334	10.4%	122	10.2%	115	9.6%	97	12.1%
Poor	101	3.2%	47	3.9%	28	2.3%	26	3.3%

Summary: Physical Activity Policies related to Urban Planning and Community Design

The summary below provides an overview of policy influencer and public support for selected policies related to urban planning and community design from the 2014 POWER UP! KAB surveys.

Policy Influencers: Support for Physical Activity Policies related to Urban Planning and Community Design

Table 3 presents the percentage of policy influencers surveyed who chose “Strongly Support” or “Support” for each of the five listed policies. The table is followed by a summary of key highlights in narrative form to facilitate use of survey data.

Table 3: Policy influencer support for policy options in the 2014 POWER UP! KAB survey

Policy Option	Total Support	Alberta	Québec	Northwest Territories
Enhance the quantity and quality of green space in all neighbourhoods	96.3%	98.0%	93.4%	100.0%
Implement transportation policies designed to promote physical activity through safe routes, cycle facilities, adequate lighting, etc.	95.8%	94.9%	97.8%	91.3%

Change the design of our neighborhoods & communities to encourage informal physical activity in daily life	93.8%	93.9%	94.4%	91.3%
Change building and community design standards to promote physical activity	82.2%	86.7%	77.3%	81.8%
Ban all traffic in high-use pedestrian areas during peak hours to support active transportation (e.g., walking, cycling) or public transportation	68.5%	62.1%	77.0%	61.9%

Overall, support for the selected physical activity policies related to urban planning and community design was high, with four out of five policies garnering support from a vast majority of the policy influencers surveyed.

Key Highlights

According to the 2014 POWER UP! KAB survey of policy influencers:

- The vast majority of survey respondents (96.3%) supported *enhancing the quantity and quality of green space in all neighborhoods*. Across jurisdictions, support was 98.0% in Alberta, 93.4% in Québec, and 100.0% in the Northwest Territories.
- The vast majority of survey respondents (95.8%) supported *implementing transportation policies designed to promote physical activity through safe routes, cycle facilities, adequate lighting, etc.* Across jurisdictions, support was 94.9% in Alberta, 97.8% in Québec, and 91.3% in the Northwest Territories.
- The vast majority of survey respondents (93.8%) supported *changing the design of our neighborhoods and communities to encourage informal physical activity in daily life*. Across jurisdictions, support was 93.9% in Alberta, 94.4% in Québec, and 91.3% in the Northwest Territories.
- The vast majority of survey respondents (82.2%) supported *changing building and community design standards to promote physical activity*. Across jurisdictions, support was 86.7% in Alberta, 77.3% in Québec, and 81.8% in the Northwest Territories.

Public: Support for Physical Activity Policies Related to Urban Planning and Community Design

Table 4 presents the percentage of public surveyed who chose “Strongly Support” or “Support” for the one policy option presented in the survey. The table is followed by a summary of key highlights in narrative form to facilitate use of survey data.

Table 4: Public support for the policy option in the 2014 POWER UP! KAB survey

Policy Option	Total Support	Alberta	Québec	Northwest Territories
Implement transportation policies designed to promote physical activity through safe routes, cycle facilities, adequate lighting, etc.	93.2%	89.9%	96.8%	92.6%

Among members of the public, there was strong overall support for the one policy related to urban planning and community design.

Key Highlights

According to the 2014 POWER UP! KAB survey of the public:

- The vast majority of survey respondents (93.2%) supported *implementing transportation policies designed to promote physical activity through safe routes, cycle facilities, adequate lighting, etc.* Across jurisdictions, support was 89.9% in Alberta, 96.8% in Québec, and 92.6% in the Northwest Territories.

Suggested Citation

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