

Health Indicator Report

Support for Neighbourhoods with Amenities within Walking Distance

Background

The purpose of this health indicator report is to determine public support among Halton adults aged 18 and over for a by-law in Halton where all new neighbourhoods are built so that schools, parks, and restaurants are within a 10 minute walk of the homes.

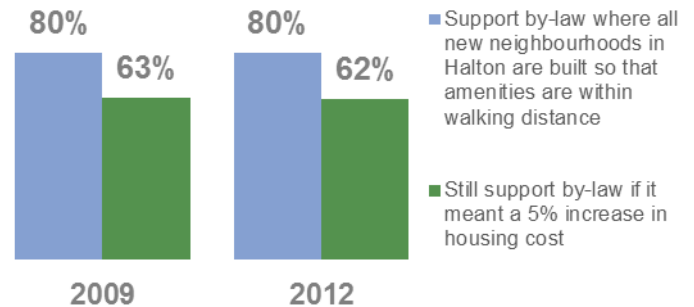
The built environment includes the buildings, spaces, and facilities created or modified by people, such as parks, roads and buildings.¹ Community designs can impact residents' health and wellbeing.² Walkable communities are communities that are well-designed and compact, allowing people to walk to restaurants, parks and schools.¹ Walkable communities can help residents become more physically active, which is an important way to reduce the risk of many chronic diseases including heart disease, cancer and diabetes.²

This Health Indicator Report uses data from the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System.

Trends Over Time

In 2012, 80% of Halton adults reported that they would support a by-law where all new neighbourhoods in Halton are built so that amenities are within walking distance. 62% of adults would still support this by-law if it meant a 5% increase in housing costs.

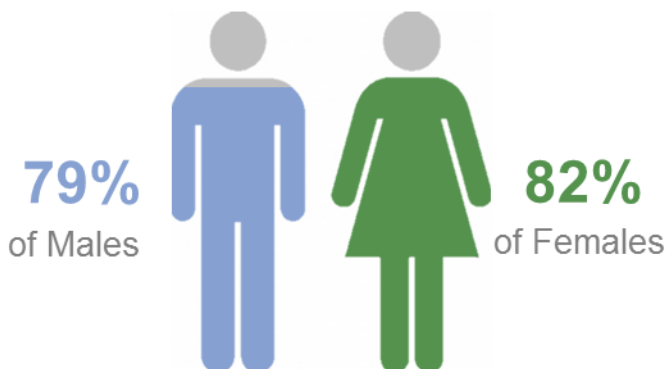
From 2009 to 2012 there were no statistically significant differences in the percent of Halton adults who reported that they would support a by-law where all new neighbourhoods in Halton are built so that amenities are within walking distance, or the percent of adults who would still support this by-law if it meant a 5% increase in housing costs.



Support for a by-law where all new neighbourhoods are built so that amenities are within walking distance, adults aged 18 and over, Halton Region, 2009-2012

Sex

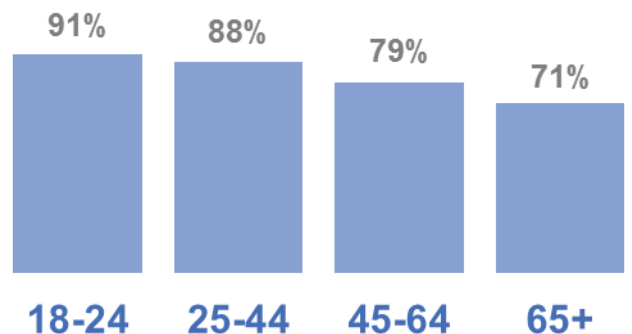
In 2012, there was no significant difference by sex in the percent of Halton adults who reported that they would support a by-law where all new neighbourhoods in Halton are built so that amenities are within walking distance.



Percent of adults aged 18 and over who would support a by-law where all new neighbourhoods in Halton are built so that amenities are within walking distance, by sex, Halton Region, 2012

Age

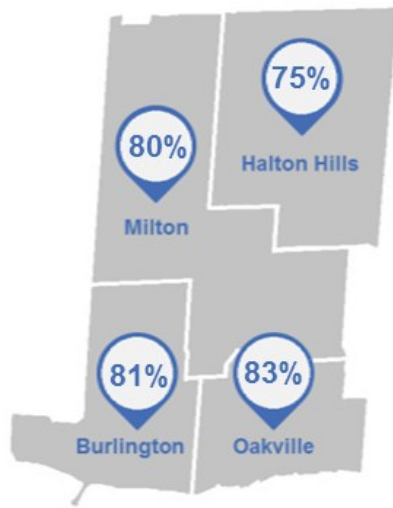
In 2012, the percent of Halton adults who reported that they would support a by-law where all new neighbourhoods in Halton are built so that amenities are within walking distance decreased as age increased. These differences were **statistically significant** when comparing adults aged 18-24 and 25-44 to adults aged 45-64 and 65+.



Percent of adults aged 18 and over who would support a by-law where all new neighbourhoods are built so that amenities are within walking distance, by age, Halton Region, 2012

Municipality

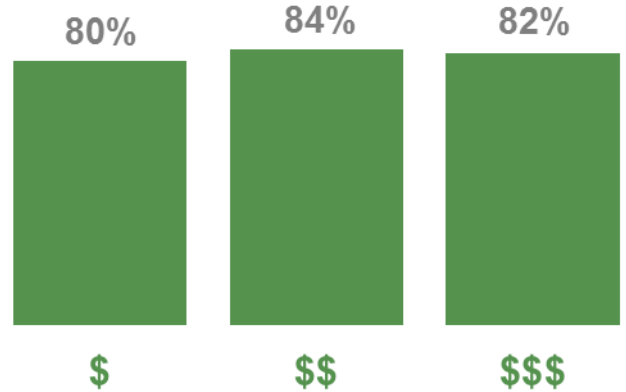
In 2012, there were no significant differences by municipality in the percent of Halton adults who reported that they would support a by-law where all new neighbourhoods are built so that amenities are within walking distance.



Percent of adults aged 18 and over who would support a by-law where all new neighbourhoods are built so that amenities are within walking distance, by municipality, Halton Region, 2012

Income

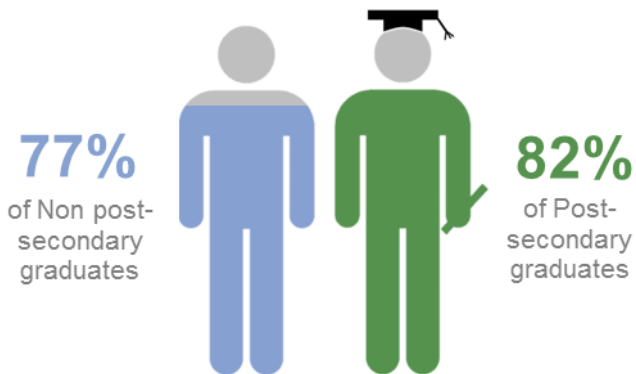
In 2012, there were no significant differences by income in the percent of Halton adults who reported that they would support a by-law where all new neighbourhoods are built so that amenities are within walking distance.



Percent of adults aged 18 and over who would support a by-law where all new neighbourhoods are built so that amenities are within walking distance, by income, Halton Region, 2012

Education

In 2012, there were no significant differences by education in the percent of Halton adults aged 25 and over who reported that they would support a by-law where all new neighbourhoods are built so that amenities are within walking distance.



Percent of adults aged 25 and over who would support a by-law where all new neighbourhoods are built so that amenities are within walking distance, by education, Halton Region, 2012

Data Notes

For more information on RRFSS, methods, statistical significance and limitations associated with health indicator reports, see [Data Notes: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System](#)

Definitions: *Amenities* includes places like schools, parks, and restaurants. *Walking distance* refers to a 10 minute walk or less. **Support** includes “strongly support” and “somewhat support”.

Data Source: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System [Feb-May 2009, 2012], Halton Region Health Department and Institute for Social Research, York University.

Limitations: Only half of respondents were asked if they would still support the by-law to require new neighbourhoods to be built so that amenities are within a 10 minute walk if the cost of housing went up by 5%. The other half of survey respondents were asked about continued support for homes to be built to high energy efficiency standards if the cost of housing went up by 5% (see [Support for Energy Efficient Housing Indicator Report](#)). This was done to avoid respondents adding up the increased housing costs.

References

1. Halton Region. n.d. Walkable Communities. Accessed June 2015
2. Halton Region. n.d. Creating Walkable, Bikeable and Transit-Supportive Communities in Halton. Accessed June 2015

For more health indicator and health status reports, visit the Halton Health Statistics website at: halton.ca

Last Revised: July 27, 2015