

## Health Fact Sheets

# Physical activity during leisure time, 2014



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- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0<sup>s</sup> value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- <sup>P</sup> preliminary
- <sup>r</sup> revised
- X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- <sup>E</sup> use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published
- \* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

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## Physical activity during leisure time, 2014

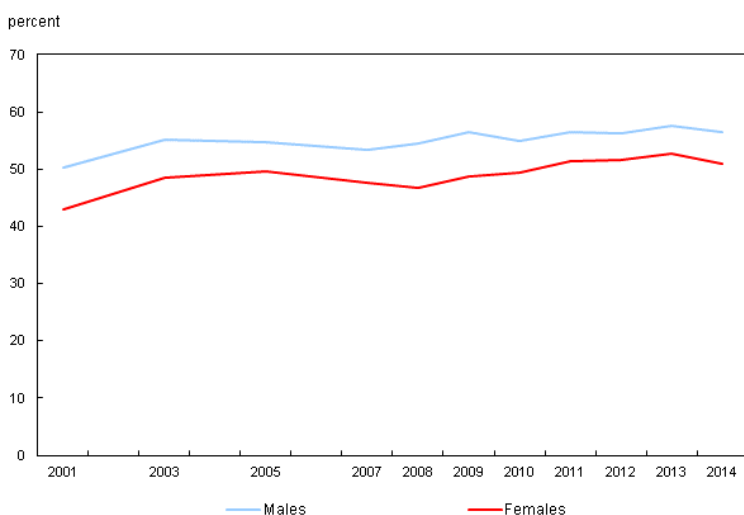
The health benefits of physical activity include a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease, some types of cancer, osteoporosis, diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, depression, stress and anxiety.<sup>1</sup>

In 2014, 53.7% of Canadians aged 12 and older (15.9 million people)<sup>2</sup> reported they were at least 'moderately active' during their leisure time - energy expended at work, in transportation or doing housework is excluded. 'Moderately active' would be equivalent to walking at least 30 minutes a day or taking an hour-long exercise class at least three times a week.

The most popular leisure-time activity was walking: 70.9% reported walking during leisure time in the past three months. Gardening, home exercise, jogging or running, swimming, and bicycling were also popular.

From 2001 to 2014, males were more likely than females to be at least moderately active. In 2014, 56.5% of males reported that they were at least moderately active during leisure time, about the same as 2013 but up from 54.9% in 2010. The proportion of females who were at least moderately active in 2014 was 51.0%, lower than 2013, but about the same as 2012 (Chart 1).

**Chart 1**  
Percentage physically active or moderately active in leisure time, by sex, household population aged 12 or older, Canada, 2001 to 2014

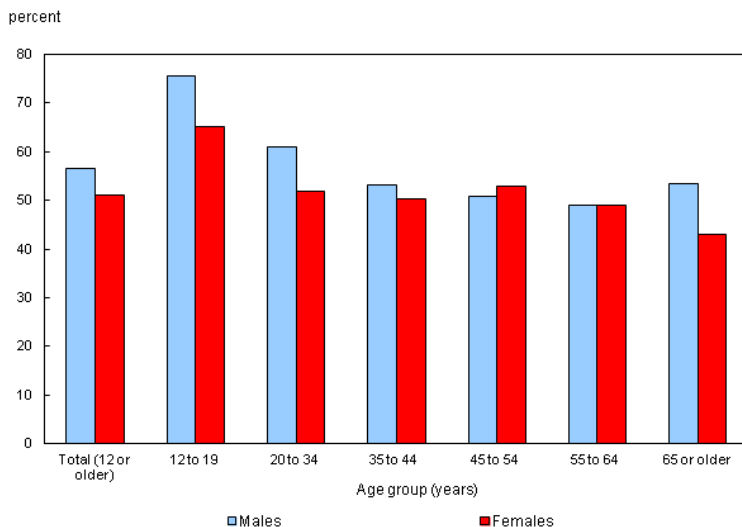


Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 to 2014.

Canadians aged 12 to 19 had the highest rate of being at least moderately active (75.5% for males and 65.1% for females in this age group).

Between the ages of 35 and 64, about 51% of females were at least moderately active. At age 65 or older, the rate dropped to 43.0%. The percentage of males that were at least moderately active decreased with age up to age 35. Above age 35, the rate of activity for males was around 51% (Chart 2).

**Chart 2**  
Percentage physically active or moderately active in leisure time, by age group and sex, household population aged 12 or older, Canada, 2014



Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2014.

The proportion of residents who were at least moderately active was **lower** than the national average (53.7%) in:

- Newfoundland and Labrador (48.3%)
- Prince Edward Island (49.2%)
- New Brunswick (49.2%)
- Quebec (50.7%)
- Nunavut (39.7%)

The proportion of residents who were at least moderately active was **higher** than the national average in:

- Alberta (57.0%)
- British Columbia (61.7%)
- Yukon (64.6%)

Residents of the other provinces and in the Northwest Territories reported rates that were about the same as the national average.

## Notes

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- 1 Gilmour, Heather. 2007. “ Physically active Canadians.” *Health Reports*. Vol. (Volume) 18, no. (number) 3. August. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. (number) 82-003. p. (page(s)) 45. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/2006008/article/phys/10307-eng.pdf>.
  - 2 Respondents are classified as active, moderately active or inactive based on an index of average daily physical activity over the past 3 months. The index is calculated based on self-reported amount of time spent on various activities in the past 3 months. For estimates based on measured physical activity, see the Canadian Health Measures Survey – Physical Activity fact sheet at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-625-x/2015001/article/14135-eng.htm>
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## References

- Gilmour, Heather. 2007. “ Physically active Canadians.” *Health Reports*. Vol. (Volume) 18, no. (number) 3. August. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. (number) 82-003. p. (page(s)) 45–65. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/2006008/article/phys/10307-eng.pdf>.
- Shields, Margot, Tremblay, Mark S. 2008. “Screen time among Canadian adults: A profile.” *Health Reports*. Vol. (Volume) 19, no. (number) 2. June. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. (number) 82-003. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?lang=eng&catno=82-003-X200800210600>.
- Shields, Margot, Tremblay, Mark S. 2008. “Sedentary behaviour and obesity among Canadian adults.” *Health Reports*. Vol. (Volume) 19, no. (number) 2. June. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. (number) 82-003. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?lang=eng&catno=82-003-X200800210599>.

## Data

Additional data from the Canadian Community Health Survey are available from CANSIM table 105–0501.