



Adult Physical Activity in Southwest Health & Human Services Service Area

Findings from the 2015 Southwest Minnesota Healthy Communities Survey

The 2015 Southwest Minnesota Healthy Communities Survey was conducted to learn about the health and health habits – physical activity, nutrition, tobacco use, dental health, and mental health – of residents living in 16 counties in southwest Minnesota. Southwest Health and Human Services (SWHHS) contracted with Wilder Research to produce summary reports for each of the six counties in their service area. This fact sheet summarizes survey results related to the physical activity of adult residents in the SWHHS 6-county region

The survey was conducted April through July 2015 and was sponsored in part by the participating counties' grants from the Minnesota Department of Health's Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP).

In the following report, when it is stated that respondents' answers to a survey item increased or decreased, this refers to a change of 10 percentage points or more in respondents' answers from the 2010 to the 2015 county survey. Similarly, when response percentages are reported as higher or lower in the SWHHS region compared to the 16-county region, this refers to a difference of 10 percentage points or more.

Current levels of physical activity

Regular physical activity helps improve one's overall health and fitness and reduces the risk of chronic disease. The recommended amount of physical activity per week for adults is at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity on 5 or more days or at least 20 minutes of vigorous physical activity on 3 or more days.

In the SWHHS region, 18 percent of respondents met both moderate and vigorous physical activity recommendations while 60 percent met neither. Additionally, 19 percent of respondents said they did not participate in any physical activity or exercise other than their regular job in the past 30 days.

RESPONDENTS' PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (N=2,065)



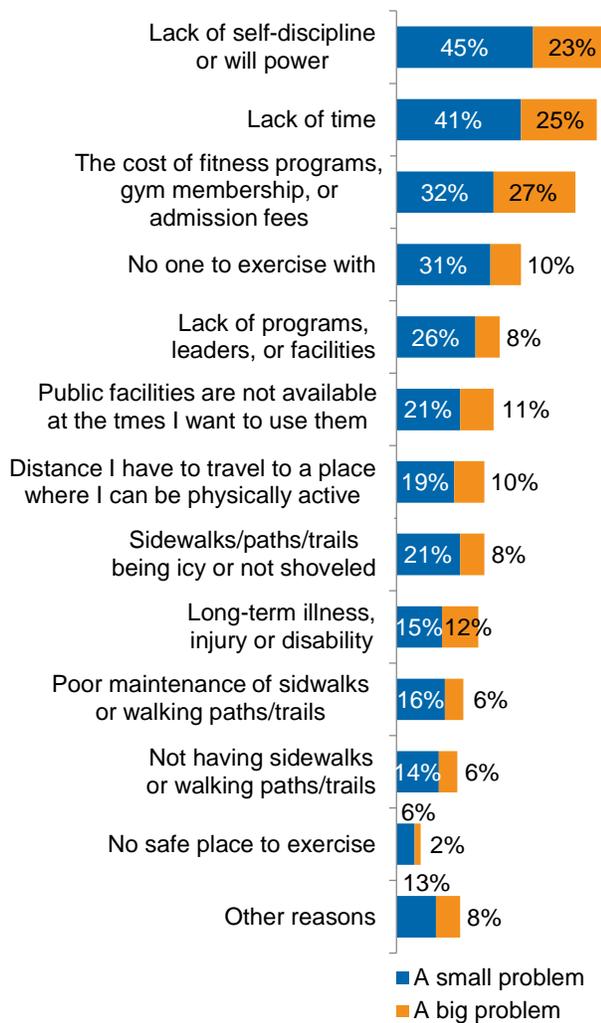
Screen time

When asked about daily “screen time” – total time spent watching TV and using the computer for non-work-related purposes – 51 percent of respondents reported over 2 hours of screen time per day, a decrease from 72 percent in 2010. Twenty-three percent of respondents reported 1 hour or less of screen time per day.

Barriers to physical activity

The most self-reported barriers to getting physical activity are lack of self-discipline or will power and lack of time. These are the same top barriers reported in 2010.

RESPONDENTS' BARRIERS TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
(N=1,470-2,033)

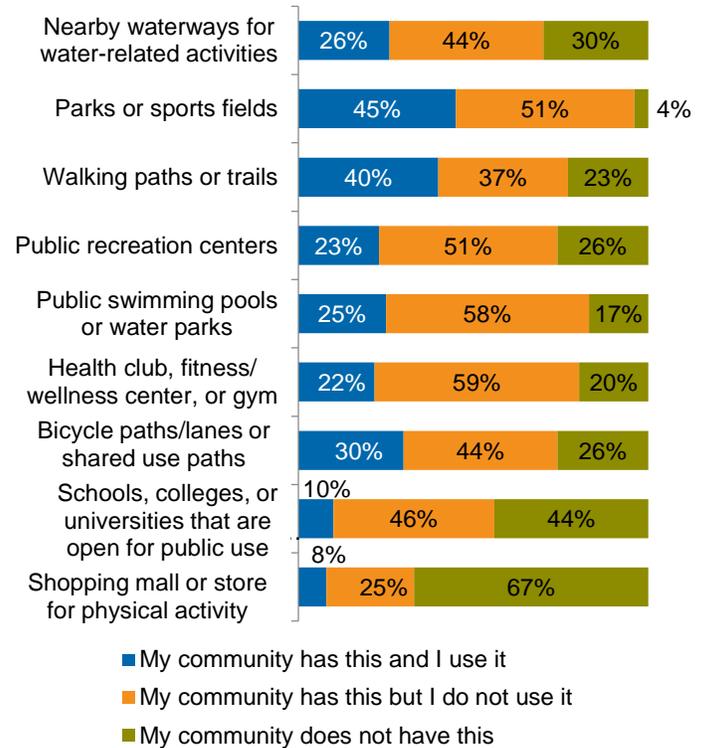


Access to community resources

Respondents were asked about their access to and use of various public amenities. Most residents live in communities that have a limited variety of resources for physical activity. The most commonly used resources are parks or sports fields and walking paths or trails. Since 2010, residents in the

SWHHS region have increased their use of walking paths and trails. Despite an increase in bicycle paths, there has not been a significant increase in the use of bike paths.

RESPONDENTS' ACCESS TO AND USE OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (N=1,609-1,888)



Compared with the region...

Residents in the SWHHS 6-county region have similar access to and use of various public amenities compared with residents of the 16-county region.



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451 Lexington Parkway North
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For more information

This summary presents findings from the 2015 Southwest Minnesota Healthy Communities Survey. For more information about the survey, contact Nicole MartinRogers at Wilder Research, 651-280-2682. For access to other reports, visit <http://www.swmhhs.com/public-health-assessment-and-planning/>

Authors: Anna Bartholomay and Nicole MartinRogers
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