

SPOTLIGHT ON RESULTS

Municipal officials say the **biggest barriers** to considering physical activity in local transportation and land use decisions in their communities are...

- **Lack of Political Will**
- **Limited Staff**
- **Lack of Collaboration across Departments**

Health department personnel are more likely than officials in other departments to experience limited staff and lack of collaboration across departments as barriers.



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Municipal Officials' Perceived Barriers to Consideration of Physical Activity in Community Design Decision Making

Overview

Public health authorities recommend policies affecting the built environment as sustainable approaches for promoting physical activity. Local governments do not traditionally consider physical activity when they make decisions about community design. Understanding barriers to consideration of physical activity that municipal officials report can help target policy change efforts.

The Main Questions

What barriers do municipal officials report to consideration of physical activity in transportation and land use decisions? Do public health officials report barriers differently than other officials?

The Study

In 2012, we surveyed 453 municipal officials from public health, planning, transportation/public works, community/economic development, parks/recreation, city management, and municipal legislatures in 83 large cities and towns in 8 states.

The Bottom Line

Municipal officials see lack of political will, limited staff, and lack of departmental collaboration as greater barriers to creating active community environments than opposition from the business community or residents. Public health officials reported more barriers overall than the other officials.

What You Can Do

- Understand and participate in land use and transportation public processes to strategically build political will.
- Allocate public health department resources to physical activity and built environment issues.
- Cultivate relationships with other municipal departments with the same care you devote to community partners.