

Saskatoon Public Opinions on Creating Better Health

Why Is This Important?

“By breaking the cycle of poverty once and for all, we will be investing in human empowerment — which will drive the health and prosperity of our cities and yield benefits for all of us.”

[Senator Hugh Segal](#)

Examples of Action Being Taken:

The [Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership](#) was formed to reduce poverty in Saskatoon and area.

See the call for a [Comprehensive Poverty Reduction Plan](#)

[Saskatoon Regional Intersectoral Committee](#)

What More Can Be Done?

See the Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

For More Details About the Survey:

A three page [summary](#) describes the research funded by the Canadian Institute for Health Research, conducted by the University of Saskatchewan and Saskatoon Health Region Public Health Observatory.

In May 2013, Saskatoon Health Region together with the University of Saskatchewan and its Social Sciences Research Laboratory asked over 1000 Saskatoon residents their opinions about what causes poor health, the health-related policies they would support and ways to fund these policies.

Survey Highlights

Understanding of the Causes of Poor Health

- Eighty percent said income was the most important factor affecting health. Respondents recognized that people with low income are more likely to suffer from poor health than those with middle income; a dramatic shift from 2006 where 98% said nutritious food was the most important factor.

Policy Options Supported

- **Poverty Reduction:** 94% support for poverty reduction overall; 89% for a provincial plan to reduce poverty; and 90% for a provincial child poverty reduction plan.
- **Income:** 73% support initiatives to increase the minimum wage; 81% for increases to senior's pensions; and, 83% for income supplements to move people off welfare.
- **Child and youth policies:** 82% support universally affordable child care; 83% for increased funding for education; and 73% for lower tuition for post-secondary students.
- **Employment:** 85% support subsidized work training; and 71% for creating more work and training opportunities for First Nations and Métis peoples.
- **Health Care:** 87% support more disease prevention and health promotion programs; and 68% for an increase to health care services.
- **Affordable Living:** 84% endorse the creation of more private affordable housing; 86% for access to affordable and healthy food; and 74% for affordable transit and recreational activities.
- **Greater self-determination for First Nation and Métis:** 66% of respondents supported greater self-determination (the right to freely determine political status and pursue economic, social and cultural development).

How to Fund Policy Options?

- Eighty three per cent agreed to attracting more business and investment to Saskatoon for private sector contributions; 82% called for an increase to “sin taxes” (alcohol and cigarettes); 78% supported an increase in personal taxes on the wealthiest people; 71.8% would endorse an increase in corporate taxes; and 77.1% support the creation of incentives for increased charitable donations.



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Health Status Reporting
March 2014