

Physical Activities for Children with Disabilities

Rationale

In order to develop programming and policies that can foster health through participation in leisure, physical and community activities for children with disabilities, organizations and policymakers need to know the existing evidence that can support practice and policy changes. Knowledge gaps exist in concerted strategic approaches to funding and collaborating in order to improve access to leisure and physical activity for children with disabilities, particularly in the Quebec context. This knowledge gap was identified by a group of organizations, led by AlterGo, in applying a new Quebec policy for improving physical activity. Organizations have identified that children with disabilities are not included in this strategy. It is important that policy makers address barriers families of children with disabilities and organizations face in accessing and providing these services. Notably, there is a lack of access to funding to enable their children to participate in leisure programming, and lack of coordination between organizations providing these services resulting in inefficiency on the system, and burden to the families.

Implications

The results of this review will be conveyed to organizations and policymakers involved in developing and implementing resources related to Quebec policy on leisure activities for children that is inclusive of children with disabilities.

Link to protocol registration: TBD

For more information, please contact **Catherine Vandal, Coordinator** (catherine.vandal.ciusscn@ssss.uv.qc.ca)

Background

- AlterGo, an organization that provides training and expertise in leisure activities for people with disability in Quebec, have led a policy dialogue involving other partner organizations who identified two priority areas to inform a new Quebec policy for improving physical activity for all.

Objective

- Describe existing models and frameworks for developing (1) funding strategies for the promotion of physical and leisure activities for children with disabilities and (2) collaborative networks and collaboration strategies for sharing best practices amongst organizations and policy makers working on health promotion and physical and leisure activity promotion for children with disabilities.

Methodology

- Review design:** Rapid review.
- Eligibility criteria (PICO):** **Participants:** School-aged children and youth with developmental disabilities ages 6-25. **Intervention:** (1) Funding models for community-based, health promotion programs and policies (2) Development of collaborative networks among organizations doing programing and public sectors (e.g. education, health, social services). **Comparator:** (1) Alternate funding model, no funding model, or no comparator (2) No collaborative network, or no comparator. **Outcomes:** (1) Funding models increasing participation in leisure or physical activities (2) Collaborative networks increasing information sharing, best practices adoption, and spread between public and private sector and/or between public sectors.
- Literature search:** Comprehensive literature searches of electronic bibliographic databases will be conducted by an experienced librarian in Medline, Embase, and PsychINFO, and peer-reviewed by another librarian.
- Study Selection/Data Abstraction:** Development of a standardized form for study selection and for data extraction followed by a training exercise and piloting of the two forms for all reviewers. Study selection will be conducted by pairs of two reviewers who will screen titles, abstracts and full text articles independently. Discrepancies will be resolved by discussion or by a third reviewer (senior). Data extraction will be conducted in pairs where one reviewer will extract data and a second one will review the extracted data. Discrepancies will be resolved by discussion.
- Synthesis:** Providing a descriptive summary to inform a policy dialogue between organizations and policymakers involved in developing and implementing resources related to Quebec policy on leisure activities for children with disabilities.

Knowledge Translation Strategy

- Knowledge users associated with AlterGo will actively participate in several stages of the review.