

Purpose

- To examine how personal and family experiences with physical (in)activity for women of Chinese descent living in the Greater Vancouver Regional District can inform sport and recreation policy at the local, provincial and national levels.

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Methods

- Policy analysis
- Interviews with 25 non-users and 25 users of local community centers who are recent immigrants from China.
- Interviews with local, provincial and federal sport policy makers.
- Focus groups to confirm findings and share the results.

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What we have learned so far...

- Growing number of racial minorities who are unfamiliar with the Canadian sport system.
- Chinese immigrant women are largely unaware of opportunities and subsidy policies, but see participation contributing to their health in important ways.
- Sport policies related to multi-culturalism, ethnic social inclusion, and anti-racism are lacking in Canada (Donnelly & Nakamura, 2006).

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Policy Development

- Hybridity theory encourages us to focus on what immigrants retain and what they adopt in new locales (and what hinders adoption).
- Simplistic assimilationist policies will not likely be effective.
- A participatory approach to policy development is recommended.

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