

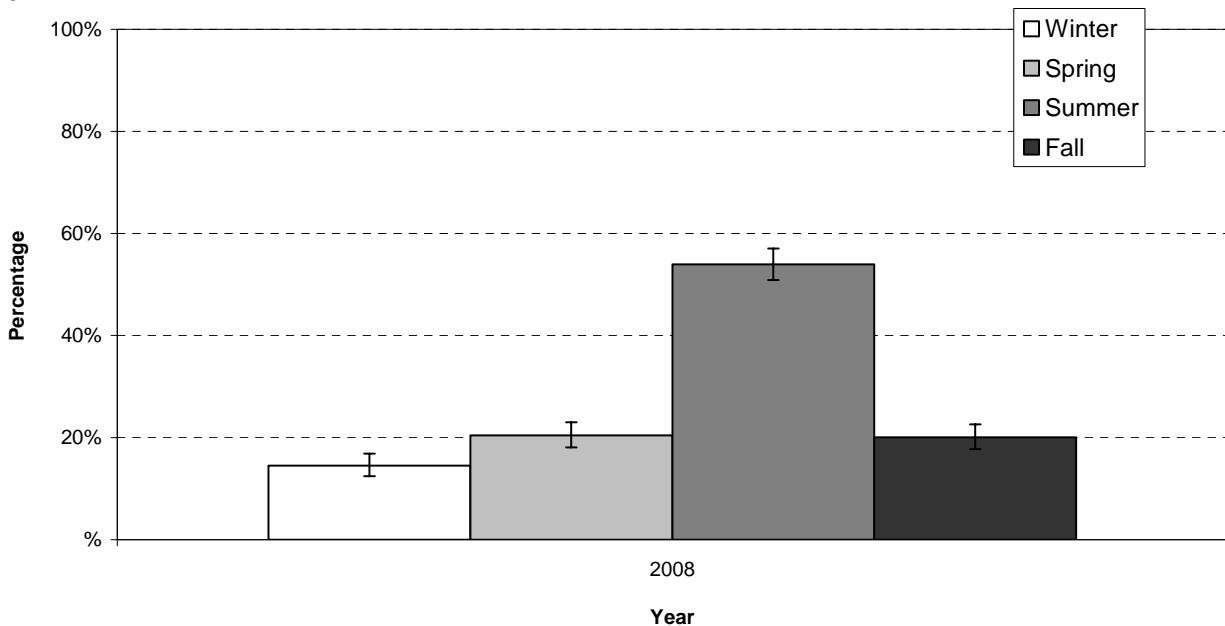
Outdoor Air Quality

This summary focuses on:

- public awareness of health impacts of poor outdoor air quality;
- perception of health effects of outdoor air quality on York Region residents; and
- changes made to normal daily activities due to outdoor air quality.

Ontario Public Health Standards, Environmental Health Program Standards, Health Hazard Prevention and Management – Req 1.

Belief that the Outdoor Air Quality in York Region is Fair, Poor or Very Poor by Season, 2008



Data Source: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System, January 2008 – December 2008

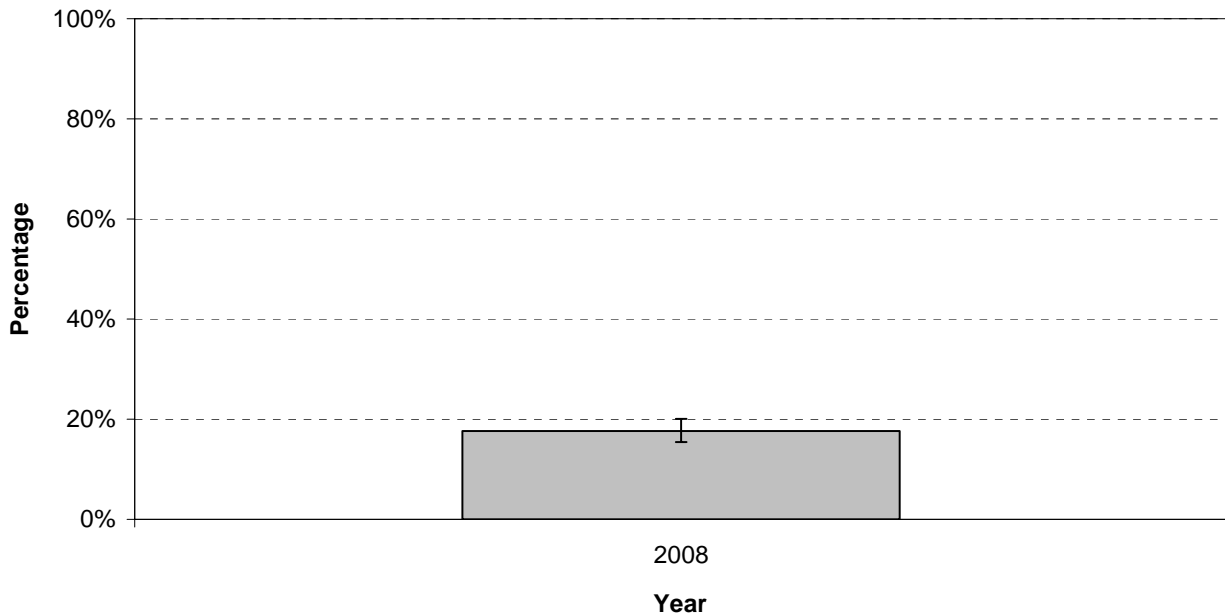
Interpretation:

- In 2008, 54% (± 3) of York Region residents rated outdoor air quality in York Region between fair and very poor during the summer. This percentage was much higher compared to other seasons.
- No statistical differences were observed between sex, age group, or highest level of education attained when asked to rate the outdoor air quality in York Region (data not shown).

Belief that outdoor air quality has an effect on health

- In 2008, 60% (± 3) of York Region residents thought that outdoor air quality had an effect on the health of York Region residents (data not shown).
 - 53% (± 4) of these residents believed that outdoor air quality had a 'very negative' or 'somewhat negative' effect on health (data not shown).
- Individuals aged 65 years and older were more likely to indicate that they were "not sure" whether outdoor air quality has an effect on health compared to their counterparts (data not shown).
- Individuals with a college or university diploma/degree were more likely to think that outdoor air quality had an effect on the health of York Region residents compared to their counterparts (data not shown).

York Region Residents Who Made Changes to their Normal Daily Activities in the Past 12 Months due to Outdoor Air Quality, 2008



Data Source: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System, January 2008 – December 2008

Interpretation:

- In 2008, 18% (± 2) of York Region residents reported making changes to their normal daily activities in the past 12 months due to outdoor air quality.
 - 80% (± 7) of these residents made changes to their normal daily activities because they thought outdoor air quality could affect their health (data not shown).
- The most commonly reported changes to normal daily activities included: staying indoors; and changing outdoor exercise schedule, or avoiding strenuous outdoor activities.

Data Source: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS), [January 2008 – December 2008 (variables AIR1 to AIR7)]. For more information on RRFSS, visit <http://www.rfss.ca/>

Adults represent individuals aged 18 years or older. This telephone survey was only administered in English, using a random digit dialling methodology and data are weighted for probability of selection in households of different size. Survey indicators based on self-reported information and may be subject to biases, such as recall bias or social desirability bias, or result in high non-response.

\bar{I} and \pm represents the 95% confidence interval, meaning 19 times out of 20 the results will fall within this range. Confidence intervals are reported as equal, though this is not always the case as the estimate approaches zero or 100%.

'Don't know' and 'refused' responses are excluded if less than five (5) percent.