Halifax Regional Municipality 2016 Heads Up Halifax Post-Campaign Study Final Report

March 2017

Prepared for Halifax Regional Municipality by:



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Background & Objectives

The Halifax Regional Municipality commissioned Corporate Research Associates Inc. (CRA) to conduct the **2016 Heads Up Halifax Post Campaign Study**. As in the 2015 iteration of this study, a single evaluation was conducted shortly after the conclusion of the campaign. The overall purpose of this research was to understand residents' perceptions of their responsibility in ensuring safety on the roads, as well as to assess the impact of new advertising campaigns on the topic of road safety. More specifically, consistent with previous iterations, this research aimed to:

- Determine how residents define their role in traffic safety;
- Assess overall concern for safety when travelling in Halifax, for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists;
- Assess how residents' choice of transportation mode may or may not impact their views;
- Assess residents' behaviour when using crosswalks in Halifax;
- Assess resident awareness of the 2016 'Heads Up Halifax' Campaign and Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day;
- Determine who residents believe has responsibility for traffic safety; and
- Determine if there have been any behaviour changes among residents, as a result of the campaign.

In fulfillment of the study objectives a total of 458 online surveys were collected with members of the Halifax Opinion Panel. Note, in previous iterations of the survey, a public general population panel was used for sample.

The survey was conducted from December 20th, 2016 to January 8th, 2017, several days after the conclusion of the campaign, and the average survey length was 18.5 minutes.

This detailed report provides an Executive Summary of the findings, a Detailed Analysis of the study results, as well as a Study Methodology. Appended to the report is a copy of the survey (Appendix A), as well as tabular results for each question (Appendix B). Consistent with previous iterations of this report, tabular results for each question are broken down by key demographic subgroups.

Of note, where possible, comparisons to the results from the 2015 Heads Up Halifax Post-Campaign survey are made throughout this report to gauge possible changes in public opinion surrounding certain issues.

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Executive Summary

Results of the **2016 Heads Up Halifax Post-Campaign Study** reveal continued strong support for the campaign. That said, **awareness of communications relating to traffic safety has notably declined over the past year**, continuing the decline observed in 2015. However, results suggest that traffic safety remains a key issue in the City. Indeed, there has been a notable rise this year in both the portion of residents admitting to being distracted while driving, and the frequency of 'close calls' they have personally encountered. On the other hand, when asked about *observed* distraction and 'close calls' among other travellers, residents are much more likely to perceive traffic safety as being a more systemic issue. It is interesting to note, that while only a few report being distracted while *walking* in a crosswalk, the vast majority of residents have witnessed distracted pedestrians. While a similar pattern is evident among drivers, the proportion of those indicating their own distraction is far higher compared with those travelling by foot. It is important to consider that despite these findings, the vast majority of residents feel they have taken *some* action to increase road safety, though the described efforts they have taken generally fall within the scope of standard road safety measures, such as paying attention, and slowing down or stopping at crosswalks.

With respect to the Region's traffic safety campaign, just over half of residents overall now report to have seen or heard any messaging involving pedestrian, bicyclist, or driver safety (52%; down 19 points from 2015). This downward shift in awareness corresponds with a change in media platforms, with **outdoor advertising** now being the primary media vehicle overall. At the same time, more traditional mediums such as **television**, **radio**, and **newspaper/magazine** are less likely to be associated with the safety campaign. On a positive note, despite this drop in overall awareness, unaided recognition of Halifax's **sponsorship** of the safety campaign has strengthened significantly, though a notable proportion of residents remain unable to identify a source of such messaging. In line with past results, the primary focus of the campaign is believed to be pedestrian safety, specifically in relation to paying attention before crossing and making eye contact with drivers.

Overall perceptions of the campaign have declined this year, with a greater portion now describing unfavourable opinions of the ads, while at the same time, more residents also mention that they don't know how they feel about the campaign. Although residents largely remain supportive of Halifax's sponsorship of the campaign, the *degree* of support this year has declined with fewer now expressing *complete* support.

With respect to specific initiatives within the broader safety campaign, awareness of **Crosswalk Safety Day** has held steady, albeit minimal overall. Limited awareness is also found for the '**Heads Up Halifax**' video, though its message was clearly understood. The video was well received by residents, with the bulk of those surveyed expressing positive opinions about its effectiveness in *raising awareness about crosswalk safety issues, making residents more aware of staying alert while travelling*, and *raising concern about crosswalk safety*.



Executive Summary (cont.)

Similarly, in terms of awareness of the 'Heads Up Halifax' print ads, the bulk of residents were not previously aware of this initiative, though stronger recognition is observed compared with the video. It warrants mention that the greatest source of awareness of the print ad was from Halifax Transit buses, particularly on the exterior platforms.

In light of the new social media campaign this year, namely, #headsuphalifax, residents' social media habits were explored. The vast majority use Facebook, while YouTube is also popular. However, Facebook has the broadest reach across the population, with usage habits being comparable regardless of age, gender, income, education, and employment. Moreover, Facebook users are most active, visiting the social media site on a daily basis. With that said, awareness of #headsuphalifax and the associated contest is minimal, in line with viewership of the safety campaigns. Nonetheless, the small number who were aware of the social media campaign viewed it positively.

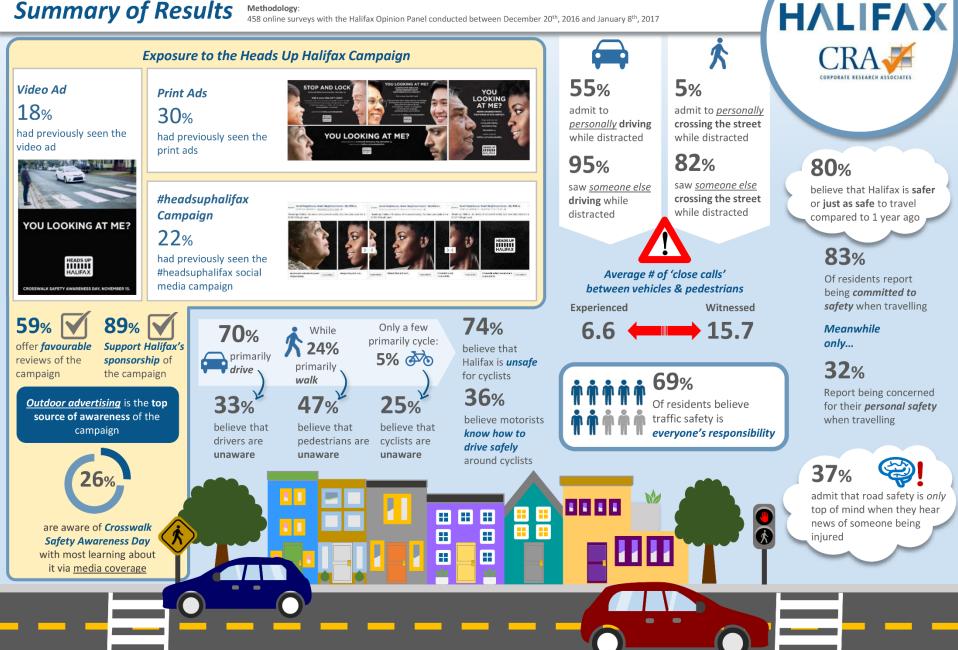
* The infographic on the following page offers a one-page visual summary of key 2016 results.



2016 Heads Up Halifax Campaign Study

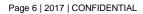
Summary of Results Methodology:

458 online surveys with the Halifax Opinion Panel conducted between December 20th, 2016 and January 8th, 2017



Travelling in Halifax

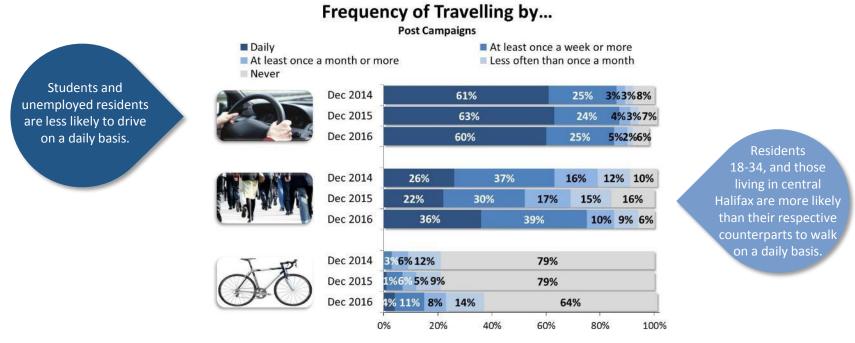
Perceptions of Road / Sidewalk Safety Crosswalk Safety Campaign





Motor vehicle travel remains the most common mode of transportation, though travel by foot or bicycle is becoming more popular.

The bulk of residents choose to *drive* to and from their destinations, while most also travel *by foot*, albeit less often. Interestingly, residents' transportation habits have changed somewhat in 2016 compared with the previous two years, with greater numbers opting to *walk* or *bicycle* to and from their destinations overall. Growth is also observed in the frequency with which residents are *walking* or *bicycling*. Meanwhile, travel by *car* has remained relatively unchanged. (Tables 29a-c)

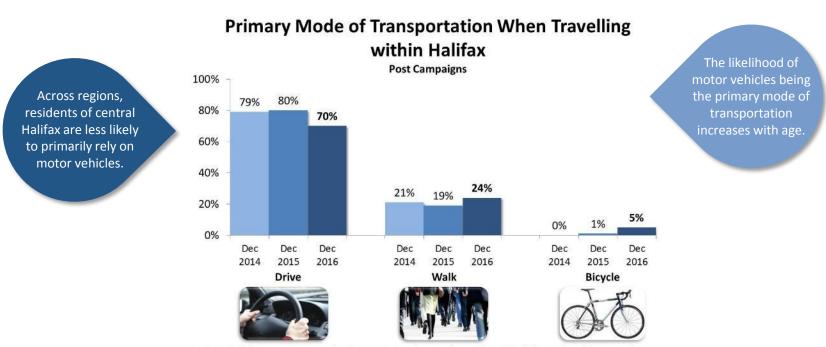


Q.29a-c: And how often do you personally ...? (Dec 2014 n=402, Dec 2015 n=406, Dec 2016 n=458)

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Modes of Transportation (cont.)

Residents were then asked which mode of transportation they use <u>primarily</u>. Not surprisingly, the majority of residents prefer to drive, though this proportion has significantly declined over the past year. By comparison, one quarter now indicate that they primarily *walk* to and from their destinations, while a few are more inclined to travel by *bicycle*. (Table 30)



Q.30: And which is your primary mode of transportation when travelling within Halifax? (If you take public transit, please choose the option that you use most to get to and from public transit). (Dec 2014 n=402, Dec 2015 n=406, Dec 2016 n=458)

Travelling in Halifax	Perceptions of Road / Sidewalk Safety	Crosswalk Safety Campaign



Perceptions of Road & Sidewalk Safety

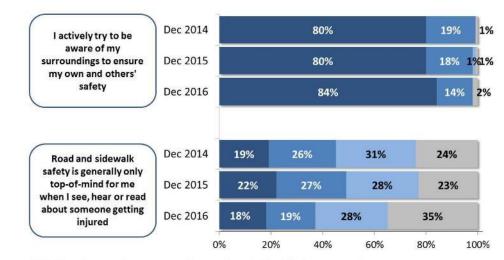
The vast majority of residents continue to consider themselves actively aware of their surroundings when travelling. As well, road and sidewalk safety is increasingly top-of-mind for residents outside of incidents involving injury.

In line with past results, most residents report that they *actively try to be aware of their surroundings to ensure their own safety and others' safety*, including more than eight in ten who *completely agree*.

Meanwhile, the bulk of residents <u>disagree</u> that road and sidewalk safety is generally only top-of-mind when they see, hear, or read about someone getting injured, a proportion which has improved considerably over the past year. (Tables 37a-b)

Opinion of Statements About Road and Sidewalk Safety Post Campaigns

Completely agree Mostly agree Mostly disagree Completely disagree



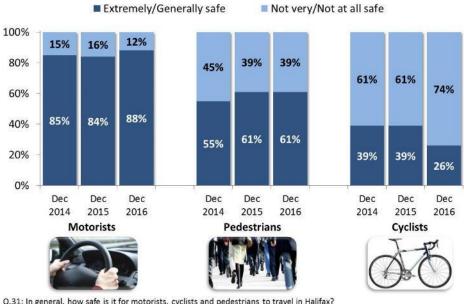
Q.37a-b: To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Dec 2014 n=402, Dec 2015 n=406, Dec 2016 n=458)

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Perceptions of Safety of Travel in Halifax

While most residents feel Halifax is a safe place for motorists, a growing majority of residents view the City as an unsafe place for cyclists to travel.

The perceived level of safety for *motorists* and *pedestrians* when travelling in Halifax has remained virtually unchanged over the past year. Meanwhile, a considerable decline is observed with respect to safety for *cyclists*. In particular, the vast majority of residents continue to view Halifax as a safe place for those traveling by *car*, along with a more moderate majority who feel this way about travel *by foot*. On the other hand, only a quarter believe that Halifax is safe for *cyclists*. (Tables 31a-c)



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Level of Safety When Travelling in Halifax

Q.31: In general, how safe is it for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to travel in Halifax? (Dec 2014 n=402, Dec 2015 n=406, Dec 2016 n=458)

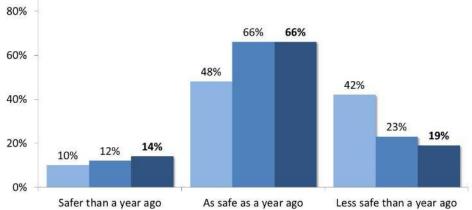
Perceptions of Safety of Travel in Halifax (cont.)

Travelling in Halifax is generally considered to be as safe as it was last year.

When asked to compare the safety of travelling in Halifax on the city's roads, sidewalks, and crosswalks compared with a year ago, a small minority continue to report *improvement* while two-thirds believe that conditions are *unchanged*. On the contrary, two in ten feel that travelling in Halifax is now *less safe* than it was a year ago, maintaining the improvement observed in this regard last year from 2014. (Table 32)

Sidewalks, and Crosswalks Compared with One Year Ago Post Campaigns 100% Dec 2014 (n=402) Dec 2015 (n=406) Dec 2016 (n=458) 80%

Level of Safety for People to Travel on Halifax's Roads,



Q.32: And in general, compared with one year ago, do you think it is now safer, as safe, or less safe for people to travel on Halifax's roads, sidewalks, and crosswalks?



Perceptions Concerning Cyclists

Consistent with historical results, residents perceive themselves to be knowledgeable of the rules governing traffic lights and crosswalks for motorists and cyclists, as well as about the rights and responsibilities of cyclists. That said, this year marks a notable decline in the portion of drivers who report that they understand how to drive safely around cyclists.

The level of awareness reported by residents in regards to the rules of the road for motorists and cyclists alike is comparable to previous years. Indeed, the vast majority agree to some extent that they are **fully aware of the rules about how cars and bicycles should stop at traffic lights and crosswalks**, including more than half who express complete agreement.

Meanwhile, a slightly smaller majority also report being **fully aware of the rights and responsibilities of bicycles on the road**, including more than a third who completely agree.

On the contrary, a moderate minority of residents agree to some extent that **most motorists understand how to drive safely around bikes and bike lanes**, marking a notable decline from previous years. (Tables 39a-c)

Opinion of Statements About Bicycles on the Road

Post Campaigns

Completely agree Mostly agree Mostly disagree Completely disagree Don't know

I am fully aware of the rules	Dec 2014		51%	1	4	0%	8%	1%
about how cars and bicycles should stop at traffic lights	Dec 2015		51%	j	4	1%	6%1	%1 9
and crosswalks	Dec 2016		54%		40%		4%1	%19
I am fully aware of the rights and responsibilities	Dec 2014	2	33%	47%			15% 2%	3%
	Dec 2015		28%	52%		1	14% 3%	3%
of bicycles on the road	Dec 2016		36%		46%		12%3%	3%
Most motorists understand how to drive safely around bikes and	Dec 2014	7%	44	%	38	3%	11%	19
	Dec 2015	8%	3% 37%		41%		13%	2%
bike lanes	Dec 2016	4%	32%		40%	2	22%	2%
		0%	20%	40%	60%	80%	10	00%

Q.39a-c: To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Dec 2014 n=402, Dec 2015 n=406, Dec 2016 n=458)



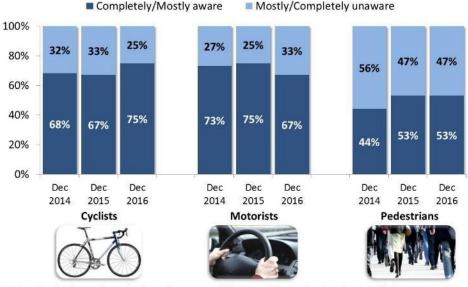
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Level of Awareness of Surroundings

Compared to last year, residents are more likely to view cyclists as being aware of their surroundings, and less likely to believe that motorists are aware. That said, regardless of transportation mode, a notable minority acknowledge a general unawareness of surroundings when travelling.

Residents were asked to indicate the degree to which people are aware of their surroundings when travelling by various means in Halifax. Opinions are generally positive, particularly with respect to *cyclists* where improvement is noted this year. Indeed, a strong majority of residents now feel that *cyclists* are generally aware of their surroundings when travelling, while two-thirds feel this way about *motorists*, marking a slight decline. By comparison, just over one-half believe that *pedestrians* are aware of their surroundings, in line with past results. (Tables 38a-c)

Awareness of Surroundings When Travelling in Halifax Post Campaigns

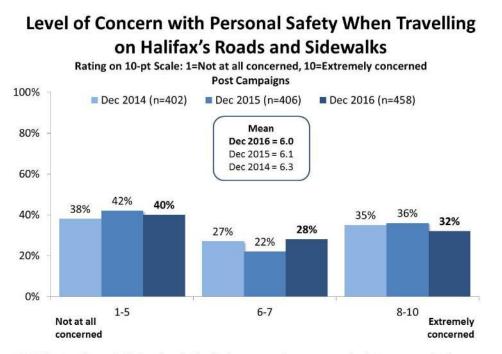


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Q.38a-c: To what degree do you think people are aware of their surroundings when travelling in Halifax? (Dec 2014 n=402, Dec 2015 n=406, Dec 2016 n=458)

Concern over personal safety when travelling in the City remains generally moderate and stable, year-over-year.

Residents' level of concern with personal safety when travelling on Halifax's roads and sidewalks is generally unchanged compared with past results. Perceptions remain divided, with one third being *extremely concerned* (ratings of 8 to 10 on a ten-point scale), three in ten being *moderately concerned* (ratings of 6 or 7), and four in ten expressing *little concern* in this regard (ratings of 1 to 5). (Table 33)



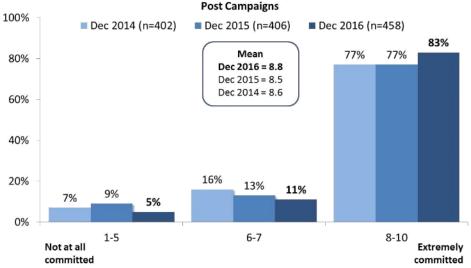
Q.33: When travelling on Halifax's roads and sidewalks, how concerned are you personally about your own safety?

Residents' commitment to safety has increased over the past year.

The vast majority of residents continue to feel *extremely committed* to ensuring their own and others' safety on Halifax's roads and sidewalks, with slight improvement observed this year compared to previous findings. Meanwhile, one in ten report a more *moderate* degree of commitment, and five percent are *uncommitted*. (Table 34)

Level of Commitment to Ensure Your Own and Others'

Safety on Halifax's Roads and Sidewalks



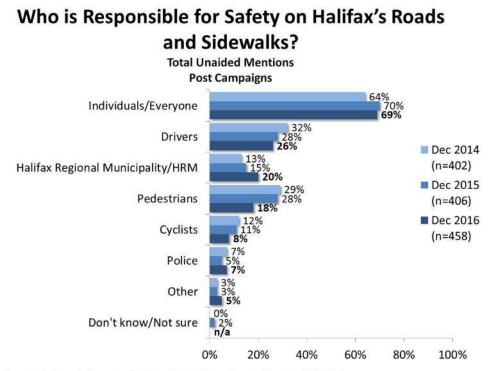
Rating on 10-pt Scale: 1=Not at all committed, 10=Extremely committed

Q.34: How committed do you feel to ensuring your own and others' safety on the roads and sidewalks of Halifax?



Consistent with historical findings, a clear majority of residents view road and sidewalk safety as being a collective responsibility.

Again this year, residents were asked to indicate, unaided, who is responsible for safety on the roads and sidewalks of Halifax. A strong majority continue to state that safety is **everyone's responsibility**. One quarter also mention **drivers**, followed by fewer who identify the **Municipality**. A similar portion name **pedestrians** as a responsible party, though this perception has declined considerably compared to two years ago. All other parties are mentioned by fewer than one in ten, including **cyclists** and **police**. (Table 35)

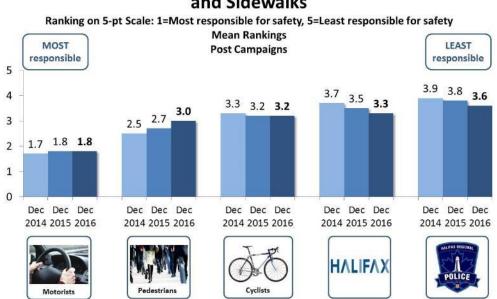


Q.35: In your opinion, who is responsible for safety on the roads and sidewalks of Halifax?



In terms of the relative *degree* of responsibility held by motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, the Halifax Municipality, and police in ensuring safety on Halifax's roads and sidewalks, residents' perceptions are generally consistent with the past.

Indeed, when asked to rank each party in order from *most responsible* to *least responsible* (using a scale from 1 to 5, respectively), residents continue to consider *motorists* to be most responsible above the others. Meanwhile, pedestrians are considered second-most responsible, though they are closely followed by *cyclists* and the *Municipality*. The police are viewed as being least responsible, though its ranking is not far off from the others. (Table 36a-e)



Responsibility for Safety on Halifax's Roads and Sidewalks

Q.36a-e: And if you were to rank responsibility for safety on the roads and sidewalks of Halifax, who is most responsible (number 1) to who is less responsible for safety? Give each a number from 1 - 5, where 1 = most responsible for safety and 5 = least responsible for safety. (Dec 2014 n=402, Dec 2015 n=406, Dec 2016 n=456) Note: Slight change of survey wording from 2015. Note: Two respondents were removed because they did not complete ranking data.



Year-over-year, motorists report taking a variety of safety measures when driving, although the portion that constantly performs these activities continues to vary notably.

Respondents who identified themselves as a motor vehicle driver (n=428) were asked to indicate the frequency with which they performed specific actions when driving, including: looking both ways at all crosswalks, putting away their mobile/cellular phone so it's not a distraction, making eye contact with pedestrians, ensuring their radio or music is not loud enough to cause a distraction, slowing down at marked crosswalks in case a pedestrian is approaching, and slowing down at unmarked crosswalks in case a pedestrian is approaching.

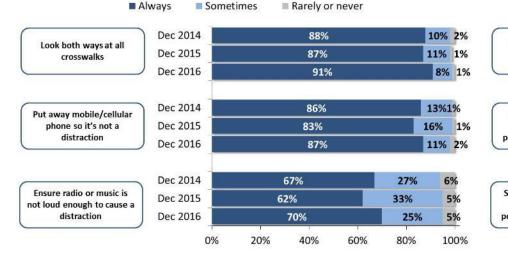
Drivers' habits to ensure the safety of themselves and others when driving in Halifax are largely unchanged from previous years. Indeed, nearly all drivers continue to at least sometimes undertake all actions evaluated. That said, those who reportedly slow down at unmarked crosswalks in case a pedestrian is approaching has notably declined over the past year, with fewer now stating that they always do this, and a greater number indicating that they rarely or never do so. (Tables 40a-f)

Frequency of Actions When Driving in Halifax Among Those Who Drive a Car or Other Motor Vehicle at Least Once a Month or More

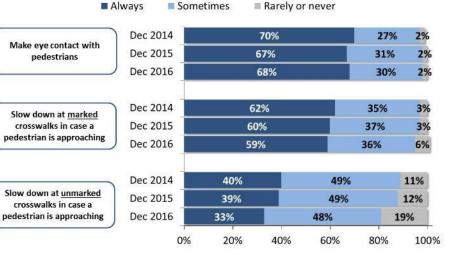
Post Campaigns

Frequency of Actions When Driving in Halifax

Post Campaigns



Among Those Who Drive a Car or Other Motor Vehicle at Least Once a Month or More



Q.40d-f: [AMONG THOSE WHO DRIVE A CAR OR MOTOR VEHICLE (CODES 1-6) IN Q.29a] When driving in Halifax, how often do you do each of the following? (Dec 2014 n=374, Dec 2015 n=375, Dec 2016 n=429)

Q.40a-c: [AMONG THOSE WHO DRIVE A CAR OR MOTOR VEHICLE (CODES 1-6) IN Q.29a] When driving in Halifax, how often do you do each of the following? (Dec 2014 n=374, Dec 2015 n=375, Dec 2016 n=429)



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Safety Actions Among Pedestrians

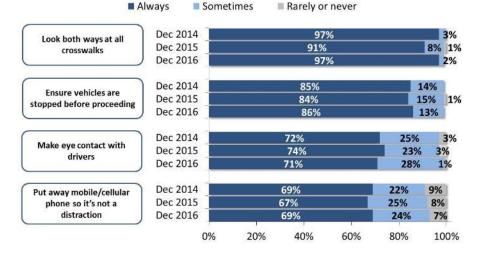
Consistent with historical findings, pedestrians report undertaking a variety of safety measures when traveling in the City. Again, the portion that report always performing each of these activities continues to vary notably.

Respondents who identified themselves as pedestrians (n=429) were asked to indicate the frequency of which they performed specific actions when crossing the street, including: taking out headphones, making eye contact with drivers, putting away their mobile/cellular phone so it's not a distraction, looking both ways at all crosswalks, wearing highly visible/bright clothing to be more visible to drivers at night, texting or use their cell phone, and ensuring vehicles are stopped before proceeding.

In line with previous results, the frequency with which pedestrians take the various actions to ensure their safety when crossing a street is generally unchanged. In particular, the vast majority of pedestrians *always look both ways at crosswalks* and *ensure vehicles are stopped before proceeding*. Likewise, most pedestrians continue to report that they *rarely or never text or use their cell phones* when crossing the street. Meanwhile, seven in ten *always make eye contact with drivers* and *put away their mobile/cellular phone so it's not a distraction*. At the same time, although the bulk of pedestrians *at least sometimes take out their headphones*, just over half *always* do so. Similarly, the vast majority *wear highly visible/bright clothing so drivers can see them at night at least some of the time*, but only two in ten make this a *consistent practice*. (Tables 41a-g)

Frequency of Actions When Crossing Street as a Pedestrian

Among Those Who Walk To/From Their Destination at Least Once a Month or More Post Campaigns



Frequency of Actions When Crossing Street as a Pedestrian

Among Those Who Walk To/From Their Destination at Least Once a Month or More Post Campaigns

Always Sometimes Rarely or never

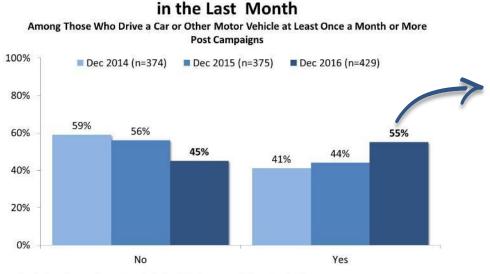
Take out headphones	Dec 2014	52% 55% 55%		21%	27%	
	Dec 2015			20%	25%	
	Dec 2016			17%	29%	
Wear highly visible/bright clothing so drivers can see me at night) Dec 2014	25%		59%	16%	
	Dec 2015	18% 63%		18%		
) Dec 2016	22%	57%		20%	
	Dec 2014	4 <mark>% 13%</mark>		82%		
Text or use my cell phone	Dec 2015	3 <mark>% 17%</mark>	80%			
	Dec 2016	3 <mark>% 15%</mark>	82%			
	ſ	0% 20	40%	60%	80% 1	

Q.41b-d, g: [AMONG THOSE WHO WALK TO/FROM THEIR DESTINATION, CODES 1-6 IN Q29b] When you are crossing the street as a pedestrian, how often do you do each of the following? (Dec 2014 n=359, Dec 2015 n=345, Dec 2016 n=429) Q.41a, e-f: [AMONG THOSE WHO WALK TO/FROM THEIR DESTINATION, CODES 1-6 IN Q29b] When you are crossing the street as a pedestrian, how often do you do each of the following? (Dec 2014 n=359, Dec 2015 n=345, Dec 2016 n=429)

Frequency of Driver Distraction

Over the past year, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of residents reporting having been distracted while driving in the last month.

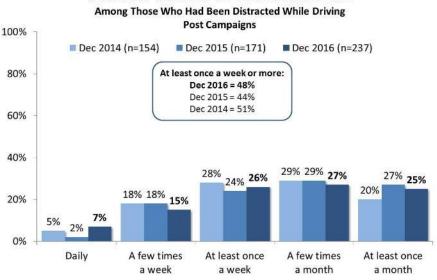
More than half of residents report being distracted when driving a motor vehicle in the last month, a considerable rise compared with past results. At the same time, the frequency at which drivers report that they have been distracted in the past month is comparable to the past, with nearly half indicating that they have been distracted while driving **at least once a week or more often**. (Tables 42 & 43)



Have Been Distracted While Driving a Motor Vehicle

Q.42: [AMONG THOSE WHO DRIVE A CAR OR MOTOR VEHICLE, CODES 1-6 IN Q.29a] In the last month, have you been distracted while driving a motor vehicle? Distractions include anything that could take away your full attention from driving, such as the use of a mobile phone, someone else in the car, etc.

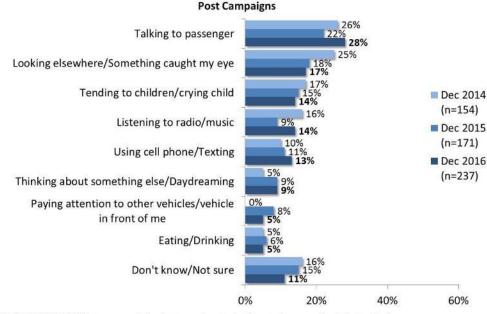
Frequency of Distraction While Driving a Motor Vehicle in the Last Month



Q.43: [IF 'YE5' IN Q.42] In the last month, how often would you say you have been distracted while driving a motor vehicle?

Talking to passengers while driving is the most common reason for distraction.

Those reporting to have been distracted at some point in the last month (n=237) were asked to describe the cause of their distraction. A variety of causes are identified, with *talking to a passenger* being most common. Meanwhile, nearly two in ten indicate that they had been *looking elsewhere/something caught their eye*, followed by fewer who had been *tending to children/crying child*, *listening to the radio/music, using their cell phone/texting*, or they were *thinking about something else/daydreaming*, among others cited by five percent or fewer. (Table 44)



What Caused You to be Distracted Among Those Had Been Distracted While Driving Key Mentions From Total Unaided Mentions

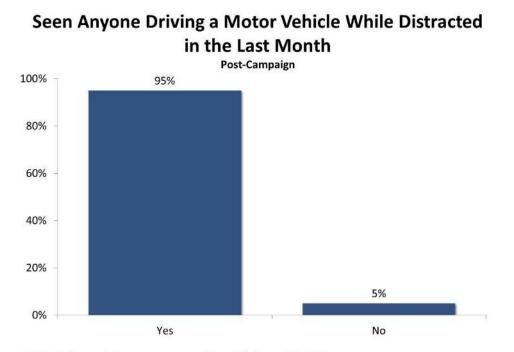
Q.44: [IF 'YES' IN Q.42] What were you doing that caused you to be distracted or not paying full attention?

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Witnessed Others Driving While Distracted

Nearly all residents report having seen at least one distracted motorist over the last month.

New this year, residents were asked if they have seen anyone driving while distracted in the past month. The vast majority report that they have witnessed a distracted driver and only a few have not. (Table 45)



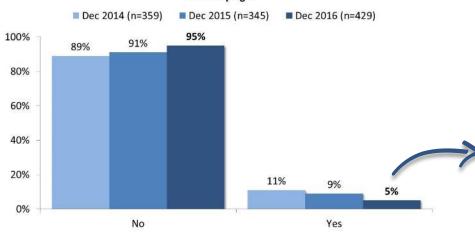
Q.45: In the last month, have you seen anyone driving while distracted? (n=458)

Few residents report having walked through a crosswalk while distracted.

Similarly, pedestrians were asked whether they have walked through a marked or unmarked crosswalk while distracted in the past month. In line with past results, only a few have done so, though the frequency with which pedestrians report being distracted while crossing the street has increased somewhat over the past year. However, caution is warranted in the interpretation of these results due to small sample sizes. Overall, more than one third have reportedly walked through a crosswalk while distracted **at least once a week or more** in the past month. (Tables 46 & 47)

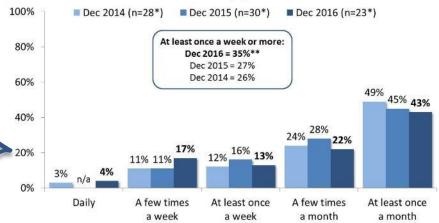
Have Walked Through a Marked or Unmarked Crosswalk in Halifax While You Were Distracted

Among Those Who Walk To/From Their Destination at Least Once a Month or More Post Campaigns



Frequency of Distraction While Walking Through a Marked or Unmarked Crosswalk in the Last Month

Among Those Had Walked Through a Crosswalk While Distracted Post Campaigns

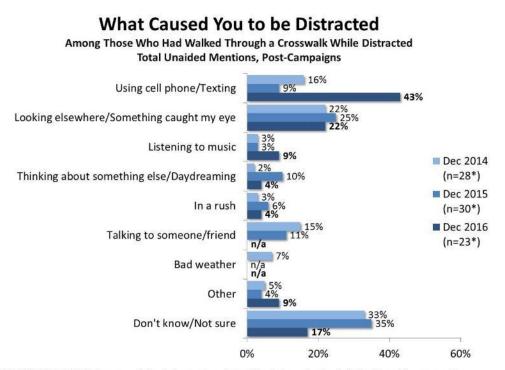


Q.46: [AMONG THOSE WHO WALK TO/FROM THEIR DESTINATION, CODES 1-6 IN Q.29b] In the last month, have you walked through a marked or unmarked crosswalk in Halifax while you were distracted or not paying full attention?

Q.47: [IF YES' IN Q.46] In the last month, how often would you say you have been distracted while walking through a marked or unmarked crosswalk? *Caution: Small sample size. **Due to rounding.

Cause of Pedestrian Distraction

It is clear that use of cell phones is a key issue in causing distractions, with nearly half of those who indicated having been distracted while walking in a crosswalk indicating that to be the cause (43%; up 34 points). Other reasons including looking elsewhere (22%; down 3 points), and an increasing number who said that listening to music caused them to be distracted (9%; up 6 points). (Table 48)



Q.48: [IF YES' IN Q.46] What were you doing that caused you to be distracted or not paying full attention, while you recently walked through a marked or unmarked crosswalk in Halifax? **Caution: Small sample size*.

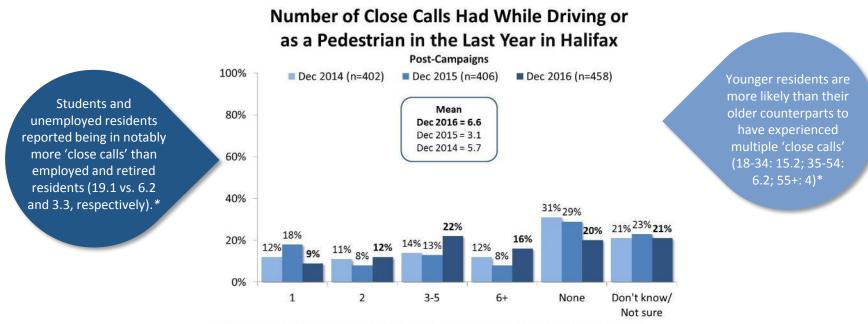
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Incidence of Close Calls

This year marks a notable rise in the number of 'close calls' reported by residents.

All respondents were asked to indicate how many 'close calls' they personally experienced in terms of being almost involved in a vehicle-pedestrian collision in Halifax within the last year - either as a motorist or as a pedestrian.

Overall, residents indicate they experienced an average of 6.6 (up 3.5) 'close calls' in the last year while driving or as a pedestrian. In terms of geography, residents of central Halifax report the highest number of near incidents (9.3), while residents of Bedford/Sackville report the fewest number (2.7). (Table 50)



* Small sample sizes warrant caution in the interpretation of results.

Q.50: And how many, if any, "close calls" would you say you've had in the last year in Halifax while driving or as a pedestrian, in terms of the number of times when you were almost involved in a vehicle-pedestrian collision? Note: Don't know/Not sure removed from mean score calculations.

ΗΛLIFΛΧ

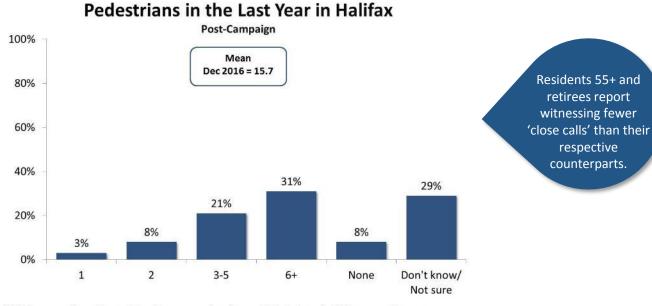
Incidence of Close Calls

Residents are notably more likely to report having witnessed a 'close call', rather than have personally experienced one.

New this year, all respondents were also asked to indicate how many 'close calls' they witnessed, but were not personally involved in.

Overall, residents indicate they witnessed an average of 15.7 'close calls' between drivers and pedestrians in the last year. Consistent with personal experience findings, residents of central Halifax report the highest number of 'close calls' (23), while residents of Bedford/Sackville are least likely to have witnessed a 'close call' (6.4). (Table 51)

Number of Close Calls Witnessed Between Drivers or



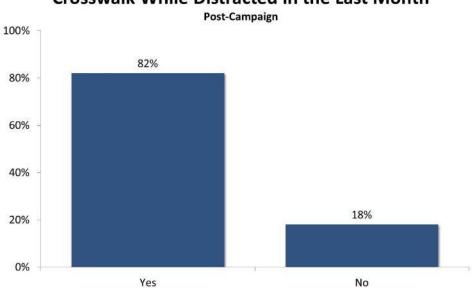
Q.51: How many, if any, 'close calls' would you say you've witnessed in the last year in Halifax among drivers or pedestrians, in terms of the number of times when someone was almost involved in a vehicle-pedestrian collision? (n=458)



Witnessed Pedestrians Walking Through Crosswalks Distracted

Nearly all residents report having seen at least one distracted pedestrian over the last month.

New this year, residents were also asked if they have seen a pedestrian walking through a crosswalk while distracted in the past month. Despite very few residents feeling that they were distracted while walking, a clear majority have seen distracted pedestrians. Indeed, eight in ten residents report having witnessed a distracted pedestrian at a crosswalk on at least one occasion over the last month. (Table 49)

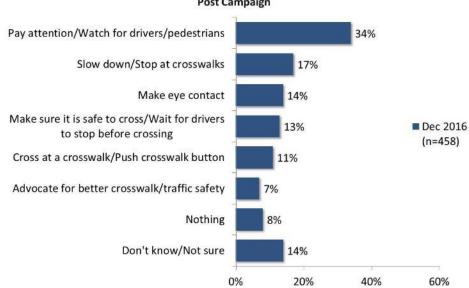


Seen Anyone Walking Through a Marked or Unmarked Crosswalk While Distracted in the Last Month

Q.49: In the last month, have you seen anyone walking while distracted through a marked or unmarked crosswalk? (n=458)

Overall, residents report having taken a variety of actions to make crosswalks safer.

New this year, residents were asked (unaided) what action, if any, they have personally taken to make crosswalks safer for everyone. Overall, residents most commonly reported simply *paying attention*, distantly followed by *slowing down/stopping at crosswalks*, *making eye contact, making sure it's safe to cross*, and *crossing at a crosswalk / pushing the crosswalk button*. Other specific actions were mentioned by fewer than one in ten residents. Of note, nearly one in ten residents report having taken no action, while a slightly higher proportion are unable to identify any actions taken. (Table 10)





Key Mentions From Total Unaided Mentions Post Campaign

Q.10: What actions, if any, have you personally taken to make crosswalks safer for everyone?

Travelling in Halifax

Perceptions of Road / Sidewalk Safety

Crosswalk Safety Campaign

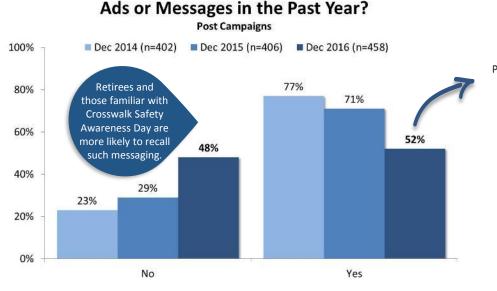


Unaided Awareness of Safety Ads

This year marks a significant decline in the proportion of residents who report seeing advertisements and/or messaging related to traffic safety. That said, recall of pedestrian safety topics is most common and virtually unchanged from 2015 results, while recall of cyclist safety topics has decreased notably from last year.

Awareness of traffic safety issues has declined somewhat over the past year, with just over half of residents reporting to have seen or heard any advertisements, videos, or any other messages that involved pedestrian, bicyclist, or driver safety (52%; down 19 points). That said, it warrants mention that the Region's crosswalk safety campaign did not use the same mediums as in the past, potentially contributing to this decline. (Table 1)

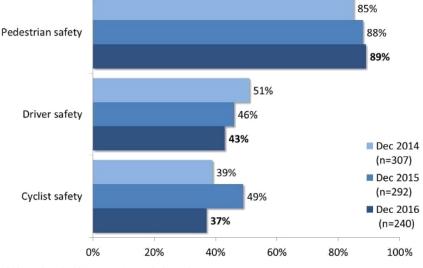
Among those who indicated they had seen and/or heard of such messaging (n=240), recall was strongest for topics related to pedestrian safety (89%; up 1 point), distantly followed by driver safety (43%; down 3 points) and driver safety (37%; down 12 points). (Table 2)



Awareness of Pedestrian, Cyclist or Driver Safety

What Seen or Heard Was Related to

Among Those Who Recall Something About Pedestrian, Cyclist or Driver Safety Post Campaigns



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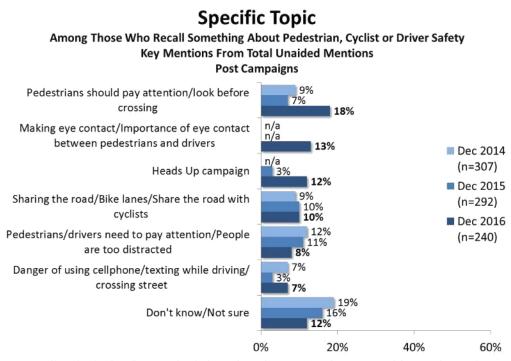
Q.1: Have you recently seen or heard any advertisements, videos, or any other messages that involved pedestrian, bicyclist or driver safety? *Note: Slight change of survey wording from 2015.*

Q.2: [IF 'YES' IN Q.1] Was what you saw or heard related to ...:

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There has been a noted rise in unaided recall of the Heads Up campaign this year.

When asked, unaided, what they specifically recall about these ads/messaging, residents most commonly cited topics relating **pedestrians should pay attention / look before crossing,** followed by the importance of **making eye contact between pedestrians and drivers,** which was not mentioned in 2015. Interestingly, there was a noted rise this year in the portion of residents specifically referring to the **Heads Up campaign** (12%; up 9 points). The only other topic mentioned by at least one in ten residents was **sharing the road** (10%; unchanged). All other topics were mentioned by fewer than one in ten residents. (Table 3)



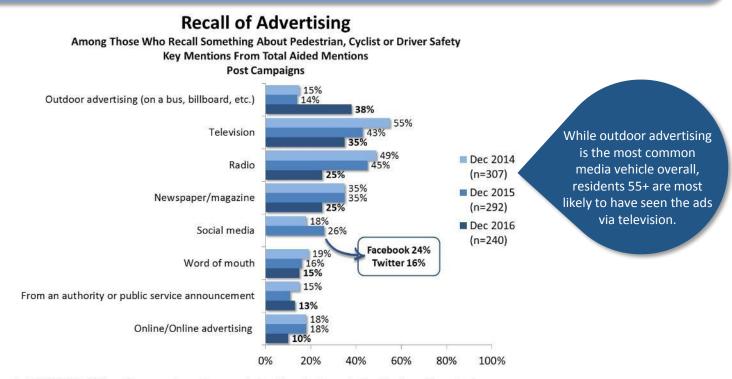
Q.3: [IF YES' IN Q.1] What specifically do you remember recently seeing or hearing about pedestrian, bicyclist or driver safety?



Advertising Mediums

Recall of outdoor advertisements about traffic safety increased significantly this year, and is now the leading communication medium. That said, there has been a noted decline over the last year in recall through other traditional advertising mediums.

This year, **outdoor advertising** is the most common media vehicle for pedestrian, cyclist or driver safety advertisements and/or messaging (38%; up 24 points), followed by **television** (35%; down 8 points), **radio** (25%; down 20 points), **newspapers** (25%; down 10 points), and **Facebook** (24%). Fewer than two in ten mentioned recalling safety advertisements through alternative advertising mediums including **Twitter**, **word-of-mouth**, through **an authority or public service announcements**, or **general online advertising**. (Table 4)

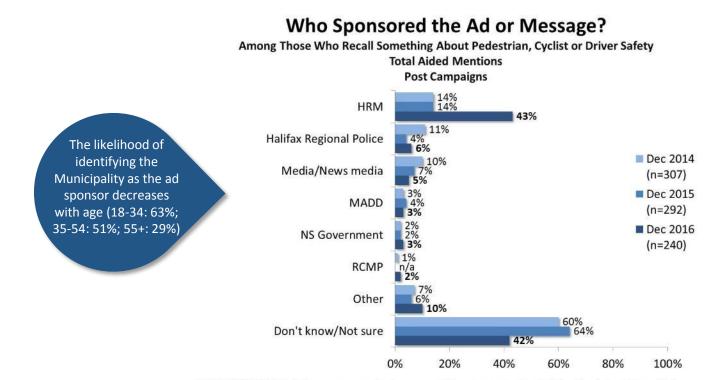


Q.4: [IF 'YES' IN Q.1] Where did you recently see, hear or read advertising related to pedestrian, bicyclist or driver safety?

Ad Sponsorship

This year marks a significant increase in the number of residents who identify the Municipality as the sponsor of ads or messages related to pedestrian, bicyclist, or driver safety.

Among those who recalled seeing or hearing advertisements related to traffic safety, when asked, unaided, to identify the message sponsor nearly one-half identified the **Municipality** as the sponsor (43%; up 29 points), marking a significant increase over previous years. This indicates strong brand-link with the Region's traffic safety campaign this year. At the same time, it warrants mention that a similar proportion were *unable to recall* a sponsor. (Table 5)



Q.5: [IF 'YES' IN Q.1] As best as you can recall, who sponsored the message about pedestrian, bicyclist or driver safety?

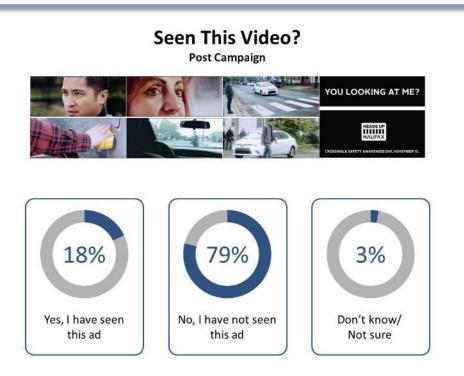
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Awareness of Heads Up Halifax Video Ad

Consistent with previous years, recall of the 'Heads Up Halifax' campaign is moderate.

To gauge awareness of the Municipality's *Heads Up Halifax Campaign*, respondents were shown the video ad and each of the four main print ads used throughout the campaign. Subsequently, they were asked if they had previously seen each of these ads prior to the survey. *Overall, the print ads appear to have had greater reach than the video ad*.

Overall, fewer than two in ten (18%) residents report having seen the video advertisement. Those living in Bedford/Sackville were more likely than residents overall to report having seen the ad (38% vs. 18%). Further, across age segments, residents between the ages of 35 and 54 were more likely to have seen the ad (35-54: 23% vs. 18-34: 16% and 55+: 15%). (Table 6)

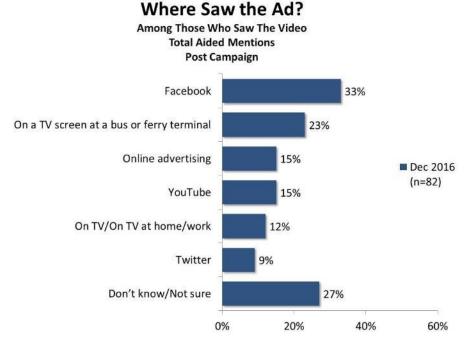




Medium for Video Ad

The Heads Up Halifax video was most commonly viewed through Facebook.

Those who saw the video ad (n=82), were asked, unaided, where they saw the ad. Results show that one-third (33%) of residents report having seen the video on Facebook. Meanwhile, nearly one-quarter (23%) saw the ad on television at a bus or ferry terminal, followed by fewer who had seen the video through general online advertising (15%), YouTube (15%), or via television at home or work (12%). One in ten (9%) also report having seen the ad on Twitter. Of note, more than one-quarter were unable to recall where they saw the video. (Table 7)



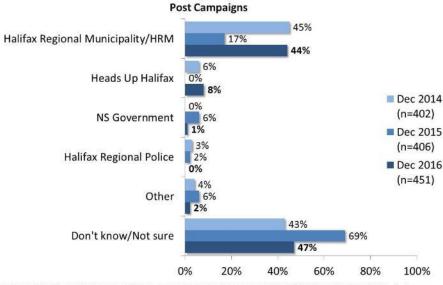
Q.7: [IF 'YES' IN Q.6] As best you can recall, where did you see this ad?



Nearly one-half of residents correctly identified the Municipality as the sponsor of the video ad.

Residents who had previously seen the video ad, were asked to identify, unaided, the campaign sponsor. Nearly one-half (44%; up 27 points) of residents correctly identified the Municipality as the sponsor of the video campaign, while an additional eight percent identified "Heads Up Halifax" as the sponsor. Alternatively, nearly one-half (47%; down 22 points) were unable to provide the name of the sponsor. Few mentioned a specific alternative sponsor.

Results suggest that recent efforts to clearly identify the sponsor has improved brand linkage. (Table 8)



Who Sponsored the Ads? Total Unaided Mentions, Among Those Who Saw the Ads

Q.8: [DO NOT ASK IF 'CANNOT SEE VIDEO' IN Q.A AND 'HAVE NOT SEEN VIDEO' OR 'DON'T KNOW' IN Q.6] As best you can determine, who sponsored the ad(s)?

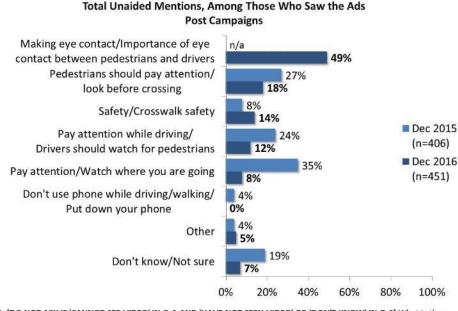
Note: Dec 2014 ads were print, Dec 2015 ads were television. Dec 2016 ad was video.

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Overall, residents perceive the main message to be about 'the importance of eye contact between pedestrians and drivers'.

Regardless of whether or not they had previously seen the video ad, residents were asked to indicate what they understood to be the message of the ad. Unaided, one-half (49%) of residents believe the main message of the video campaign was related to *eye contact between pedestrians and drivers,* while an additional two in ten (18%) felt that the ad was about the *importance of pedestrians paying attention*. Of note, fewer than one in ten (7%) were unsure of the ad's main message. (Table 9)

Main Message of the Ads?



Q.9: [DO NOT ASK IF 'CANNOT SEE VIDEO' IN Q.A AND 'HAVE NOT SEEN VIDEO' OR 'DON'T KNOW' IN Q.6] What is the main message of the ads? Note: Dec 2015 ads were television. Dec 2016 ad was video.

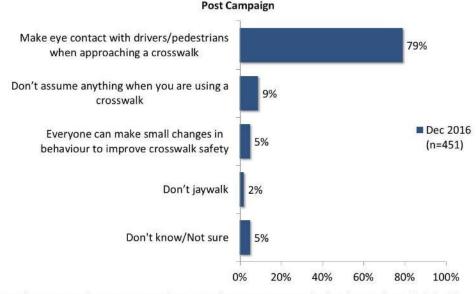
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Message of Video Ad (cont.)

Residents readily identify the importance of making eye contact as being the main message of the video campaign.

Aided, when asked the main message of the video campaign, eight in ten (79%) indicate 'make eye contact with drivers/pedestrians when approaching a crosswalk' as being the main message, while alternative descriptions are each mentioned by fewer than one in ten residents. (Table 11)



Best Description of Ad Message Total Aided Mentions, Among Those Who Have Seen the Video

Q.11: [DO NOT ASK IF 'CANNOT SEE VIDEO' IN Q.A AND 'HAVE NOT SEEN VIDEO' OR 'DON'T KNOW' IN Q.6] Which of the following best describes the message of the ad?

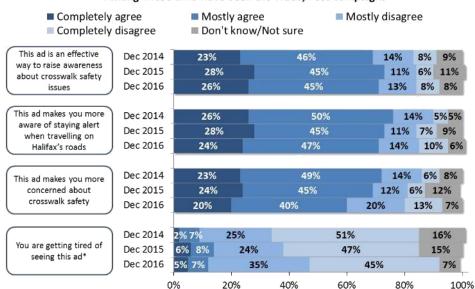


Opinion of Video Ad

Consistent with past campaigns, residents offer a favourable review of the video ad.

The 'Heads Up Halifax' campaign video advertisement performed well on various desired impact metrics. Indeed, seven in ten (71%) residents offer some level of agreement that the ad made them *more aware of staying alert when traveling on Halifax's roads*, while the same portion (71%) offer some level of agreement that the *ad is an effective way to raise awareness about crosswalk safety* issues. Slightly fewer (60%) offer some level of agreement that the *ad made them more concerned about crosswalk safety*. Finally, of those who had previously seen the ad prior to the survey, only one in ten (12%) are reportedly *getting tired of seeing the advertisement*.

Of note, while opinion statements were assessed based on the ad of the current year, results are generally consistent year-over-year. (Tables 12a-d)



Opinion of Statements About Ads

Among Those Who Have Seen the Video, Post Campaigns

Residents 18-34 are less likely than their older counterparts to agree the ad as an effective way to raise awareness (18-34: 58% vs. 35-54: 71% and 55+: 75%)

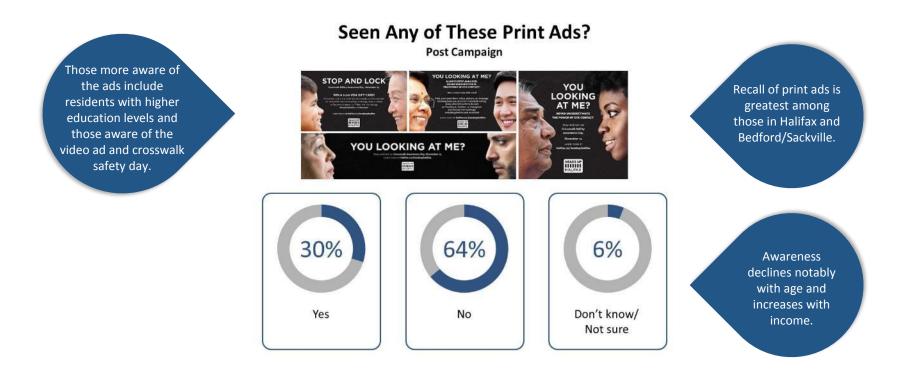
HALIFA X

Q.12a-d: [DO NOT ASK IF 'CANNOT SEE VIDEO' IN Q.A AND 'HAVE NOT SEEN VIDEO' OR 'DON'T KNOW' IN Q.6] Please indicate the extent to which you personally agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Dec 2014 n=402, Dec 2015 n=406, Dec 2016 n=451) "Among those who had seen the ad before (n=82) Note: Dec 2014 ads were print. Dec 2015 ads were television. Dec 2016 ad was video.

Awareness of Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day Print Ads

Two thirds of residents had not seen the Region's print ads about crosswalk safety.

Similar to the video campaign, residents were asked whether they have previously seen the Region's print ads related to crosswalk safety. Three in ten report awareness of the print ads, while nearly two thirds were previously unaware. (Table 15)



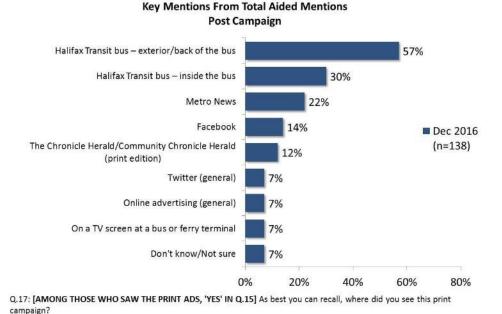
Q.15: Prior to today, have you seen any of the following print ads? (n=458)

Medium for Print Ads

Halifax Transit bus ads generated the greatest awareness of the crosswalk safety print ads.

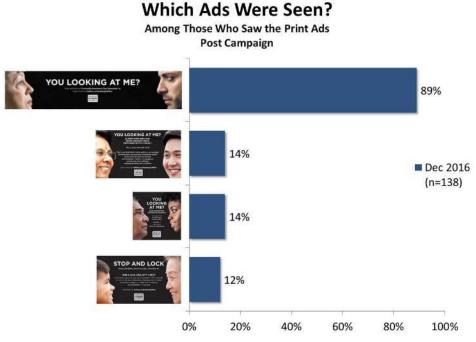
Among those who did see the print ads (n=138), when asked, unaided, where they saw the ad, nearly six in ten reportedly saw the campaign on the exterior of a Halifax Transit bus, while three in ten saw the ads inside a Halifax Transit bus. Other sources of awareness include Metro News, Facebook, and the Chronicle Herald, while all other platforms were mentioned by fewer than one in ten. Of note, small sample sizes limit the ability to compare results across the population. (Table 17)

Where Saw Print Advertising Campaign? Among Those Who Saw the Print Ads



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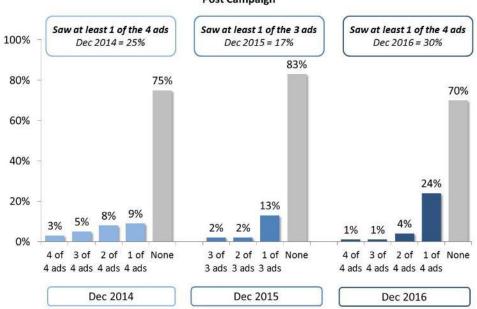
Those aware of the print ad campaign in general were asked which of the ads they had seen. By far, the wider ad is most known to residents, while all other version of the campaign were recognized by just over one in ten. Once again, results cannot be compared across the population due to small sample sizes. (Table 16a-d)



Q.16a-d: [AMONG THOSE WHO SAW THE PRINT ADS, 'YES' IN Q.15] Which ones have you seen?

Awareness of any of the print ads has improved this year.

To assess overall penetration of the print ads, the number of ads residents report seeing was assessed. Most did not recognize any of the ads, while one quarter reportedly saw only one of the four versions. Only a few saw more than one ad. Despite these low levels of awareness this year, it warrants mention that improvement is observed compared to awareness of print ads last year. (Table 16a-d)



Number of Print Ads Seen Post Campaign

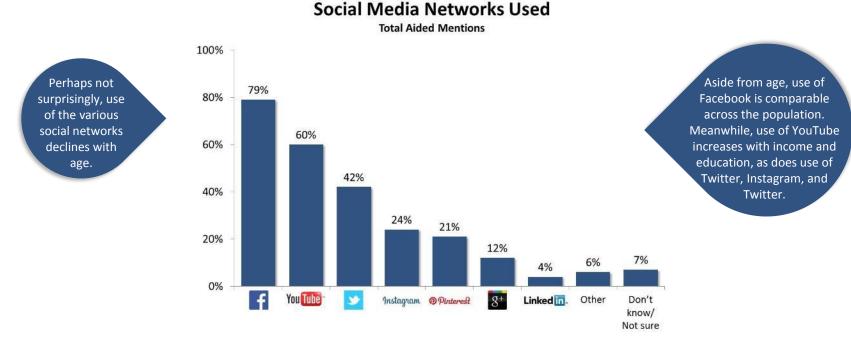
Q.16a-d: Prior to today, have you seen any of the following print ads? (Dec 2014 n=402, Dec 2015 n=406, Dec 2016 n=458)



Social Media Networks Used

Facebook is the most widely used social media network among Halifax residents.

This year, residents were asked to indicate which social media networks, if any, they use. The vast majority use Facebook, while a smaller majority use YouTube. Fewer than half use any other social media networks, including Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Google+, and LinkedIn. (Table 18)



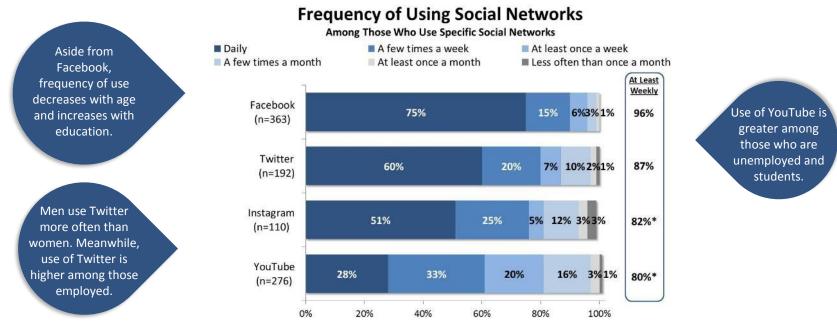
Q.18: Which, if any, of the following social media networks do you use? (n=458)



Social Media Usage

Facebook is most often used among social networkers, with the majority visiting the site daily.

Those who indicated that they use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or YouTube were asked how often they use each network. Facebook users are most active, with a large majority reporting use on a daily basis. Meanwhile, the bulk of Twitter users also report daily activity, albeit to a lesser degree. Approximately half of Instagram users visit the network daily, while three in ten do the same for YouTube. (Table 19a-d)



Q.19a-d: [AMONG THOSE WHO USED SPECIFIC SOCIAL NETWORKS IN Q.18] How often do you use the following...? *Due to rounding.

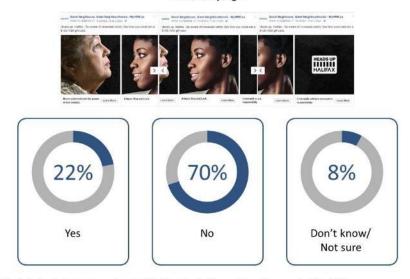


A minority of residents were aware of the #headsuphalifax social media initiative.

When asked whether they had seen or heard about the #headsuphalifax social media campaign, the large majority of residents reported a lack of awareness, while two in ten had previous knowledge of the initiative. (Table 20)

Seen or Heard #headsuphalifax Social Media Campaign Post Campaign





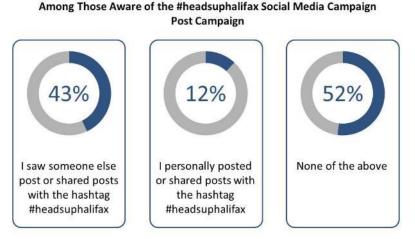
Q.20: Prior to today, had you seen or heard of the #headsuphalifax social media campaign? (n=458)

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#headsuphalifax Hashtag (cont.)

A strong minority of panel members saw someone else post or share posts with the #headsuphalifax hashtag, while a few personally posted with the hashtag.

Those aware of the #headsuphalifax social media campaign were asked if they had personally posted or saw someone else post or share posts on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter with the #headsuphalifax hashtag. Four in ten reportedly saw someone else post or share posts with the hashtag, while one in ten personally posted or shared posts with the hashtag. On the other hand, more than half neither saw someone else or personally posted online with the hashtag. (Table 21)



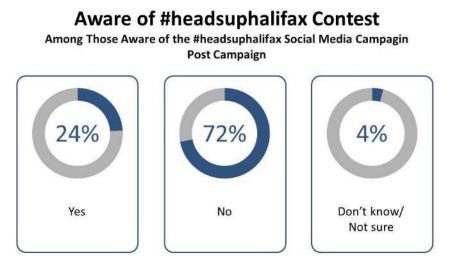
Posting on Social Media #headsuphalifax

Q.21: [IF YES IN Q.20] Did you or did you see someone else post (or share posts) on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter with the hashtag #headsuphalifax? (n=100)

Awareness of #headsuphalifax Contest

Most residents were unaware of the #headsuphalifax contest.

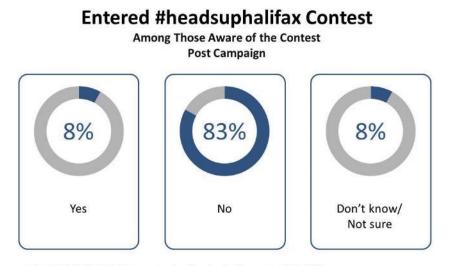
Those aware of the #headsuphalifax social media campaign in general were also asked if they had heard of the #headsuphalifax contest. For the most part, awareness of the contest is low, with the bulk of those aware of the broader initiative stating that they did not know about the contest. (Table 22)



Q.22: [IF YES IN Q.20] Were you aware of the #headsuphalifax contest prior to today? (n=100)

Awareness of #headsuphalifax Contest (cont.)

Those aware of the #headsuphalifax contest were also asked if they had entered of the contest. Only a few actually entered. (Table 23)



Q.23: [IF YES IN Q.22] Did you enter the #headsuphalifax contest? (n=24*) *Caution: Small sample size.

Perceptions of #headsuphalifax Contest

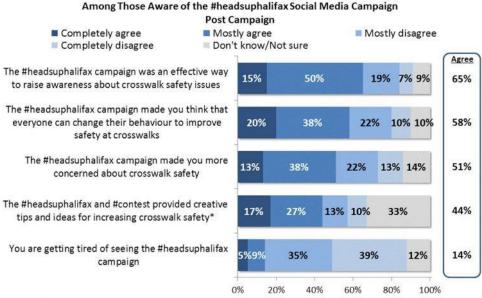
Overall, residents aware of the #headsuphalifax social media initiative received it well.

Those aware of the #headsuphalifax social media campaign were asked to indicate their level of agreement with several statements about the initiative. Generally speaking, results suggest that the initiative was well received among those aware. Indeed, two thirds of residents agree that **the campaign** effectively raised awareness about crosswalk safety issues, while slightly fewer agree that the campaign made them think that everyone can change their behaviour to *improve safety at crosswalks*, and half believe that the campaign made them more concerned about crosswalk safety. It is also positive to note that a strong majority of residents disagree that they were getting tired of seeing the hashtag.

At the same time, a third of residents aware of the hashtag contest were unable to provide a definitive opinion about whether *the initiative provided creative tips and ideas about crosswalk safety*. That said, those who <u>did</u> provide a valid response generally agreed with the statement. (Table 24a-e)



Opinion of Statements About #headsuphalifax Campaign



Q.24a-e: [IF YES IN Q.20] Please indicate the extent to which you personally agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (n=48**-100) *Among those who posted or shared, or saw someone else post or share #headsuphalifax. ** Caution: Small sample size.

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Awareness of Halifax's Safety Campaigns in 2016

Fewer than half of residents were aware of at least one of the nine ads. Those aware are most likely to recognize just one of the ads and no residents were aware of all of the ads.

In order to assess overall awareness of the Region's various initiatives surrounding the 'Heads Up Halifax' campaign, the number of ads that residents reported to be aware of was calculated. These included nine ads from the 'Heads Up Halifax' campaign, including the *video ad*, the four *print ads*, and the *#headsuphalifax hashtag* and *contest*.

Findings reveal that just under half of residents were aware of **at least one of the nine** ads. Meanwhile, it warrants mention that no residents were aware of all of the ads. Residents were most likely to be aware of **one** ad, while one in ten were aware of **two**, and fewer than one in ten were aware of *three or more ads*. On the other hand, just over half were *unaware of any* of the ads. (Tables 14, 16, 20, and 22)

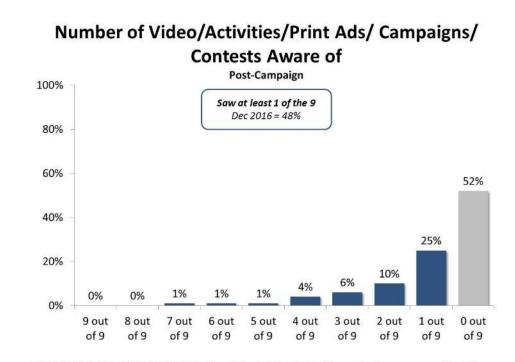
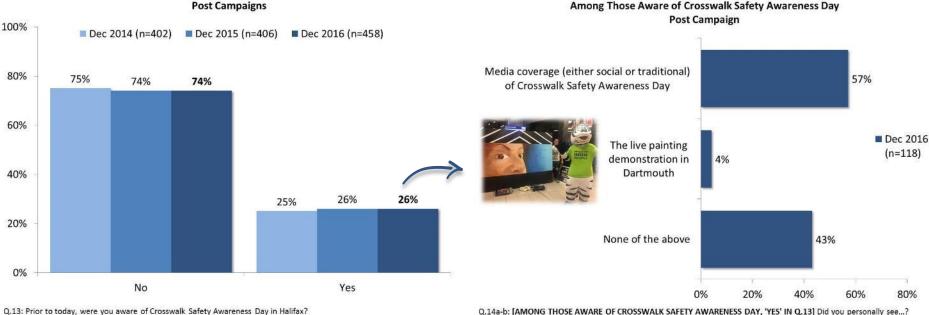


TABLE 6/14/16/20/22: COUNT SUMMARY Number of video/activities/print ads/campaigns/contests aware of (n=458)

Aided Awareness of Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day

Awareness of Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day in Halifax remains modest. Of those familiar, more than one-half have seen media coverage regarding the event, while very few saw the painting demonstration.

Among those surveyed, only one-quarter (26%; unchanged) indicated awareness of Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day prior to completing the survey. Of those aware (n=118), more than one-half (57%) saw media coverage of the event, while very few (4%) reported personally seeing the live painting demonstration in Dartmouth. (Tables 13 & 14a-b)



Aware of Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day in Halifax?

Q.14a-b: [AMONG THOSE AWARE OF CROSSWALK SAFETY AWARENESS DAY, 'YES' IN Q.13] Did you personally see ...?

What Did You Personally See?

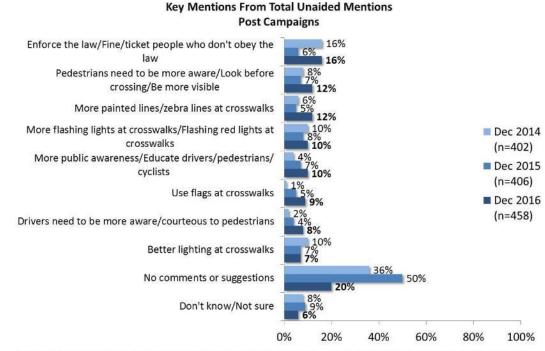
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Suggestions to Improve Crosswalk Safety

After seeing both the video and the print ads, all residents were asked for final comments or suggestions regarding how to improve crosswalk safety in Halifax.

Residents were again asked, unaided, for suggestions or ideas for improving crosswalk safety in Halifax. Several ideas are cited, including *enforcement*, *increased awareness among pedestrians*, *better marking of crosswalks*, *more flashing lights at crosswalks*, as well as *increased awareness more generally among the public*. Others also suggested the *use of flags at crosswalks*, which is more commonly mentioned compared with two years ago, while additional mentions include that *drivers need to be more aware*, and *better lighting at crosswalks*. (Table 25)

How to Improve Crosswalk Safety in Halifax



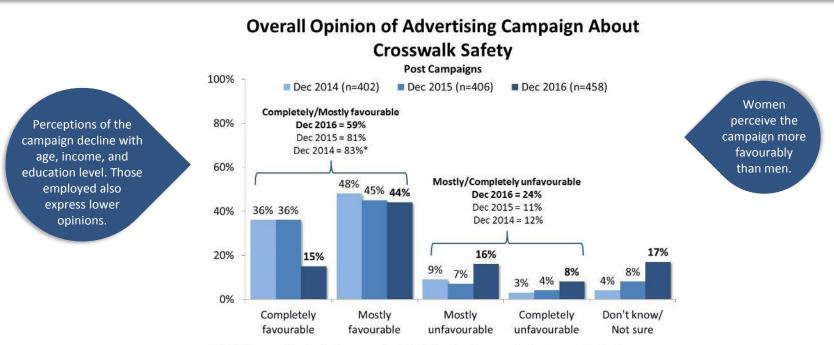
Q.25: What, if any, suggestions or ideas do you have for improving crosswalk safety in Halifax? These could include suggestions of your own, or ideas you may have learned from the #headsuphalifax campaign. *Note: Slight change of survey wording from 2015.*

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Opinion of Crosswalk Safety Campaign

Opinion of the crosswalk safety campaign overall has declined notably over the past year.

In terms of an overall assessment of the advertising campaign about crosswalk safety, six in ten residents hold a favourable view of the campaign, while one quarter feel otherwise. At the same time, it warrants mention that nearly two in ten are uncertain. These findings mark a notable decline in opinion of the Region's crosswalk safety campaign compared with previous years and may relate to lower levels of awareness. (Table 26)

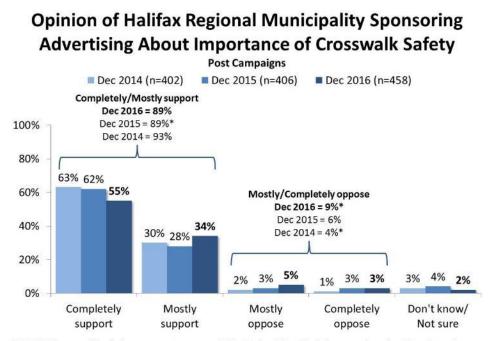


Q.26: All things considered, what is your overall opinion of the advertising campaign about crosswalk safety? Note: Dec 2014 ads were print, Dec 2015 ads were television, Dec 2016 ads were video and social media. *Due to rounding.

Support of Municipality's Sponsorship of Campaign

The vast majority of residents continue to support the Municipality's sponsorship of the crosswalk safety campaign, though the degree to which residents are supportive has declined slightly.

With respect to the Municipality's sponsorship of the campaign about crosswalk safety, the portion of residents who support this sponsorship overall is the same as it was last year, though the degree of support has declined somewhat. Indeed, while the vast majority of residents overall support the Region's sponsorship of the campaign, though just over half are now *completely supportive* and a third are *mostly supportive*. On the contrary, opposition is largely unchanged compared with past results. (Table 28)

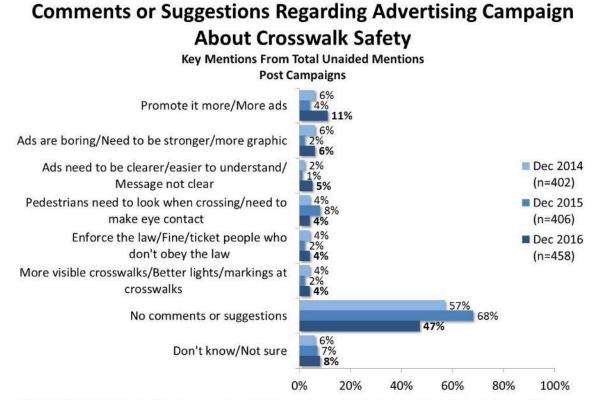


Q.28: All things considered, do you support or oppose Halifax Regional Municipality's sponsoring advertising about the importance of crosswalk safety? *Due to rounding.



Comments and Suggestions Regarding the Campaign

Again this year, residents were asked for additional comments or suggestions regarding the *Heads Up Halifax* crosswalk safety campaign. While the bulk of those surveyed could not offer feedback, those who did cited a variety of suggestions, including *increased promotion*, *increasing the strength and graphic appeal*, as well as more *tactical suggestions* related to *pedestrians and drivers being more vigilant*, *law enforcement*, and *making crosswalks more visible*. (Table 27)



Q.27: Do you have any other comments or suggestions you would like to make in regards to this advertising campaign about crosswalk safety? *Note: Dec 2014 ads were print, Dec 2015 ads were television, Dec 2016 ads were video and social media.*