



# Community Viewpoints

Community Workshop - Saint John, New Brunswick - March 20, 2023

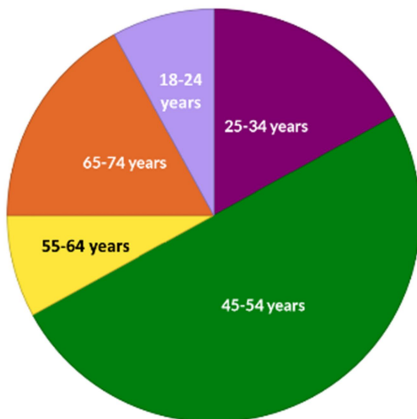
**15** participants  
**33%** prior knowledge of ASI's work



## DIVERSITY



## AGE



## LOCATION



The Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities (ASI) is a bilingual, not-for-profit organization with a mission to serve as a catalyst for social change, ultimately resulting in more inclusive and equitable Atlantic Canadian communities.

The workshops introduced participants to the ASI policy brief, 'Upstream Investment – Placing child and youth mental health promotion at the forefront' and gave an opportunity to explore initiatives happening in their community and innovative models from other regions.



# What participants had to say...

## Saint John, New Brunswick

### Quotes:

"We're all here because we know the issues. I want to learn what to do."

"We need family-based programs, not just about the kids but include the whole family."

"Returning wealth to Saint John and increasing education levels is critical."

"We need to break down the silos by someone doing a social community map/ecological map - then we can look at where and who all the agencies are."

"People want to work together to make a change, so help us to be able to work together."

### Common Themes:

Importance of having accessible and supportive spaces for organized, facilitated, intergenerational and intercultural events promoting sharing between community members and organizations.

### ...and Barriers:

Downstream focus and a lack of understanding of what upstream initiatives are.

Lack of access to support and resources: (space, culturally specificity, transportation, technology, etc.)

Lack of: sharing and communication, continuity and/or motivation, effective community leadership, and long-term sustainable funding. There is competition between services due to lack of funding.

Organizations consumed with busy work, working in silos.

### Considerations Going Forward:

Transformative change will require leaders at all levels to undertake fundamental changes in the way we connect, share, do work together, and care for one another.

Policy change at federal and provincial levels must extend beyond short-term projects and elected officials' terms in government.



### Commitments to Action:

Stay connected with relationships made today.

Create open and transparent relationships with other organizations to establish trust, not competition.

Break down the silos by creating a social/ecological community map to see who and where the agencies are.