

Kigali's Car-Free Days — Biweekly Street Closures Cut Fine-Particulate Pollution by Up to 35%

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Rwanda

Quality score: 71/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

Summary

Since 2016, Kigali has closed major roads to traffic every first and third Sunday for community fitness and free NCD screening. Continuous 2022–2024 reference-grade air-quality monitoring found PM2.5 fell 14.8% during car-free hours and stayed 34.7% lower into the afternoon.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	1/3
Inclusiveness / equity	2/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-01

[City of Kigali; Rwanda Ministry of Health; Rwanda Biomedical Centre; Rwanda NCD Alliance](#) — accessed 2026-09-01

[Frontiers in Future Transportation \(2026\)](#) — peer-reviewed study — accessed 2026-09-01

[Mail & Guardian / Bhekisisa](#) — health reporting — accessed 2026-09-01

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