

Preventing Childhood Obesity through State Legislation

Patterns & Predictors of Policy Enactment

Active Living Research Conference

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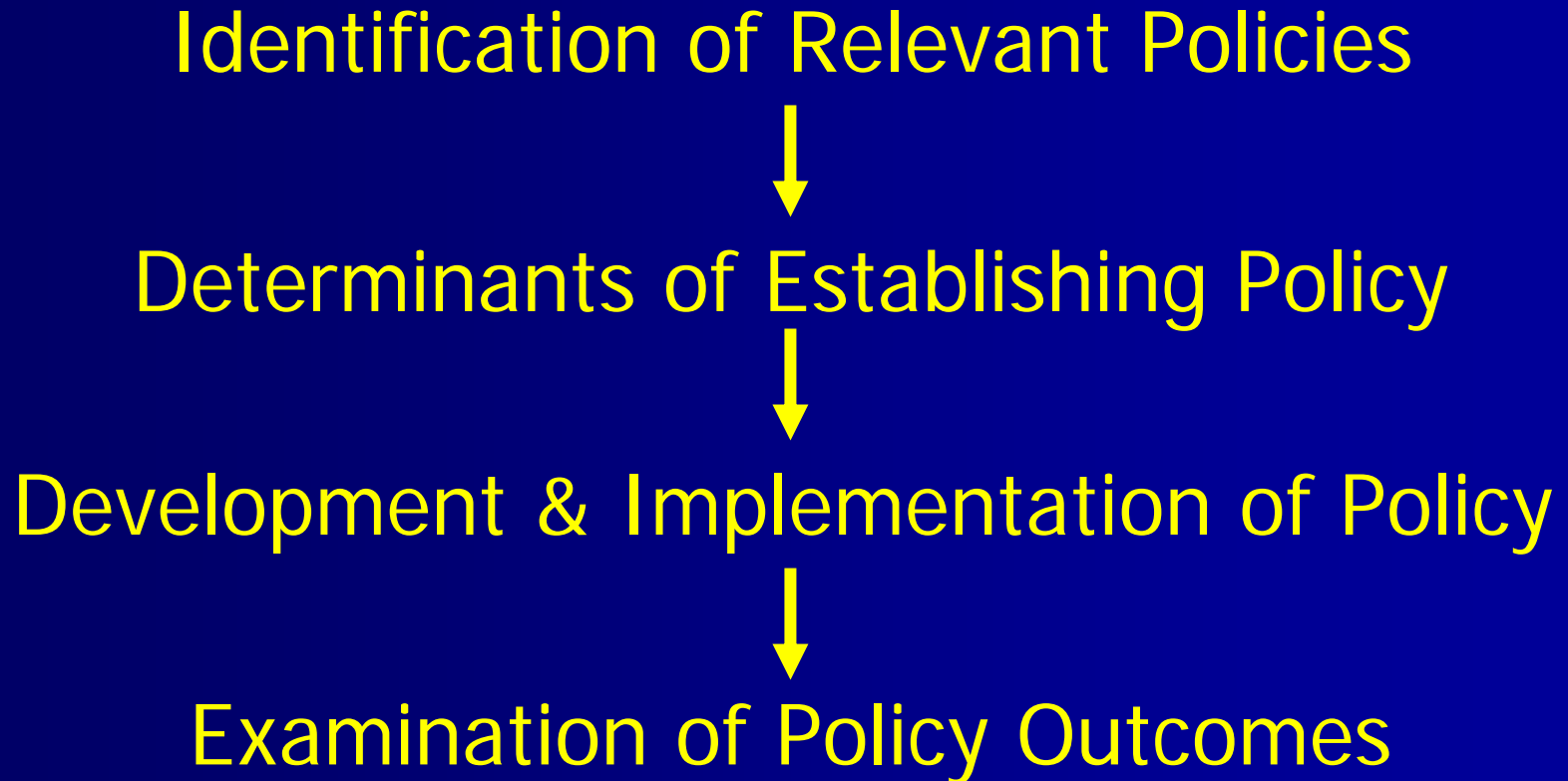
Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Background

- Childhood obesity epidemic
- Environmental and policy interventions
 - Healthy eating
 - Physical activity
- Individual states have much of the authority over public health policy

Policy Research Framework

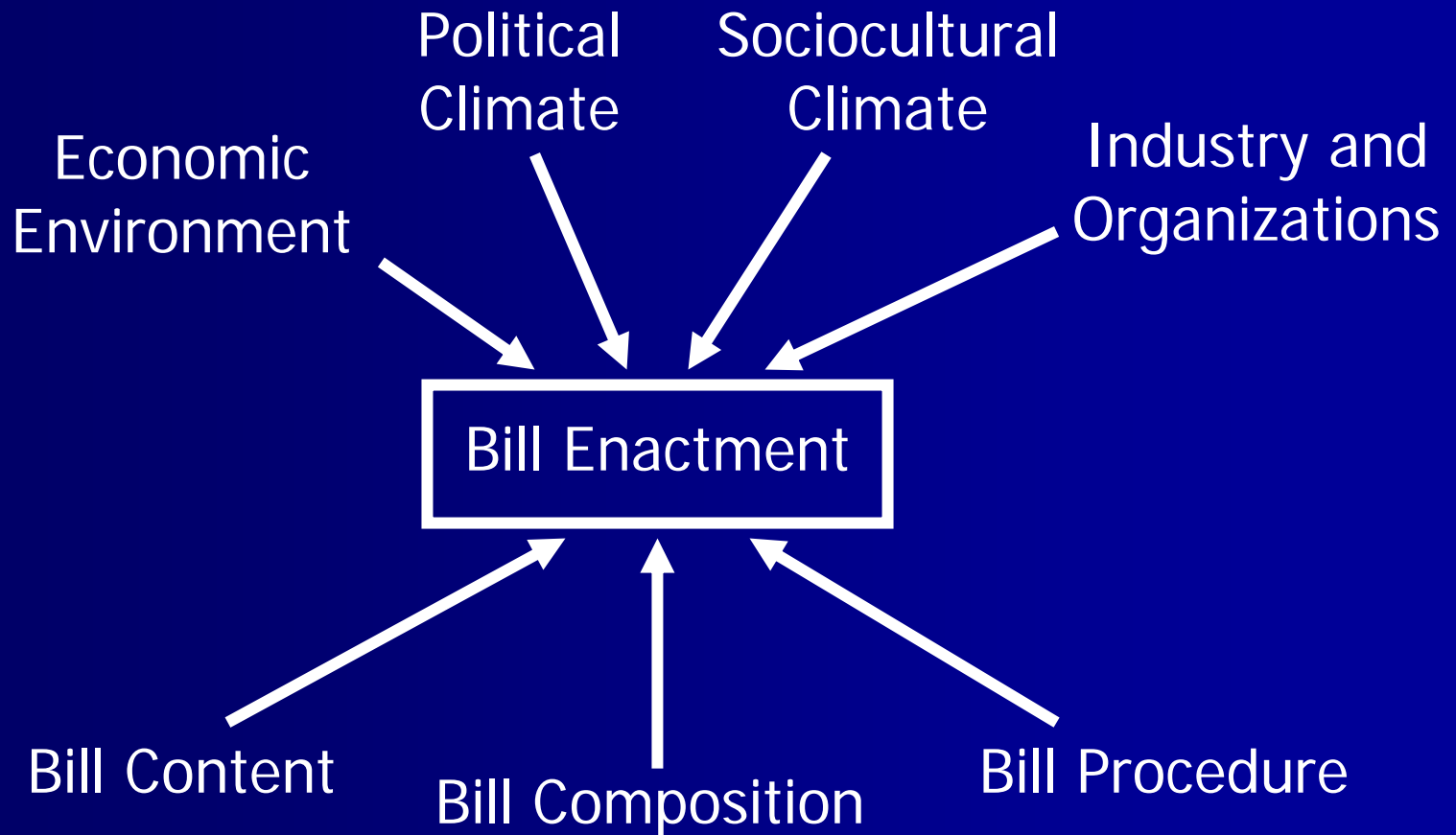


Study Objectives

Examine childhood obesity prevention legislation in all 50 states, 2003-2005

1. Identify relevant legislation and describe patterns of introduction and adoption
2. Explore predictors of bill enactment

Policy Determinants



Methods – Legislative Database

- Health Policy Tracking Service (HPTS)
- Physical activity, nutrition, and obesity prevention legislation
- All 50 states
- Jan. 1, 2003 – Dec. 31, 2005
- Standardized criteria and search terms
- 24 topic areas

Methods – Topic Areas

Community-related

- Task force/study
- Statewide initiatives
- Walking/biking paths
- Farmers markets
- Snack/soda taxes
- Restaurant menu & product labeling

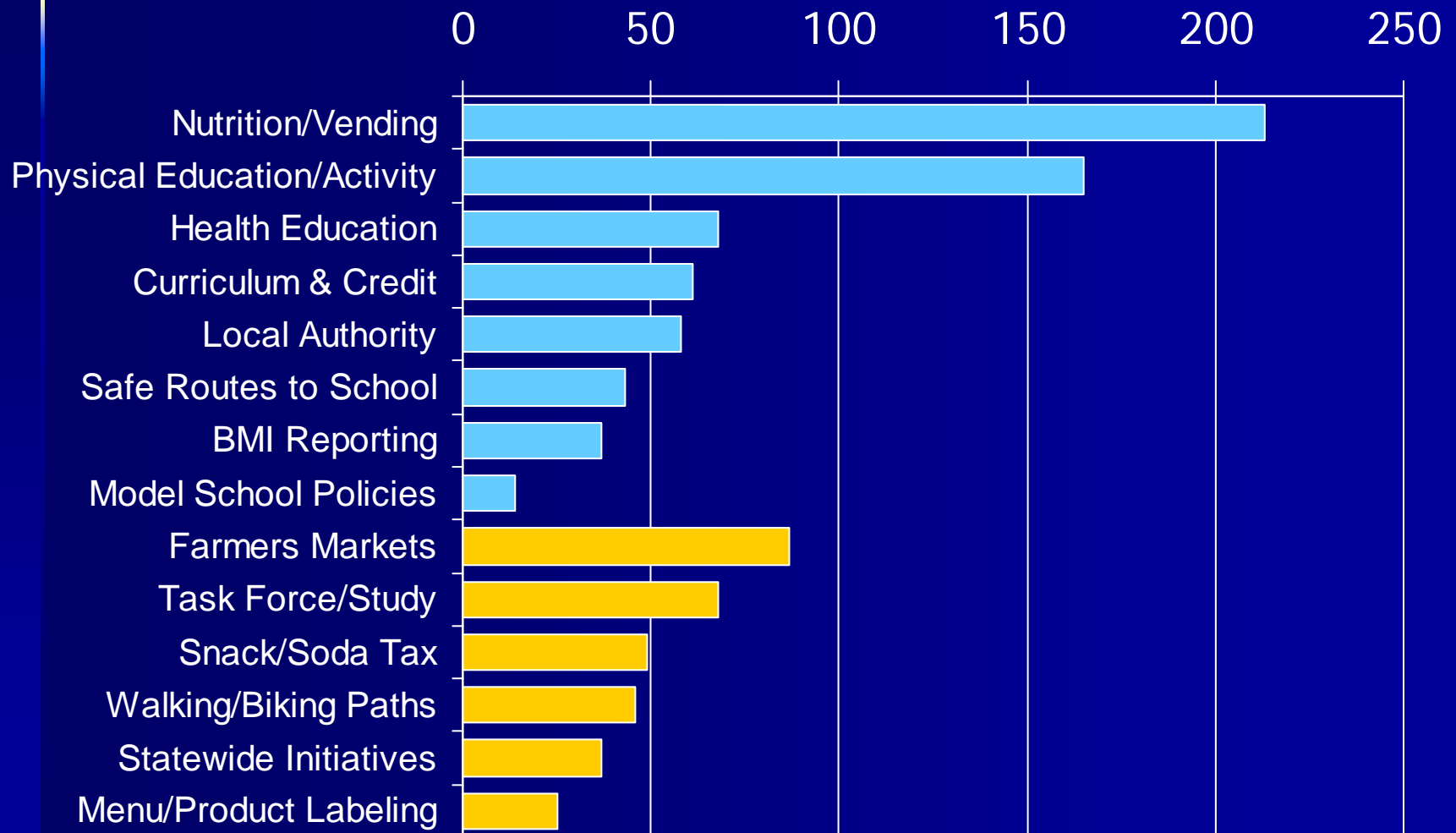
School-related

- Nutrition/vending
- Physical education
- Health education
- Curriculum & credit
- BMI reporting
- Safe routes to school
- Local authority
- Model school policies

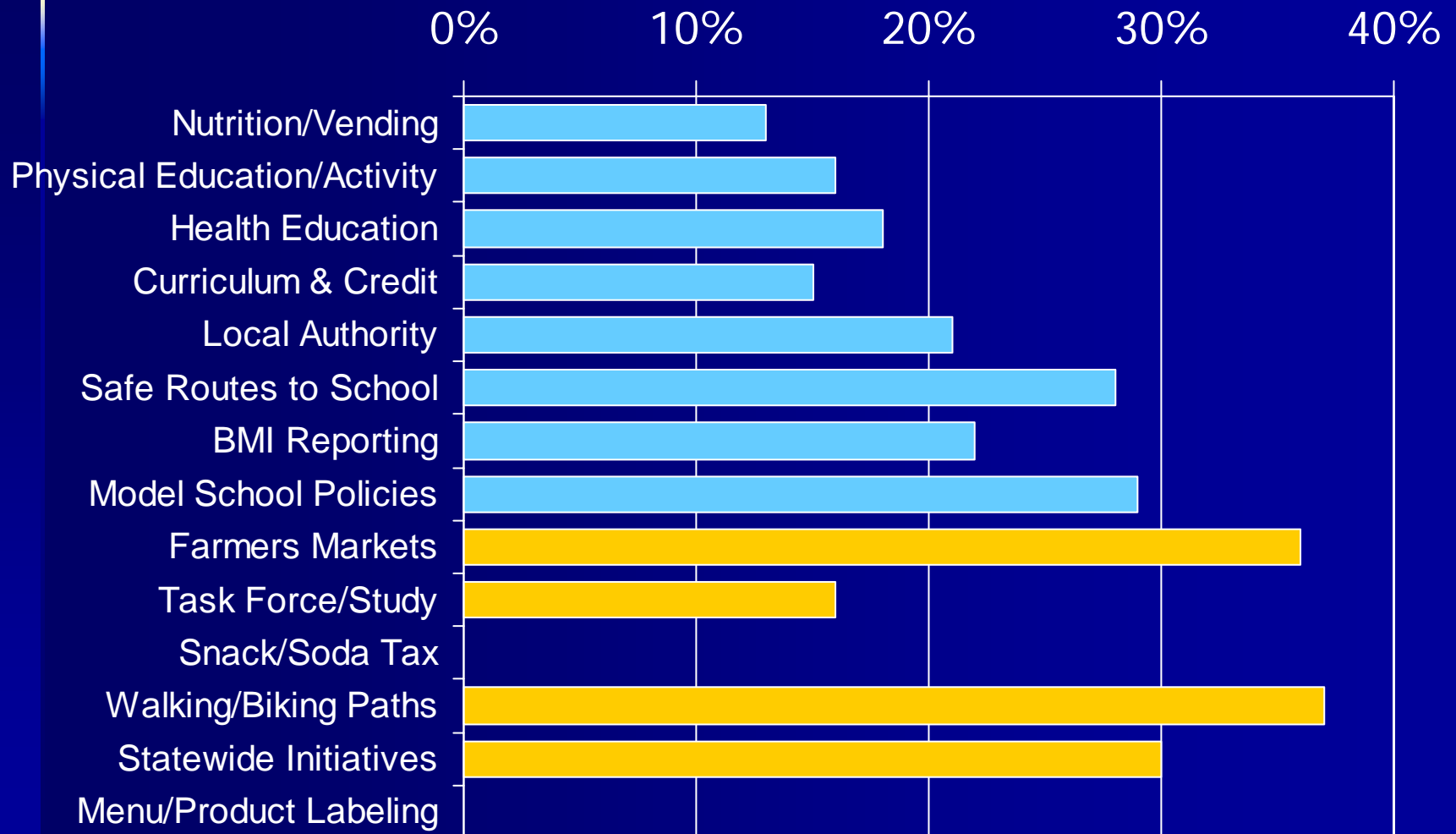
Methods – Objective 1

- Descriptive statistics to describe patterns by time, place, and topic area
- During 2003-2005
 - 123 of 717 (17%) bills were adopted
 - 71 of 134 (53%) resolutions were adopted
 - Introduced legislation increased 70%
 - Adopted legislation increased 38%

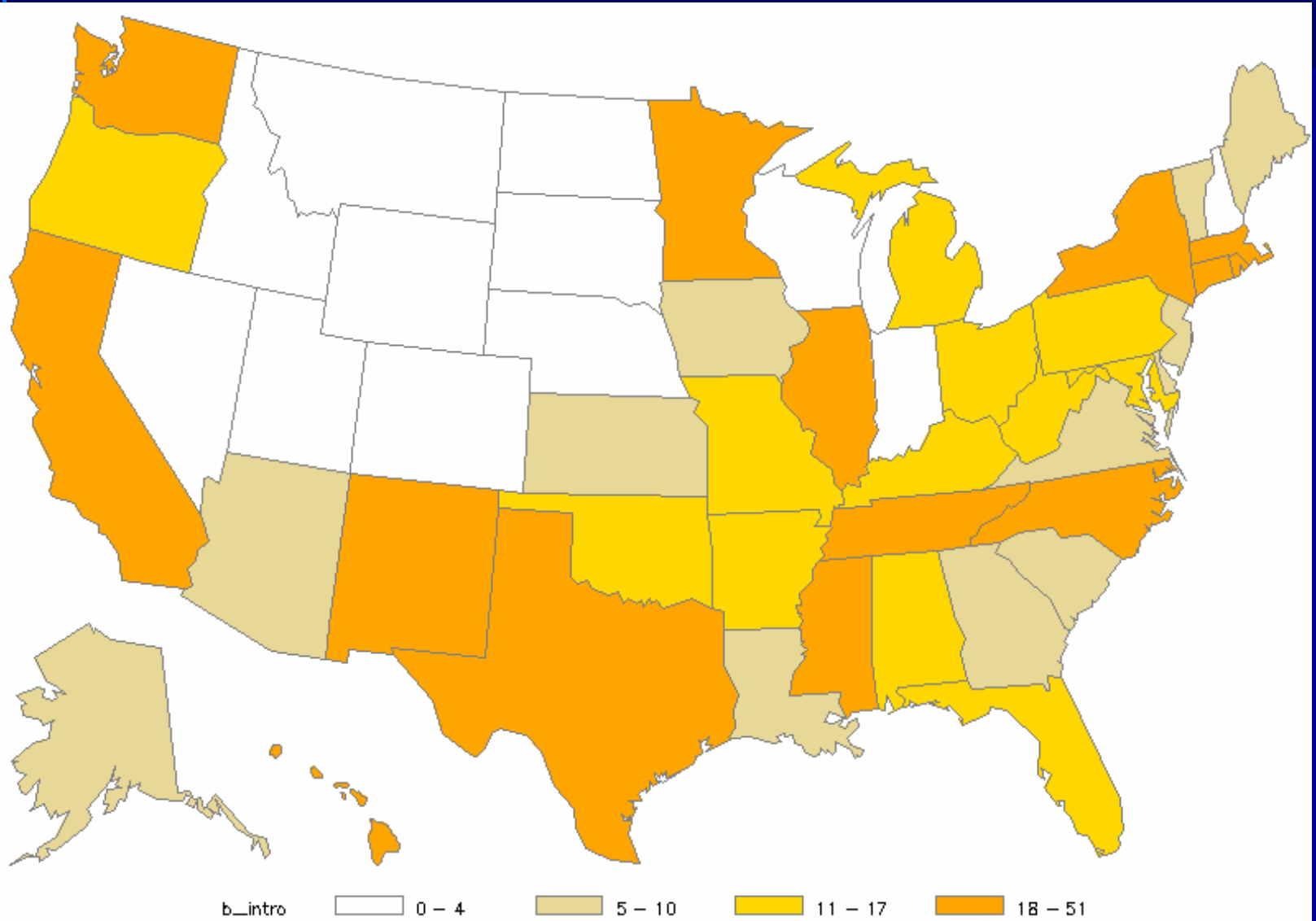
Bill Introduction by Topic Area, 2003-2005



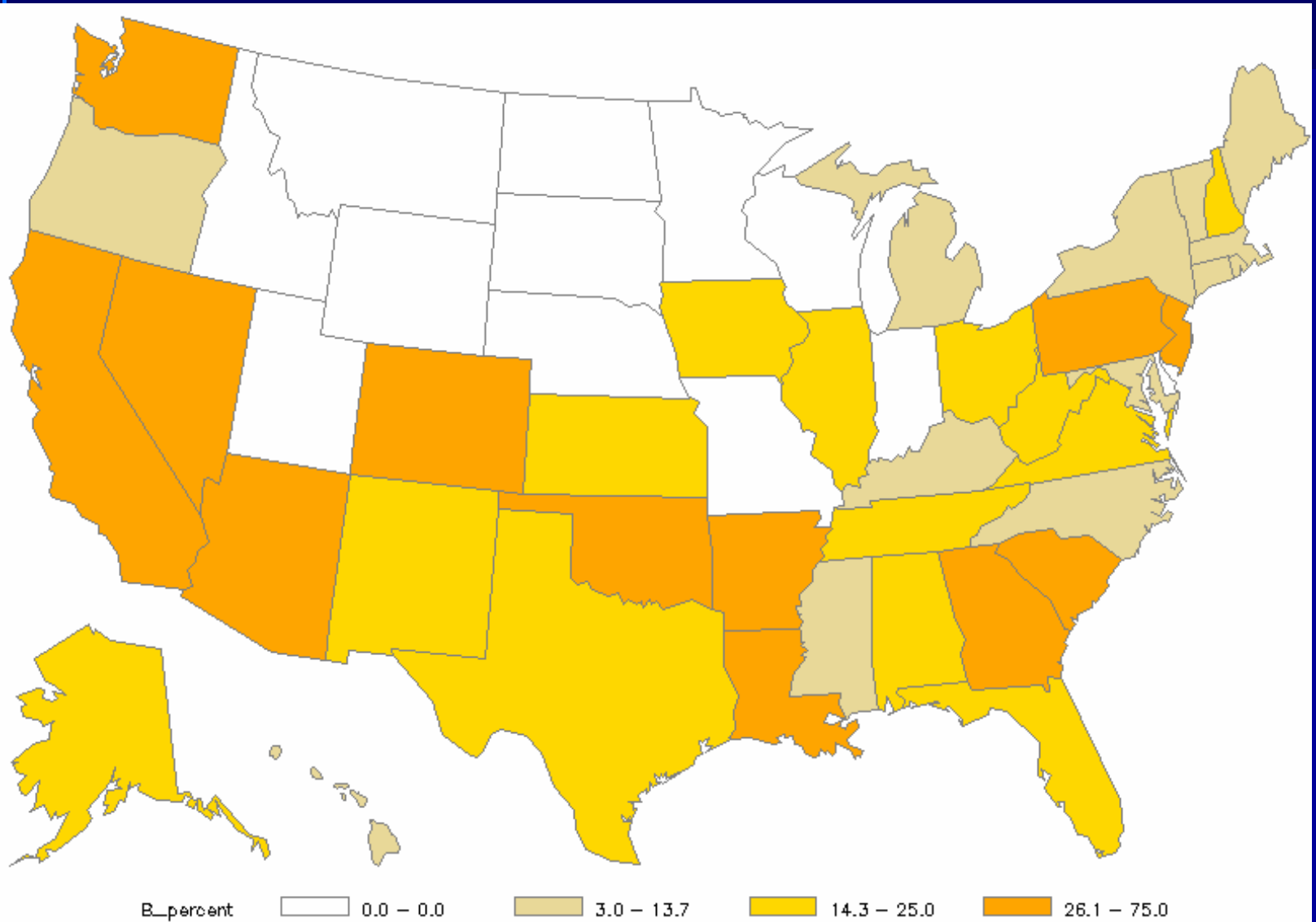
Bill Enactment (%) by Topic Area, 2003-2005



Bill Introduction by State, 2003-2005



Bill Enactment (%) by State, 2003-2005



Methods – Objective 2

Multilevel logistic regression model

- Bill enactment (dependent variable)
- Bill-level predictors (level 1)
 - Procedure, composition, and topic area
- State-level predictors (level 2)
 - Sociodemographic, political, economic, industry

- HLM Software (v 6.02)

Table 1.

Bill Procedure Variables

	N	% enacted	OR*	p
Senate bill	308	20.1	1.9	0.01
>1 sponsor from a single party	311	21.5	1.9	0.01
>1 sponsor from both parties	172	23.8	1.5	0.22

* OR, odds ratio adjusted for all variables in Tables 1-5

Table 2.

Bill Composition Variables

	N	% enacted	OR*	p
Budget bill	49	73.5	58.0	<0.01
Appropriate \$	151	32.5	1.0	0.90
New law	479	16.7	0.5	0.02
Mandate	653	16.7	0.5	0.23
Generate revenue	52	1.9	0.2	0.02

* OR, odds ratio adjusted for all variables in Tables 1-5

Table 3.

Bill Topic Area – School

	N	% enacted	OR*	p
Model school policy	14	28.6	3.4	0.05
Safe routes school	43	27.9	4.2	<0.01
BMI reporting	37	21.6	2.0	0.27
Local authority	58	20.7	1.7	0.27
PE, HE, Curriculum	216	13.9	1.3	0.31
Nutrition/vending	213	12.7	1.1	0.65

* OR, odds ratio adjusted for all variables in Tables 1-5

Table 4.

Bill Topic Area – Community

	N	% enacted	OR*	p
Walk/bike paths	46	37.0	3.5	<0.01
Farmers markets	87	35.6	0.8	0.76
Task force/study	100	21.0	2.3	0.01
Menu/product labeling	20	0	N/A	
Snack/soda tax	10	0	N/A	

* OR, odds ratio adjusted for all variables in Tables 1-5

Table 5.

State-level variables

	OR*	p
% 16-19 yr olds not in HS	1.4	<0.01
2-year session length	1.9	0.02
Democrat legislative majority	2.0	0.05
Republican legislative majority	1.4	0.41
Population health expenditure	0.7	0.12
% Chronic disease expenditure	1.0	0.11

* OR, odds ratio adjusted for all variables in Tables 1-5

Summary of Findings

- Bill-level factors more influential effect on bill enactment than state factors
- Several modifiable bill factors identified
 - Chamber of introduction
 - Bipartisan support
 - Amendment vs. new law
 - Financial considerations
- Should the topic area be modifiable?

Discussion

Research Recommendations

1. Establish standardized surveillance
2. Utilize multilevel modeling methods and qualitative studies
3. Assess role of scientific evidence in policy development
4. Evaluate effectiveness through longitudinal studies

Discussion

Policy and Advocacy Implications

1. Emphasize modifiable determinants
2. Model success in other states
3. Inform and motivate stakeholders

ALL POLICY IS LOCAL...

CONSIDER YOUR CONTEXT!

Acknowledgements

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 - Tracy Orleans
- Netscan Health Policy Tracking Service
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Thank you



*“Remember when we used to
have to fatten the kids up first?”*

Methods – Terminology

- Bill – Proposed new law or amendment to an existing law presented to the legislature for consideration
- Resolution – Formal expression of the will, opinion, or direction of the legislature on a matter of public interest

Bill Enactment by State, 2003-2005

