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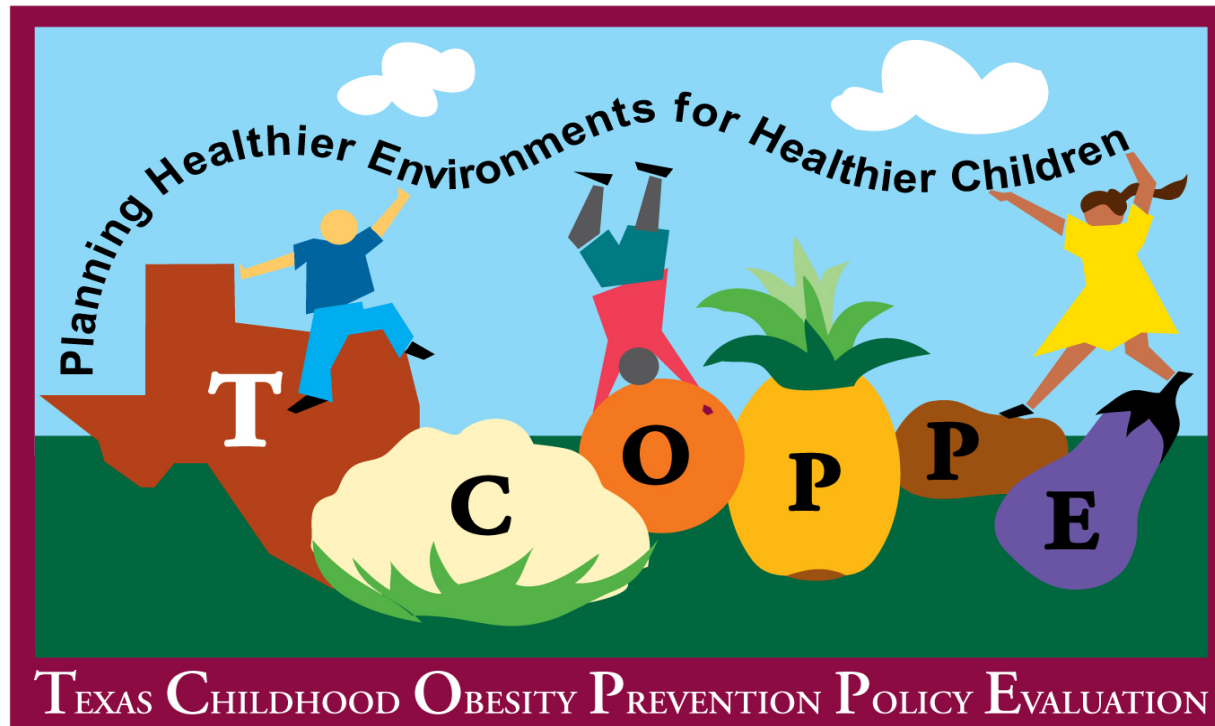
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**Parental safety concerns and
active school commute:**
correlates across multiple domains in
the home-to-school journey.

PARENT STUDY



T-COPPE



T-COPPE:

Purpose

- ❖ Conduct a statewide evaluation of Safe Route To School (SRTS)

Design

- ❖ Quasi-experimental design comparing 3 groups – Infrastructure, Non-Infrastructure, Control

Measures

- ❖ Student
- ❖ Parent
- ❖ School/Community

CURRENT STUDY

GOAL/OBJECTIVES

STUDY OBJECTIVE

... relationships between WTS and measures of traffic and personal safety

... in elementary schoolchildren from different parts of Texas (US).

... across multiple environments in the *home-to-school* journey.

STUDY OBJECTIVE

Evidence of relationship btw. safety and walking to school (WTS) growing

... limited understanding of the **multiple domains** of *parental safety concerns* and **specific mechanisms** through which parents articulate safety concerns.

... relationships between WTS and measures of traffic and personal safety

... in elementary schoolchildren from different parts of Texas (US).

... across multiple environments in the *home-to-school* journey.

traffic safety

- ❖ perceived traffic safety concerns

personal safety

- ❖ perceived personal safety concerns

... relationships between WTS and measures of traffic and personal safety

... in elementary schoolchildren from different parts of Texas (US).

... across multiple environments in the *home-to-school* journey.

multiple environments

❖ Home

❖ En-route to school

❖ School

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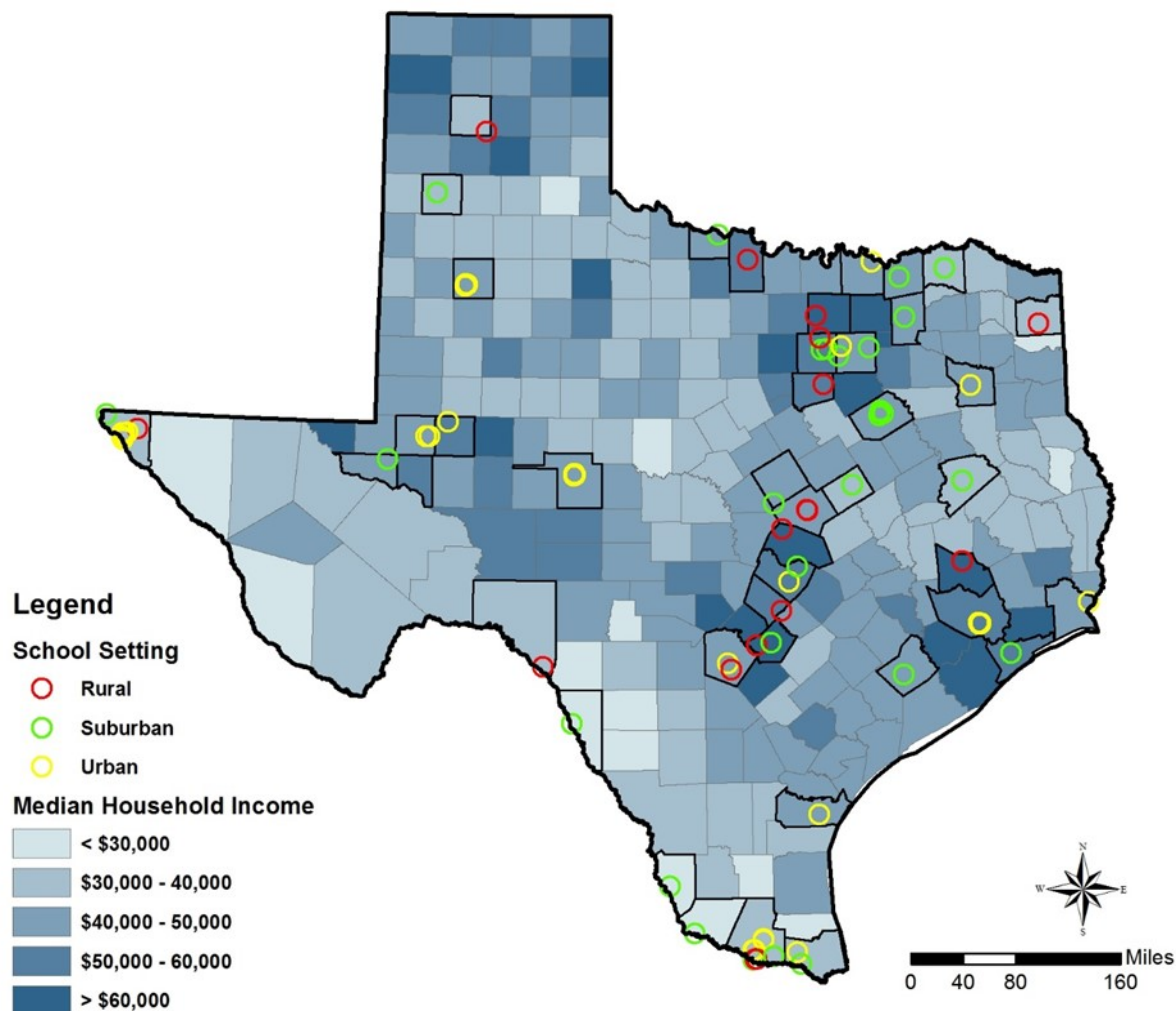
STUDY SETTING



STUDY SETTING: SITES

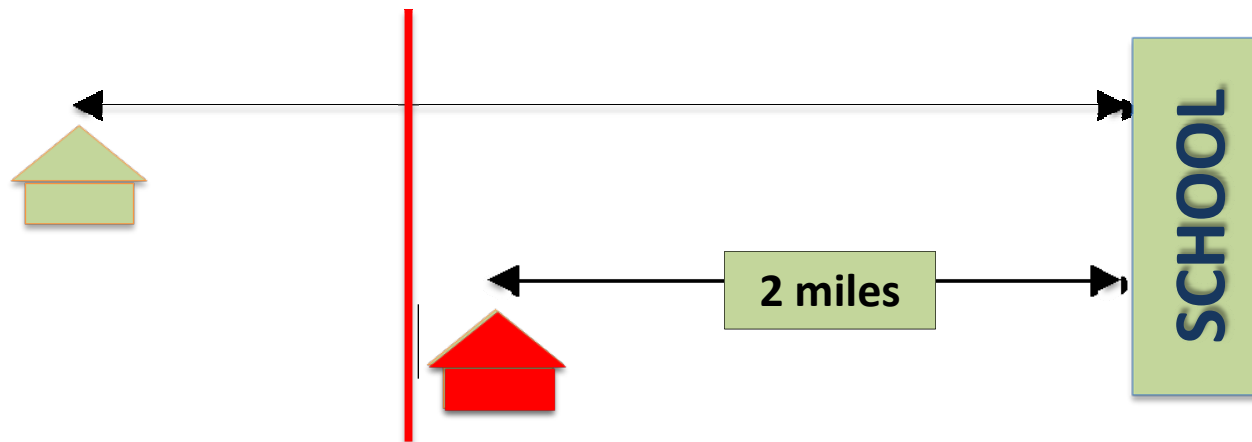
- ❖ 81 schools participated
- ❖ from 58 cities
- ❖ in 43 counties

(Texas DOT approved SRTS projects)



STUDY SETTING: POPULATION

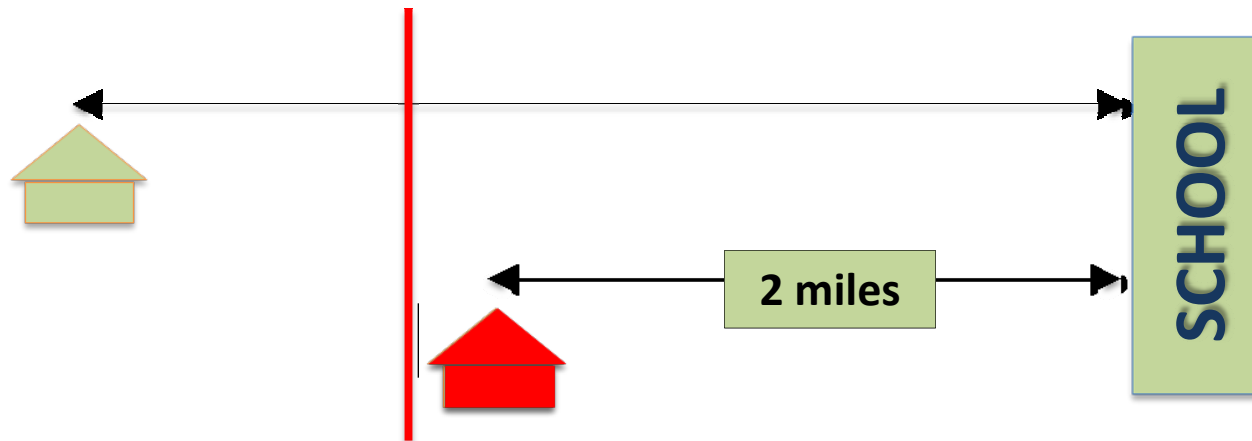
- ❖ All 4th grade students and their parents ($n=6,500$ pairs) in study schls.
- ❖ 2,053 (31.6%) parent surveys and 3,315 (51%) student surveys returned,
- ❖ of which there were 1,635 parent-student dyads.
- ❖ 80% ($n=1,305$) of the dyads' home addresses successfully geocoded (GIS)



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857 in 2-mile distance (-) **27** no outcome data (=) **830** dyads for analysis.



MEASURES



OUTCOME – WALKING TO SCHOOL (WTS)

Parent reported

question from the
National Safe Route
To School Survey.

Question – *“On most days how does your 4th grade child arrive at school and leave after school?”*

PERCEIVED TRAFFIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Home neighborhood environment

- (1) Availability and quality of sidewalks
- (2) Safe road crossings
- (3) Observance of other people walking or bicycling

En-route environment

- (4) Availability of sidewalks/pathways
- (5) Safety at intersections/crossings
- (6) Crossing guards; and the amount/speed of traffic

School environment

- (7) Availability and quality of sidewalks
- (8) Availability and quality of bike lanes/paths and bike racks
- (9) Trees along the streets; and safe road crossings.

PERCEIVED PERSONAL SAFETY CONCERNS

Home neighborhood environment

- (10) Safety of their child to walk or bike
- (11) Personal sense of fear when walking outside alone after dark

En-route environment

- (12) Availability of adults or other children to walk with
- (13) Violence or crime (e.g. Bullying/gangs)
- (14) And stray or dangerous animals

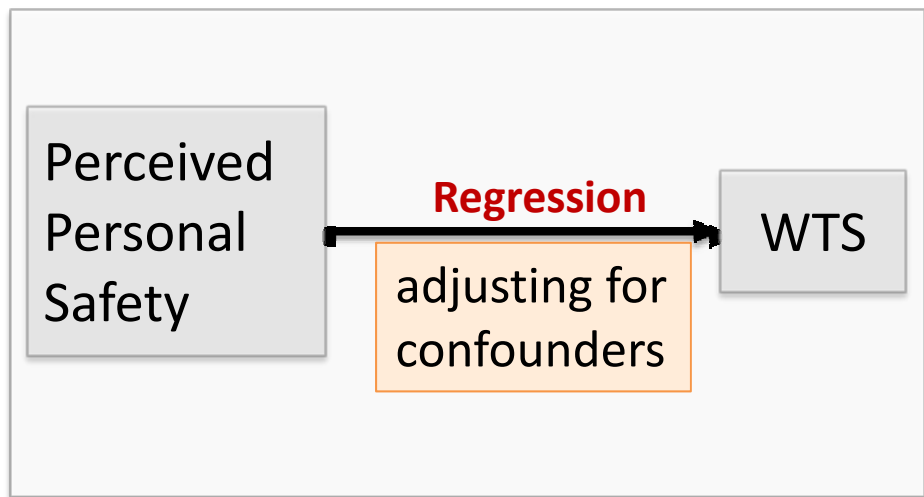
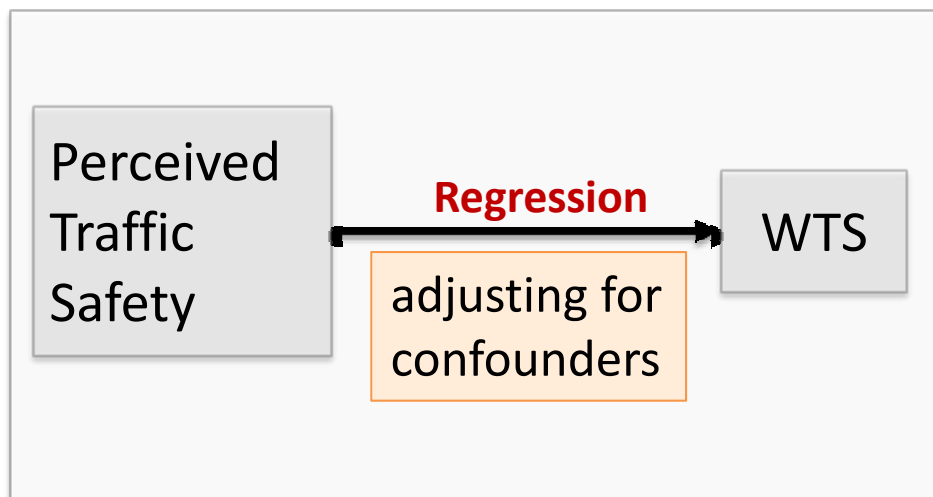
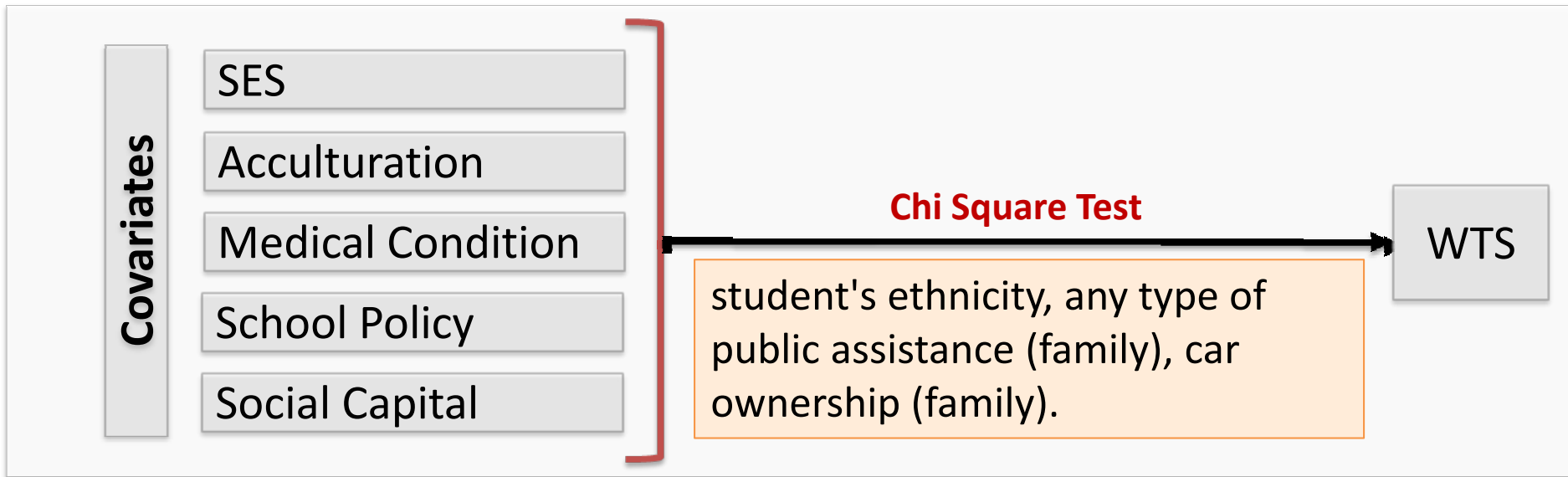
School environment

- (15) Attractive buildings or natural things to see
- (16) Abandoned houses or vacant lots
- (17) Condoms and drug-related paraphernalia
- (18) Well-maintained homes/apartments and gardens
- (19) Other people who walk/bike

ANALYSIS



ANALYSIS



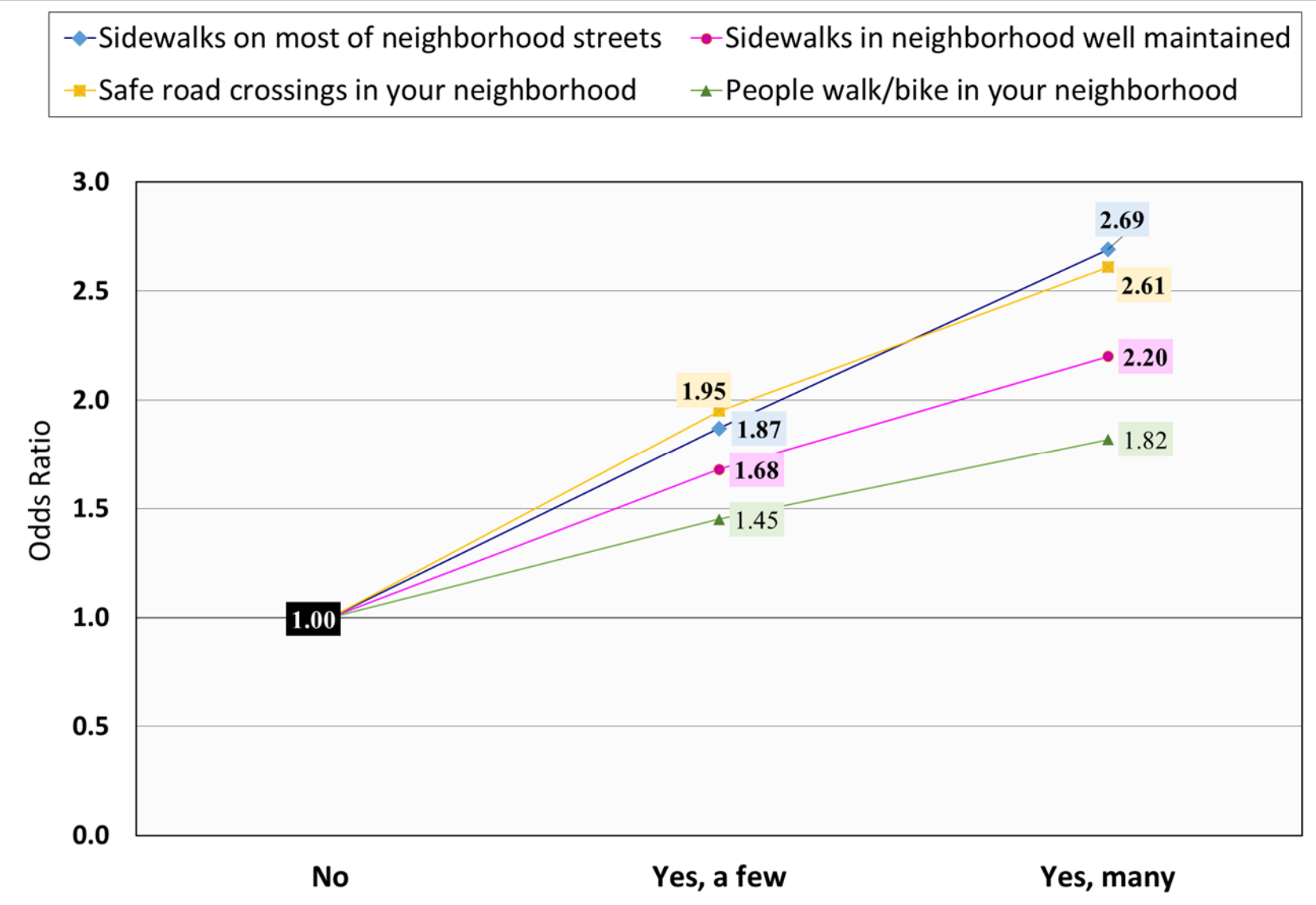
RESULTS

RESULTS: STUDY PROFILE

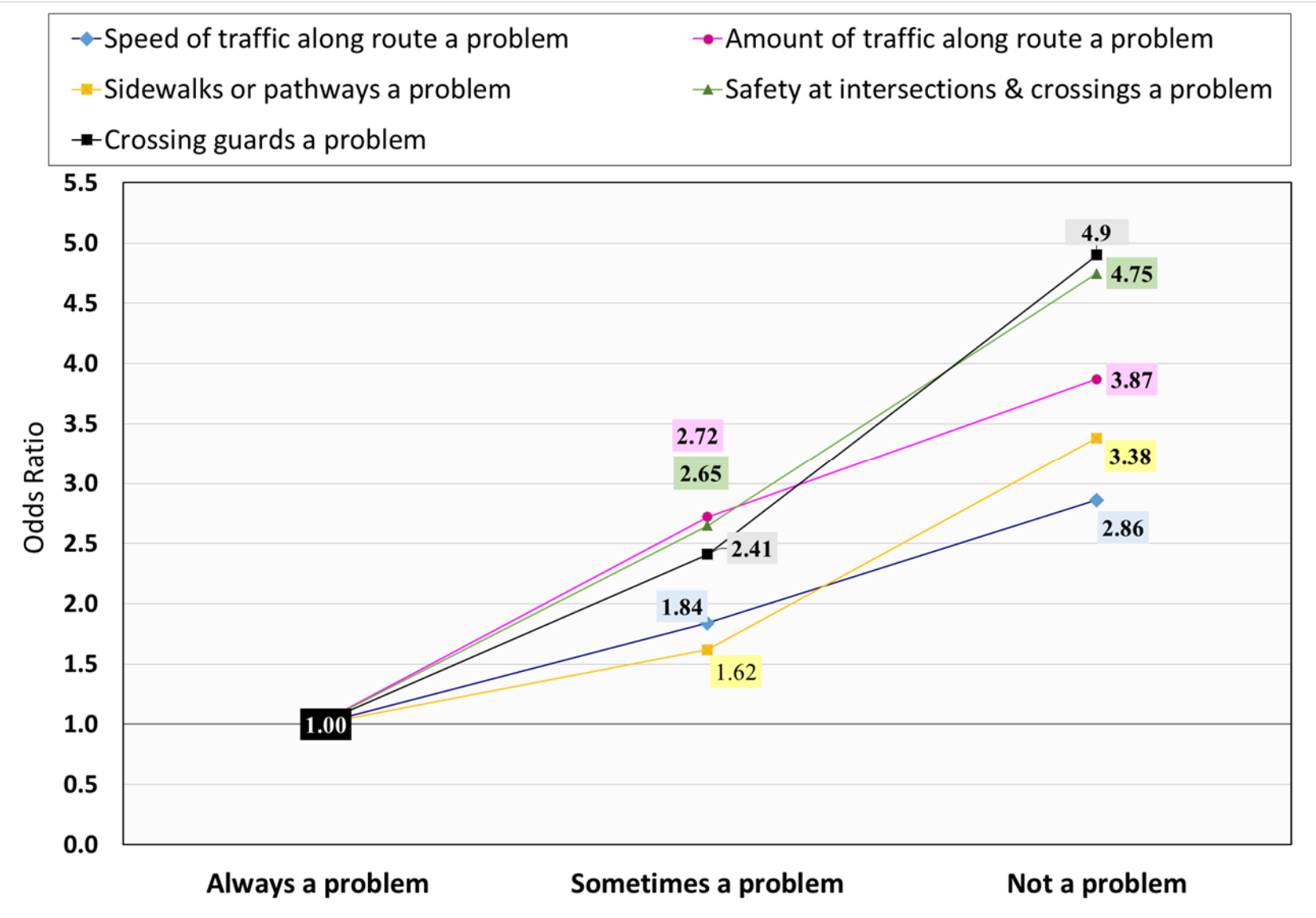


- ❖ **18.7%** of parents reported WTS for child, **1.8%** biked.
- ❖ Girls & boys equally represented, majority **Hispanics**.
- ❖ **1/3** of families received **public assistance**, most parents **high school/GED**, almost every family had **a vehicle**.
- ❖ Majority of parents **born in US**, thought/spoke in **English**, small proportion of students born outside US.

RESULTS: PERCEIVED TRAFFIC SAFETY CONCERNS - HOME

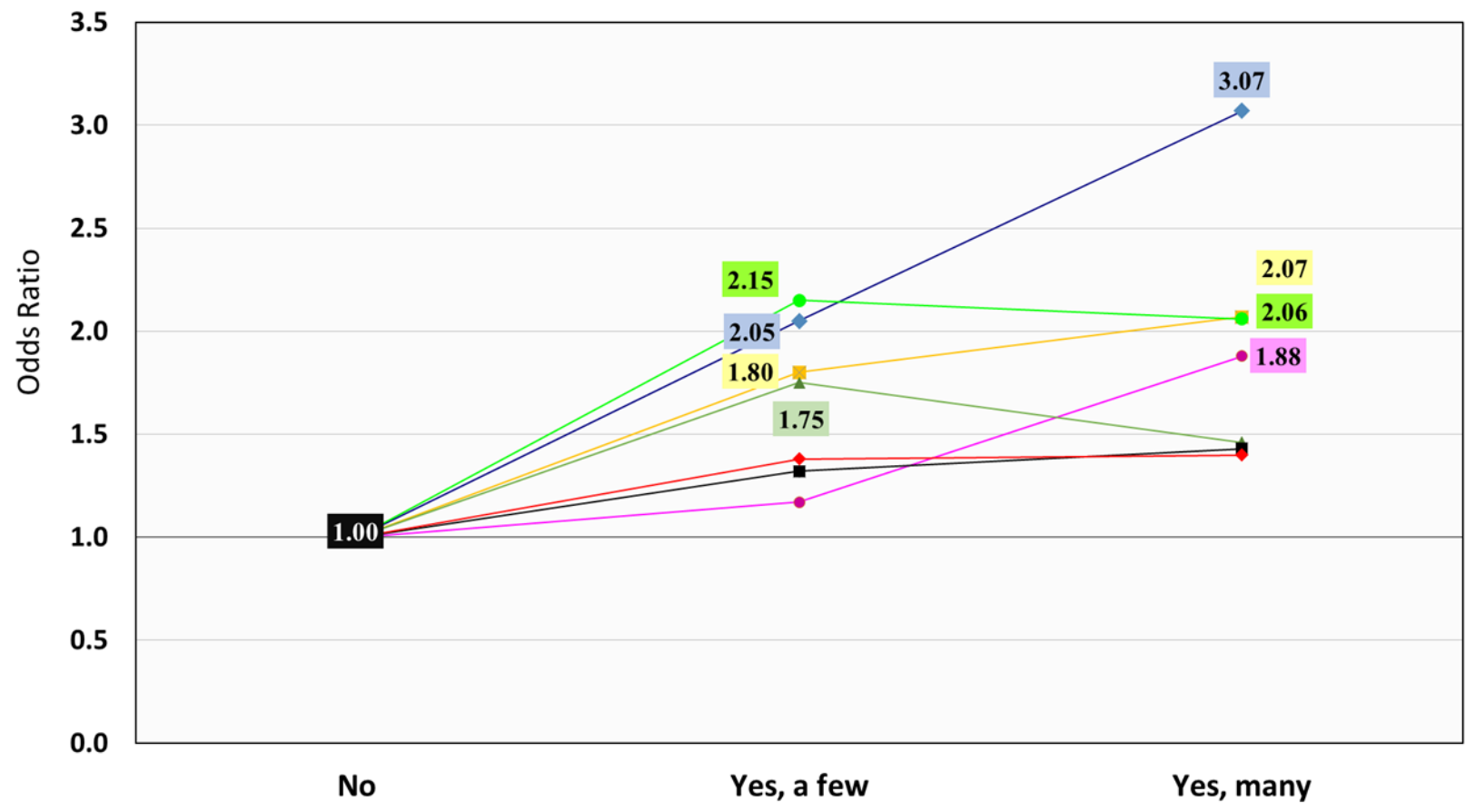


RESULTS: PERCEIVED TRAFFIC SAFETY CONCERNS – EN-ROUTE

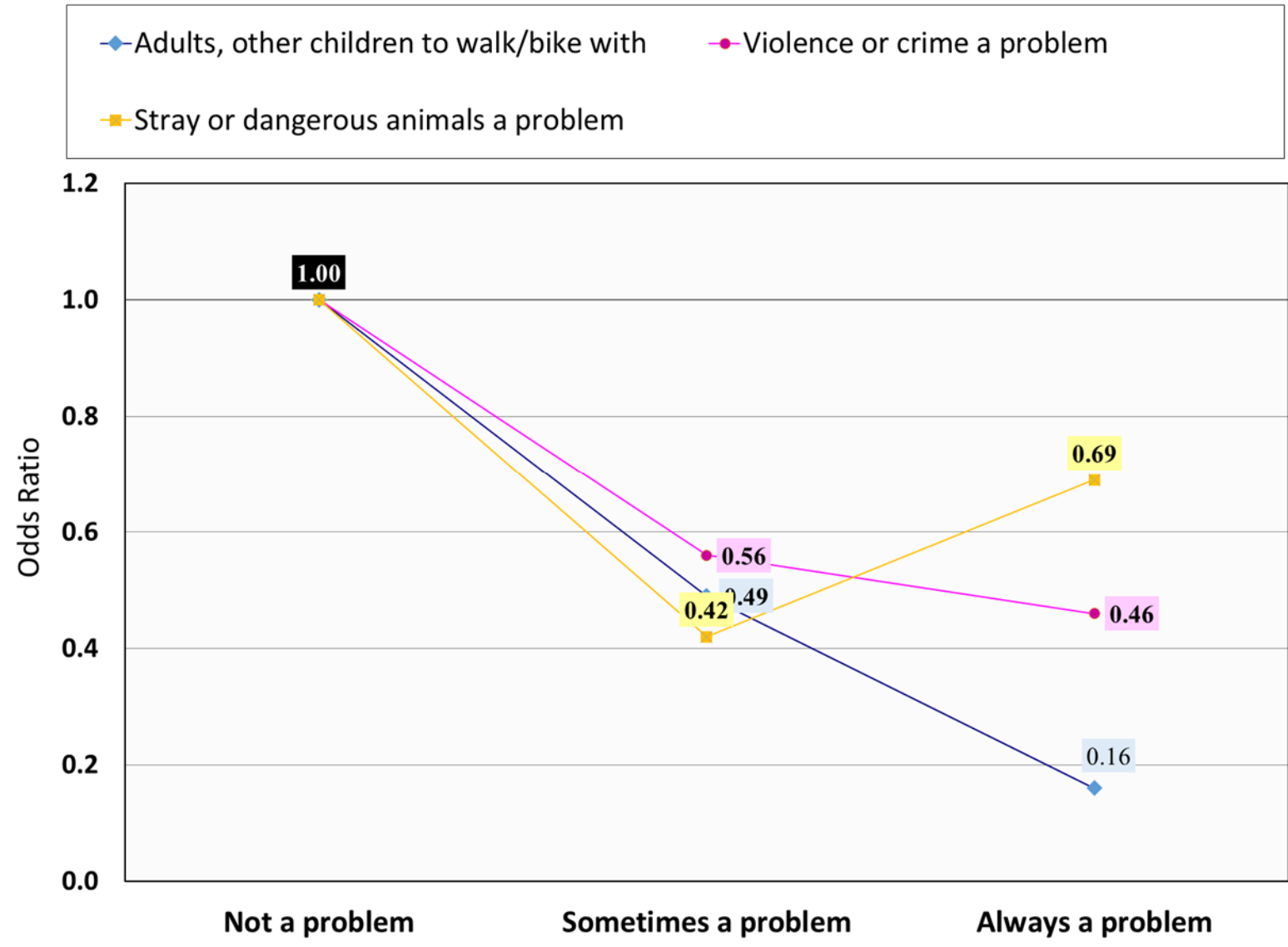


RESULTS: PERCEIVED TRAFFIC SAFETY CONCERNS - SCHOOLS

- ◆ Sidewalks on streets near child's school
- ◆ Sidewalks well maintained
- Trees along streets near school
- ▲ Bike lanes/paths or trails near school
- Bike lanes/paths or trails well maintained
- ◆ Bike racks at or near school
- Safe road crossings



RESULTS: PERCEIVED PERSONAL SAFETY CONCERNS – EN-ROUTE



RESULTS: OTHER PERCEIVED PERSONAL SAFETY CONCERNS

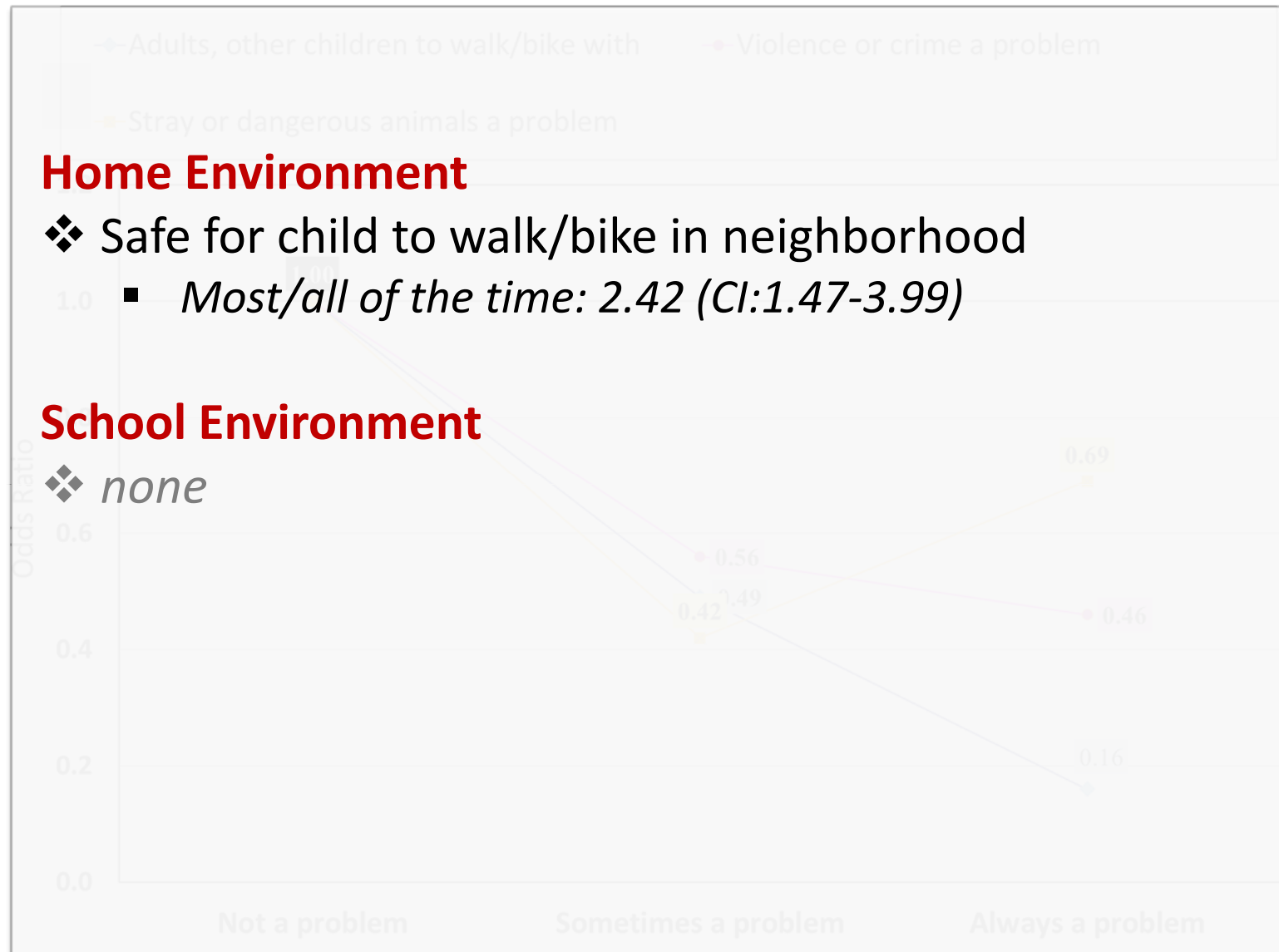
Home Environment

❖ Safe for child to walk/bike in neighborhood

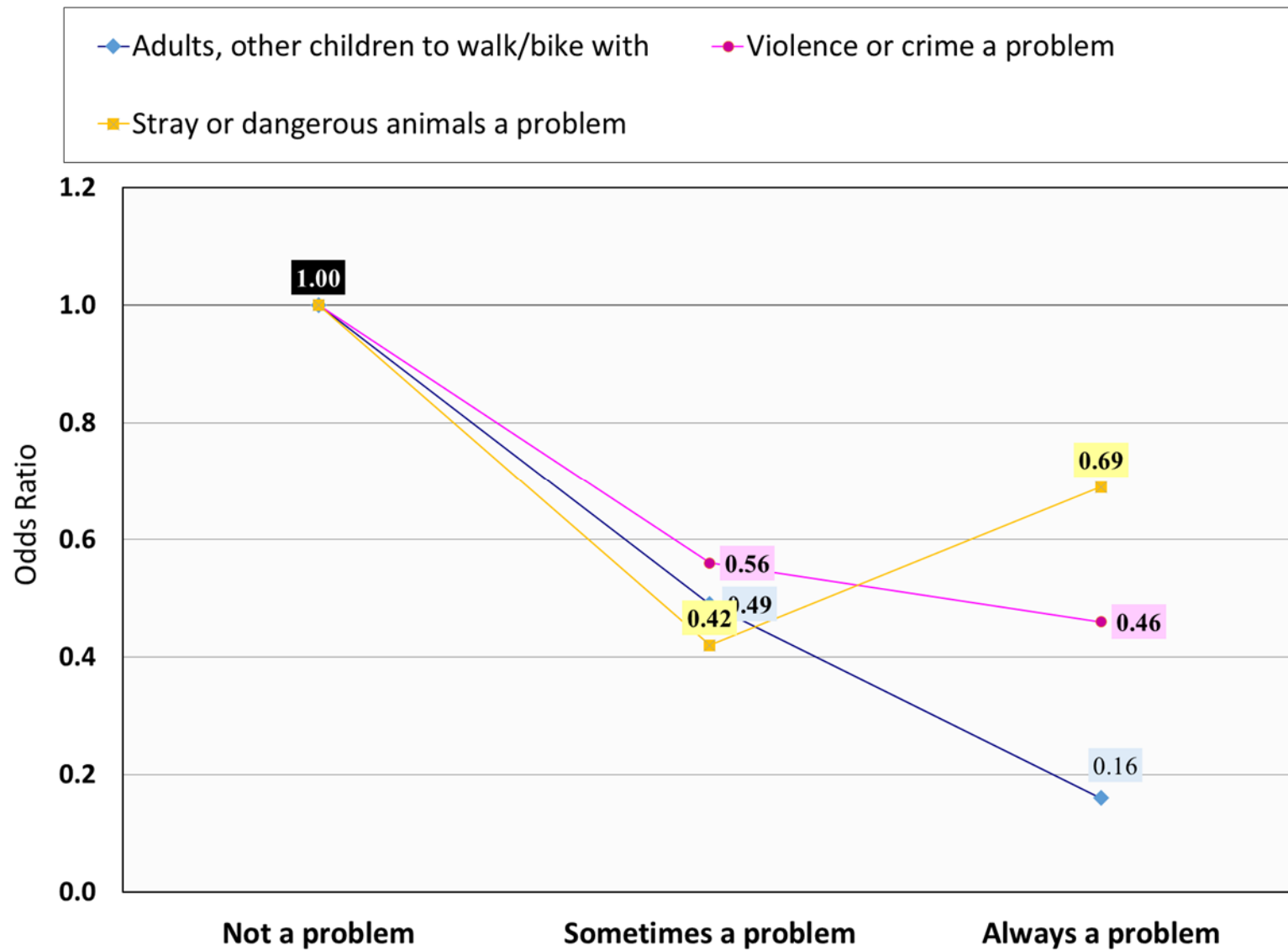
▪ *Most/all of the time: 2.42 (CI:1.47-3.99)*

School Environment

❖ *none*



RESULTS: PERCEIVED PERSONAL SAFETY CONCERNS – EN-ROUTE



CONCLUSIONS

CONCLUSIONS – TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traffic safety

In general, WTS depended on...

parental perceptions of the following...

Neighborhood:

sidewalks and safe road crossings

En-route:

sidewalks, speed & amount of traffic, and intersections

School:

sidewalks, crossing guards, and availability of trees along streets

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stray or dangerous animals, and availability of adults with whom child can walk

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- ❖ *Specific safety concerns* in the home-to-school journey explained *some of the variance* in WTS.
 - ❖ Of *particular importance* to parents is *traffic safety along the route* to the school.
 - ❖ Increased *focus* on, and *investment* in, *pedestrian-centric transportation infrastructures* may result in increased WTS.
-

OTHER ITEMS



Oluyomi et al. *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity* 2014, **11**:32
<http://www.ijbnpa.org/content/11/1/32>



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RESEARCH

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Parental safety concerns and active school commute: correlates across multiple domains in the home-to-school journey

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Abstract

RECOGNITIONS



MICHAEL & SUSAN
CENTER *for* HEALTHY LIVING

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MICHAEL & SUSAN DELL

CENTER *for* HEALTHY LIVING

THANK YOU

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