



Why get involved?

Local policymaker participation in land use policies
supportive of active living

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Acknowledgments

Collaborators

Amy Eyler, PhD

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Support

CDC

Disclosure

No relationships to disclose



Background

Background

Model by Schmid et al. demonstrates how policy directly and indirectly influences physical activity¹



Background

Opportunities exist to explore the policy determinants of physical activity-related policies¹⁻²



Background

- Local land use policies can influence the built environment and physical activity³⁻⁶
- Little is known about what influences municipal officials' land use policy involvement



- Local elected and appointed officials perceived physical activity as an important issue to address in land use and planning policies⁷

The Surveys Are In! The Role of Local Government in Supporting Active Community Design

Marla Hollander, Sarah Levin Martin, and Tammy Vehige

Previous Studies | Maddock et al., 2009

- Poorly planned development and sprawl ranked a high priority policy issue among state and county officials in Hawaii⁸

Priority of Activity-Friendly Community Issues Among Key Decision Makers in Hawaii

Jay E. Maddock, Bill Reger-Nash, Katie Heinrich, Kevin M. Leyden,
and Thomas K. Bias

Previous Studies | Dill & Howe, 2011

- Physical activity was not an influential motivator in adopting innovative land use policies among local planning officials⁹
- Desire to avoid bad development and to promote livability were highly ranked motivators⁹

**The Role of Health and Physical Activity in the Adoption
of Innovative Land Use Policy: Findings From Surveys
of Local Governments**

Jennifer Dill and Deborah Howe

Previous Studies | Heinrich et al., 2013

- Physical activity-related policy issues were not considered important policy issues among Kansas policymakers¹⁰
- Poorly planned development and sprawl were not ranked important¹⁰

Kansas Legislators Prioritize Obesity but Overlook Nutrition and Physical Activity Issues

Katie M. Heinrich, PhD; Mellina O. Stephen, MPH; Katherine B. Vaughan, MPH; Melinda Kellogg, BS

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Study Objective

Study objective

- To examine **individual-** and **city-level** factors associated with municipal officials' involvement in land use policies supportive of active living



Methods

Methods

Study design | 2012 cross-sectional, online survey

Eligibility criteria | Municipal officials in areas with > 50,000 residents

Recruitment | Targeted 94 communities in CO, GA, HI, KS, MA, MO, NC, WV

Response rate | Total of 418 municipal officials included in sample, representing 83 municipalities (overall response rate of 26%)

Analysis | Two-level hierarchical logistic regression analysis

Methods | Dependent Variable

- Participation in the development, adoption, or implementation of municipal **land use** policy to increase mixed use, density, street connectivity, or pedestrian or bicycle access (yes/no)



Methods | Independent Variables

Individual-level

- Gender
- Race/ethnicity
- Education
- Job position
- Political affiliation (social)
- Political affiliation (fiscal)
- Residence

Job-level

- Perceived importance of specific built environment issues in day-to-day job
- Perceived resident support of local government to address specific built environment issues



Results | Descriptives

Results | Individual Characteristics



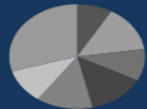
71% Male
29% Female



79% White
11% Non-white



91% College degree or higher



30% Municipal Legislator
14% Economic or Community Development
14% Parks and Recreation
14% Transportation or Public Works
11% Mayor or City Manager
10% Planning
8% Public Health



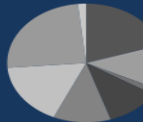
41% Liberal (Social)



54% Conservative (Fiscal)



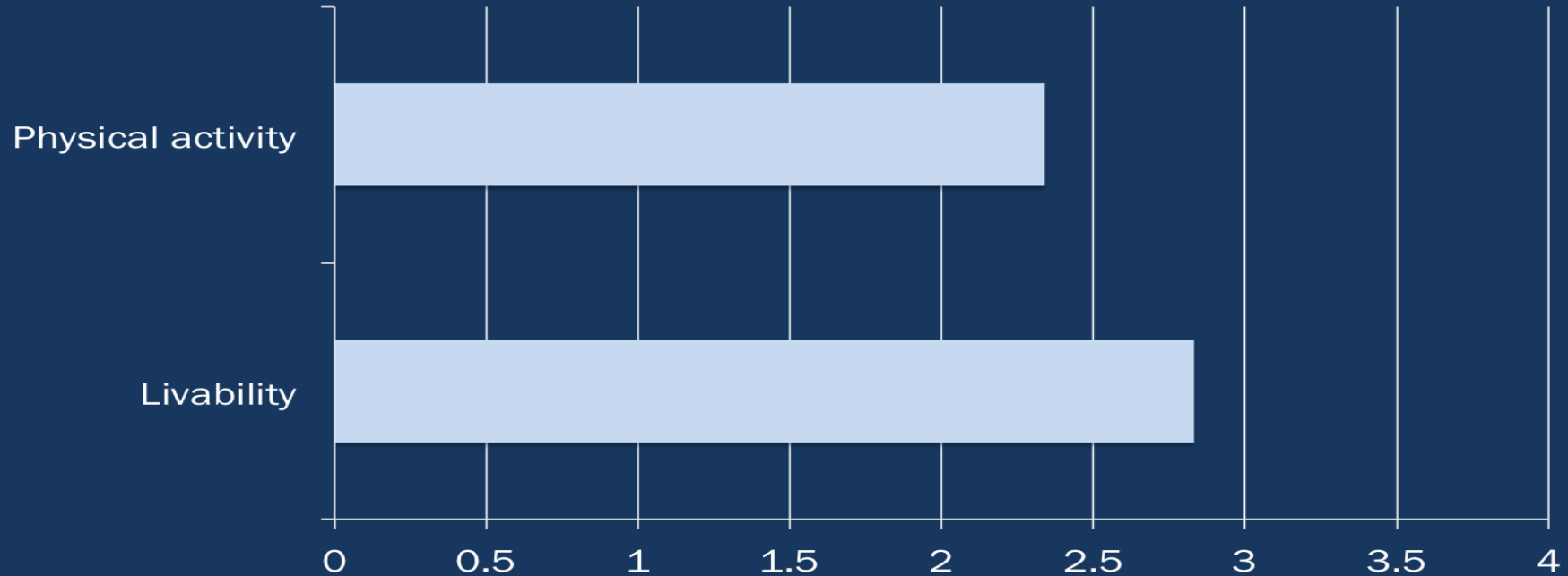
78% Lived in the city or town in
which they worked



25% North Carolina
20% Colorado
17% Missouri
12% Georgia
12% Massachusetts
11% Kansas
2% Hawaii
2% West Virginia

Results | Job Characteristics

Perceived importance of job responsibilities to address ...

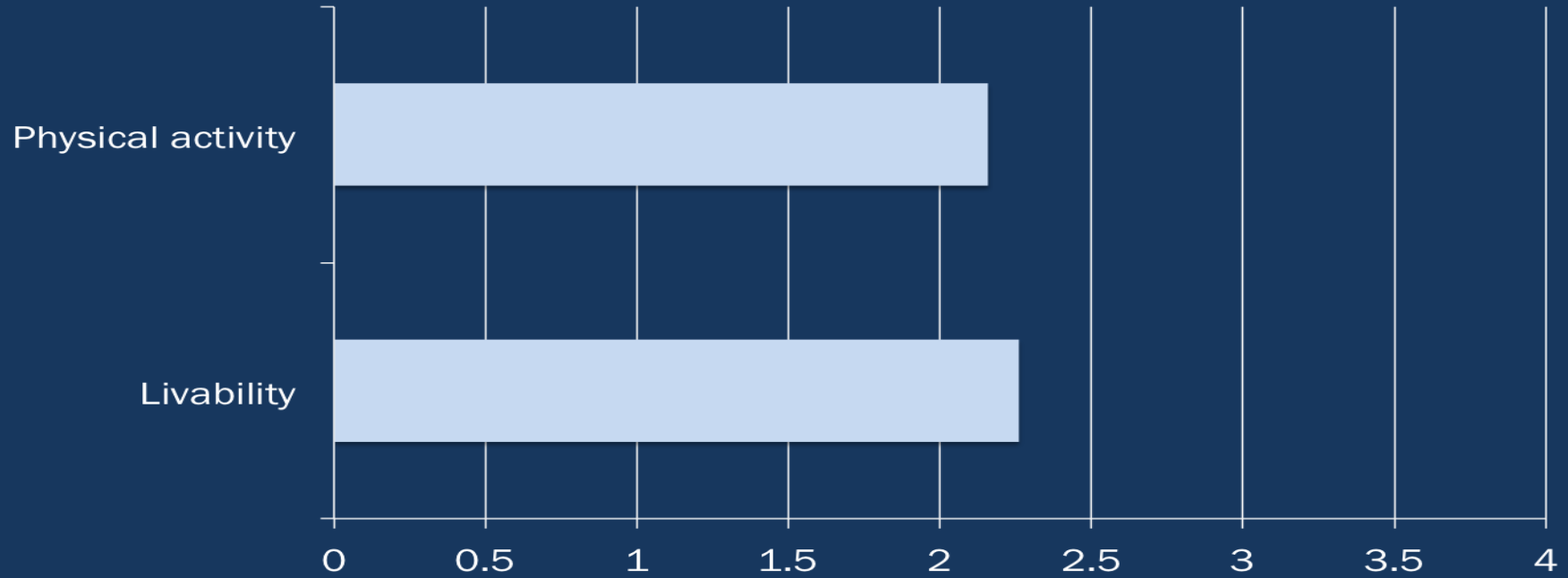


0 represents not all important and 4 is extremely important

N=418

Results | Job Characteristics

Perceived resident support of local government to address ...



0 represents not all supportive and 4 is extremely supportive

N=418

Results | City Characteristics

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Population size	144,385.7	139,609.6	50,150	731,424
Population density (per/sq mi)	3,571.8	3,255.0	365.5	18,476.6
Median household income (\$)	51,648.7	16,026.3	28,366	106,950
% White	67.7	18.2	21.5	91.5
% Walking	4.0	5.1	0.4	35.0
% Bicycling	0.9	1.6	0.0	9.6
% Public transit	4.8	7.5	0.1	32.9



Results | Multilevel analysis

Results | Factors Associated with Local Land Use Policy Involvement

Variable	OR	CI	p-value
Individual-level			
Perceived importance of physical activity in job responsibilities	.68	(-.62, -.16)	<.001
Perceived importance of livability in job responsibilities	1.84	(.34, .88)	<.001
Perceived resident support of local government to address physical activity	1.12	(-.23, .45)	.52
Perceived resident support of local government to address livability	1.01	(-.31, .32)	.97
Live in the city in which they work	2.09	(.16, 1.31)	.01
City-level			
Population density	.99	(-.02, .01)	.31
Median household income	1.03	(.01, .04)	.01
% public transit commuters	1.03	(-.05, .10)	.46
% walking commuters	.95	(-.11, -.01)	.04
% bicycling commuters	1.53	(.10, .76)	.01
AIC			429.32

N=418, k=83

OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval

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Conclusions

Summary

- Higher perceived importance of physical activity in job responsibilities was inversely related to land use policy participation
 - Higher perceived importance of livability in job responsibilities was positively related to land use policy participation
 - Residence of municipal officials was associated with local land use policy
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Summary

Municipal officials representing cities with ...

- Higher household incomes were less likely to engage in a land use policy
- Higher proportion of commuters that walked were less likely to engage in a land use policy
- Higher proportion of bicycle commuters were more likely to participate in a land use policy



Limitations

- Low response rate
 - No causal relationship can be established
 - Self-reported data
 - Measurement of policy involvement relied on retrospective perceptions of participation
 - Only sampled municipal officials from urban areas
 - Differences by elected/appointed status and length of time in the position not assessed
 - City-level commuting rates represent only employed individuals commuting to and from work
-

Policy, Practice, and Research Implications

- Frame land use policies within the context of livability
 - Prioritize and advocate for land use policies that promote physical activity in areas where:
 - Bicycling may not be as prevalent
 - Household incomes may not be as high
 - Research examining factors associated with physical activity policy process should consider broader contextual factors
-

Thank you!

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