

A National Survey of Correlates of Local Health Department Engagement in Community Policy to Encourage Physical Activity

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Acknowledgements

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- **Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Cooperative Agreement Number U48 DP001933**

Background

- Recommendations for public health involvement in built environment decision making
- Practice gaps
 - PAPRN Policy Maker Study
 - Local Health Department (LHD) policy involvement

**Lemon SC, Goins KV et al. Municipal Officials' Participation in Built Environment Policy Development in the United States. American Journal of Health Promotion. In press.*

**Goins et al. Municipal officials' perceived barriers to consideration of physical activity in community design decision making. J Public Health Manag Pract. 2013 May-Jun;19(3 Suppl 1):S65-73.*

Study Purpose

To examine the associations between LHD structural characteristics, performance improvement efforts and collaborations and their participation in policy/advocacy activities related to:

- Community level urban design and land use to encourage physical activity
- Active transportation options
- Expanding access to recreation facilities

2013 NACCHO Profile Survey

- Conducted every 2-3 years to document current infrastructure and practice
- All 2532 LHDs received core questionnaire (*leadership, jurisdiction, financing, programs, services*)
- 624 LHDs received Module 1 (*accreditation, core competencies, cross-jurisdictional sharing, partnership/collaboration*)

Dependent variables

Any/ever participation (yes/no) in
policy/advocacy activities related to:

- Community level urban design and land use policies to encourage physical activity
- Active transportation options
- Expanding access to recreational facilities

Independent variables

- LHD structural characteristics
 - Population size served, region, governance type, local board of health, staffing level
- Performance improvement efforts
 - PHAB status, completion of CHA and CHIP in past 5 years, use of core competencies, use of Community Guide
- Collaboration
 - Partnerships with organizations in the community related to land use

Statistical Analysis

- 3 multivariable logistic regression models
 - Community level urban design and land use policies to encourage physical activity
 - Active transportation options
 - Access to recreation facilities
- All independent variables retained in each model
- Weighted to be nationally representative

Study Sample*, n=490 (response rate=79%)

Population served	
<50,000	61%
50,000-499,000	34%
500,000+	5%
Geographic region	
Northeast	18%
Midwest	35%
South	35%
West	12%

**Weighted percentages*

Study Sample*, n=490 (response rate=79%)

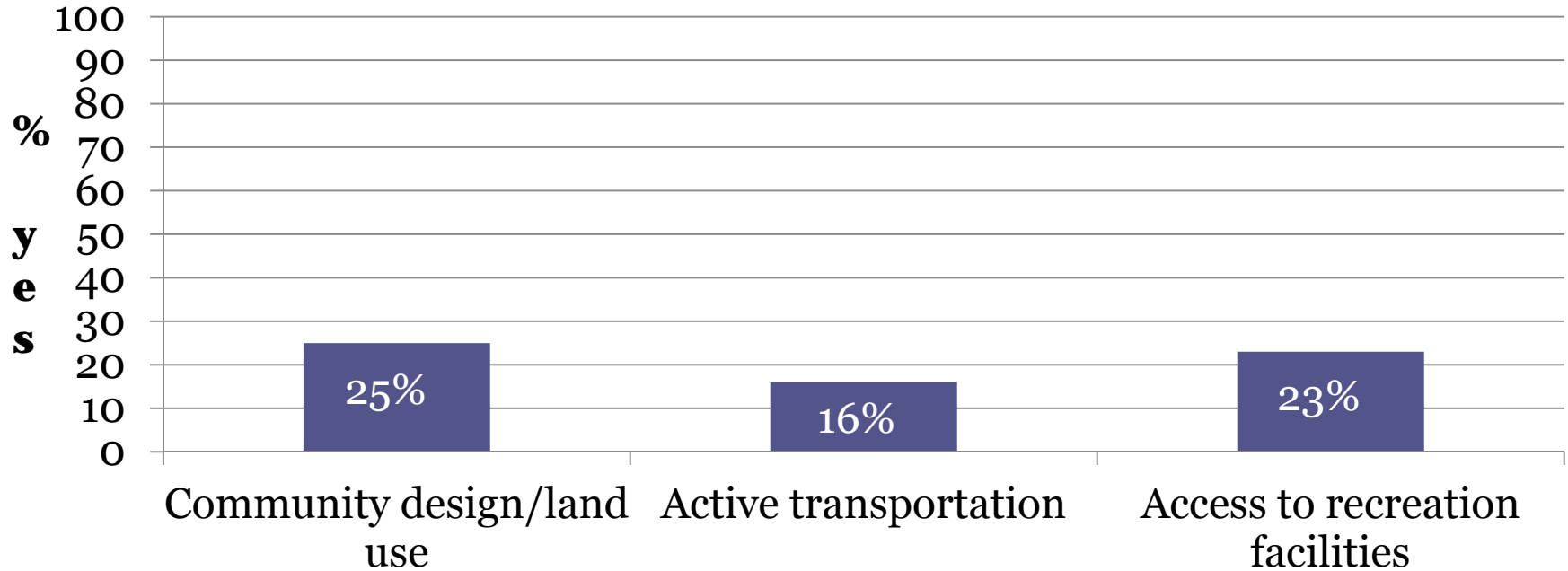
Jurisdiction type	
City (multi-city)	12%
County (multi-county)	74%
Other (city-county)	14%
Governance	
State	20%
Local	71%
Shared	9%

**Weighted percentages*

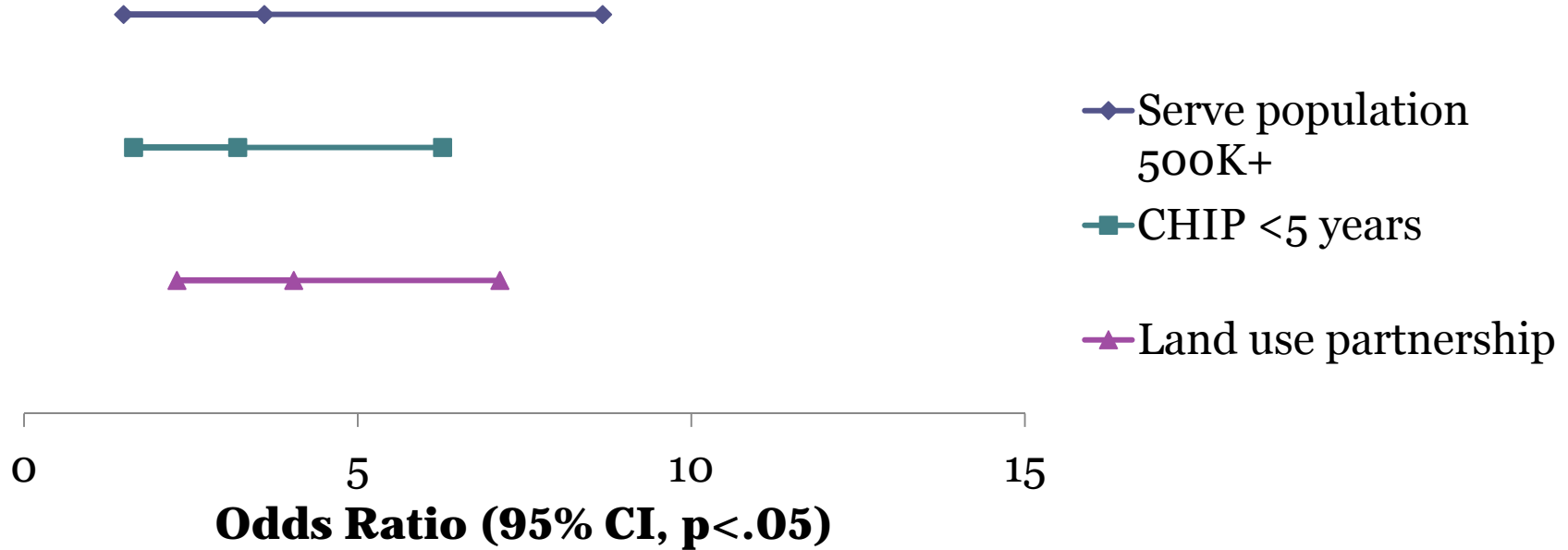
Bivariate Results ($p < .05$)

- All 3 areas: population size served, CHIP in past 5 years, PHAB status, use of Community Guide, partnerships for land use
- Urban design / land use: use of core competencies
- Active transportation / Recreation access: CHA in past 5 years
- Active transportation: region, governance type

Built environment policy participation

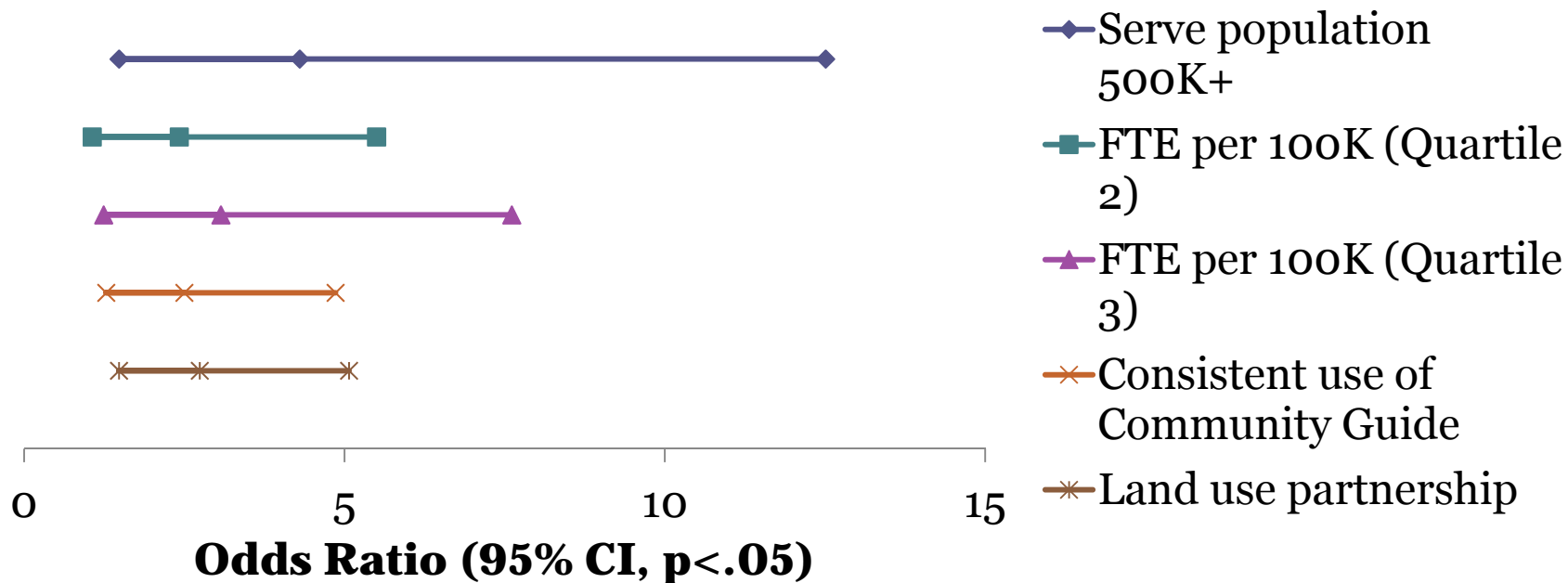


Policy/Advocacy Activities - Community Level Urban Design and Land Use*



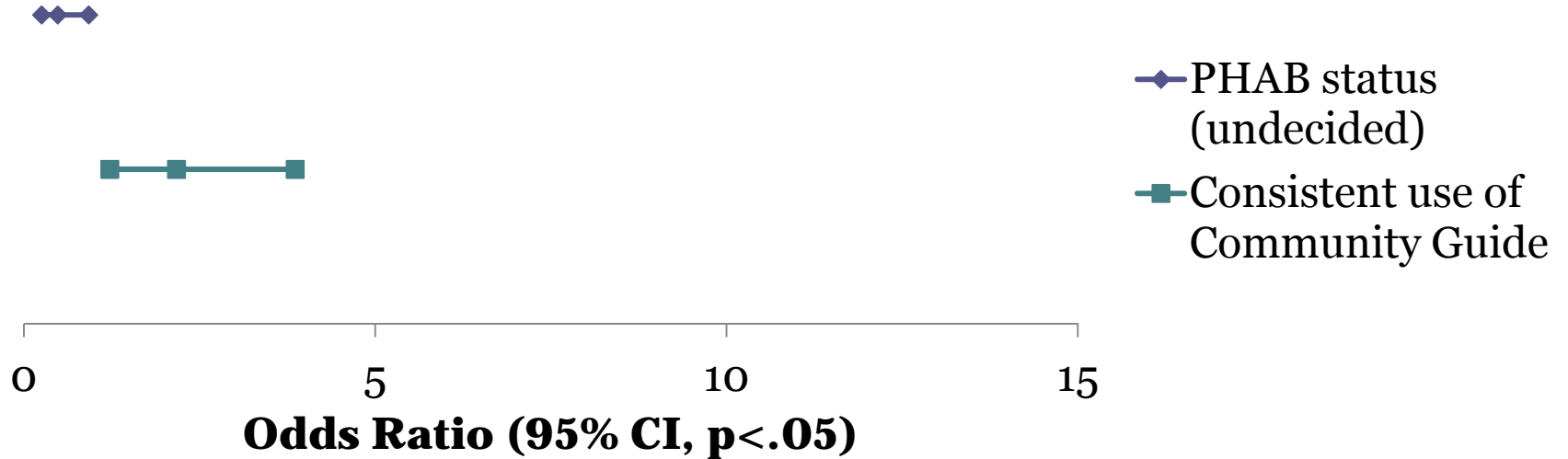
**Variables that were statistically significant in multivariable model*

Policy/Advocacy Activities - Active Transportation Options*



**Variables that were statistically significant in multivariable model*

Policy/Advocacy Activities - Expanding Access to Recreation Facilities*



**Variables that were statistically significant in multivariable model*

Implications for Policy and Practice

- Assist smaller departments
- Performance improvement efforts
- Coaching for unfamiliar technical areas

Next Steps - Physical Activity Policy Research Network+ study

- Goal: To establish roles, responsibilities and core competencies of LHDs in local land use and transportation policy and assess current state of these
- Phase I: Multi-disciplinary, nationally representative Expert Panel to participate in key informant interviews, group sessions and ranking processes
- Phase II: Online survey to local health officials in all 50 states in collaboration with NACCHO

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