



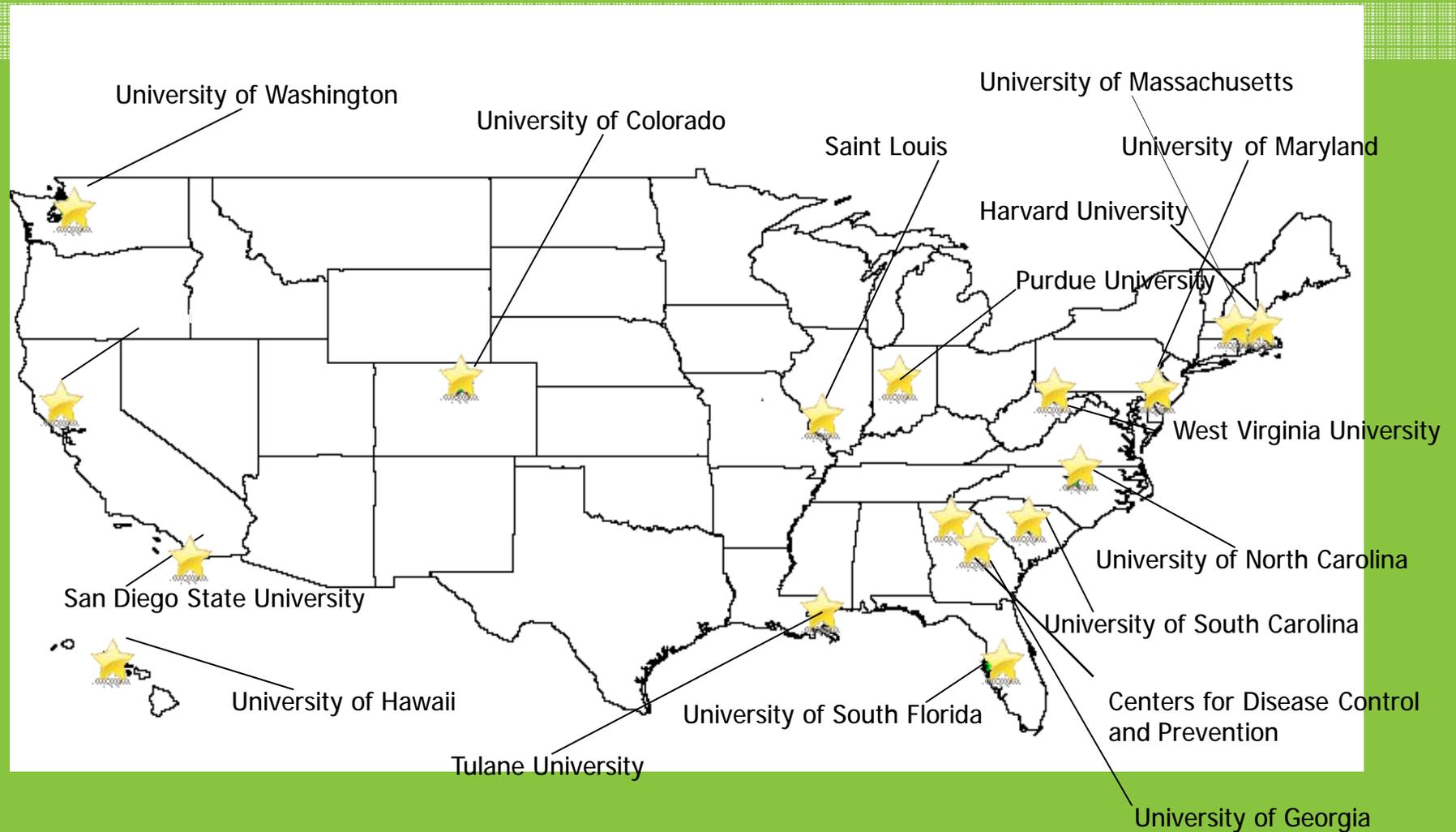
Challenges in measuring evidence-based policy

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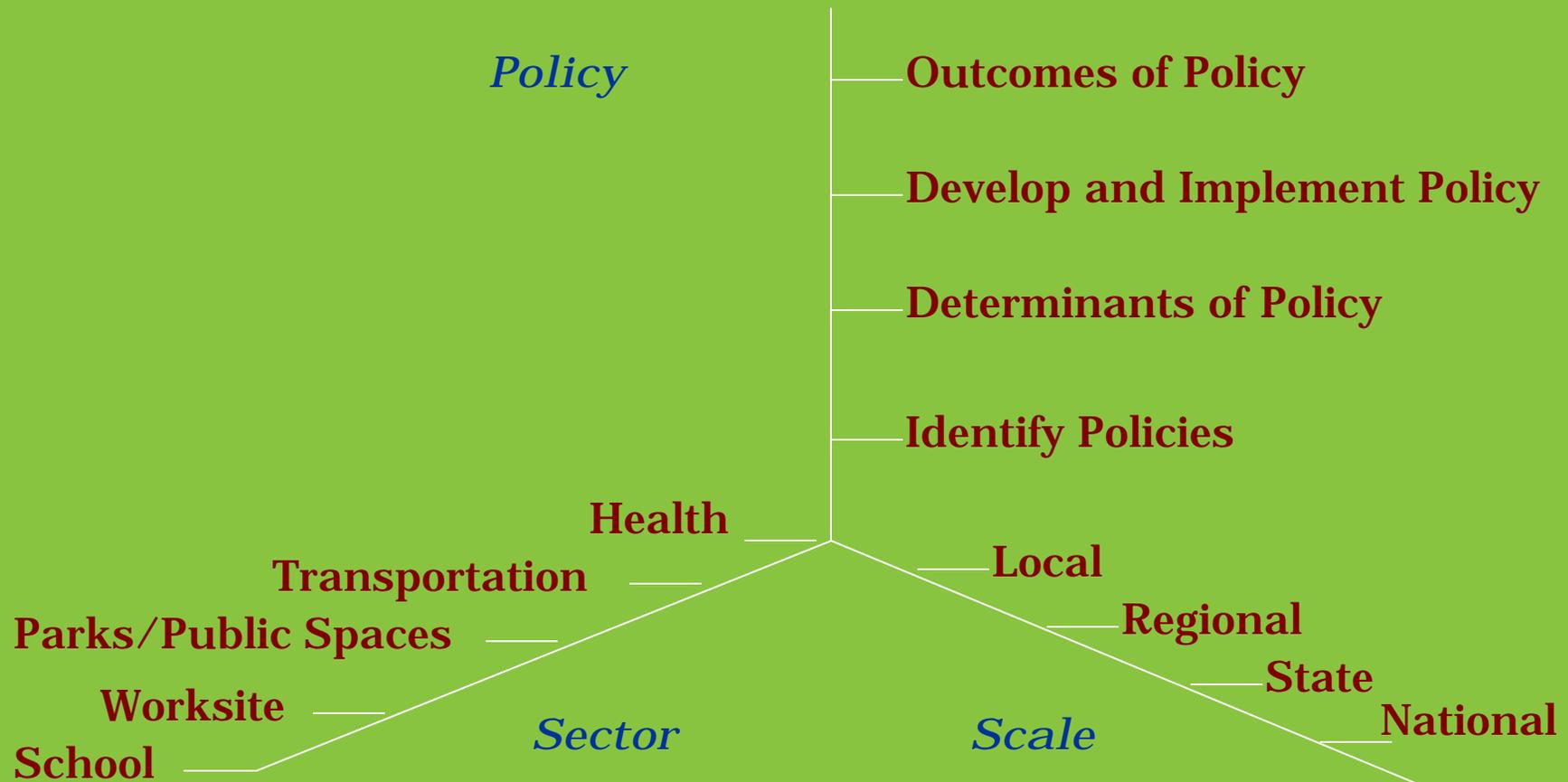
Brief History of PAPRN

- R Formed in 2004 as a CDC Special Interest Project
- R Originally 5 PRCs funded
- R The mission of the Physical Activity Policy Research Network is to conduct transdisciplinary policy research by:
 - R identifying physical activity policies
 - R identifying the determinants of the policies
 - R describing the process of implementing policies
 - R determining the outcomes of physical activity policies

Sites involved with the Physical Activity Policy Research Network



Physical Activity Policy Framework



Defining Physical Activity Policy

Physical activity policy is a legislative action, organized guidance, or rule that may affect the physical activity environment or lifestyle behavior. These policies can be in the form of formal written codes, written standards that guide choices, or common practices.

Physical Activity Policy Avenues



Challenges to studying policy

- R Policy data is collected in many different formats**
- R Evidence-base for some policies is better than others**
- R Comprehensive policy study requires multiple methodology**
- R Evidence-base in policy is only part of the whole picture; policy implementation and adoption evaluation must be considered**

PAPRN Policy Study Examples

R State Legislation studies:

R Physical Education

R Trails

R Analysis of Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plans

R Analysis of State Obesity Plans

R Missouri School District Joint Use Policy Study

How common is evidence-based state physical education legislation? A content analysis

- R Analyzed almost 800 bills based on evidence based components
 - R PE minutes, Mod/Vig Activity, Certified teachers, Environment****
- R Number of PE bills introduced is promising**
- R Percent enacted is similar to other health topic legislation**
- R Few bills contain evidence based components**
- R There is little funding or evaluation**
- R Provides a basis for future policy surveillance work**

Analysis of Trail Legislation

- R Analyzed Of the total 991 trail bills, 516 (52.0%) were appropriations bills, of which 167 (32.2%) were enacted.**
- R We analyzed 475 (48%) non-appropriation trail bills of which 139 (29.3%) were enacted.**
- R The percentage of enactment of appropriations bills decreased over time while enactment of non-appropriations trail bills increased.**
- R Over half of the non-appropriations trail bills included at least one evidence-informed element, most commonly funding.**
- R Few bills contained liability, connectivity, accessibility, or maintenance.**



Considerations for State Legislation Research

PLUS

- R States already collect legislative information. It is also available by aggregate database.
- R Some topics are easy to search.
- R Can get a good sense of policy action within states.

MINUS

- R Tedious search process.
- R States vary in reporting.
- R Bill language can be difficult to interpret.
- R Enactment doesn't mean implementation or enforcement

Analysis of State Obesity Plans

- Looked at planning, framework, involvement, goals and objectives.
- State obesity-related plans lacked an in-depth PA orientation and no plan addressed all sectors included in the National PA Plan.
- Many focused on “traditional” PA elements related to physical education but not those affecting the built environment and active living (i.e., parks and recreation, land use/community design, and transportation).
- This analysis provides an important baseline assessment of where state plans stand in comparison to the National PA Plan as well as a starting point for states as they begin the plan revision process.

Considerations for studying state-level policies or plans

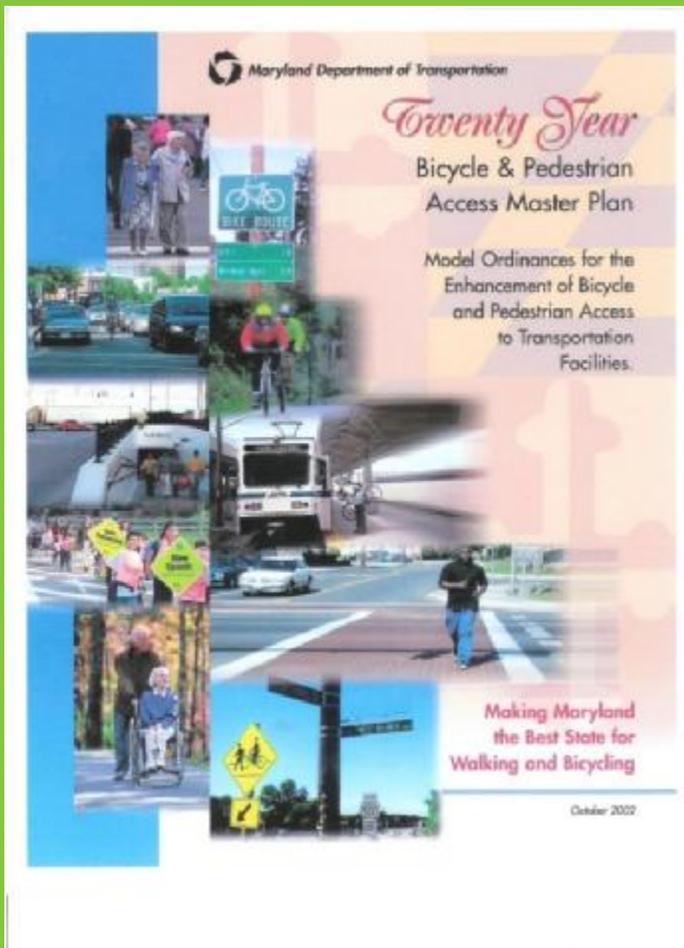
PLUS

- R Relatively easy to collect
- R Analysis *can* be easy.
- R Gives an overall picture of state goals and objectives related to obesity, chronic disease, or physical activity.
- R Can serve as baseline or progress measurement at the state level.

MINUS

- R Plans may vary so much that comparison is difficult.
- R Analysis *can* be difficult.
- R State plans may not include implementation or evaluation.
- R State plan may not trickle down to local policy action.

Analysis of Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans (AMP)



- R Conducted a content analysis on over 100 plans in 9 states.
- R Plans were state, regional, or local.
- R Developed a detailed content analysis guide that can serve as a planning tool.
- R Coded for topics such as planning process, goals, mention of health, strategies for increasing active transportation.

Considerations for research on regional or local policies or plans

PLUS

- R Plans are accessible
- R Plans are evolving into comprehensive documents
- R Provides insight on community support for plans
- R Usually has transdisciplinary involvement

MINUS

- R Plans vary in scope and can be difficult to compare
- R Implementation of plans is not easy to assess
- R Plans take time to be developed

Joint Use Policies in Missouri School Districts

- R** Looked at 534 District-level policies on community use of facilities
- R** Found two major sources of district policy
- R** 71% had policies
- R** Correlates included size and SES. Larger districts were more likely to have a policy that mentioned PA/recreation

Considerations for local policy research

PLUS

- R Among similar units (e.g. school districts) comparison *can* be easy
- R Some standardized assessments exist
- R Can provide insight into local policy action

MINUS

- R Can be difficult to assess
- R Local policies are specific to setting
- R May not be as formal as state or regional policy
- R Having a policy may not mean it is being implemented or enforced

Recommendations

- R Learn from other health research**
- R Provide methods for consistent methodology**
- R Consider level and setting**
- R Need better ways to link policy with outcome**

Thank you.

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