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Extent and nature of resource sharing among local health departments

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Faculty Disclosure

- I have not had any relevant financial relationships during the past 12 months.



Resource sharing & LHDs

- *Resource sharing*
 - collaborative arrangements between local health departments (LHDs) in order to share staff, engage in joint programs or planning, or subcontract for service delivery within a defined geography
- Resource sharing was historically associated with bioterrorism & disaster response planning efforts.
- Sharing is a growing occurrence and encouraged by several states.



Educational Need/Practice Gap

- While an area of interest, the extent of resource sharing beyond an emergency-only basis not yet documented.
- Why would some LHDs engage in sharing, but others do not?



Objectives

- Describe the current state of resource sharing among LHDs in terms of:
 - the public health activities
 - nature of the relationships
 - geography
- Identify the characteristics of LHDs are associated with resource sharing.



Expected Outcome

- Identify areas for additional research.
- Prompt LHDs to review their own sharing arrangements and motivations.



Methods: data

- Data come from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) 2010 Profile of Local Health Departments.
- Resource sharing questions appeared a randomly assigned additional module.
- The response rate for the sample administered resource sharing questions was 85% and included 531 LHDs



Methods: measures

1. Any sharing activities
2. number of shared programmatic activities
 - preparedness, epidemiology/surveillance, physician services, disease screening, maternal & child health, prevention, inspection/licensing, and environmental health
3. number of shared organizational functions
 - human resources, financial management, purchasing, information technology, and communications
4. nature of sharing
 - LHD provides or obtains resources / services



Methods: analysis

- We described measures of resource sharing using means, frequencies and percents.
- We stratified measures by key organizational characteristics.
- We aggregated measures to the state level for mapping purposes.



Results: resource sharing

Resource sharing activities	% (weighted)
Share any resources	52.1
Provide resources to other LHDs *	49.5
Obtain services from other LHDs*	57.5
Share staff / physical resources with LHDs*	56.2
Share any programs	50.1
Share any organizational functions	31.1
	Mean (weighted)
Number of shared programs*	2.9
Number of shared organizational function*	1.2

* Among LHDs that share resources



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Results: % resource sharing by jurisdiction

Resource sharing	City	County	District
Yes	34.6	55.7	51.9
No	65.7	44.3	48.1

Results: resource sharing by jurisdiction

Resource sharing	City	County	District
Programs	0.78 (0.47, 1.09)*	1.64 (1.42, 1.86)	1.59 (1.11, 2.07)
Functions	0.15 (0.01, 0.30)*	0.71 (0.58, 0.84)	0.70 (0.43, 0.96)



Results: % resource sharing by governance

Resource sharing	State	Local	Shared
Yes	65.2	48.4	62.1
No	34.9	51.6	37.9

Results: resource sharing by governance

Resource sharing	State	Local	Shared
Programs	2.46 (1.90, 3.03)	1.29 (1.11, 1.48)*	1.64 (0.98, 2.30)
Functions	1.23 (0.87, 1.59)	0.45 (0.35, 0.55)**	1.14 (0.64, 1.64)

* Compared to state

** Compared to state & shared

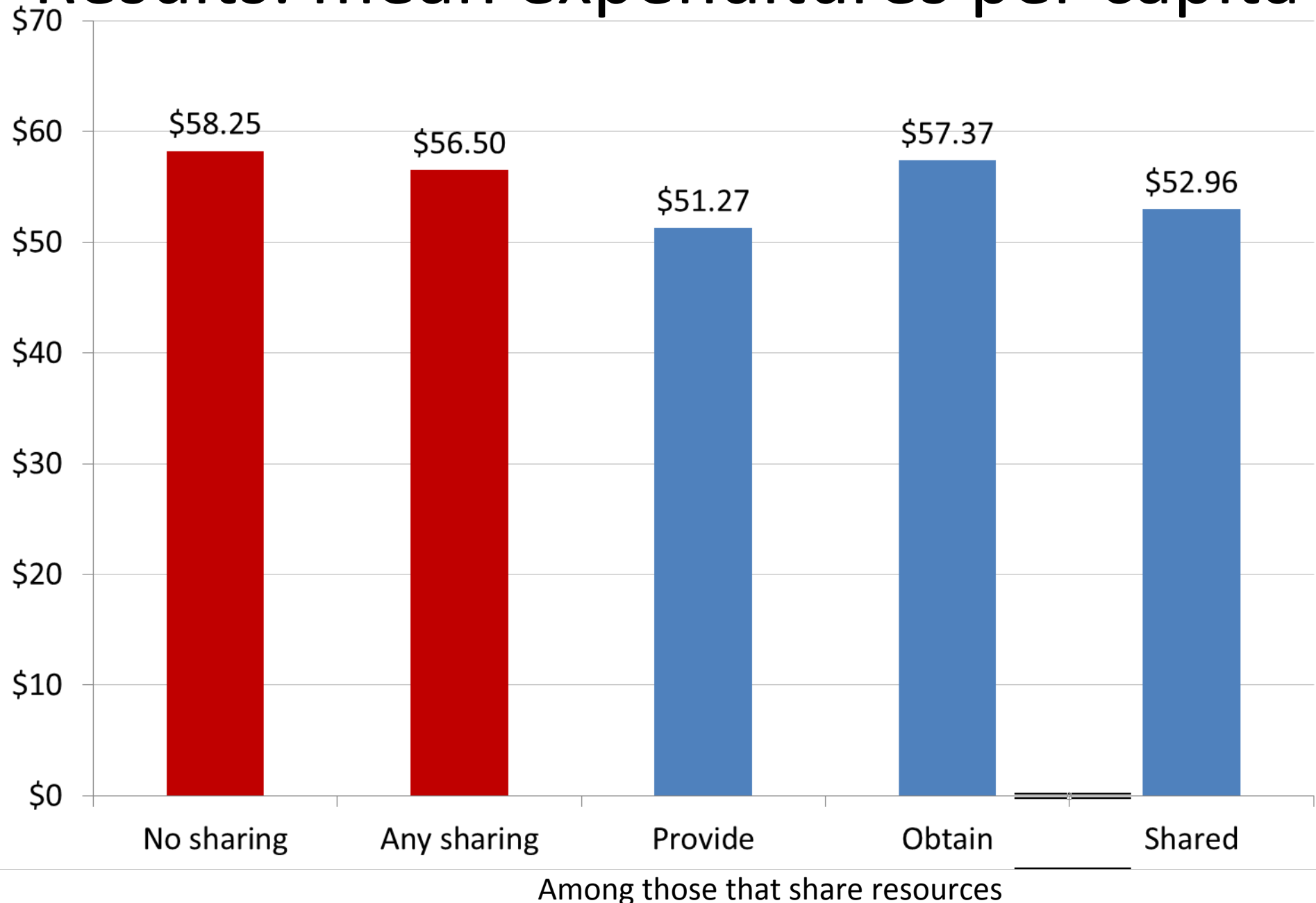


Results: resource sharing by population size

Population size	Avg # Programs	Avg # Functions
<25,000	1.55	0.70
25,000–49,999	1.67	0.66
50,000–99,999	1.47	0.49
100,000–249,999	1.45	0.55
250,000–499,999	1.02	0.55
500,000–999,999	1.46	0.66
1,000,000+	0.79	0.42



Results: mean expenditures per capita

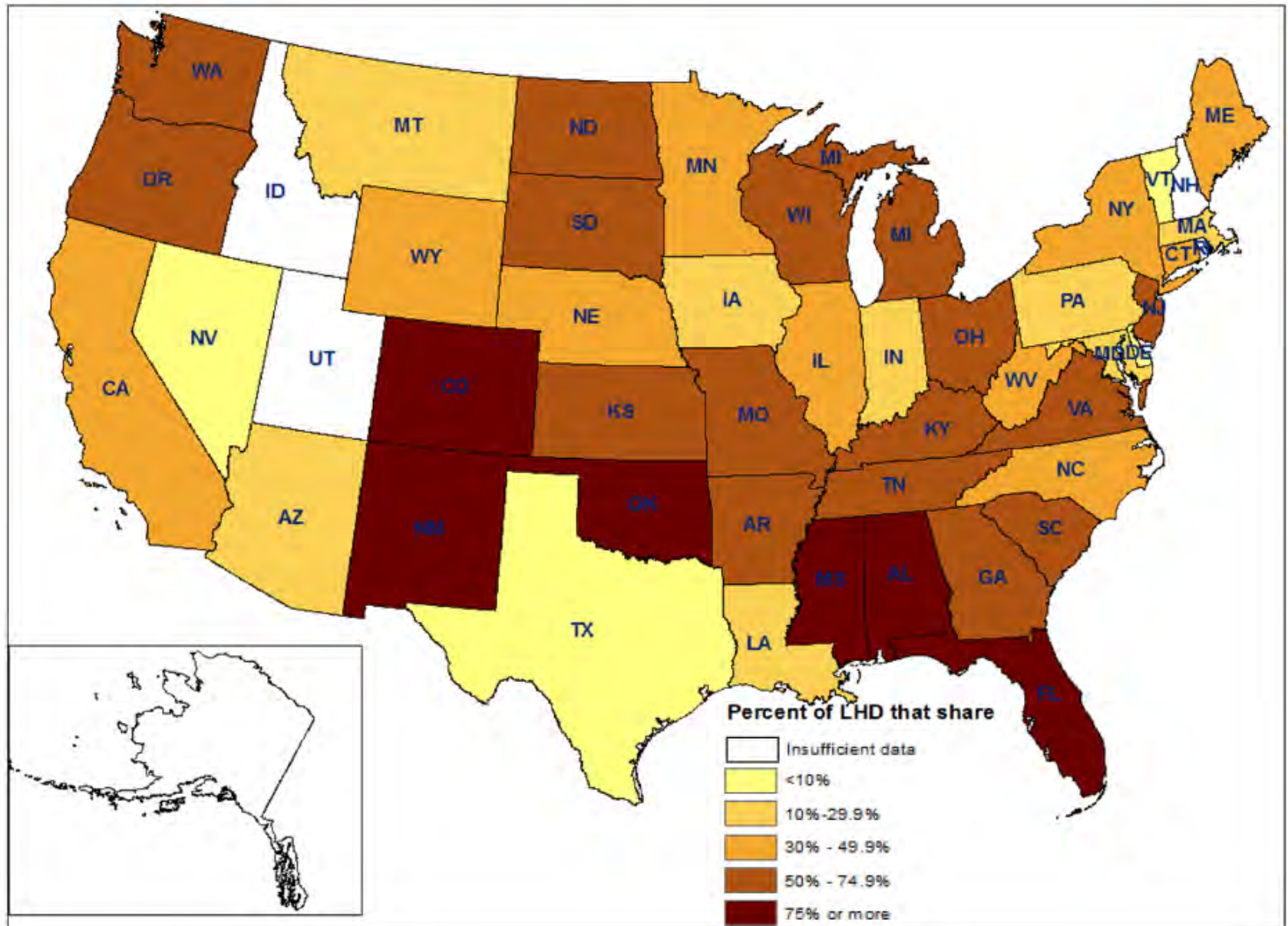


Results: % resource sharing & budget cuts

Resource sharing	Current budget lower	Current budget same	Current budget greater
Yes	56.5	47.1	52.8
No	43.5	52.9	47.2



Results: % LHDs sharing resources



Conclusions

- Resource sharing is common among LHDs.
 - Less common among locally governed LHDs and city LHDs.
- However, resource sharing is not a uniform activity.
 - provide resources
 - obtain resources
 - share programs, functions, or both
 - sharing organizational functions is less common than programmatic sharing.
- Sharing may be supported or inhibited by governance and political structures.

