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Determining the Public Health Costs of Tobacco Prevention and Control: A Comparison of 4 New Jersey Local Health Departments

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Toll of Tobacco in New Jersey

- Largest preventable cause of disease and death
- After long decline, NJ adult smoking rate plateaued at 16%*
- NJ revenue for tobacco use prevention and control redirected to other purposes:
 - Tobacco sales tax-generated revenue
 - Master Settlement funds
- CDC recommends \$2-\$3 per capita for NJ tobacco state and community interventions**

*New Jersey Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, (2013 data) **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office on Smoking and Health

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New Jersey Local Health Departments (LHDs)

- 89* LHDs covering 566 municipalities
- All are units of local government
- Over 50% of revenue is from local sources
- Four jurisdictional structures:
 - Municipal (30)
 - Inter-local (contracting) (35)
 - County (19)
 - Regional Health Commission (5)
- * As of April 2014

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- To determine elemental and total costs of local public health activities comprising tobacco prevention, reduction, and control
- To contribute to the understanding of costs involved in delivering efficient and effective set of public health services

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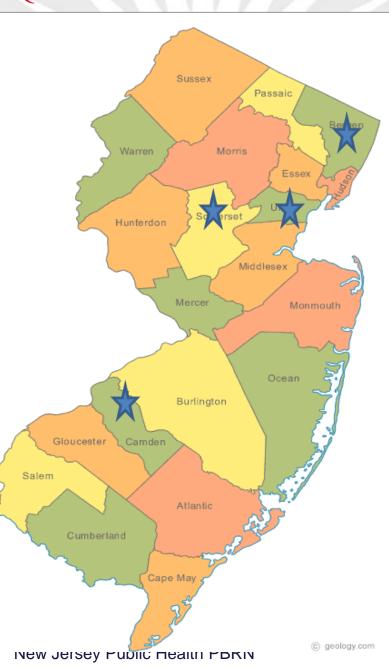
Practice Settings

- PBRN-based Partnership of Co-Investigators from NJDOH, LHDs, and Rutgers
- From 15 volunteer LHDs, 4 selected for diversity of population characteristics, geographic location, and administrative structure
- Participating LHDs:

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- 2 Municipal
- 1 Regional Health Commission
- 1 County
- Incentive provided to participating LHDs (\$500 gift card)

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New Jersey DACS Study Sites

LHD	Jurisdictional Structure	Population of Jurisdiction ³
1	Municipal1	15,184
2	Municipal2	26,674
3	Regional	43,462
4	County	512,854

Key Informant Interviews

• Listing of activities:

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- Inventory of tobacco prevention and control activities in 2013
- Component breakdown for each activity (production function), including labor and non-labor resources
- Cost and Labor Data:
 - Quantify resources (Personnel hours, supplies, equipment, transportation, facilities)
 - Determine unit cost for each resource (to be multiplied by quantity to estimate cost for resource)
- Interview forms adapted from the Substance Abuse Services Cost Analysis Program (SASCAP[™]) questionnaires

Cost Estimation

- Perspective: Local health department
- Time frame: Calendar year 2013
- (Retrospective) cost accounting approach
- Counts of resources multiplied by unit costs to estimate cost for resource
- All costs expressed in U.S. dollars 2013

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Example of Time Allocation Table

	Time Allocation for Personnel: Enforcement of Outdoor Smoke-Free Ordinance													
Column A	Column B		Column C Hours Spent in Specified Year								Column D	Column E		
Job Type	# of people		Receive	Initiate complaint record	Perform investigatio n	Issue warning or	Follow-up visit to site	Education	Attend court	Follow up with	Complete complaint record	Surveillance	Sum of annual hours worked by all staff indicated in Column B	Comments
Administrativ e														
REHS														
Health Officer														
Health Educator														
Public Health Nurse														
Intern														
Volunteer														
Board Member														
[Job Type]														
TOTAL														

Data Sources

- Activity inventory and breakdown via key informant interviews
- Mixed-source cost data via LHD key informant interviews:
 Expenditure reports, price lists, payroll, budgets
- Facility opportunity cost estimation:
 - Average office asking rental rate psf for county of LHD
- Volunteer labor opportunity cost estimated by average wage for each volunteer's respective profession
- US Census 2013 Population Estimates Program used for population denominator values

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Tobacco Prevention and Control Activities

Select Activities for CY 2013	Number of LHDs		
Policy development	4		
Enforcement of the NJ Smoke-free Air Act (NJSFAA)	3		
Referral for tobacco cessation	3		
Dissemination of educational materials	3		
Tobacco Age of Sale Enforcement (TASE)	2		
Community Involvement / Community Transformation Grant	2		
Implementation of tobacco cessation	1*		
Educational mass media	1*		
Regional tobacco-use surveillance	1*		
* County LHD			

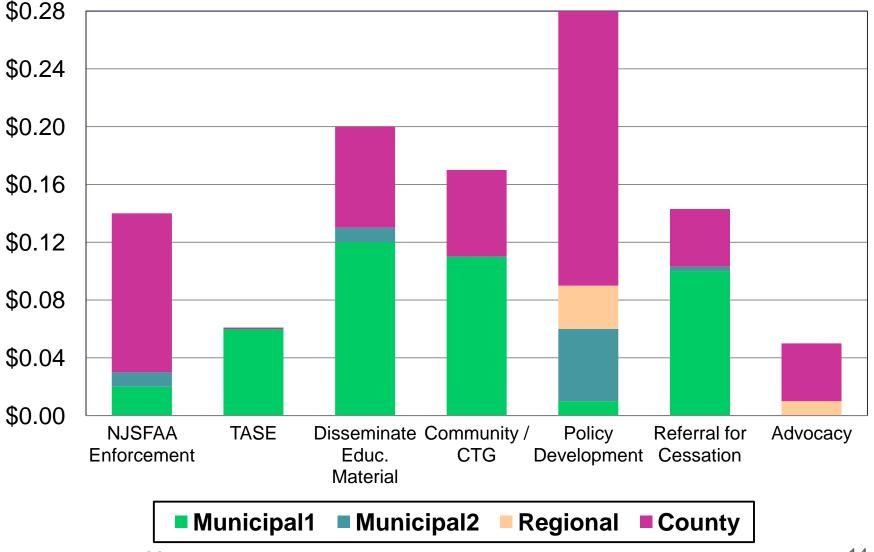


Tobacco activity and costs by LHD

LHD Type	# of Activities	Population	Total Cost (\$)	Cost per capita (\$)
Municipal1	7	15,184	6,144	0.41
Municipal2	5	26,674	1,912	0.07
Regional	2	43,462	1,726	0.04
County	12	512,854	406,487	0.79



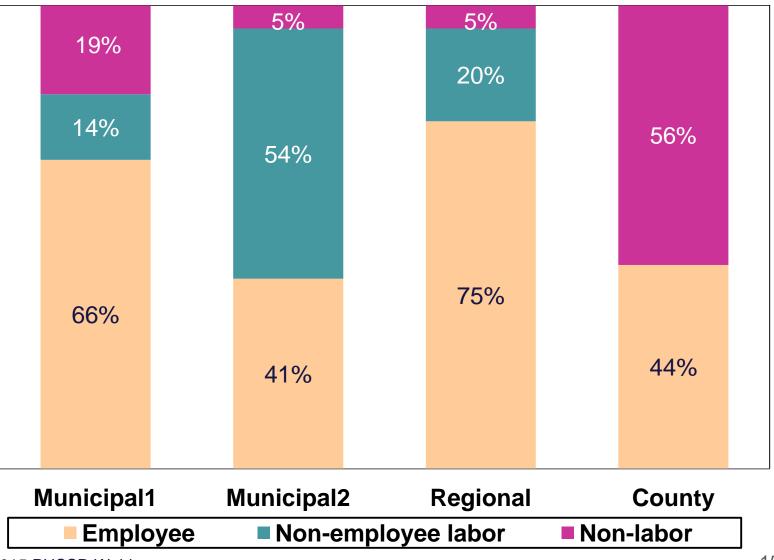
Per Capita Cost: Select Activities, by LHD



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Tobacco Activity Cost Structure, by LHD



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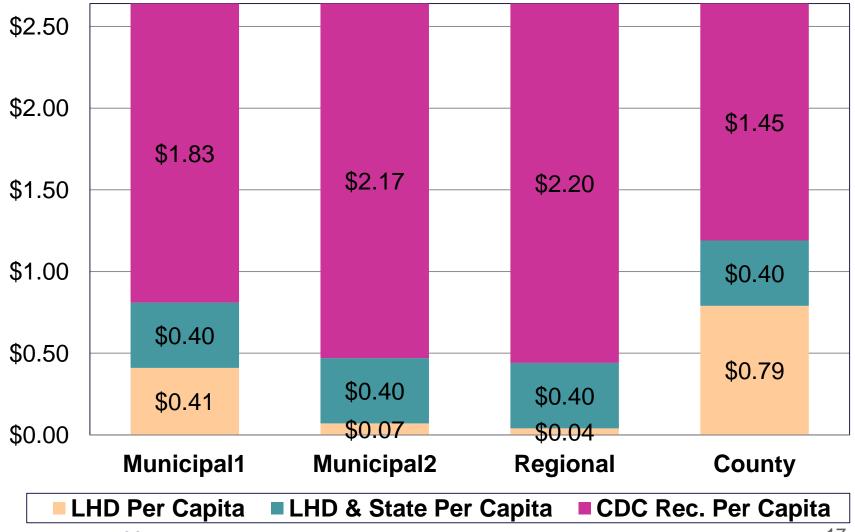


Total Cost Including State Expenditure

- State-level *per capita* tobacco spending for FY 2013: \$0.40^{*} (mostly federal funds)
- Adding this to LHD costs, *per capita* spending on state and community interventions: \$0.44 \$1.19

*New Jersey Department of Health, Division of Family Services, Community Health and Wellness, Office of Tobacco Control. FY 2013 NJ Tobacco Expenditures.

Per Capita Allocation: LHD, State, CDC Recommended



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- None of the 4 LHDs met CDC-recommended annual *per capita* allocation of \$2.64-\$3.29 for NJ State and Community Tobacco Interventions
- Our data demonstrate insufficient resources for LHDs to confront the leading cause of morbidity and mortality

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Limitations

- LHDs do not maintain labor data in the componentbased format used by SASCAP[™]
- Time intensive data collection
- While LHD staff were supportive and enthusiastic, LHDs lack time resources to participate easily in public health services and systems research
- Possible measurement error due to the retrospective and self-report design
- Our data do not include non-governmental tobacco control efforts, e.g., partner activities

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Implications for Public Health Policy and Practice

- These data can be used to advocate for additional resources where the CDC-recommended per capita funding for tobacco control is not met
- Adds to public health knowledge of mechanisms through which costs, information, and labor produce health promotion and protection services, programs, and policies
- Elucidation of true costs of local tobacco control is needed to attain the goal of delivering foundational public health services at the community level



Next Steps

- Conclude data analysis
- Share findings with PBRN partners
- Prepare manuscript for publication

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 - Koren Norwood, Local Health Department
 - Paschal Nwako, Local Health Department

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