



Center for Public Health Systems Science

GEORGE WARREN BROWN  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

 Washington University in St. Louis

# Big Cities Health Coalition Networks for Policy Development and Advocacy

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**de Beaumont**  
FOUNDATION



# About Big Cities

- The **Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC)** is a project of NACCHO
- Made up of the largest metropolitan health departments
- Provides a way for LHDs to share strategies for improving the health across jurisdictions
- Serve one in seven Americans



<http://www.bigcitieshealth.org/>



# Objectives

Characterize health policy networks in 15 urban areas in the United States using network analysis

Describe size of the networks and connectedness between policy partners in each city

Results will allow Local Health Departments to identify strengths and opportunities for growth



# Participants

- 15 BCHC jurisdictions agreed to participate
- 2 stage delineation
  - Stage 1: Contacted chief of policy to identify policy partners across 5 main policy areas:
    - Core local funding
    - Tobacco control
    - Obesity and chronic disease
    - Injury and violence prevention
    - Infant mortality
  - Stage 2: Reached out to key leaders to identify additional partners in each policy area
- Jurisdiction network sizes: 12-54 organizations
- Response rates: 63-100%



# Policy partners

- Jurisdictions identified an average of 30 partners from 8 sectors:
  - Government
  - Non-profit
  - For-profit
  - School/University
  - Hospital/Clinic
  - Coalitions
  - Foundations
  - Voluntary/Advocacy



# Network Survey Questions

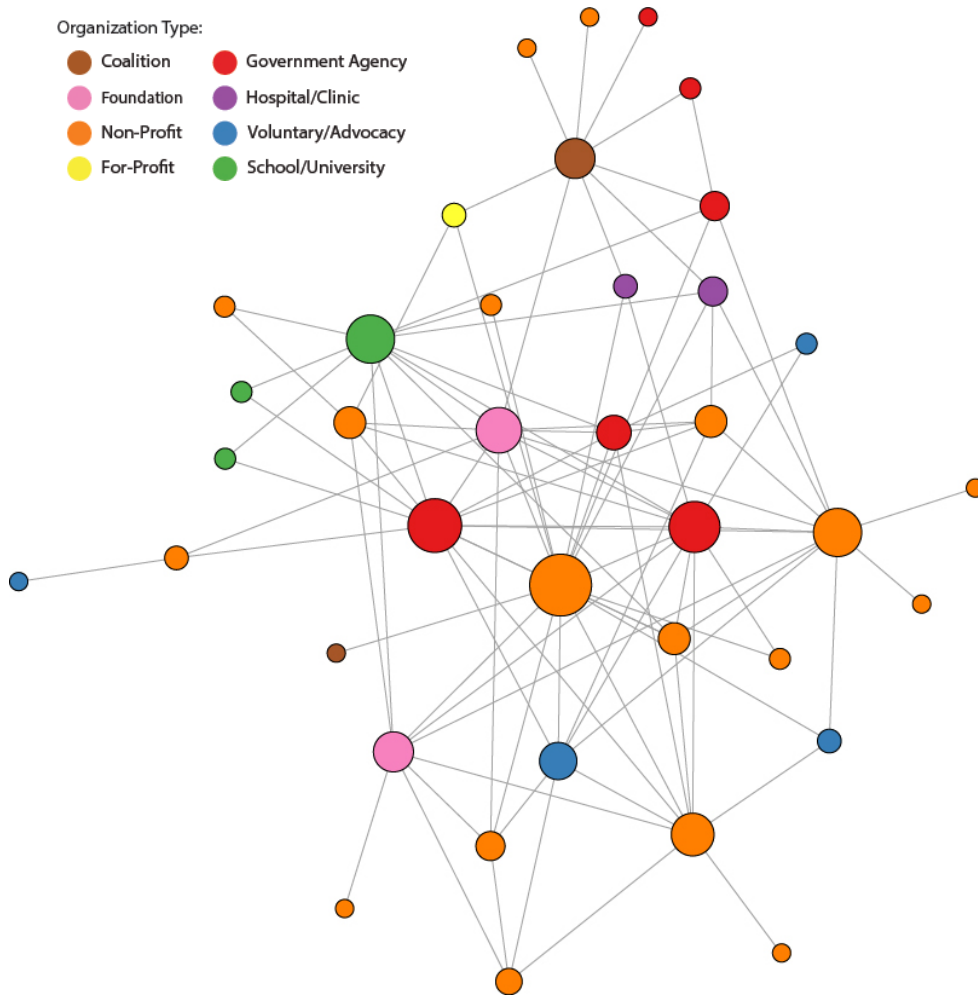
- On average, how often have you had direct *contact* (e.g., meetings, phone calls, emails, faxes, or letters) with each of the following organizations within the last 12 months?
- Please indicate the organizations you have *worked with* in the last 12 months and the policy areas you worked with them on.



# How do I interpret a network graph?

Organization Type:

- |            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| Coalition  | Government Agency  |
| Foundation | Hospital/Clinic    |
| Non-Profit | Voluntary/Advocacy |
| For-Profit | School/University  |



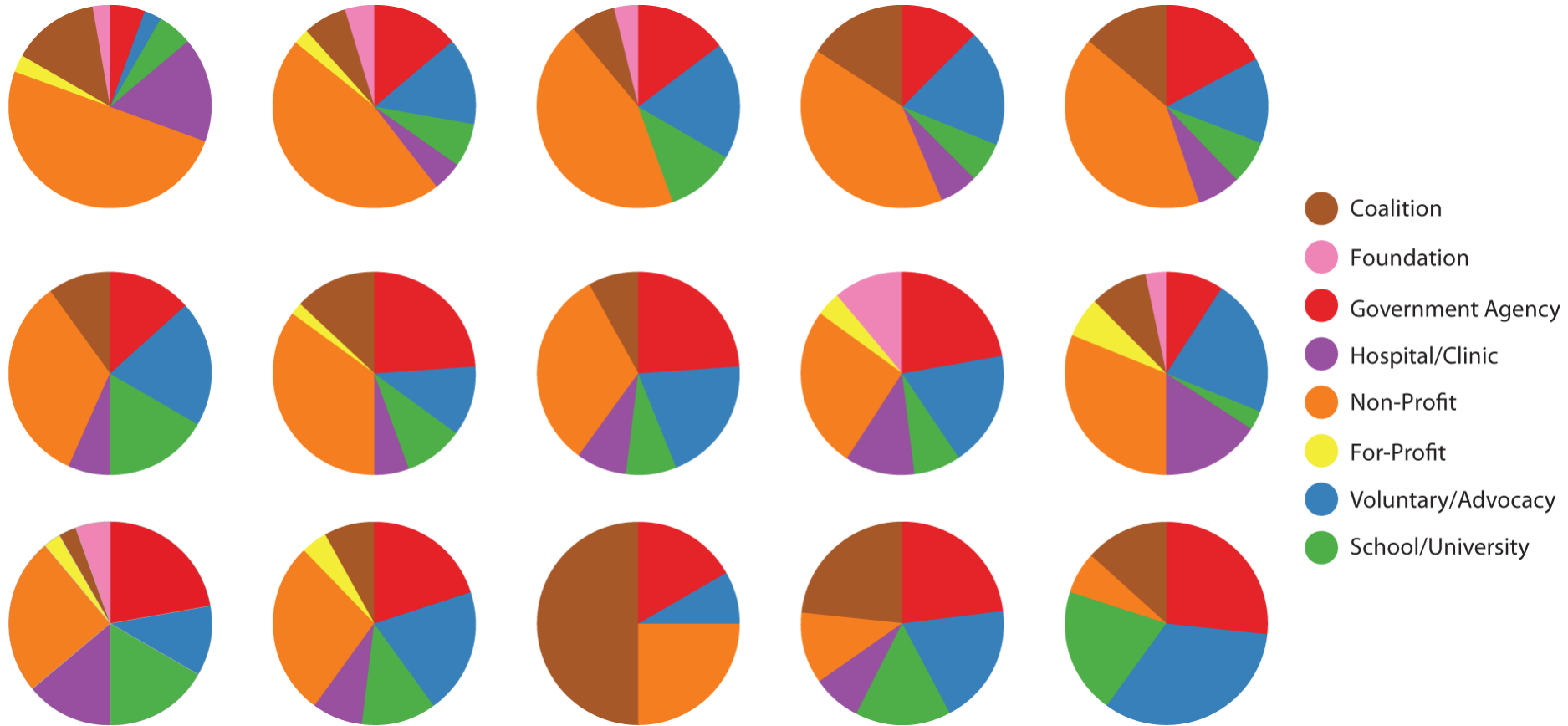
## Features:

- **Node size** represents the number of ties
- **Node color** is type of organization
- **Links** represent contact or working together

## Measures:

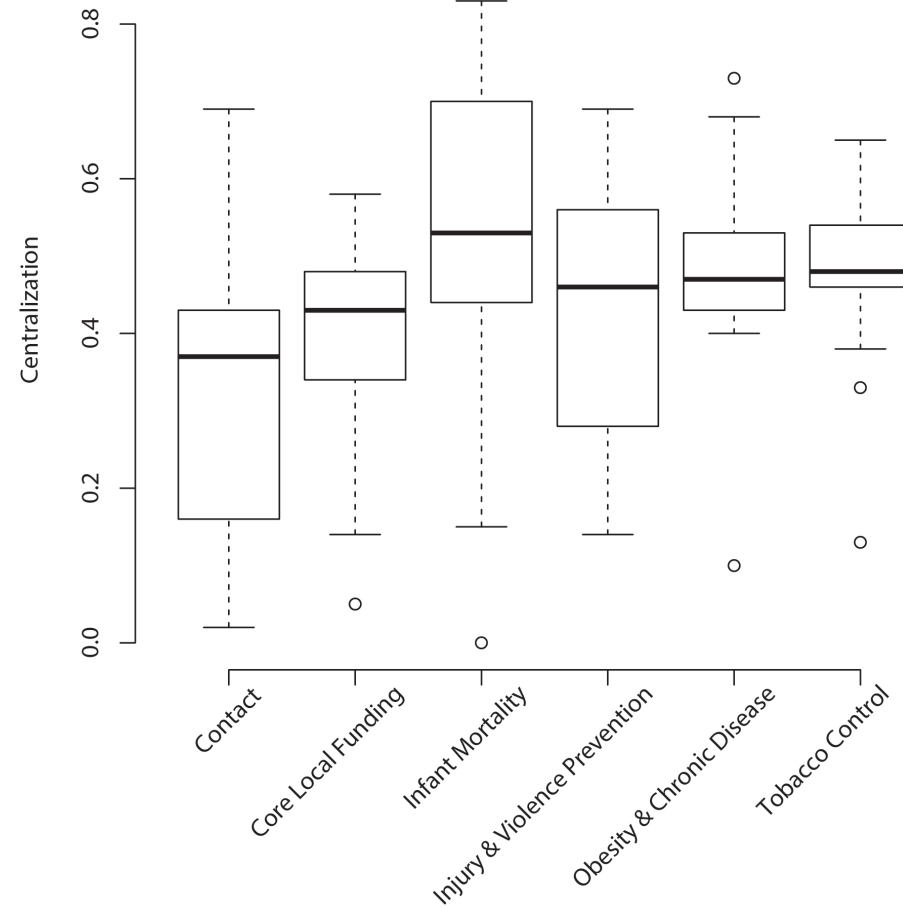
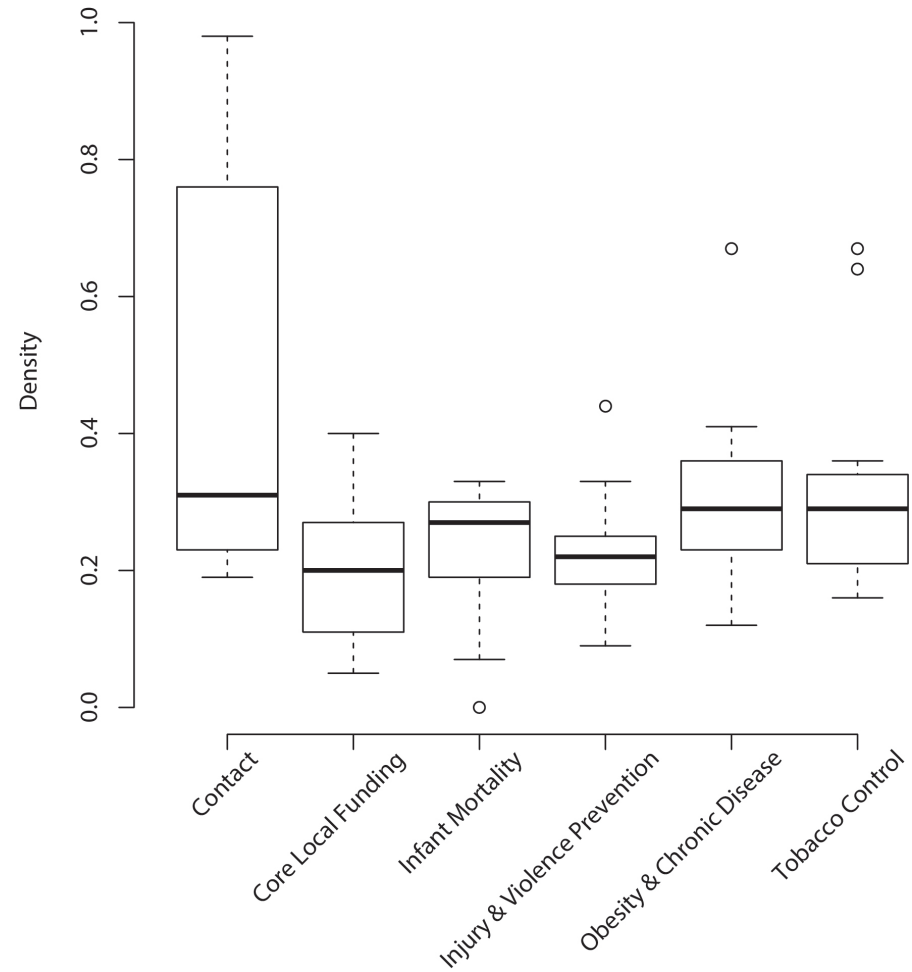
- **Density** is the number of ties in the network out of total possible ties
- **Centralization** is how much a network is centered on one or a small group of nodes

# Who is in the Big Cities policy networks?



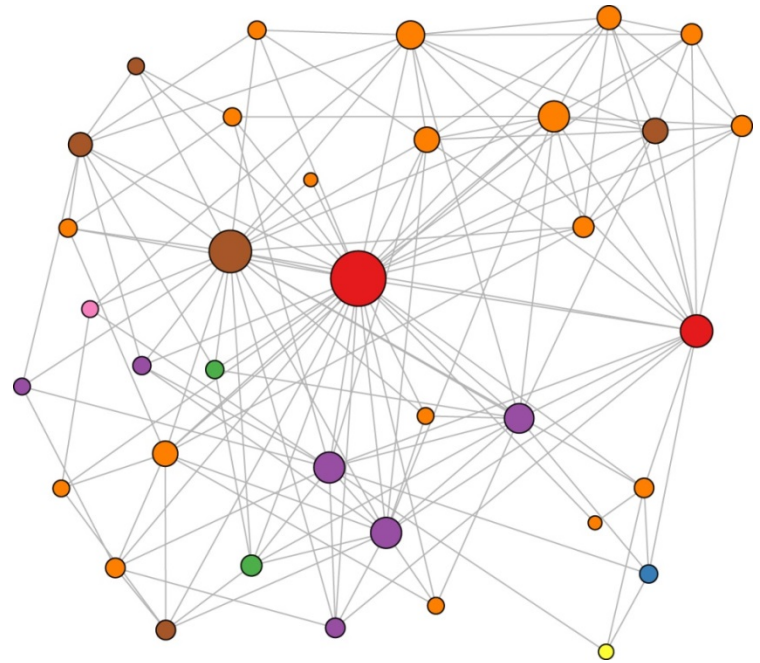
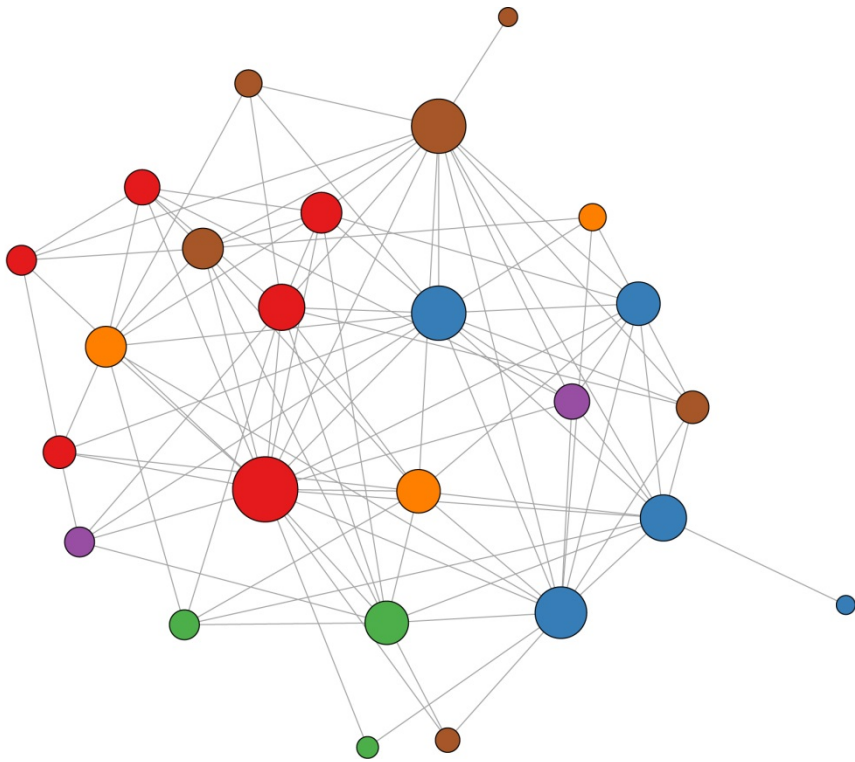


# What are the structures of the Big Cities policy networks?





# Contact

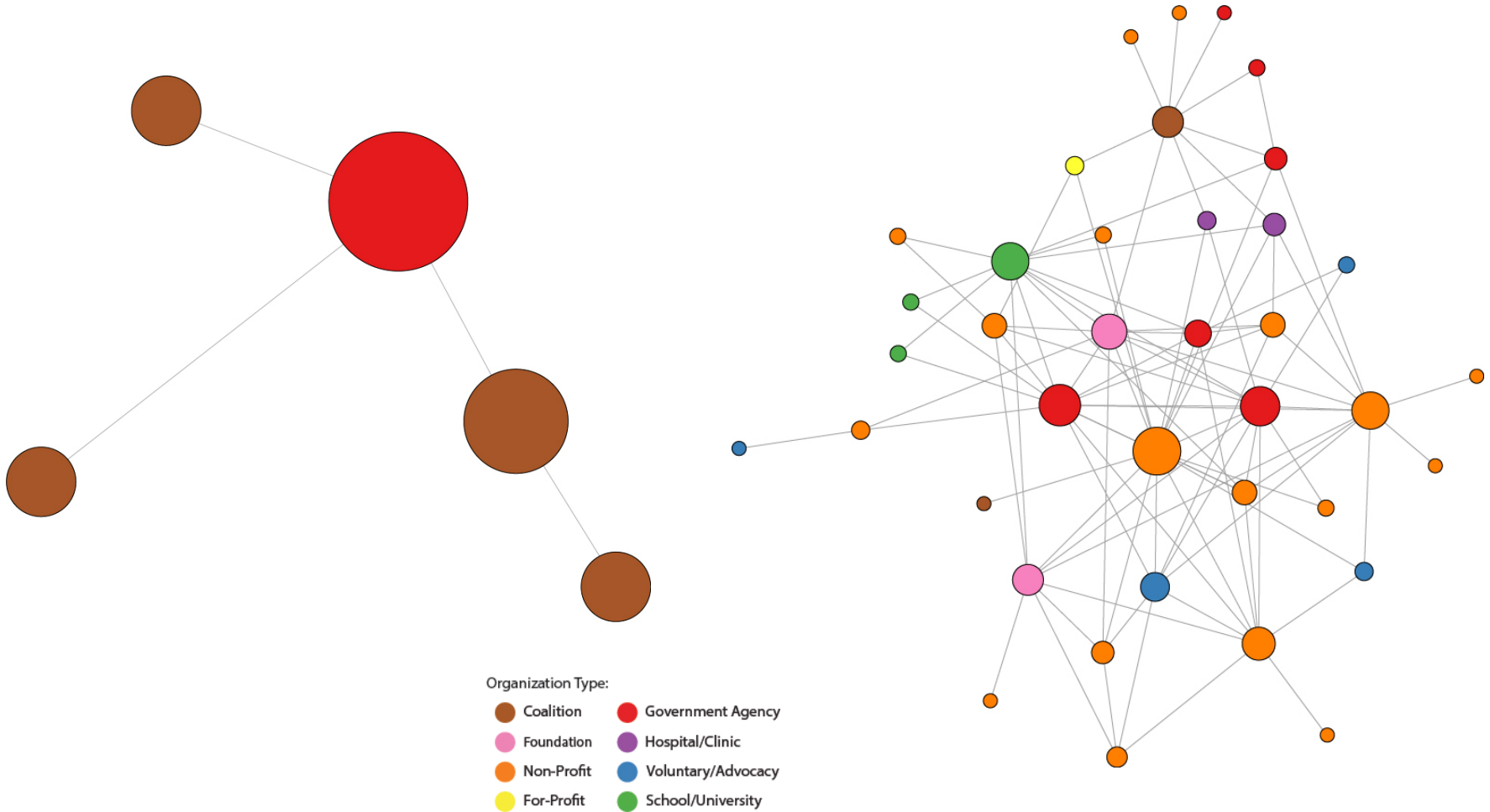


Organization Type:

- Coalition
- Government Agency
- Foundation
- Non-Profit
- For-Profit
- Hospital/Clinic
- Voluntary/Advocacy
- School/University

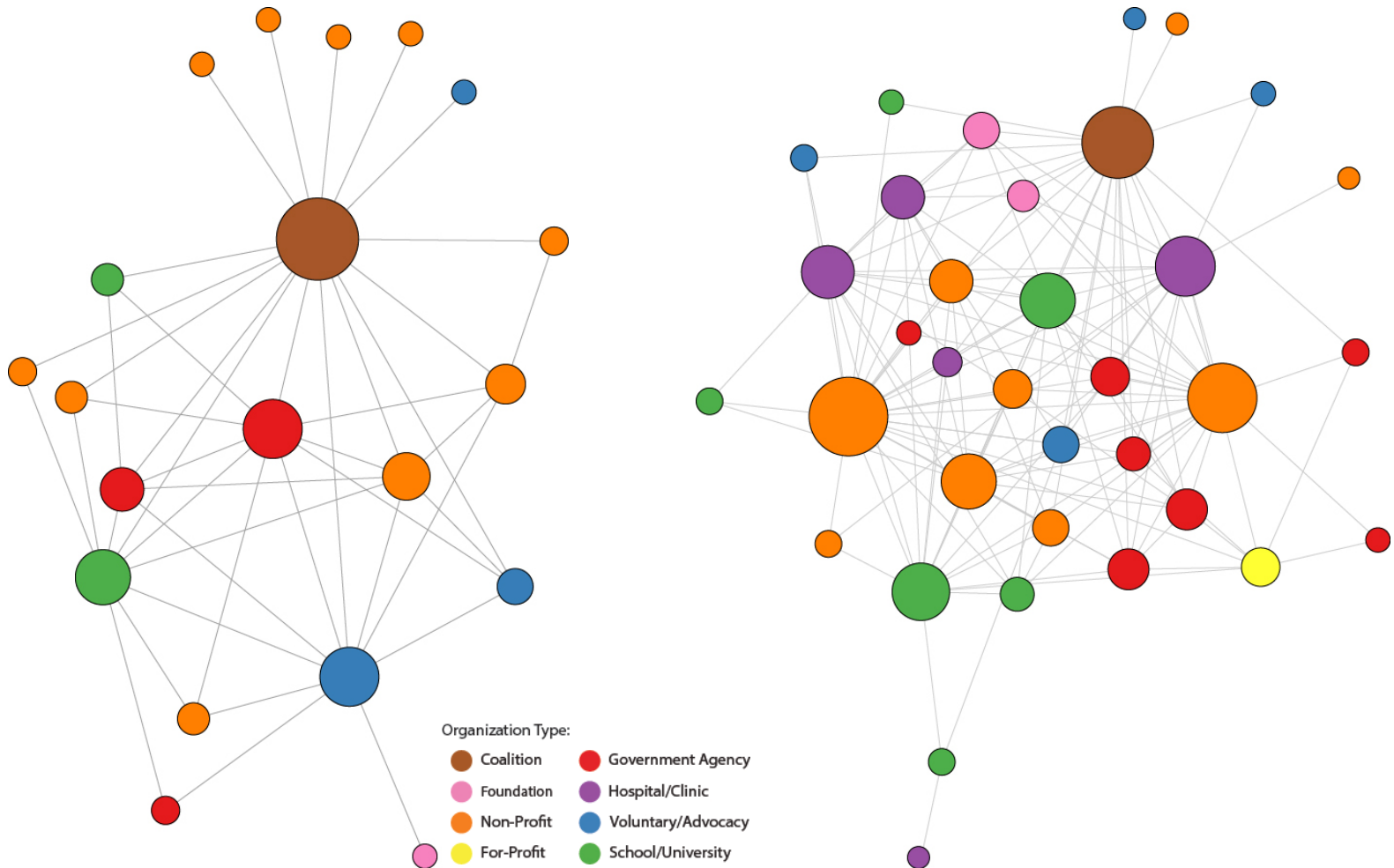


# Core Local Funding



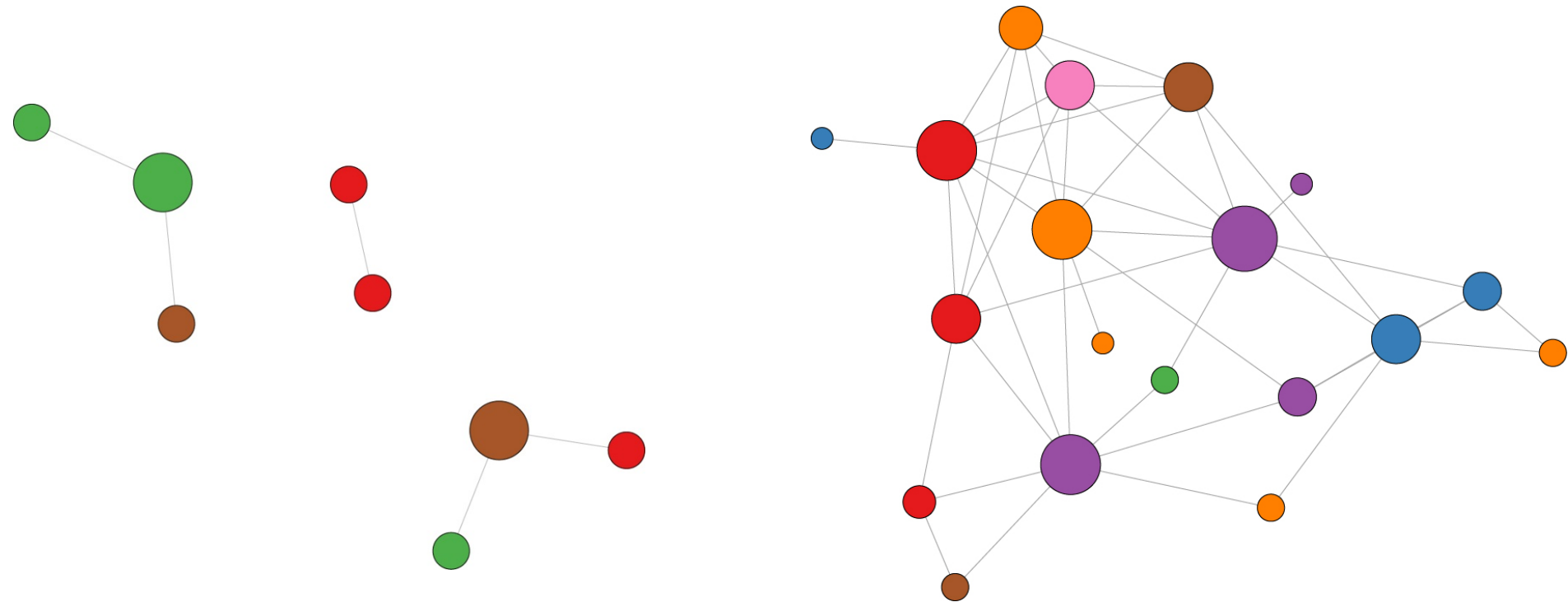


# Obesity/Chronic Disease





# Injury & Violence Prevention

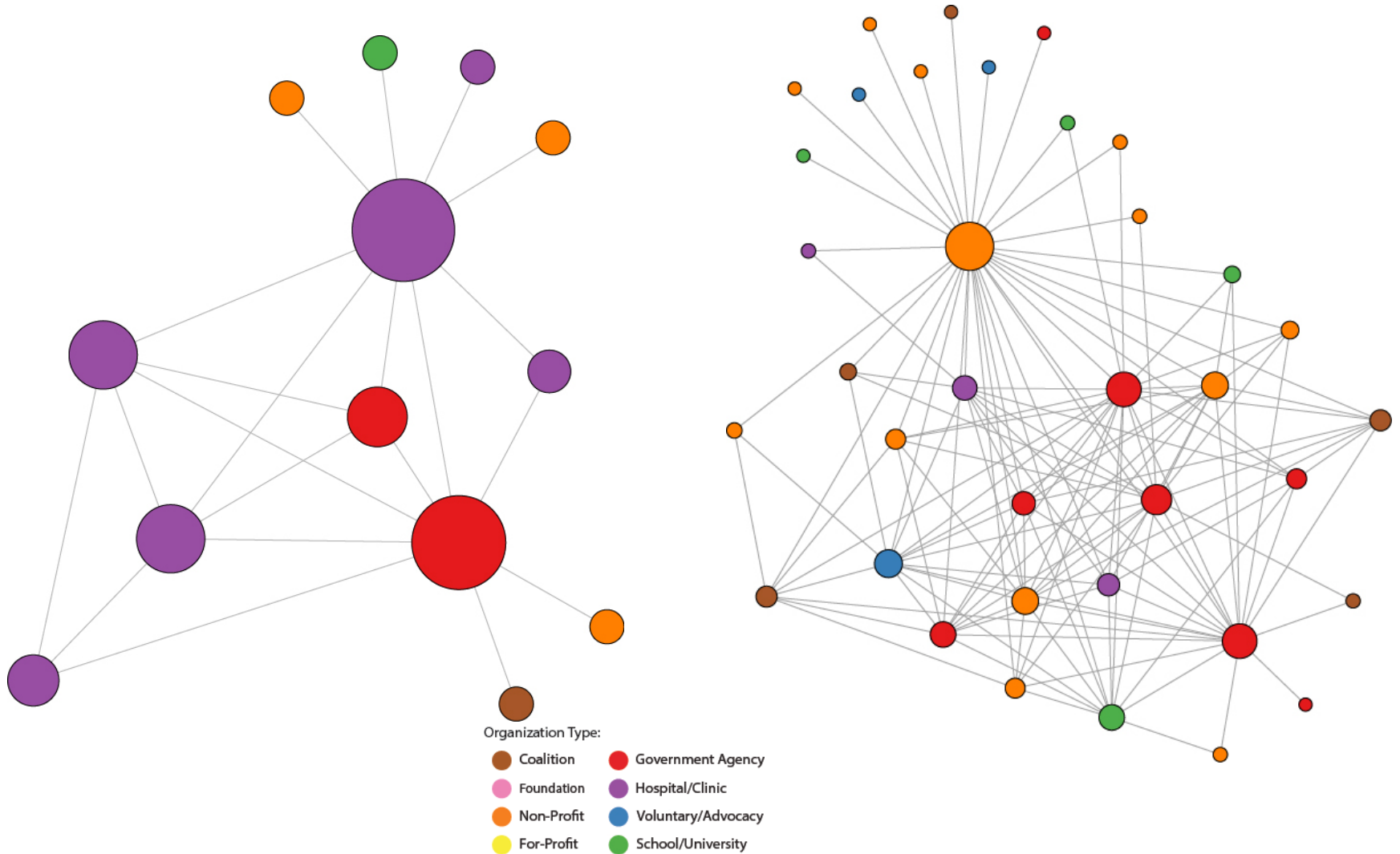


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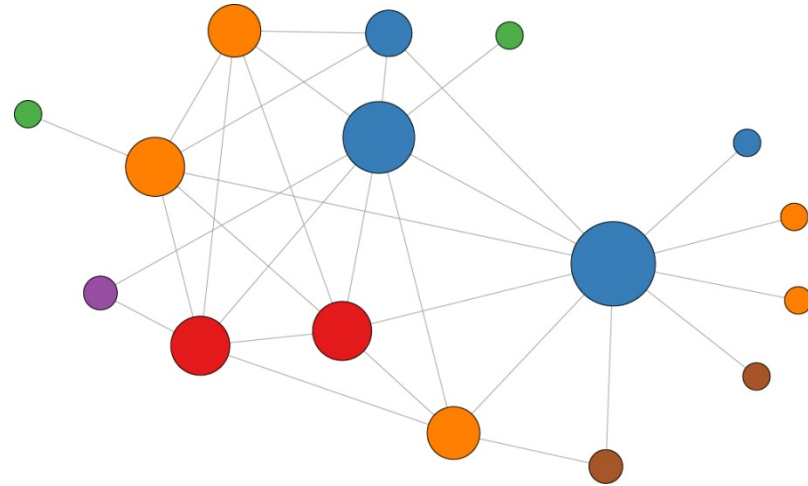
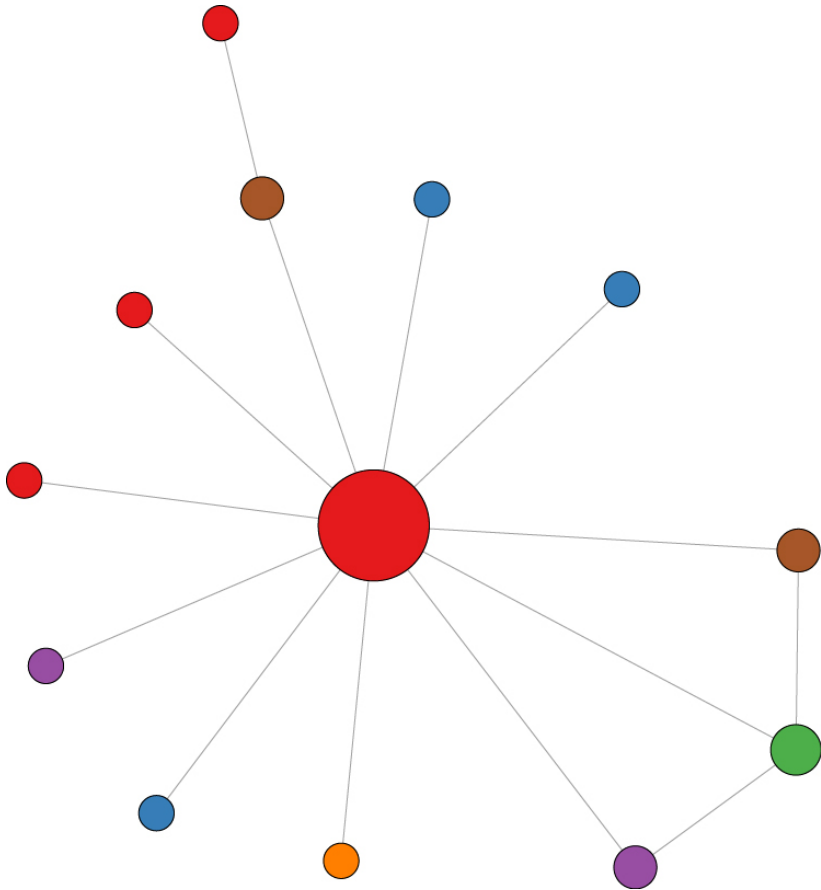


# Infant Mortality





# Tobacco Control



- Organization Type:
- Coalition
  - Foundation
  - Non-Profit
  - For-Profit
  - Government Agency
  - Hospital/Clinic
  - Voluntary/Advocacy
  - School/University



# How can the Big Cities use this information?

- Big Cities health departments can build on current composition and structures:
  - Tobacco control policy networks without schools/ universities can seek these partners
  - Core local funding networks missing foundations may seek new foundation partnerships
  - Disconnected networks can seek additional partnerships to better connect the networks
- Strategically bring in new partners and develop new collaborative relationships with existing partners





# Thank you!

## Questions?

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