

Engaging Planners as Livable Communities Allies

IFA/WHO Webinar

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Livable Communities for All Ages

“Livable Communities for All ages (LCA) are communities that ensure appropriate physical infrastructures (i.e. housing, transportation, built environment, access to healthy foods) and social infrastructures (i.e. health care, support services, engagement opportunities) for residents throughout an expanding life course.” (Firestone, Keyes, and Greenhouse, 2017)



Planning for Livable Communities for All Ages



“The process of consciously developing and operating communities supportive of people throughout their lifespans includes aging in community, aging in place, successful aging, healthy aging, and smart growth.”

(Winick and Jaffe 2015)

Planners and Aging Professionals Collaborate for Livable Communities

Stephanie Firestone, MUP, AARP

Laura M. Keyes, Ph.D., AICP

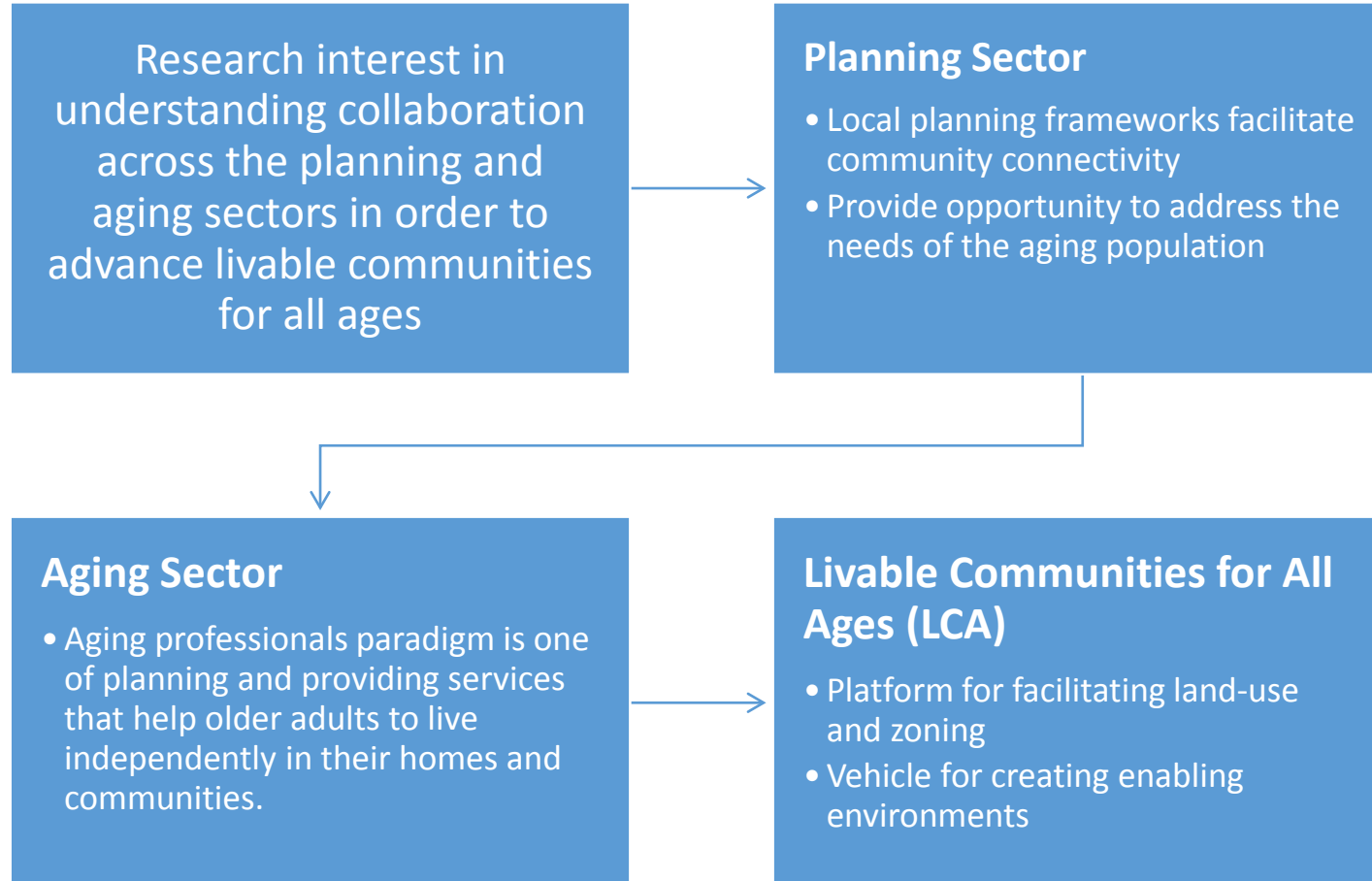
University of North Texas

Esther Greenhouse, M.S., CAPS

Why collaboration matters?

- Resolution to complex social problems requires cross collaborative engagement among stakeholders, government, and residents
 - Trust, reputation and reciprocity are critical factors in reducing risk and uncertainty in group decision making (Ostrom, 1989)
- Ensuring communities have appropriate infrastructure to support individuals across the lifespan requires leadership and collaboration across sectors
- Essential Actors:
 - Planners –facilitate the community design and development
 - Aging professionals –provide services to help older adults live independently

Effects of LCA Intervention on Collaboration



Methodology

Event:

A half-day summit convened over 250 aging sector professionals and planners. Summit hosted by:

American Society on Aging

American Planning Association

AARP

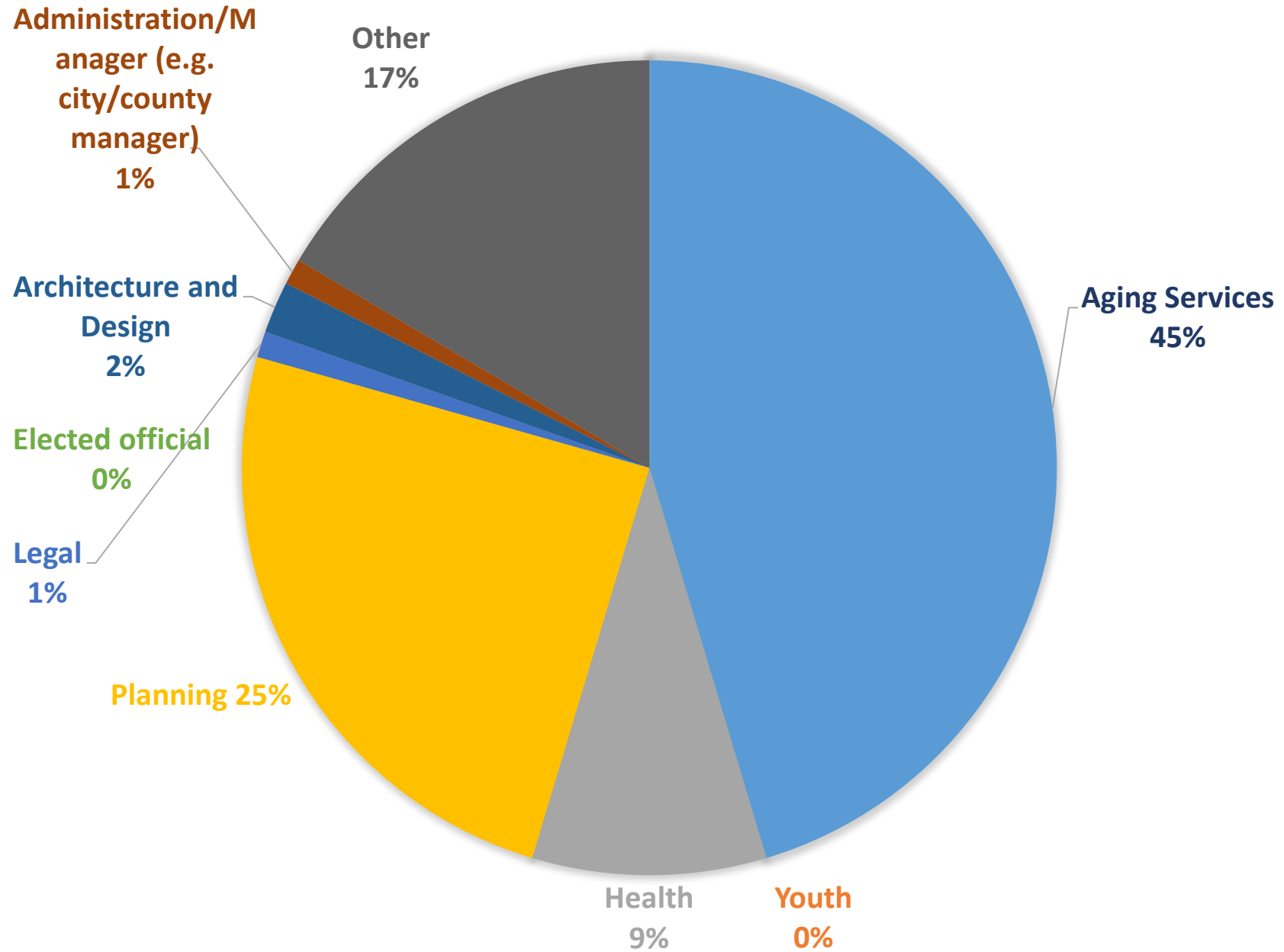
Data collection:

Pre-event survey (n=140)

Post event evaluation (n=97)

- Post event 6-month follow up survey (n=97)

PROFESSIONS REPRESENTED AT EVENT



Lessons Learned

1. A relationship with a planner is within reach...

- Both sectors already conducting LCA planning efforts in their communities -61% (moderate to very great extent)
- Planning field recognized by over 14% of summit participants as primary leaders for LCA work in their community:
 - AAA – 11.4%
 - AARP State office – 11.4%
 - City – 7.9%
 - Regional planning – 6.4%
- Opportunity for partnership building
 - **Aging sector** as primary field: over 11% also indicated an area of planning as a primary focus of work
 - **Planning sector** as primary field: over 4% indicated aging policy as a primary focus of work

...with an importance on cross sector relationships

LCA Summit Event evaluation revealed increased participant recognition of value of cross-sector relationships to their LCA work

- Expressed level of importance increased from 73% to 86%

Significant
difference
between
before after
event (p.05)

Since the LCA summit almost 60% went home and initiated a relationship with a planner (post summit survey)

Discussion points:

- Both Planners and Aging Sector professions are engaged in livable communities planning work
- 8 WHO Domains for Age Friendly cities are relevant to many different professions
 - Work on age friendly typically starts with the office of aging
 - Aging service and the planning professions sit well within these domains that we are beginning and era of de-siloed work.

2. Find points of commonality

For aging professionals the following LCA characteristics were significant and positively correlated and central to their work:

- Built environment and community design
- Programs and services
- Access to information
- Volunteerism
- Leadership
- Access to health

For planning professionals the following LCA characteristics were significant and positively correlated and central to their work:

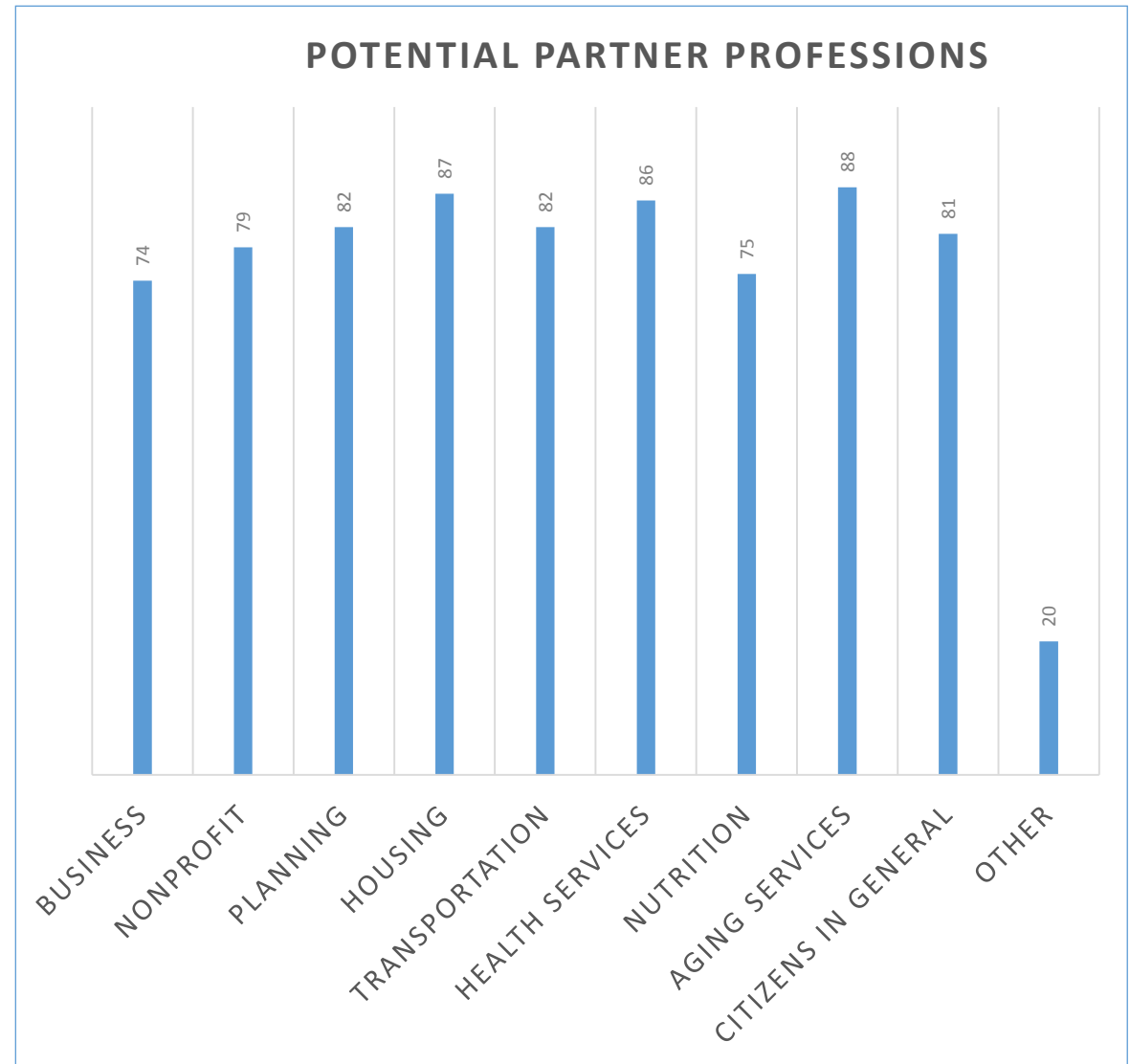
- Public safety
- Access to health

- Both professions are working on LCA but from different starting points
- Access to Health as vehicle for working together (for ASA conference participants)
- Communities should survey the interests of the professions in their community to find the points of leverage

Participants indicated that financial constraints were the greatest barrier to initiating LCA


3. Importance of Previous Relationships...

- Over 24% are working with their Area Agency on Aging on LCA efforts
- Most common responses on why they primarily partner with others organizations on LCA efforts
 - Leverage resources - 17%
 - Primary leader on issues 26%
 - Direct contact with citizens at 11%





... are due to Trust, Reputation, Reciprocity

Where you successfully collaborated across the planning and aging/health sectors:

- 
- **Over 83% indicated the success was attributed to previous experience working together (Trust)**
 - Only 40% indicated having planner involved at the beginning of the LCA planning effort (Trust)
 - Almost 48% indicated that both sectors were considered community leaders (Reputation)
 - Only 43% indicated their efforts were recognized publicly (Reputation)
 - Over 52% indicated their municipal leadership supported the LCA efforts (Reciprocity)
 - Over 56% indicated a cultural of collaboration existed in the municipality (Reciprocity)

Where you were NOT successful in collaborating across the planning and aging/health sectors, the most challenging aspects included:

- 
- 
- Only 33% indicated a lack of previous experience working together (Trust)
 - **Over 62% indicate there is not previous relationship between planning and aging sector (Trust)**
 - Only 20% indicate that both sectors are not considered community leaders (Reputation)
 - Only 20% indicated both sectors contributions are not publicly appreciated (Reputation)
 - **Over 50% indicate municipal leadership does not support LCA efforts (Reciprocity)**
 - **Over 50% indicate a culture of collaboration does not exist in the municipality (Reciprocity)**

4. Milestones and tools for collaboration are staples for both professions...

Pre-Summit Milestone data –

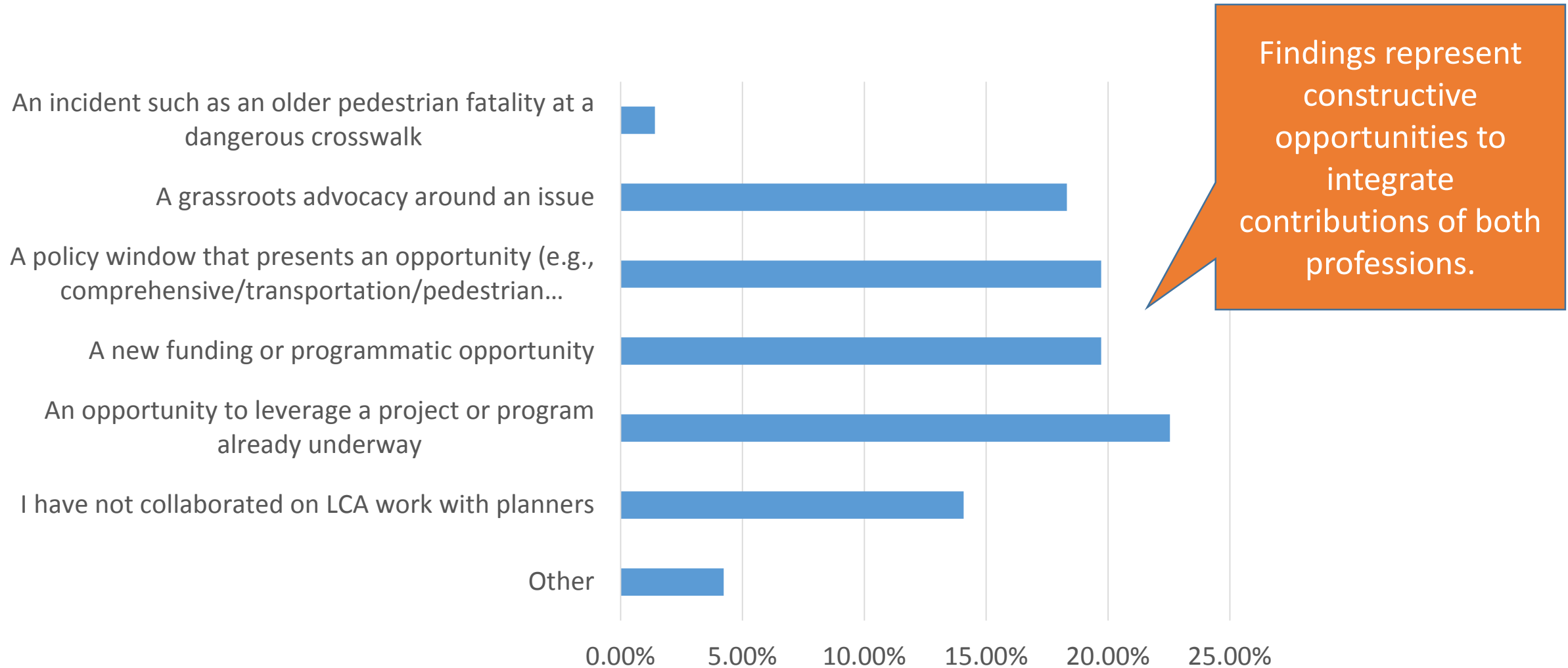
- Hosted visioning with residents – 51%
- Developed steering committee – 52%
- Adopted an actual policy - 29%
- Audited programs and services – 30%
- Allocated resources – 39%
- Performed a walkability assessment – 42%
- Signed an LCA agreement - 40%

Post Summit Milestone data (accomplished since event)

- Hosted visioning with residents – 25%
- Developed steering committee – 27%
- Adopted an actual policy - 21%
- Audited programs and services – 16%
- Allocated resources – 33%
- Performed a walkability assessment – 15%
- Signed an LCA agreement - 29%
- Internally your organization is planning LCA outreach
- Events – 44%
- Initiated a relationship with a municipal Planner – 60%

✓ Visioning ✓ Policy adoption ✓ Resource allocation ✓ Assessments

...opportunities are relevant for setting LCA priorities



...which can be aided by leveraging existing tools

- Two most helpful pieces are understanding the community and its needs:
 - Performing a needs assessment – 78%
 - Knowing community demographics – 60%

These methods are already commonly used by both professions

Strategies for engaging planners

Strategies for motivating planners to participate in an age friendly planning initiative include:

- An opportunity to leverage a project or program already underway
- A policy window, or
- New funding opportunity

Strategies for engaging planners to participate in your community's LCA efforts

- Hosting participatory meetings with planners and community residents on LCA
- Participating in a locally derived age friendly community initiative
- Providing written information on changing demographics and aging issues

International Planner Engagement Survey

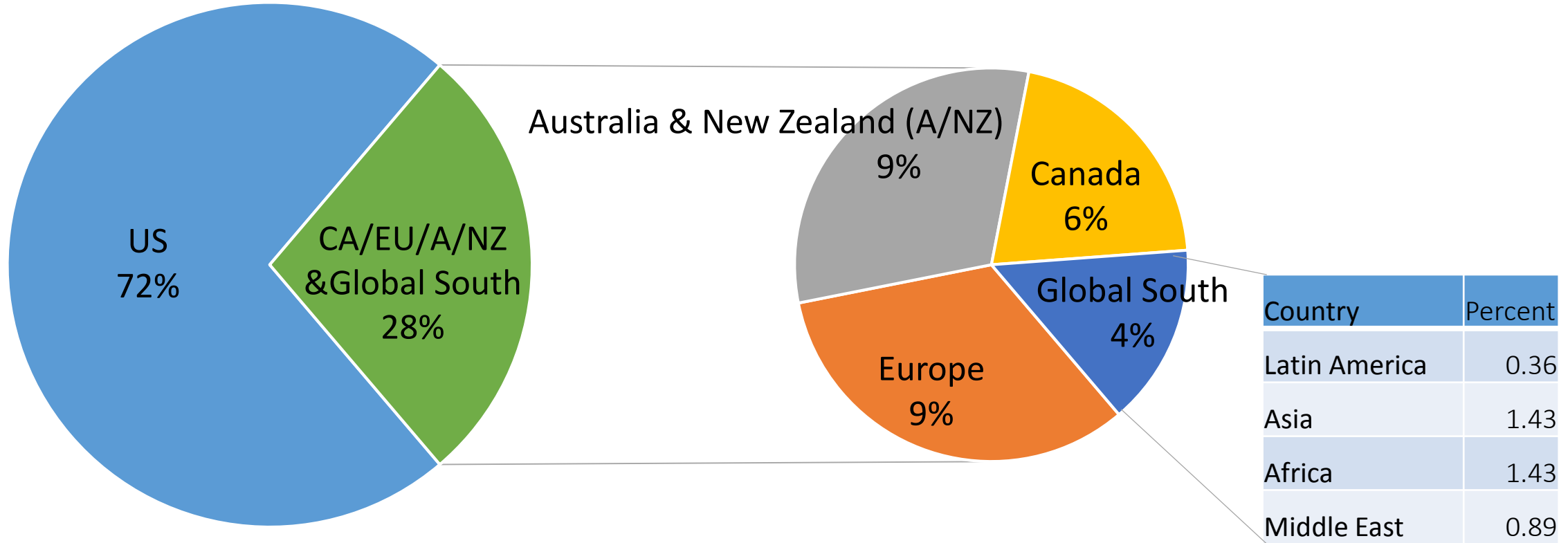


- Stephanie K. Firestone, AARP International
- Tim Van Epp, Chair, APA International Division
- Michael Amabile, Senior Planner, Arup
- Dr. Mildred Warner, Professor, City and Regional Planning, Cornell University
with Xue Zhang, Ph.D. candidate, Regional Science, Cornell
- Cheryl Lampkin, Senior Research Advisor, PRI 50+ Research, AARP

33 Countries Represented

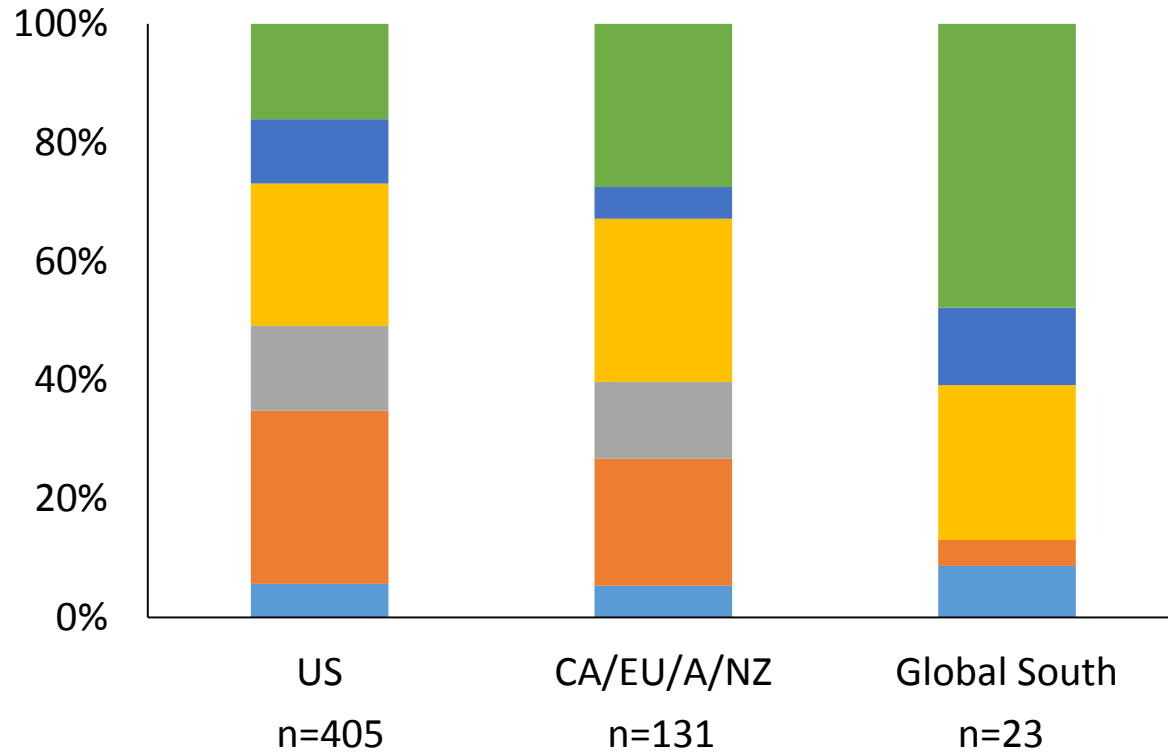


Respondents by Country (n=559)

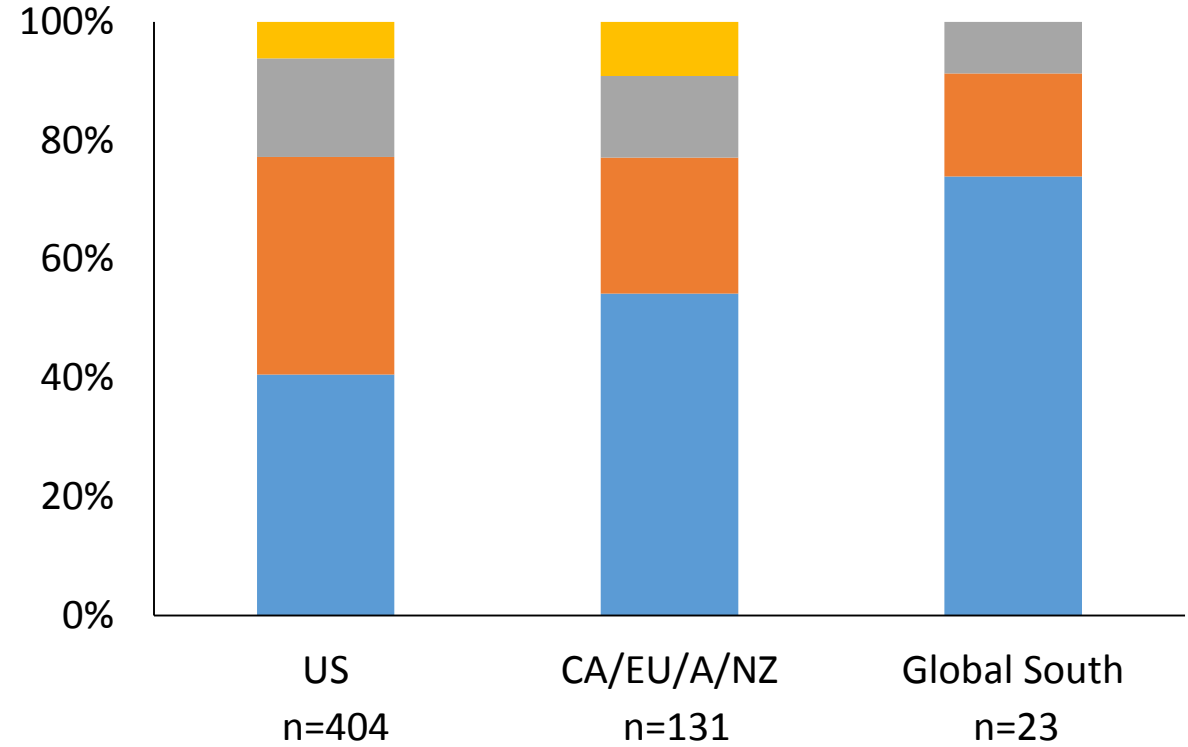


Community sizes and land use patterns

Community size



Land use patterns

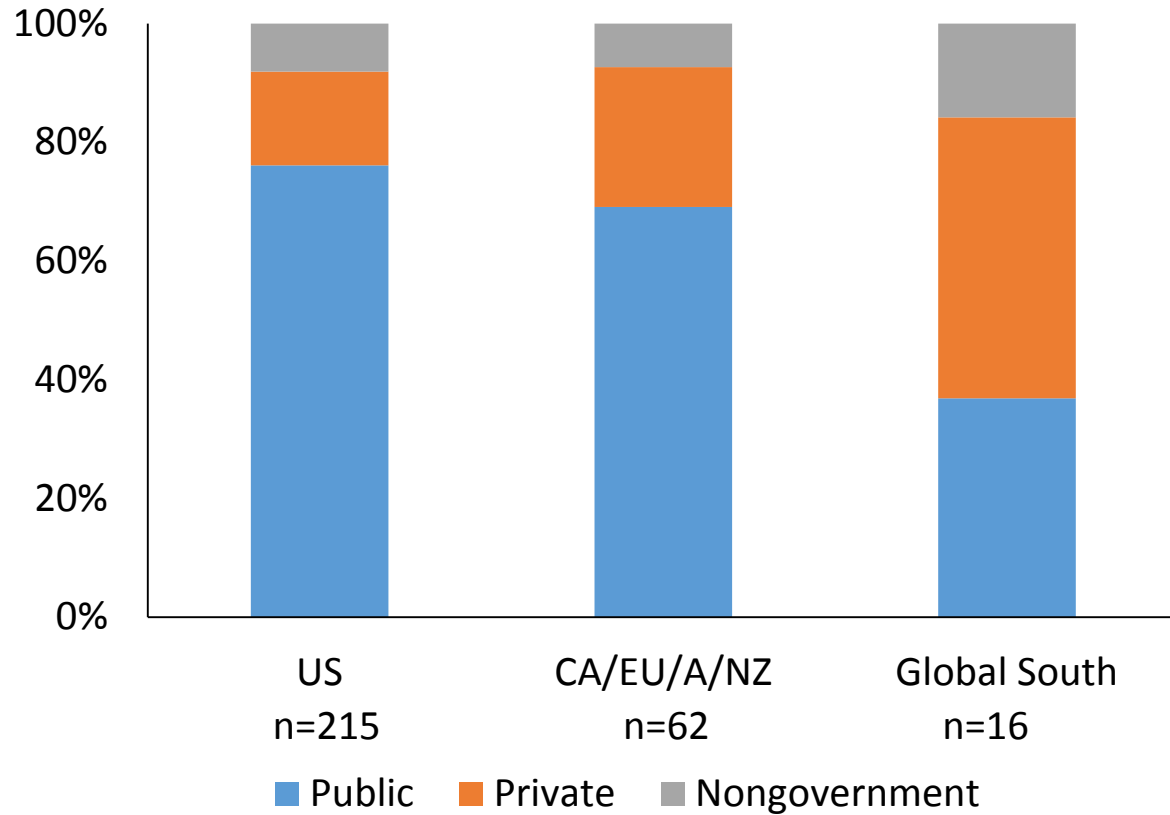


- less than 5k
- 5 to less than 50k
- 50 to less than 100k
- 100 to less than 500k
- 500k to less than 1m
- 1m or more

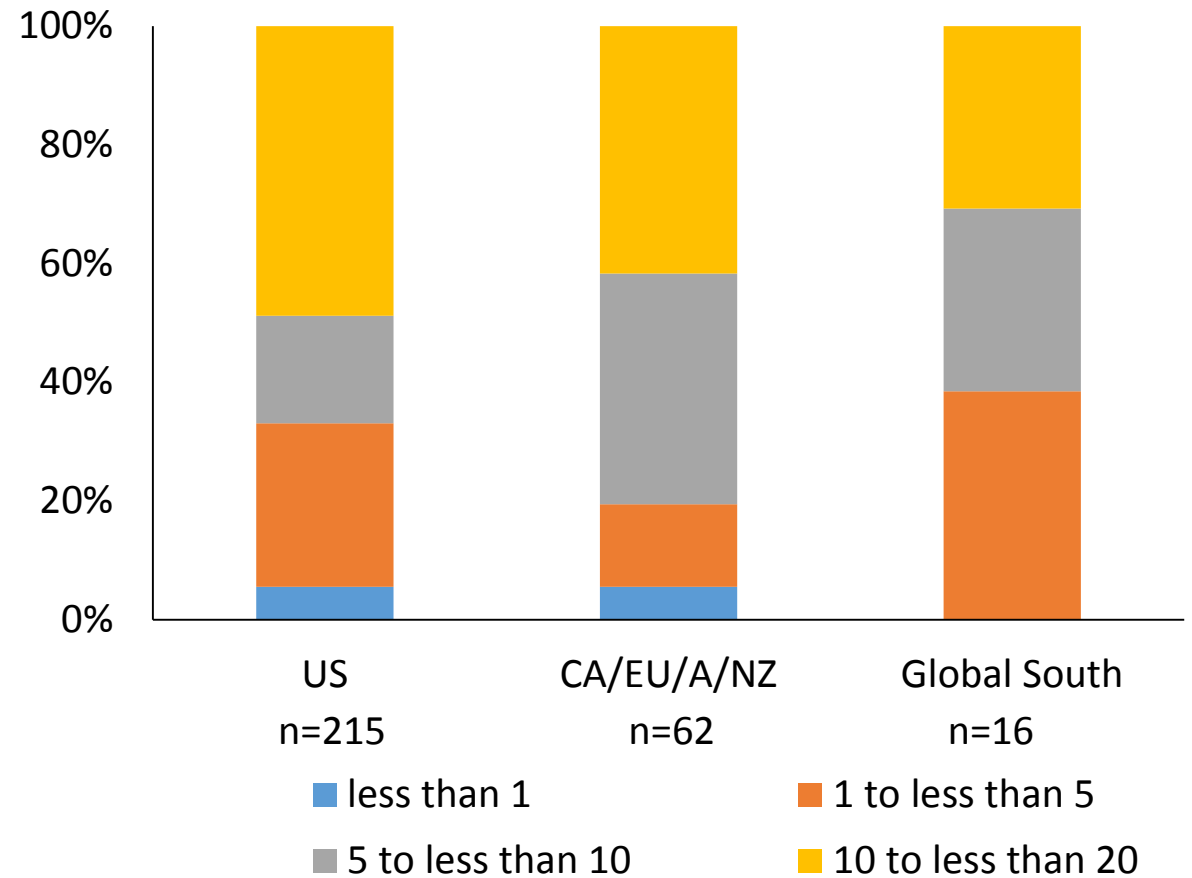
- Urban
- Suburban
- Small town
- Rural

Respondent Employment Information

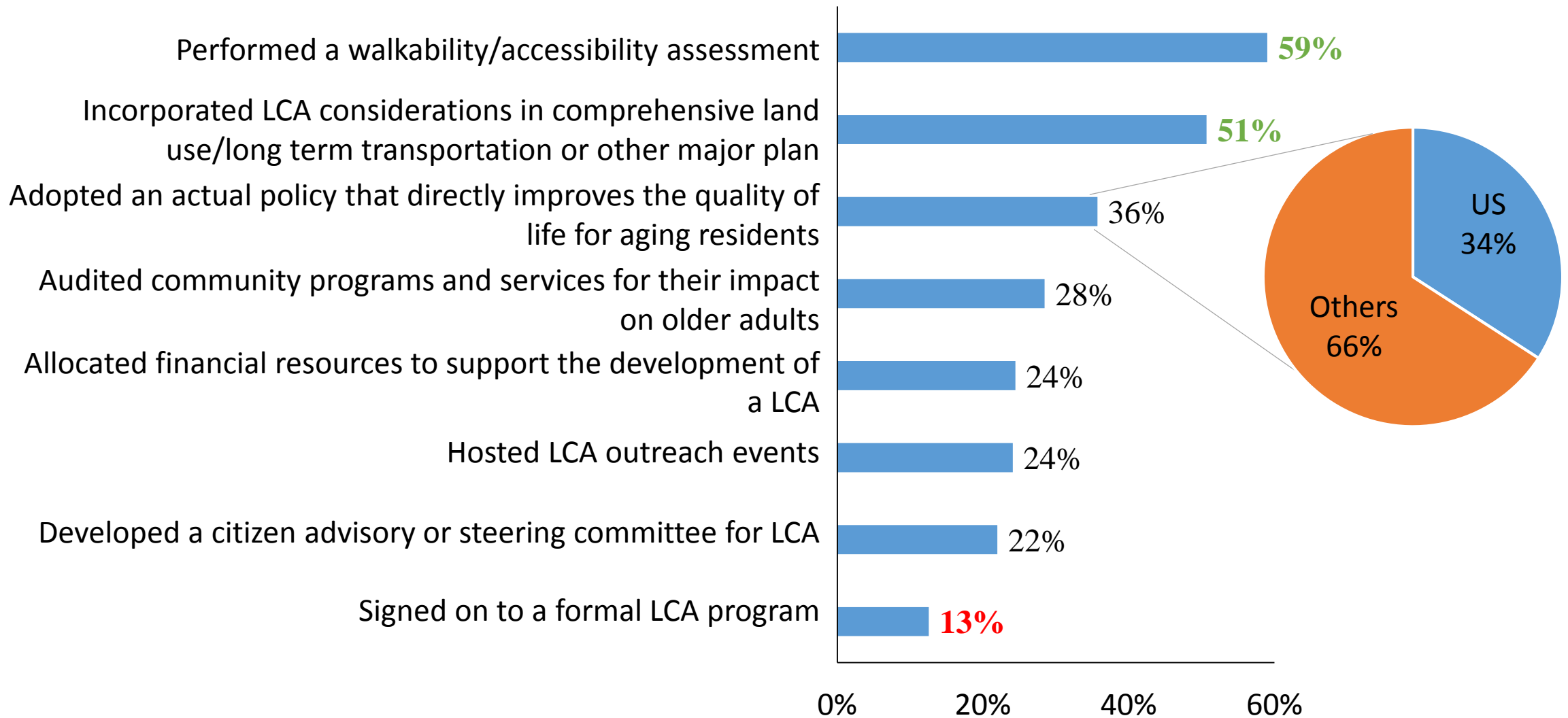
Sectors



Years



Please indicate which of the following actions the local government that you work with has taken to advance LCA:



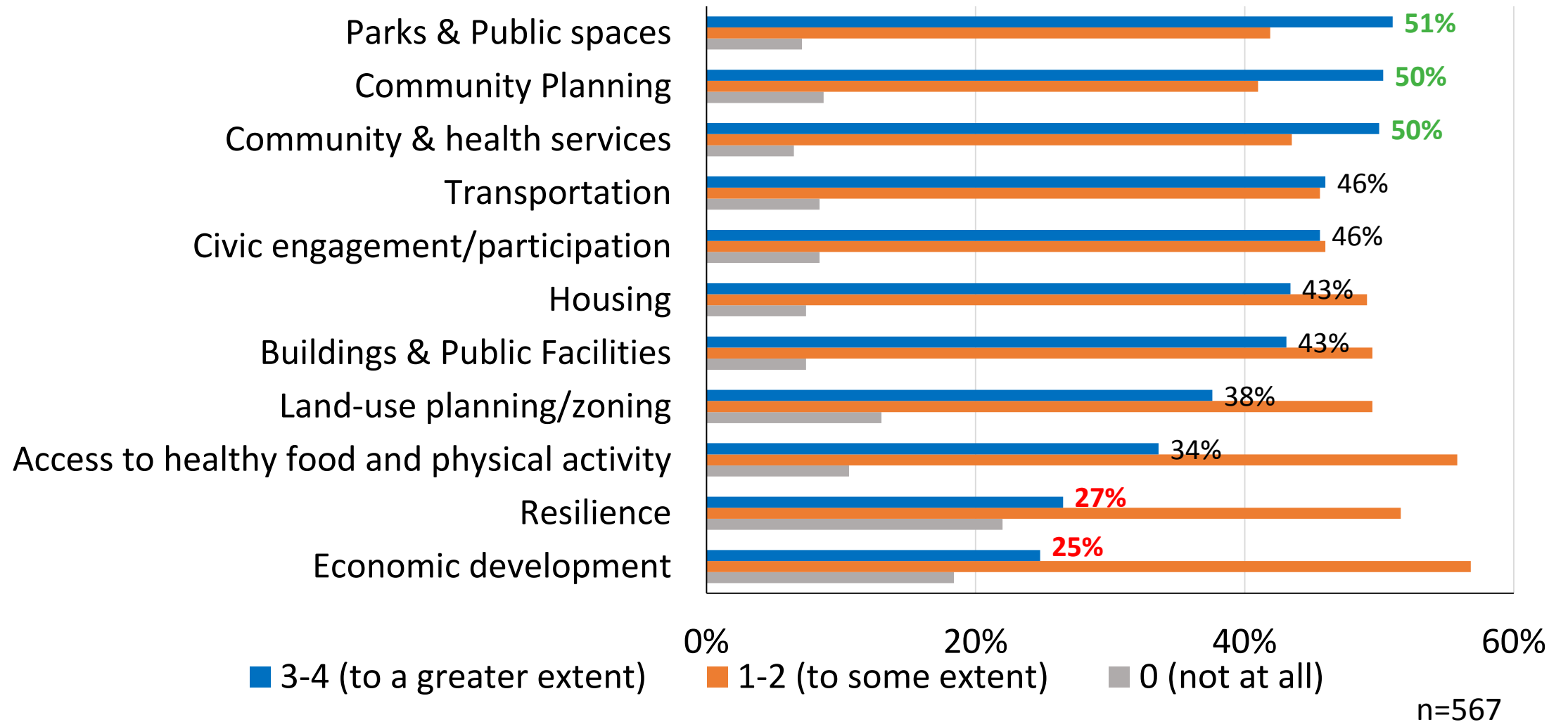
Why has this local government made planning LCA a part of their practice?

LCA practice	Percent (%) (n=225)
Substantial growth in aging population and need to better serve this segment of the population	72
Priority identified during a community planning process	50
A policy window that presented an opportunity (e.g., comprehensive/transportation/pedestrian planning process)	40
Local grassroots advocacy around an issue	35
Building on interest or expertise of staff	34
Policy/ies (at national/regional/local/company level) that mandate this perspective	20
An opportunity to leverage a project or program already underway	20
A new funding or programmatic opportunity	19
Pressure from local officials	17
An incident such as an older pedestrian fatality at a dangerous crosswalk	10
Pressure from business leaders	3

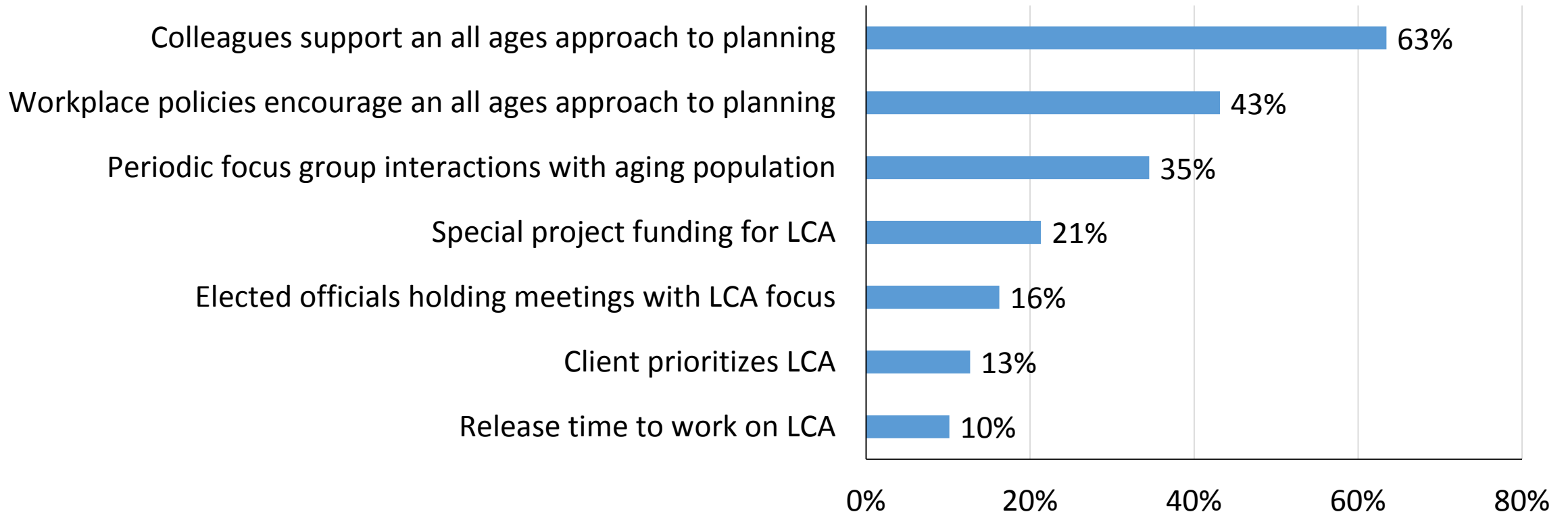
Why has this local government made planning LCA a part of their practice?
 Ranked by region (1=highest; 11=lowest)

LCA practice	US	Canada	Europe	A/NZ
Substantial growth in aging population and need to better serve this segment of the population	1	1	1	1
Priority identified during a community planning process	2	2	3	3
A policy window that presented an opportunity (e.g., comprehensive/transportation/pedestrian planning process)	3	4	4	9
Local grassroots advocacy around an issue	5	3	8	2
Building on interest or expertise of staff	4	7	7	4
Policy/ies (at national/regional/local/company level) that mandate this perspective	9	9	2	8
An opportunity to leverage a project or program already underway	6	5	5	5
A new funding or programmatic opportunity	7	6	6	7
Pressure from local officials	8	8	9	6
An incident such as an older pedestrian fatality at a dangerous crosswalk	10	10	10	11
Pressure from business leaders	11	11	11	10

To what extent is an all ages lens incorporated into your planning practice in each of these areas?

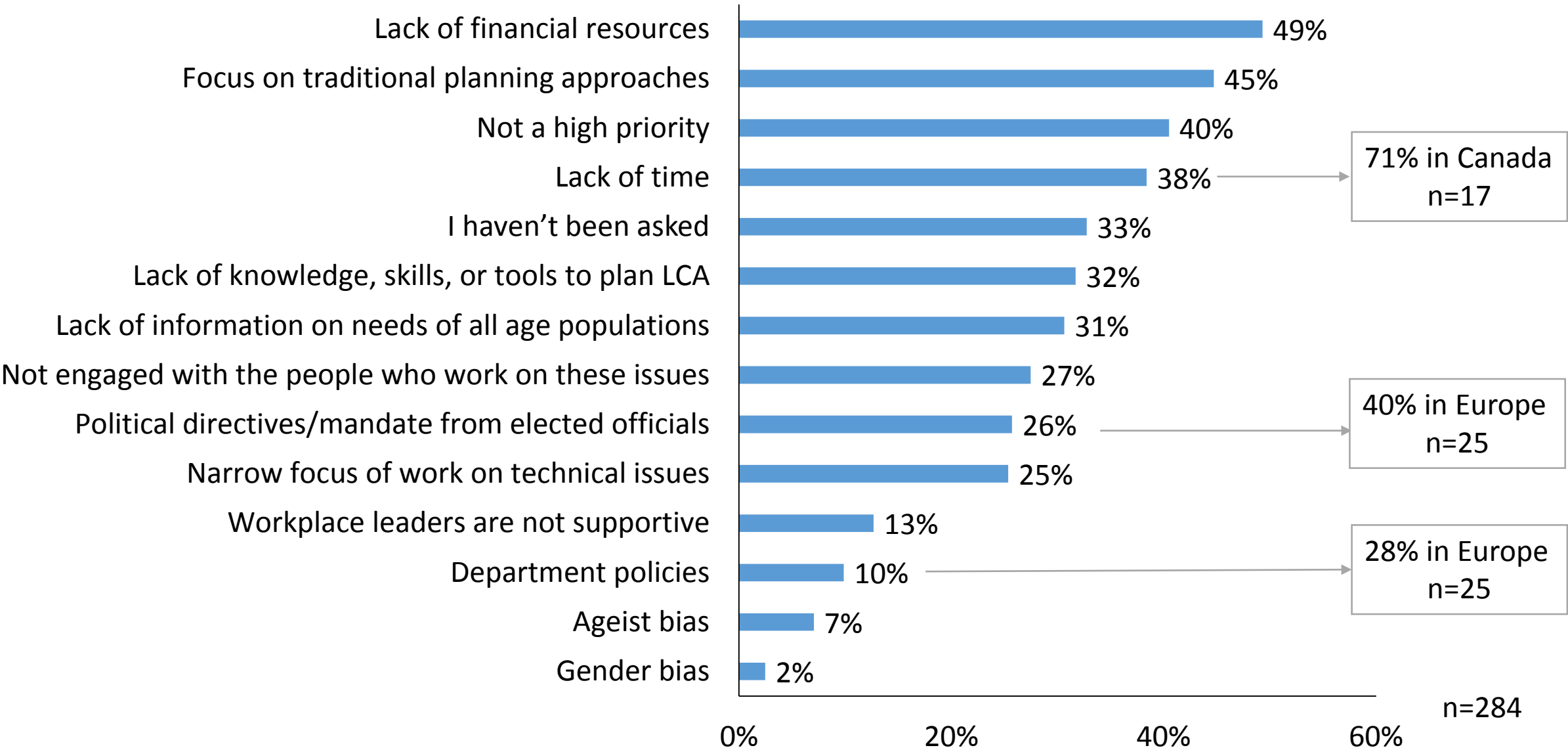


What practices in your workplace facilitate your work on LCA?

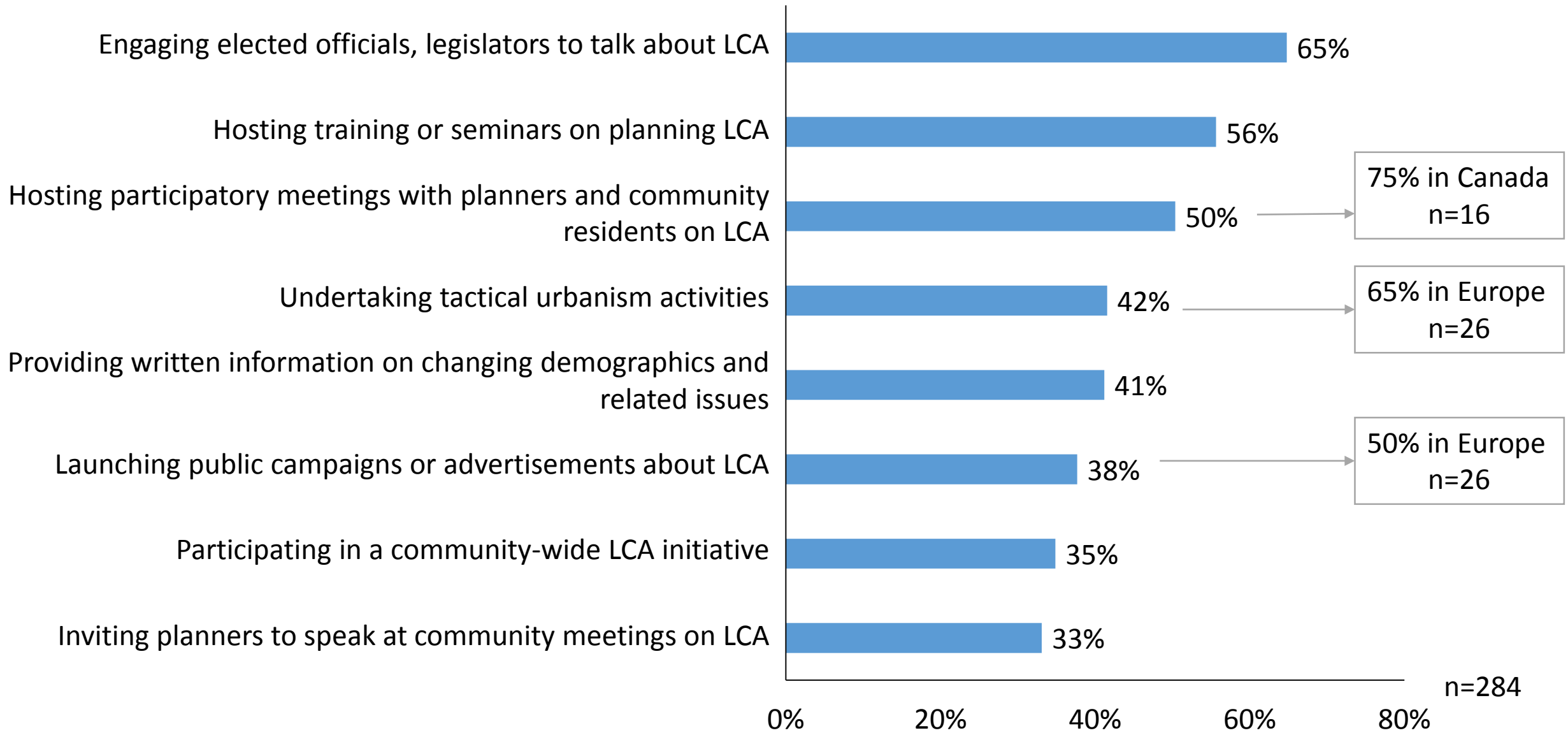


n=197

What are the primary barriers that limit your own engagement in planning LCA?



What strategies seem most effective to engage more planners to plan LCA?



What strategies seem most effective to engage more planners to plan LCA? – Others:

Australia

- *Urban Design solutions*
- *Providing overwhelming evidence of need*

Canada

- *Webinars! Blessed webinars!*
- *Development/urban design professionals/planners need to attend LCA types of events*

Colombia

- *Addressing local culture*

Philippines

- *Directives from authorities to implement LCA interventions*

United States

- *All Ages is not a sexy planning topic.*
- *Urban planning as a field has failed to acknowledge our complicity in creating communities that are exclusionary. Unless we acknowledge the problem, we will not be able to rectify it.*

Most important catalysts/motivators for planners to participate in planning LCA (con't)

United States

- *Cost-effectiveness*
- *Opportunities and solutions to problems/issues; success stories*
- *Personal experience or compelling stories*

Australia

- *A conscience and a value system which supercedes personal comfort at work*
- *Willingness to confront and be argued with*

Canada

- *Angry seniors getting on the Mayor's case*

Ireland

- *Continued Professional Development credits*

Nigeria

- *Passion*
- *Easy access to data*
- *Effective participation from client*

Slovenia

- *Intergenerational equity*

United Arab Emirates

- *Future economic development goals*

United Kingdom

- *Economic feasibility*
- *The quality of the resulting place*

On the Horizon

Livable Communities for All Ages Summit
ASA Aging in America Conference
San Francisco, March 26-29, 2018

De-Siloing Age-friendly Planning Solutions
APA National Planning Conference
New Orleans, April 21-24, 2018

IFA 14th Global Conference on Ageing
Toronto, August 8-10, 2018

AARP-APA International Planner
Engagement Research and Tools – TBD

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