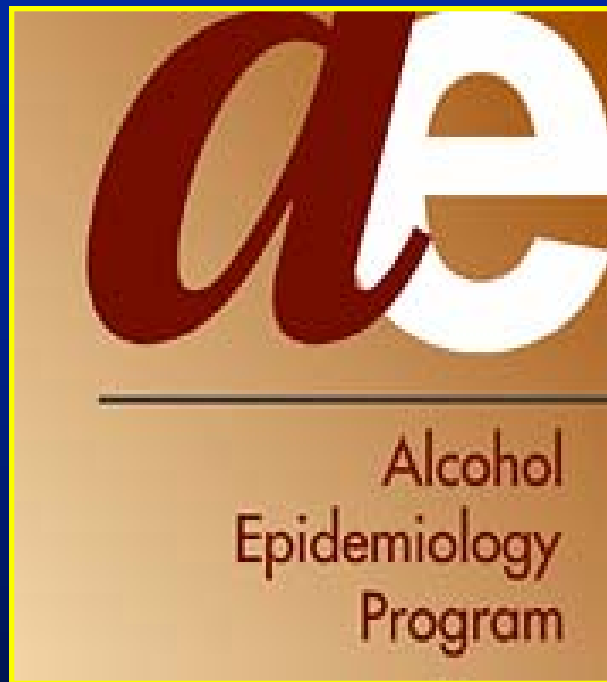


Support for alcohol control policies in local public health agencies



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Local or county level

- Local Public Health Agencies (LPHA)
 - Approx 3,000 in US
 - Complex
 - Jurisdictions vary
- Governing boards
 - County Commissioners
 - City Councils
 - Health Boards



Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs)

- Director's role
 - Agency Lead
 - Public health or medical training
- Manager's role
 - Division level
 - Topic specific
 - Program specific
- Staff
 - Epidemiologists, nurses, public health educators, etc



Governing Boards

- County Commissioners
 - Elected to staggered 4-year terms
 - Over 400 in MN
 - Administrative arm of state
 - Policies and programs are presented to them
 - Set budget priorities
 - Provide funding for public health services



Purpose of the study

Examine support for specific alcohol-control policies among LPHA leaders.



Methods

- Census of all MN LPHAs
 - 76 LPHAs (county or multi-county)
- Paper and Web survey:
 - Paper survey – 82%
 - Directors
 - Managers
 - County Commissioners
- Variety of questions
 - Knowledge of support for alcohol-related program/policy activities
 - Access of research
 - Demographics



Response rates

- Overall 60%
 - Directors 83% (N=66)
 - Managers 67% (N=43)
 - County commissioners 56% (N=248)



Demographics

	Directors	Managers	CC
Gender			
Males	9%	11%	84%
Current position			
≤ 1 year	11%	14%	16%
1-5 years	23%	24%	31%
> 5 years	66%	62%	54%
Education			
HS/Assoc	0	2%	59%
Bachelor's	58%	59%	26%
Master's +	43%	40%	15%



Study objective

- Identify the levels and perceptions of support for alcohol control policies among local public health leaders.
 - County commissioner support for alcohol policies and programs
 - Directors and managers of LPHAs awareness of level of support among county commissioners toward alcohol-related policies and programs



Survey items

- Specific alcohol policies/programs
- 2 Areas
 - Increasing alcohol excise taxes
 - Reducing youth access to alcohol



County Commissioner's questions

- How strongly do you favor or oppose the suggested policy or program?
- How likely is it that you would vote to designate funds or resources to support the establishment of the policy or program?



Director's and Manager's questions

- How likely are your county commissioners to support this program or policy?
- How likely are your county commissioners to vote to designate funds or resources to support the establishment of the policy or program?



Increasing alcohol excise taxes

– Support for:

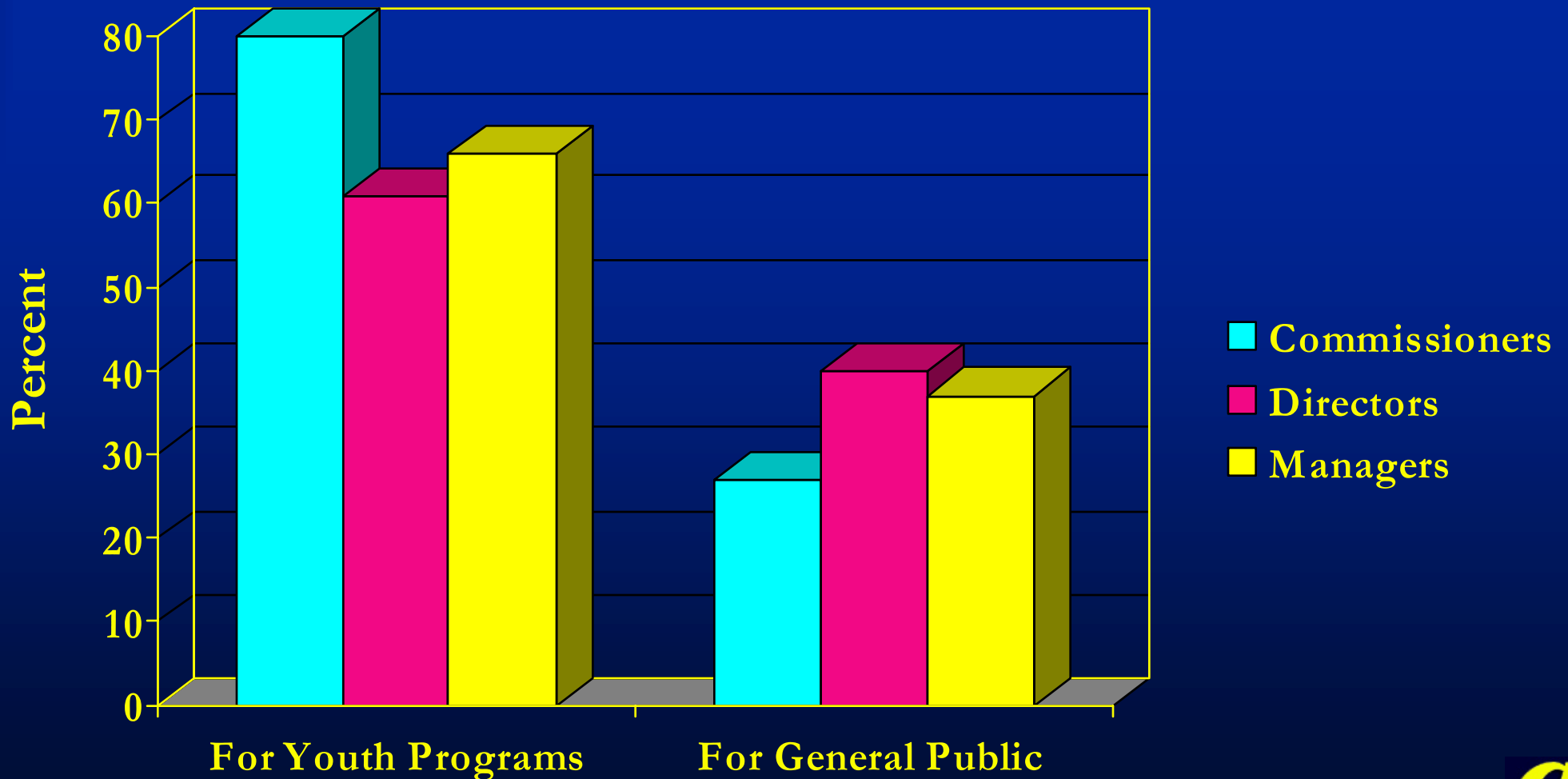
- youth alcohol treatment and prevention?
- alcohol treatment and prevention for general public?

– Designate funds/resources for:

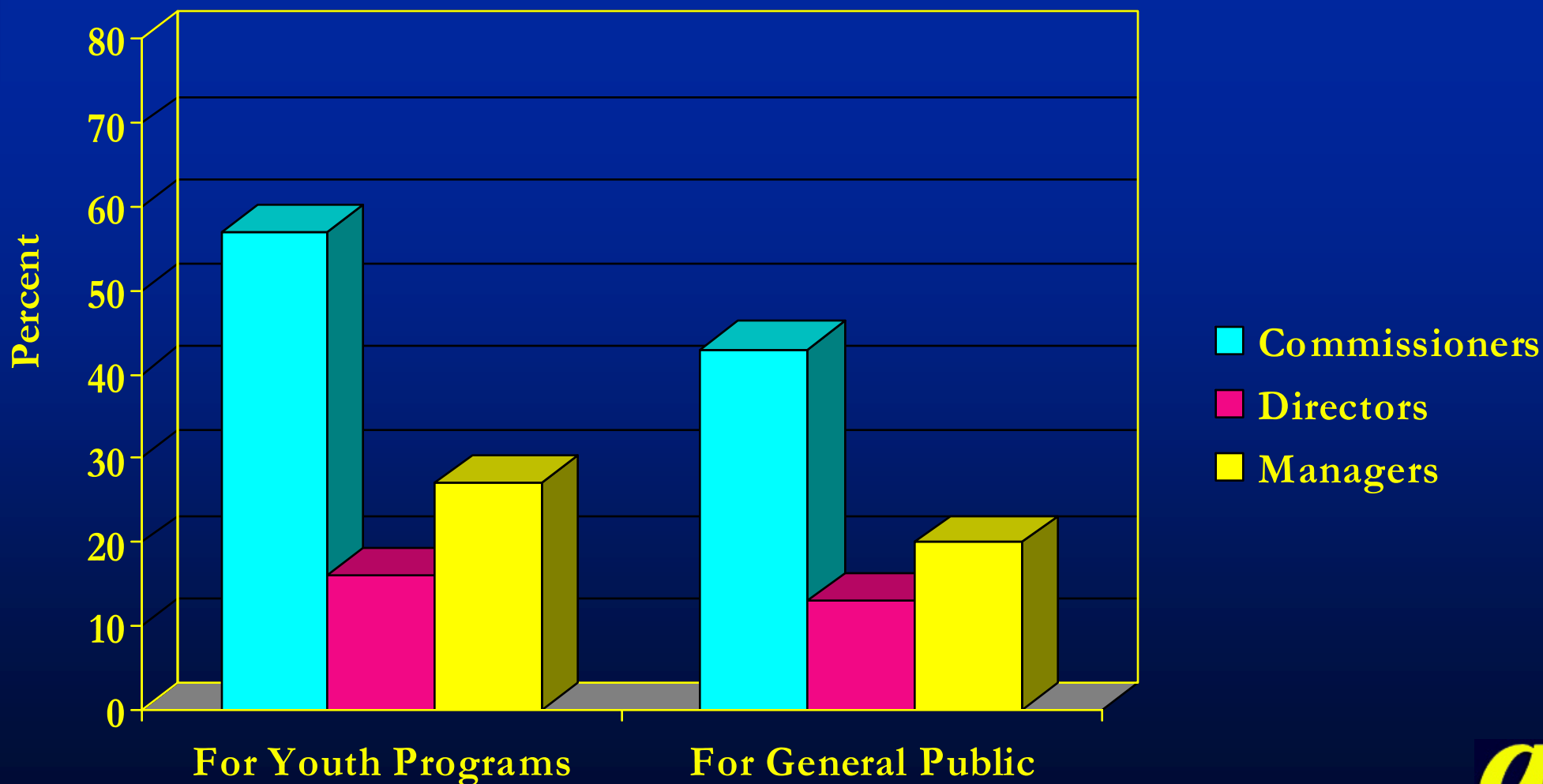
- youth alcohol treatment and prevention?
- alcohol treatment and prevention for general public?



Support for increasing alcohol excise taxes



Designating funds/resources to work on tax initiative



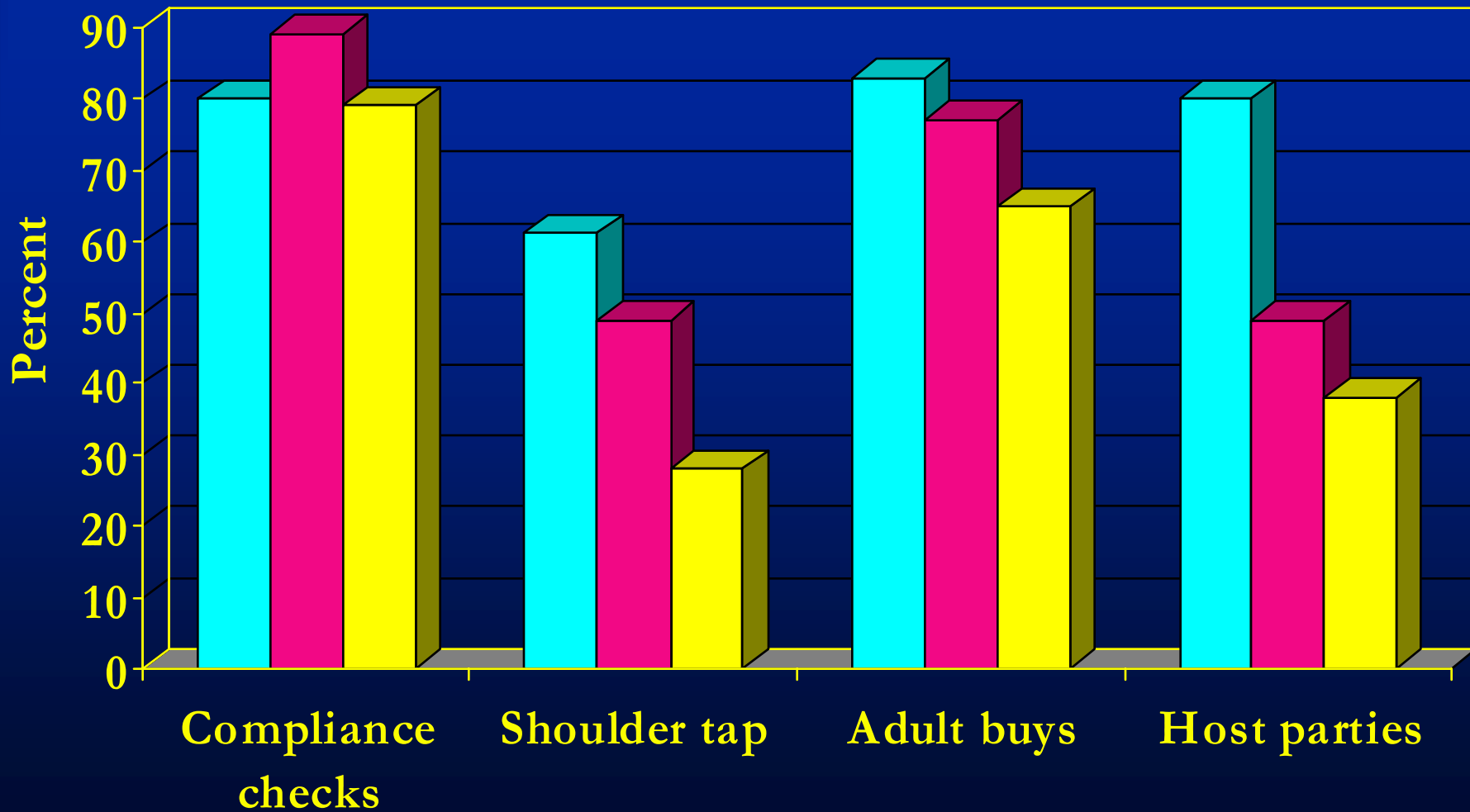
Youth Access

- How likely would *you/county commissioners* support:
 - Enforcement
 - Compliance checks
 - Shoulder tap method
 - Laws and fines for:
 - Older adults purchasing alcohol for youth (not shoulder tap)
 - Parents hosting alcohol parties in the home



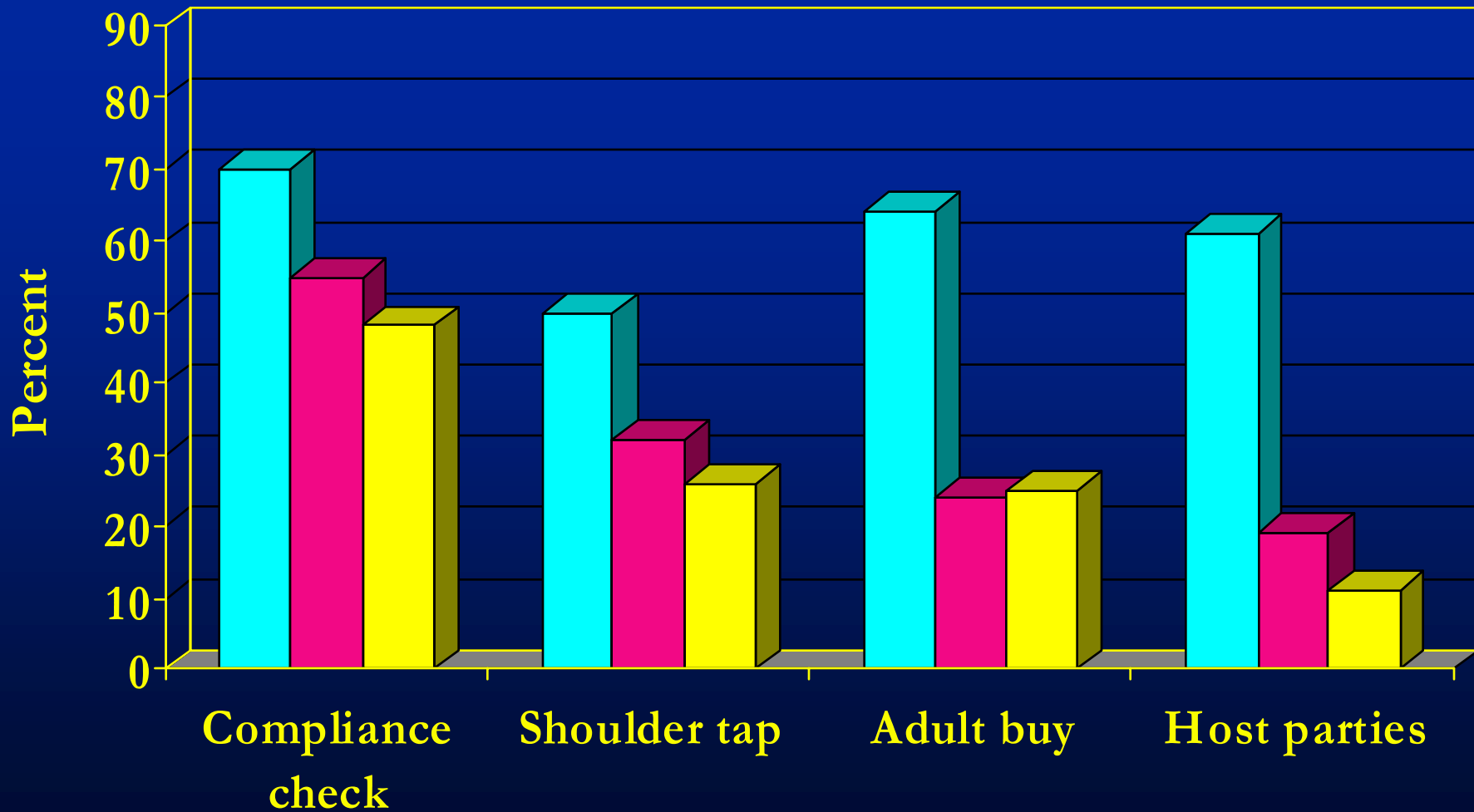
Support for policies/programs

Commissioners Directors Managers



Designating funds/resources

■ Commissioners ■ Directors ■ Managers



Regression Results

Increasing taxes to	Directors	Managers
Pay for youth programs:		
Support	NS	NS
Designate funds	NS	NS
Pay for general public programs:		
Support	NS	NS
Designate funds	NS	NS



Regression Results

Youth access	Directors	Managers
Enforcement of compliance checks:		
Support	+	NS
Designate funds	NS	NS
Enforcement of shoulder tap method:		
Support	NS	NS
Designate funds	NS	NS
Laws and fines for adults purchasing alcohol for youth		
Support	NS	NS
Designate funds	NS	NS
Laws and fines for parents hosting alcohol parties		
Support	+	NS
Designate funds	NS	NS



Study Limitations

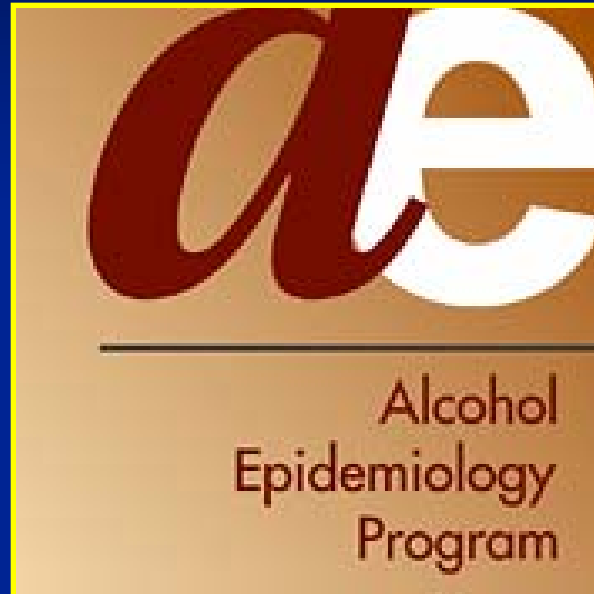
- No list of county commissioners serving on health boards
- Health department websites not up-to-date w/current activities or contact information
- Multiple county or region
- Self-report for support of policies
- Only 56% of commissioners responded



Summary

- High levels of support and designating funds among county commissioners for all alcohol control policies/programs.
- Directors and managers underestimate level of commissioner's support and designation of funds.
- Future question:
 - Are initiatives not being brought to governing bodies b/c of a perception of lack of support among county commissioners?





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