

Mayors and the Health of Cities



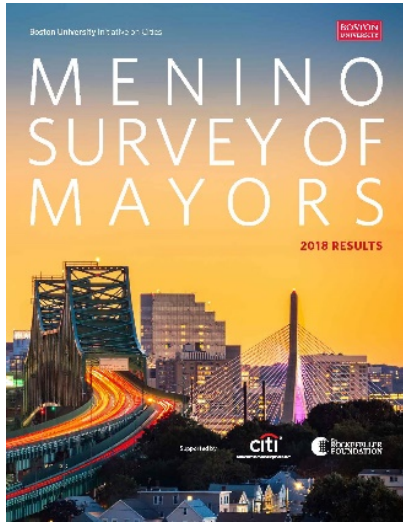
Katharine Lusk, Co-Director
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Methodology



- Analyses based on several datasets and sources:
- **2018 Menino Survey of Mayors:** nationally representative survey of 110 American mayors leading cities over 75,000; Gauge of perceptions and attitudes
 - **City Health Dashboard 500 Cities**
 - **Supplemental information** from federal sources





27% cite specific groups: children or homeless



Mayors Using the Language of Public Health

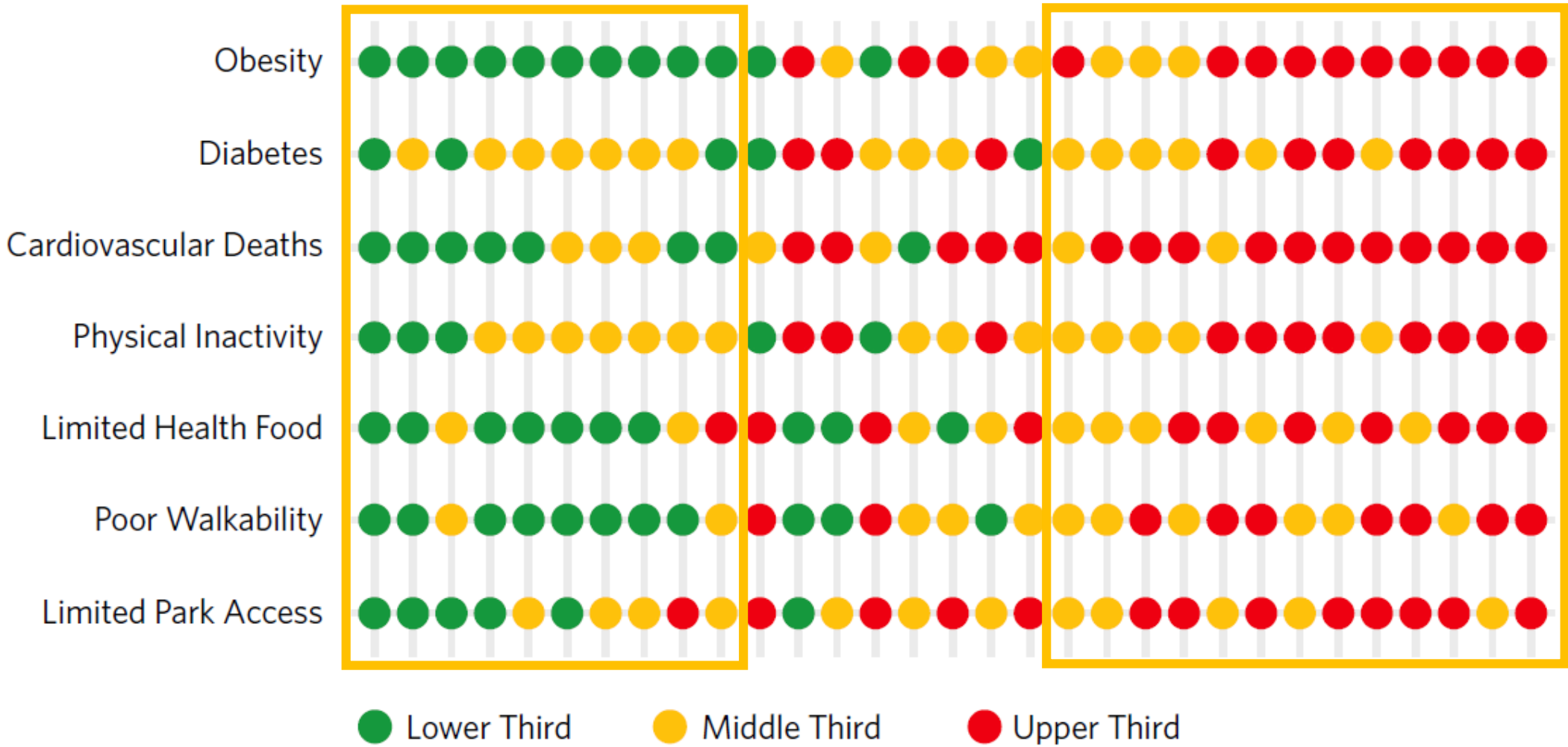
“[Our greatest health challenge is] poverty.”

“...the trauma associated with violence and ACEs impacting social determinants of health.”

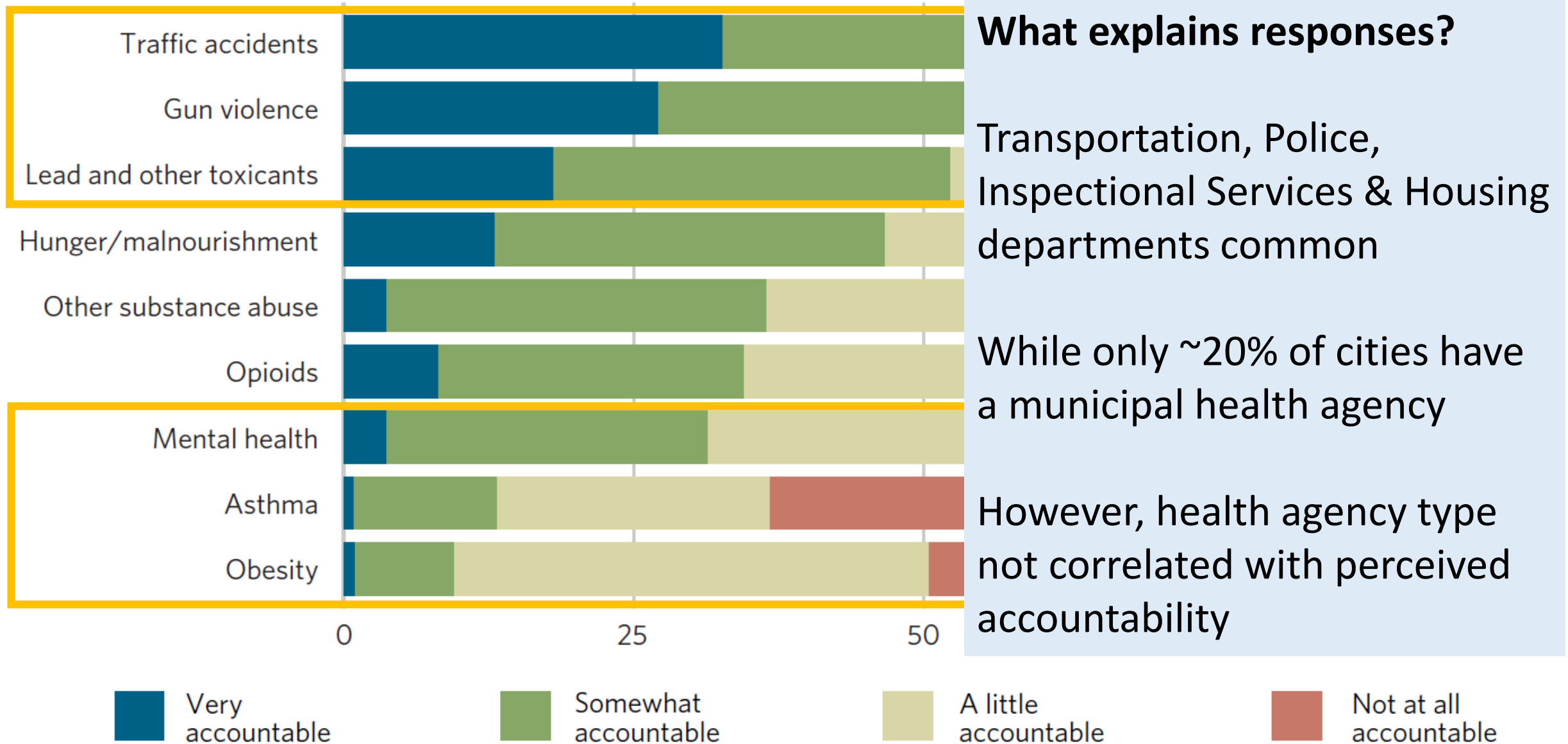
“Sedentary lifestyles directly and indirectly contribute to chronic health problems, including the leading cause of mortality in the US.”

“You can look at the issues people are dealing with (diabetes, cancer, STDs), but at the core is access to health care.”

How Healthy Are the Cities Citing Obesity?



Perceptions of Constituent Accountability





What Else Explains Perceptions of Accountability?

Highly significant differences in perception by **party affiliation and gender**.

Prevalence was highly significant only once: opioid overdose deaths.

Percentage of Mayors Responding Very or Somewhat Accountable

	Democrats	Republicans
Gun violence	72%	23%
Hunger/Malnutrition	55%	32%

	Women	Men
Hunger/Malnutrition	60%	42%
Mental Health	45%	26%



Key Findings:

- Many mayors talk knowledgeably about health, including social determinants
- Mayors report obesity, addiction and access to care as key health challenges
- Common challenges shared by heterogeneous groups of cities
- Perceived accountability differs: traffic accidents, gun violence, lead and other toxicants top list; obesity at bottom
- Accountability may be attributed to resources, although not dedicated health resources
- Some perceptions differ significantly based on mayoral political affiliation or gender

Full Report available at:
surveyofmayors.com



Thank you!

Katharine Lusk, Co-Director

Special thanks to co-authors Luisa Godinez Puig & Prof. Monica Wang, plus

Profs. Max Palmer, Katherine Levine Einstein and David Glick; & Stacy Fox

BU Initiative on Cities

ioc@bu.edu

www.bu.edu/ioc

617-358-8080

@BUonCities @Kathlusk



Appendix: Municipal Health Authorities

Authority Type	Percentage in 2018 Menino Survey Sample (N=110)	Percentage in the US (N=2533 Health Departments)
Municipal	18%	20%
County	75%	69%
Regional	7%	8%

Source for National Percentage: National Association of County and City Health Officials. “2016 National Profile of Local Health Departments.” 2016, <http://nacchoprofilestudy.org/reports-publications/>