

The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

Survey data on Michigan's local governments: 10 waves & counting

Presented at the
MML Capital Conference
March 18, 2014

The Michigan Public Policy Survey

- **Census survey** – all counties, cities, villages, and townships
- **Respondents** – chief elected and appointed officials
- **Administered** – online and via hardcopy
- **Timing** – Spring and Fall each year

The Michigan Public Policy Survey

- **Content developed in partnership with MML and other experts**
- **Topics** – wide range, such as fiscal health, budget priorities, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, employee policies, labor unions, state relations, environmental sustainability, citizen engagement, much more.

MPPS is not a typical opinion poll

- **70+% response rates**
- **Transparency**
 - Questionnaires online
 - Pre-run data tables online
 - Sharing of (anonymized) datasets with other researchers
- **Borrow from other proven sources such as NLC and ICMA**
- **Quality control such as double blind coding of open-end responses, internal technical memos on data quality, etc.**

What does the MPPS aim to do?

- **Improve understanding** of local government to help improve policymaking and quality of life
- **Inform local leaders** about peers across the state: challenges and responses
- **Inform state policymakers** and other stakeholders with data about local level challenges and responses not available from any other source
- **Build a longitudinal data archive** to allow tracking of fundamental changes (such as the economic transition, aging population, etc.)
- Foster **academic research and teaching** on local government issues

Presentation Outline

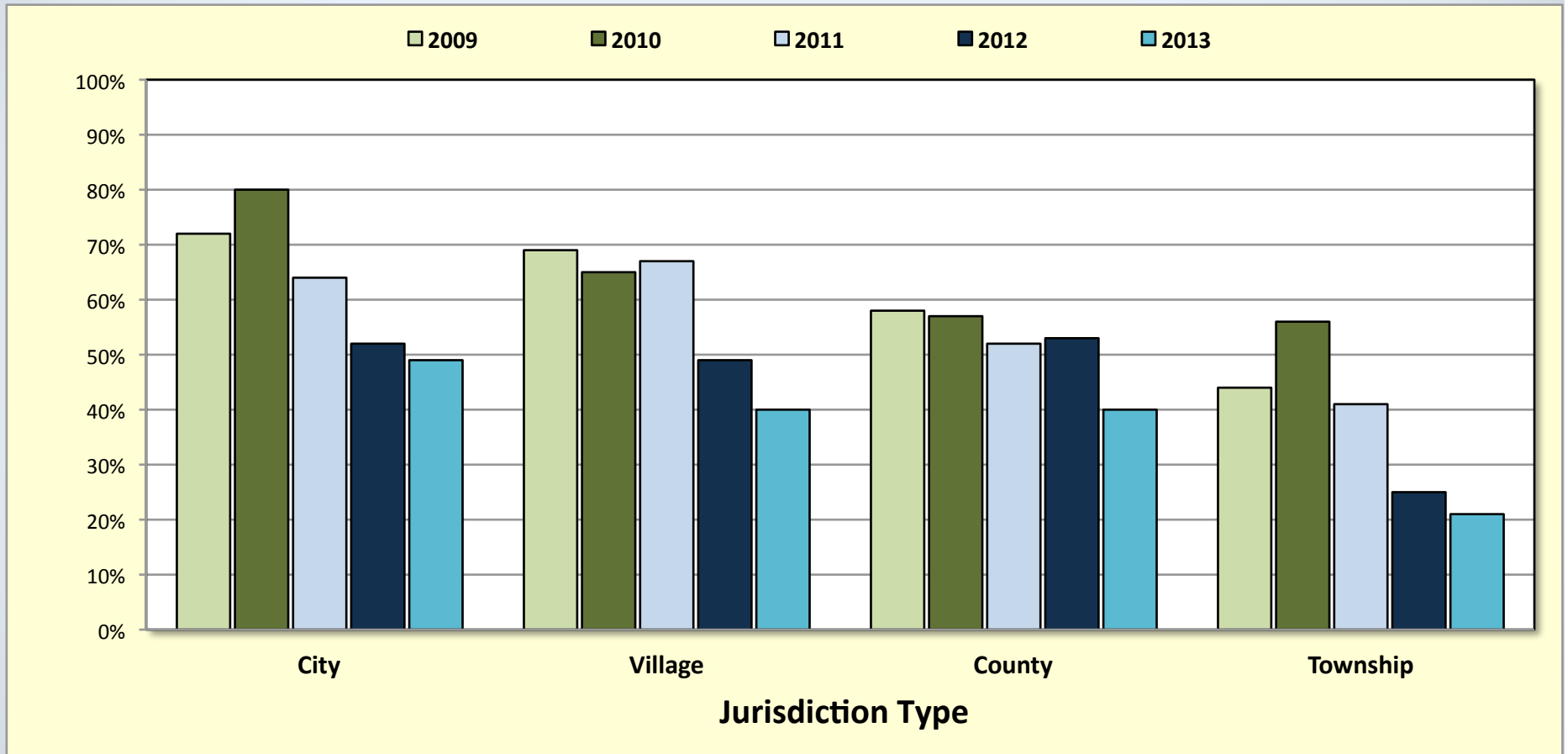
- ✓ Spring waves: fiscal and budgetary tracking data
- ✓ Fall waves: special topics
- ✓ A recent focus on Placemaking

MPPS Spring Waves:

Tracking the fiscal health of Michigan local governments

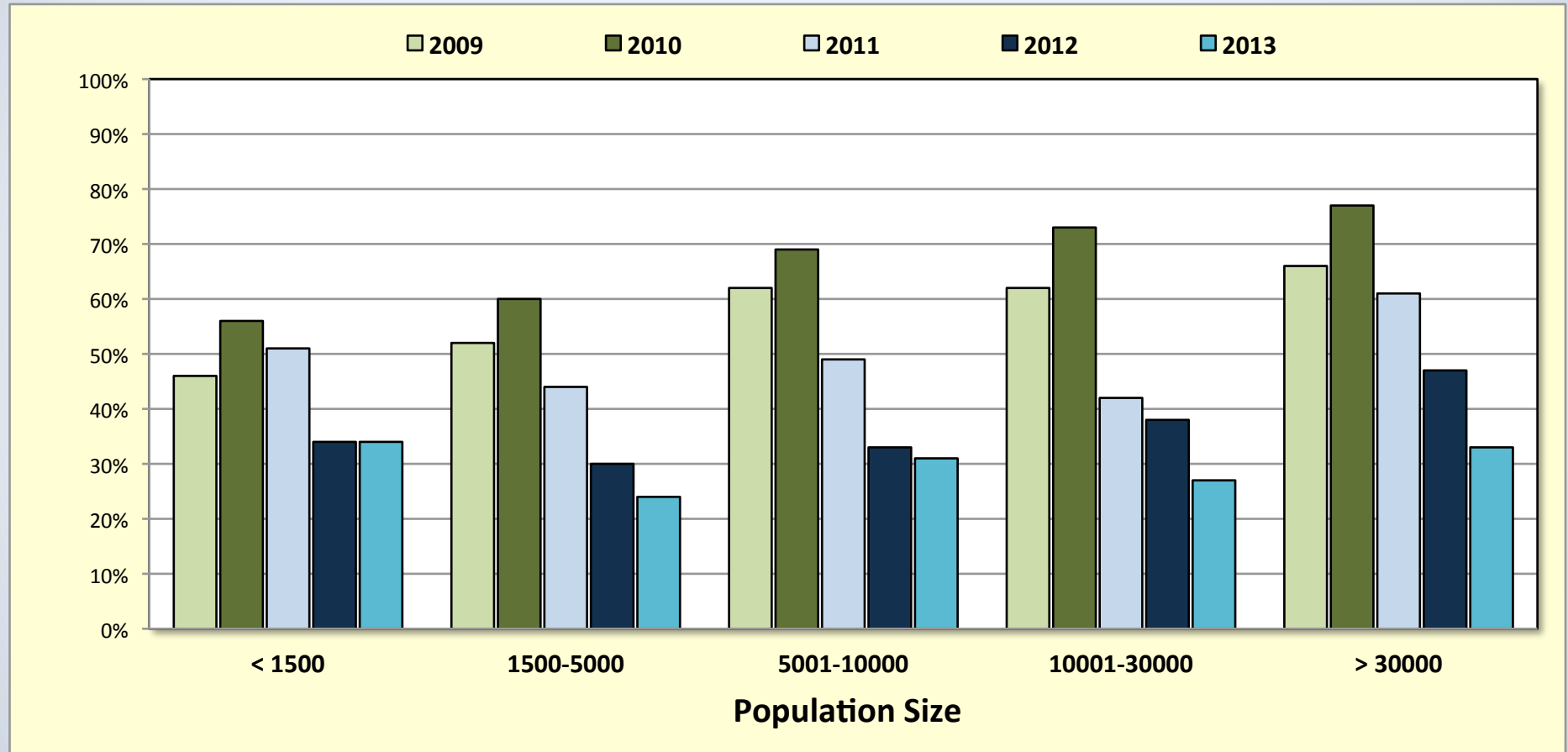
Jurisdictions' Overall Fiscal Health

% of jurisdictions **less able to meet fiscal needs**, by type



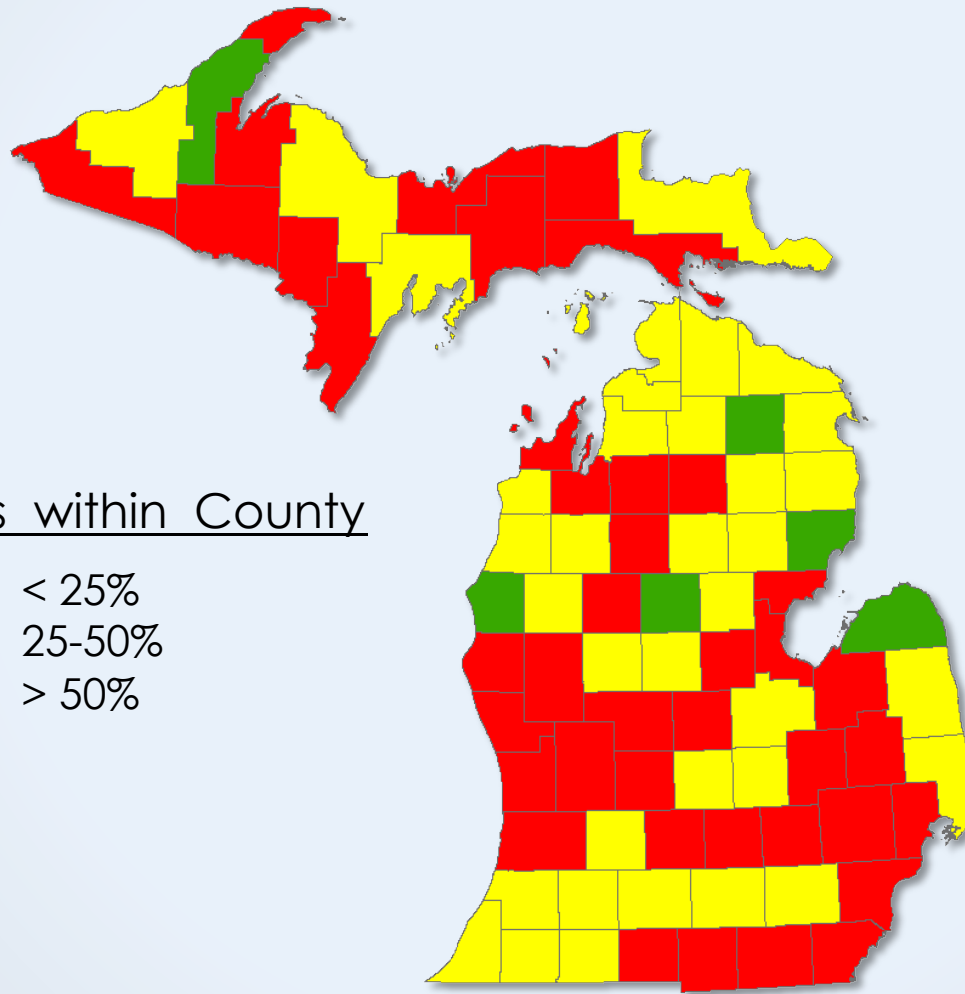
Jurisdictions' Overall Fiscal Health

% of jurisdictions **less able to meet fiscal needs**, by size



Spreading Fiscal Problems

2009: **less able to meet fiscal needs**, by county



Jurisdictions within County

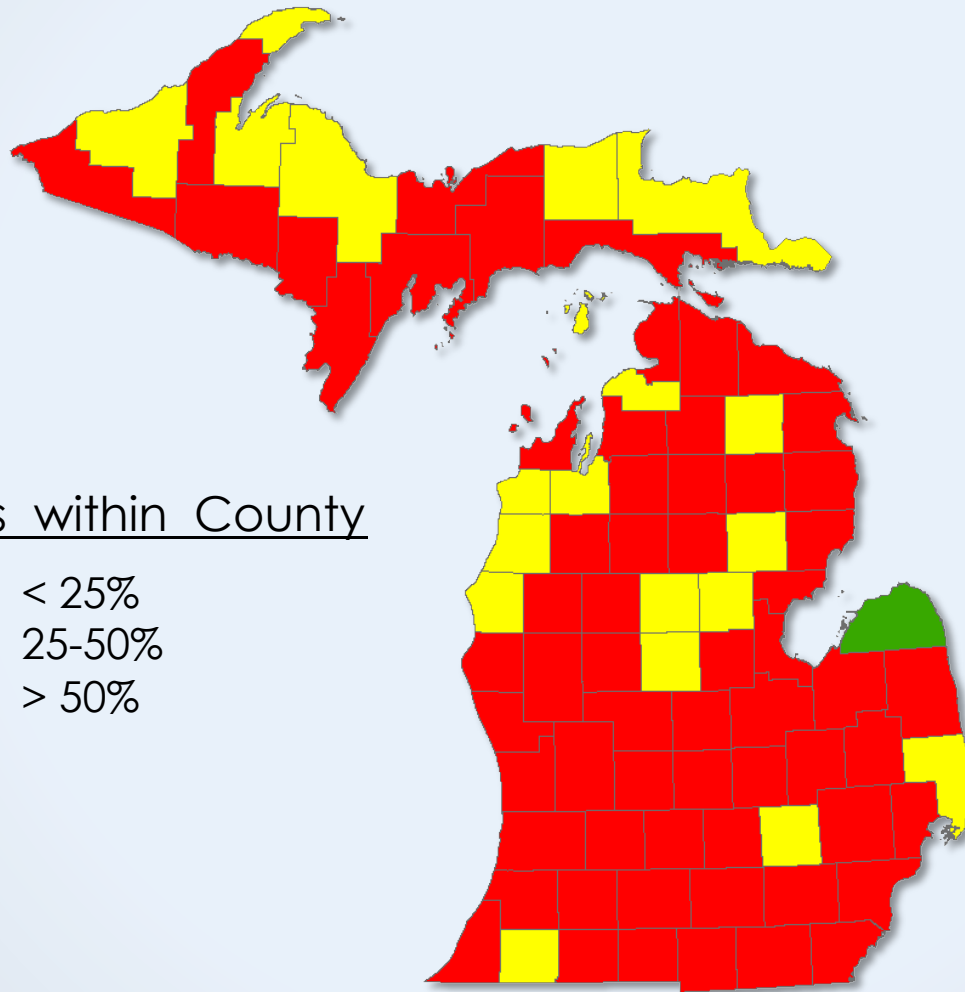
Green: < 25%
Yellow: 25-50%
Red: > 50%

Spreading Fiscal Problems

2010: **less able to meet fiscal needs**, by county

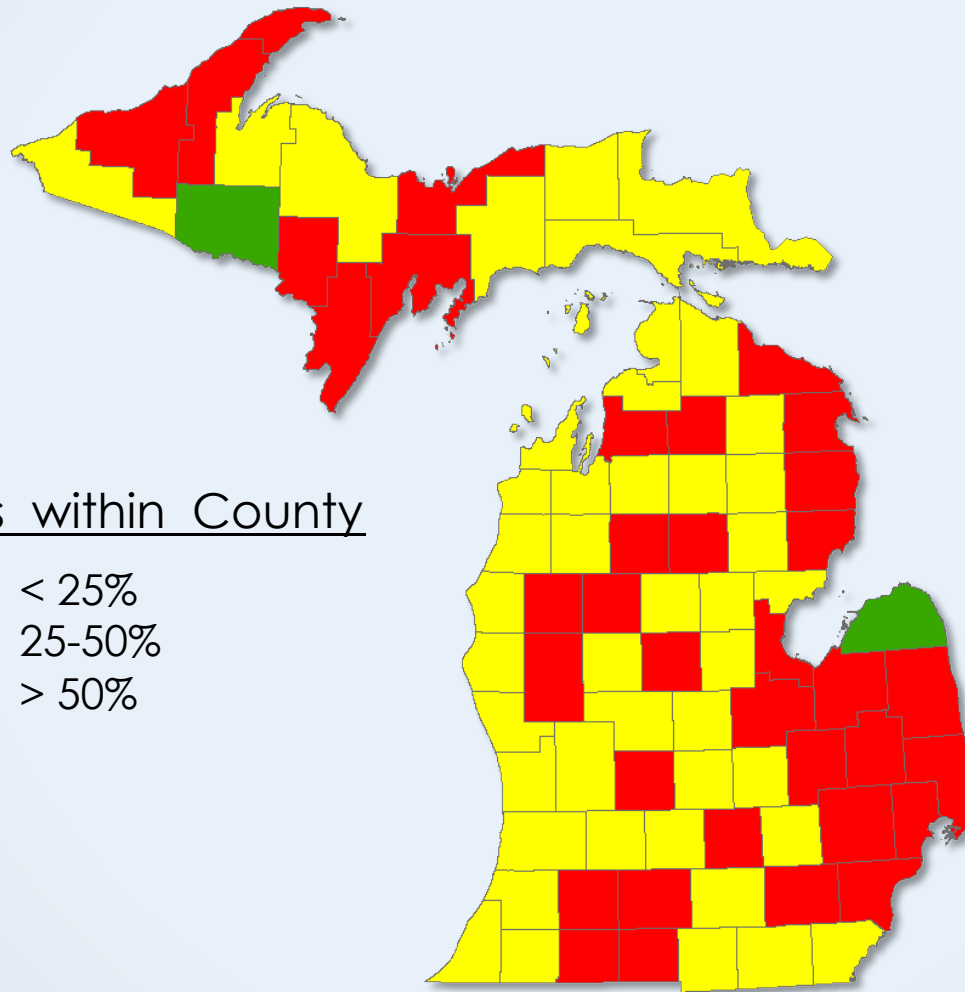
Jurisdictions within County

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Red: > 50%



Easing Fiscal Problems

2011: **less able to meet fiscal needs**, by county



Jurisdictions within County

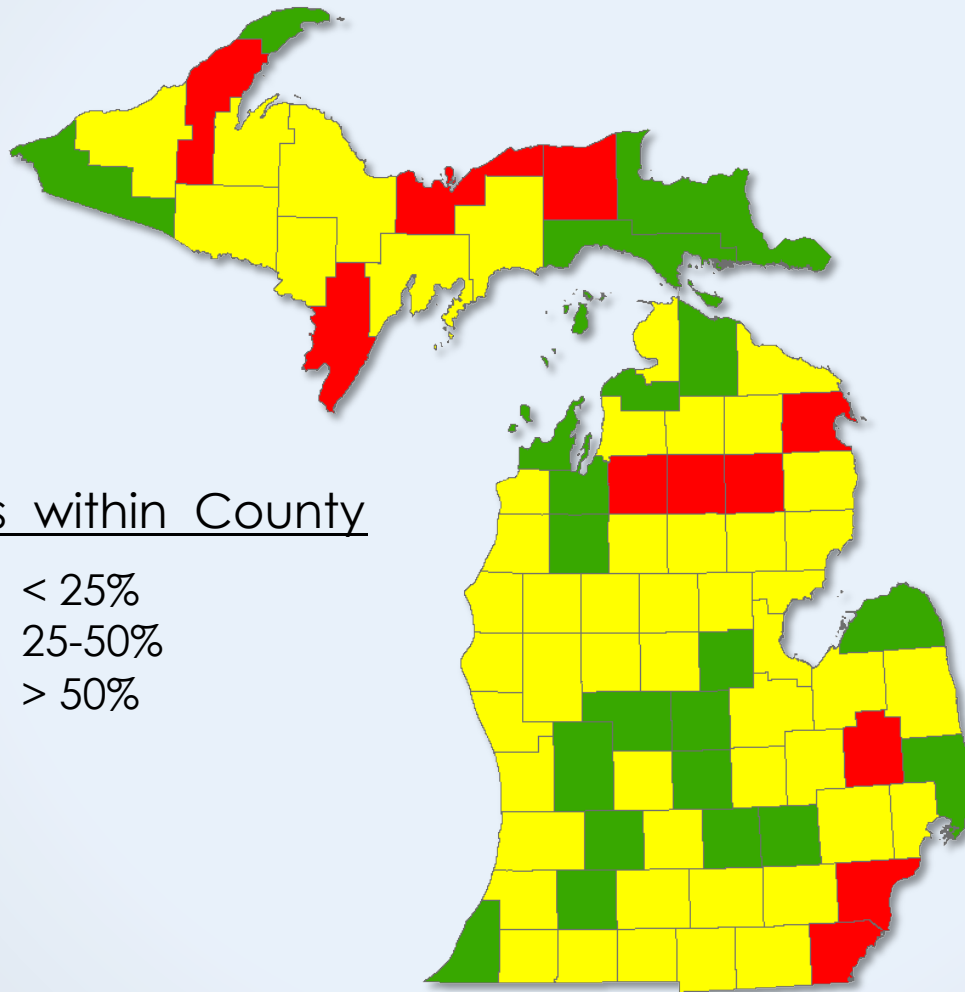
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Easing Fiscal Problems

2012: **less able to meet fiscal needs**, by county

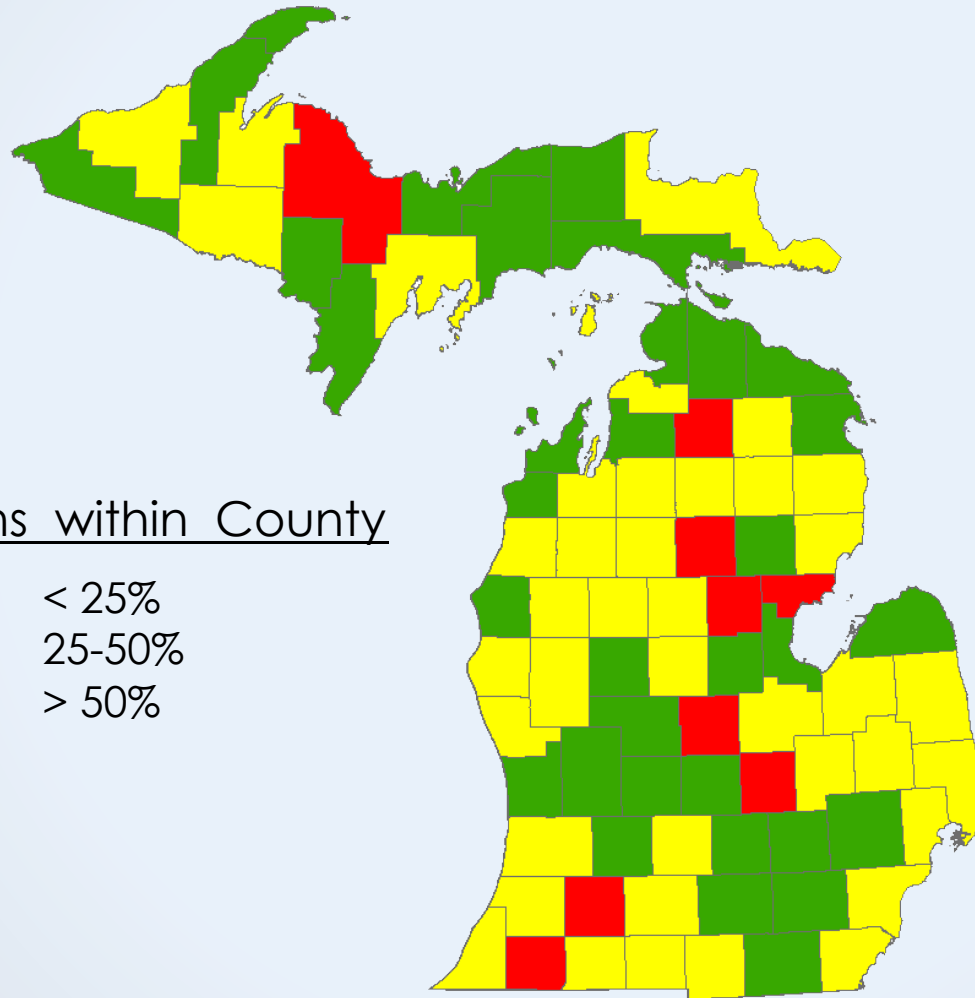
Jurisdictions within County

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Easing Fiscal Problems

2013: **less able to meet fiscal needs**, by county



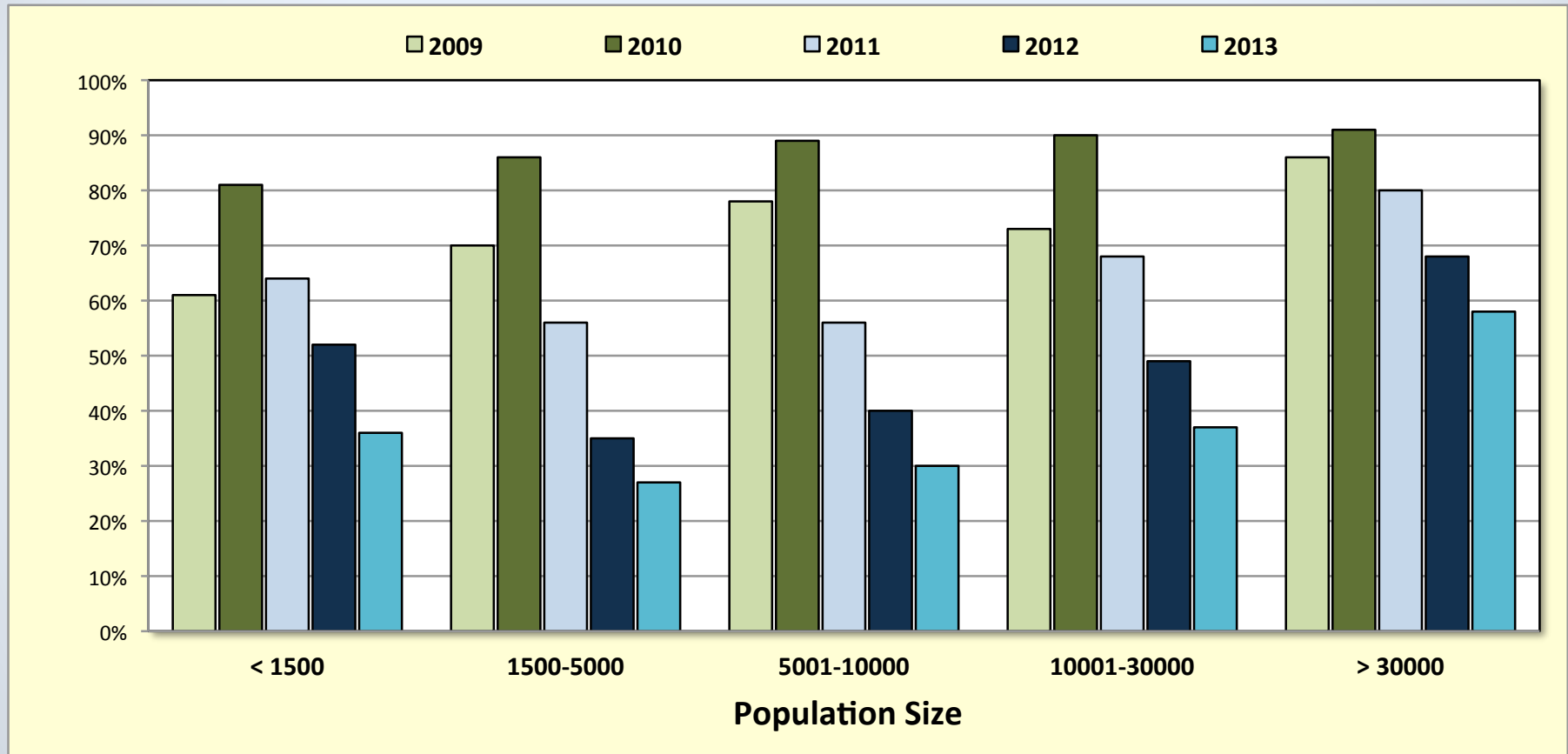
Jurisdictions within County

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MPPS Spring Waves: Tracking fiscal challenges

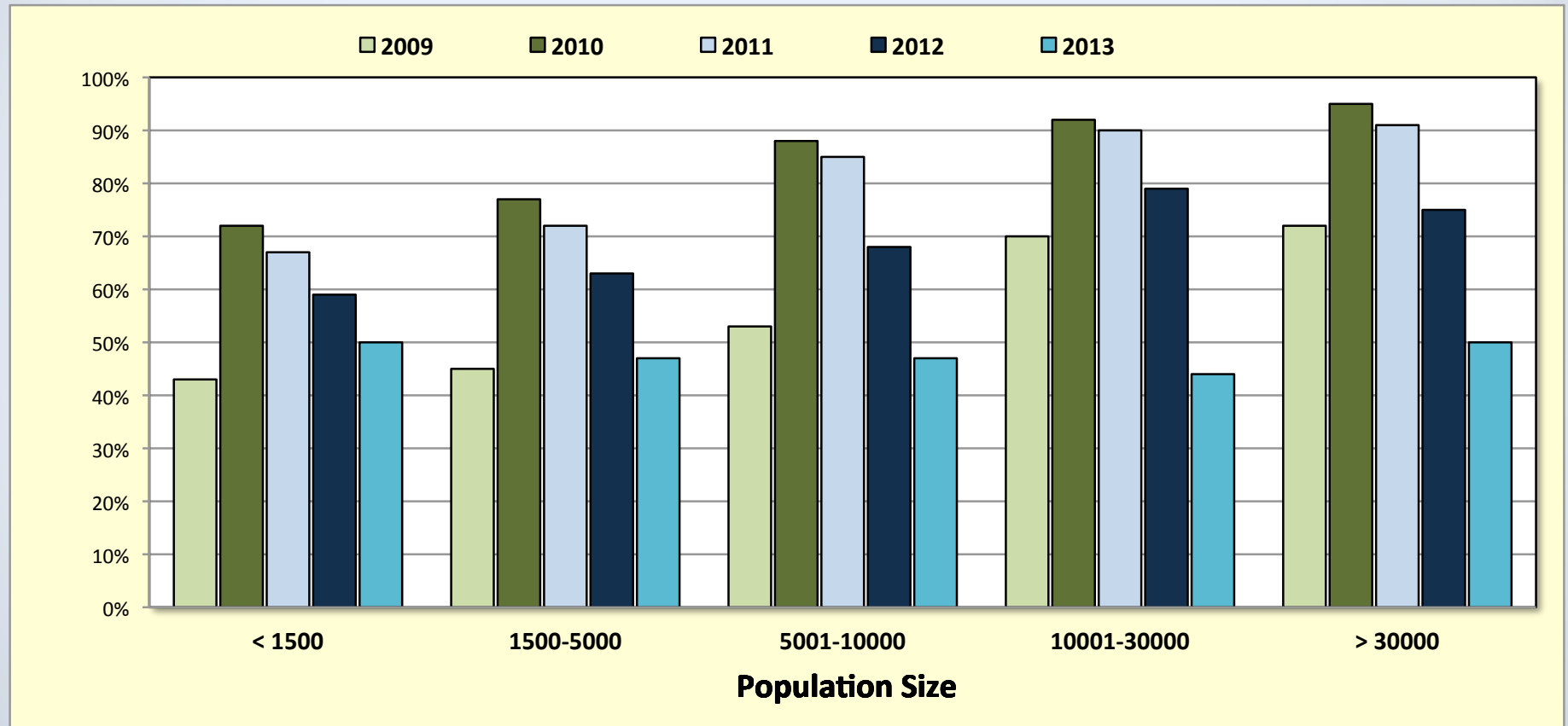
Declining Revenues

% of jurisdictions with declining state aid



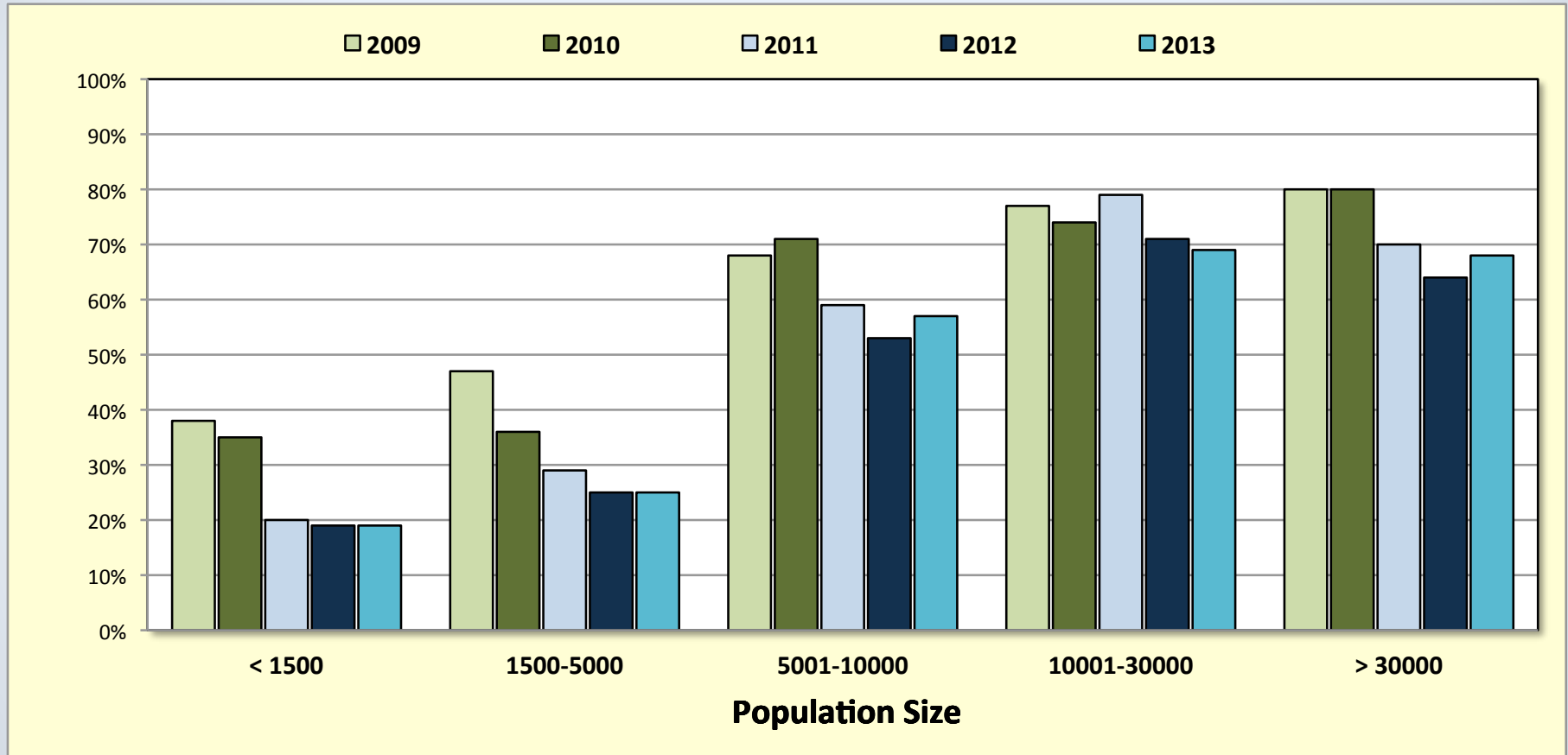
Declining Revenues

% of jurisdictions with **declining property tax revenues**



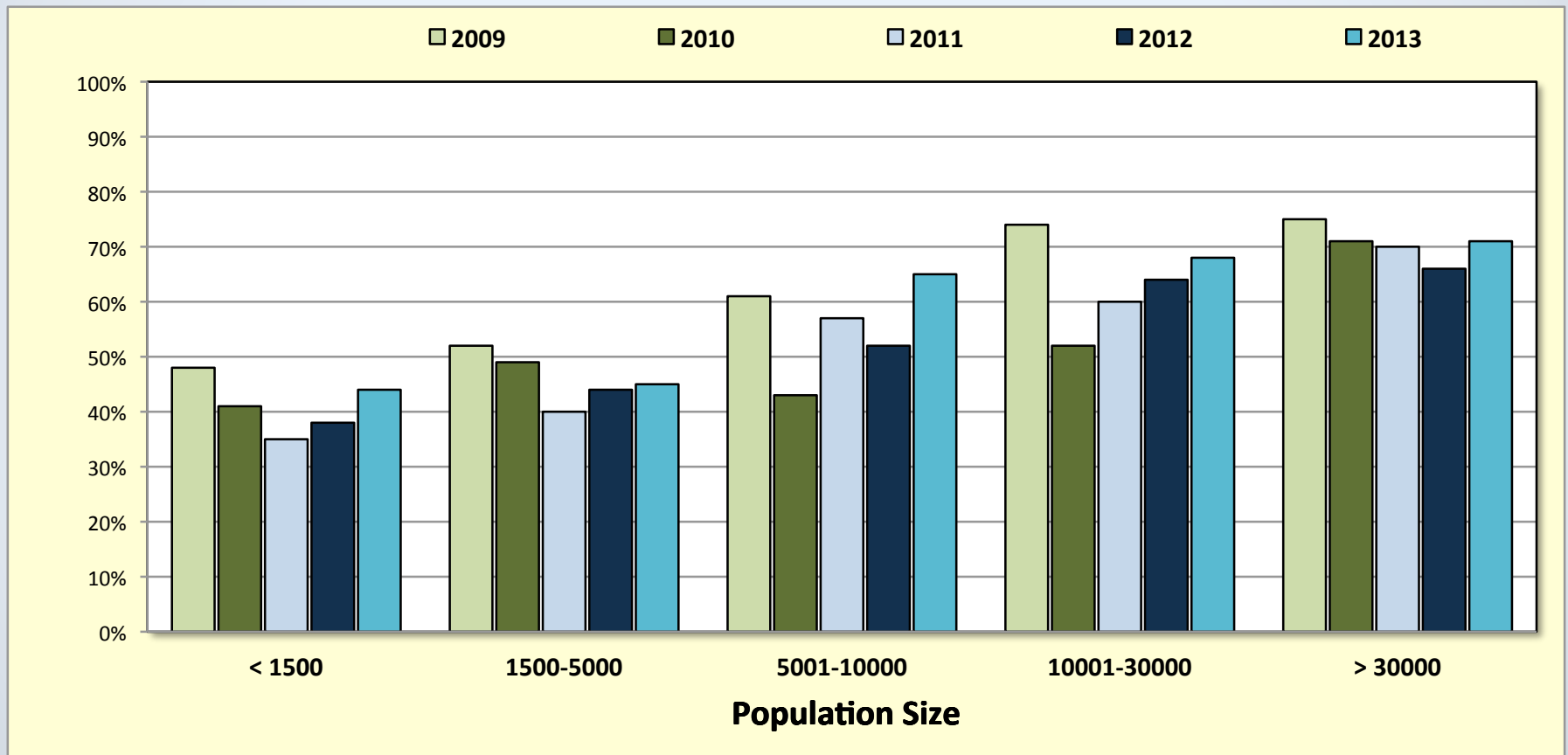
Rising Costs

% of jurisdictions with **rising health care costs**



Rising Costs

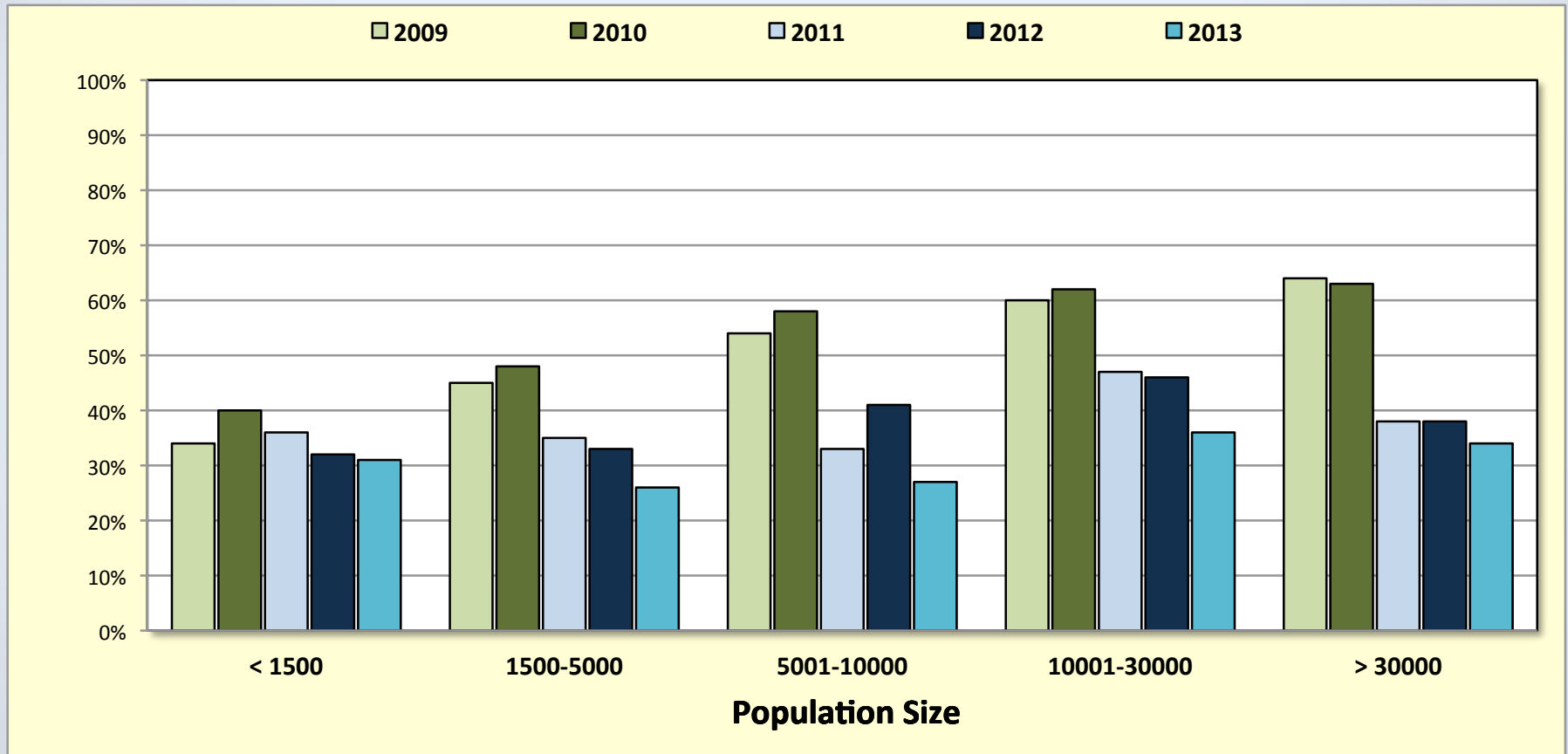
% of jurisdictions with **increasing infrastructure needs**



MPPS Spring Waves: Tracking local responses

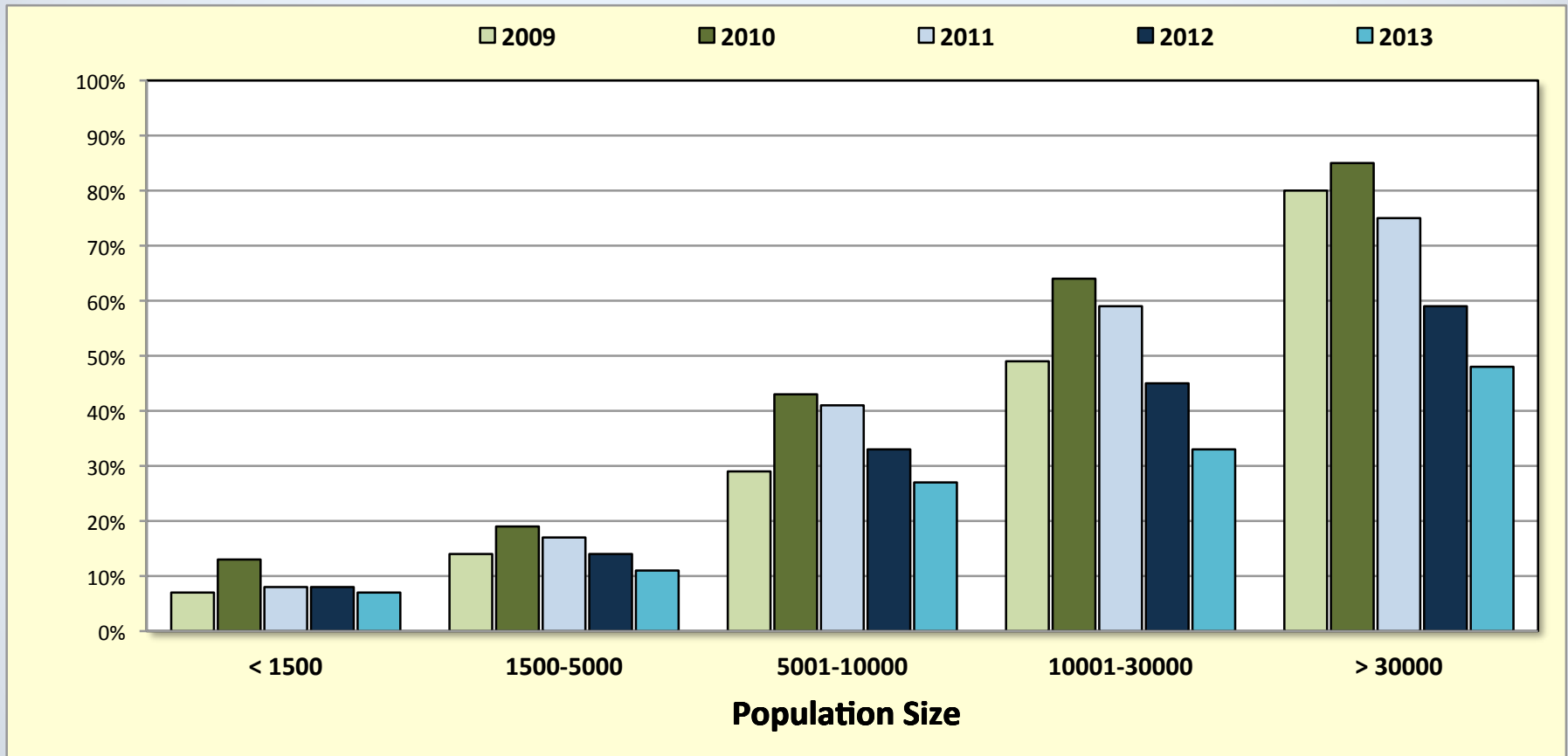
Government Actions

% of jurisdictions **increasing reliance on GF balance**



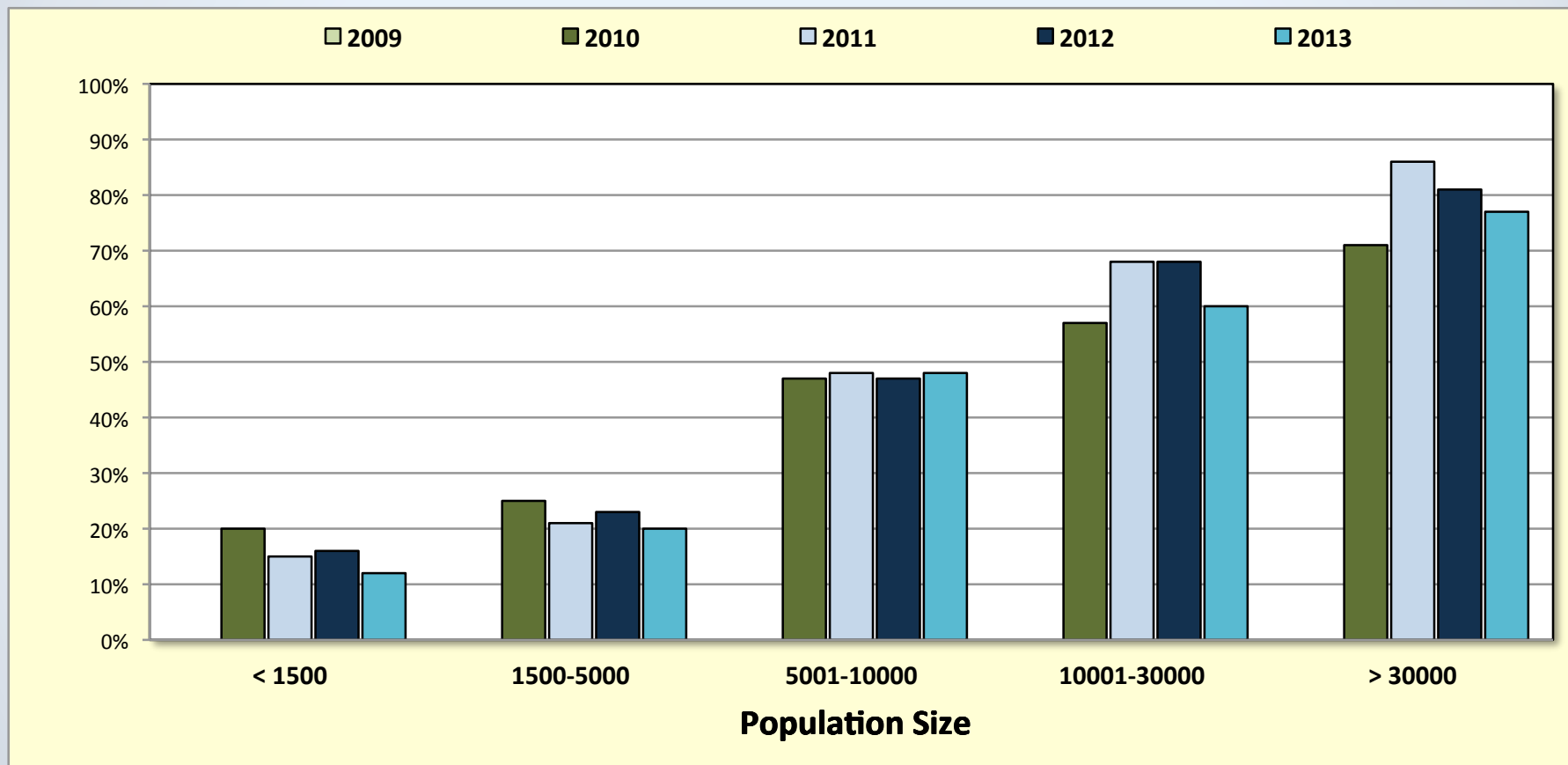
Government Actions

% of jurisdictions **cutting staff levels**



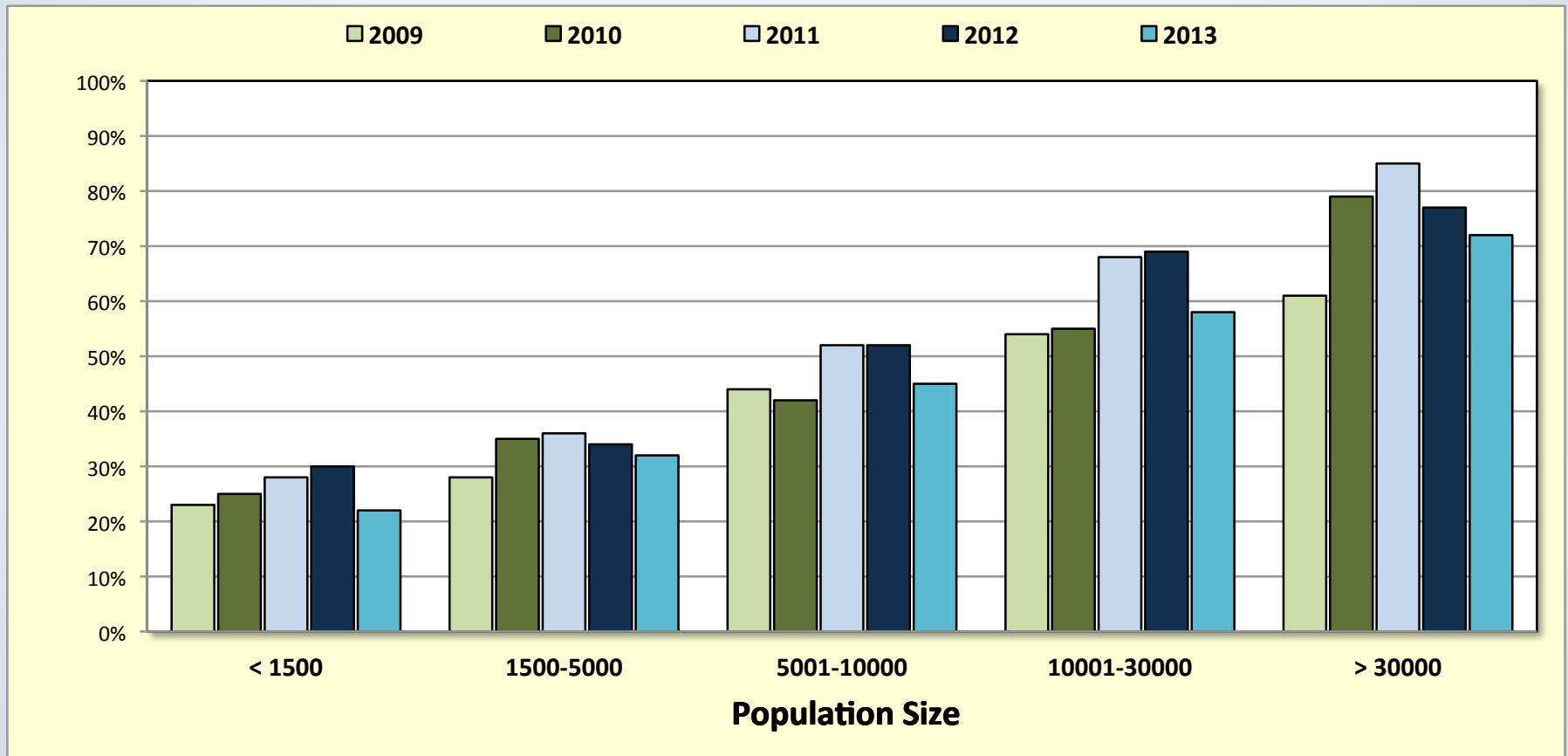
Government Actions

% of jurisdictions **shifting health care costs** to employees



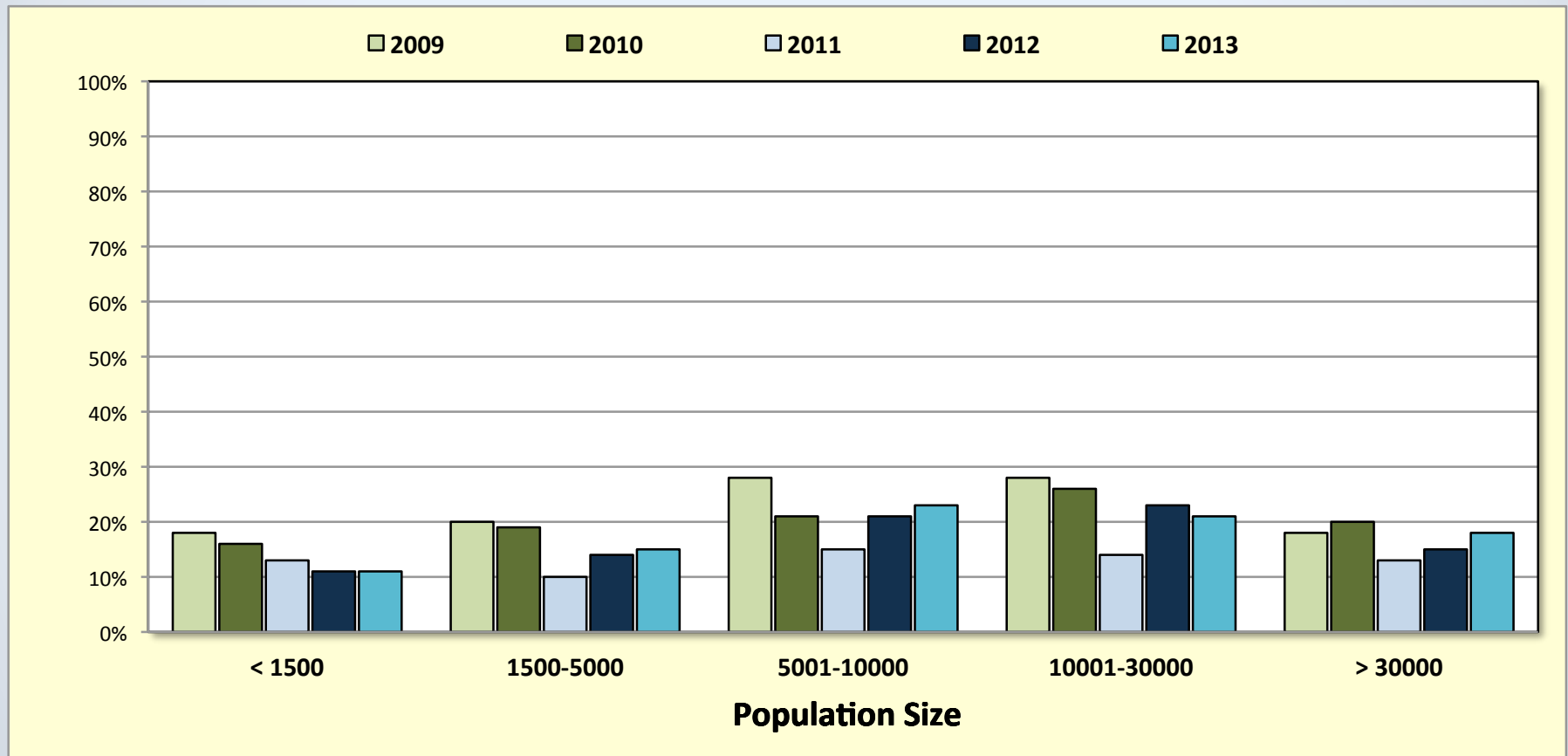
Government Actions

% of jurisdictions **increasing inter-gov't cooperation**



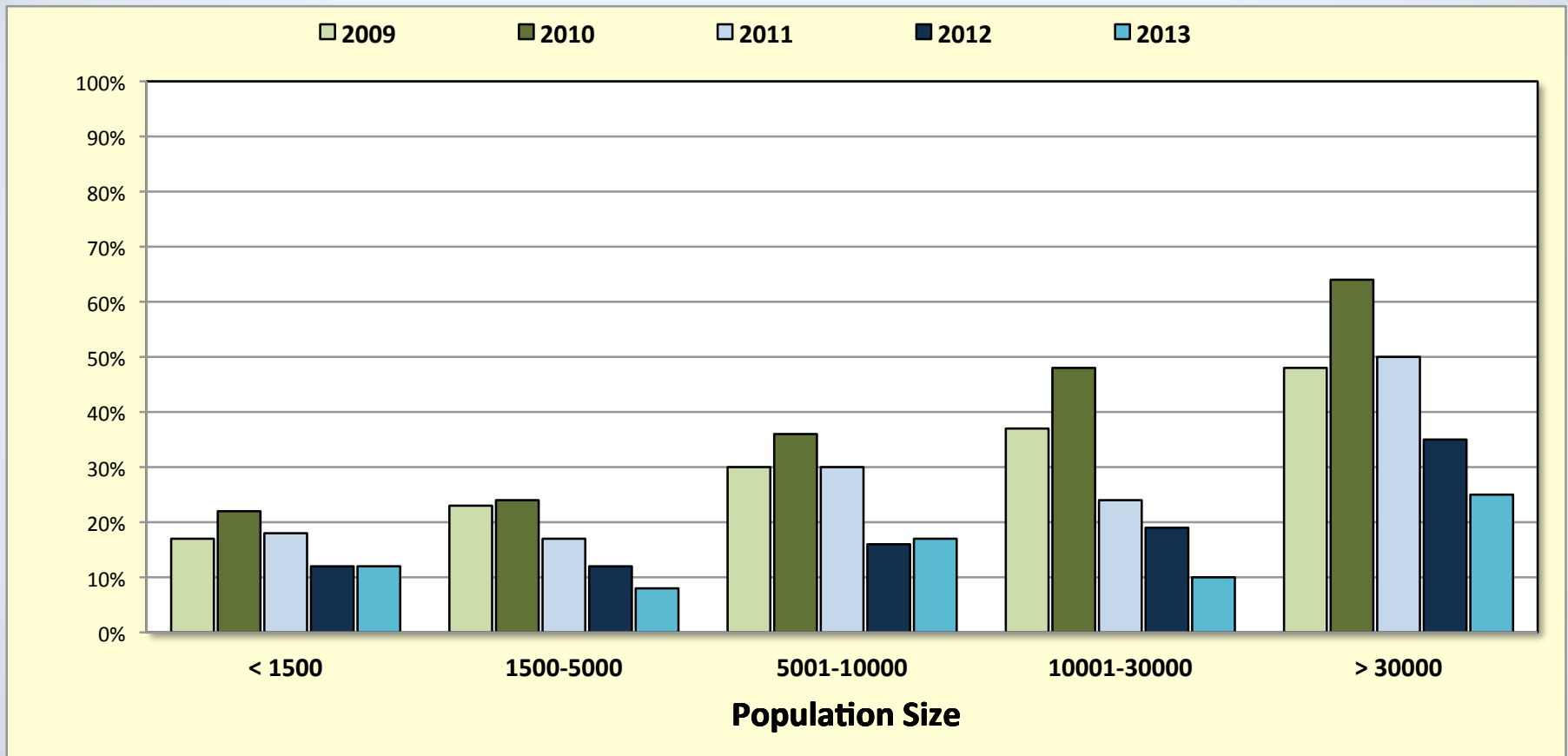
Government Actions

% of jurisdictions **increasing debt**



Government Actions

% of jurisdictions **cutting service levels**

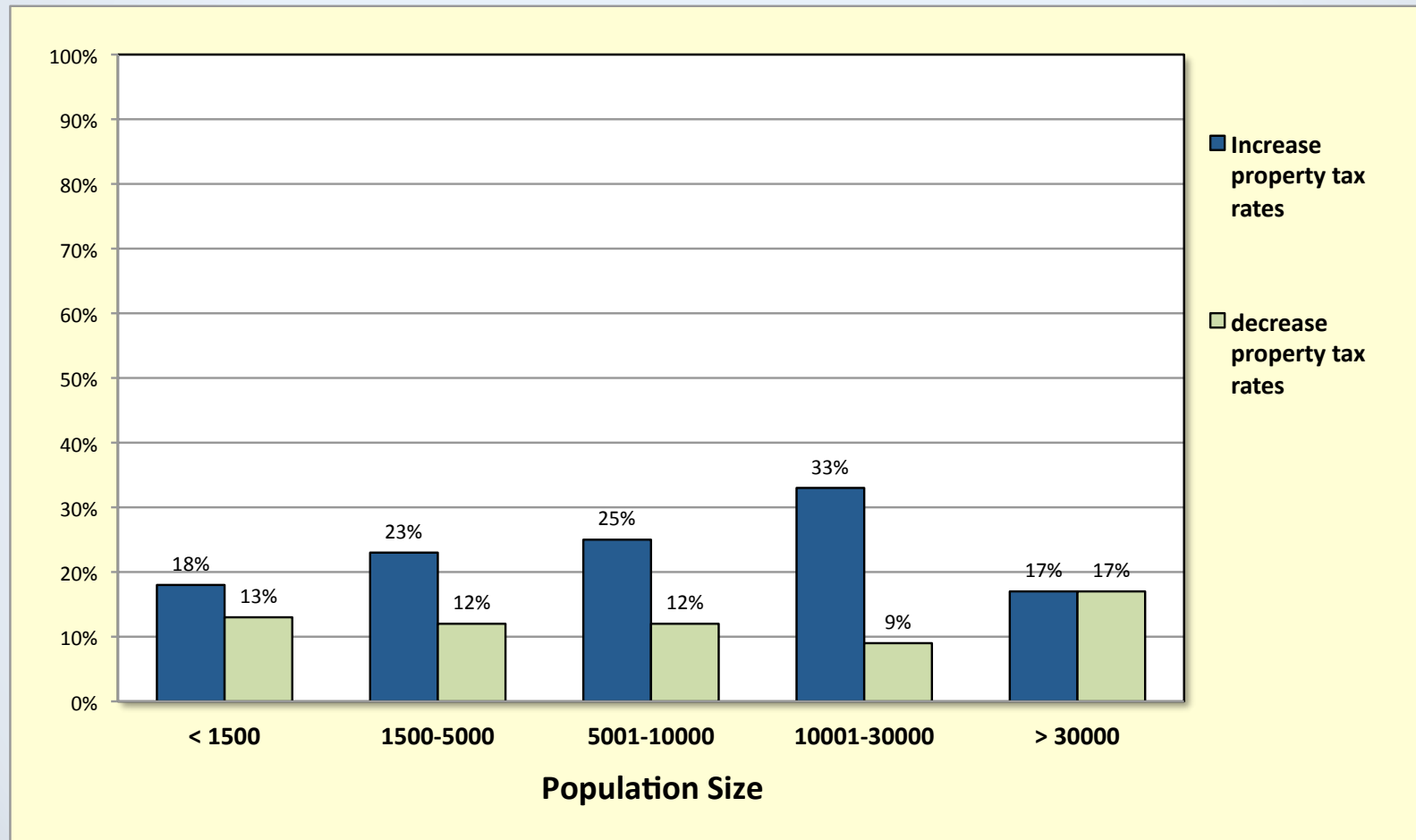


MPPS Spring Waves:

Tracking local plans for the future

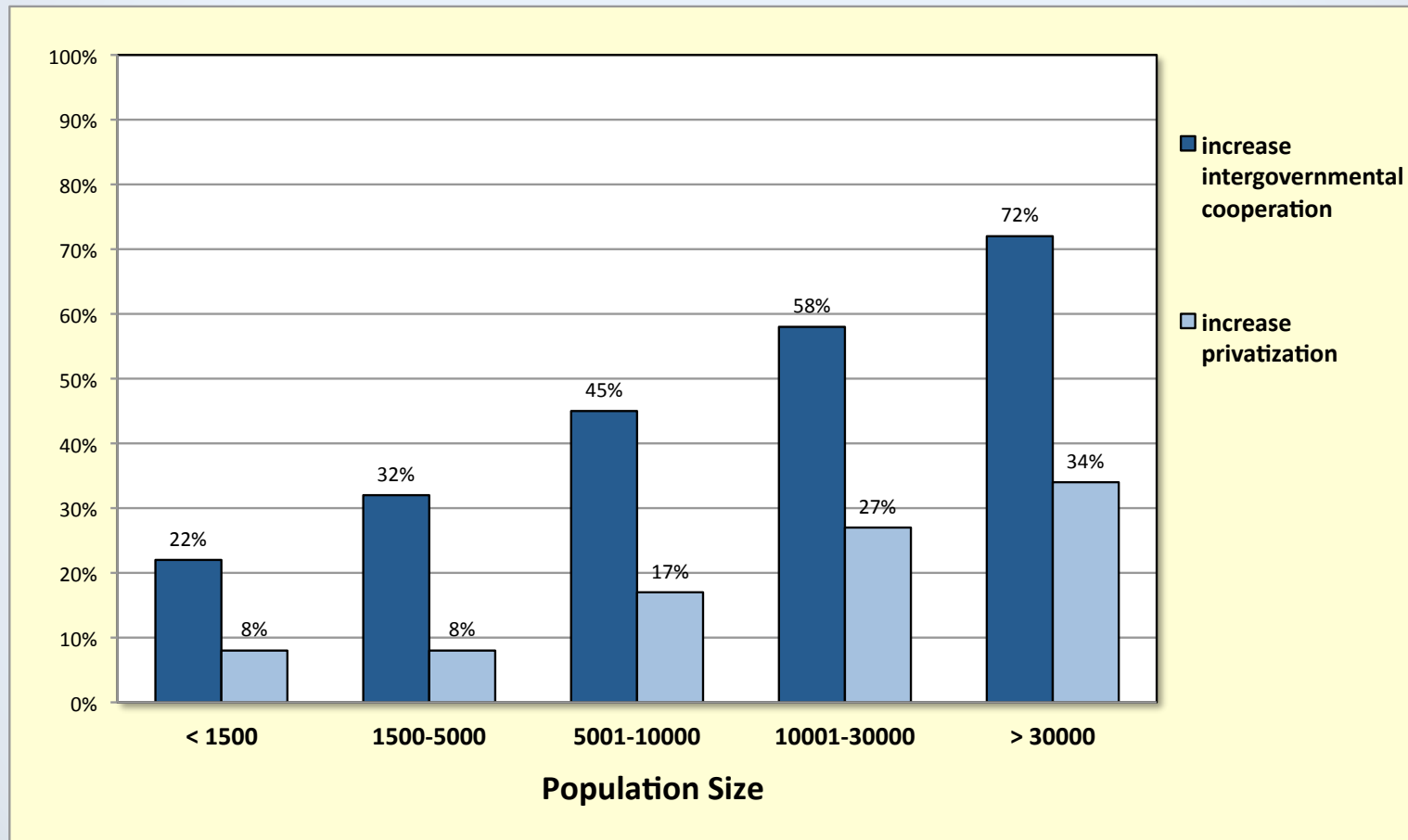
Plans Going Forward

% of jurisdictions planning **changes in property tax rates**



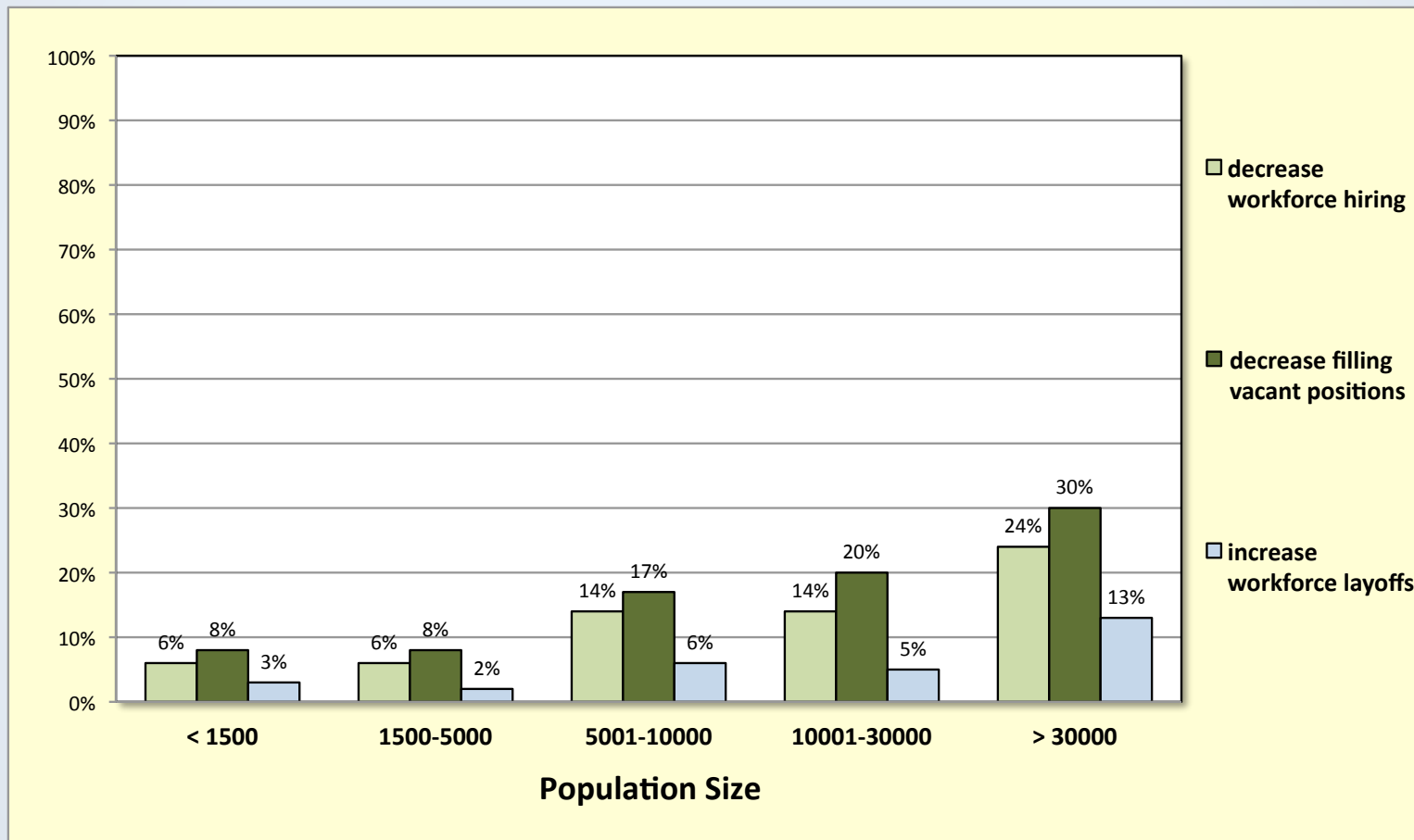
Plans Going Forward

% of jurisdictions planning **increases**
in **intergovernmental cooperation** and **privatization** of services



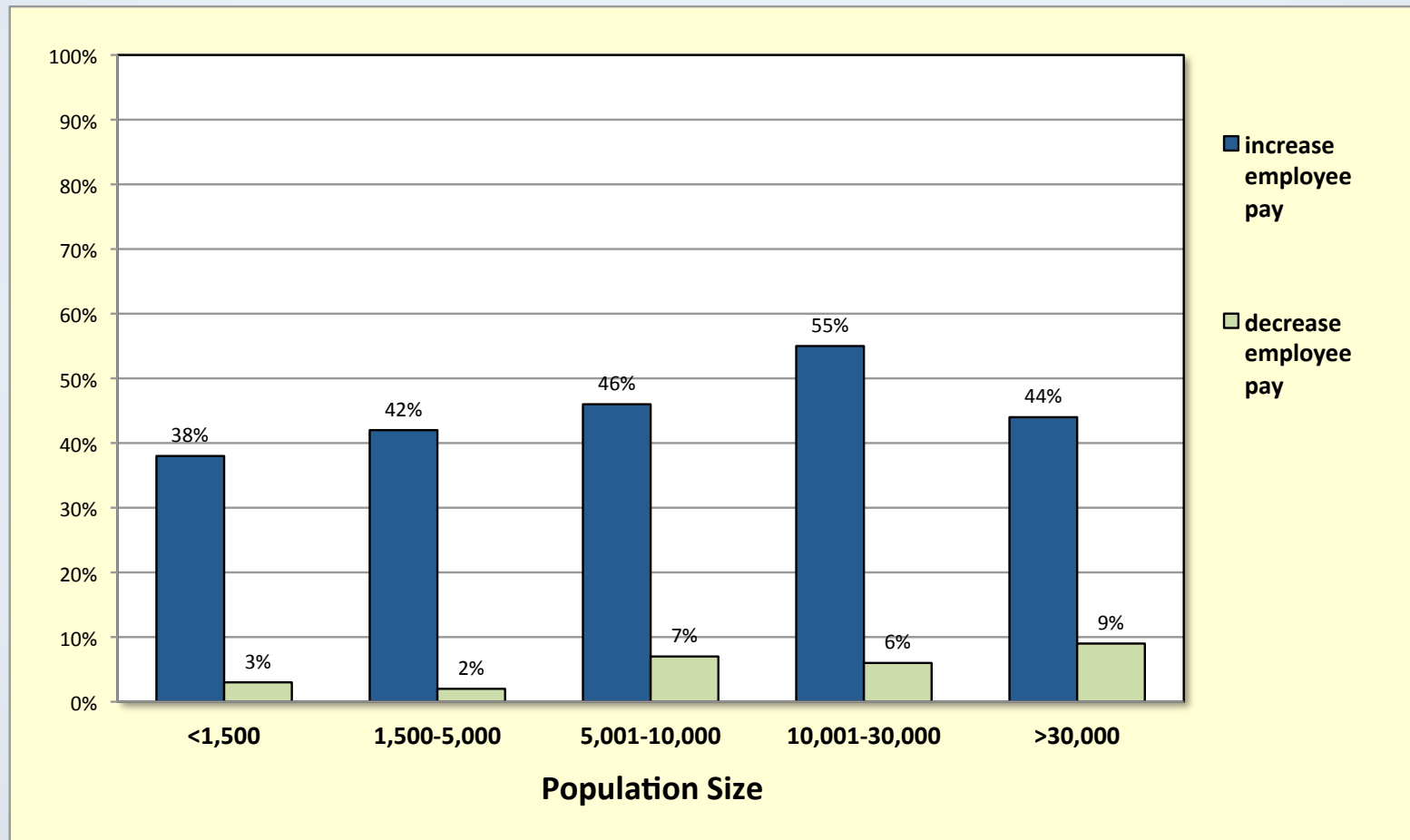
Plans Going Forward

% of jurisdictions planning **changes to staffing levels**



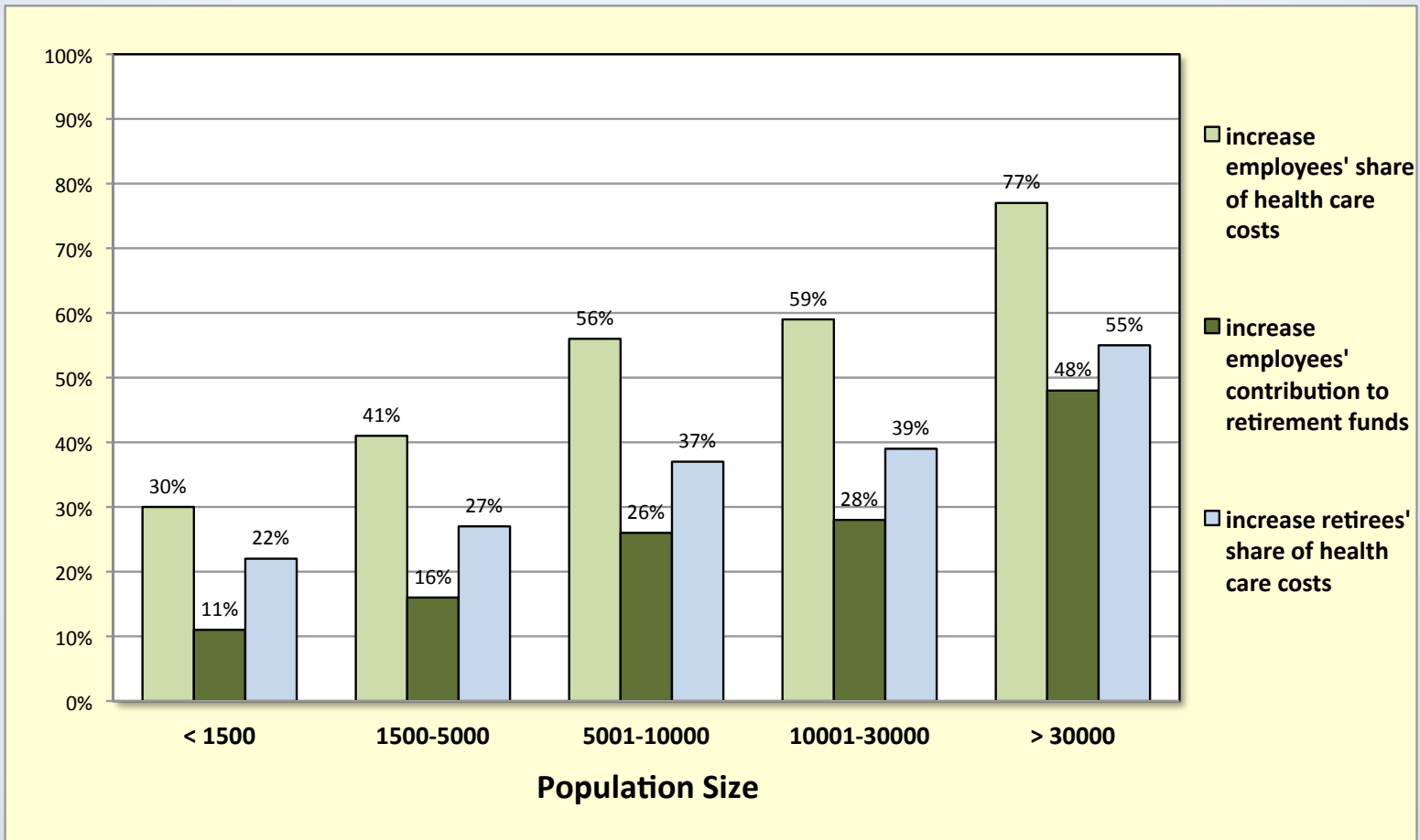
Plans Going Forward

% of jurisdictions planning **changes in employee pay**



Plans Going Forward

% of jurisdictions planning **increases in employees' share of contributions to benefits**

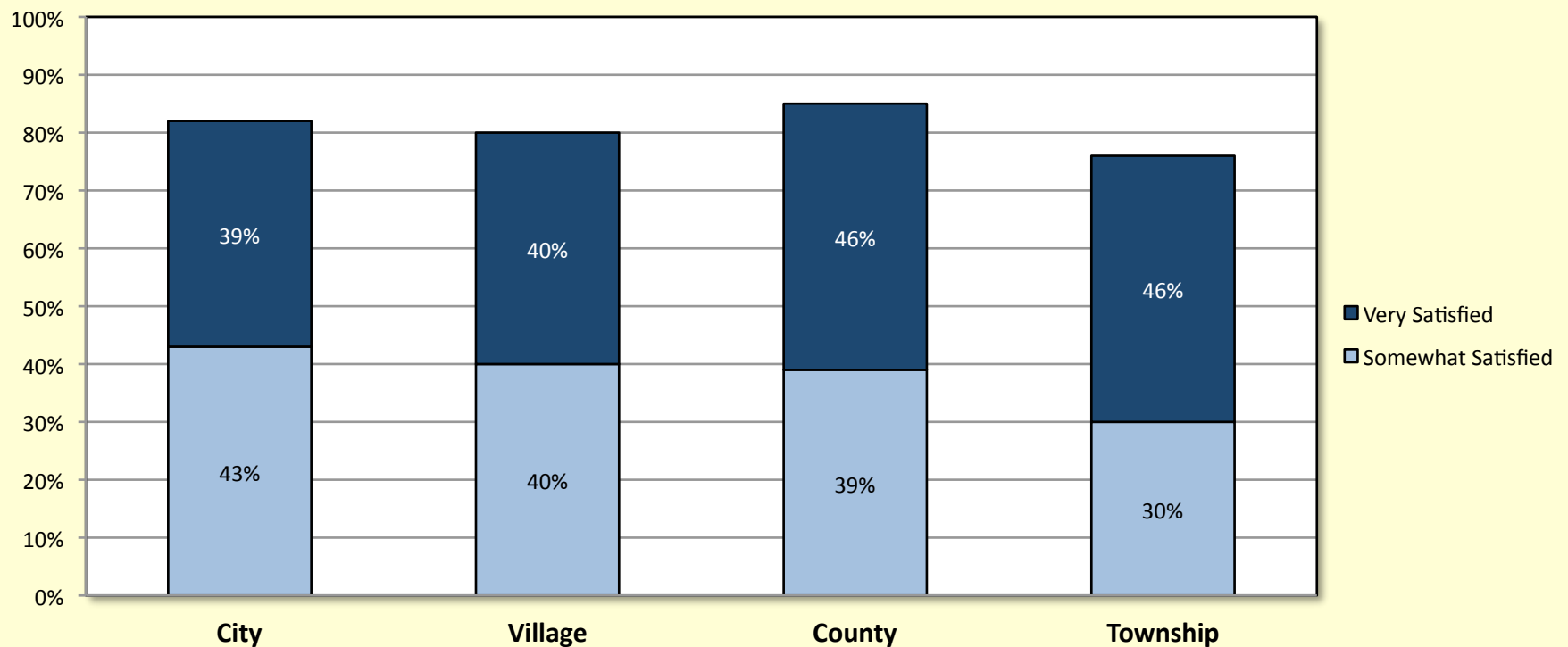


MPPS Spring Waves:

Other fiscal, labor, and operations policy

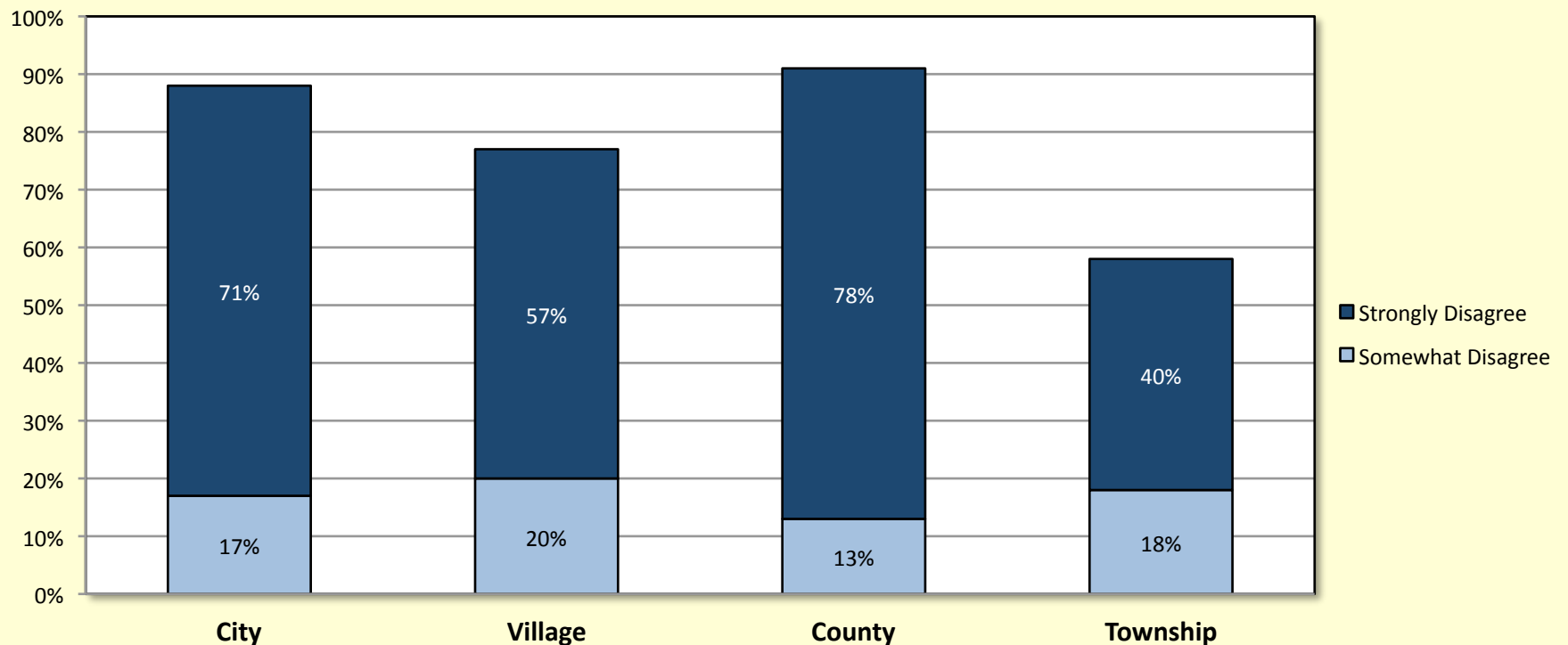
Union relations and negotiations

% of local officials **satisfied with negotiations** with their unions (among jurisdictions that negotiated with their labor unions), 2013



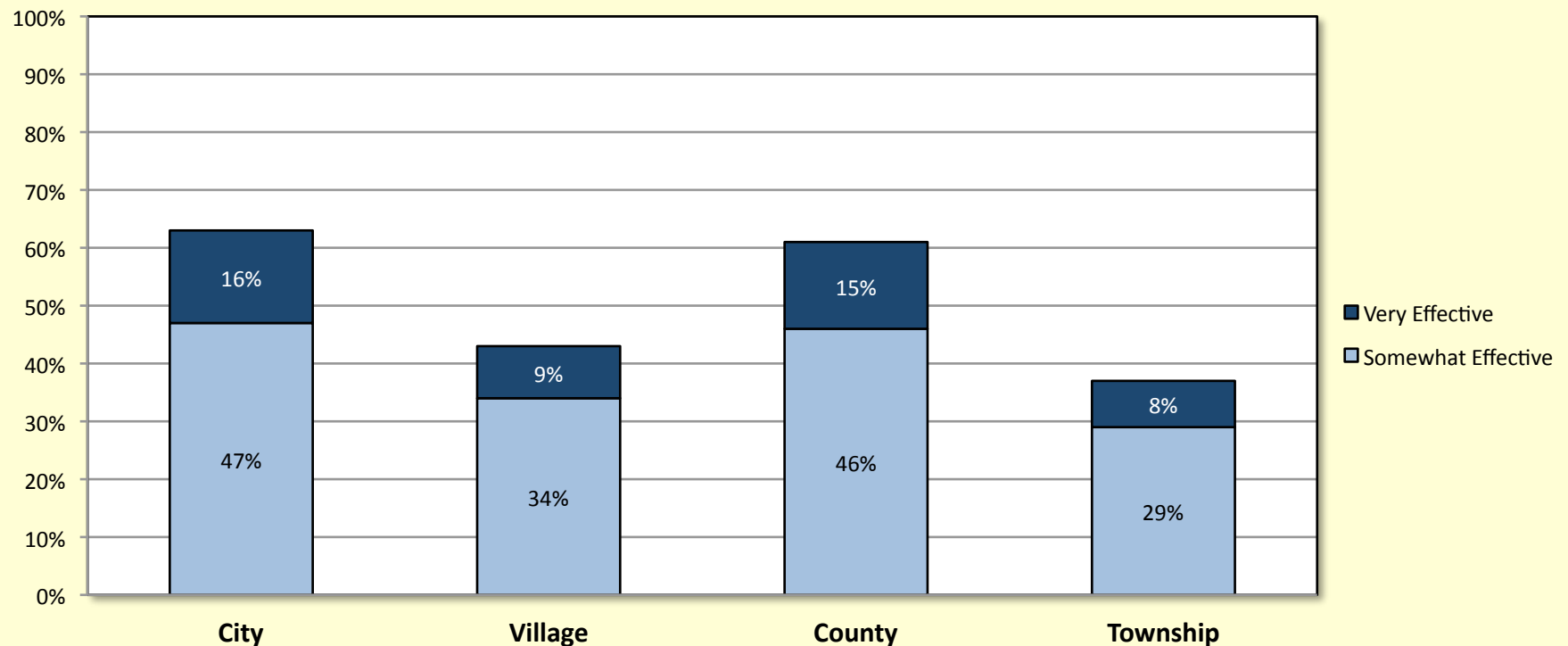
Concerns about PPT reform

% of local officials who **distrust state government** to follow through with provision of future replacement PPT funds, 2012



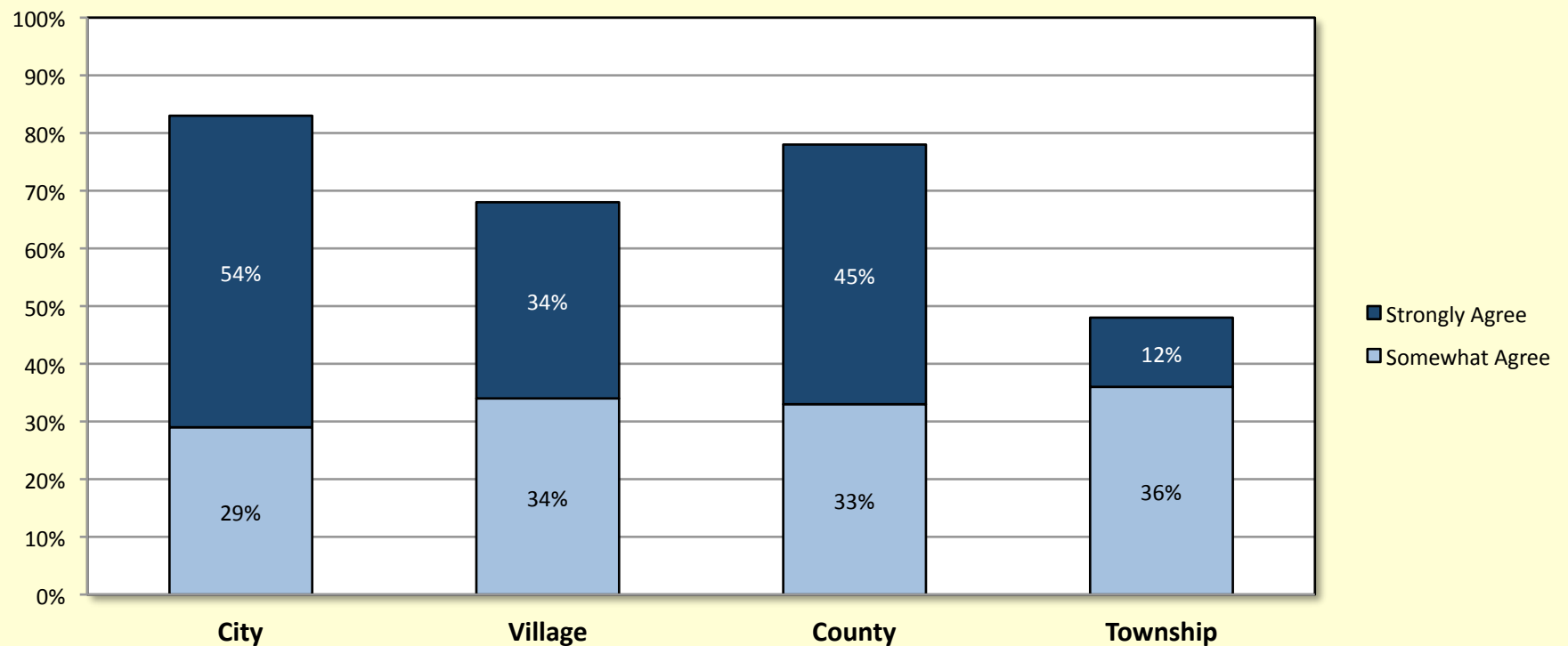
Evaluations of Emergency Manager Law

% of local officials who **believe P.A. 4 will be effective** at protecting or restoring fiscal health in jurisdictions across state, 2012



System of Funding Local Governments

% of local officials who believe **significant reform**
is needed, 2012

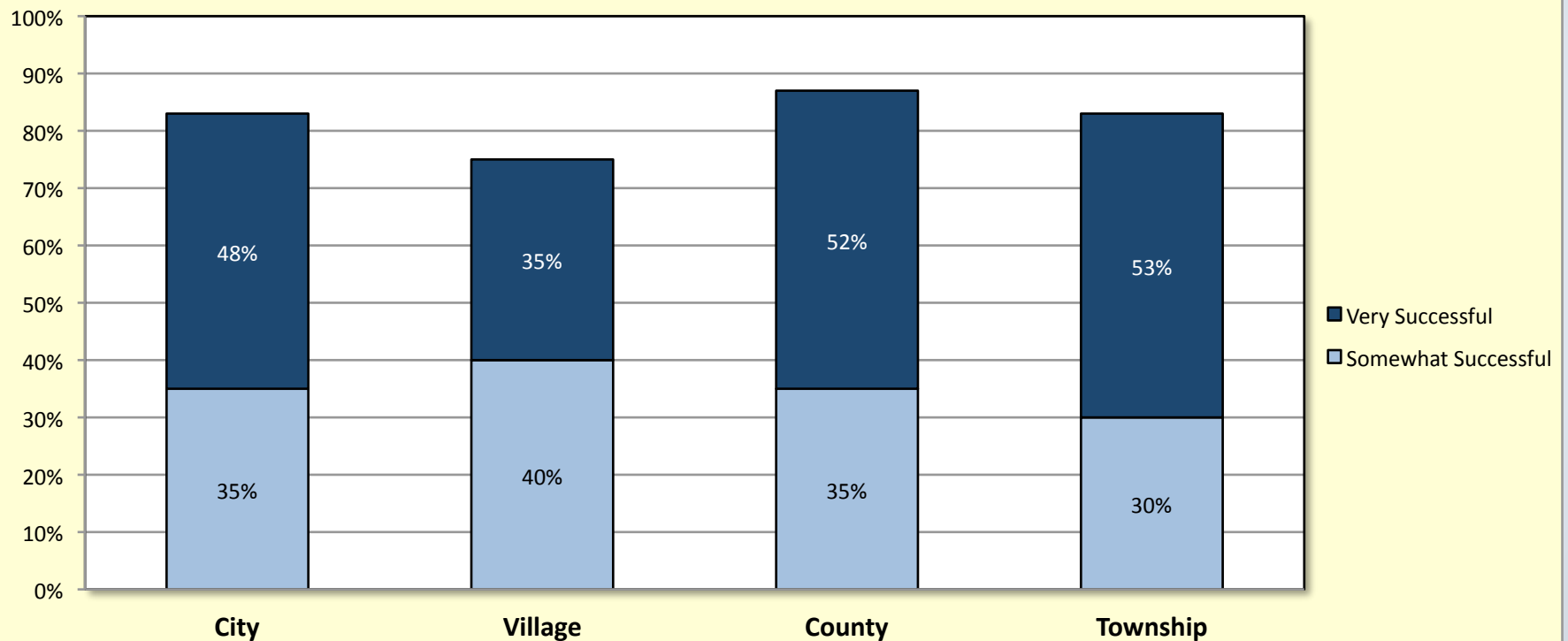


MPPS Fall Waves:

Exploring relevant, actionable topics at the local level

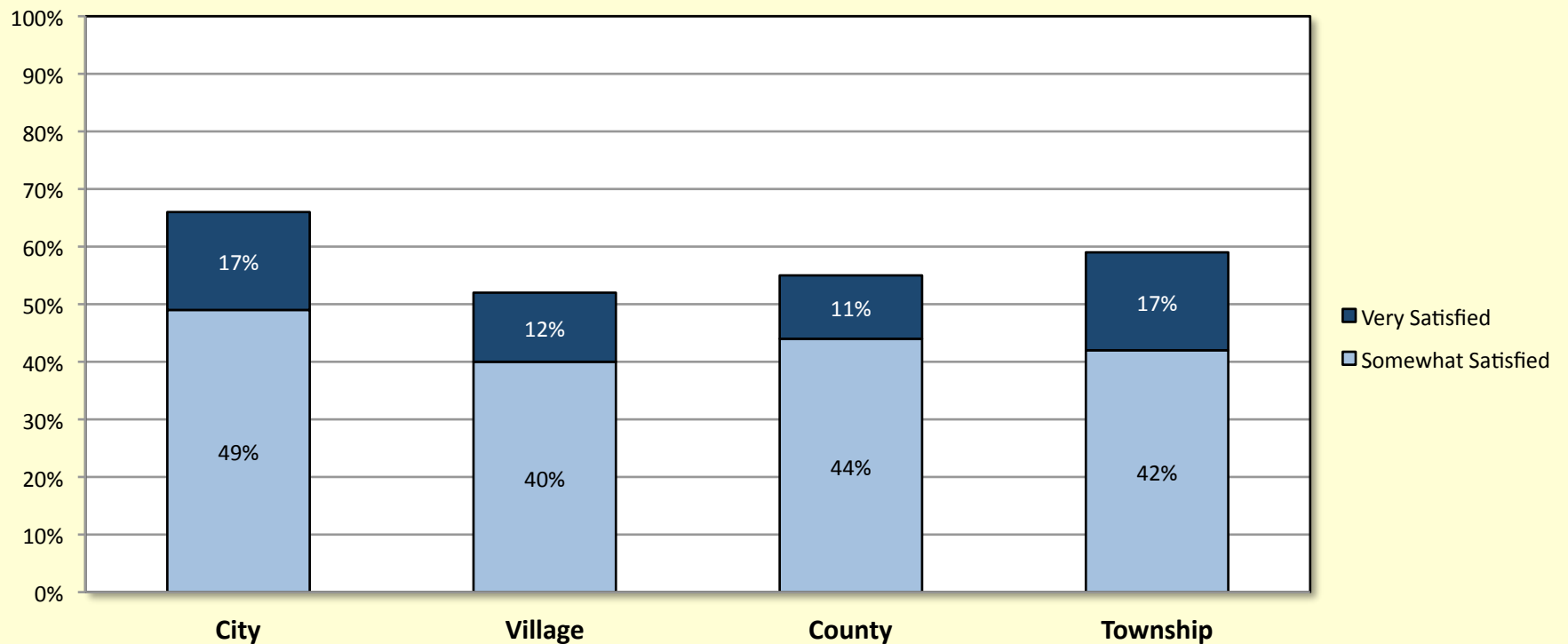
Intergovernmental Cooperation

% of local officials who say their jurisdictions' IGC efforts to date **have been successful**, 2010



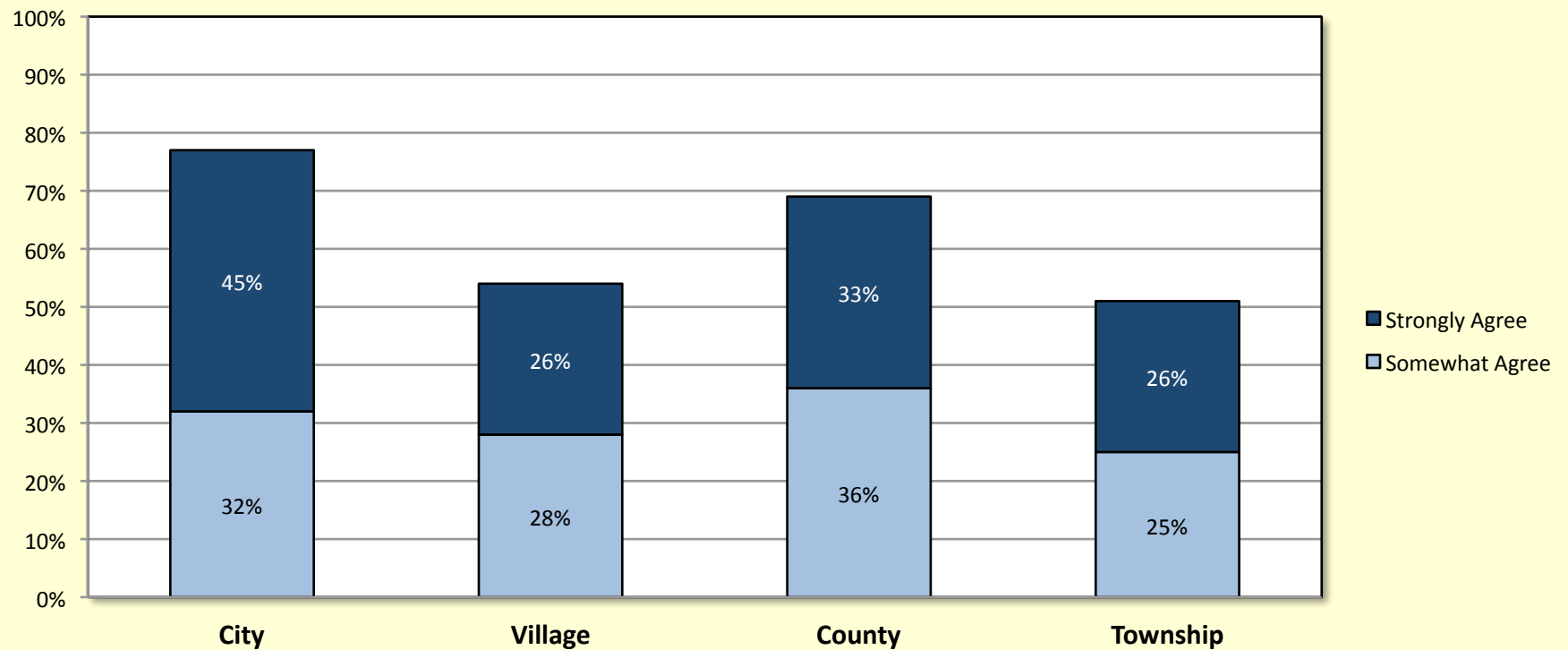
Citizen Engagement

% of local officials who say they are **satisfied with levels of citizen engagement** in their jurisdictions, 2012



Detroit Bankruptcy

% of local officials who **agree that Detroit's bankruptcy filing** was the right thing to do, 2013

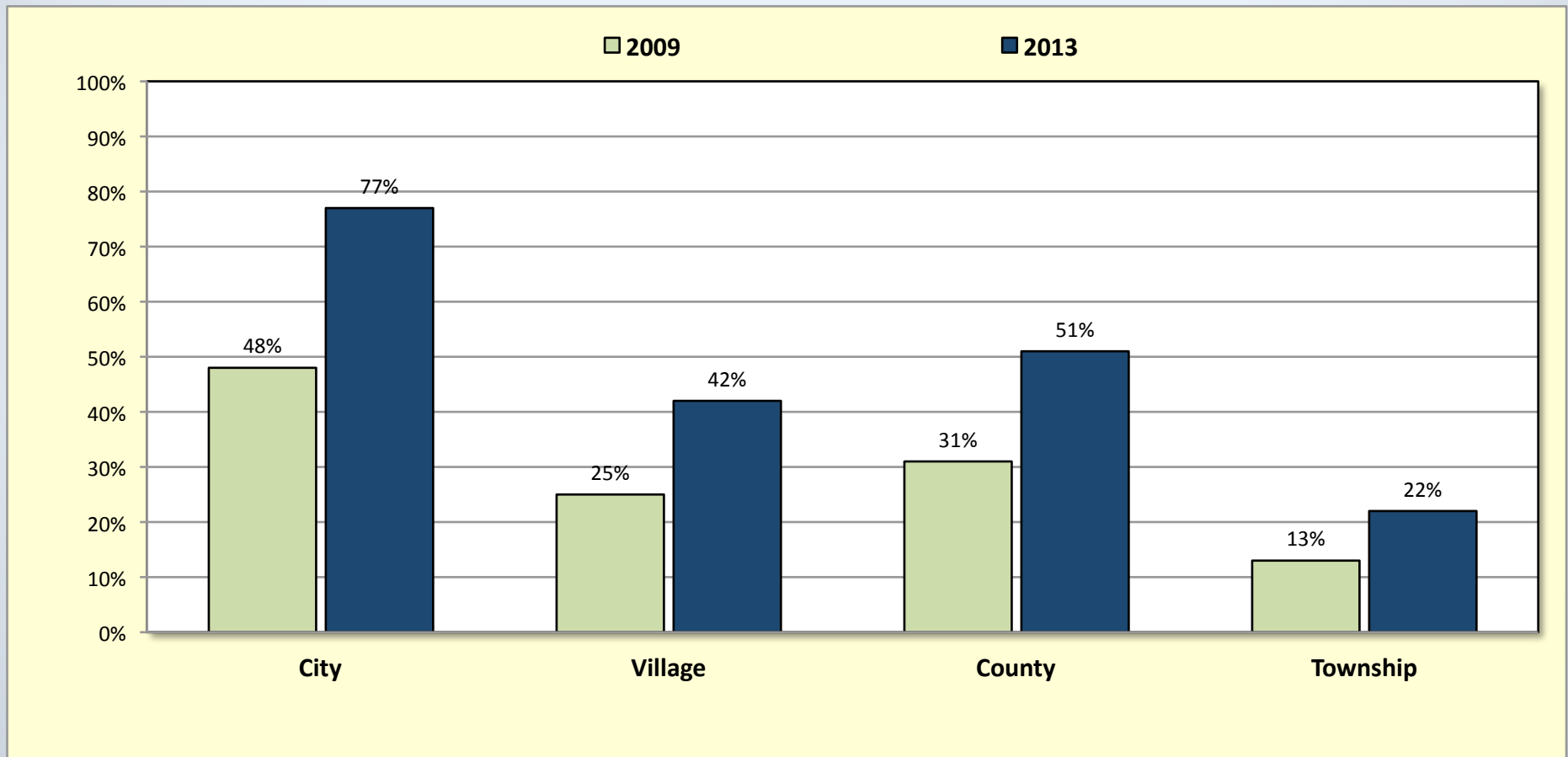


MPPS and Placemaking:

Partnering with MML to explore specific policy areas

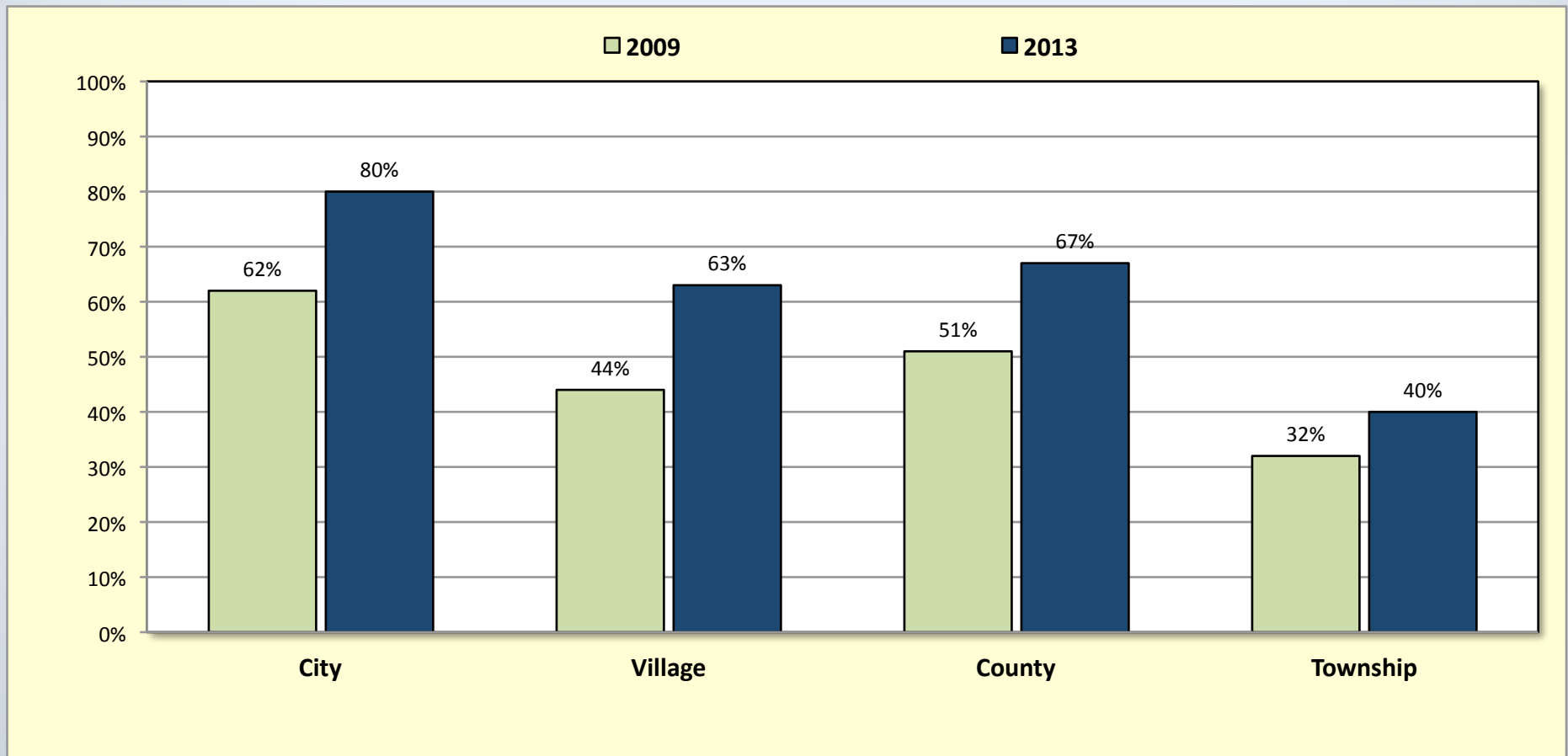
Placemaking: Who does it?

% of jurisdictions that **report engaging in placemaking**



Placemaking: Who thinks it works?

% of local officials who **believe placemaking can be effective** as an economic development strategy in their jurisdictions



Future waves of the Michigan Public Policy Survey:

- Fall 2014: Infrastructure
- Other survey topics?
- How should MPPS data and reports be distributed to reach the widest audience?

The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

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