

# Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP)

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy,  
University of Michigan

Presentation to the  
Michigan House of Representatives  
Committee on Urban Policy  
March 2, 2010

# Presentation Outline

- Overview of the Center:
  - Mission, History, Personnel, Funding, Activities
- Highlights of Two Initiatives:
  - The Education Policy Initiative (EPI)
  - The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

# The Mission of CLOSUP

- To conduct and support applied research that informs local, state, and urban policy issues
- To disseminate research findings to key policymakers (e.g., legislators, local officials, foundations, non-profits)
- To facilitate student learning of and engagement with local, state, and urban policy issues

# A Brief Overview of CLOSUP

- Founded in 2001 at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, the University of Michigan
- Core staff of 3 permanent employees, with additional research staff and affiliates across UM
- Base funding from UM, with additional funds raised from external sources for specific projects
- Activities
  - Research projects
  - Public events (e.g., speaker panels and conferences)
  - Publications (e.g., policy briefs)
  - Teaching and other student engagement



# Select Projects

- Public Land Disposition in Michigan Cities
- Detroit Area Study: Financial Services for the Poor
- Bridging the Gap Between Workforce Development and Economic Development: Understanding Cluster-based Approaches
- Community Benefit Agreements in Land Use Planning
- Community Context and Prisoner Reentry
- Remaking the City After Abandonment

# Select Events

## ■ Conferences

- Privatization: Issues of State and Local Public Infrastructure (November, 2002)
- Great Lakes Regional Economic Initiative (March, 2005)
- Where Do We Go From Here? An Agenda-setting Conference for the Economic Issues Facing Michigan (March, 2006)

## ■ Panel Discussions and Lectures

- Michigan's Economy in 2009 and Beyond (February, 2009)
- Rightsizing Michigan's Prison Population: Policy-driven Expansion and Reduction in an Era of Mass Incarceration. (March, 2009)
- The Role of Urban Food Retail in Detroit's Economic Development and Revitalization (October, 2009)
- Beyond Cape Wind: The Challenge of Siting Renewable Energy Facilities (December, 2009)

# Select Publications

- Policy Report on Privatization (2002)
- Growth Management in California Communities (2004)
- Regional Planning in Michigan (2005)
- Detroit Area Study: Public Services, Local Government, and Taxes (2006)
- Coming Together in Tough Economic Times: Workforce Development and Economic Development Move Closer Together in Michigan (2008)
- Reforming the System of Care: A Review of the Literature on Housing and Service Arrangements for Homeless Populations (2008)
- Economic Revitalization through College Scholarships: The Kalamazoo Promise (2009)

# Select Student Activities

## ■ Courses

- Applied Policy Seminars
- State and Local Government Policy Research; Urban Public Finance; Urban Economics and Policy

## ■ Internships

- The Governor's Education Policy Advisor's Office
- Senate Fiscal Agency
- City of Detroit Mayor's Office

## ■ Events

- Reinventing the Wheel: Why Broken Cities Stay Broken and New Ways Civil Rights Attorneys Can Fix Them (Law School students, Michigan Journal of Race and Law)
- Food System Governance: Successes, Challenges, and Opportunities for Michigan (Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, Environmental Policy Organization students)

# Education Policy Initiative (EPI)

- Started in Fall 2007
- Goals:
  - To identify and evaluate promising educational interventions
  - To inform educators and policymakers about new research findings
- Activities:
  - Research projects, public lectures, conferences, research briefs



# EPI Events

- Looking Back and Looking Ahead: Higher Education in Michigan on the Fifth Anniversary of the Cherry Commission
  - Two-day conference in December, 2009
- Are High-Quality Schools Enough to Close the Achievement Gap? Evidence from a Bold Social Experiment in Harlem
  - Roland Fryer, Harvard University, January, 2010
- The Private Sector in K-12 Public Education
  - A panel with Michael Flanagan and others, March, 2008
- Can Educational Outcomes be Improved in Community Colleges? Evidence from Two Randomized Trials
  - Cecilia Rouse, Princeton University, January, 2008
- The Effects of NYC Charter Schools on Student Achievement
  - Caroline Hoxby, Stanford University, November, 2007

# EPI Projects

## ■ National Education Policy

- The Impact of No Child Left Behind on Student Achievement
- Development of a Teacher Performance Rating System
- Employment Protection and Worker Effort in Public Schools

## ■ Michigan Education Policies and Programs

- Evaluation of Operation ABC
- The Kalamazoo Promise
- The Impact of the Michigan Merit Curriculum and Michigan Promise Scholarship on Student Outcomes



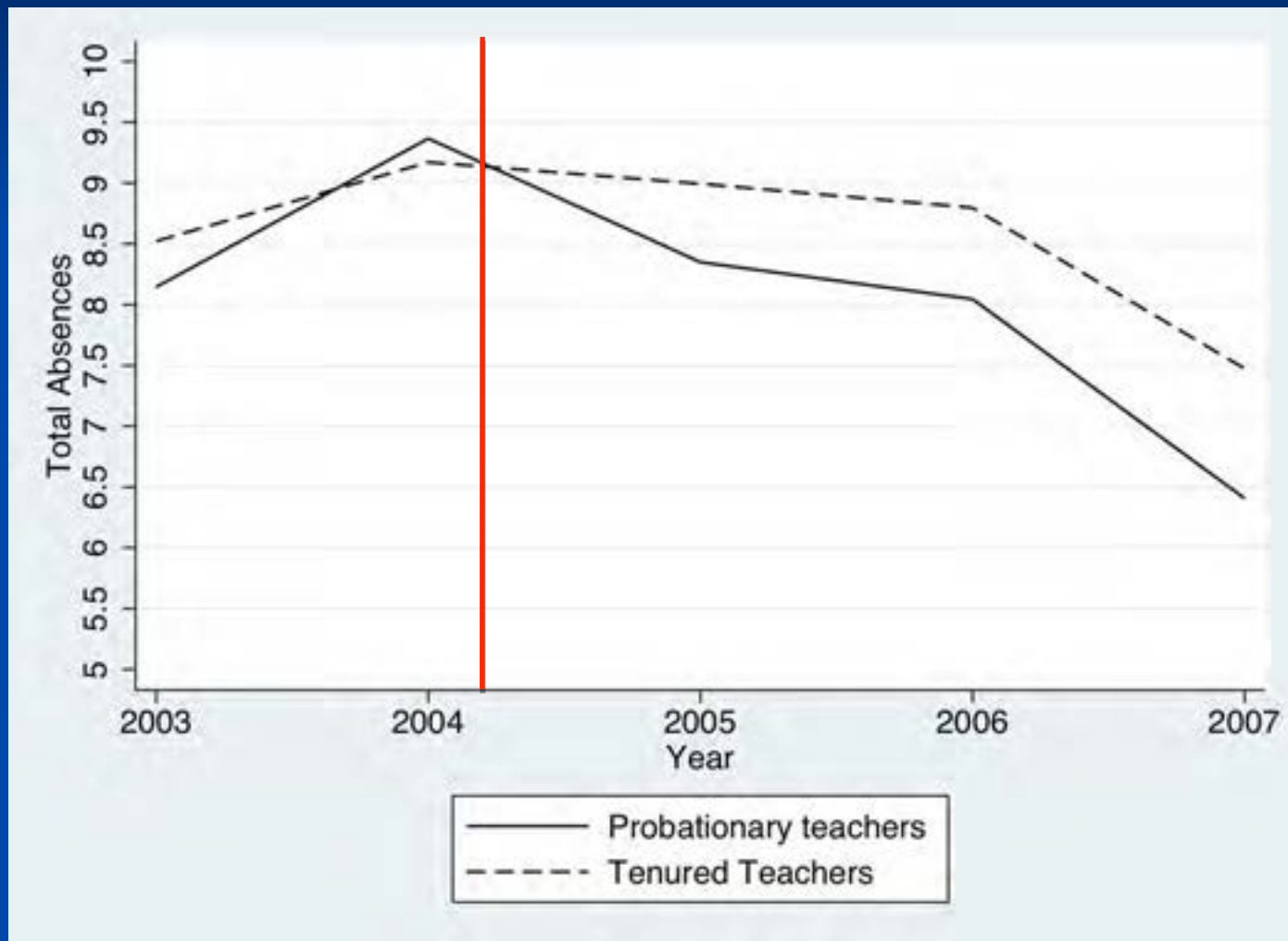
# Lessons from Teacher Tenure Policy in the Chicago Public Schools

- In 2005, Chicago Public Schools principals were given complete flexibility to dismiss probationary teachers (years 1-4)
- The goal was to improve the ability of principals to manage their schools, recognizing critical role of personnel
- Roughly 12% of probationary teachers were dismissed each year from 2005 through 2007
- Most commonly cited reasons include high teacher absenteeism, poor classroom management, low instructional quality, lack of communication with community/students

# Who Do Principals Dismiss?

- Teachers with more absences were more likely to be dismissed
- Teachers whose students made smaller achievement gains were more likely to be dismissed
- A teacher who attended a highly competitive college was less likely to be dismissed than other teachers
- Principals were more likely to dismiss teachers who failed the certification test
- Male teachers and teachers over the age of 50 were more likely to be non-renewed than other probationary teachers
- Principals are more likely to dismiss first- and second-year probationary teachers

# Effects on Teacher Absences



# Michigan Merit Curriculum and Michigan Promise Scholarship

- 5-year project with \$6 million federal grant
- Partnership with the College of Education at MSU and the State of Michigan Department of Education
- Collect data on student achievement, high-school course-taking and college enrollment and completion
- Key research questions:
  - Changes in student achievement?
  - Changes in high school graduation and college enrollment?
  - Differential effects across students and schools?

# Michigan Public Policy Survey

- Unique in the country: survey of all counties, cities, townships and villages. Targeted respondents are the chief elected and the chief appointed official in each county, city, township, and village
- Conducted twice per year (Spring and Fall)
- Surveys are developed in partnership with MML, MTA, and MAC, in addition to consulting other experts



# MPPS Goals

- Fill the critical information gap about the challenges of policymaking at the local level
- Provide information on local-level issues to policymakers in Lansing, foundations, community organizations, and other stakeholders
- Assist local leaders by providing information about their peers across the state to improve policymaking, spread best practices and grass-roots innovative solutions
- Increase government transparency
- Build a long-term data archive to allow tracking of fundamental issues over time
- Further academic knowledge and build student interest in Michigan local government

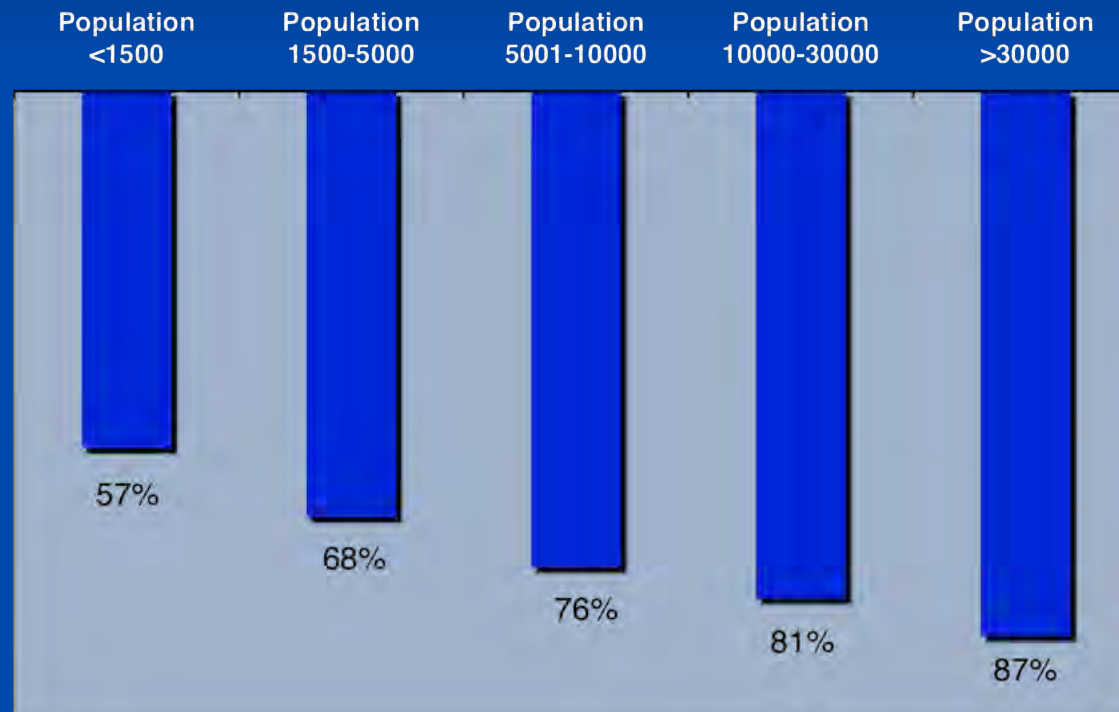
# MPPS Topics

- Local government fiscal health and challenges
- Citizen participation in fiscal policymaking
- Economic development strategies, assets, barriers, assistance needed
- Intergovernmental cooperation and regional land use planning
- Implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), aka the Federal Stimulus Package
- Education and workforce development
- Opinions on current issues such as PA 312, a possible constitutional convention, term limits, etc.



# MPPS: Local Government Fiscal Health

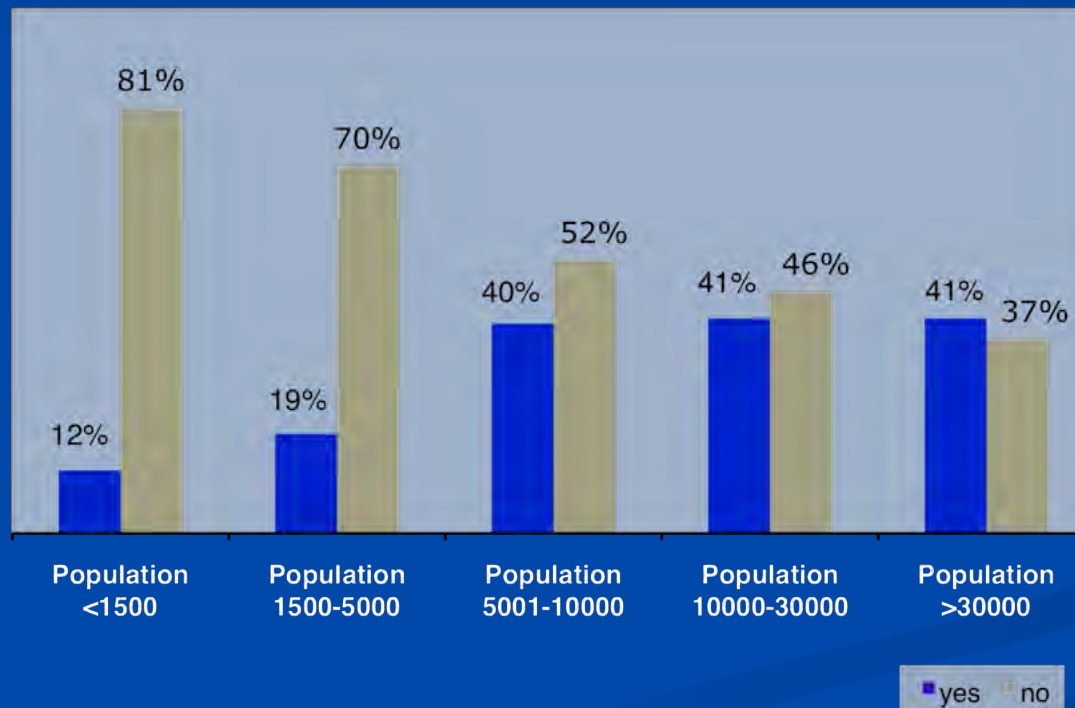
“Would you say that your unit of government is less able or better able to meet its financial needs in the next fiscal year compared to this fiscal year?”



(percent reporting “significantly” or “somewhat” less able)

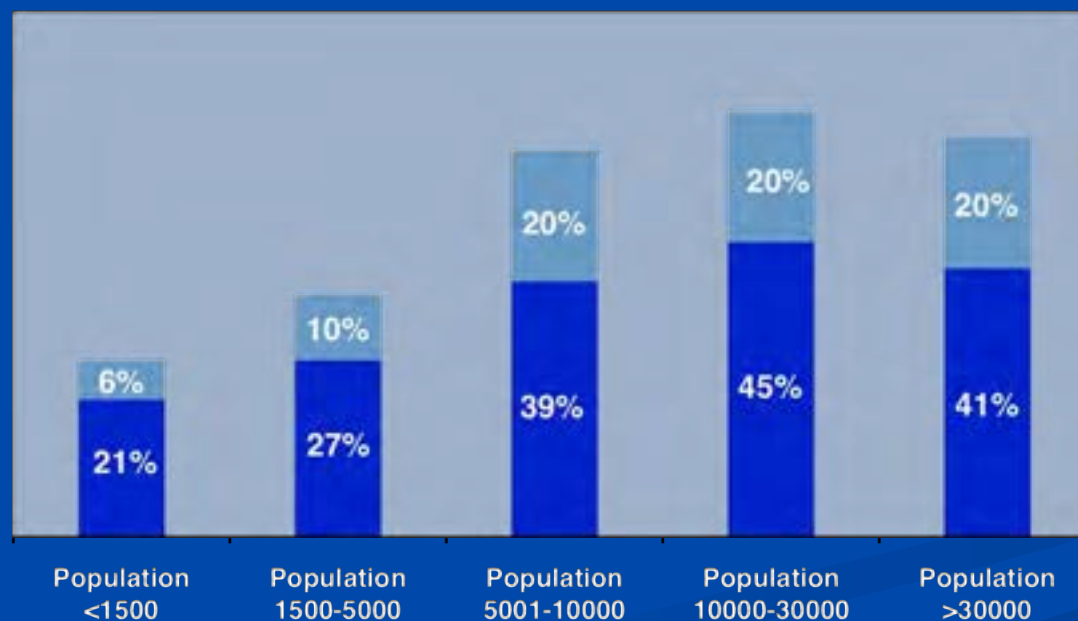
# MPPS: Placemaking Activities

“Is your unit of government currently engaged in any placemaking programs or projects for economic development purposes?”



# MPPS: Confidence in Placemaking as a Strategy

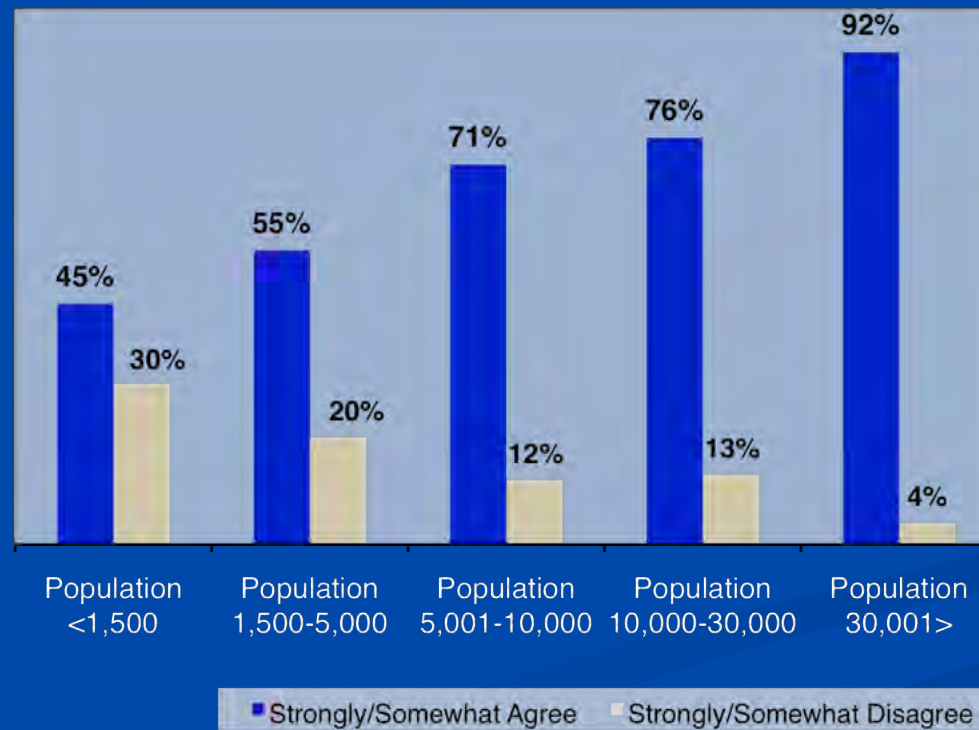
“Regardless of whether you have any placemaking projects underway, how confident are you that placemaking can be an effective economic development strategy for your jurisdiction?”



(percent reporting “somewhat” or “completely” confident)

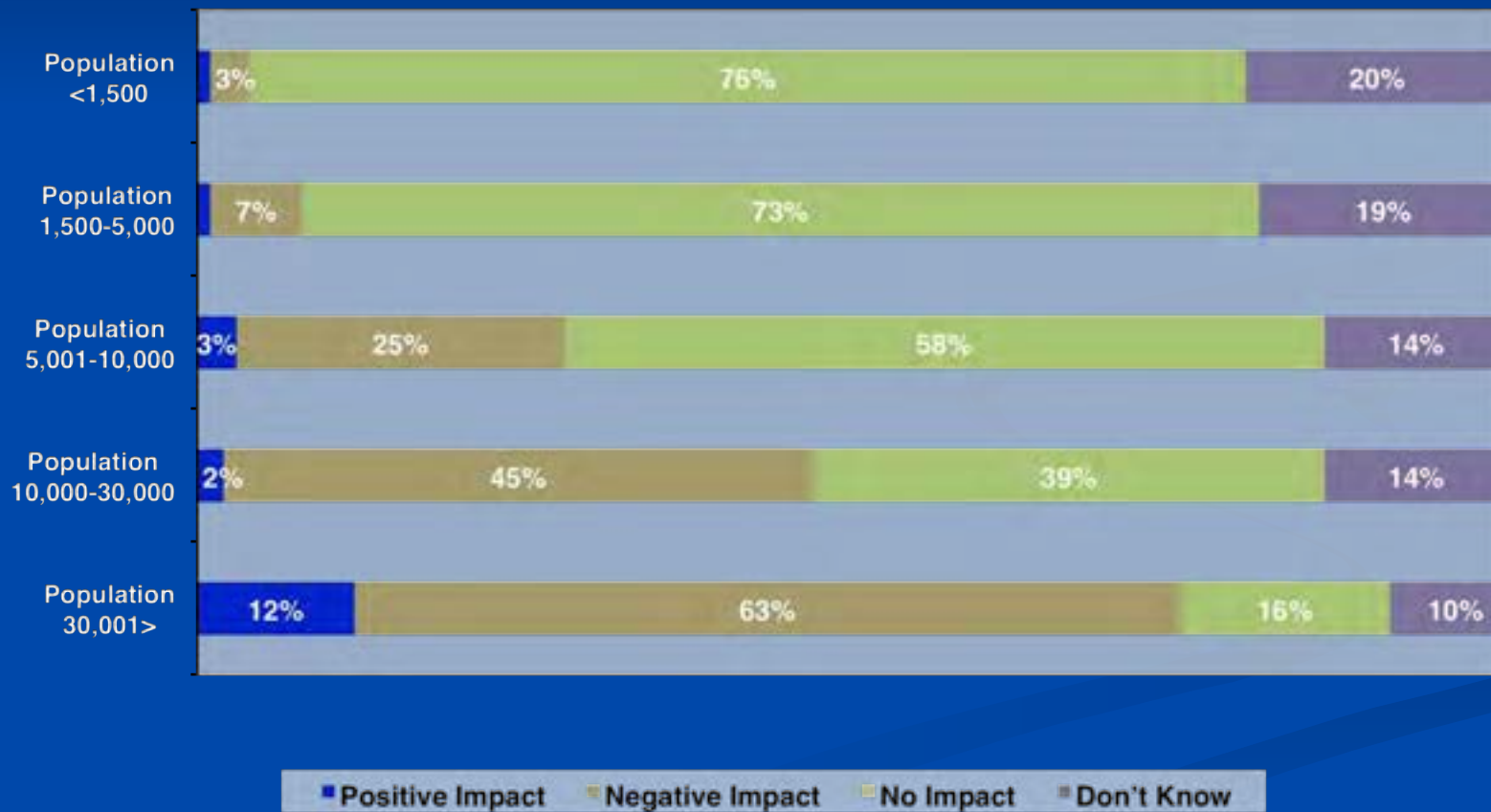
# MPPS: Confidence in a Highly Educated Workforce as a Strategy

“Do you agree or disagree that developing a highly-educated workforce can be an effective strategy for improving your local economy?”



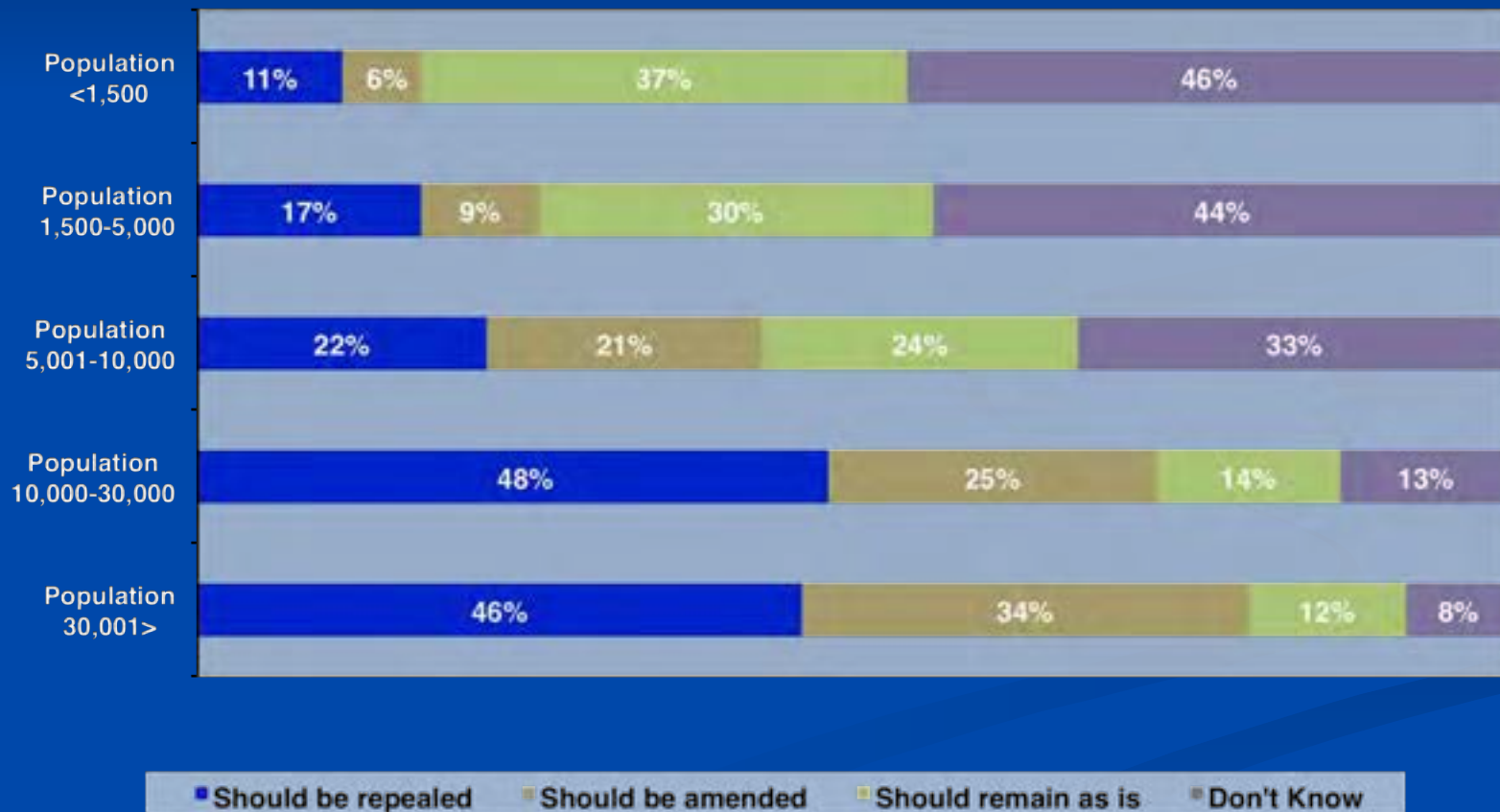
# MPPS: Impact of P.A. 312

“Has Public Act 312 had a direct impact on your jurisdiction or not?”



# MPPS: Changes for P.A. 312?

“Do believe that Public Act 312 should be repealed, amended, or remain as it is currently?”



# MPPS: P.A. 312 Reform Ideas

Among those officials who said PA 312 should be amended:

- 40% said it should be more flexible to consider communities' conditions, particularly ability to pay
- 28% mentioned specific changes in the role of the arbitrator, including allowing arbitrators more flexibility in arriving at a solution.



# Summary

- CLOSUP conducts and sponsors applied policy research on a wide variety of topics, with a special focus on education policy and on local governments in Michigan.
- The Center seeks opportunities to work directly with policymakers to ensure our research provides public service to the state and its communities.

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