

Public Libraries as Partners for Collective Impact



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Fourth most read story in APHA newsletter in 2018

<https://www.thenationshealth.org/content/most-read-public-health-news-stories-year-2018>

Addressing triggers

reduce asthma disparities

IN NEW YORK City, where vehicle exhaust fumes mingle with tobacco smoke and pet dander and people coexist in tight quarters, triggers for asthma are abundant.

As is the case for many big-city residents, New Yorkers are regularly exposed to both indoor and outdoor allergens that could result in an asthma flare-up. But a closer look at where asthma is most prevalent and symptoms are most severe reveals disparities rooted in socio-economic inequity.

"We are all more or less breathing the same particulate matter, and the differential in terms of impact...really comes down much more to poverty," Shoshanah Brown, MBA, MS, CEO of At-Home Integrated Relief for NYC, told *The Nation's Health*.

See **ASTHMA**, Page 16

Settings serve as community hubs

Libraries, public health work together on community health

WHEN IT COMES TO finding the best health information available, getting a blood pressure check or even finding a safe, cool place to spend an afternoon during a heat advisory, many people do not turn to their doctor or health department. In the U.S., they visit their local library.

In 2015, Americans stopped by their libraries more than 1.39 billion times, according to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In comparison, they visited health care professionals 990.8 million times, according to

2015 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey data. The Pew Research Center in 2016 reported that 38 percent of people using libraries did so to seek out

See **LIBRARIES**, Page 12



Photo by Lane Turner, courtesy The Boston Globe/Getty Images
People practice yoga at a class at the Boston Public Library in 2016. Across the country, public libraries serve as locations for exercise, health education, outreach and public health services, often partnering with local health agencies.



Photo by Mark Boster, courtesy The

In 2007, Kellie Lim, then a fourth-year medical student at the California-Los Angeles Medical Center, was part of a program that is working to address stress

New demands adding to stress in health

The shift is good for patients, but behind the scenes, health workers are burning out at alarming rates.

"This is a significant public health problem, because it affects the functioning of all of our health systems," Bryan Bohman, MD, senior advisor to the WellMD Center at Stanford Medicine, told *The Nation's Health*. "Imagine a problem that affects quality of care, results in high turnover,

and nearly half reported at least one symptom of burnout, putting doctors at higher risk than other U.S. workers. In 2015, a study published in *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* found that burnout prevalence went up by 9 percent among U.S. physicians between 2011 and 2014, while prevalence

And this is what it looks like

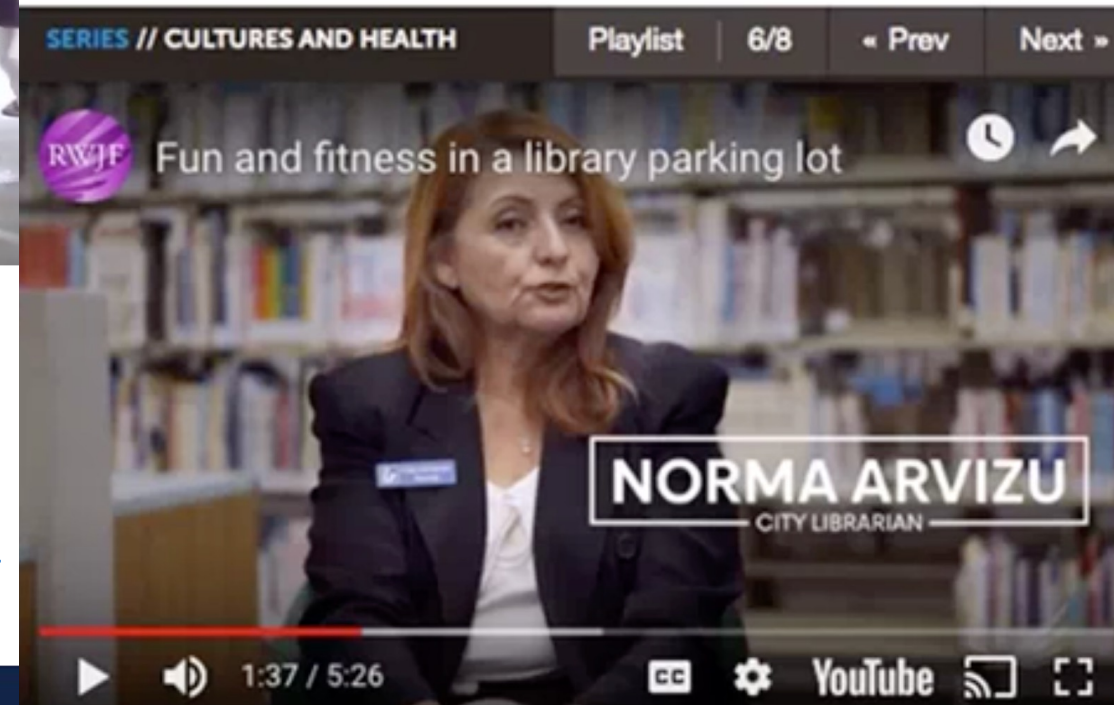
Shared use

Embracing the SHARED USE of the library



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (2017).
“Achieving Health Equity: Fun and Fitness
in a library parking lot.”

<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/features/achieving-health-equity.html>



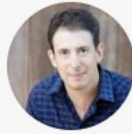
What do we know?

Libraries social centers for older adults
(Klinenberg, 2018)

Children's librarians infuse active play
into reading programs (Bedard, Bremer,
& Cairney, 2020)

Public librarians in South Carolina doing
many initiatives "around active living"
and want "to do more" (Draper, 2021)

Rural librarians play a unique role (ARC,
2018; Flaherty & Miller, 2016;
McGladrey et al., 2019)



Eric Klinenberg  @EricKlinenberg · Jun 7, 2019

Yesterday @BKLYNlibrary began promoting #LibraryLanes, its amazing virtual bowling league for older patrons. But, IMHO, I think they're underselling it. (Marketing has never been the **library's** super power.) So here's a little bump. @ALALibrary #BowlingTogether



Pandemic: Looking outside



FC Public Library
@FCPublicLibrary

What a great day for gardening! Jessica and her son Patrick came to the Walkertown Branch library today to harvest sweet potatoes from their plot and to plant collards for the Fall. They enjoy being part of the Library Community Garden. Library is for growing!



2:13 PM · Oct 7, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Pandemic: Looking online

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY



"Zoom-ba"
with Cynthia!

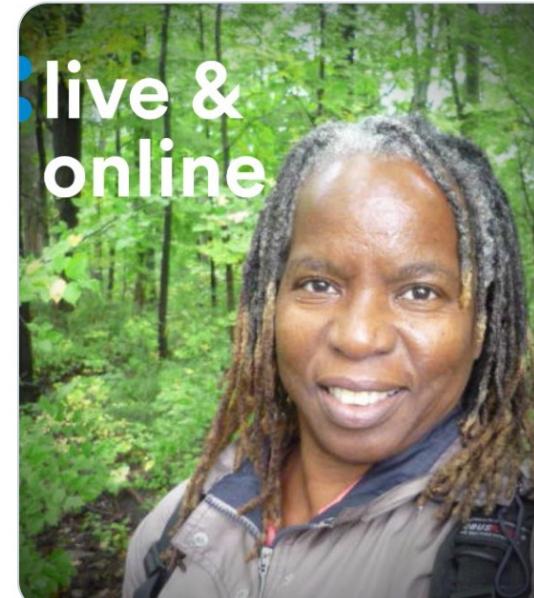
FREE ONLINE ZUMBA GOLD CLASS!
TUESDAYS AT 1:00PM



Toronto Public Library
@torontolibrary

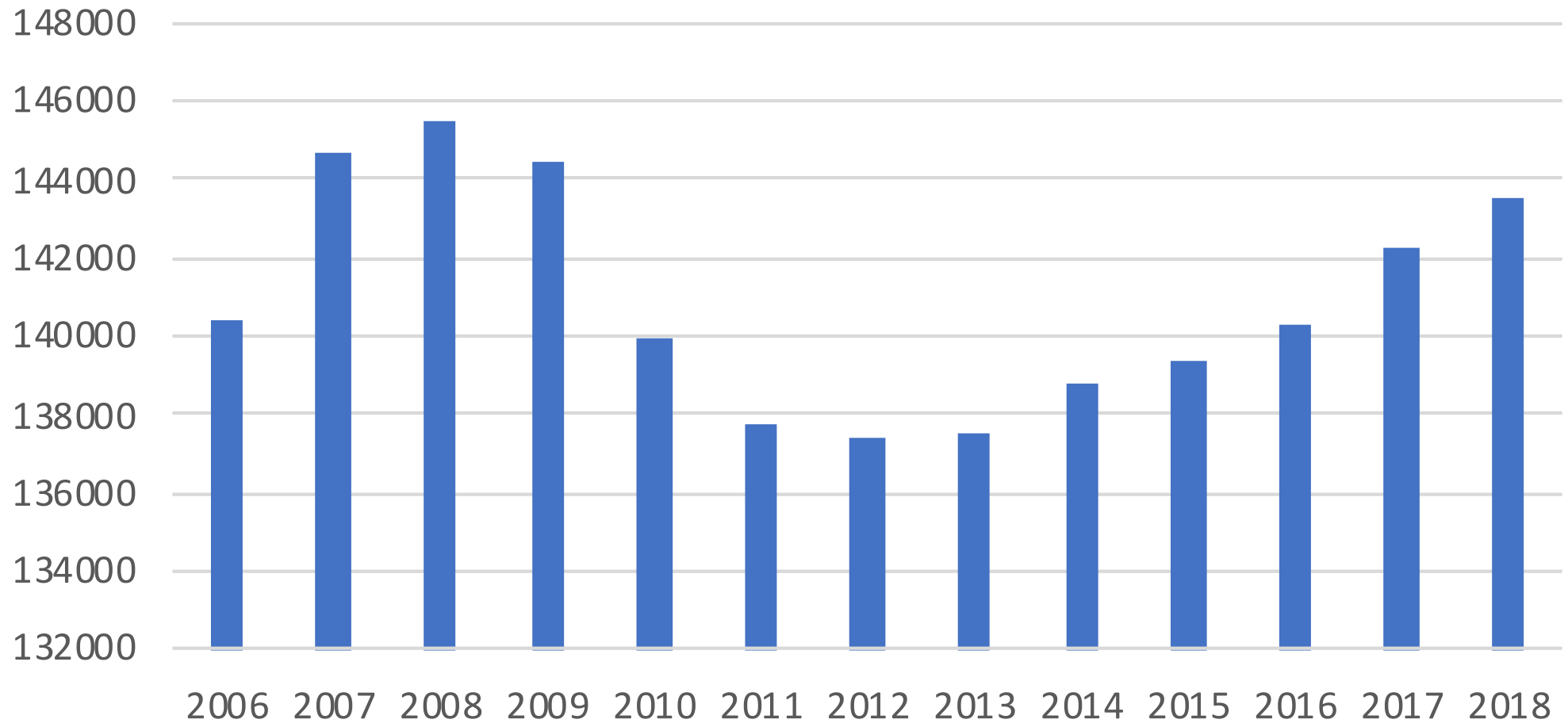
Black Outdoors: The Connections Between Race and Outdoor Space – don't miss this online conversation with Jacqueline L. Scott (@BlackOutdoors1) and Demiesha Dennis (@OutdoorBrown)!

Tune in LIVE Friday at 2 pm
crowdcast.io/e/TPLblackoutd...



Total Staff of Public Libraries, 2006-2018

Source: IMLS PLS (Credit: @NoahLenstra)



"If I don't walk, it's really not a great day" - Seattle Public Library's Nancy Pearl

"Last year, Pearl started combining her two greatest pleasures — reading and walking."



HERALDNET.COM
America's action figure librarian walks a good book for exercise | HeraldNet.com

CONNOLLY BRANCH LIBRARY **Connolly Branch of the Boston Public Library**
October 30 · 🌐
Snow can't stop the Story Walk! The Story Walk will stay up until Wednesday, November 4. Stop by the branch during BPL to Go hours for an activity kit.
¡La nieve no puede detener el Story Walk! El Story Walk permanecerá activo hasta el miércoles 4 de noviembre. Pase por la biblioteca durante las horas de BPL to Go para obtener un kit de actividades.
See Translation



HEAL (Healthy Eating and Active Living) at the Library via Co-Developed Programming



RQ: How, why, and with what impacts do public libraries collaborate with others to co-develop programming around healthy eating and active living?

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services,
Grant # RE-246336-OLS-20

Methods

| | # Interviews |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Library front-lines | 44 |
| Library leadership | 25 |
| Total | 69 |

| Sector | Non-profit | Hospital | Individual volunteer | Cooperative Extension | Business | K-12 School | Parks and Recreation | SNAP-Ed | Mayor's office | Health Department | Senior Agency | United Way | Boys and Girls Club | Community coalition | YMCA | Total |
|--------|------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|-------------|----------------------|---------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|------|-------|
| # | 11 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 46 | |

Semi-Structured interviews with individuals from organizations that have worked with public librarians on community-based Healthy Eating and Active Living initiatives

Trends: Formal Partnerships

“Let's not wait for [another] pandemic before we partner on more projects” – Parks & Recreation Director

“[The partnership] became formalized, I would say, during the pandemic. I reached out to the director of Parks and Rec and said, ‘Look, we're all trying to do the same sort of stuff here. Let's work together.’ And so we did do a big Zoom call with me and some of my librarians that do programming along with him, his team that does programming, and we did some brainstorming of what we could do” – Library director

Trends: Informal Ties

2015 – Terry Hawley starts library volunteering

2016 – Library director asks her if she'd like to do free Yoga

2020 – Shifts first to *virtual* Yoga and then to *outdoor* Yoga



BELGRADE COMMUNITY LIBRARY
PRESENTS

FREE!
*Outdoor Yoga
August Series*

with Instructor Terry Hawley of Tea Leaf Yoga

**TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
IN AUGUST
ON THE SOUTH LIBRARY LAWN
12:30-1:30PM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

BELGRADE
COMMUNITY
LIBRARY

The Belgrade Community Library logo, featuring a stylized figure holding a book, is located in the bottom right corner of the poster.

Trends: Trusted Models

“[When] the book bike comes, people are reminded that we have a bike trail system that allows the library to come see us using their bike.

Having a librarian ride their book bikes: They're wearing their bicycling gear - really helps remind the public that everybody can be healthy”

Head of Main Street Organization





✓ **BORROW**
 ✓ **RIDE**
 ✓ **RETURN**

A FREE program operated by the Bethlehem Health Bureau & partners. Bring ID to borrow a bike and lock.

Explore the city, run errands, and enjoy the outdoors!

LOCATIONS

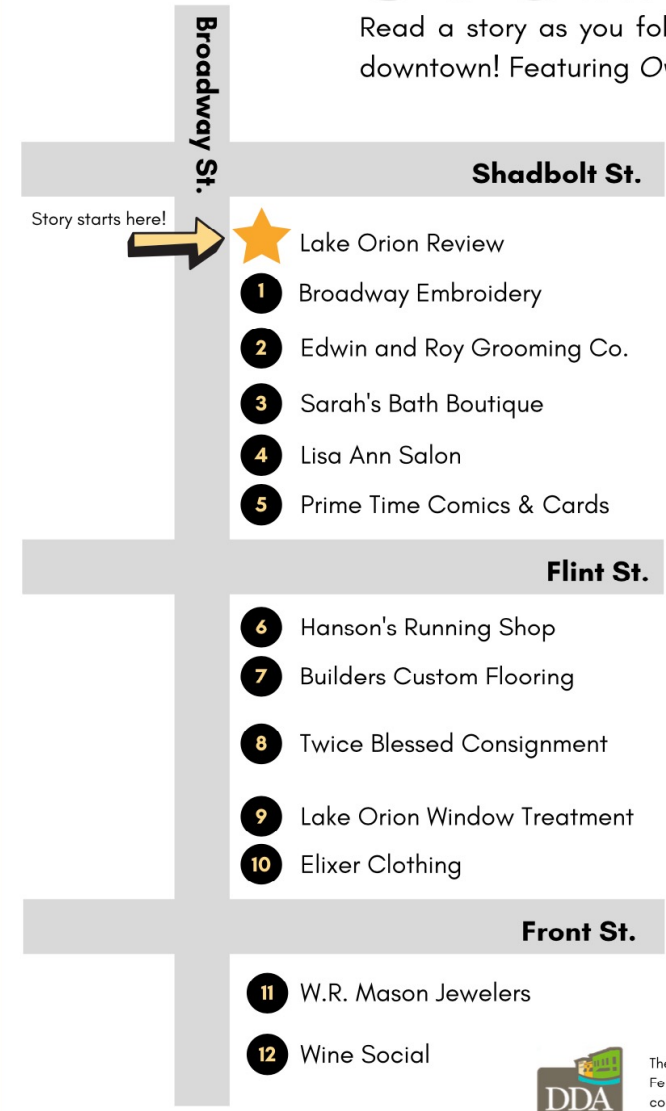
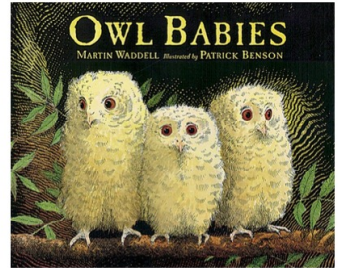
Comfort Suites
(3rd Street)

Bethlehem Area Public Library - Main
-Temporarily unavailable-



LAKE ORION STORYWALK®

Read a story as you follow the path and explore downtown! Featuring *Owl Babies* by Martin Wadell



The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.



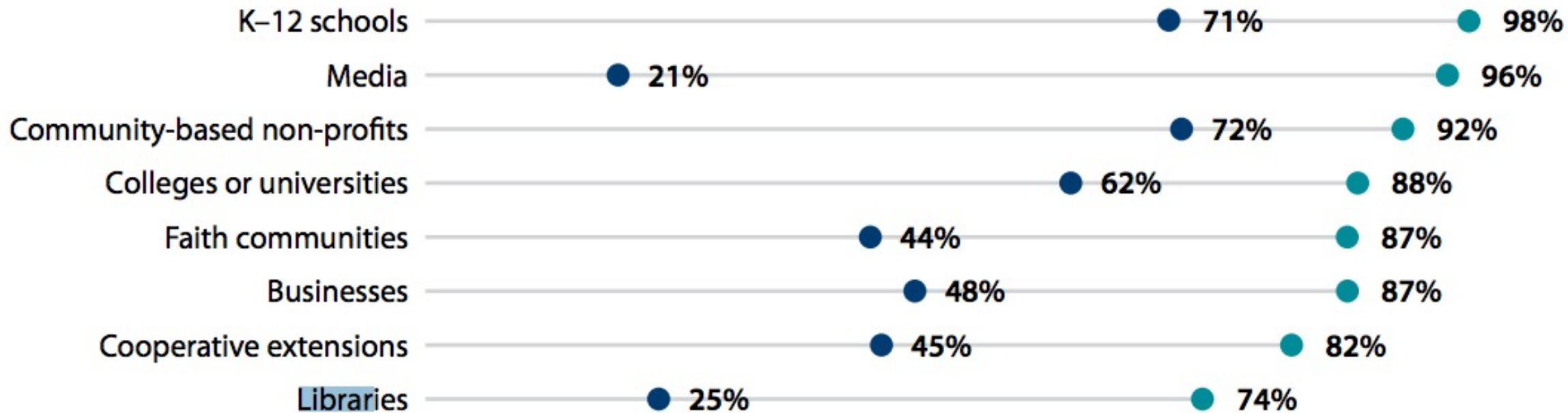
Partner Evolution in thinking about public libraries

- Stage 1: Library => Book Repository
- Stage 2: Library => Resource
(Always there, people turn to it, stable, trusted)
- Stage 3: Library => Space to use
(for food distribution, programs, coalitions meetings, etc.)
- Stage 4: Librarian => Partner
(We work **together** to figure out what to do = Collective Impact)

● Percent of LHDs working with organization in any way

● Percent of LHDs regularly scheduling meetings, have written agreements, or share personnel/resources with organization

Community-based partners (e.g., education, non-government)



NATIONAL
PROFILE
OF LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

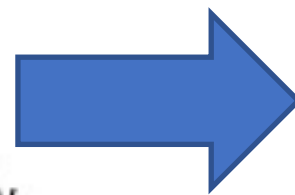
What is needed to close the gap?

1. A space for national conversations on these community-based partnerships w/ librarians
2. More research on how and why local partnerships emerge, are sustained, and spread to other places



CPHFC

Caucus on Public Health and the Faith Community
in affiliation with the American Public Health Association



“Caucus on Public Librarianship and Public Health”

Join us!



PAPREN

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POLICY RESEARCH
AND EVALUATION NETWORK



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- Rural Active Living Work Group focusing on “public libraries as physical activity promotion partners”
- Monthly meetings – all welcome to join – lenstra@uncg.edu

<https://papren.org/papren-work-groups/rural-active-living-work-group/>

Thank you!

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<http://letsmovelibraries.org/>

