

SafeRoutes

National Center for Safe Routes to School



Walking and bicycling to school: Creating communities where children thrive

Nancy Pullen-Seufert
June 13, 2014



How does your work and what you care about relate to walking and bicycling to school?

- Directly work with students, schools
- Policy promoter
- Influencer
- Appreciator
- What else?

What are the benefits of walking and bicycling to school?

Federal SRTS Program

- 2005 SAFETEA-LU
Federal
transportation
legislation
\$1.147 billion for SRTS
- K – 8 schools
- Infrastructure &
non-infrastructure



Federal Program (cont'd)

- 2012 MAP-21 TAP – a change in funding
 - \$809M
 - SRTS no longer dedicated funding
- Today: \$127 M in SAFETEA-LU funds remain

Data driven

- Tracking reports
 - Projects announced
 - Funds spent
 - Today: 15,815 schools
- Support for local data collection
 - Student travel tally
 - Parent survey
 - Today: Data from 9,400 US schools
 - 23 million trips to & from school
 - 1.2 million parent surveys

International Walk to School Day

- Every October
- 2013: 4,450+ events



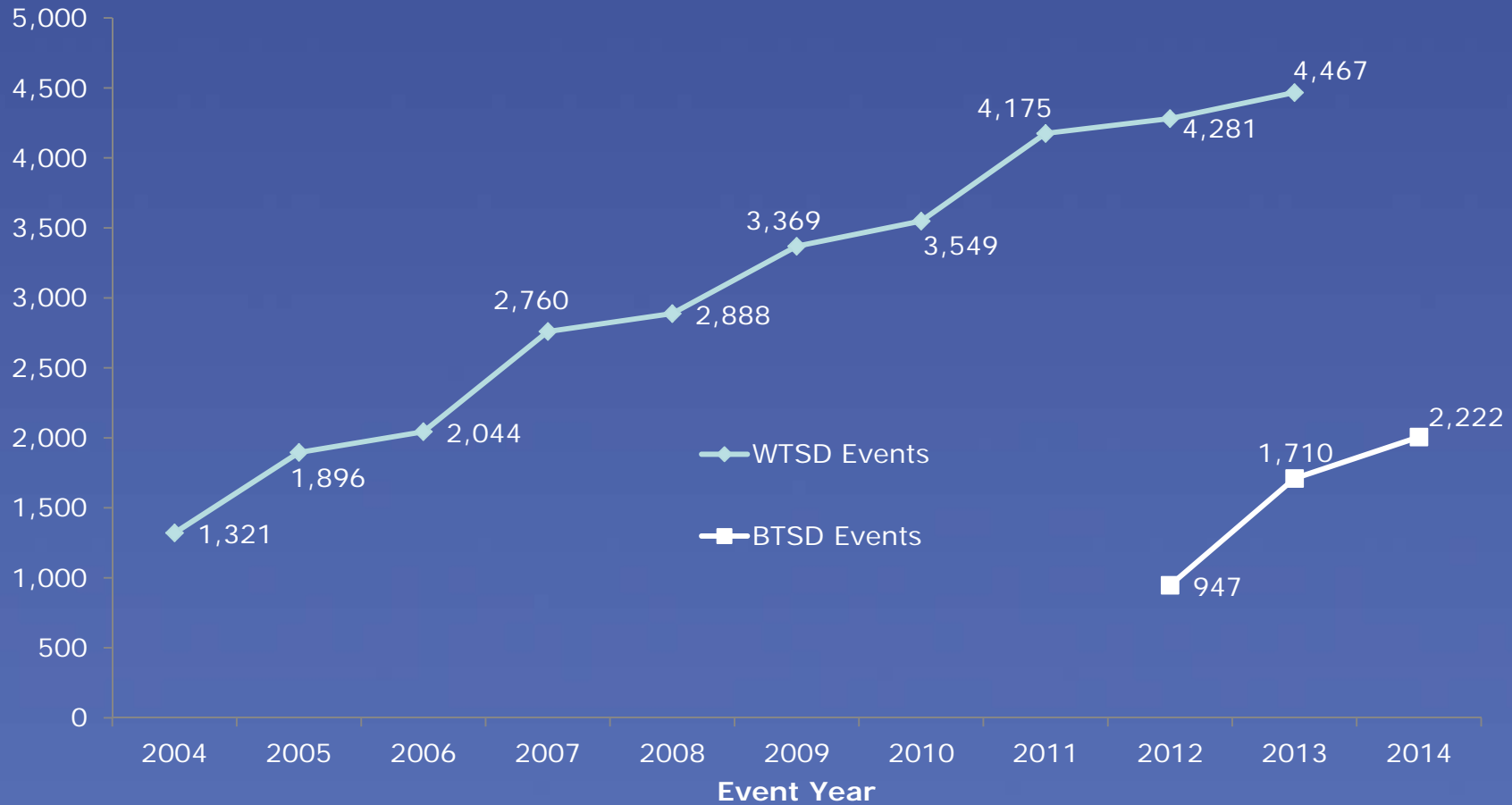
National Bike to School Day

- Every May
- 2014: 2,190+ events



Growth of Walk and Bike to School Days

Number of Registered Events



What about North Carolina?



What about North Carolina?

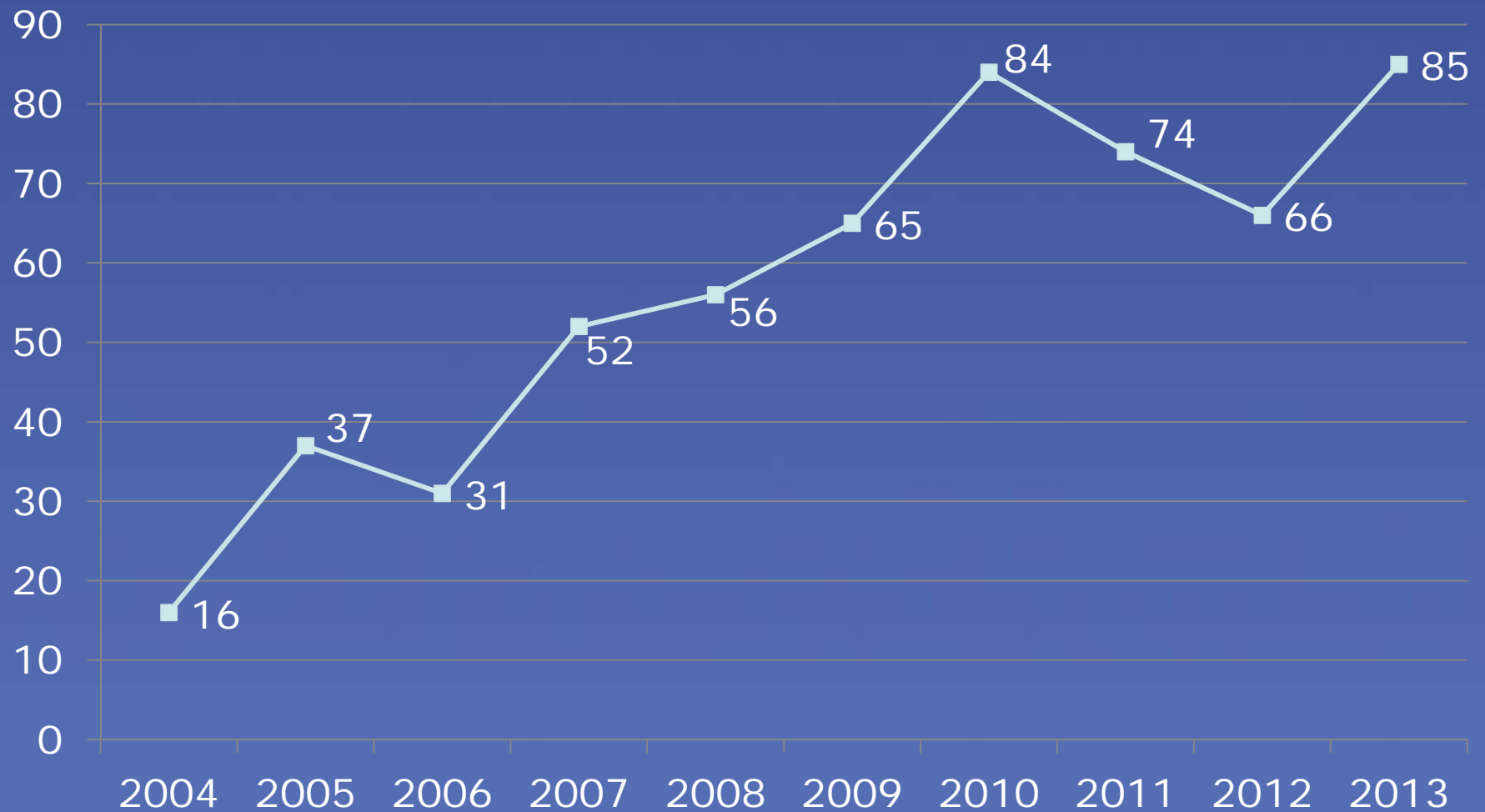
- Easy fit in some places
- In some places, it's too far to walk or bike
- Many routes lack sidewalks, other infrastructure
- Current walking patterns
 - 15% of NC students ages 5-17 live within one mile of school
 - 34% live within 2 miles
 - 4% walk or bike (*CHAMP, 2011*)

Communities in NC are turning it around

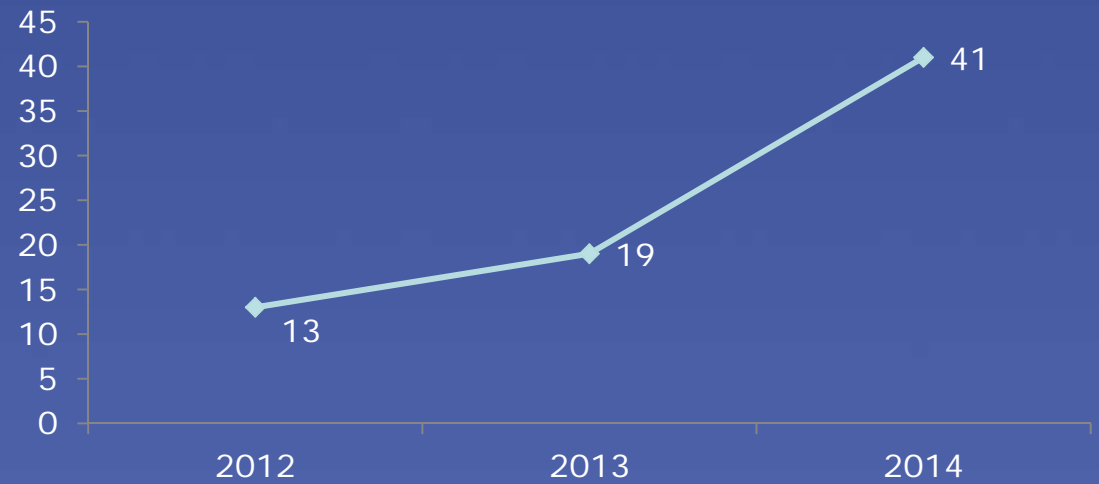
- Walk at school programs, Park and Walk
- Events to bring visibility to benefits & needs for walking to be safe, viable option
- SRTS projects funded by NCDOT in all counties
- Education to foster lifelong skills
- Active Routes to School project plus more



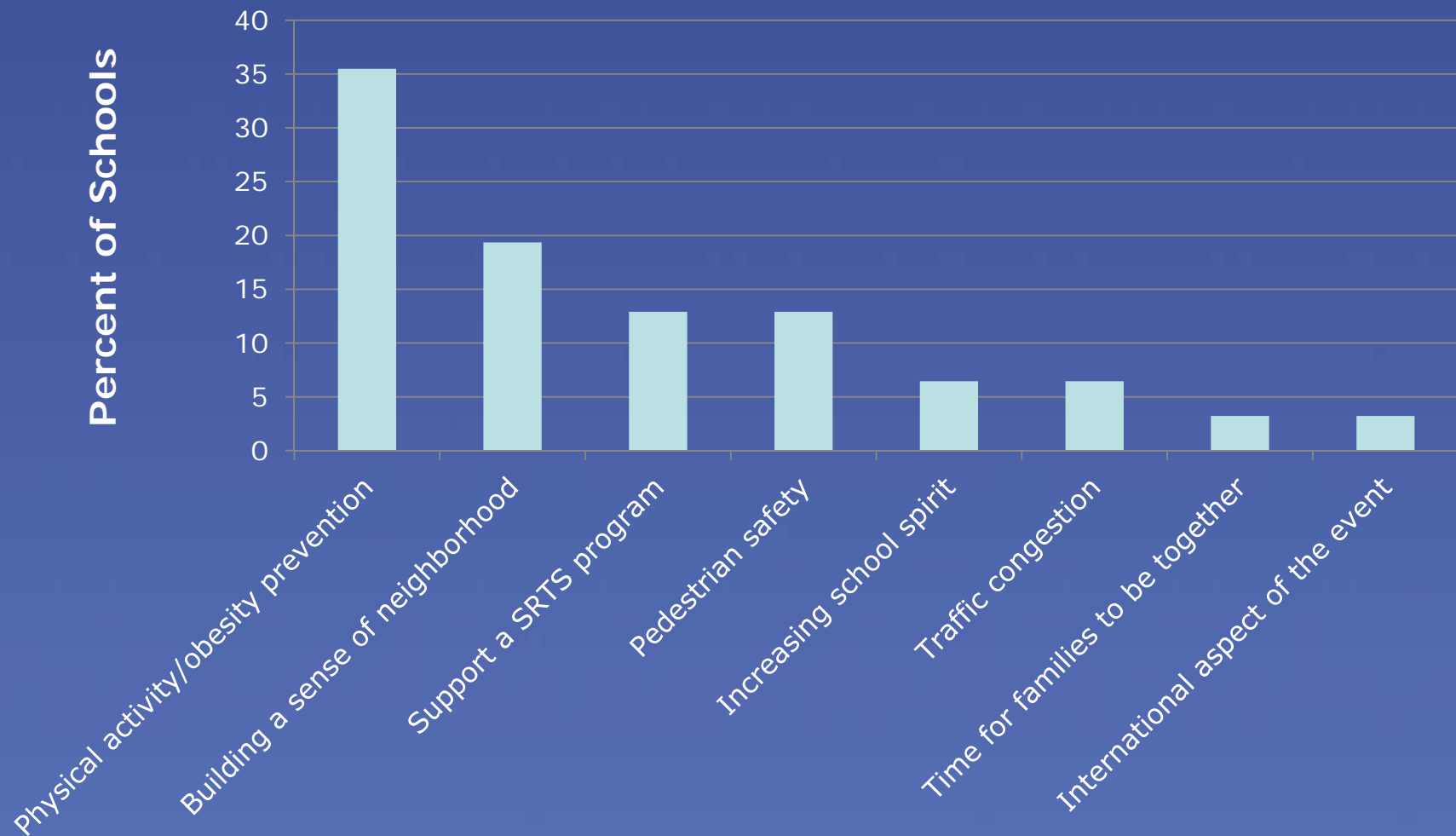
Walk to School Day in NC



Bike to School Day in NC



Primary motivator for WTS event (NC Coordinator data)



Policy and engineering changes *as a result of the event* (NC Coordinator data)

Indicated by 68% in 2013

Most common categories:

1. Addition of promotion of walking/bicycling to school to existing school **policies** (19.4%)
2. Increased traffic **enforcement** near school (16.1%)
- 3a. Required safety **education** (12.9%)
- 3b. Addition of **sidewalks, paths, or crosswalks** (12.9%)
- 3c. Changes to **drop off and pick up** procedures (12.9%)

NCDOT's Mission and the Safe Routes to School Program

*“Connecting people and places safely and efficiently, with accountability and environmental sensitivity **to enhance the economy, health and well-being of North Carolina.**”*

NCDOT's Mission Statement (2012)



Project Goals

- Where it's safe, get kids walking and biking
- Where it's *not* safe, make changes
- The primary reason is to promote and improve pedestrian and bicycle travel for the supported school.



North Carolina's SRTS Program

- NC apportionment \$30 million
 - Encumbered \$21.5 million
- 70% towards infrastructure
- 10% towards non-infrastructure
- \$11.5M infrastructure awarded
- \$9M non-infrastructure awarded
- 100+ SRTS projects currently funded



Safe Routes to School Program and Moving Ahead

FY 13-14: Access granting possibilities

- Strength of the proposed program
- Funding type – CON, PE, ROW
- Ability to deliver a successful project
- ROW availability
- Cost estimating
- Geographic location

FY 15+: Review the
SPOT 3.0 list



Current Safe Routes to School Initiatives

Let's Go NC! Bicycling and Walking Curriculum

- K-5 skills-based education
- Classroom, PE or after-school
- Endorsed by NC Dept of Public Instruction
- Lists learning standards met
- <http://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/>



Current SRTS Initiatives

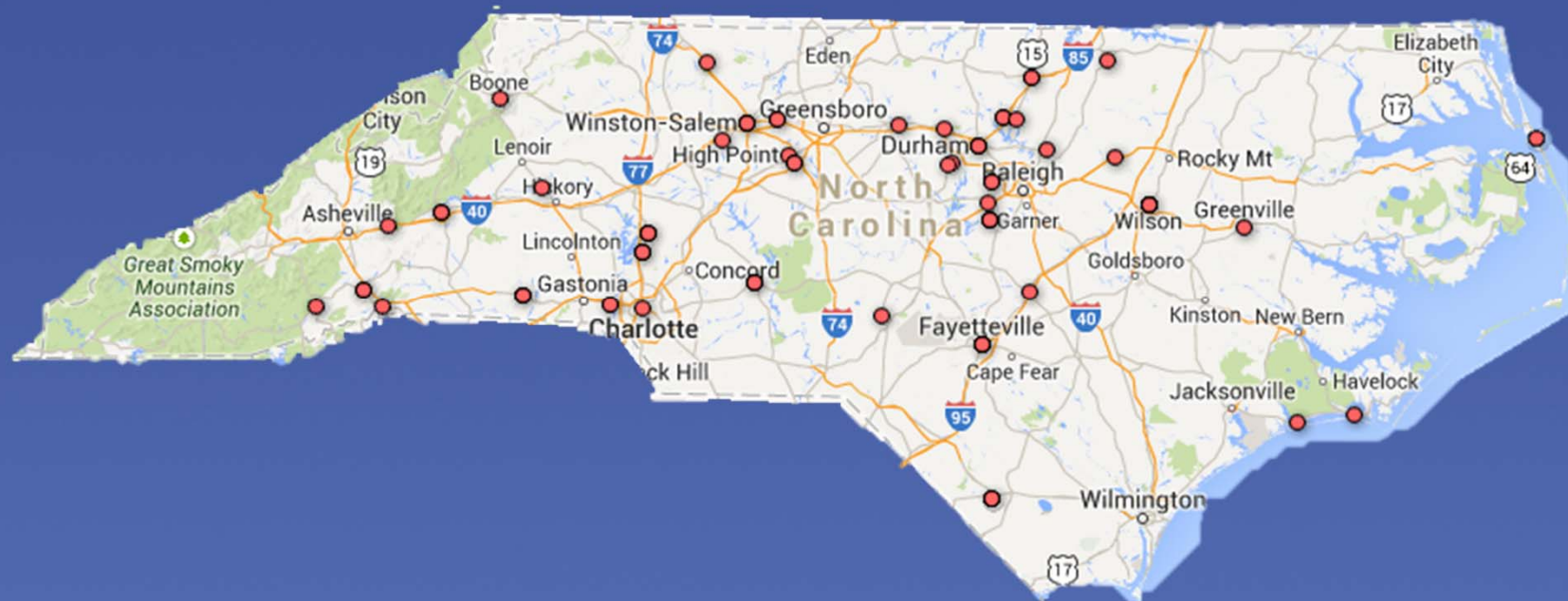
Watch for Me NC



- Education and high visibility enforcement
- Targets drivers, pedestrians and cyclists
- Partners
 - Chowan County/Edenton
 - Craven County/New Bern
 - Dare County/ Outer Banks communities
 - Greensboro/UNC-G and NCA&T
 - Jackson County/Sylva/Western Carolina University
 - New Hanover County/Wilmington/UNC-W
 - Pitt County/Greenville
 - Stokes County/Danbury
 - Watauga County/Boone/Appalachian State University
 - Chapel Hill/Carrboro/UNC-Chapel Hill
 - Durham/Duke/N.C. Central University
 - Raleigh/N.C. State University
 - Cary

NC student travel analysis 2013

Schools in study (N = 72)



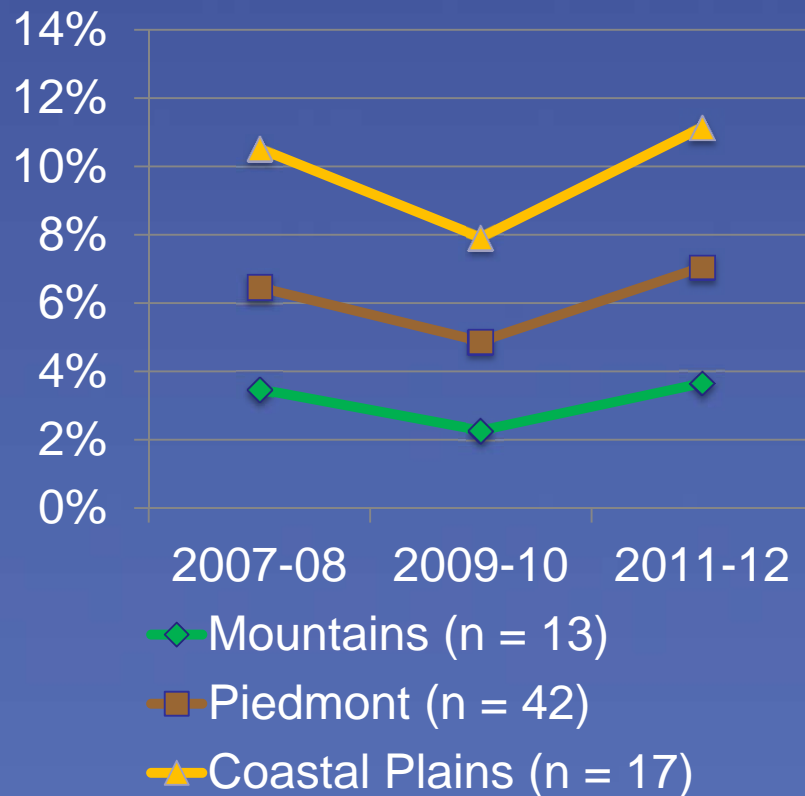
Data used in analysis

- 10,458 parent surveys from 72 schools located across North Carolina
 - Not representative of locales
 - Under-represents mid-income; over-reps high income; matches low-income
- Surveys entered or submitted from 2007 through 2012
- Survey data linked with NCES school-level information

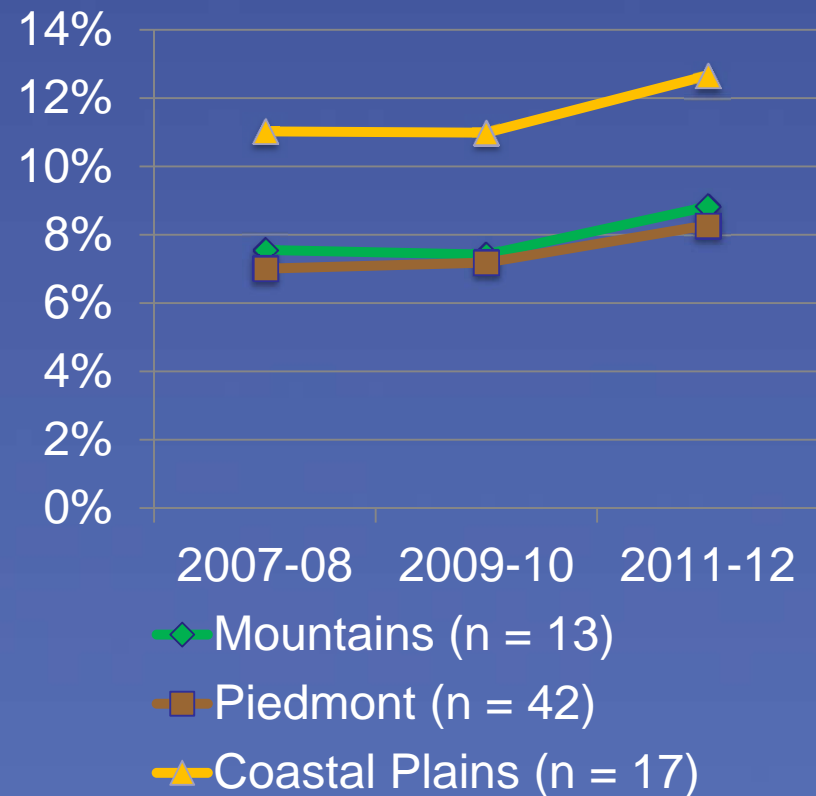


Walking & biking by region

Arrival



Departure



Action plans

Albemarle,
Archdale,
Belmont,
Saluda,
Shelby,
Black Mountain,
Carrboro,
Marion,
Orange County,
Pilot Mountain,
Warrenton,

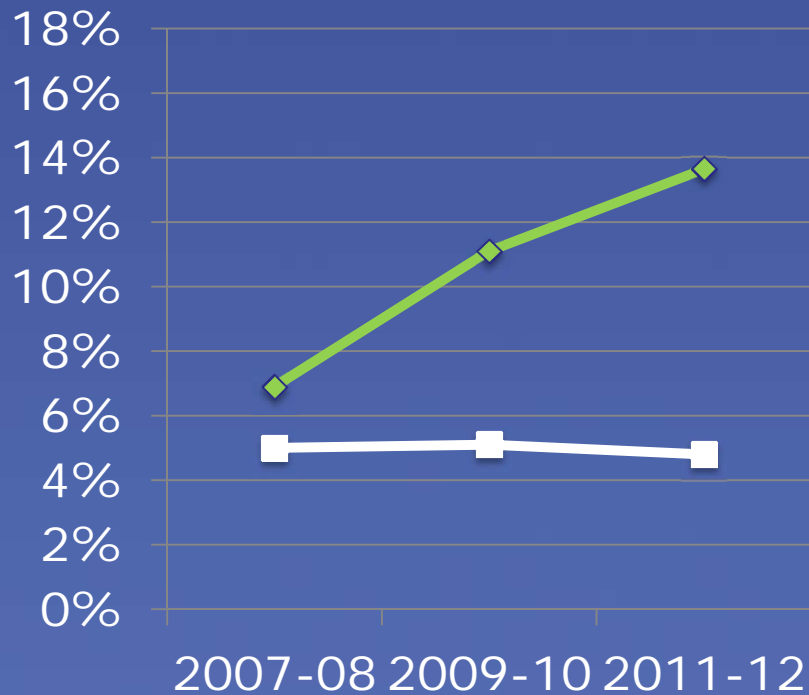
Chadbourn,
Cumberland
County,
 Mooresville,
Spring Hope,
Wilson

Contains:

- Action committee
- Existing conditions
- Infrastructure needs
- Education
- Encouragement
- Enforcement
- Evaluation

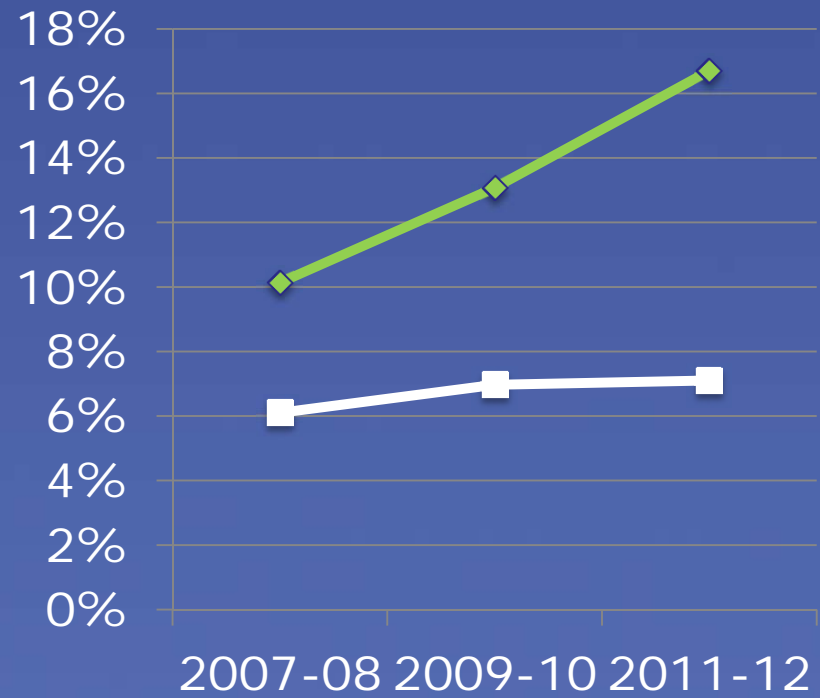
Walking, biking & action plans

Arrival



◆ Action Plan Schools (n = 24)
■ No Action Plan Schools (n = 48)

Departure



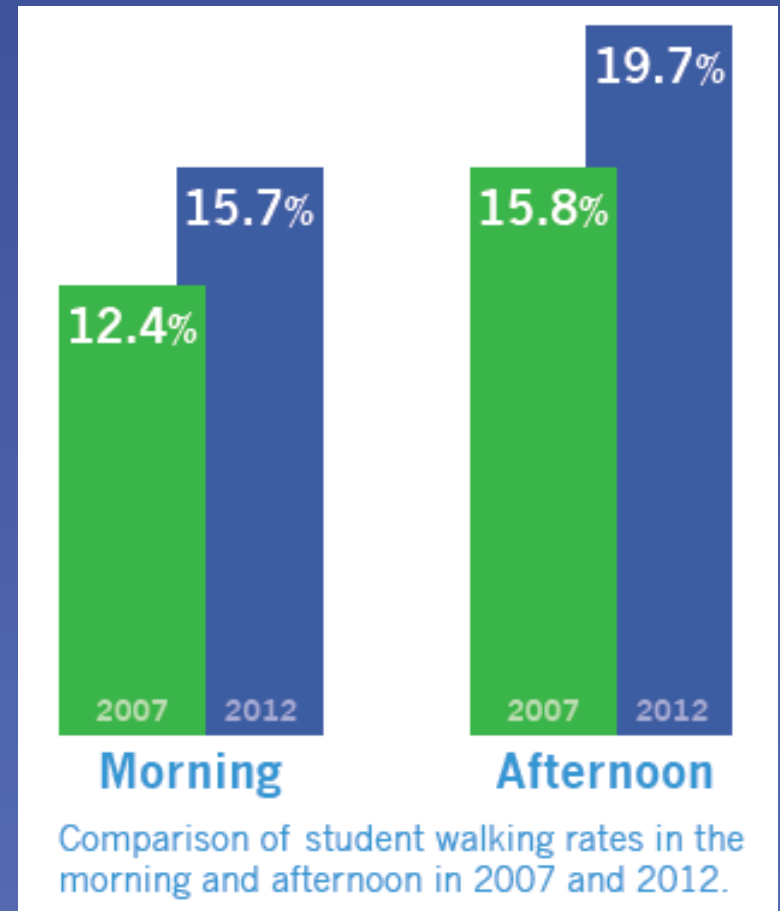
◆ Action Plan Schools (n = 24)
■ No Action Plan Schools (n = 48)

Additional findings

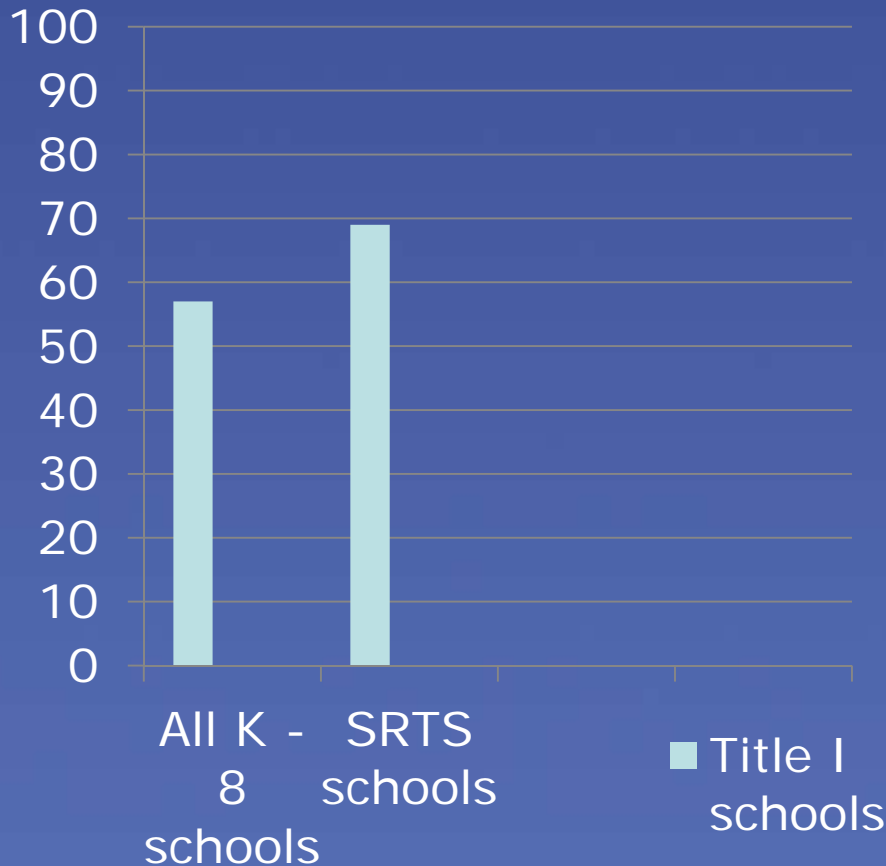
- Students attending low-income schools were most likely to walk and bike to school
- Distance was the strongest predictor of walking and biking to/from school
- Boys and girls were equally likely to walk and bike
- Middle school students were most likely to walk and bike
- Perceived fun associated with walking and biking

Nationally: Increases in walking and bicycling

- 4,700 US schools
 - 525,000 parent surveys
- School's support of walking and bicycling as perceived by parents
 - 24.9% in 2007
 - 33% in 2012



Federal SRTS program's low income community reach



- 69% of SRTS funded schools are Title I
- 68% of SRTS funds awarded to Title I schools

Common elements among programs that increased walking and bicycling

SHIFTING
MODES

A Comparative Analysis
of Safe Routes to School Program
Elements and Travel Mode Outcomes

Prepared by the National Center for Safe Routes to School



SafeRoutes
National Center for Safe Routes to School



January 2012

1. In-school champion
2. Promotional activities
3. Parent support
4. Policies

Thank you!

Nancy Pullen-Seufert
pullen@hsrc.unc.edu

