

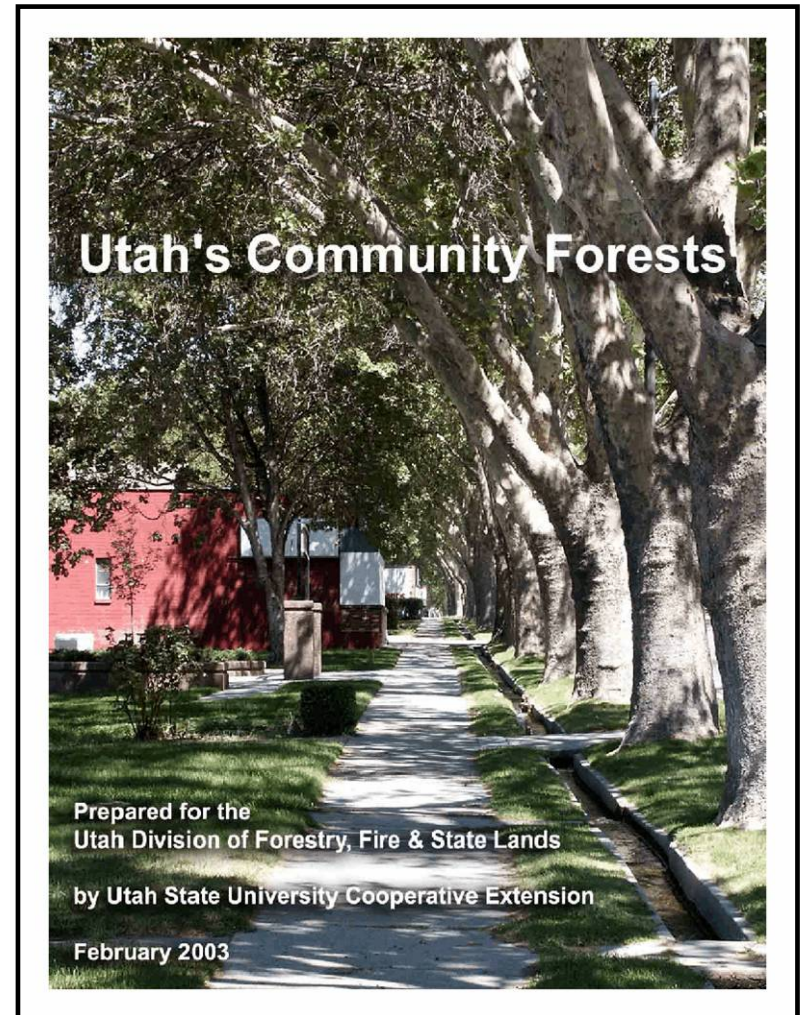
Utah's Community Forests: Results of a Survey of Utah Towns and Cities

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Utah Community Forests Study

- To determine characteristics of Utah's urban & community forestry programs
- Funded by Division of Forestry, Fire, & State Lands
- Michael Kuhns and Douglas Reiter, USU; Brook Lee, UDFF&SL
- Go to extension.usu.edu/forestry/Reading/Assets/PDFDocs/UtahsCommunityForests.pdf for full report



Study Overview

- Surveyed community forestry contacts in every incorporated town and city in Utah (n=237); summer 2002
- Initial mailing, reminder, repeat mailing, reminder phone call, Tree Browser CD if returned
- 138 responses (58%); represents 62% of Utah population
 - Cache County returns represent 76% of county population
 - Utah, Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber returns represent 75%, 71%, 61%, and 44% of population
- 31 questions (6 pages) on
 - forestry program support
 - budget
 - management authority and practices
 - strengths and weaknesses
 - training and information needs
 - program activity level

1990 Study

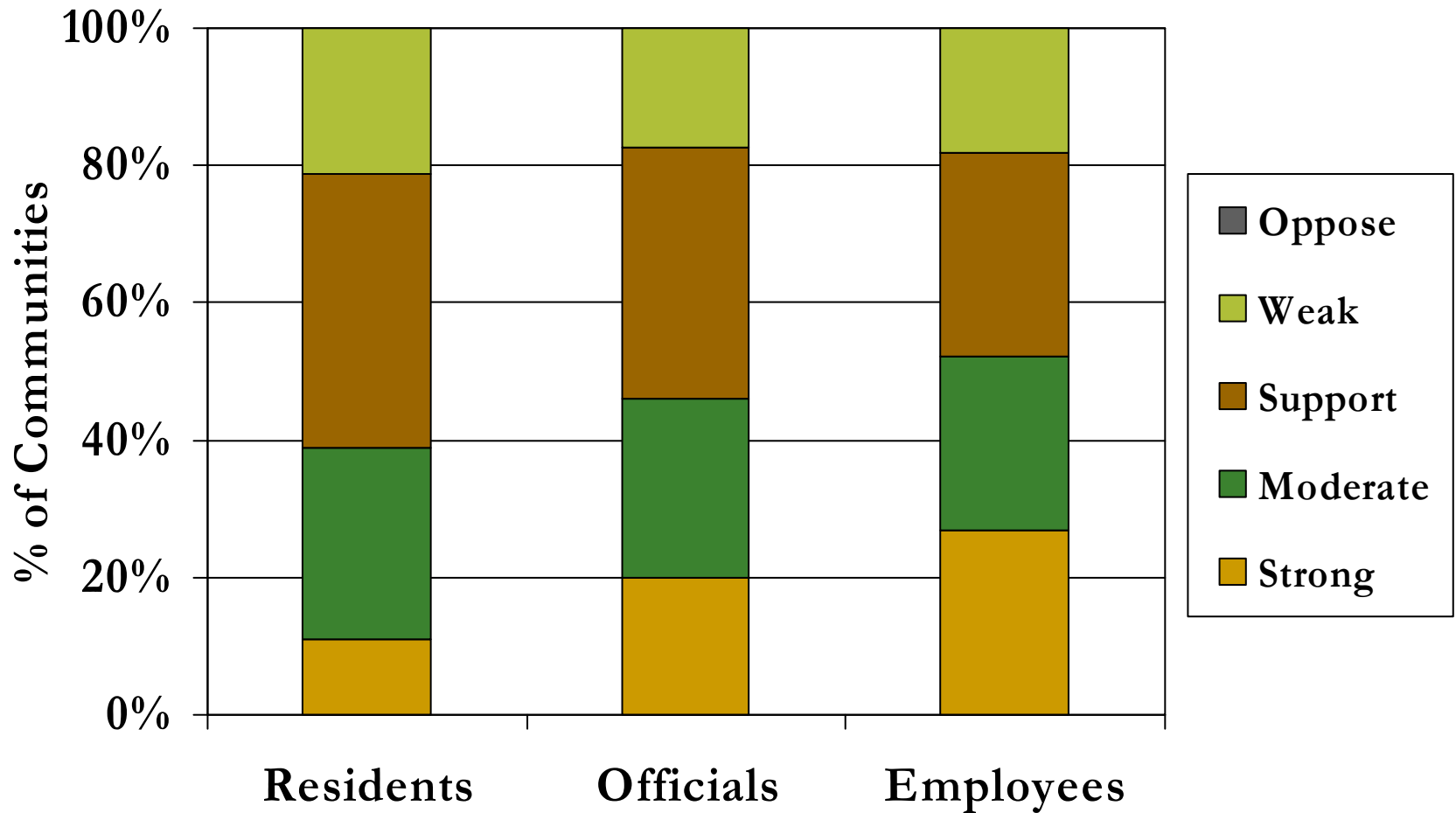
- Conducted by FF&SL
 - 54 communities responded out of 300 possible
 - Communities managed an average of 8,600 trees
 - 17% had master tree plan
 - 19% had tree inventory
 - 31% had shade tree ordinance
 - 37% had someone responsible for administering tree program
 - Received community forestry assistance from local nurseries, extension, and state forestry, in that order
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Findings

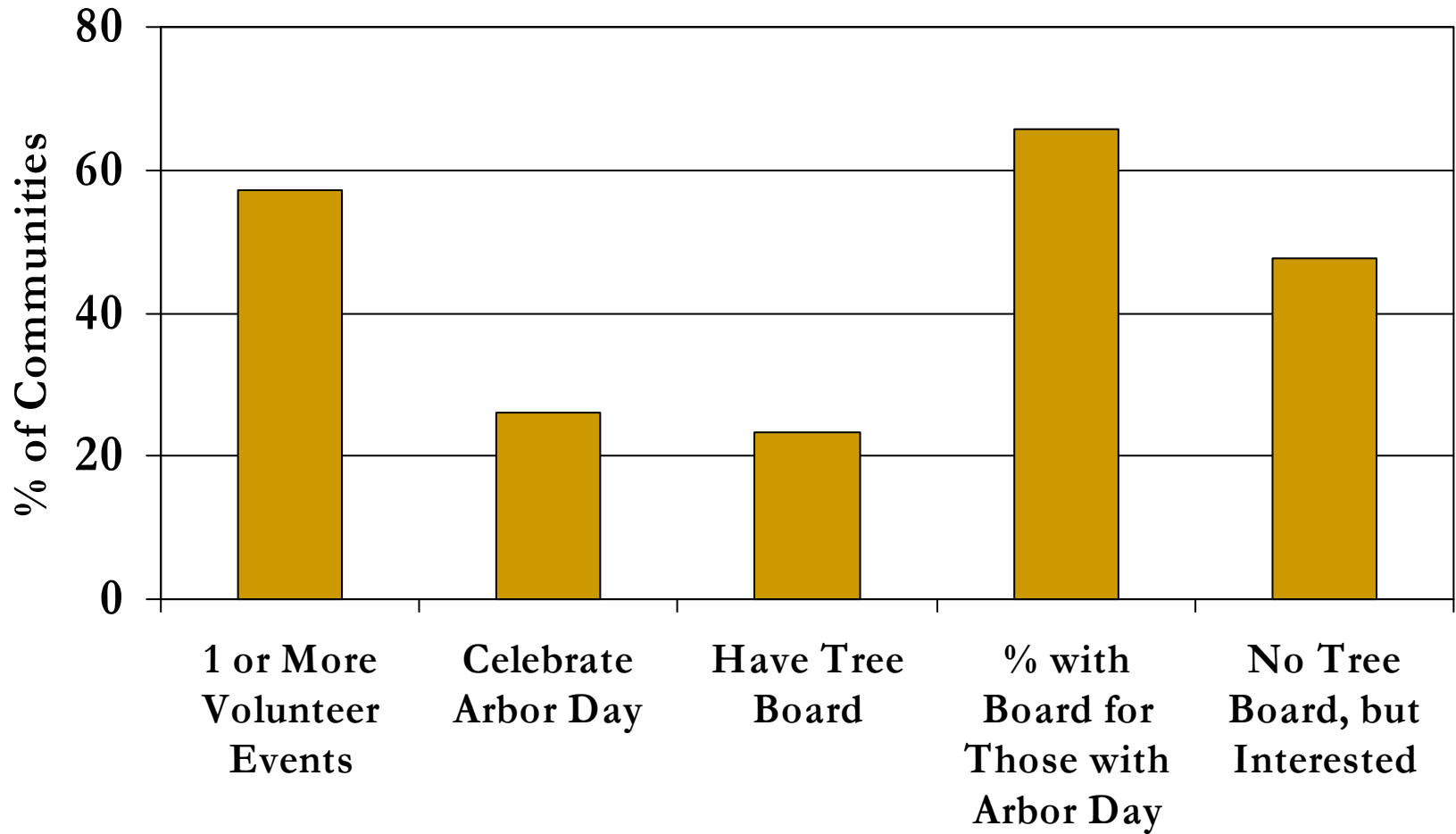
- Community Support for Programs
- Budget
- Management
- Strengths and weaknesses



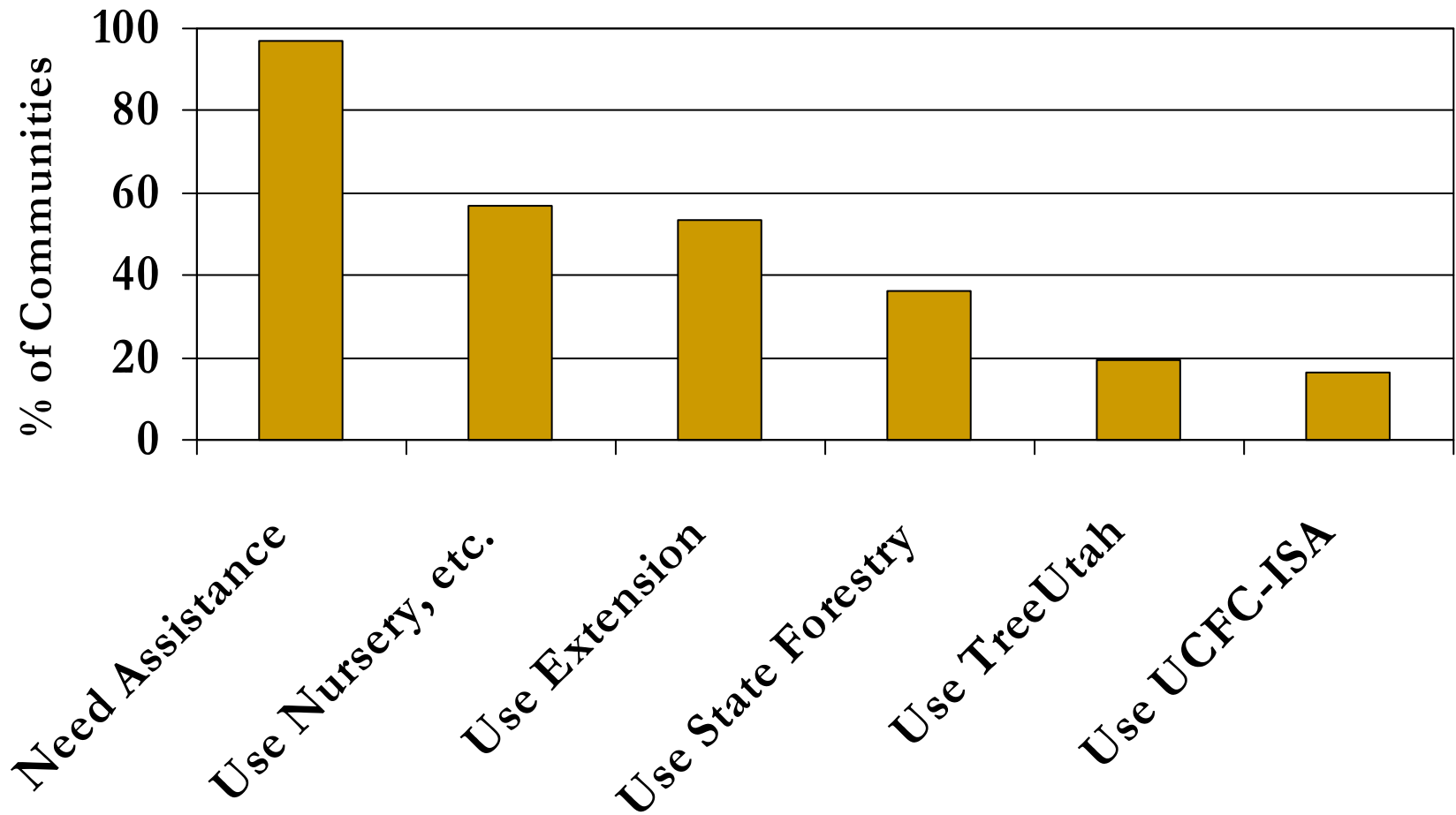
Community Support for Programs



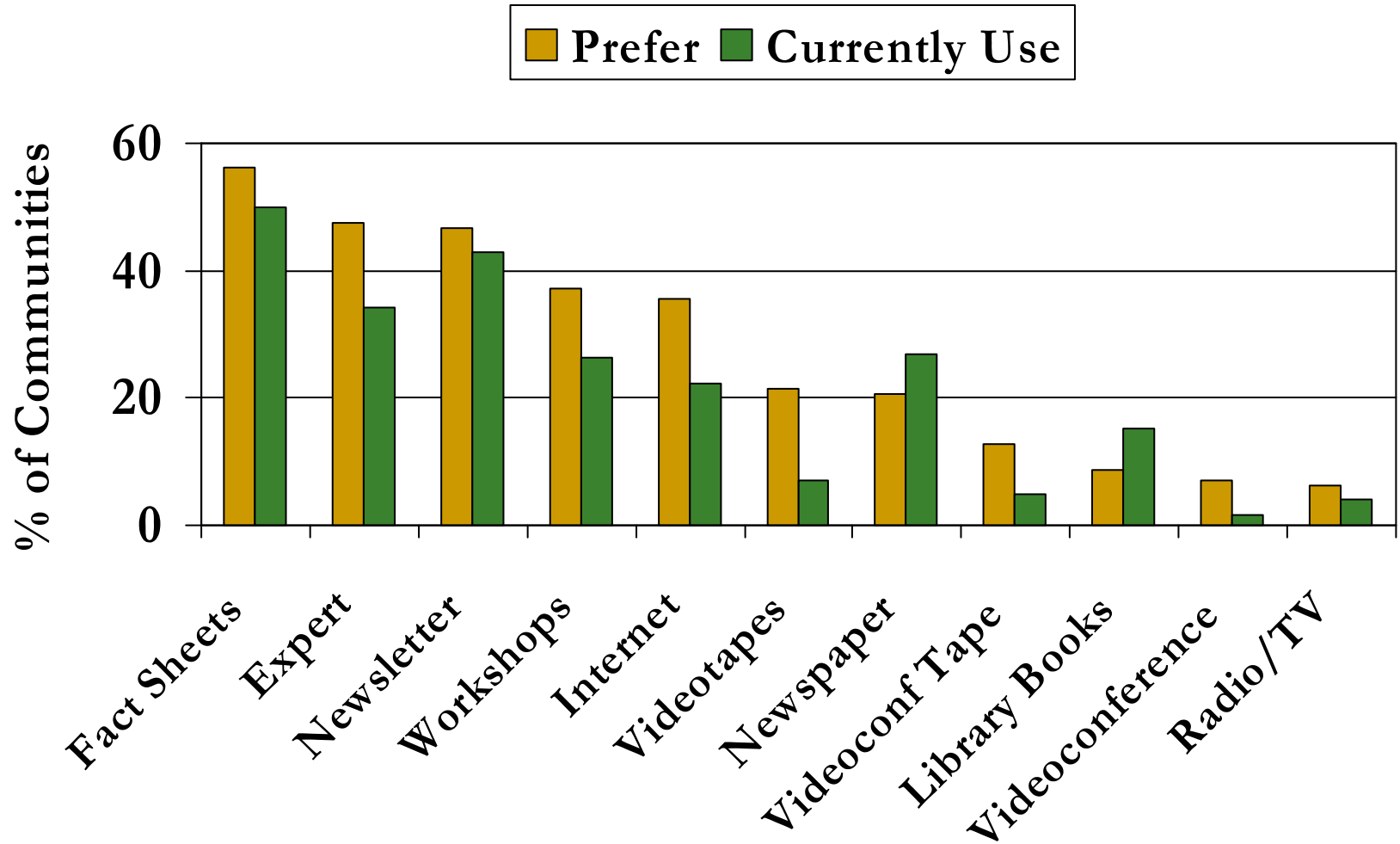
Arbor Day, Volunteer Events, Tree Boards



Need for Assistance, Sources of Assistance



Information Sources Preferred and Used



Findings: Community Support for Programs

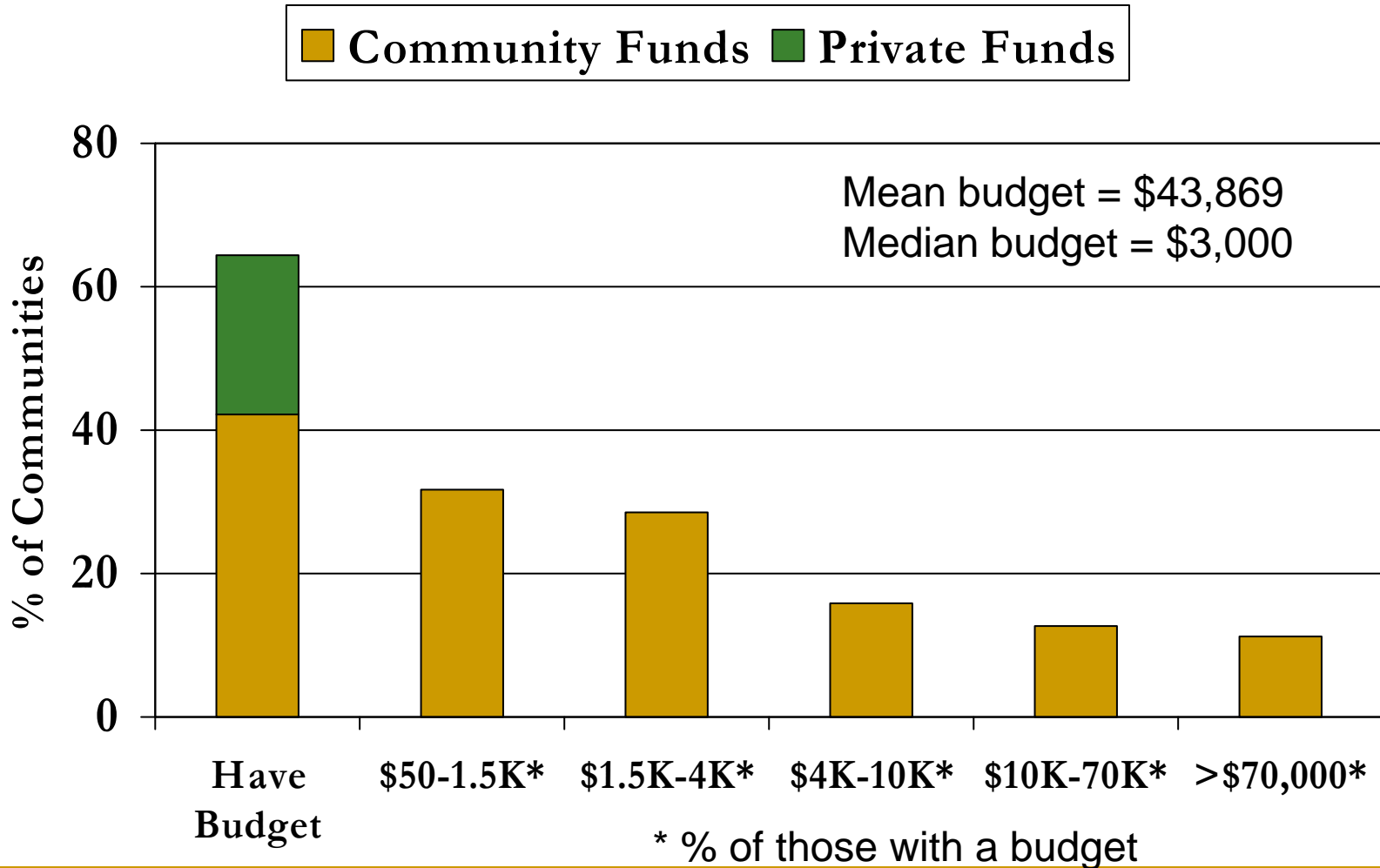
- Support is fairly strong; 80% indicate some support.
 - Strongest from employees, weakest from residents.
 - Foster support w/ newsletters, local newspaper, school programs.
 - 1/4 have tree board; 1/2 of those who don't are interested.
 - 1/4 celebrate Arbor Day; 2/3s of those have a tree board.
 - 57% have tree-related volunteer events; average 2 per year
 - Towns need assistance; use local nurseries or tree care businesses, USU Extension, FF&SL, TreeUtah, and UCFC/ISA-Utah, in that order.
 - Towns get info from print sources, personal assistance from an expert, newsletters, workshops, and internet.
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Findings

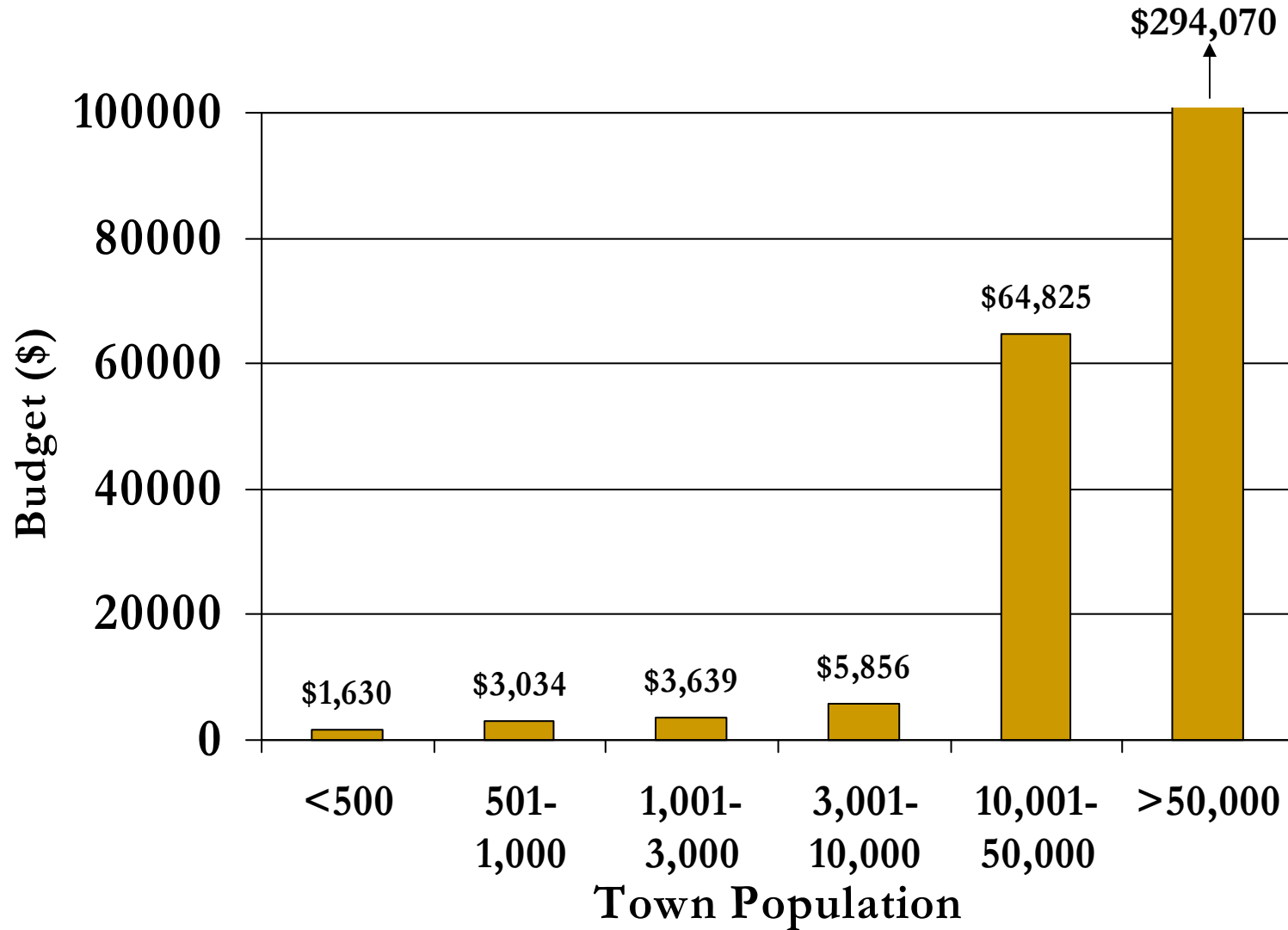
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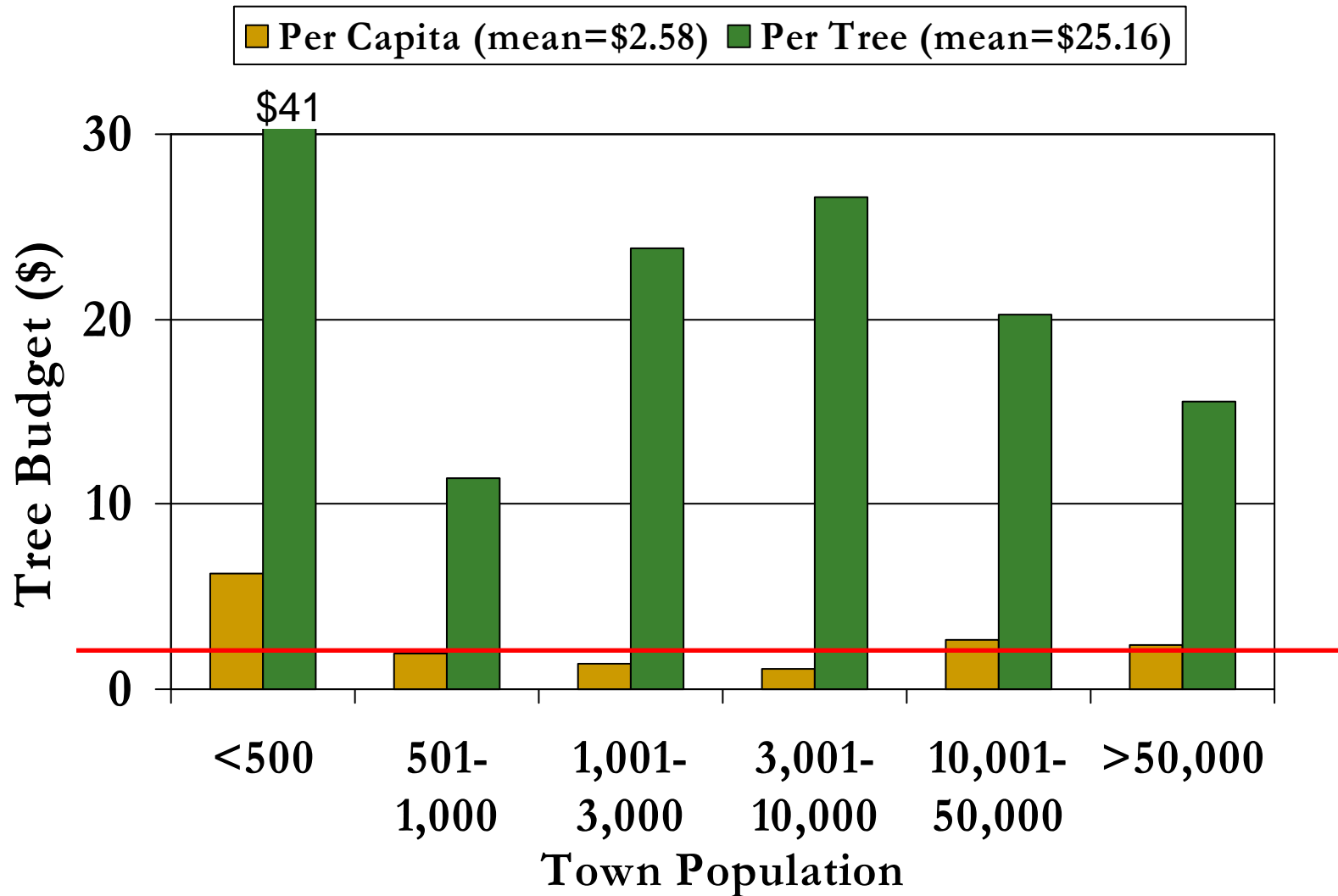
Total Tree Budgets



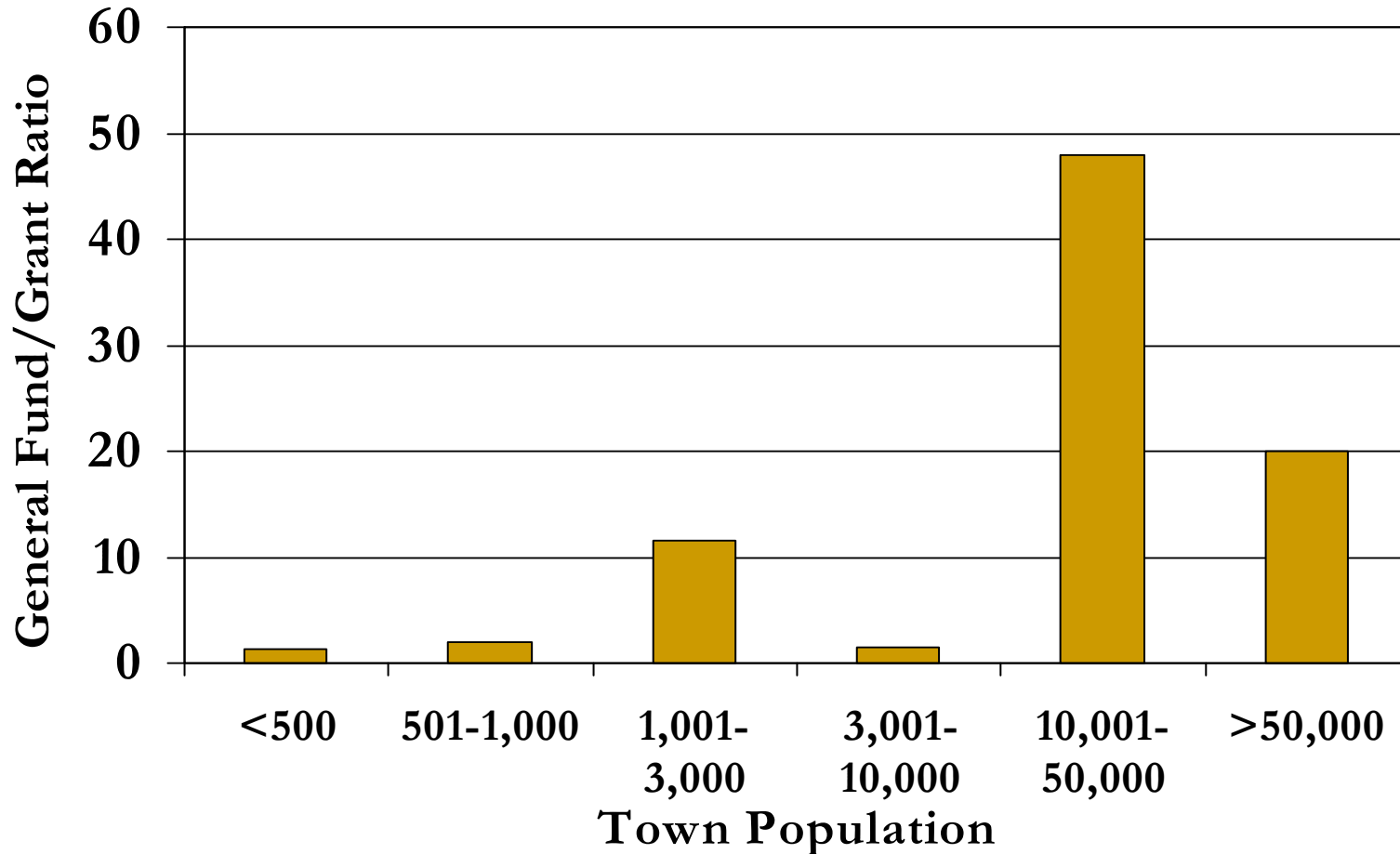
Total Tree Budgets



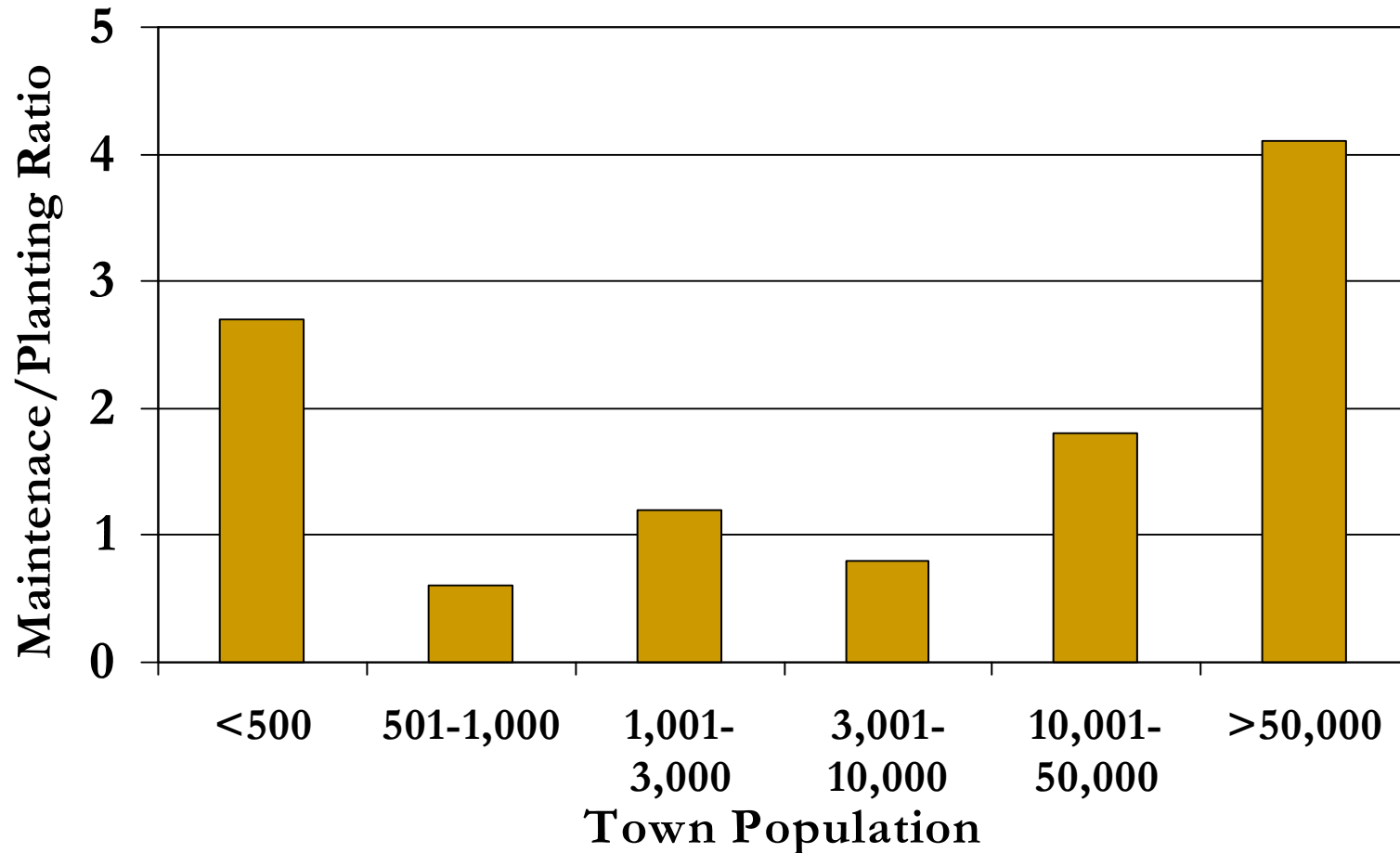
Per Capita and Per Tree Budgets



General Fund/Grant Ratio



Maintenance/Planting Ratio



Findings: Budget

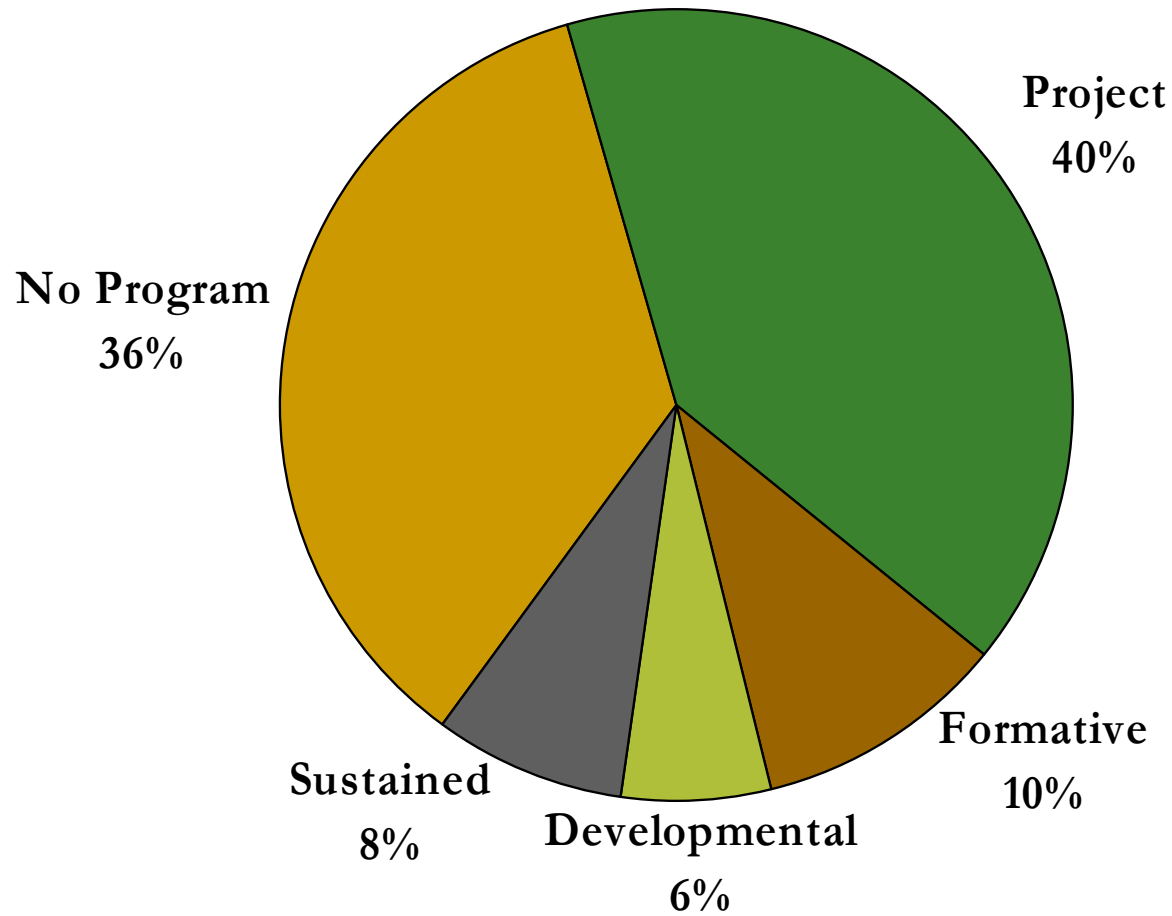
- 2/3s have tree budget; mean \$44K, median \$3K (some large budgets).
 - Average \$2.58 per resident, \$25.16 per tree.
 - Total budget increases with population, but smallest towns have largest per-capita and per-tree budgets.
 - Most spend enough to qualify for Tree City USA (\$2 per capita).
 - Towns <50,000 rely more heavily on grants/donations than larger cities.
 - Towns 1,001 to 10,000 poorest funded per capita.
 - Most spent on trees in parks.
 - Planting and maintenance 60% to 80% of spending.
 - Larger cities spend more on program admin. than smaller towns.
 - Ratio of spending for maintenance versus planting 0.6 for small towns, 4.1 for larger cities; under 500 also fairly high ratio of 2.7.
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Findings

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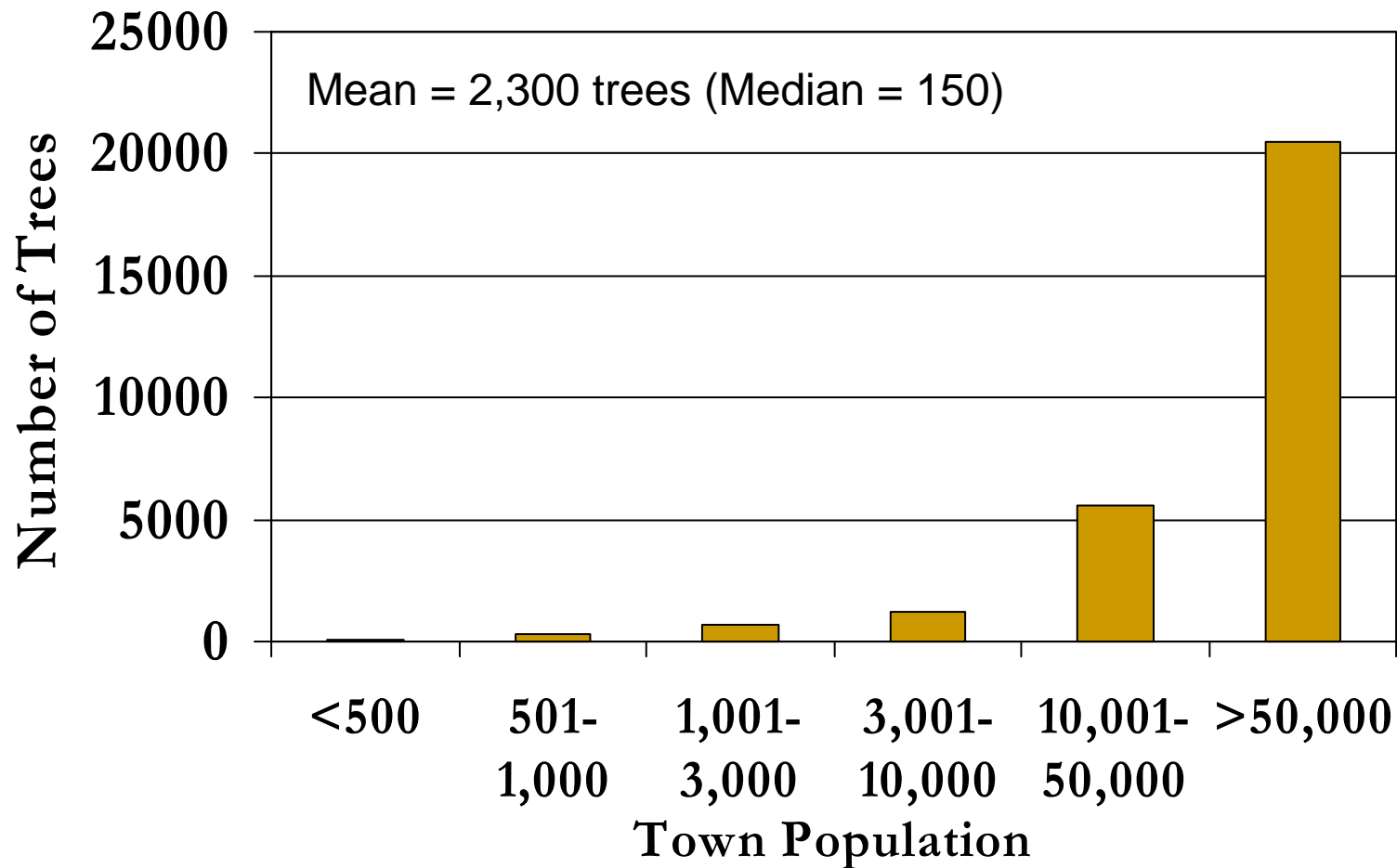
Program Levels



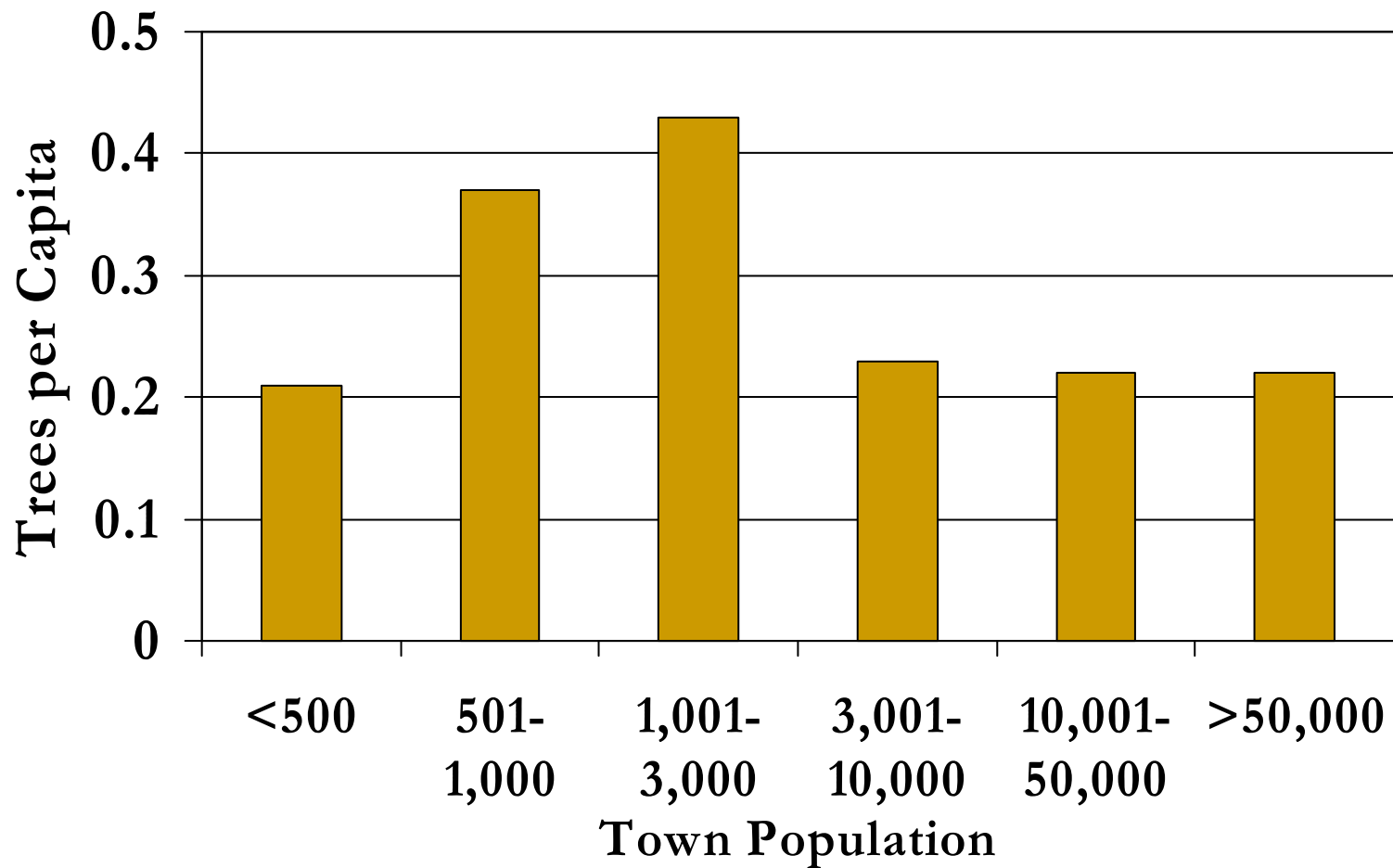
Program Levels by Population

Program Level	Town Population					
	<500	501-1,000	1,001-3,000	3,001-10,000	10,001-50,000	<50,000
No program	15 (52%)	10 (56%)	12 (40%)	5 (19%)	3 (16%)	1 (14%)
Project	13 (45%)	7 (39%)	9 (30%)	15 (58%)	7 (37%)	1 (14%)
Formative	1 (3%)	1 (6%)	4 (13%)	3 (12%)	2 (11%)	2 (29%)
Developmental	---	---	3 (10%)	2 (8%)	3 (16%)	---
Sustained	---	---	2 (7%)	1 (4%)	4 (21%)	3 (43%)

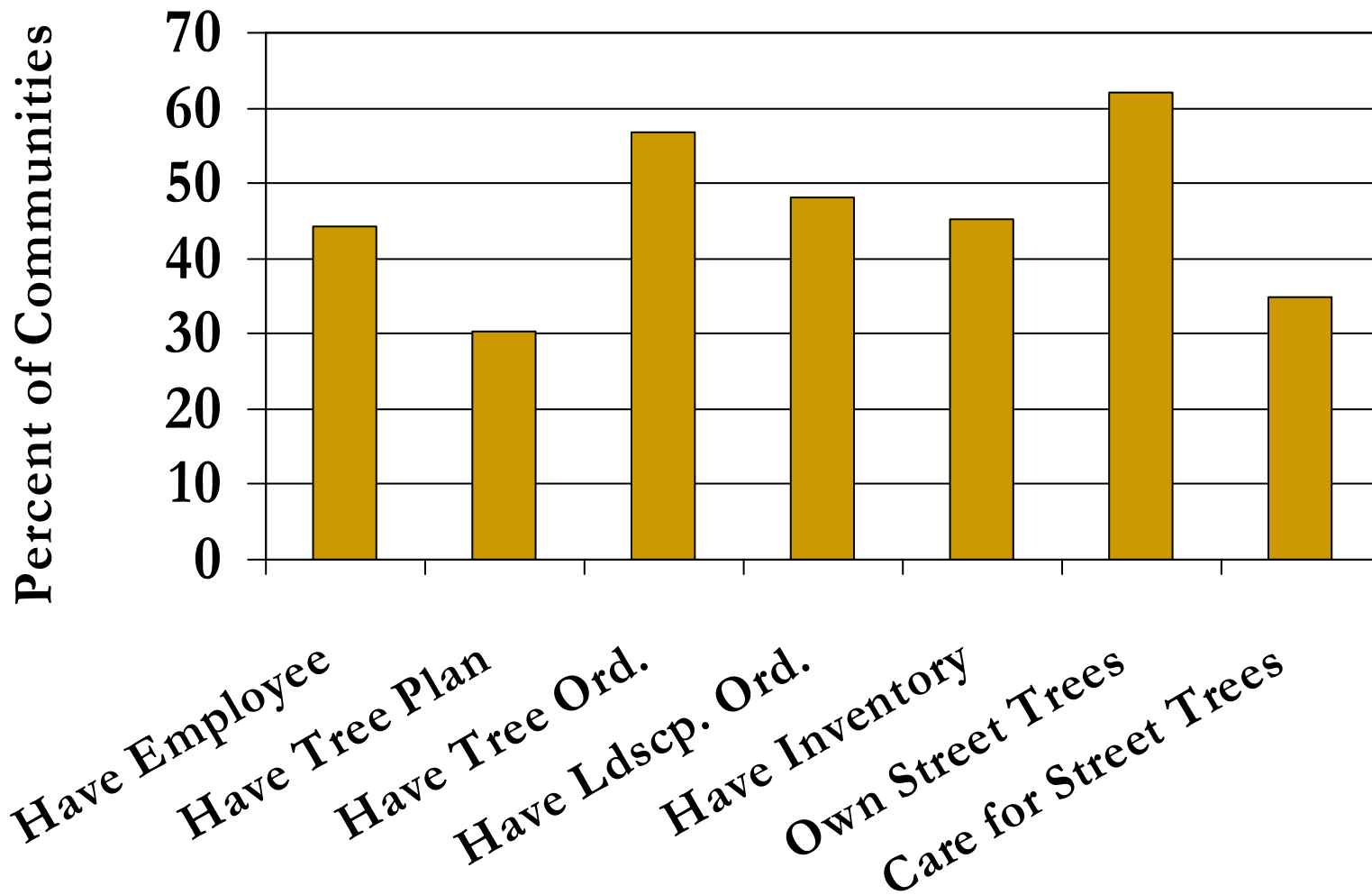
Number of Community Trees



Trees per Capita



Program Management



Findings: Management

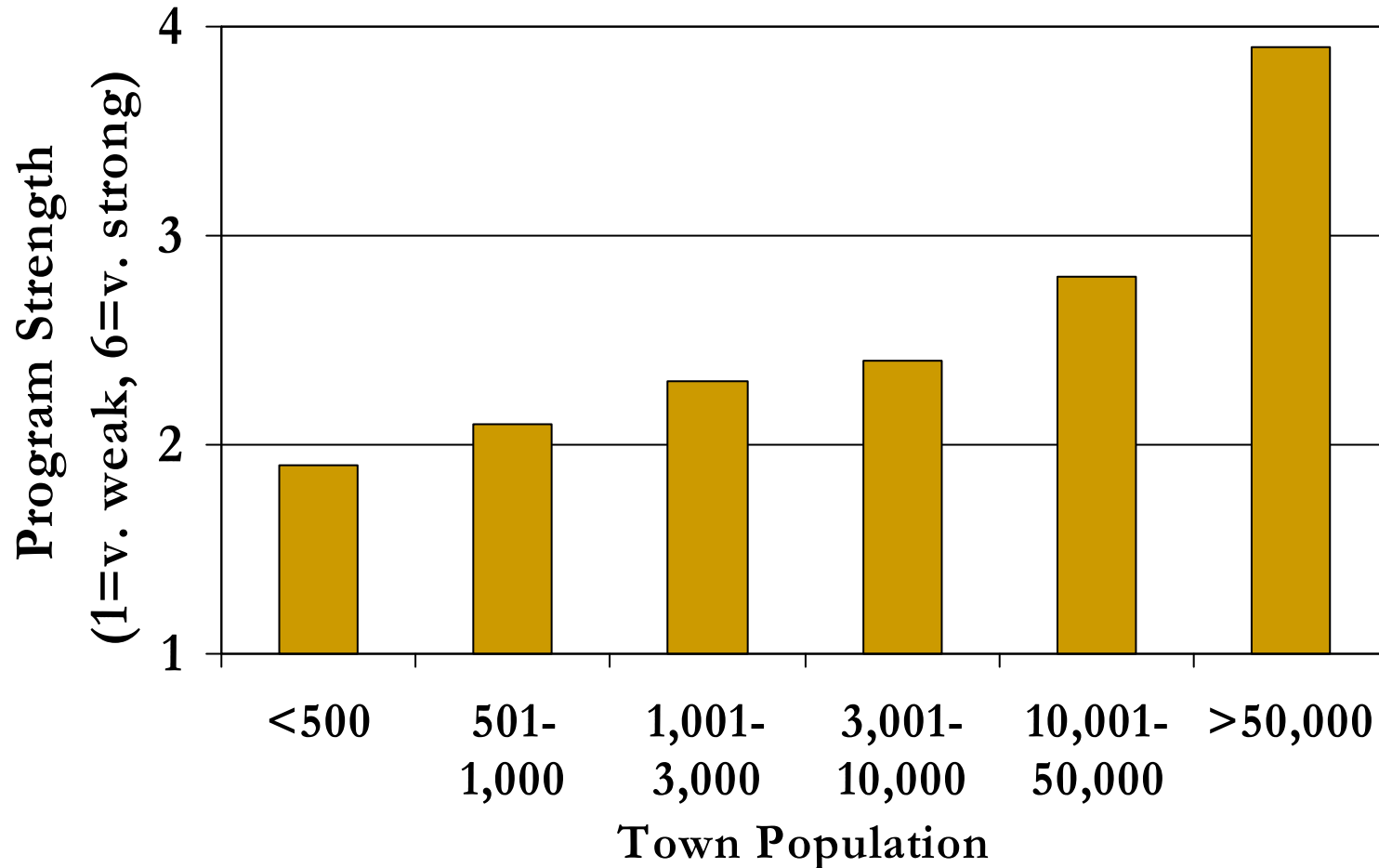
- 2/3's of communities have programs.
- Most (40%) at project level; little organization, structure.
- 7.6% sustained-level program; large cities more active programs.
- 62% own street trees; 35% care for them; residents care for most.
- Towns under 500 most likely to have town care for street trees.
- 2,300 public trees per town (median 150); increase with population. 1990 mean 8,600 trees.
- Trees per capita 0.21 to 0.43.
- Tend to be dissatisfied with utility pruning if they don't do it; 18% have city electric utility.
- Proportion with tree ordinances, inventories, master plans doubled since early 1990s. Large towns more likely than small towns.
- 44% have employee in charge of trees; spends 40% of time on tree issues; usually in parks or public works.

Findings

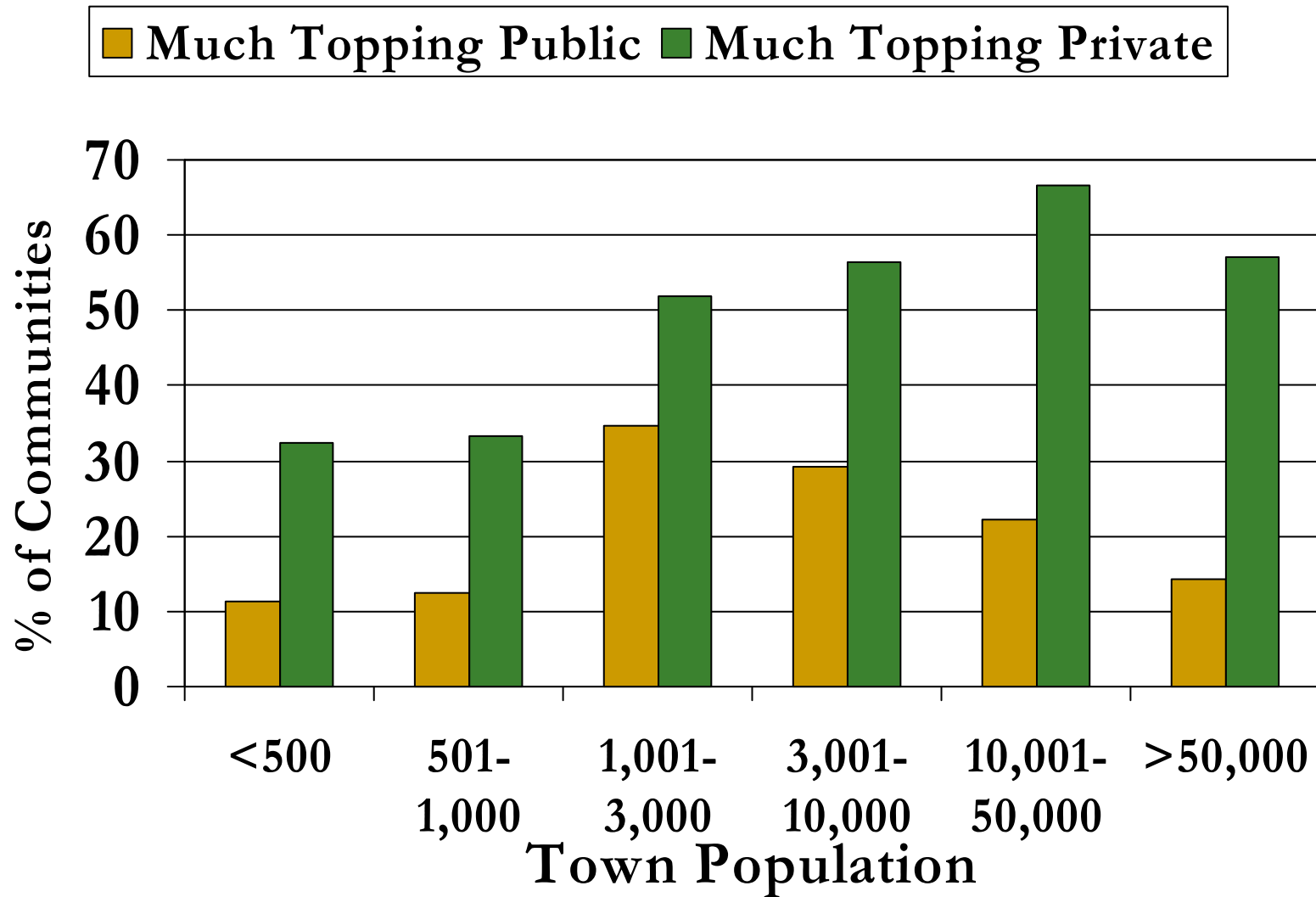
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Program Strength



Topping



Findings: Strengths and Weaknesses

- 80% rate programs weak to some extent; better with higher population; only largest cities rate programs on strong side (3.9 on a 6-point scale; 1=very weak and 6=very strong).
 - Community support listed as a strength and weakness; strength when good and a weakness when bad.
 - Weaknesses area lack of budget, personnel, program.
 - More than half think urban/community forestry will get better over next 5-10 years; increases as population increases.
 - Topping recognized as a problem; more common with private trees than public trees.
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