

# LHD's Role in SIM Award Programs

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## Background

The State Innovation Models (SIM) Initiative is an award program to help support the development and testing of state-based models for multi-payer payment and health care delivery system transformation in order to improve the health system performance for residents of participating states.

Application and funding for a SIM Initiative award occurs at the state level. The call for Round 1 applications occurred in September 2012 and 25 states received confirmation of their award package in December 2012. The 25 states received one of three funding awards for a period of either 6 months or 36 months.

However, there is little clarity about the role of the local health department (LHD) in the implementation of SIM activities occurring in their state. NACCHO is interested in investigating the awareness and role of the LHD in the SIM Initiative program.

## Methods

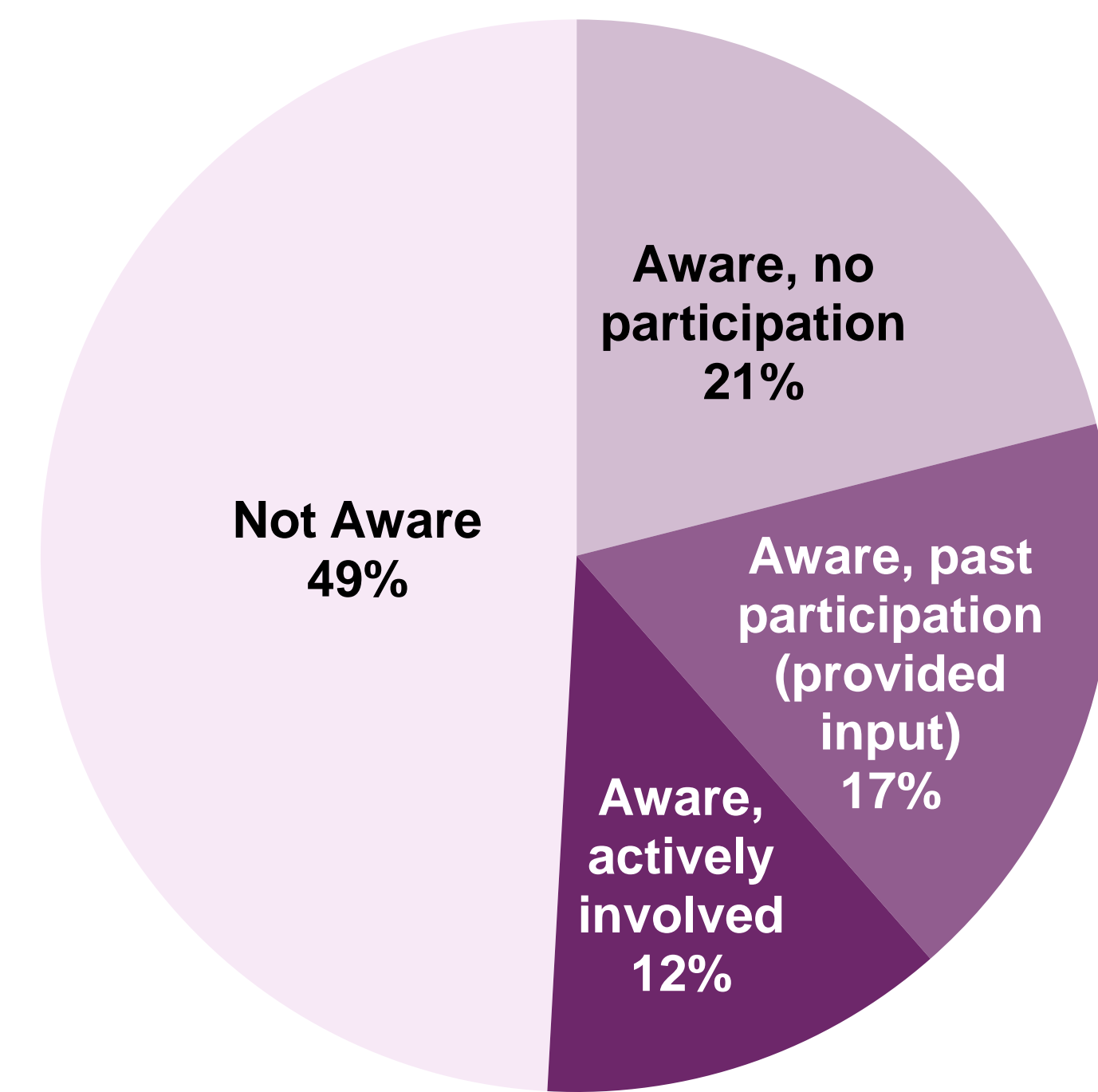
The 2014 Forces of Change survey was distributed to a statistically representative sample of 957 LHDs in the United States from January to February 2014. A total of 648 LHDs completed the survey (response rate of 68%).

LHDs in states that are active in the Round 1 SIM Initiative received one question regarding how they would characterize the extent of their involvement in SIM activities taking place in their state. Respondents selected one of the following choices: (1) LHD is unaware, (2) LHD is aware, but not participating, (3) LHD is not actively participating, but provided input or comments during process, or (4) LHD is actively involved.

National statistics were generated using estimation weights to account for sampling and non-response. All data were self-reported; NACCHO did not independently verify the data provided by LHDs.

## Results

### Extent of LHD's Involvement in SIM Activities



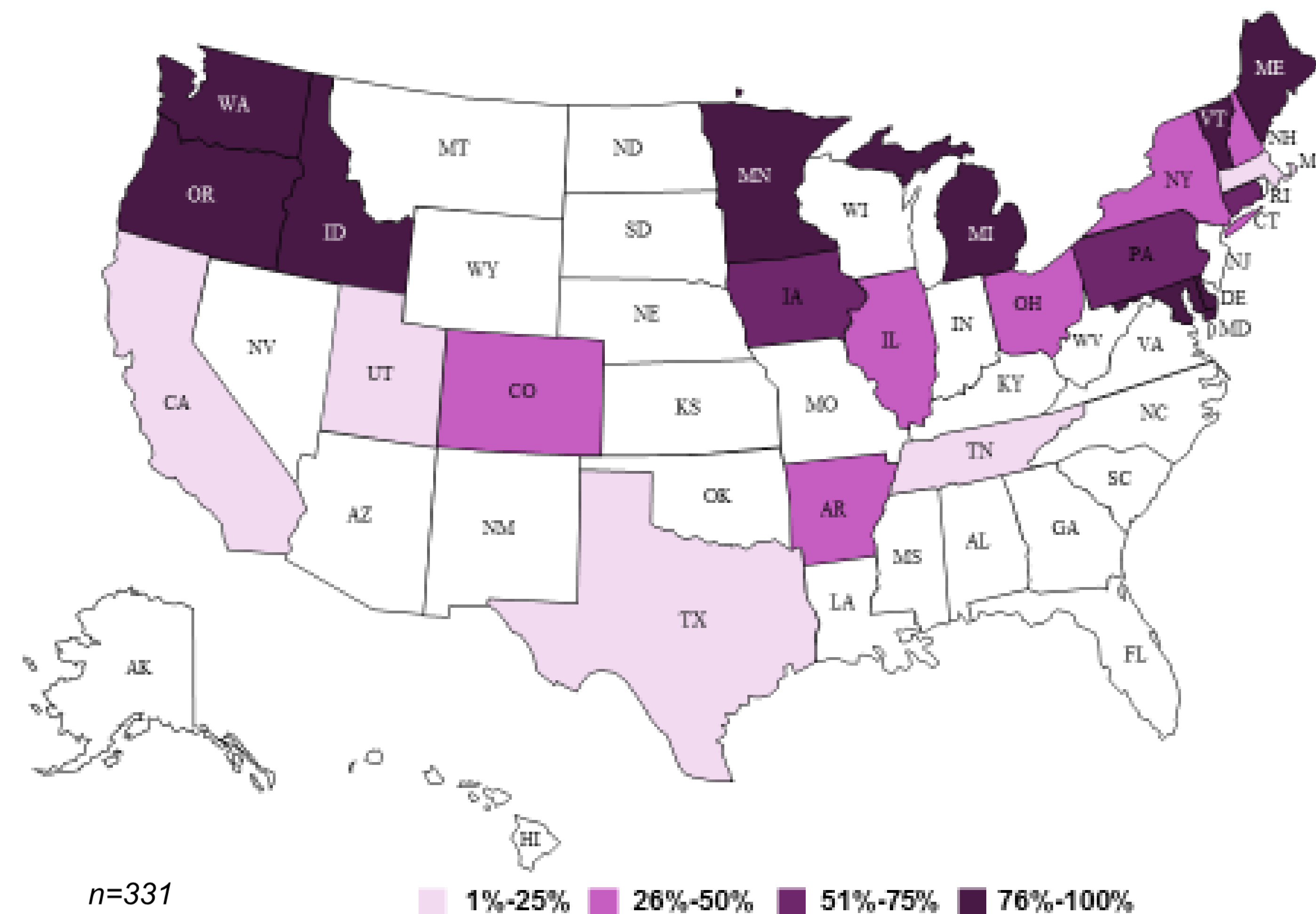
n=331

### LHD Awareness and Involvement in SIM Activities

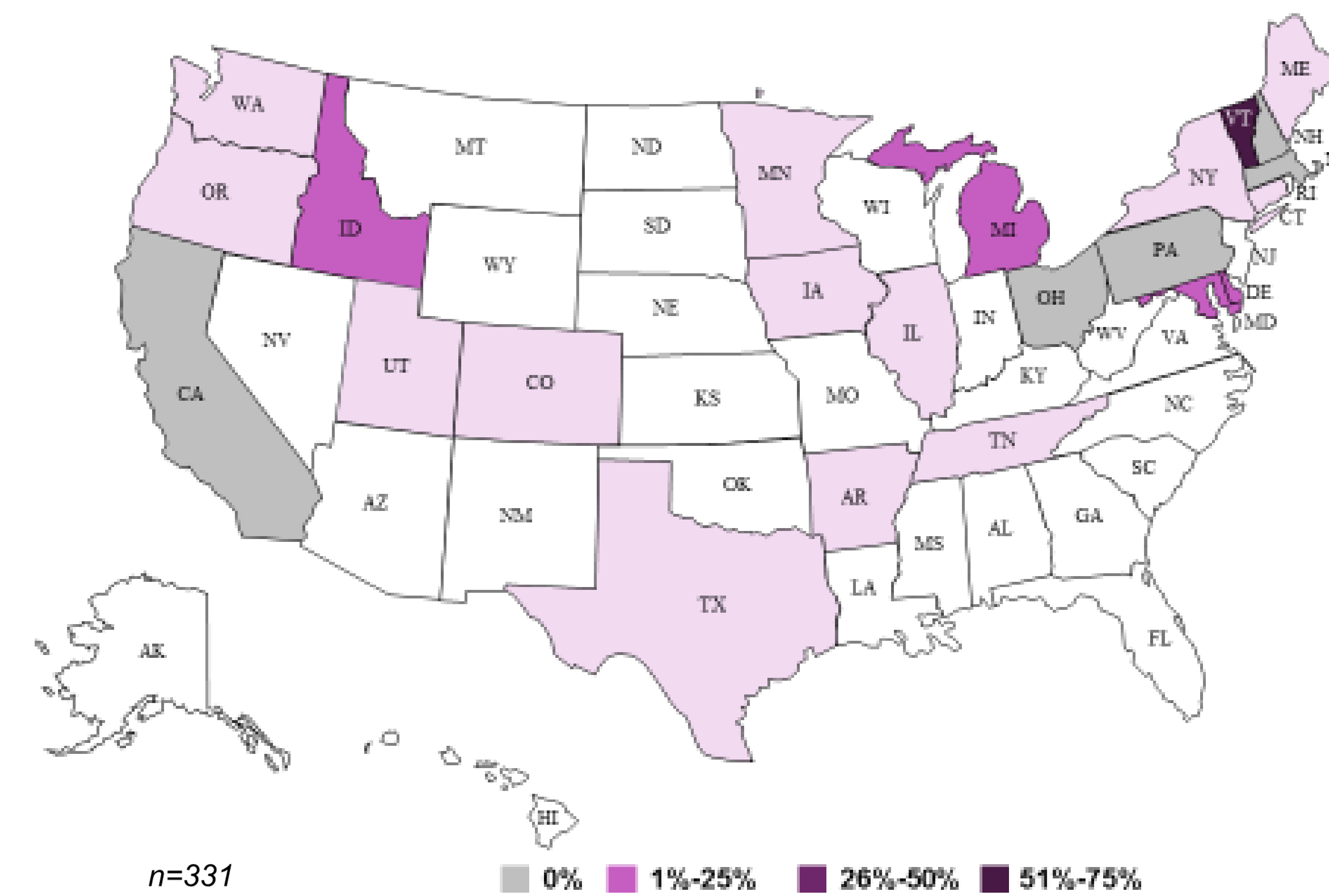
	Awareness (% of LHDs)	Actively Involved (% of LHDs)
<b>ALL LHDs</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Type of SIM Award</b>		
Model Testing Award	55%	17%
Model Pre-Testing Award	55%	11%
Model Design Award	47%	10%
<b>Size of Population Served</b>		
<50,000	44%	9%
50,000–499,999	61%	16%
500,000+	52%	18%
<b>Type of Governance</b>		
Largely Centralized	55%	26%
Largely Decentralized	50%	8%

n=331

### LHDs Awareness of SIM Activities (Round 1 awardees)



### LHDs Actively Engaged in SIM Activities (Round 1 awardees)



## Major Findings

- More than half are aware of SIM activity occurring in their state
- There is a relationship between awareness of activity and size of population served (Pearson chi-square = 11.71, p = 0.003)
- 1 of 8 LHDs are actively involved in SIM activities occurring in their state
- There is a relationship between active involvement in SIM activity and governance (Pearson chi-square = 15.59, p < 0.001)

## Implications

During Round 1 funding, the proportion of LHDs engaged in SIM activities is rather low when compared among all LHDs that are aware of SIM activities. More tools and resources may be needed to help LHDs define their role in their respective state campaign's innovative efforts to transform healthcare delivery.

Round 2 Awards were recently awarded January 2015, giving researchers the opportunity to gather more information on the LHD's role in SIMs activities in terms of contribution and participation.

More information could benefit LHDs in incorporating their services into the healthcare delivery system.

## Acknowledgement

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