



Background & Rationale

- Unintentional injuries are a major public health problem in the United States and Arkansas.
- Arkansas has higher rates of injury-related mortality and hospitalization than the nation as a whole.
- It is widely believed that injury prevention efforts work best when supported by legislative solutions that can only be implemented by well-informed policy makers.
- By working together and creating an integrated system, Policy makers can benefit from the use of public health research and the support of primary care providers to make informed policy decisions to improve the effectiveness of state public health programs and improve population health..

Research Objectives

- To examine the strength of ties between public health and policy networks.
- To examine the role of policy and public health networks in injury-related activities and services for infants and women of maternal age.

Research Design & Methods

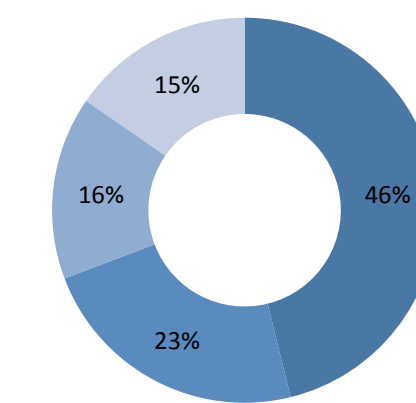
- A cross sectional survey was administered to identify policy makers' awareness of injury-related infant deaths and their efforts to address injury related infant mortality.
- Interview content were coded according to identified themes and assessed for patterns of variation between clusters.
- Network analysis is based on a set of vertices (nodes) and the set of lines (links) between them.

Study Settings

- The study population included 6 organizations. Two organizations are policy organizations but only one organization currently advocates for injury related infant activities and services.
- Participating organizations indicated whether or not they work with organizations such as community health clinics, policy organizations, and public health agencies.

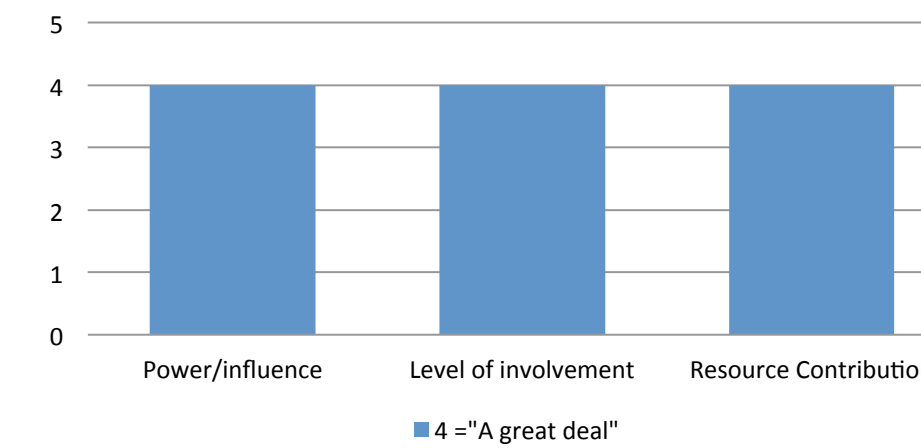
Characteristics of Policy Organization

Minority Population Represented

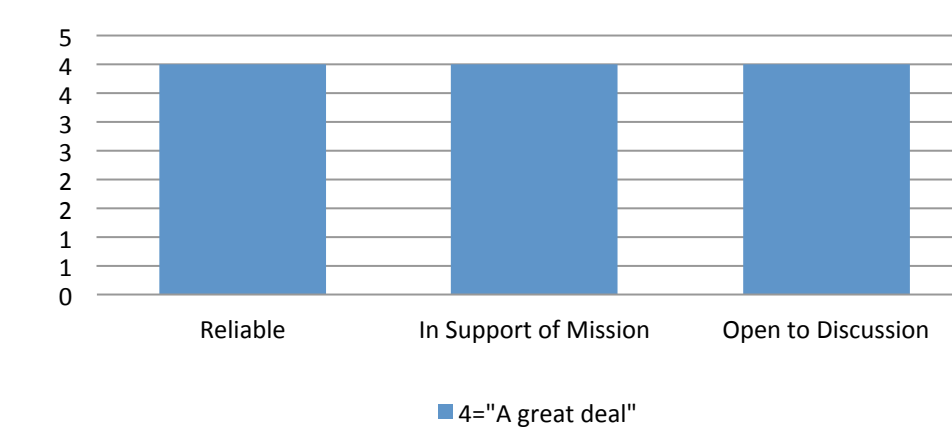


- African-Americans
- Non-White Hispanic
- Asian
- Other

Partnership Value

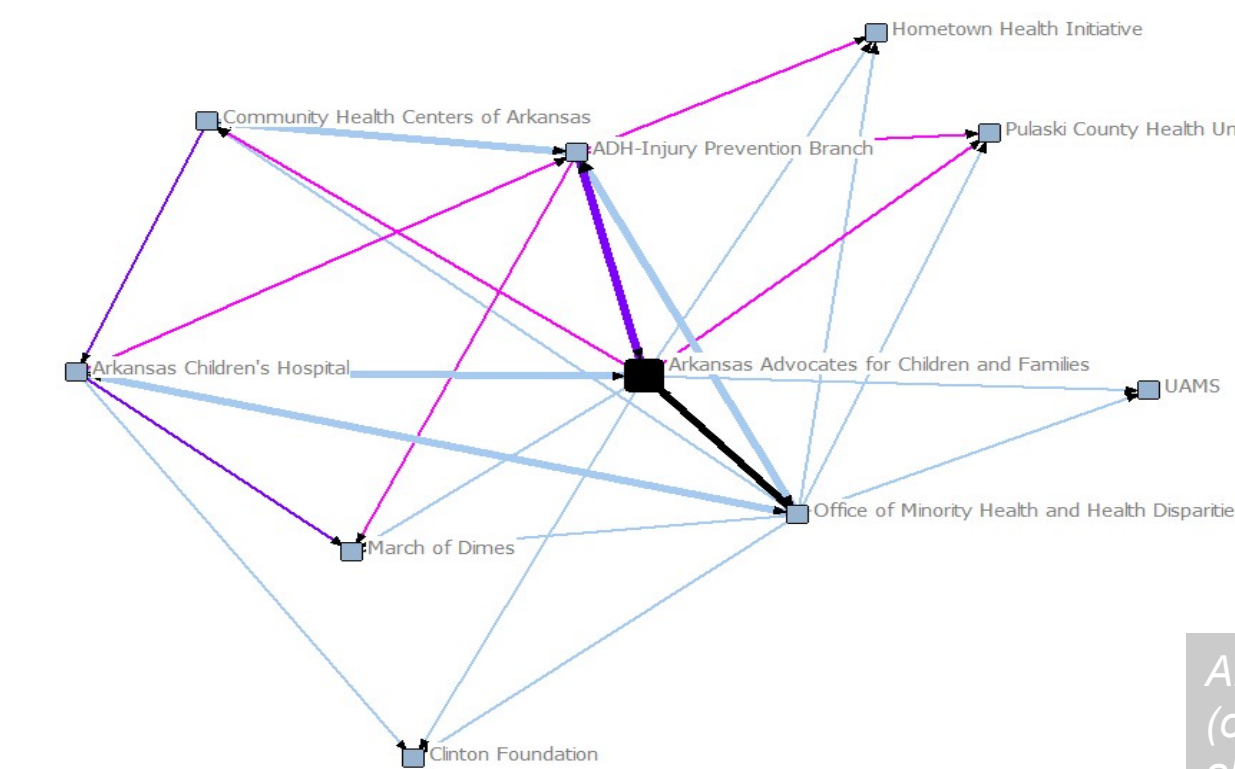


Organization Value in Achieving the Mission



Value was identified as:
1= not at all
2= a small amount
3=a fair amount
4= a great deal

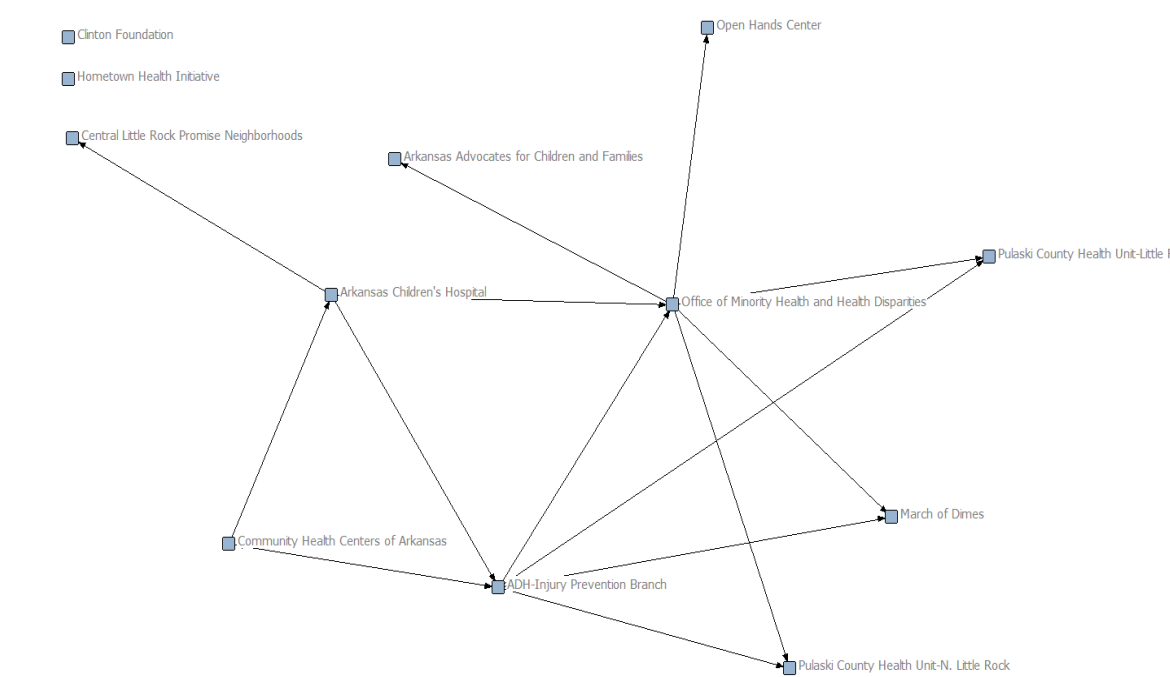
Ego Network



An ego is the respondent (organization) and the alter is an organization the respondent advocated on behalf to reduce injury-related infant mortality.

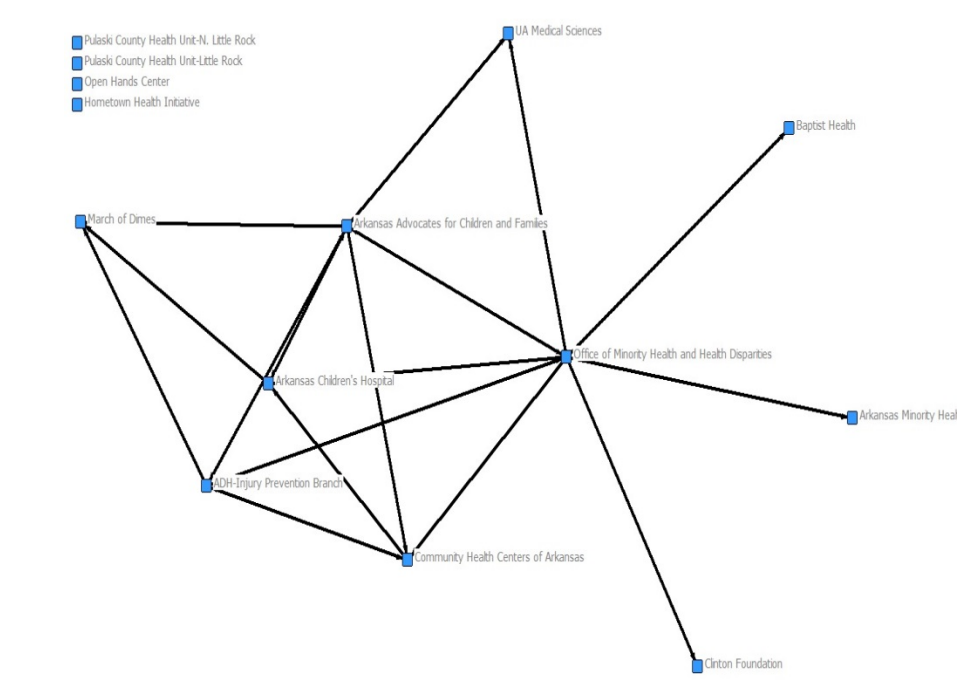
Preliminary Findings

1. Program and Service Delivery Networks (N =4)



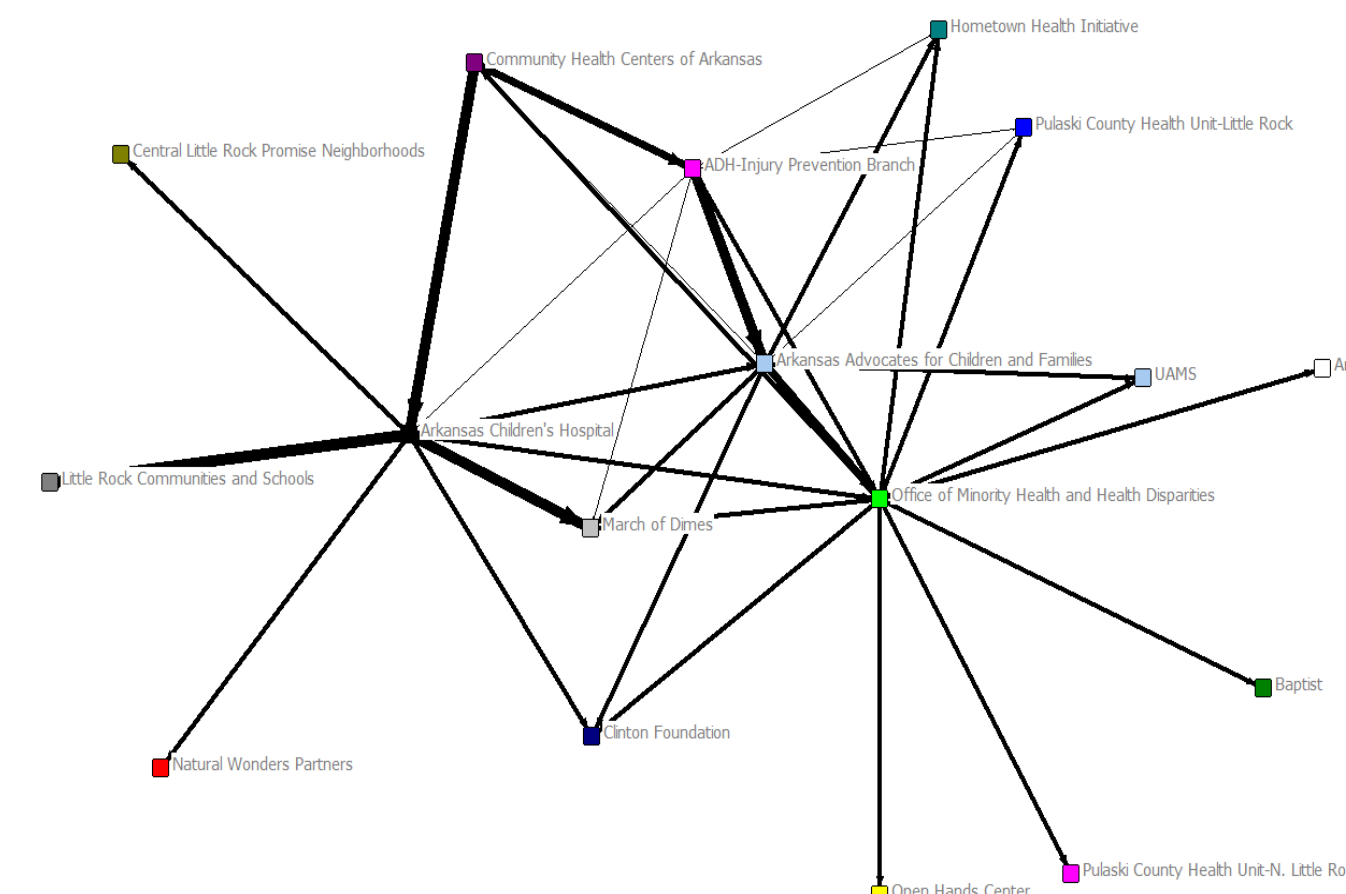
Ego networks are calculated for four respondents.

2. Advocacy and Policy Network (N =6)



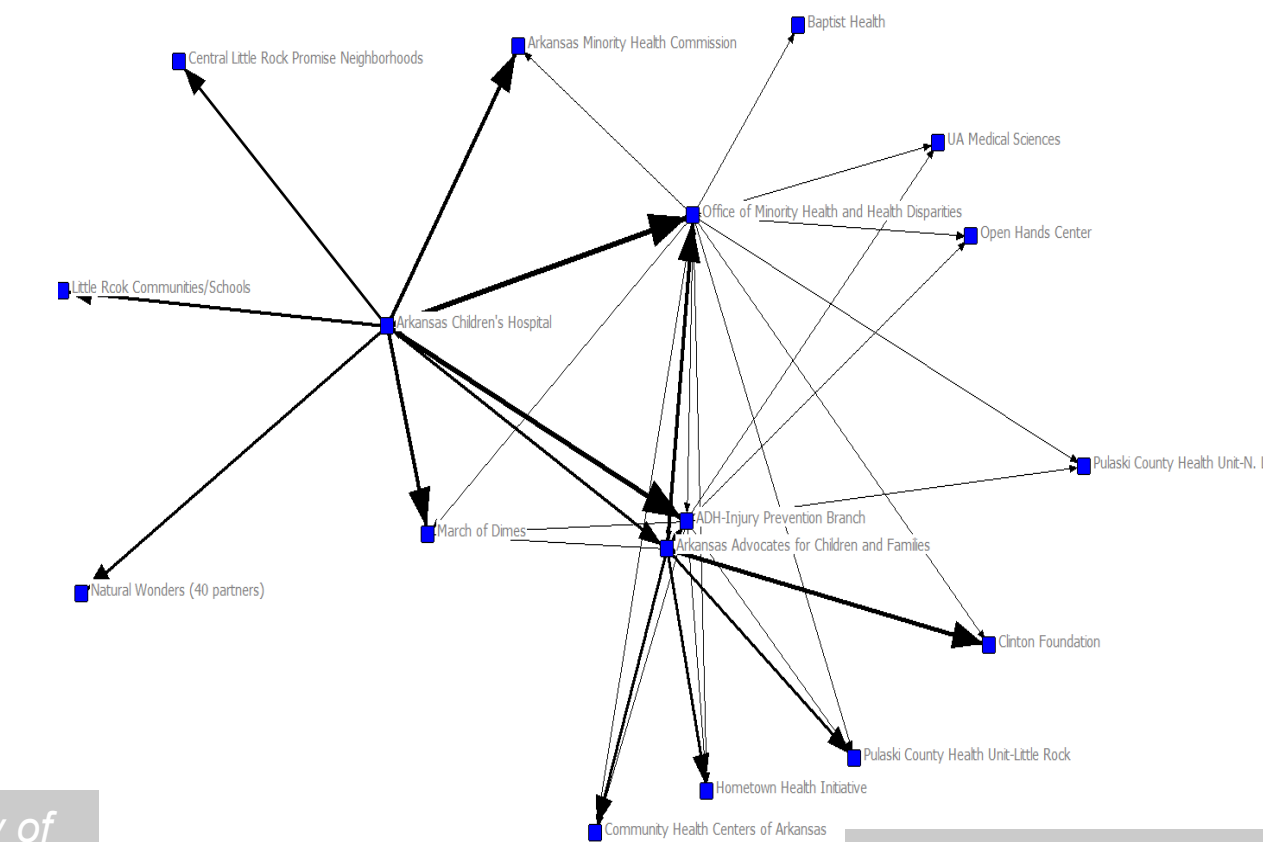
Ego network calculated for policy organization.

3. Frequency of Interactions (N =6)



Bold lines indicated frequency of interaction is every few weeks.

4. Level of Importance (N =6)



Organizations that were indicated as very important in efforts to reduce injury related infant mortality are indicated by darker lines and larger arrows.

Discussion

- Policy organizations indicated their activities for injury related infant mortality are reporting and monitoring data, lobbying for legislation, and providing resources to community health clinics.
- Policy organizations advocate for increasing access to health coverage and care and behavior work for pregnant women.
- Policy organizations indicated that the most effective services are those provided to immigrant families.
- Policy organizations indicated that the populations at greater risk for injury related infant mortality are African Americans and single parent households.
- Policy organizations indicated the most effective preventive strategies are increased education and awareness.

Conclusion

- Policy organizations are very instrumental in supporting legislation to improve maternal and infant health.
- Policy organizations allocate twenty-five percent of their efforts to advocating for maternal age women and infants.
- Policy organizations distribute and share resources with many organizations to strengthen efforts to improve population health.

Next Steps

- Complete Interviews (In progress) and Include data from all interviews
- Expand on quantitative visualization of policy and public health networks.

For More Information

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