Senay Goitom, Robert M. LaFollette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
Susan J. Zahner, DrPH, RN, School of Nursing, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
Andrew Reschovsky, PhD, Robert M. LaFollette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Context
Local health departments (LHDs) in Wisconsin rely primarily on local government revenues. The housing market collapse and subsequent recession led to deep budget cuts. One strategy for a LHD faced with declining local government support is to increase other revenue sources.

Objective
We aim to identify those LHD organizational and jurisdictional characteristics associated with differential patterns of non-local government revenue generation.

Design and methods
Secondary data from a variety of sources including the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Local Health Department Survey (LHDS) from 2002-2008 were used. This survey collects information on revenues by source (federal grants, state general purpose revenue, fees for service, donations; and private grants), expenditure and staffing levels. Data were converted to per capita measures for comparability. Panel fixed effects regression modeling methods were used.

Results
Mean LHD revenue rose from 2002 ($12.50) to 2005 ($13.81), but fell to $12.87 in 2008. Overall mean revenues varied considerably between counties ($2.92 to $47.26). Organizational characteristics are associated with mean per capita revenue levels. LHDs structured as independent agencies had higher revenues ($13.84) compared to those structured as part of a human services department ($12.29) (p<.05). Mean per capita revenue was also higher for LHD serving a county ($14.92) compared to a city or smaller jurisdiction ($9.12) (p<.01). The jurisdictional level shows that greater levels of jurisdiction wealth (as measured by property values) over time were associated with higher mean per capita revenue raised over time. There is considerable regional variation in mean per capita revenue across the state (range=$8.13 to $20.51).

Conclusions
As economic challenges to publically funded services continue, identifying factors associated with capacity to generate higher revenues from sources other than local taxes has implications for LHDs across the country, particularly for those in jurisdictions with smaller local tax bases.