

Communicating with Policymakers

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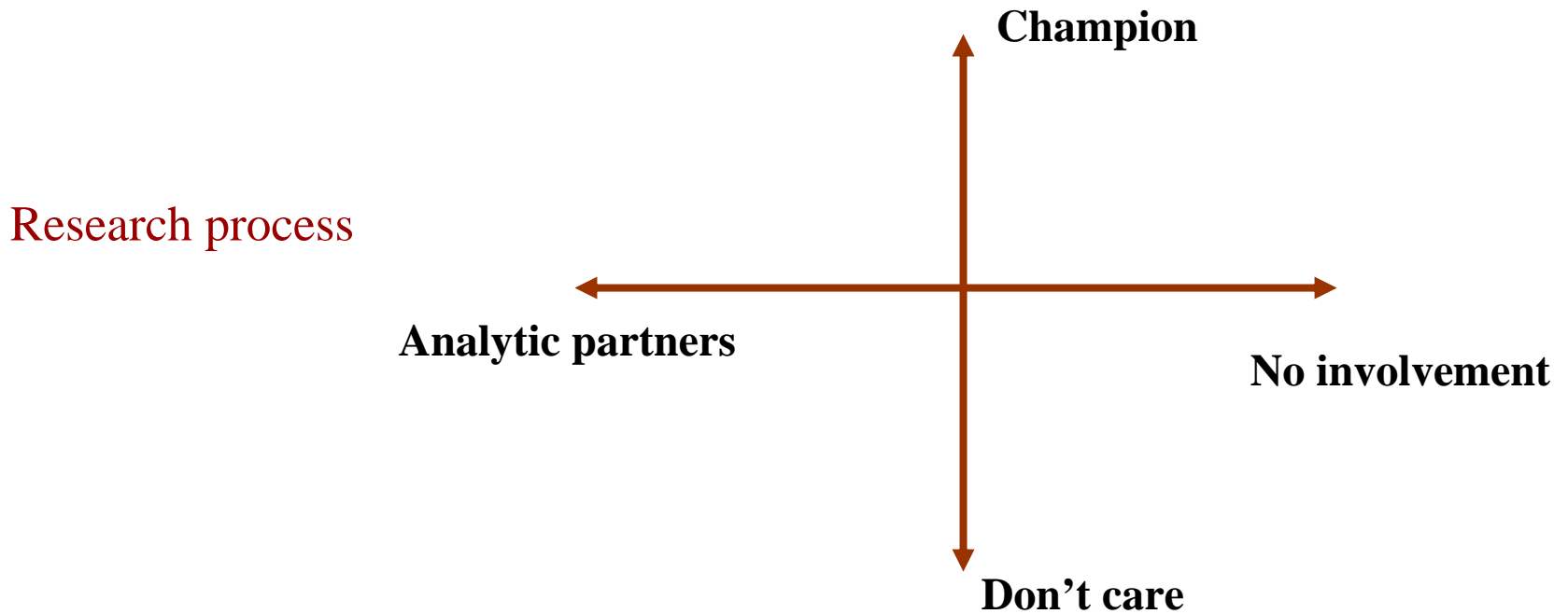
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

College of
PublicHealth and
HealthProfessions



The depth and level of interaction between policymakers and researchers can occur on two levels

Dissemination and implementation activities



The depth and level of interaction between policymakers and researchers depends on....

- **The question**
 - describe the scope of a problem
 - develop options
 - implementing solutions
 - evaluation of programs

The depth and level of interaction between policymakers and researchers depends on....

- **Who has ownership of the question?**
 - who is the work for?
 - who is paying for the work?
 - personal investment in the question

**The depth and level of interaction
between policymakers and researchers
depends on....**

- **The magnitude of the impact of the
research on policy and practice**
 - timeliness
 - political ramifications

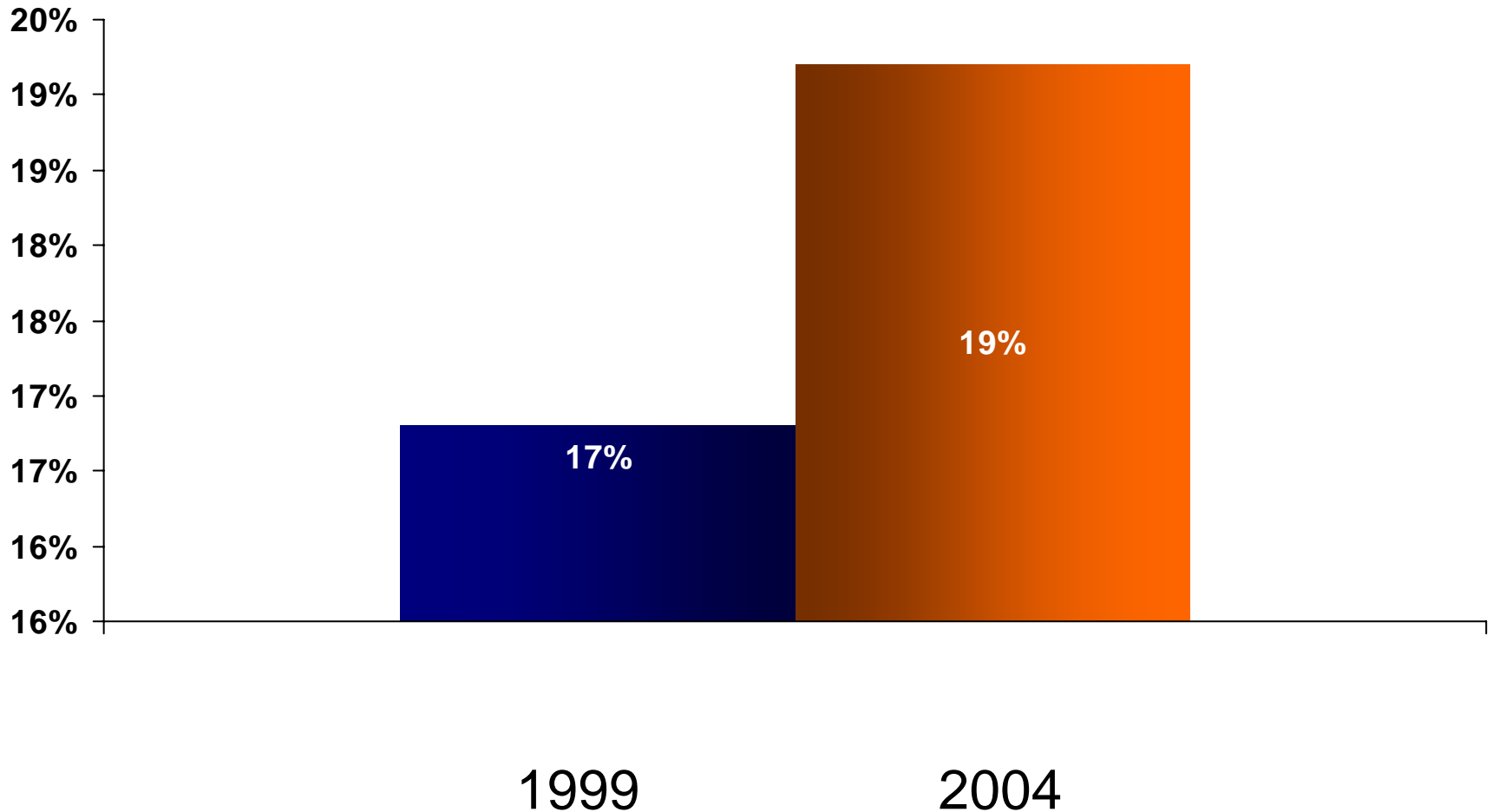
Necessary preconditions.....

- Trust
- You cannot always do the perfect analysis
- Be willing to be held accountable
- Not all research is of value to policymakers – at least in the short-term
- An unbiased view?

Communicating the message

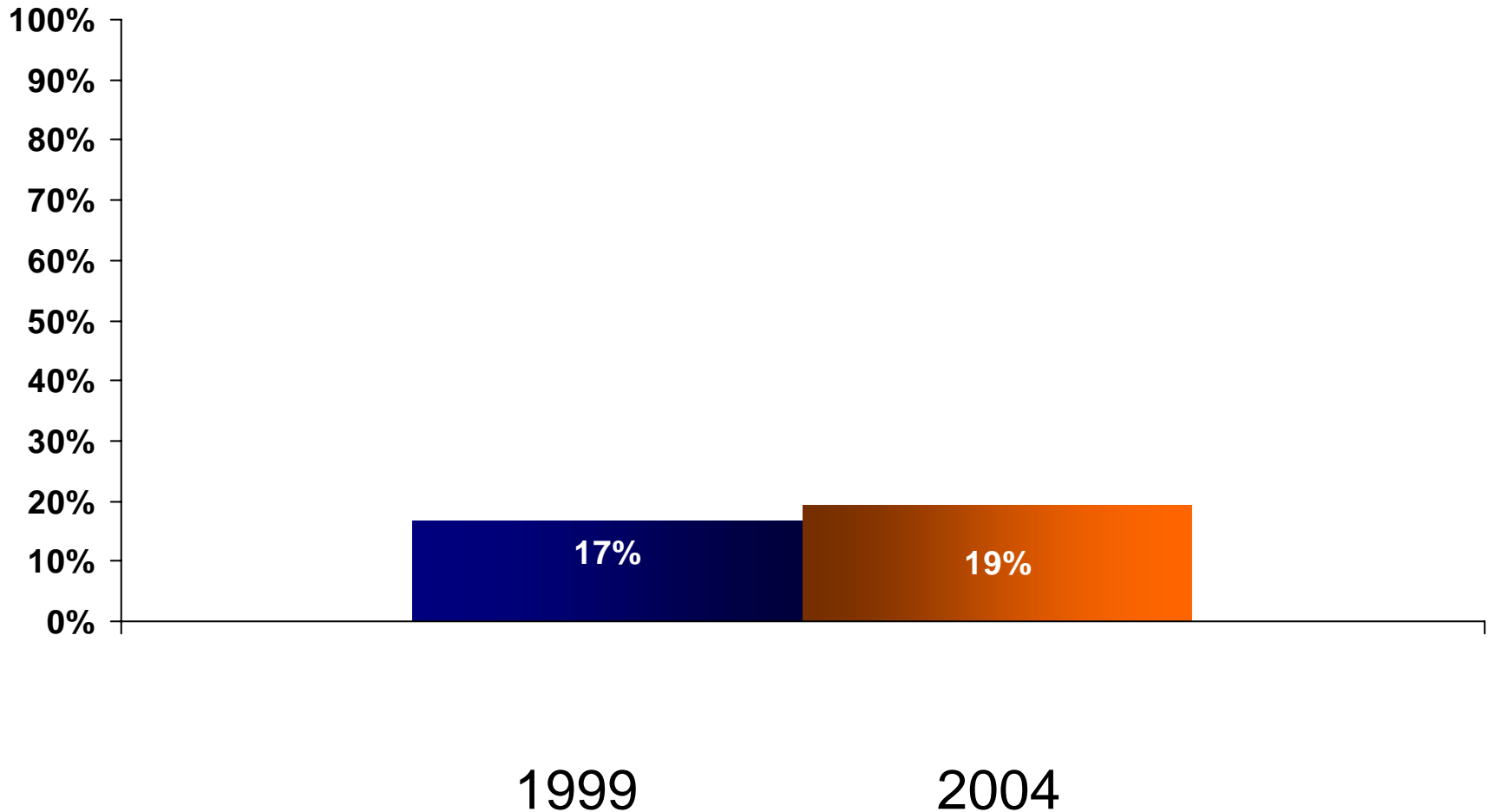
- **Publications: No 'rule of thumb'**
 - Issue briefs and fact sheets
 - Chart books and chart packs
 - Longer reports
- **Have explicit conclusions and clear policy recommendations**
- **Be mindful of language.....**

Between 1999 and 2004, Florida experienced a dramatic increase in the number of uninsured individuals under age 65



1999 and 2004 Florida Health Insurance Studies (FHIS)

Between 1999 and 2004, Florida experienced a slight increase in the number of uninsured individuals under age 65



1999 and 2004 Florida Health Insurance Studies
(FHIS)

Uninsured in Florida

- 1999: 2.1 million (16.8%)
- 2004: 2.7 million (19.2%)

Reaching policymakers

- Agencies
- Legislative staff
- Advocates
- Don't be afraid of the press
- Websites

Annual Research Conference



SAVE THE DATE!

Fourth Annual Medicaid Research Conference:
Medicaid Reform

Guest Speakers:
David Helms* and Alice Burton, AcademyHealth

March 11th, 8:30am– 4:30pm
DoubleTree Hotel, Tallahassee, Florida

*invited

NO!!!!

Financial implications analysis: Methods

2-Part model that first predicts any expenditure and then predicts the amount of expenditure (among those with expenditures).

Two equations:

- (1) Any Expenditure = β +MPNA + MPNB + SSI + Age +White + Hispanic + Other Race +Asian
- (2) Expenditure Amount = β +MPNA + MPNB + SSI + Age +White + Hispanic + Other Race +Asian

Time Period: Feb 2001 – Feb 2002 (Miami-Dade, Broward, West Palm Beach)

In conclusion....

- Communication can occur at various levels
- Find a champion
- Be willing to listen
- Researchers do not know it all
- Demonstrate relevancy