

**Public Health Physicians—
Roles of Public Health Physicians
and Ideas to Attract Physicians
to Public Health**

**Presentation to the Institute of Medicine
by Patrick M. Libbey**

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Content of Presentation

- n **Key Informants**
- n **Noted Common Threads in Answers to Questions**
- n **Definition of Public Health Physicians**
- n **Responses to Questions**
- n **Data from Profile of Local Health Departments**

(Revised Question) *In this setting what areas require the combination of an MD and public health skills?*

- n **Overall Public Health MD Role—Multi-functional/multi-tasking**

- n **Communication Responsibilities**
 - With medical establishment
 - With media and lay public

- n **Manage Disease Outbreaks**

- n **Other Key Roles**

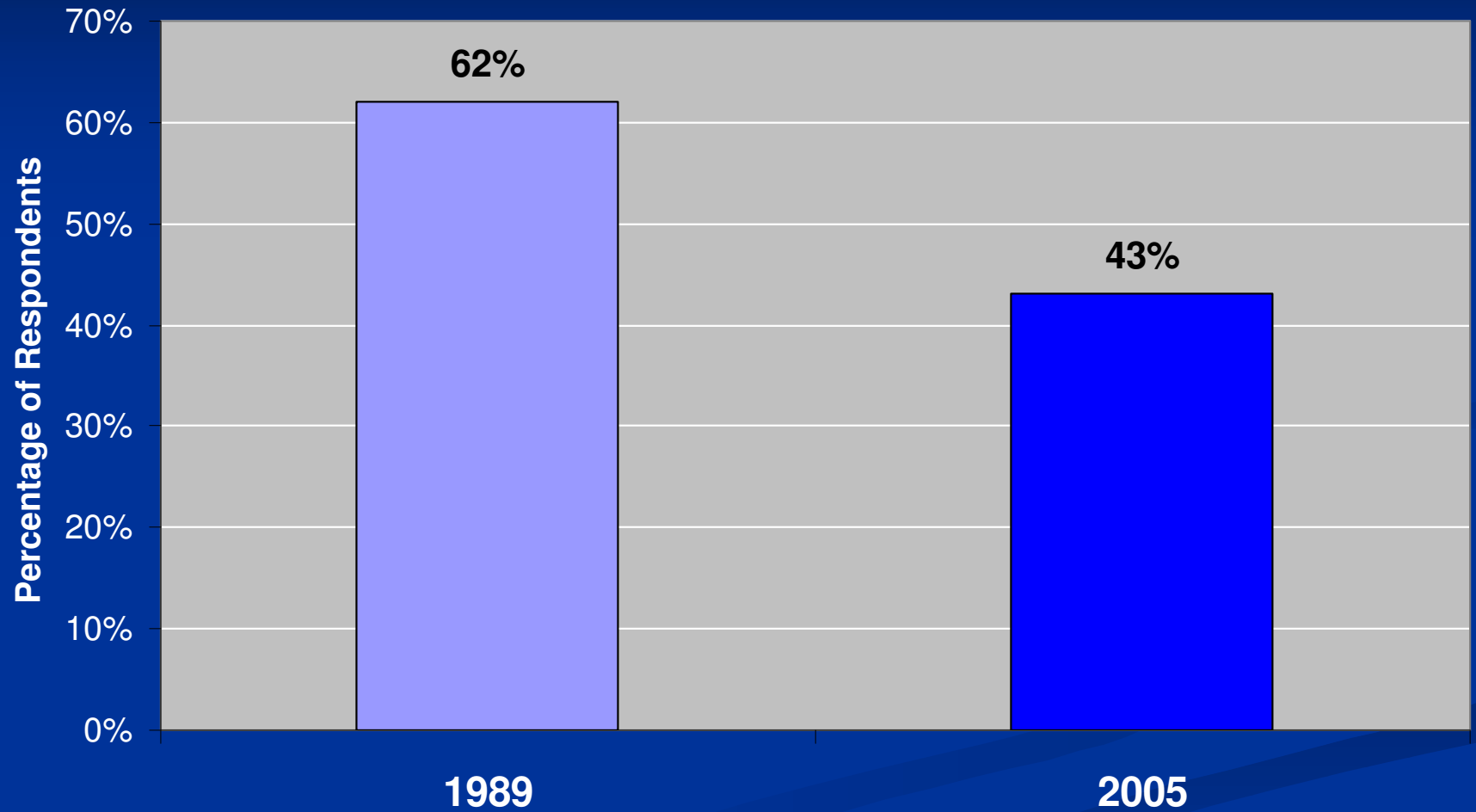
(Original Question) *What might attract physicians to public health?*

- n **Better communicate what public health is**
- n **Cultivate a strong interest in disease prevention, disease investigation, and health education**
- n **Improve monetary benefits**
- n **Recruit peers**

(cont') What might attract physicians to public health?

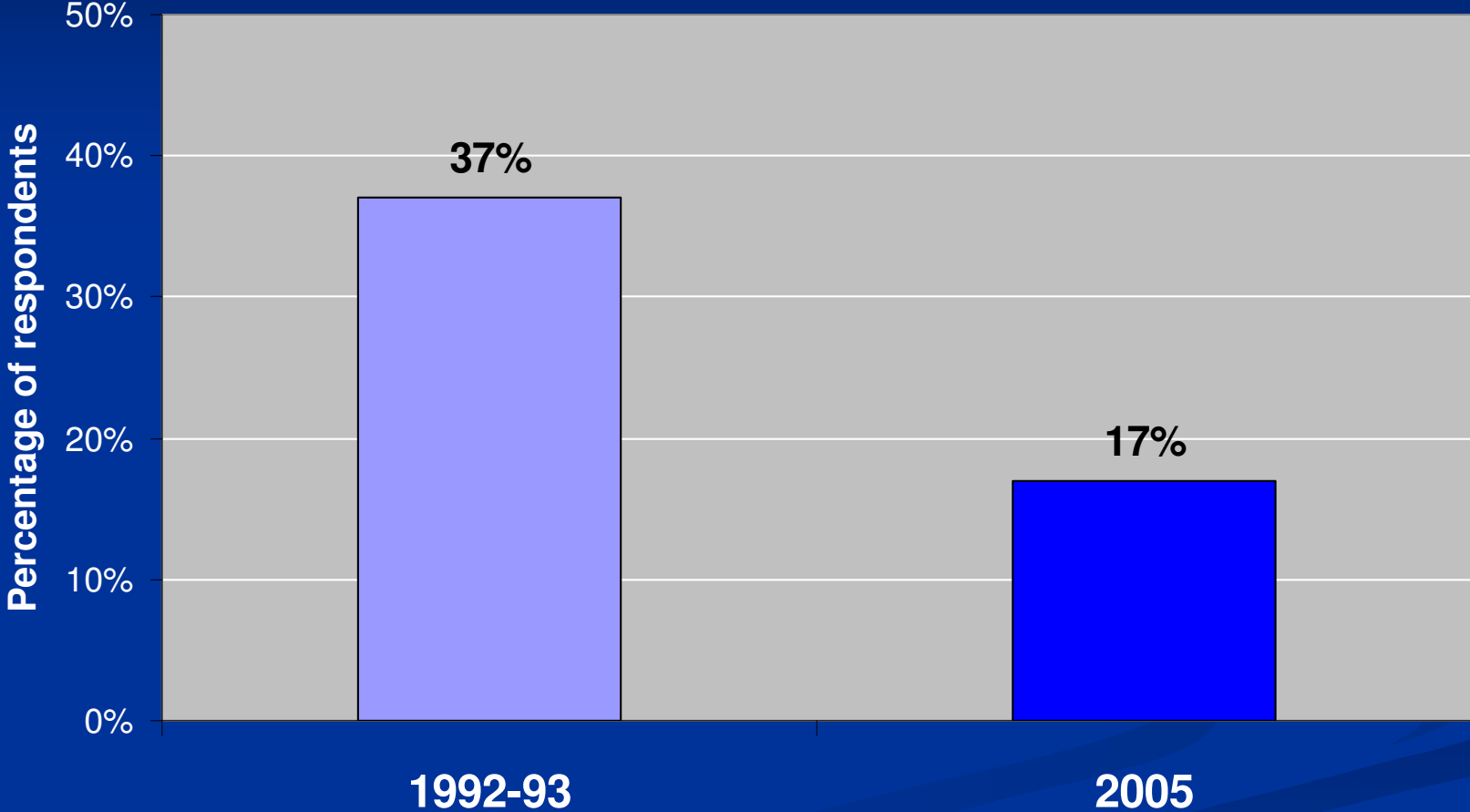
- n **Integrate PH concepts into medical schools or continuing education**
- n **Emphasize influence on public policy**
- n **Think outside the box**
- n **Highlight the role of the PH physician in health information exchanges**
- n **Show impact of success**

Percentage of LHD Top Executives with a Medical Degree



Source: National Profile of LHDs Studies

Percentage of LHDs Employing Physicians



Source: National Profile of LHDs Studies

Conclusion

- n **Is a need and role for PH physicians**
- n **Continued interest in IOM study**