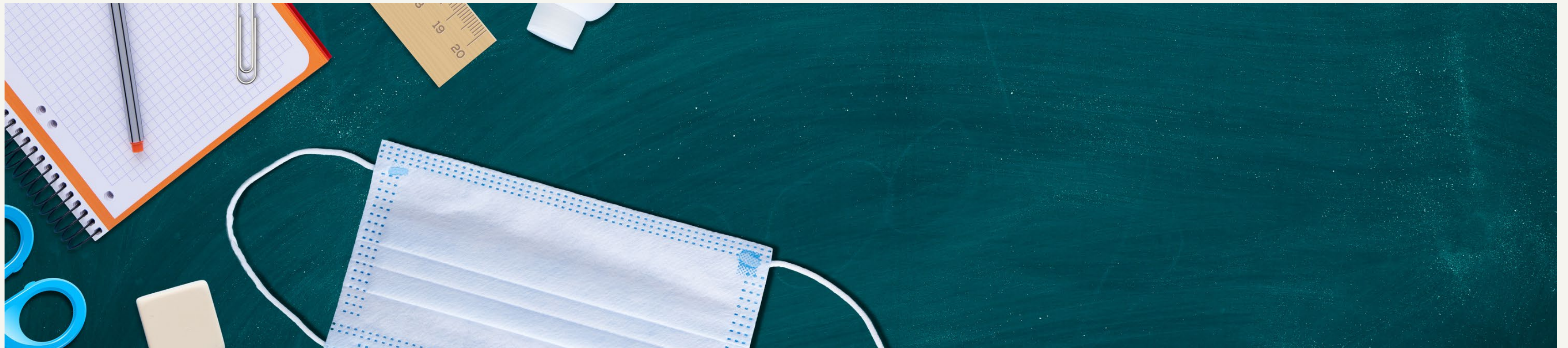


A Retrospective Evaluation of District Openings Amid COVID-19 (REDOC)

Theresa LeGros MA, Cynthia Thomson PhD RD



NOVEMBER 16, 2020

The University of Arizona Health Sciences Center
COVID - 19 Symposium



Overview

Why REDOC?

Study Aims

Methods

Preliminary Results & Outcomes

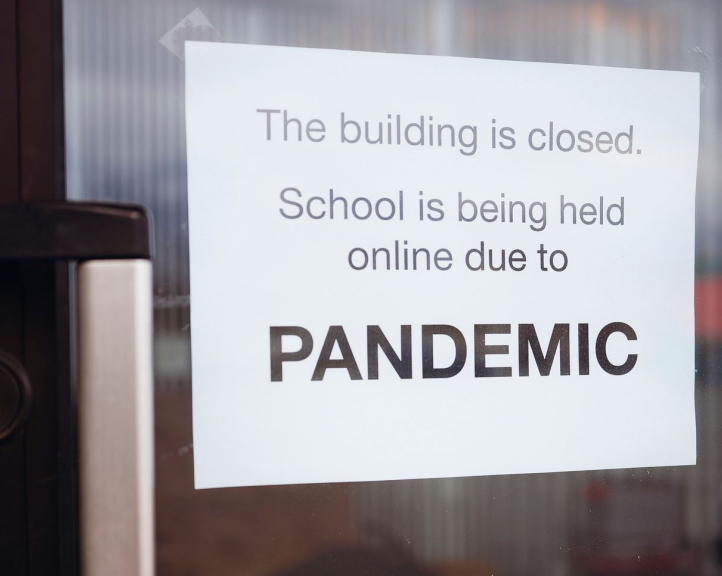
Use of Findings

Why
REDO C?





GUIDANCE



LOCAL

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) = the school district or charter
County Health Departments
Community Stakeholders



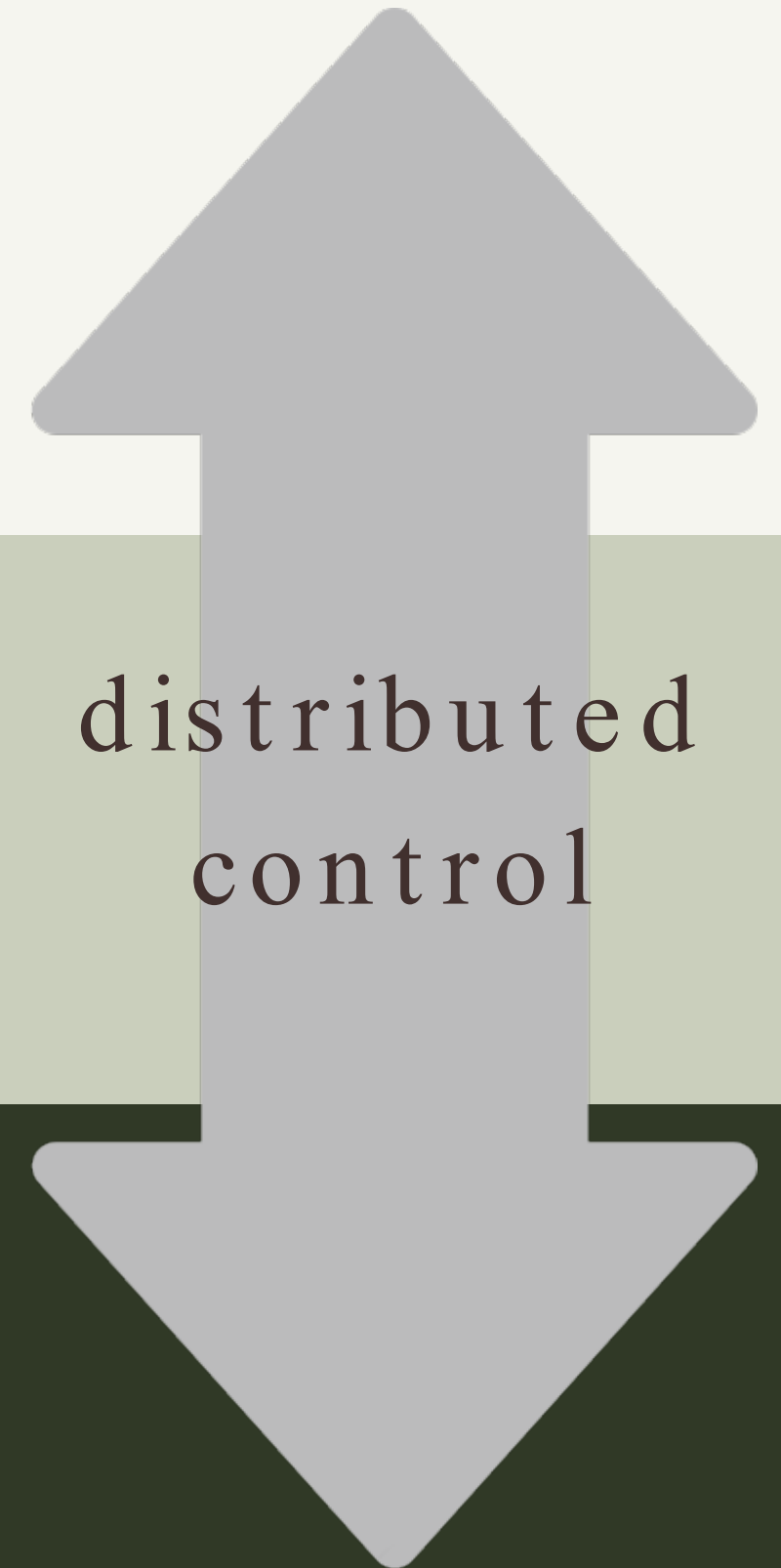
STATE

Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)
Arizona Department of Education (ADE)
Office of the Arizona Governor



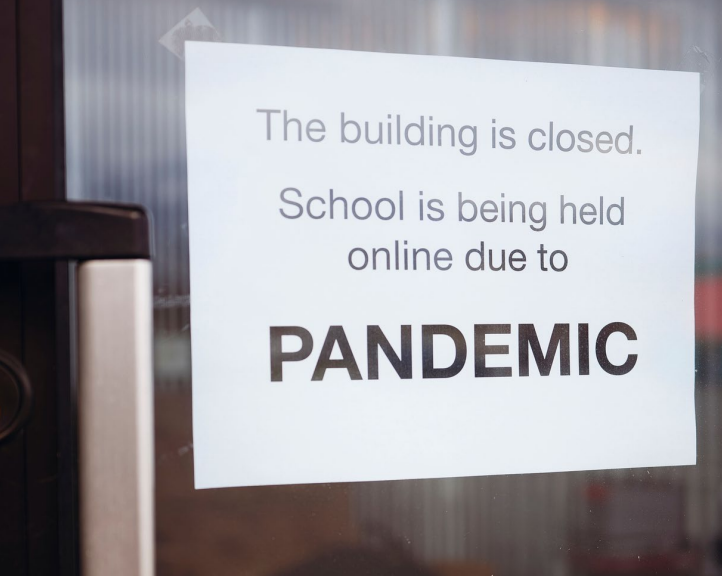
FEDERAL

Congress
Executive Branch
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)





GUIDANCE



LOCAL

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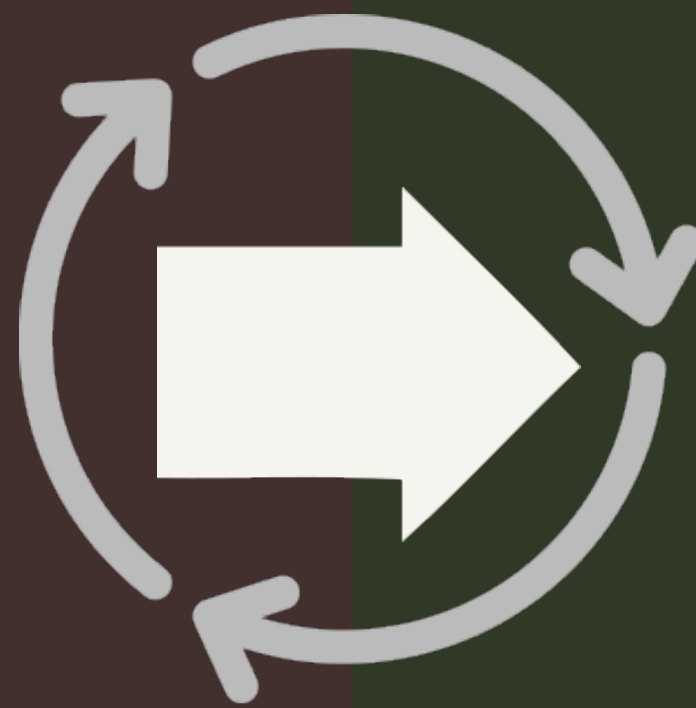


FEDERAL

Congress
Executive Branch
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

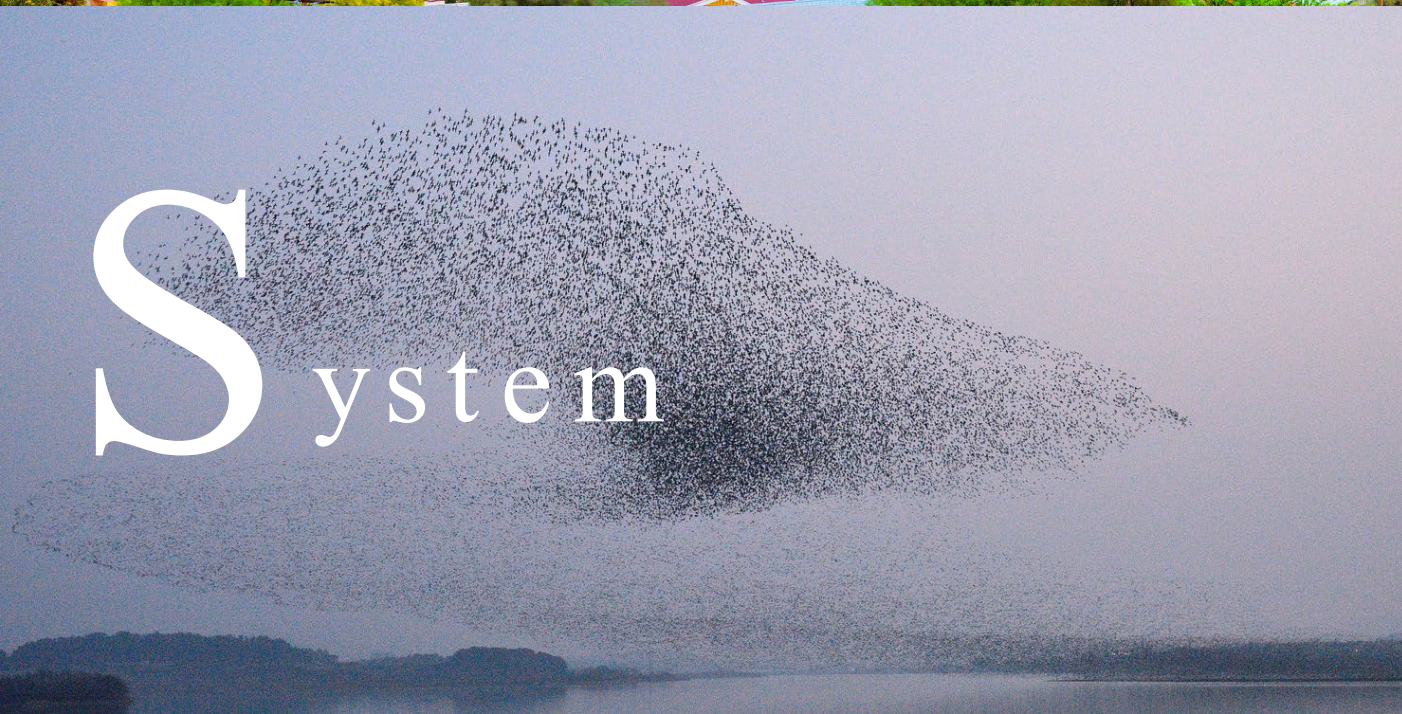


variation in
influences
on LEAs



variation in
LEA
responses

continuous adaptation



To study how LEAs reopen, consider

- Distributed control
- Nested levels of influence
- Continuous adaptation
- Emergent responses

“By developing a model to analyze decision-making **inputs from a variety of perspectives**, emergency and business continuity professionals may be better able to...**understand the decisions being made and thereby mitigate the impact of unintended consequences.**”

– Kenneth Goldberg

Study Aims



- ③ Characterize the development & content of Arizona's public LEA reopening plans
- ③ Examine the relationship of plan characteristics with outcomes
- ③ Explore the role of local health departments in LEA reopenings

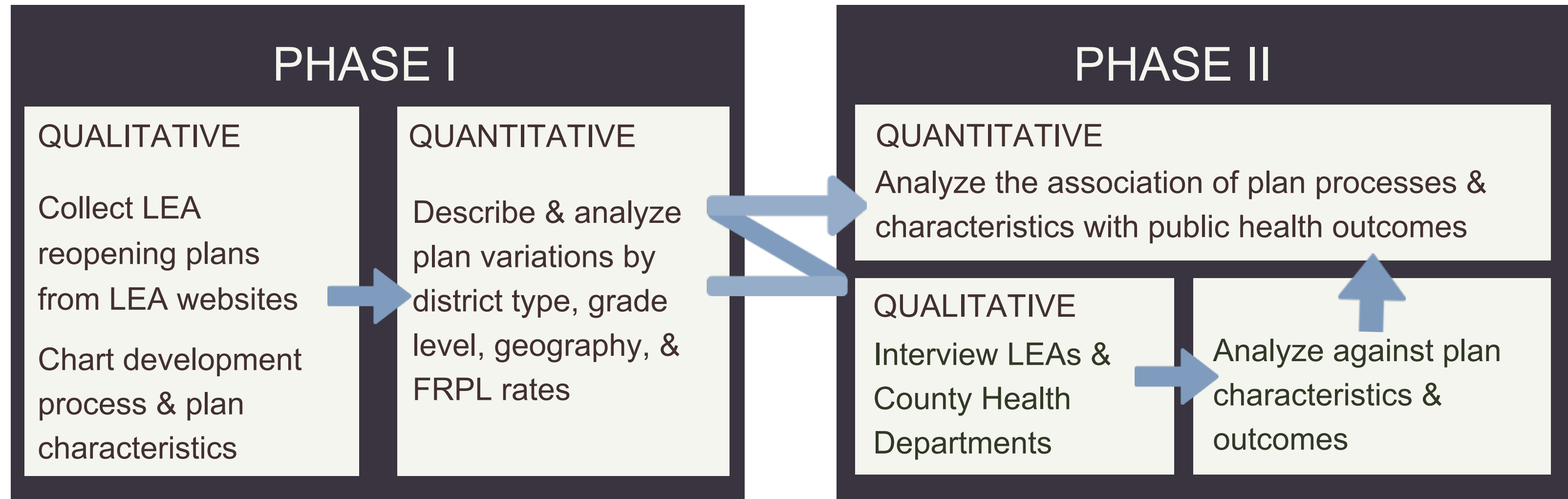


Methods

Two-Phase Mixed Methods Study Design

SEQUENTIAL, EXPLORATORY
DESIGN

CONCURRENT, EMBEDDED
DESIGN



CAS

Continuous check for plan updates during data collection

Chart stakeholder influence on plan development

Retrospectively explore stakeholder influence

(Approximate) Timeline

COLLECT REOPENING
PLANS

July - Nov 2020

INTERVIEW LEAS & COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Apr - Sept 2021

CHART & ANALYZE PLAN
CHARACTERISTICS

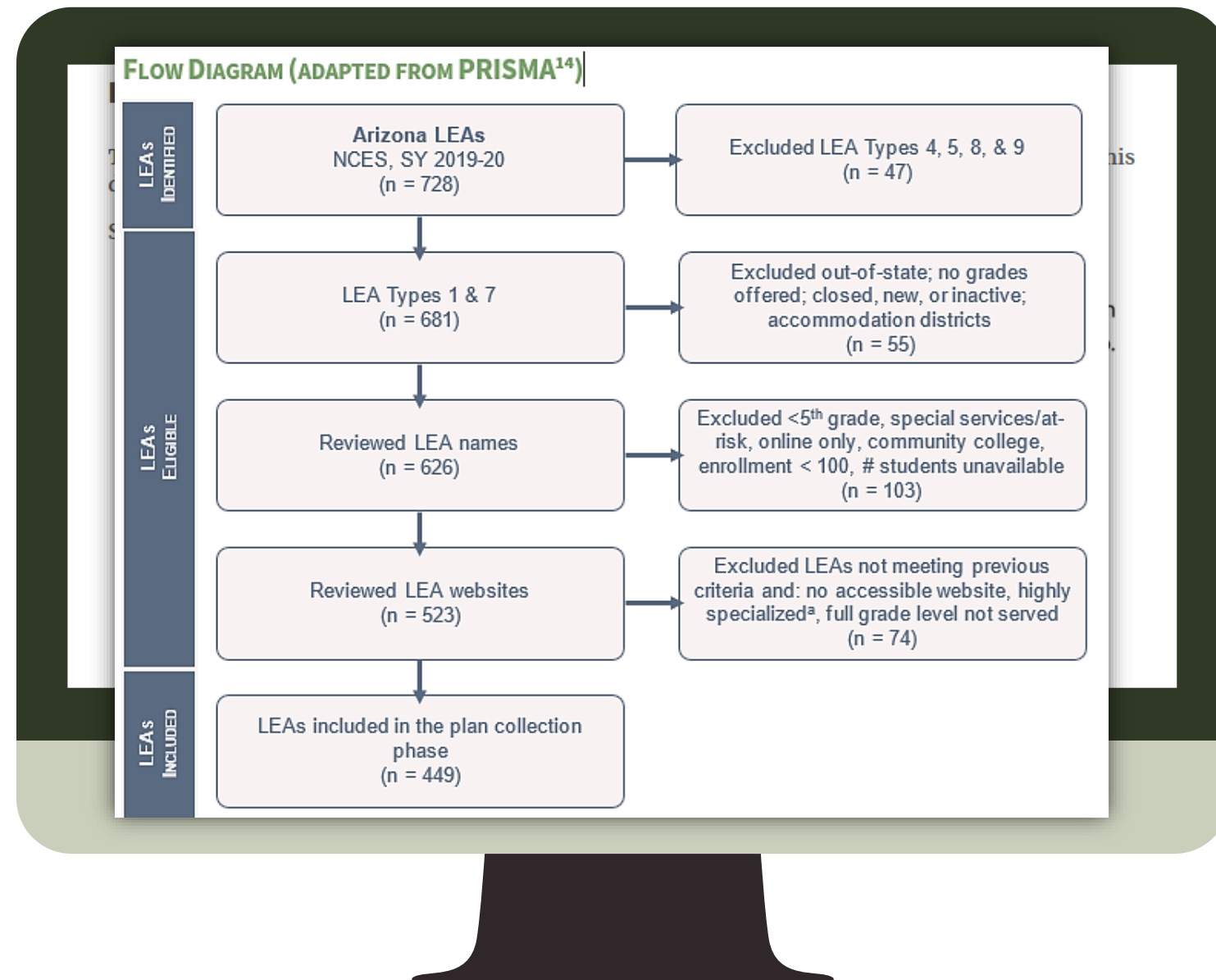
Dec 2020 - Mar 2021

ANALYZE DATA COLLECTED
AGAINST OUTCOMES

July - Dec 2021



Data Collection



LEA INCLUSION

- Public LEAs (regular public school district + charters)
- Open since 2018 - 19
- Not specialized (e.g., accommodation district)
- Serves full grade levels with regular, in-person learning
- ≥ 100 students
- Has an active website

PLAN INCLUSION

- Available on the LEA website
- Formal mitigation, reopening, or learning plan
- Formal Distance Learning Plan
- Web post or survey re: stakeholder engagement
- Supplemental materials (e.g., letters)

Defining A Reopening Plan

OPTIMIZING SEARCH METHODS & CHARTING

Included	Excluded
<p>Available on any part(s) of the LEA website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found on the district website (regular public health school districts) • Found on the parent organization and/or charter school website (charters) 	<p>Not available on the LEA website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found only on other sites (e.g. Facebook) • Only found on individual school site(s) (applies only to regular public health school districts) • Not found
<p>Plans for multi-school charters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merged identical parent organization plans • Maintained individual charters' Distance Learning Plans (DLPs), if applicable 	<p>Individualized <u>non-DLP</u> documents for single schools that are part of multi-school charters</p>
<p>Formal plan: Comprehensive written plan or slideshow. May focus on COVID mitigation, return options, both, or additional topics.</p>	<p>Website information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided as a 2020-21 calendar with no reference to COVID • In audio or video format • Posted as meeting minutes or updates • Taken directly from the CDC or health department (or links to the CDC, health department, or other agency) that does not establish a relationship between plan development and the materials or agency
<p>Distance Learning Plan (DLP)^b <i>if and only if</i> posted on the LEA website</p>	
<p>Supplemental Materials: flier, FAQs, letter, press release, or web post related to reopening</p>	
<p>Any material describing stakeholder engagement related to reopening (e.g., parent or school staff questionnaire, web post)</p>	
<p>Any material describing how reopening plans or plan materials were developed (e.g., web post regarding integration of health department guidelines)</p>	
<p>English + any additional language</p>	

01

EMERGING LITERATURE

Alliance for a Healthier Generation *Planning for the Next Normal at School*, American Academy of Pediatrics *State School Reopening Plans*, 3 peer - reviewed publications

02

STATE & FEDERREAL GUIDANCE

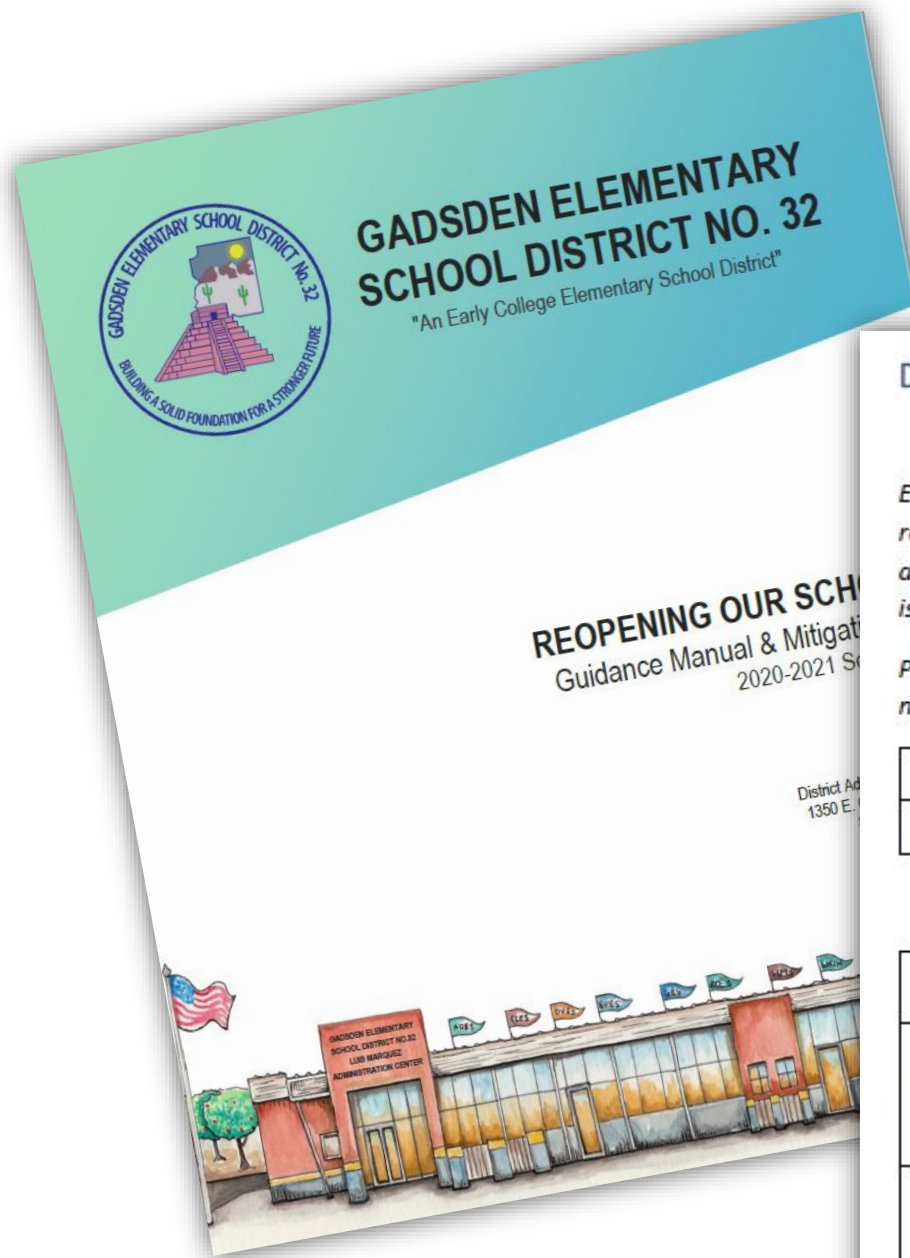
ADE *Roadmap for Reopening Schools*, AZ Governor *Arizona: Open for Learning* & Distance Learning Plan Guidance, ADHS *Safely Returning to In Person Instruction*, CDC *Preparing K-12 School Administrators for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020*.

03

PRELIMINARY PLAN EXAMINATION

45 (10%) of the 449 LEAs eligible for Phase I plan collection were randomly selected for preliminary data collection and review between July 16 - August 31, 2020.

Examples



Distance Learning Background Information

a. Number of Instructional Days (3.b)

Each school district shall operate for the required 180 days of instruction pursuant to Executive Order 2020-41 (3.b). An exception to this requirement may be granted by the ADE, if the school intended to switch to a different schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. If ADE previously approved the school to operate on a calendar that was not 180 days, but met the number of hours equal to 180 days of instruction, this is still met, and no action is required.

Please note, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-44 the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) shall conduct an analysis of the need to number of school days that schools are required to provide schooling and the impact of such a waiver by August 31, 2020.

How many instructional days will the school district operate for School Year 2020-2021?	180
How many instructional days did the school district operate for School Year 2019-2020?	180

b. Distance Learning Option (3.b)

Estimated Enrollment for FY 2021	256	Start Date for Distance Learning	July 22, 2020
Estimated Number of Students Participating in Distance Learning for the Full Year	25	Estimated Number of Students Participating in Distance Learning for a Portion of the year	231
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1. We intend to operate distance learning for the full year <input type="checkbox"/> 2. We intend to operate distance learning until _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. We intend to operate distance learning only until the _____	



COVID-19

Due to the continued increase in cases of COVID-19 in Arizona, the school board approved a delay in the face to face opening of the school for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year. Students will start online classes from August 10 to October 9, 2020.

The administration will work with the school board and staff to determine if the online classes should extend past October 9, 2020, or decrease depending on the COVID-19 virus exposure rate in the state.

Students can email teachers or check their school emails for more information.

Distance Learning Model Parent Letter

On July 20, 2020, Wenden Elementary School Board held a special meeting to determine the safest model of instruction for all students in our community. It was decided to implement distance learning until it is deemed safe for students to be on site. Please take a moment to read through the July 21 parent letter to learn more.

- [July 21, 2020 - Distance Learning Parent Letter - English](#)
- [July 21, 2020 - Distance Learning Parent Letter - Spanish](#)

School Reopening Survey

Please read the following [letter from the superintendent concerning the reopening of schools](#).

Additionally, Wenden Elementary School would like families to fill out a [survey for reopening in the 2020-2021 school year](#). The survey will help in planning the coming year and will be confidential.



Quantitative Analysis

1. Descriptive statistics of plan characteristics
2. Variation by district type, grade level, geography, & % FRPL
3. Association of charted elements with public health outcomes
 - COVID outbreaks (census tract, district?), attendance, academic performance, suicide, and/or meal program participation.
 - Main data sources: ADHS & ADE
4. Other potential enhancements
 - Add ADE's NSLP waiver data to charting
 - Retrospective survey of all LEAs in Phase II

Qualitative Analysis

1. Content analysis for charting
2. Interviews (n=60)
 - Randomly sampled subset of regular school districts & charters
 - Findings to help answer “why?” for associations found in the quantitative analysis





Preliminary Results & Outcomes

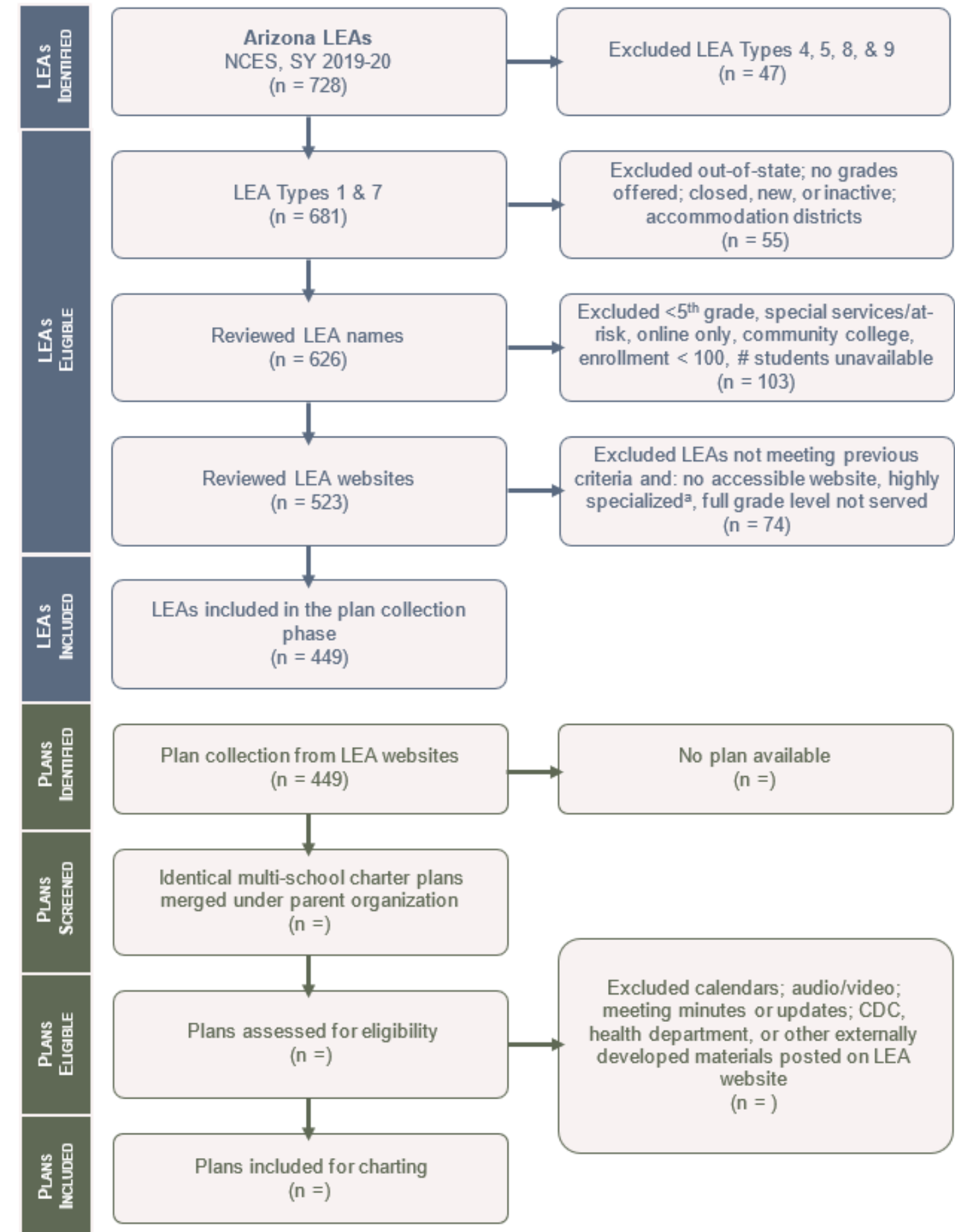


So Far, So Good

All 449 LEA websites visited

Revisiting final 76 LEAs this month

FLOW DIAGRAM (ADAPTED FROM PRISMA¹⁴)

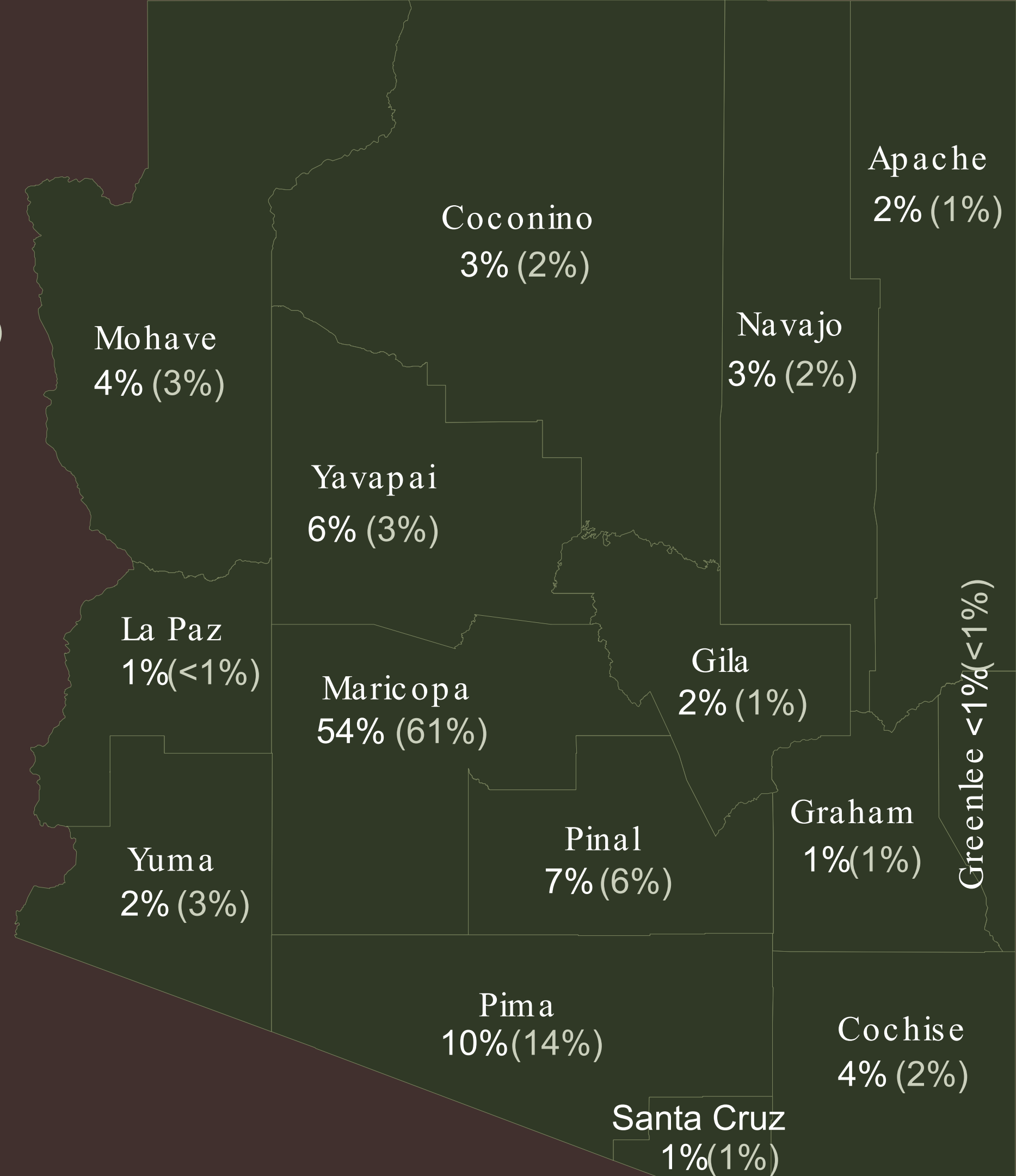


By County

% OF THE 442 LEA S WITH PLANS
(2019 % OF AZ POPULATION – U.S. C ENSUS)

267 charters

175 regular school districts



By County

% OF THE 442 LEA S WITH PLANS
(2019 % OF AZ POPULATION – U.S. C ENSUS)

333 Formal Plans

244 Distance Learning Plans

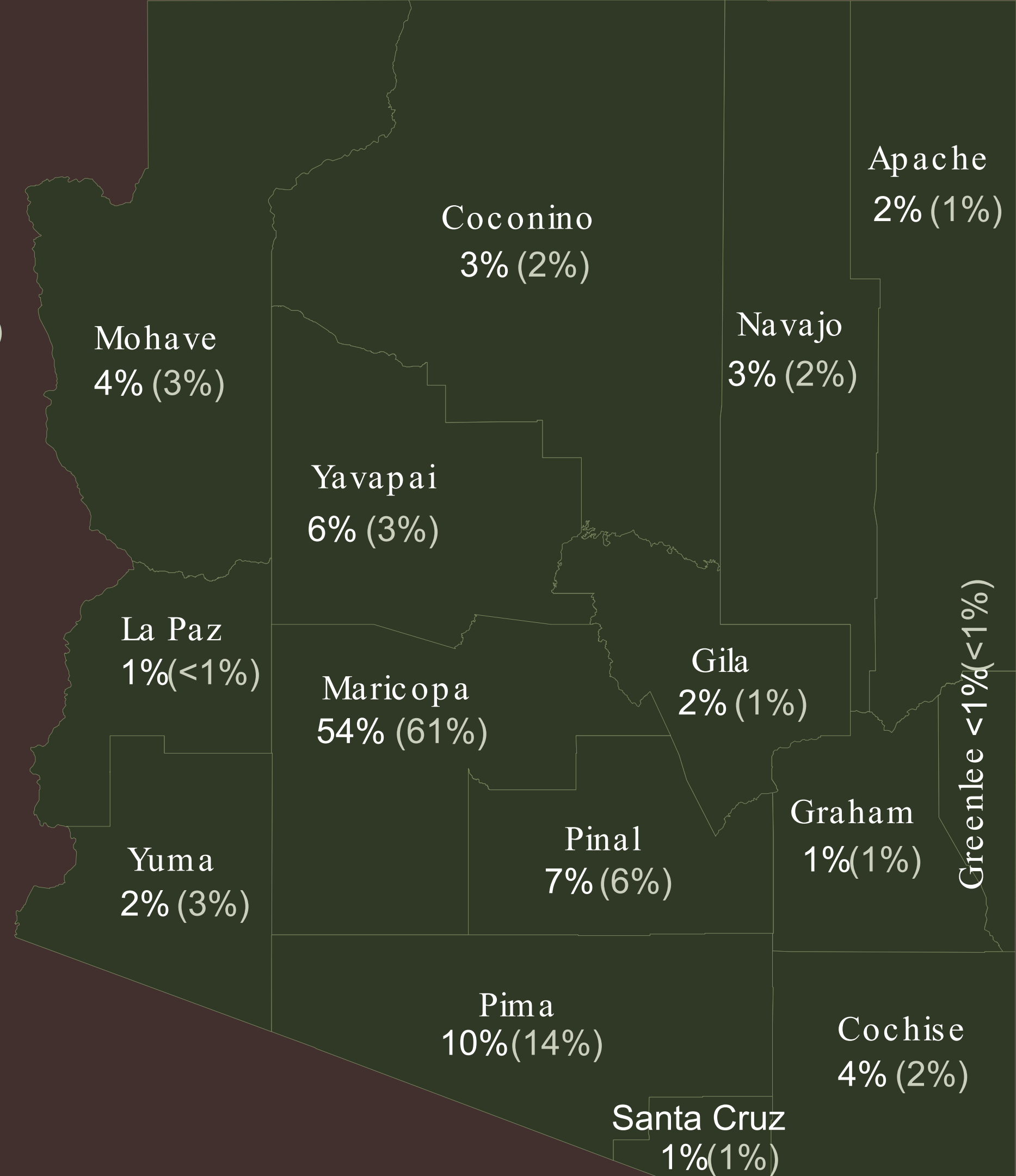
351 Supplement Collections

130 Stakeholder Engagement Posts

18 Stakeholder Engagement Surveys

7 No plans available

76 TBD



What am I seeing?

LEA RESPONSES ARE EVOLVING

- 01 VARIATION IN REOPENING MODELS

In person, hybrid, full online, which have become **more formalized** from July until now
- 02 VARIATION IN REOPENING STAGES

From **online to hybrid or in-person**, with **different start dates** for different districts and difficult to - predict **plan changes & reversions**
- 03 ENHANCED RELIANCE ON PUBLIC HEALTH OVER TIME

Compared to the summer, LEAs are **referencing county, state & federal public health metrics** more



CAS-Informed Outcomes

- 01 How did LEAs adapt plans to changing conditions from various, nested levels of influence?
- 02 Who/what played key roles in plan development & outcomes?
- 03 What emerged from LEA Health Department Interactions? - County



Use of Findings





Retrospective Evaluation of District Openings amid COVID-19

- ADHS
Presentation of findings, with an emphasis on the role of County Health Departments & COVID outcomes
- ADE
Presentation of findings, with an emphasis on plan development, characteristics & student outcomes
- PEER - REVIEWED LITERATURE
 1. Scoping review of LEA plans
 2. CAS-informed methods paper
 3. Results



Thank You!

Theresa LeGros

DREJZA@ARIZONA.EDU

nutritioneval.arizona.edu