

Power Analysis: Tools for Developing Strategy to Advance Structural Change

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University of Wisconsin
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH



County Health
Rankings & Roadmaps

Power Over, To, With, and Within

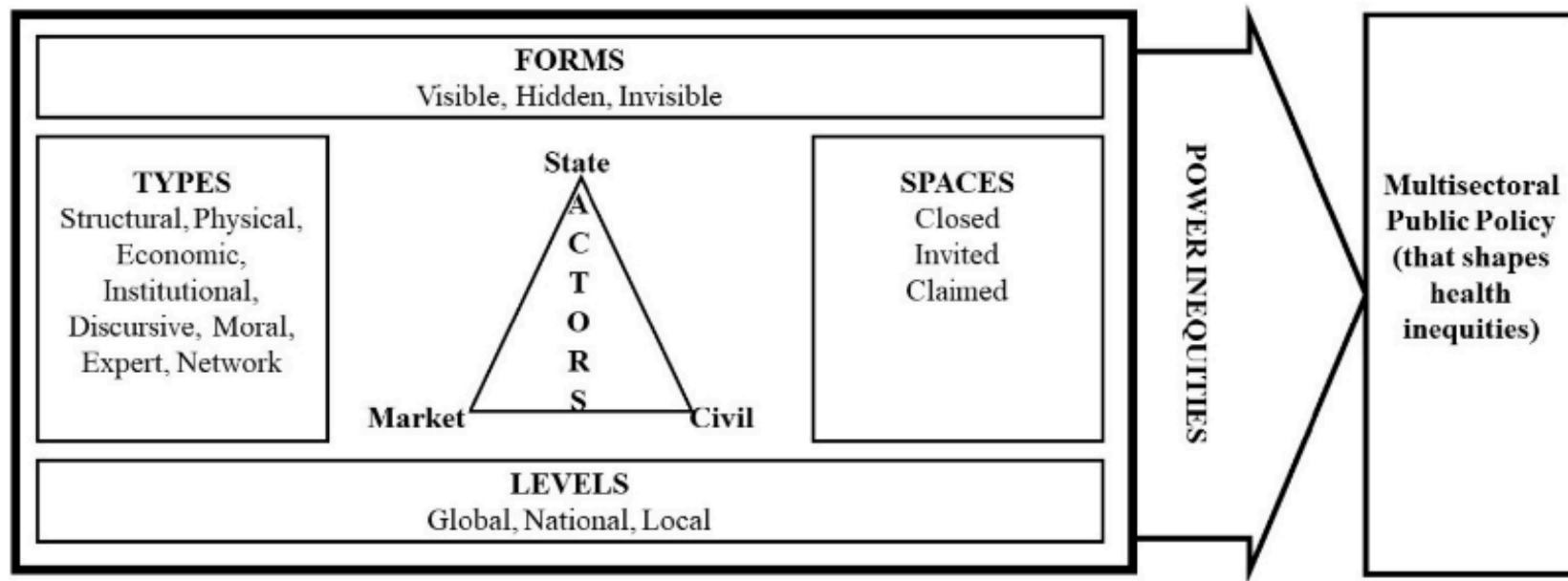
Power Over	Domination or control of one person, group or institution over another
Power To	Individual ability to act Communities having the capabilities to achieve their desired ends
Power With	Collective action, the ability to act together Building alliances with other groups to achieve common goals
Power Within	Individual or collective sense of self-worth, value, dignity
References	Allen, 1998; Hunjan & Keophilavong, 2010; VeneKlasen et al., 2007; Popay et al., 2021

Source of Power	Description
	Power derived from:
Knowledge	Information and technical expertise
Moral	Shaping the principles and actions that others believe to be right or wrong
Economic	Material resources, primarily through controlling the production of goods and services and through wealth
Political (or State)	Governing structures that legitimize the ability to regulate, punish, discipline, and (re)distribute resources
Ideological (or Discursive or Narrative)	Shaping how people make sense of the world and understand issues and events
Physical (or Military)	Use or threat of force or violence
People (or Solidarity)	People in relationship, working together in networks and alliances
Disruptive	Withholding consent, resisting, or noncooperation with the status quo

Three Faces of Power

Visible	Organizing people and resources to influence decisions
Hidden	Building infrastructure to influence what's on the agenda
Invisible	Influencing worldview to make what's currently impossible become commonsense
References	<i>Lukes (1974); Grassroots Power Project</i>

Health Equity Power Framework



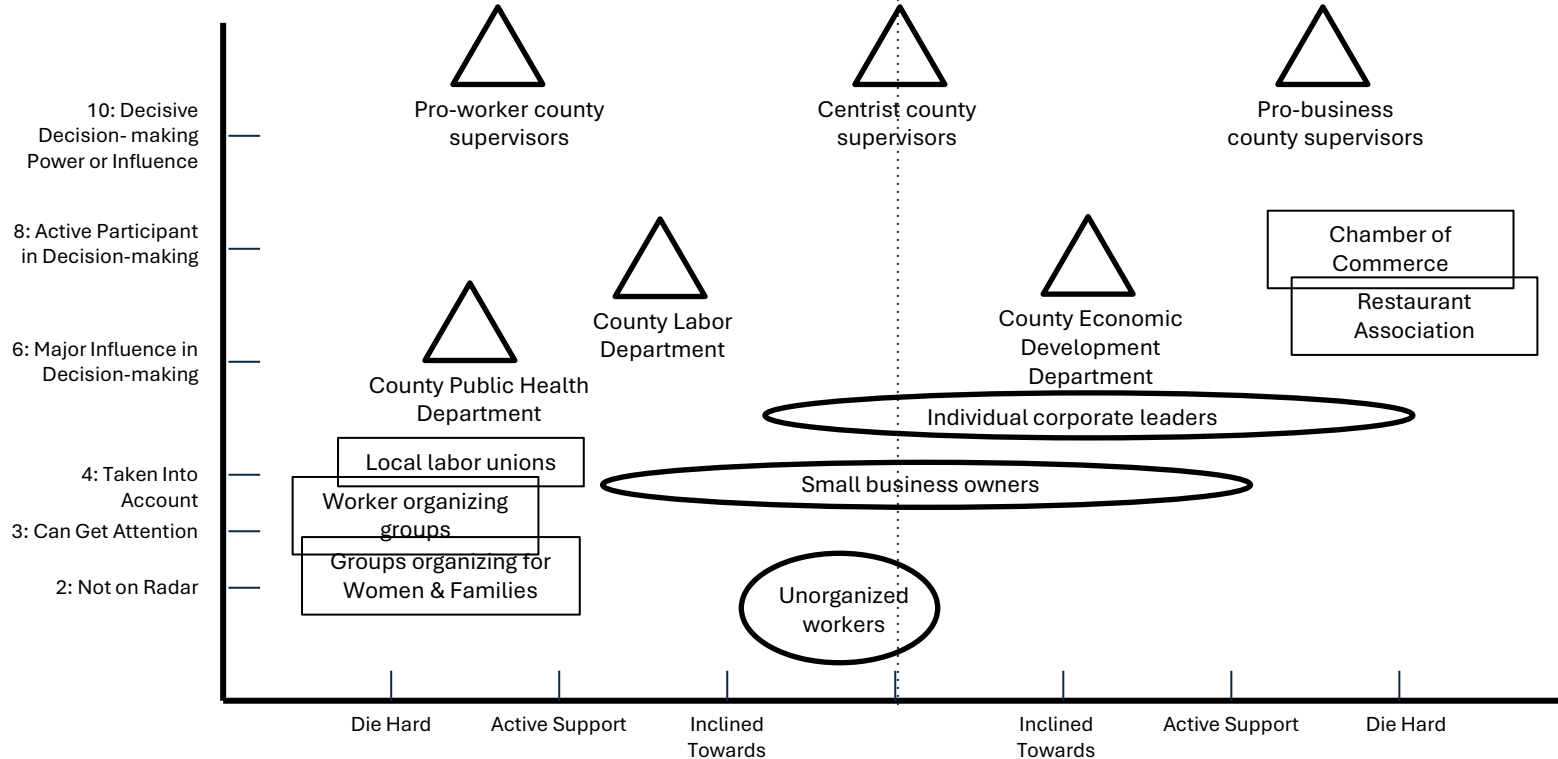
Equity Agenda

Pass paid sick day
policy

Power Analysis Example: Paid Sick Days

Opposing Agenda

Leave it to corporations
to decide whether to give
their workers paid sick
time

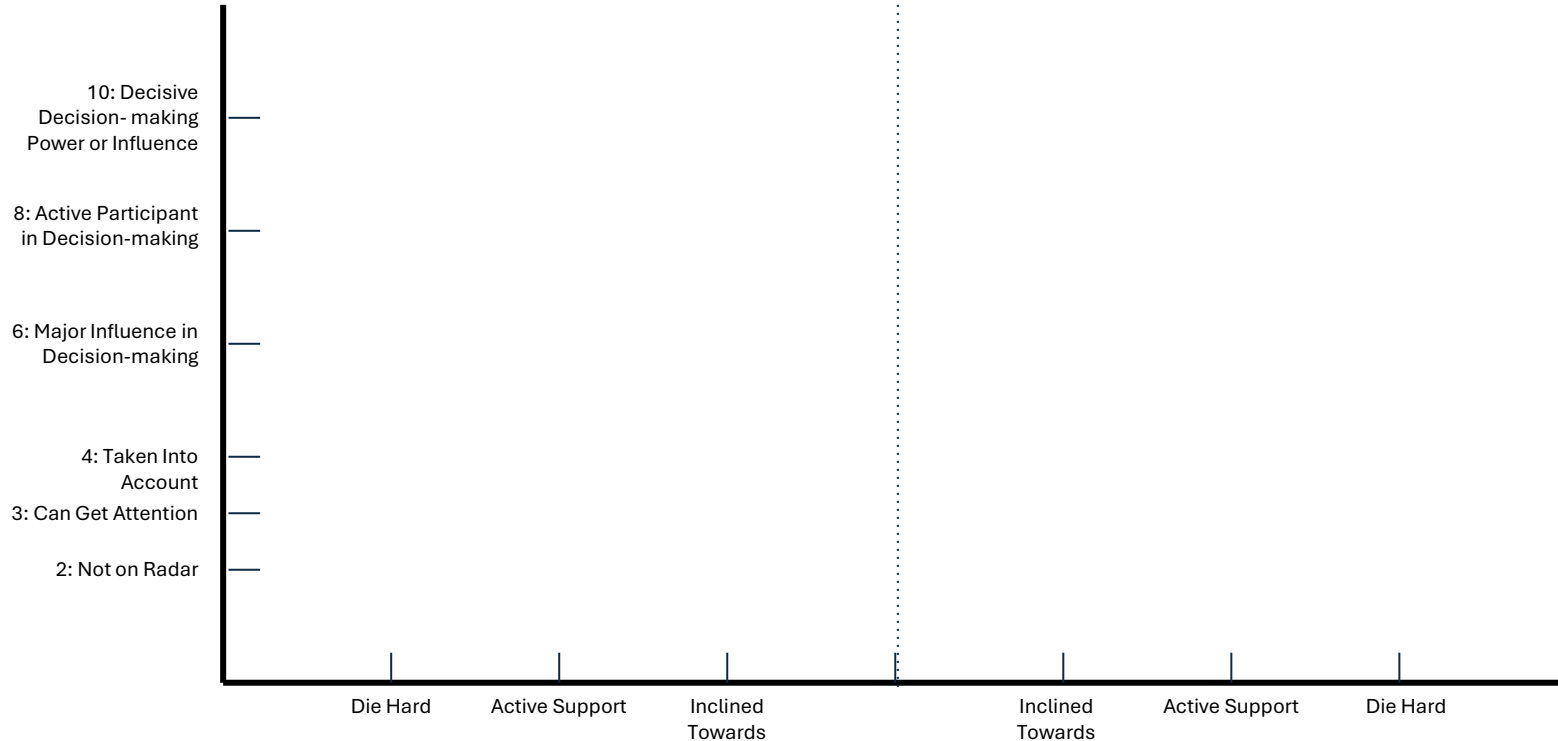


Equity Agenda



Power Analysis Exercise

Opposing Agenda



Power Analysis: Strategy Questions

- What are your roles in shifting power relations and passing legislation?
- What action strategies could you to take based on this power analysis?
- Which groups are the most important to influence?
- Whose influence do you have the ability to sway? What are their interests?
- What individual and organizational relationships do you currently have that you can leverage?
- What relationships do you need to cultivate?
- What actions can you take to limit the influence of the groups who oppose our agenda?

Community Organizing

- What organizing groups work in your jurisdictions or on the issues you work on?
- How might you partner with them?

Building Ideological Power

- What dominant narratives are standing in the way of change on the issue you are working on?
- What transformative narratives would help make room for progress?
- How can you build the narrative infrastructure needed to make these transformative narratives dominant?

Thank you!

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