Lower income communities are often the location of choice for smoke shops, liquor stores and other adult-focused businesses. However, due to the high numbers of these businesses in such areas, they are one of several community factors that have been identified as lowering the life expectancy, health, and quality of life for those living nearby. Smart policy solutions can mitigate some of these challenges and give residents an opportunity to thrive.

Catherine Patterson is the co-executive director of CityHealth – an organization dedicated to promoting local solutions that can give everyone the opportunity to live healthy, full lives.

Most recently, Ms. Patterson presented on a CityHealth report examining the relationship between alcohol policy/practices and violent crime in cities. She also presented at the National Association of County and City Health Officials annual conference about how community-centered alcohol licensing and practices can lead to better health outcomes.