



Parks After Dark

Lighting the way for prevention and intervention



California Conference of Local Health Officers

Violence as a Public Health Issue Panel

October 5, 2016

Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention

- Identify and address risk and protective factors
- Socio-ecological model (individual, peer/family, community, environment, policy/systems)
- *Coordinates with intervention, reentry, community policing*

Public Health Role

- Provide data to tell the story / measure impact
- Identify best practices and develop innovative strategies
- Facilitate collaboration across sectors & community
- Educate
- **Lift up work of other sectors**

Parks After Dark Health Equity Award Video

Winner: Large County Practice for Advancing Healthy
Equity, California Endowment (2014)

<http://youtu.be/7u1wN8Fbg48>



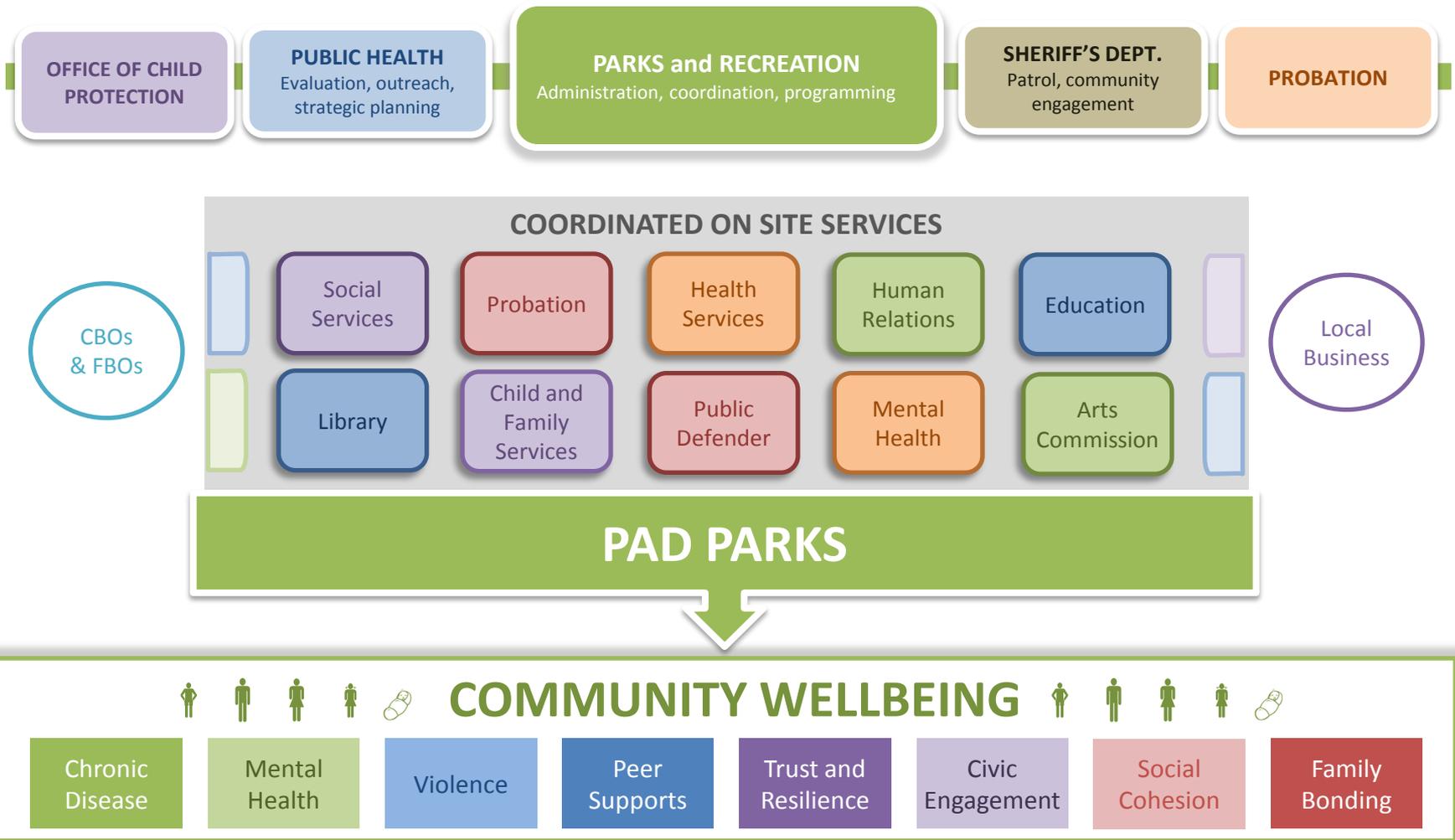
Violence prevention strategy > health equity

PAD provides a community-based framework for prevention and intervention

- Decrease violence
- Promote physical activity >> chronic disease
- Improve social cohesion >> mental health
- Build community trust
- Provide services in safe & welcoming space
- Strong network of multi-sector collaboration
- Cost savings



Parks After Dark Model of Collaboration



PAD Model

Department of Parks and Recreation Program

- Extended summer evening hours at parks, varied programs and resources
- Collaborative effort: County Board of Supervisors and Chief Executive Office, Public Health, Sheriff, Probation, Office of Child Protection, CBOs...



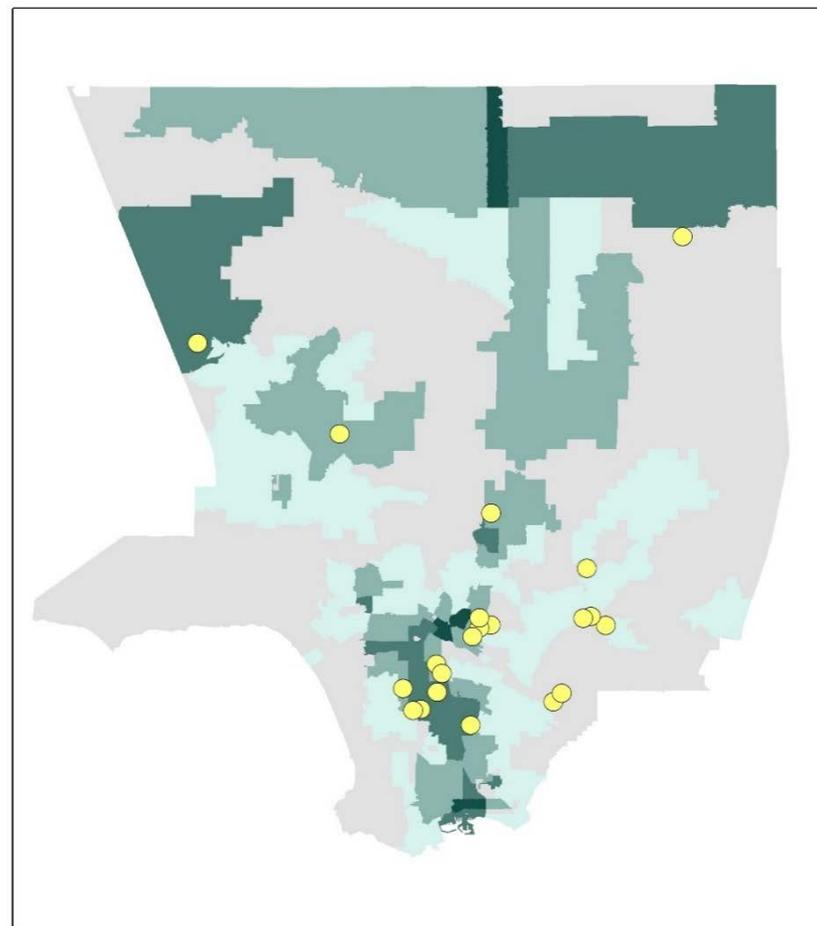
DPH support

- Research and evaluation, strategic planning
- Health education and outreach (walking clubs, bike safety, health education, resource fair)

21 Parks in high need communities

- Unincorporated communities
- Economic hardship
- Assault Rates
- Obesity prevalence
- **System-involved youth**

2016 Parks After Dark Parks
Assault-related ED visits and hospitalizations in trauma centers (2013)



PAD Expansion Timeline

2010: 3 parks

Prevention strategy of County's Gang Violence Reduction Initiative

2012: 6 parks

DPH Community Transformation Grant (CTG) funding adds 3 parks

2014: Grant ends early + PAD Strategic Plan + HIA = CEO backfills lost \$ NCC

2015: 9 parks

Supervisor Solis funds 3 additional parks in SD1 her first year in office

2016: 21 Parks Countywide

CEO mobilizes to identify county funding:

- DPH Trauma Prevention Initiative
- **Probation Title IV-E Waiver funds**



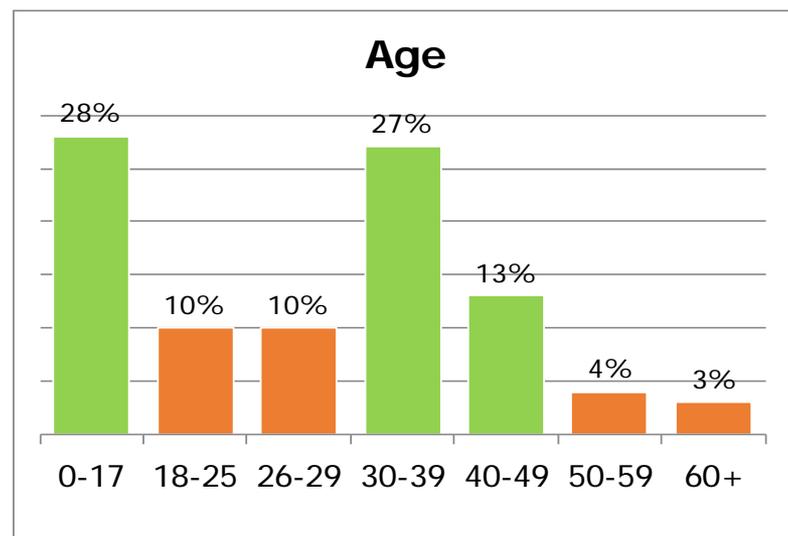
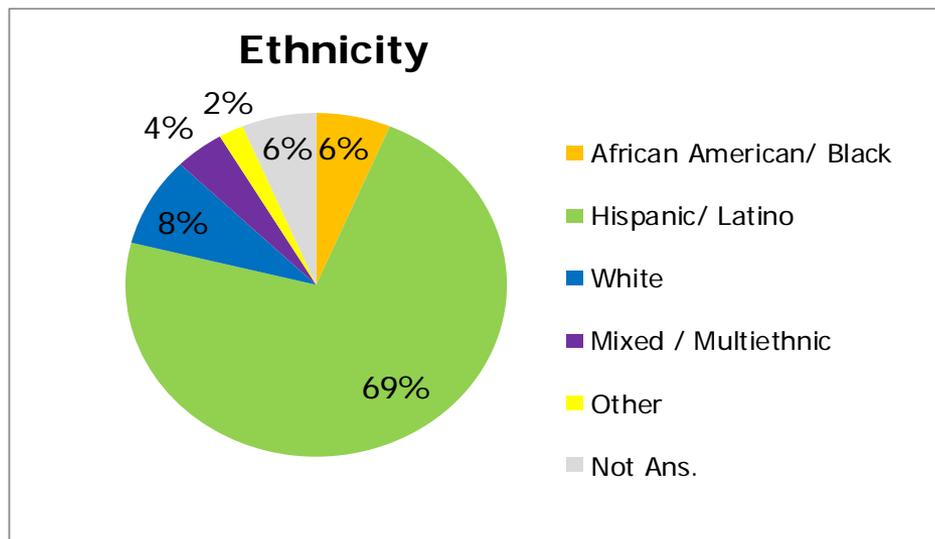
PAD builds community networks

- Park staff = trusted community leaders & liaisons
- Community planning meetings
- Inspires unique, grassroots programming
 - Neighborhood potluck @ Pamela Park
 - Ex-gang member provides free haircuts @ Jesse Owens Park
- Park staff leverage networks built by PAD year-round

*“Due to the change in the image and reputation of the park... [staff] are more engaged with the community... management has observed the success of PAD and are approaching programming at other County parks with similar strategies of networking and community building.”
(Parks and Rec staff; HIA report)*

Participation and Reach

- 21 parks countywide
- 290,000 visits from 2010-2015 (6-9 weeks per year, 3 days per week)
- 2016: estimated additional 150,000-170,000 visits



- 98% would participate again / recommend to a friend

Increased Physical Activity

- 83% of PAD participants engaged in physical activity during PAD, including residents who indicated a sedentary lifestyle (2015).
- This translates into a 5% decrease in the burden of diabetes, dementia, and heart disease based on year-round weekly participation in PAD physical activities.
- Expanding PAD to 16 sites could save three premature deaths from cardiovascular disease each year.

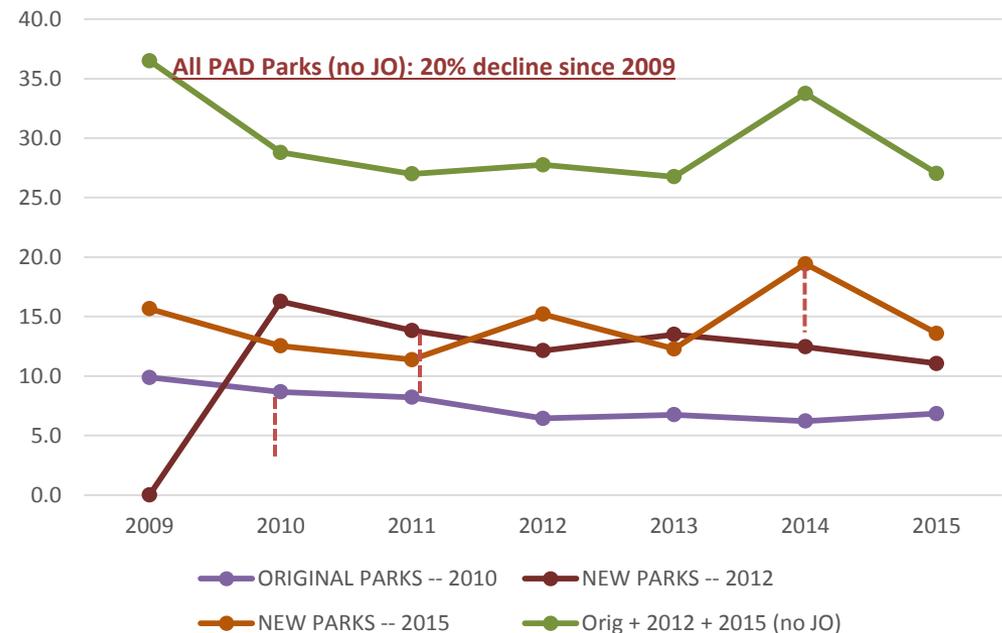


Decreased Violence

Between 2009 and 2013, 32% decrease in serious and violent crime in the 3 original PAD parks vs 18% increase in comparison parks in neighboring communities.

- Original PAD Parks (2009-2015): 31% ↓
- 2012 PAD Parks (2011-2015): 20% ↓
- 2015 PAD Parks (2014-2015): 30% ↓

Part I Crimes per Week During PAD, by Start Date



Positive community/deputy relationships

- 94% felt safe attending PAD (2015)
- Deputies + Social Connections made at PAD made the community safer

“The officers were great that they actually participated in some of the events. Which really made it like *they were part of the community.*”



Social cohesion

Participants overwhelmingly agreed that PAD improves relationships with neighbors (91%)



*"Staff and officers are doing a great job to bring the community members out to socialize together."
(Salazar Park)*

"New friends that we see each summer; It has given my kids (and me) a social life that I could not otherwise provide." (Loma Alta Park)



PAD is cost effective

Saved the county an estimated \$1 million in reduced criminal justice and healthcare costs, 2009-2013

Description	Avg Cost Per Park	Current 6 Parks	10 Parks	16 Parks
Estimated PAD costs (2013 figures) plus staff to coordinate, intervention workers, administrative overhead, evaluation	\$317,250	\$891,000	\$1,350,000	\$2,000,000
Potential savings in county criminal justice expenditures including law enforcement, legal and adjudication, and custody and supervision costs*	\$460,000	\$1,380,000	unknown	unknown
Value of healthcare cost savings from year-round physical activity that achieves a 5% reduction in disease burden of diabetes, dementia and heart disease**	\$85,000	\$510,000	\$850,000	\$1,360,000
Average annual cost savings	\$227,750	\$999,000	unknown	unknown

PAD incorporated in multisector initiatives

Chronic
Disease &
Violence
Prevention

DPH
Strategic
Plan

Coordinated
Health Services
& Trauma
Prevention

LA Health
Agency
Strategic
Priorities

Child & Family
Well-being

Office of
Child
Protection
Strategic
Plan

Social Equity
for Boys &
Men of Color

My
Brother's
Keeper
Initiative

Park Therapy Pilot

Innovative, non-traditional mental health service delivery at 4 South LA park sites

- Department of Mental Health partnership
- Increase education and awareness, reduce stigma
 - Wellness: (Zumba, arts, Tai-chi, yoga, healthy cooking)
 - Therapy: 1) Talking Circles, referrals; 2) on-site therapy
- Leverages existing Prevention Early Intervention contracts
- *Mental Health First Aid training of park staff*
- *Probation youth and family referrals*



Contact information

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