

2022 Parks After Dark Evaluation Report

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2022 Parks After Dark Evaluation Report

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	3
Table of Exhibits.....	6
Executive Summary.....	11
Introduction	11
Goal 1: Decrease Community Violence and Increase Perceptions of Safety	11
Goal 2: Increase Collaboration among Different Stakeholders	12
Goal 3: Increase Social Cohesion and Family Bonding.....	13
Goal 4: Increase Access to Quality Recreational Programming and Innovative Services.....	13
Goal 5: Increase Physical Activity, and Decrease Chronic Disease Risk	14
Goal 6: Achieve Cost Savings.....	15
Conclusions and Recommendations	15
Introduction	17
PAD Overview and UCLA Evaluation	17
PAD Logic Model and Evaluation Approach	18
Goal 1: Decrease Community Violence and Increase Perceptions of Safety	20
Part I and Part II Crime Rates	20
Part I and Part II Crime Long-Term Trends	21
Differences in Daily Crime Rates between PAD and Comparison Parks	23
Reduction in Part I and II Crime Rates by PAD Group.....	23
Cumulative Reduction in Part I and II Crimes	24
PAD Attendees on Perceptions of Safety and Satisfaction with Law Enforcement	26
PAD Key Informants on Safety and Crime	28
Role of Law Enforcement and Deputy Engagement at PAD	28
Role of Community Interventionists and DPH at PAD to Promote Safety	29
Goal 2: Increase Collaboration among Different Stakeholders	31
Departments and Agencies that Collaborated in PAD.....	31
Perceptions of Cross-Sector Collaboration in PAD	31
PAD Activities to Promote Cross-Sector Collaboration.....	33

Goal 3: Increase Social Cohesion and Family Bonding.....	35
PAD Participant Perceptions of Social Cohesion and Family Bonding	35
PAD Key Informants on Social Cohesion and Family Bonding	37
Goal 4: Increase Access to Quality Recreational Programming and Innovative Services.....	39
PAD Estimated Attendance and Reach.....	39
PAD Attendance	39
PAD Reach	41
PAD Attendee Characteristics in 2022.....	42
PAD Outreach.....	43
PAD Programming.....	44
Perceptions on PAD’s Value	45
PAD Attendee Perceptions	45
PAD Key Informant Perception.....	46
Goal 5: Increase Physical Activity, and Decrease Chronic Disease Risk	48
Attendees’ Routine Physical Activity	48
Attendees’ Physical Activity during PAD	48
PAD Key Informants on Physical Activity during PAD	50
Potential Impact of PAD on Disease Burden	51
Goal 6: Achieve Cost Savings.....	53
PAD Program Expenditures	53
Potential PAD Cost Savings Due to Increased Physical Activity	53
Potential PAD Cost Savings Due to Reduced Crime.....	54
Estimated Cost Savings	55
2022 Winter PAD	56
2022 Winter PAD Participant Survey Findings.....	56
Winter PAD Attendee Characteristics	56
Goal 1: Decrease Community Violence and Increase Perceptions of Safety	56
Goal 2: Increase Collaboration among Different Stakeholders.....	57
Goal 3: Increase Social Cohesion and Family Bonding.....	57

Goal 4: Increase Access to Quality Recreational Programming and Innovative Services	59
Goal 5: Increase Physical Activity, and Decrease Disease Risk	60
Winter PAD Satisfaction	61
Takeaways from Winter PAD	61
Conclusions and Recommendations	63
Goal 1: Decrease Community Violence and Increase Perceptions of Safety	63
Goal 2: Increase Collaboration among Different Stakeholders	64
Goal 3: Increase Social Cohesion and Family Bonding	65
Goal 4: Increase Access to Quality Recreational Programming and Innovative Services	65
Goal 5: Increase Physical Activity, and Decrease Chronic Disease Risk	66
Goal 6: Achieve Cost Savings	67

Table of Exhibits

Exhibit 1: Acronyms and Definitions	9
Exhibit 2: PAD Logic Model	18
Exhibit 3: Part I Daily Crime Rates per 100,000 Population, PAD Parks Areas and All Los Angeles (LA) County Parks, 2010-2022	21
Exhibit 4: Part II Daily Crime Rate per 100,000 Population, near PAD Parks and All Los Angeles (LA) County Parks, 2010-2022	22
Exhibit 5: Estimated Cumulative Reduction in Predicted Rates of Daily Part I Crimes per 100,000 Population in PAD Parks by PAD Group, 2010-2022.....	23
Exhibit 6: Estimated Cumulative Reduction in Rate of Daily Part II Crimes per 100,000 Population in PAD Parks by PAD Group, 2010-2022.....	24
Exhibit 7: Estimated Cumulative Change in Number of Part I Crime versus Comparison Parks, 2010-2022	25
Exhibit 8: Estimated Cumulative Change in Number of Part II Crime versus Comparison Parks, 2010-2022	25
Exhibit 9: PAD Attendees’ Perceptions of Safety at PAD Parks and in their Neighborhoods in Percentages (%), Summer 2022	26
Exhibit 10: PAD Attendees on Factors that Contributed to Feelings of Safety in Percentages (%), Summer 2022.....	26
Exhibit 11: Selected Illustrative Comments about PAD and Park Safety, Summer 2022	27
Exhibit 12: PAD Key Informants on PAD Effectiveness in Decreasing Community Violence and Increasing Community Safety.....	28
Exhibit 13: PAD Key Informants on Increased Collaboration Amongst Participating Stakeholders	32
Exhibit 14: Activities to Improve Communication and Cross-Sector Collaboration by PAD Key Informants	33
Exhibit 15: PAD Participants Perceptions of Social Cohesion in Percentages (%), Summer 2022	35

Exhibit 16: Selected Illustrative Comments about Family Attendance and Bonding during PAD, Summer 2022.....	36
Exhibit 17: PAD Key Informants on PAD Impact on Social Cohesion and Family Bonding	37
Exhibit 18: Key Informant Illustrative Examples on PAD Promoting Social Cohesion and Community Well-being	37
Exhibit 19: Total PAD Visits by Park and PAD Group, Summer 2022	40
Exhibit 20: Zip Codes of Residence of PAD Participant Survey Respondents in Los Angeles County, Summer 2022	41
Exhibit 21: Selected Photos Depicting Characteristics of PAD Attendees, Summer 2022	42
Exhibit 22: Selected Illustrative Comments Reflecting Characteristics of PAD Attendees, Summer 2022	43
Exhibit 23: PAD Participants’ Reports of How They Learned about PAD, Summer 2022.....	43
Exhibit 24: Selected Comments about PAD Attendance and Outreach, 2022.....	44
Exhibit 25: Perceptions of PAD Participants on Value of PAD, Summer 2022	45
Exhibit 26: Selected Comments about PAD Value, Summer 2022.....	46
Exhibit 27: PAD Key Informants on PAD Satisfaction and Impact.....	46
Exhibit 28: Participants’ Physical Activity at PAD and by Type of Activity in Percentages (%), Summer 2022.....	49
Exhibit 29: Selected Photos of Physical Activity at PAD, Summer 2022	49
Exhibit 30: PAD Key Informants on PAD Effectiveness in Improving Access to Physical Activity and Health Education.....	50
Exhibit 31: Estimated Change in Burden of Disease from PAD Physical Activity by Chronic Condition Type, Summer 2022.....	52
Exhibit 32: PAD Overall Program Expenditures by Category, Summer 2022	53
Exhibit 33: Estimated Cost Savings Associated with Reduced Burden of Disease in PAD, 2022 ..	54

Exhibit 34: Estimated Cumulative Cost Savings Associated with Reduction in Part I Crimes in Census Tracts Surrounding PAD Parks, 2010-2022.....	55
Exhibit 35: Estimated Cost Savings Associated with Reduction in Part I Crimes in Census Tracts Surrounding PAD Parks, 2022	55
Exhibit 36: Select Photos of Deputy Sheriffs at PAD, Winter 2022	57
Exhibit 37: Select Photos of Family and Community Bonding at PAD, Winter 2022.....	58
Exhibit 38: Attendee Perspectives on Social Cohesion and Family and Community Well-being at PAD, Winter 2022	59
Exhibit 39: PAD Attendees on Outreach Method, Winter 2022	59
Exhibit 40: Select Photos of “Winter Wonderland” Programming, Winter 2022	60

Exhibit 1 defines acronyms and terms referenced throughout the report.

Exhibit 1: Acronyms and Definitions

Acronym	Definition
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
Census Tract	Census Tracts are an area roughly equal to a neighborhood; the area is a small, relatively permanent subdivision of a county. Census Tracts surrounding parks were used to assess crime.
CEO	Chief Executive Office
CIW	Community Intervention Worker
County	Los Angeles County
DALYs	Disability Adjusted Life Years
DCFS	Department of Children and Family Services
DD	Difference in Differences; a method of estimating impact of a program. Using this method, the change in crime rates in PAD parks before and after PAD implementation are compared to the difference in crime rates in comparison parks during the same time periods. If the rate of crime had declined more in PAD parks than comparison parks, the DD analyses indicates PAD had led to reduction in crime, all else being equal.
DMH	Department of Mental Health
DPH	Department of Public Health
DPR	Department of Parks and Recreation
FPL	Federal Poverty Level
GVRI	Gang Violence Reduction Initiative
GRYD	Los Angeles Gang Reduction Youth Development
ITHIM	Integrated Transport and Health Impacts Model; was originally developed to assess the impact of different modes of transportation such as walking and bicycling on years of life lost (YLL), years living with disability (YLD), and disability adjusted life years (DALYs) for a number of chronic conditions.
LAPD	Los Angeles Police Department
LASD	Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. The Parks Bureau was established in 2010 to provide security for County parks. Deputies are assigned at PAD to provide safety patrol and engage with community.
METs	Metabolic equivalents of task; a measure of intensity of exercise based on oxygen consumption.
OCP	Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection; established in 2015 and has been involved with helping find funding for PAD.
PAD	Parks After Dark
PAD Group One	The three original PAD parks that started in 2010, including Pamela, Roosevelt, and Ted Watkins Parks.
PAD Group Two	The three PAD parks that started in 2012, including City Terrace, Loma Alta, and Jesse Owens Parks.
PAD Group Three	The three PAD parks that started in 2015, including Basset, Salazar, and San Angelo Parks.
PAD Group Four	The 12 PAD parks that started in 2016, including Adventure, Allen Martin, Athens, Belvedere, Bethune, East Rancho Dominguez, El Cariso, Helen Keller, Mayberry, Obregon, Stephen Sorensen, and Val Verde Parks.
PAD Group Five	The two PAD parks that started in 2017, including Amigo and Sorensen Parks.
PAD Group Six	The 10 PAD parks that started in 2018, including Carver, Charter Oak, Lane, Jackie Robinson, Mona, Rimgrove, Saybrook, Steinmetz, Valleydale, and Washington Parks.

Acronym	Definition
PAD Group Seven	The park that started in 2022, including Magic Johnson Park.
Part I crimes	Part I crimes are serious and violent crimes that include homicide, aggravated assault, rape, larceny theft, robbery, grand theft auto, and arson.
Part II crimes	Part II crimes include non-violent and low-level offenses such as narcotics, disorderly conduct, non-aggravated assaults, vandalism, among others.
RDs	Reporting Districts; a unit of geography used by law enforcement agencies to report crimes.
SDs	Supervisory Districts; Los Angeles County is divided into five Supervisory Districts.
SNL	Summer Night Lights; a program operated by the City of Los Angeles. Long Beach and Pasadena have similar programs.
SSP	Safe Summer Parks; a model for programs designed to reduce youth violence in high risk and high needs communities.
UCLA	UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
YLD	Years living with disability
YLL	Years of life lost

Executive Summary

Introduction

Parks After Dark (PAD) is a program of Los Angeles County (County) designed to build resilient communities by envisioning parks as locations for promotion of safety, physical and mental health, as well as family and overall community well-being. PAD began in 2010 as the prevention strategy of the County's Gang Violence Reduction Initiative and has since evolved into a key County prevention and intervention strategy. PAD extends hours of park operation (6-10 PM) during summer weekend evenings (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights) and offers a variety of free activities and resources for attendees of all ages.

PAD goals include: 1) decrease community violence and increase perceptions safety; 2) facilitate cross-sector collaboration in park communities and county-wide; 3) increase social cohesion, and family and community well-being; 4) increase access to free recreational programming, health and social services that reflect the interests and needs of communities served; 5) increase physical activity and decrease chronic disease risk; and 6) achieve cost savings. UCLA used multiple data sources to evaluate the progress of PAD towards its six goals. The evaluation findings for each goal are included below.

Goal 1: Decrease Community Violence and Increase Perceptions of Safety

Evidence indicated that PAD attendees felt safe at PAD even when they did not feel safe in their neighborhoods where PAD parks were usually located. The feelings of safety were due to the presence of Deputy Sheriffs, park staff, and community members, as well as park features such as adequate lighting, clean facilities, and signage. In addition, analysis of crime data indicated that while average Part I and Part II crime rates near PAD parks were higher than that of Los Angeles County, PAD may have avoided a notable number of Part I and Part II crimes between 2010 and 2022, relative to comparison parks without PAD.

These conclusions are supported by the following evidence:

- As found in Los Angeles Sheriff Department (LASD) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) crime data, the average Part I and Part II crime rates near PAD parks were higher than the average crime rates near all Los Angeles County parks from 2010 to 2022.
- In nearly all PAD Groups, there was a decline in Part I and Part II crimes from the year of implementation to 2022. These reductions per PAD Group were as high as -31% for Part I crimes and -25% for Part II crimes.

- Overall, difference-in-difference (DD) findings indicated a reduction in crime rates in PAD parks after implementation of PAD, when compared to similar parks that did not implement PAD with 115 fewer Part I crimes and 74 fewer Part II crimes between 2010 and 2022 in all PAD parks.
- As indicated in summer 2022 PAD participant surveys, 92% felt safe attending PAD. Among PAD attendees who expressed not feeling safe in their neighborhood, 55% felt safe at PAD.
- The majority of PAD attendees agreed that law enforcement engaged positively with community members (89%) and that the number of Deputy Sheriffs at PAD was just right (68%). Attendees indicated the synergistic effect of multiple factors for creating a safe environment, and specifically identified Deputy Sheriffs (62%), park staff (55%), people around (40%), and the positive atmosphere (34%) as factors contributing to their feelings of safety at PAD.
- In key informant surveys, PAD partners agreed that PAD improved attendees' perception of safety (8.2 of 10; where 0 = strongly disagree and 10 = strongly agree); reduced crime in participating park communities (8.1); and improved relationships between community members and law enforcement (8.1).
- In key informant interviews, Deputy Sheriffs felt they were seen as much more approachable as a result of PAD; and DPR staff emphasized the necessity of continuous and meaningful engagement from LASD, particularly in neighborhoods that are mistrusting of police presence.

Goal 2: Increase Collaboration among Different Stakeholders

PAD is led by DPR, in partnership with the County Board of Supervisors, Chief Executive Office (CEO), Department of Public Health (DPH), LASD, Probation Department, and other government agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs). PAD implementation fostered communication, collaboration, and relationship-building amongst participating organizations. Collaborations were enhanced through innovative strategies, such as stakeholder engagement meetings and community resource fairs.

These conclusions are supported by the following evidence:

- In key informant surveys, PAD partners strongly agreed that PAD improved relationships between County departments and community members (8.8 of 10); communication and collaboration with PAD partners (8.8); and collaboration between parks and CBOs (8.7).
- Opportunities for improving cross-sector collaboration through PAD were identified by partners to be increasing marketing and outreach through more networks (60%), greater partner integration into PAD program planning (50%), regular meetings/opportunities for relationship building (50%), and communication regarding PAD progress to partners.

- In key informant interviews, PAD partners identified the innovative ways that PAD engages partners, including stakeholder engagement meetings and community resource fairs.

Goal 3: Increase Social Cohesion and Family Bonding

PAD contributed to social cohesion and community well-being by providing opportunities for neighbors and families to socialize, spend quality time together, and develop positive relationships. PAD offered access to families to participate in activities that they may not otherwise be able to afford.

These conclusions are supported by the following evidence:

- As indicated in summer 2022 PAD participant surveys, 84% reported attending PAD with children. Of those who attended with children, 65% reported attending with children ages 6-12, and fewer reported attending with children ages 0-5 (41%) or 13-18 (28%).
- The overwhelming majority of attendees reported that PAD increased quality time with family members (94%), provided a sense of belonging within the community (93%), and improved their relationship with their neighbors (91%).
- Of those attendees who identified as not living in a close-knit unified community, 66% agreed that PAD improved their relationship with neighbors.
- In key informant surveys, PAD partners strongly agreed that PAD provided opportunities for family members to spend quality time together (9.4 of 10); helped County departments develop a positive relationship with the community (9.3); provided opportunities for youth development (9.1); and improved relationships among community members (9.0) and general well-being of attendees (9.0).
- In key informant interviews, partners emphasized the necessity of tailoring programming to community needs in an effort to increase social cohesion and family bonding through PAD.

Goal 4: Increase Access to Quality Recreational Programming and Innovative Services

PAD increased access to free recreational programming by reaching residents of PAD zip codes and many others living throughout the County. PAD provided a mix of entertainment, physical activity programming, and health and social services that attracted families and attendees of all ages. PAD had high levels of attendee and partner satisfaction.

These conclusions are supported by the following evidence:

- Attendance at PAD during the summer of 2022 was estimated by DPR to roughly include over 137,500 visits by Los Angeles County residents across all 34 parks.
- As indicated in summer 2022 PAD participant surveys, PAD reached the majority of zip codes (62%) in Los Angeles County.
- Most PAD attendees who responded to the summer 2022 participant survey were ages 26-39 (39%), female (65%), and Latinx (62%).
- Many PAD attendees visited the park frequently, independent of PAD, with 80% visiting at least weekly.
- Most attendees learned about PAD because they lived in the area or were walking by (60%), but many learned through PAD flyers (22%) and word of mouth (21%).
- Favorite PAD activities included movie night (32%), organized sports and clinics (17%), concerts/music (16%), and jumper/games (10%), with variation in favorite activity by age.
- The vast majority of attendees would attend PAD again (96%) and would recommend PAD to others (96%).
- Attendees found PAD to be important for their community (94%) and believed the variety of activities to be of interest to their community (93%).
- In key informant surveys, PAD partners agreed that PAD provided a pleasant and welcoming space to provide services (9.3 of 10); provided attendees in high need communities with improved access to quality recreational programming (9.1); and provided opportunities for innovative services at County parks (9.0).

Goal 5: Increase Physical Activity, and Decrease Chronic Disease Risk

PAD increased access to physical activity by providing access to free sports and exercise classes. The majority of attendees who did not meet the recommended activity guidelines for their age participated in physical activity at PAD. PAD findings indicated the likely reduction in disease burden in PAD high-need communities if physical activity levels were sustained year-round.

These conclusions are supported by the following evidence:

- As indicated in summer 2022 PAD participant surveys, most (81%) attendees participated in a physical activity at PAD, including team sports (49%), such as soccer, football, or basketball; walking club (32%); swimming (28%); and exercise classes (27%), such as dancing, boxing, or Zumba.
- Of attendees who did not meet the recommended activity guidelines for their age, 75% participated in physical activity at PAD.
- In key informant surveys, PAD partners agreed that PAD provided attendees with adequate access to physical activity opportunities (9.0 of 10); increased enrollment in other physical activity park programs throughout the year (8.7); and improved access to health education (8.6).

- Using a modified version of the Integrated Transport and Health Impacts Model (ITHIM), the level of physical activity at PAD, if sustained year-round, would primarily reduce stroke and ischemic heart disease, and lead to an overall decline of 11 years of life lost, 11 fewer years of disability adjusted life years, and avoidance of one premature death for the entire PAD population in 2022.

Goal 6: Achieve Cost Savings

UCLA estimated the cost savings of PAD that were associated with reductions in burden of disease and crime. These cost savings were greater than the costs of PAD programming. Cost savings support continued investment in PAD programming.

These conclusions are supported by the following evidence:

- Total PAD expenditures for summer 2022 were \$3.273 million, with an average allocation of \$96,000 per park. DPR service and supply costs constituted 48% of costs, followed by park (29%) and Deputy Sheriff (20%) personnel.
- Estimated cost savings due to reductions in chronic disease because of increased physical activity at PAD were estimated at a total of \$1.447 million. The largest cost savings were due to reduction in morbidity in heart disease (31%), diabetes (31%), and dementia (20%).
- Estimated cost savings due to an estimated cumulative reduction of 115 Part I crimes in areas surrounding PAD parks resulted in a decrease of \$15.887 million in associated costs from 2010-2022. There was an estimated decrease of \$9.936 million in associated costs based on the estimated reduction of 72 Part I crimes in areas surrounding PAD parks in 2022.
- In summer 2022, the estimated \$11.383 million in cost savings associated with PAD included approximately \$1.447 million in reduced health expenditures due to reduction in morbidity and mortality and \$9.936 million due to reductions in crime. These savings are greater than the \$3.273 million in expenditures to implement PAD.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Collectively, the findings indicated that PAD succeeded in making progress towards achieving its goals by provision of recreational programming in areas of Los Angeles County with high rates of crime and burden of disease. PAD programs included free sports, entertainment, and other activities for children and adults in a safe space for communities with few such opportunities and resources. Evidence indicated that PAD contributed to feelings of well-being, family togetherness, and social cohesion; may have reduced crime in PAD parks and their surrounding areas; and may have reduced the burden of disease for attendees that participated in sports and exercise opportunities. Contributors to these results were cross-sector collaboration

between multiple departments in Los Angeles County and governmental funds and resources provided to parks to successfully implement PAD in the summer months.

Select recommendations based on the evaluation findings include:

- ***Meaningful Deputy Sheriff engagement:*** Reduce variation in Deputy Sheriff interaction and engagement with the community from park to park. Encourage more Deputy Sheriff engagement with the community through efforts to walk around and actively participate in PAD activities, interact with youth, and ensure consistent assignment of the same Deputies per park.
- ***Early and year-round planning and convening of partners:*** Bring leadership from key departments together to strategically align resources and efficiently address community needs. Involve individuals who implemented PAD and can offer “on the ground” perspective and experience.
- ***Promote diversity and inclusion:*** Integrate initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion in programming by involving individuals from various ages, races and ethnicities, and other groups who may be commonly excluded or underrepresented.
- ***Utilize a variety of outreach strategies to increase reach:*** Outreach should go beyond the communities where PAD parks are located and utilize a wide variety of modalities including social media platforms and local schools and CBOs who have relationships with potential attendees. Outreach should be conducted well in advance to the start of PAD so potential attendees can plan accordingly.
- ***Offer popular PAD programming year-round:*** Provide year-round physical activity programming based on attendee interest at PAD parks to maximize impact on chronic disease.

Introduction

PAD Overview and UCLA Evaluation

Parks After Dark (PAD) is an innovative Los Angeles County (County) strategy for building resilient communities that re-envision parks as centralized hubs for the promotion of safety, equity, physical and mental health, as well as family and overall community well-being. PAD began in 2010 as the prevention strategy of the County's Gang Violence Reduction Initiative and has since evolved into a key County prevention and intervention strategy. PAD is led by the County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), in partnership with the Probation Department, Department of Public Social Services, and the Department of Public Health (DPH), with support from the Board of Supervisors, Chief Executive Office (CEO), Sheriff's Department, and several other County and community partners.

PAD extends hours of park operation (6-10 PM) during summer weekend evenings (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights) and offers a variety of free activities and resources for attendees of all ages. Additionally, Deputy Sheriffs patrol the parks and interventionists engage community members (South Agency) to ensure safety during PAD. PAD includes recreational activities (e.g., sports clinics, exercise classes, walking clubs), entertainment (e.g., concerts, movies), arts and educational programs (e.g., arts and crafts, cultural programs), teen clubs and activities, and health and social service resource access. Additional areas of emphasis in 2022 include: positive youth development, inclusion of community members in program design, community-driven safety approaches, and promotion of family strengthening, social cohesion, and well-being. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PAD events were not held in 2020 or 2021 but were re-launched in 2022. In 2022, PAD was expanded to include single-day events during Winter and Spring breaks to better serve high-need and vulnerable communities.

The summer program originally started in three parks in 2010 and has since expanded to 34 parks, with periodic inclusion of new parks. PAD parks cover a significant geographic area of Los Angeles County. PAD parks are located primarily in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, with the exception of El Cariso and Jesse Owens Parks, which are located within the City of Los Angeles, but operated by DPR. The communities where PAD parks are located have higher rates of economic hardship, obesity, and violence compared to the other areas of Los Angeles County.

PAD goals include: 1) decrease community violence and increase safety; 2) facilitate cross-sector collaboration in park communities and county-wide; 3) increase social cohesion, and family and community well-being; 4) increase access to free recreational programming, health and social services that reflect the interests and needs of communities served; 5) increase

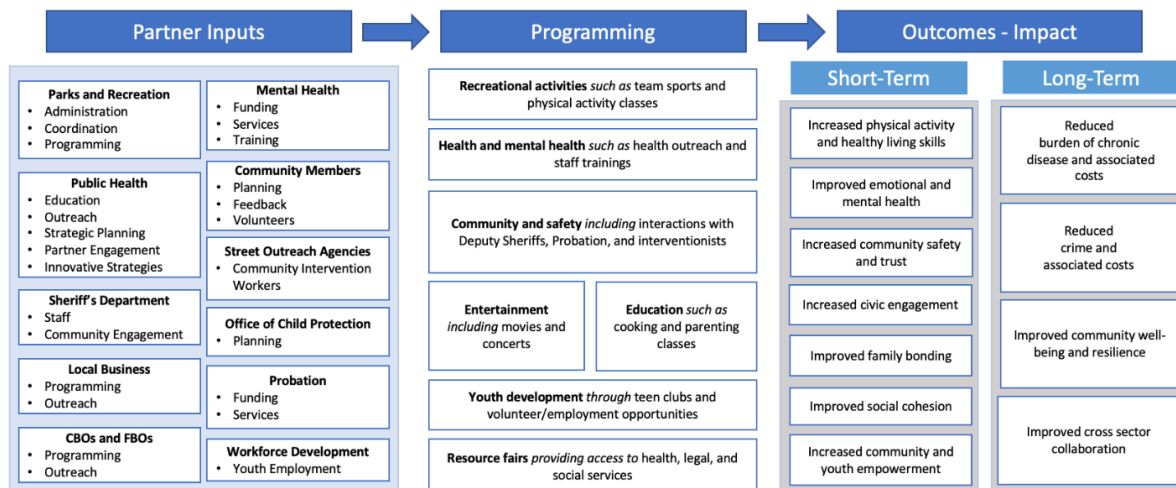
physical activity and decrease chronic disease risk; and 6) achieve cost savings. The evaluation findings in this report describe progress towards the six goals outlined above by exploring relevant process and outcome indicators.

PAD Logic Model and Evaluation Approach

The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research (UCLA) was selected to evaluate the 2022 PAD program. This evaluation follows a similar approach used in prior years with some adjustments and improvements. UCLA aimed to assess the outcomes of PAD given the multifaceted interventions included in the program.

The evaluation approach was aligned with the PAD logic model, which identifies PAD inputs (partners and resources), outputs (programming), and anticipated short- and long-term outcomes of the program (Exhibit 2). The model indicates that partner inputs lead to the provision of programming, which consists of diverse activities. PAD programming is expected to lead to better outcomes including short-term outcomes, such as increased physical activity and improved emotional health, as well as long-term outcomes, such as reduced burden of chronic disease and crime, and their associated costs.

Exhibit 2: PAD Logic Model



The UCLA evaluation included evaluation questions responding to all six program goals by analyzing all available data (see Appendix B1: UCLA Evaluation Questions and PAD Goals, available online in [Appendix B](#)). Available data sources included Census 2020 data, summer and winter 2022 PAD participant surveys, Los Angeles Sheriff Department and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) crime data from 2009-2022, key informant interviews with DPR and

participating partners, and DPR administrative data. The data sources, analytic methods, and data limitations and challenges are available online in [Appendix A](#).

To measure the potential impact of PAD on crime rates, UCLA identified comparison parks in Los Angeles County that had similar geographic and population characteristics as PAD parks. UCLA first excluded parks that lacked open access, had no restrooms (e.g., proxy for minimum facilities required to host an event like PAD), or were not managed by Los Angeles City or County. Among the remaining parks, UCLA developed a model to select comparison parks that matched population characteristics in surrounding Census Tracts and rates of Part I and II crimes (see [Appendix A](#) for more details about comparison park selection).

PAD attendees completed a survey while attending summer PAD (n= 8,109). The number of respondents varied by park, ranging from four at Valleydale Park to 908 at Bethune Park. Descriptives from the summer 2022 participant survey are presented throughout this report, with specific breakdowns by individual park and PAD Group presented in [Appendix B](#). UCLA did not report these findings for Charter Oak, Amigo, George Lane, and Valleydale parks due to small sample sizes. UCLA also presents analysis from the winter 2022 PAD participant survey (n=5,224) in a dedicated winter programming chapter (see chapter, 2022 Winter PAD).

Goal 1: Decrease Community Violence and Increase Perceptions of Safety

PAD was designed to provide a safe space where community members could access high-quality programming and needed services. This chapter includes an assessment of the potential impact of PAD on crime in parks and their surrounding communities. Potential impact on violence and crime was assessed using LASD and LAPD Part I and Part II crime data from 2010 to 2022 (when available) at the Census Tract level. Data show crime rates in PAD parks and estimates of the cumulative impact of PAD on crime based on a difference in difference (DD) analysis. DD analysis is shown for PAD overall and by the six PAD Groups, which are cohorts of PAD parks based on the year they first implemented PAD (2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018). Magic Johnson Park (PAD Group Seven), which implemented PAD in 2022 was not included in the crime analysis because it did not have the required multiple years of data to assess trends.

Perceptions of safety and relationships between community members and LASD Sheriff Deputies were also examined using summer 2022 PAD participant surveys, as well as key informant surveys and interviews conducted with participating partners.

Note that the data presented on changes in crime rates in this report are not directly comparable to previous evaluation reports due to multiple methodological differences, including selection of comparison parks and use of Census Tracts.

Part I and Part II Crime Rates

Part I crimes are serious property and violent crimes that include homicide, aggravated assault, rape, larceny theft, robbery, grand theft auto, burglary, and arson. Part II crimes include non-violent and violent low-level offenses such as narcotics, disorderly conduct, non-aggravated assaults, and vandalism, among others. Part II crime rates are subject to underreporting and therefore trends presented in this report may underestimate rates of these crimes.

To estimate the potential impact of PAD on crime, comparison parks were identified from a pool of Los Angeles County and City parks with facilities suitable for hosting PAD programming. Comparison parks were matched to PAD parks based on demographics, including race and ethnicity, household income, and crime rates in the communities living near the parks during the year prior to PAD implementation. Communities near the parks were defined as Census Tracts that were within a one-mile radius of the park. When a Census Tract was within one mile

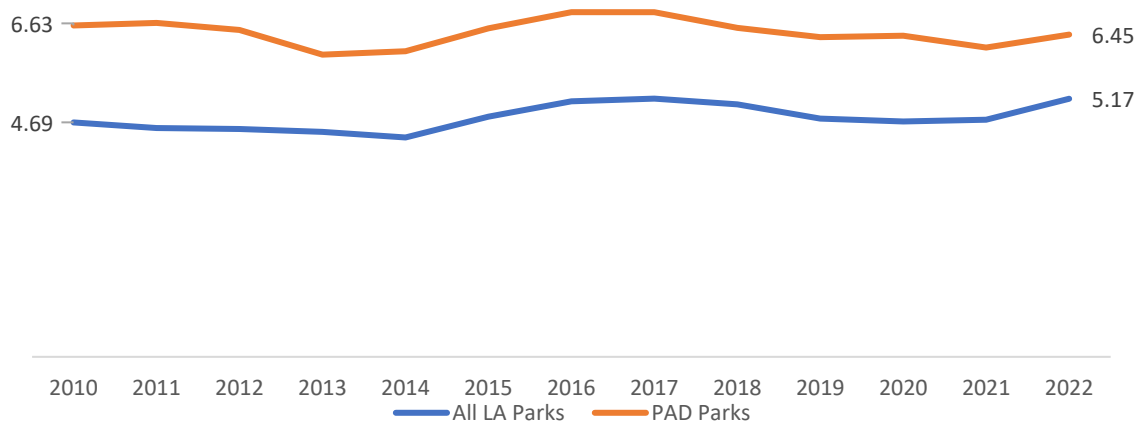
of multiple parks, it was attributed to the park with the shortest distance between the center of the park and center of the Census Tract.

Part I and Part II daily crime rates were calculated using the ratio of the number of crimes during the summer PAD period to the total population in the associated Census Tracts using LASD/LAPD and Census population data and dividing by the numbers of days in the PAD period. The PAD period was specific to the timeframe for the start and end of PAD programming for a given year. UCLA calculated a daily crime rate for each park and each year to increase comparability of rates across parks and over time. This method addressed variations in park specific timelines during the summer months. See [Appendix A](#) for further details on crime data analysis methods.

Part I and Part II Crime Long-Term Trends

Long-term trends of crime during PAD were examined from 2010 to 2022. Exhibit 3 compares the average Part I crime rates near PAD parks and the average rates near all Los Angeles County parks (including PAD parks) from 2010 to 2022. These data demonstrate that PAD parks were intentionally selected from areas with high rates of crime.

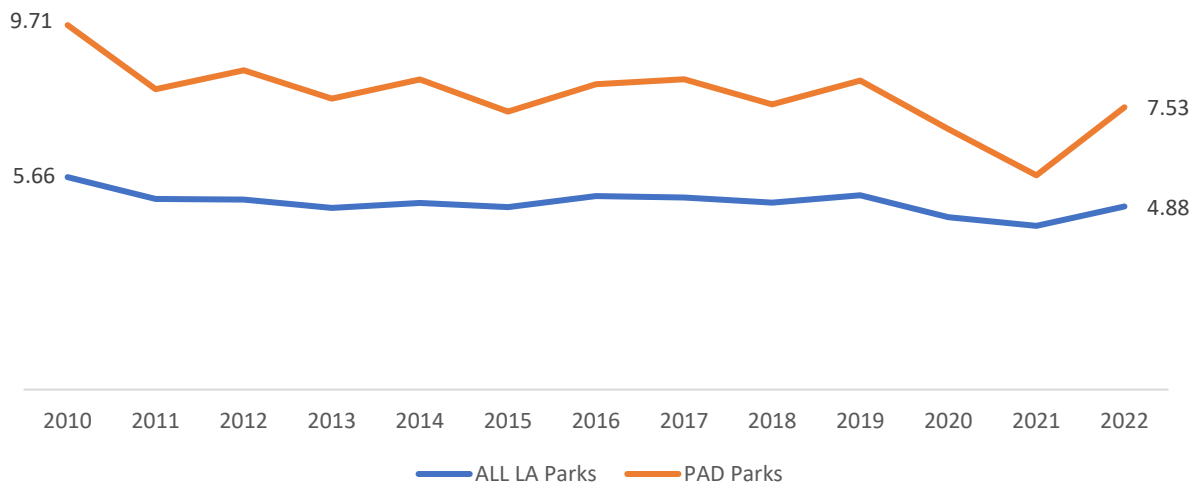
Exhibit 3: Part I Daily Crime Rates per 100,000 Population, PAD Parks Areas and All Los Angeles (LA) County Parks, 2010-2022



Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Data, 2010-2022.
 Note: "All LA Parks" includes PAD Parks.

Exhibit 4 shows Part II crime rates near PAD parks and all Los Angeles County parks on average from 2010 to 2022. These trends are similar to Part I crime rates.

Exhibit 4: Part II Daily Crime Rate per 100,000 Population, near PAD Parks and All Los Angeles (LA) County Parks, 2010-2022



Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Data, 2010-2022.

Note: "All LA Parks" includes PAD Parks.

Differences in Daily Crime Rates between PAD and Comparison Parks

UCLA conducted additional analysis to attribute changes in crime rates over time to PAD implementation using DD methodology. This analysis included examination of crime trends in PAD parks compared to similar comparison parks during PAD implementation using regression models. These predicted rates are different from the descriptive rates reported above. Analysis is presented by PAD Group, with Group referring to the year those specific parks implemented PAD for the first time. See [Appendix A](#) for additional detail on the DD methodology.

Reduction in Part I and II Crime Rates by PAD Group

Exhibit 5 shows the reduction in predicted daily Part I crimes per 100,000 population by PAD Group for every year PAD was in operation and relative to comparison parks. Cumulatively, predicted Part I crimes declined in all PAD Groups except for Group Three. The largest reduction was seen among Group One parks (-1.11 daily Part I crimes per 100,000 population), followed by Group Five and Group Four (-0.95 and -0.37, respectively).

Exhibit 5: Estimated Cumulative Reduction in Predicted Rates of Daily Part I Crimes per 100,000 Population in PAD Parks by PAD Group, 2010-2022

Year	Group One	Group Two	Group Three	Group Four	Group Five	Group Six
2010	0.04	-	-	-	-	-
2011	0.51	-	-	-	-	-
2012	-0.31	0.15	-	-	-	-
2013	-0.02	0.19	-	-	-	-
2014	0.04	-0.48	-	-	-	-
2015	-0.29	0.10	-0.48	-	-	-
2016	0.18	0.02	1.09	-0.17	-	-
2017	-0.30	0.33	-0.72	0.29	0.31	-
2018	-0.35	-0.85	0.32	0.13	-0.85	-0.34
2019	0.17	0.17	-0.62	-0.27	1.14	0.34
2020	0.02	0.50	0.45	0.12	-1.64	-0.24
2021	-0.26	-0.33	0.19	-0.09	0.70	0.09
2022	-0.55	-0.01	0.24	-0.37	-0.60	0.06
Total Change Per PAD Group	-1.11	-0.21	0.47	-0.37	-0.95	-0.09

Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Data, 2010-2022.

Notes: PAD parks were compared to similar comparison parks matched based on demographics, household income, and crime rates in the communities living near the parks during the year prior to PAD implementation.

Exhibit 6 shows the reduction in predicted daily Part II crimes per 100,000 population by PAD Group for every year PAD was in operation and relative to comparison parks. Cumulatively,

predicted Part II crimes declined in all PAD Groups except for Groups Two and Six. The largest reduction was seen among Group Five parks (-1.63 daily part II crimes per 100,000 population), followed by Group One (-0.91).

Exhibit 6: Estimated Cumulative Reduction in Rate of Daily Part II Crimes per 100,000 Population in PAD Parks by PAD Group, 2010-2022

Year	Group One	Group Two	Group Three	Group Four	Group Five	Group Six
2010	-0.26	-	-	-	-	-
2011	0.77	-	-	-	-	-
2012	0.04	0.90	-	-	-	-
2013	-0.70	0.01	-	-	-	-
2014	0.35	0.00	-	-	-	-
2015	-0.19	0.22	-0.51	-	-	-
2016	-0.33	-0.45	0.57	0.01	-	-
2017	0.45	0.30	0.18	0.18	-0.79	-
2018	-0.53	-0.53	-0.25	0.07	0.83	-0.32
2019	-0.35	0.15	-0.14	-0.31	0.51	-0.30
2020	0.64	0.13	-0.36	0.08	-0.85	0.22
2021	-0.23	-0.45	-0.14	-0.09	-1.27	-0.01
2022	-0.57	0.32	0.46	-0.17	-0.06	0.53
Total Change Per PAD Group	-0.91	0.60	-0.19	-0.23	-1.63	0.11

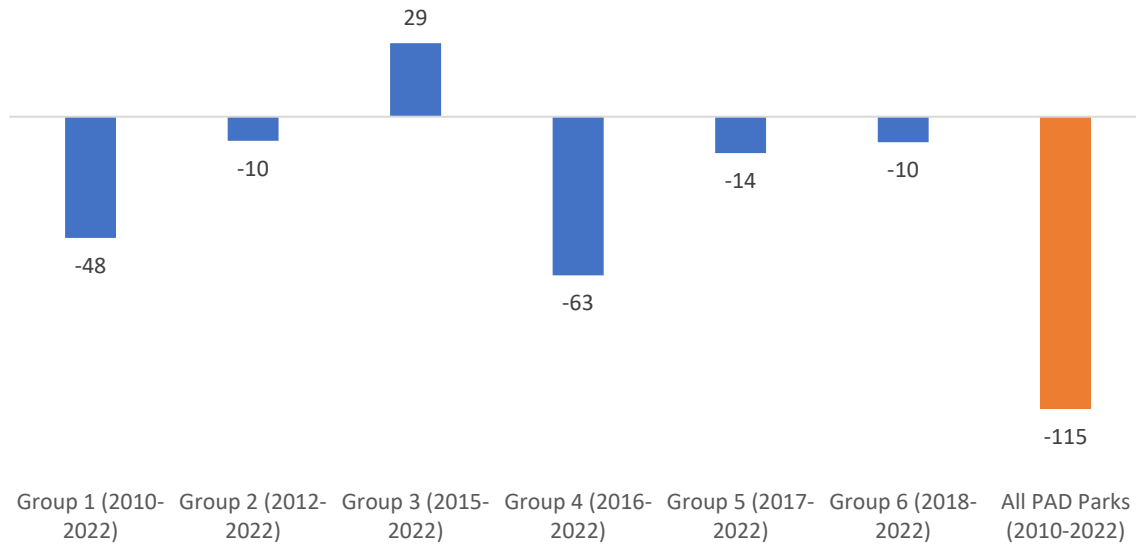
Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Data, 2010-2022.

Notes: PAD parks were compared to similar comparison parks matched based on demographics, household income, and crime rates in the communities living near the parks during the year prior to PAD implementation.

Cumulative Reduction in Part I and II Crimes

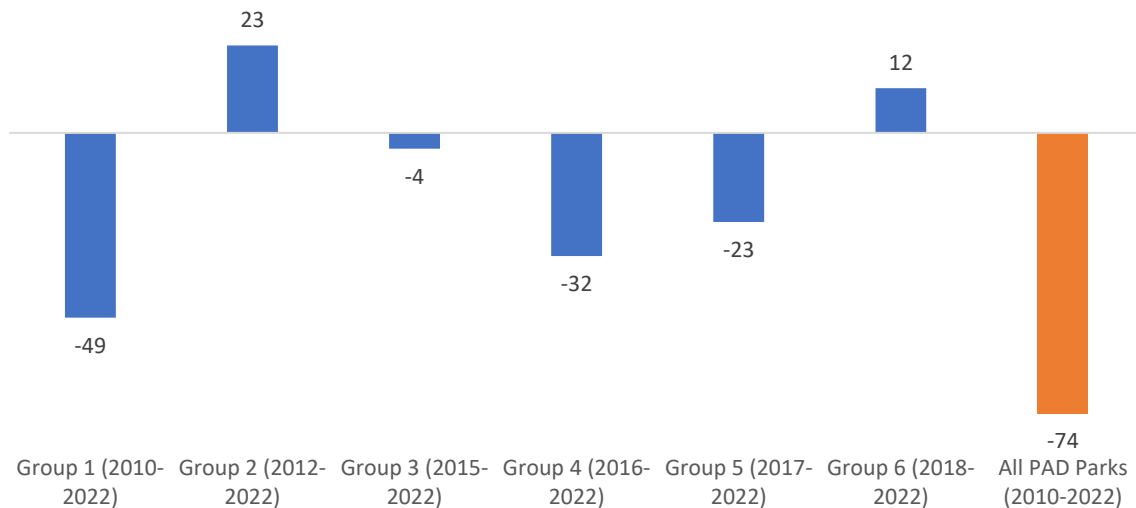
Overall, DD findings indicated a reduction in predicted crime rates in PAD parks after the implementation of PAD and compared to comparison parks. This meant there was a predicted reduction of 115 Part I crimes and 74 Part II crimes between 2010 and 2022 near all PAD parks (Exhibit 7 and Exhibit 8). The cumulative reduction in both Part I and Part II crime was greatest among Group One and Group Four parks.

Exhibit 7: Estimated Cumulative Change in Number of Part I Crime versus Comparison Parks, 2010-2022



Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Data, 2009-2022.
 Notes: PAD parks were compared to similar comparison parks matched based on demographics, household income, and crime rates in the communities living near the parks during the year prior to PAD implementation.

Exhibit 8: Estimated Cumulative Change in Number of Part II Crime versus Comparison Parks, 2010-2022



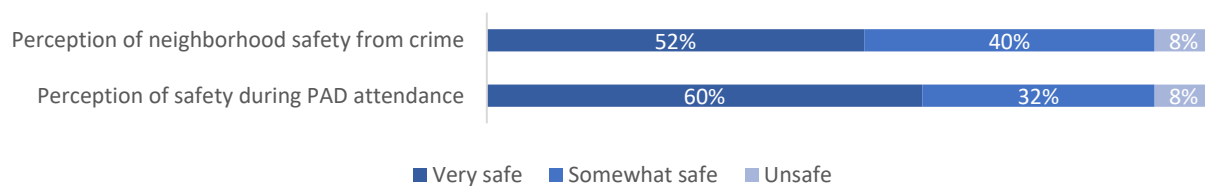
Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Data, 2009-2022.
 Notes: PAD parks were compared to similar comparison parks matched based on demographics, household income, and crime rates in the communities living near the parks during the year prior to PAD implementation.

PAD Attendees on Perceptions of Safety and Satisfaction with Law Enforcement

As indicated in summer 2022 PAD participant surveys conducted by parks, the majority of attendees perceived PAD parks to be very safe (60%) and an additional 32% perceived PAD parks to be somewhat safe (Exhibit 9). Perceptions of PAD parks as very safe was higher in parks that implemented PAD earlier, Group One (67%) and Group Two (66%), than parks that implemented PAD later (see [Appendix B](#) for breakdowns by cohort and individual park).

PAD attendees perceived their neighborhoods as very safe (52%) less often than they perceived PAD as very safe (60%). However, among PAD attendees who expressed not feeling safe in their neighborhood, 55% felt safe at PAD (data not shown).

Exhibit 9: PAD Attendees’ Perceptions of Safety at PAD Parks and in their Neighborhoods in Percentages (%), Summer 2022



Source: Summer 2022 PAD Participant Surveys (n=8,109).

The majority (68%) of PAD attendees reported that the number of Deputy Sheriffs at PAD parks was just right. More reported that the number of Deputy Sheriffs was not enough (21%) as opposed to too many (11%). The overwhelming majority agreed that PAD improved the relationship of the community with Deputy Sheriffs (89%; data not shown).

PAD attendees identified what factors contributed to feelings of safety. While 62% identified Deputy Sheriffs as contributing to feelings of safety, other factors included park staff (55%), people around (40%), and the positive atmosphere (34%; Exhibit 10). Only 3% of PAD attendees said none of these elements contributed to their feelings of safety at PAD.

Exhibit 10: PAD Attendees on Factors that Contributed to Feelings of Safety in Percentages (%), Summer 2022



Source: Summer 2022 PAD Participant Surveys (n=8,109).

In open ended comments, attendees indicated the synergistic effect of multiple factors for creating a safe environment. For example, the presence of Deputy Sheriffs and park staff provided general supervision and security, and their routine and dedicated presence was noted as being particularly reassuring. Similarly, PAD brought community members together in new and innovative ways; the large number of people present was often viewed as comforting to attendees. Related illustrative comments are highlighted in Exhibit 11.

Exhibit 11: Selected Illustrative Comments about PAD and Park Safety, Summer 2022

"I want to thank the park and its amazing staff for all you have done this summer for my children. You have provided a safe summer with full of activities for my children." (El Cariso Park)
"It's really nice to be in a safe environment and have my family and friends get together and have fun." (Mayberry Park)
"The number of people that come to the park, makes me feel safe. It's filled with good people." (Athens Park)
"Community atmosphere made it feel safe. Knowing that people are around and coming as a group [made me feel safe]." (Belvedere Park)
"A lot of people attend and sheriffs are around watching our surroundings." (Bassett Park)
"All of us together, made us feel safe." (Adventure Park)

Source: Summer 2022 PAD Participant Surveys (n=8,109).

Factors that attendees indicated as contributing to lack of safety included not enough active and involved Deputy Sheriffs or children left unsupervised. Other common themes negatively impacting perceptions of safety included inadequate lighting and concern about gang activity and substance use.

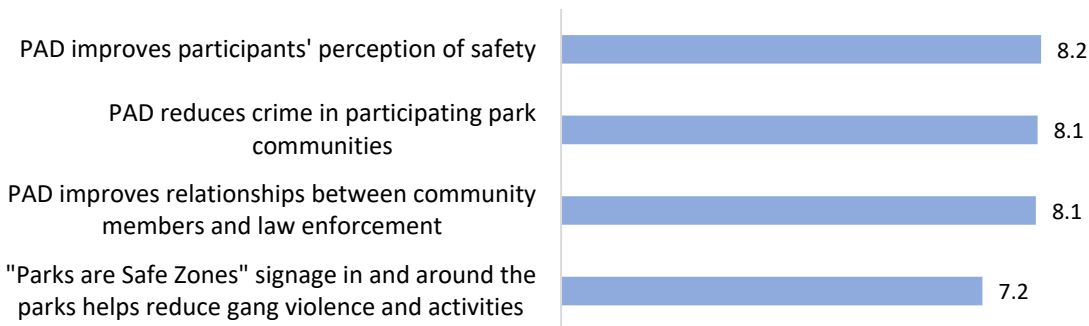
Despite the majority of respondents (68%) indicating they were satisfied with the number of Deputy Sheriffs present at PAD, some open ended comments mentioned low presence of Deputy Sheriffs or their lack of involvement and engagement while present. For example, an attendee at Mona Park noted "some police are only inside their cars" and an attendee at East Rancho Dominguez Park noted "they are not there every week".

Some attendee responses referred to a lack of rapport and historical distrust between community members and law enforcement—emphasizing the need for continued engagement and trust building activities between Deputy Sheriffs and community members. For example, an attendee at El Cariso Park noted "knowing this department, keeping yourself safe depends on yourself" and an attendee at Bethune Park noted "don't trust the neighborhood or the police".

PAD Key Informants on Safety and Crime

In key informant surveys, PAD partners agreed that PAD improved participants' perception of safety (8.2 of 10, where 0 = strongly disagree and 10 = strongly agree); reduced crime in participating park communities (8.1); and improved relationships between community members and law enforcement (8.1; Exhibit 12).

Exhibit 12: PAD Key Informants on PAD Effectiveness in Decreasing Community Violence and Increasing Community Safety



Source: PAD Key Informant Survey (n=53), January-February 2023.

Note: Perception rating using a scale from 0 to 10, where 0=strongly disagree and 10=strongly agree.

Key informants identified the specific factors they believed contributed to PAD attendees' sense of safety to include active law enforcement presence and engagement with community; DPR staff involvement; clean park facilities with adequate lighting; family and children participation; and active attendance by the community.

"Reclaiming park space as a community hub: a safe and welcoming environment for the community and parks as a point of community pride. Parks are a critical part of the social fabric and social safety net." -Key Informant, Department of Public Health

Role of Law Enforcement and Deputy Engagement at PAD

LASD Parks Bureau has had a continuous presence at PAD events since the program's inception in 2010. Each year, LASD has coordinated directly with DPR to understand park needs, as well as safety and security priorities of each park. Deputy Sheriffs have been trained prior to PAD events to act as "community caretakers" and to actively interact with PAD participants.

While Deputy Sheriff involvement has varied by park, during key informant interviews, Deputy Sheriffs described intentional activities such as bringing animals, toys, and candy for children to feel comfortable around them. They also cited participating in PAD activities with community members as a way to build trust and rapport including sports, playing games, and watching movies.

Deputy Sheriffs expressed some inherent challenges interacting with the community and approaching community members in an effort to reduce crime, as in some areas law enforcement presence was appreciated, while in others, the neighborhoods were uncomfortable with their presence. Deputies noted that they felt a noticeable reduction in crime as a result of their presence at PAD events, but expressed how it is difficult to reduce violence outside of the PAD season. Overall, Deputy Sheriffs emphasized that PAD events promoted social cohesion and provided opportunities for family bonding to keep children out of violence; Deputy Sheriffs felt they were viewed as “more approachable” as a result of PAD.

"I think the biggest response that we got is when the Sheriffs were actually active in involving themselves with the programming and involving themselves with talking to the community, even if they were just playing ping pong with one of the kids or playing checkers... Seeing that and building those little relationships... seeing them in positive environments gives the community more, a relaxed sense in an area where they are not necessarily trusting of the Sheriffs." – Key Informant, Department of Parks and Recreation

Role of Community Interventionists and DPH at PAD to Promote Safety

The Safe Passages Initiative, funded by DPH’s Office of Violence Prevention, contracts community-based organizations (CBOs) to hire gang interventionists who ensure youth, teens, and families are able to get to and from PAD parks safely and can enjoy PAD and other park programming. Interventionists work to engage gang-impacted youth in PAD, provide crisis intervention services at the parks as needed, and work in partnership with park staff, law enforcement, and communities to monitor and ensure safety. The initiative allows those who may not be as comfortable with law enforcement to have the opportunity to engage in PAD activities in a safe manner due to the additional presence of DPH staff and interventionists. This initiative was offered at eight parks in summer 2022, including: Allen Martin, Athens, Bethune, Jesse Owens, Mona, Roosevelt, Salazar, and Ted Watkins.

Additionally, DPH's Office of Violence Prevention focused on crisis response and community engagement at PAD events. Staff had a dedicated table and were available to PAD participants and vendors to maintain a comfortable environment and deescalate situations as they arose.

"Our ability to fund community intervention has also create a safe space for the parks. I remember when the program first started, it started at parks where I think even DPR staff were skeptical that you could get staff there because they were overrun by some of the local gangs. So, once they started to get the programming up and running and get buy in from community partners to have the programming there, the community was able to start to take back the parks. And even, you know, those community members who were affiliated with gangs started to respect the space that it was meant to be a safe space for community, and they would bring their families there as well." -Key Informant, Department of Public Health

Goal 2: Increase Collaboration among Different Stakeholders

This chapter presents an assessment of the cross-sector collaboration in PAD using key informant surveys and interviews with participating PAD partners. Key informants included individuals involved in PAD administration and implementation, those assisting with strategic planning, as well as those who directly provided programming. The majority of respondents were from DPR (65%).

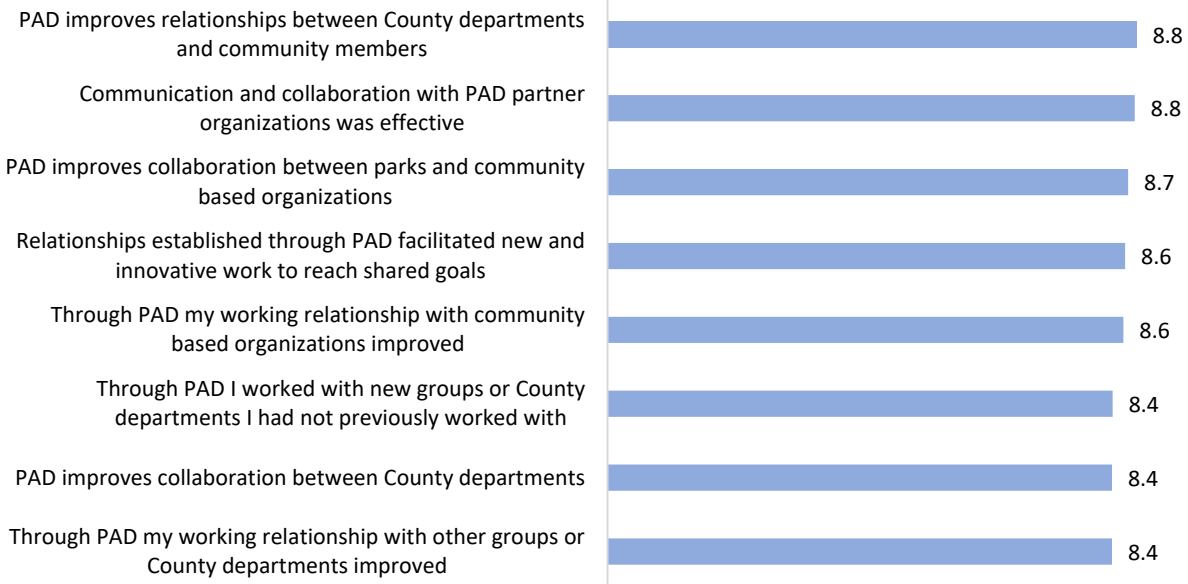
Departments and Agencies that Collaborated in PAD

DPR is the lead agency for PAD. DPR provided overall administration, hosted PAD at their park facilities, planned programming, and conducted daily operations. DPR works in close collaboration with the Sheriff's Department Parks Bureau (LASD), DPH, Probation Department, other County departments, and a variety of community-based organizations (CBOs). The CEO of Los Angeles County provided strategic support. LASD Deputy Sheriffs patrolled the parks and engaged with community members during PAD. The Injury & Violence Prevention (IVPP) branch of DPH assisted with strategic planning, and the Community Health Services (CHS) branch developed and employed programming, such as walking clubs and public health outreach initiatives, and services, such as vaccination clinics.

Perceptions of Cross-Sector Collaboration in PAD

Overall, participating partners had opportunities to work with new groups in interesting and innovative ways during and through PAD. In key informant surveys, PAD partners agreed that PAD improved cross-sector collaboration, with partners strongly agreeing that PAD improved relationships between County departments and community members (8.8 of 10); communication and collaboration with PAD partners (8.8); and collaboration between parks and community-based organizations (8.7; Exhibit 13). Department staff that collaborated closely to implement PAD in the field, particularly DPR, gave the highest collaboration scores.

Exhibit 13: PAD Key Informants on Increased Collaboration Amongst Participating Stakeholders



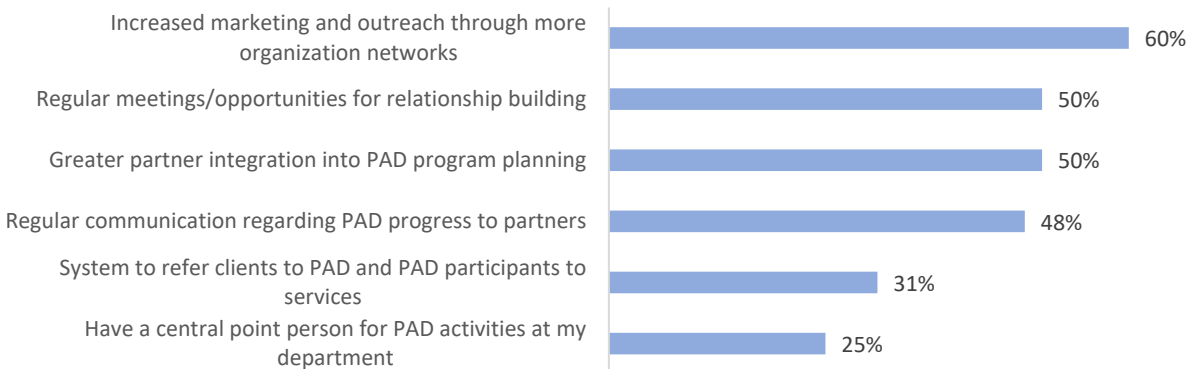
Source: PAD Key Informant Survey (n=53), January-February 2023.

Note: Perception rating using a scale from 0 to 10, where 0=strongly disagree and 10=strongly agree.

"... it takes a lot of different partners to make a program like this successful and, and Parks and Recreation has always been really good at championing partnerships and being a willing partner for different initiatives ... There have been many different county partners that have invested in ...[PAD] over the years seeing the value in it. And I think having that joint place... [to rally] around a combination of ... quality programming for a community... is something that... [PAD] does really well, but it takes... having staff that can maintain and build those relationships." -Key Informant, Department of Public Health

In key informant surveys, participating partners provided feedback on cross-sector collaboration through PAD and how to improve it. Participating partners often emphasized the importance of improving communication between PAD stakeholders to improve implementation and delivery of PAD programming. Participating partners identified specific ways to improve communication, which included: increasing marketing and outreach through more networks (60%), greater partner integration into PAD program planning (50%), regular meetings/opportunities for relationship building (50%), and regular communication regarding PAD progress to partners (48%; Exhibit 14).

Exhibit 14: Activities to Improve Communication and Cross-Sector Collaboration by PAD Key Informants



Source: PAD Key Informant Survey (n=53), January-February 2023.

Note: Perception rating using a scale from 0 to 10, where 0=strongly disagree and 10=strongly agree.

Key informants were also asked what they felt their affiliate organization's long-term role in PAD should be. The majority (60%) felt that their organization should be mainly involved in providing PAD programming (60%), followed by engagement with new partners (52%), and program administration and implementation (42%; data not shown).

In key informant interviews, partners commented on how other key stakeholders could be better involved in PAD implementation and planning. Key themes for DPR included: engaging more volunteers and utilizing community-based organizations for recruitment; increasing access through virtual meetings so a larger number of stakeholders can participate and be involved; prioritizing training new staff and volunteers, with a focus on programming; and asking other partners to share resources, such as time, in addition to donations.

PAD Activities to Promote Cross-Sector Collaboration

PAD aimed to improve cross-sector collaboration in innovative ways, including stakeholder engagement meetings and community resource fairs. Stakeholder planning meetings were held in the spring of 2022, before PAD's June kickoff date, to encourage involvement of County departments, local leaders, and community-based organizations. These meetings were held at most PAD parks and at the regional level and allowed all PAD stakeholders to have an active role in planning the program. The goals of the stakeholder meetings included: understanding and prioritizing community needs, gathering commitments for services, and planning specific PAD activities. Undertaking planning/community engagement efforts in a collaborative and transparent way allowed DPR to build and sustain strong relationships with PAD stakeholders, demonstrated accountability, and contributed to better overall outcomes for communities.

In addition, DPR historically organized a community resource fair during PAD and conducted outreach to County departments, community organizations, and other County agencies. With the re-launch of PAD in summer 2022, the resource fair was only held at a select number of parks and the services provided at the fair were representative of community needs and differed by park.

"I absolutely endorse collaboration and our goal always has been and continues to be really to... try and have as many... other groups involved as possible... We have our planning meetings ahead of time with a number of nonprofits, community groups, and so forth. So, I think it's [PAD] been very successful because of our collaboration." -Key Informant, Department of Parks and Recreation

Goal 3: Increase Social Cohesion and Family Bonding

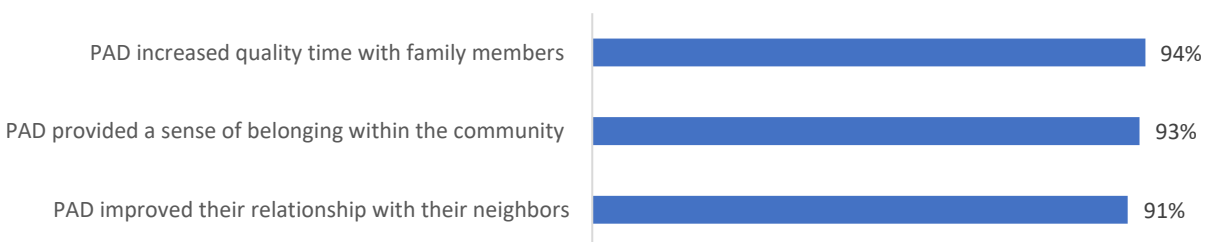
PAD provided an opportunity for families and neighbors to socialize, spend quality time together, and develop a positive sense of community in a safe public space. This chapter uses the summer 2022 PAD participant survey to assess the impact of PAD on social cohesion and family bonding, including level of attendance by families, opportunities for family bonding, perceptions of social cohesion in neighborhood, and opportunities to know neighbors at PAD. Additional information was provided from key informant surveys and interviews conducted with participating partners.

PAD Participant Perceptions of Social Cohesion and Family Bonding

As indicated in summer 2022 PAD participant surveys, 84% reported attending PAD with children. This varied by park but was consistently the majority of attendees (as few as 56% at El Cariso and as many as 96% at Jackie Robinson Park; see [Appendix B](#) for breakdowns by individual park and PAD Group. Of those who attended with children, 65% reported attending with children ages 6-12, and fewer reported attending with children ages 0-5 (41%) or 13-18 (28%). The overwhelming majority (94%) of attendees reported that PAD increased quality time with family members (Exhibit 15).

Many PAD attendees (88%) reported a high level of social cohesion as indicated by their perceptions that they lived in a close-knit and unified community. In addition, the vast majority reported that PAD improved their relationship with their neighbors (91%) and that PAD provided a sense of belonging within the community (93%, Exhibit 16). Of the individuals who identified as not living in a close-knit unified community, 66% agreed that PAD improved their relationship with neighbors.

Exhibit 15: PAD Participants Perceptions of Social Cohesion in Percentages (%), Summer 2022



Source: Summer 2022 PAD Participant Surveys (n=8,109).

In the open-ended responses, comments were overwhelmingly positive and were greatly appreciative of PAD and its beneficial effects on family quality time and community unison (Exhibit 16).

Exhibit 16: Selected Illustrative Comments about Family Attendance and Bonding during PAD, Summer 2022

PAD increased family quality time	“This was a great summer thanks to Parks After Dark. If it were not for this program, we would not have had as much family fun. It got us out of the norm.” (Belvedere Park)
	“Thank you, I am without money to take my kids out and here they got snow cones, and they played games and got gifts.” (Mona Park)
	“Enjoyed the time spent with family doing activities at the park this summertime.” (City Terrace Park)
	“I am very grateful for this program as I have five minors and wouldn't be able to afford taking them out. Thank you.” (Mona Park)
PAD unified community	“Excellent program as it helps to come together with people in our community, keep doing it!” (East Rancho Dominguez Park)
	“Thank you for everything for the community. Keeping children busy with sports is better than having children in the streets.” (Mayberry Park)
	“I enjoy PAD. It's better than being cooped up at home. It is refreshing being outside. We meet our friends and neighbors.” (Helen Keller Park)
	“I want to emphasize that PAD is great for the community and even though neighbors may not interact at first that eventually changed as kids play with each other.” (City Terrace Park)

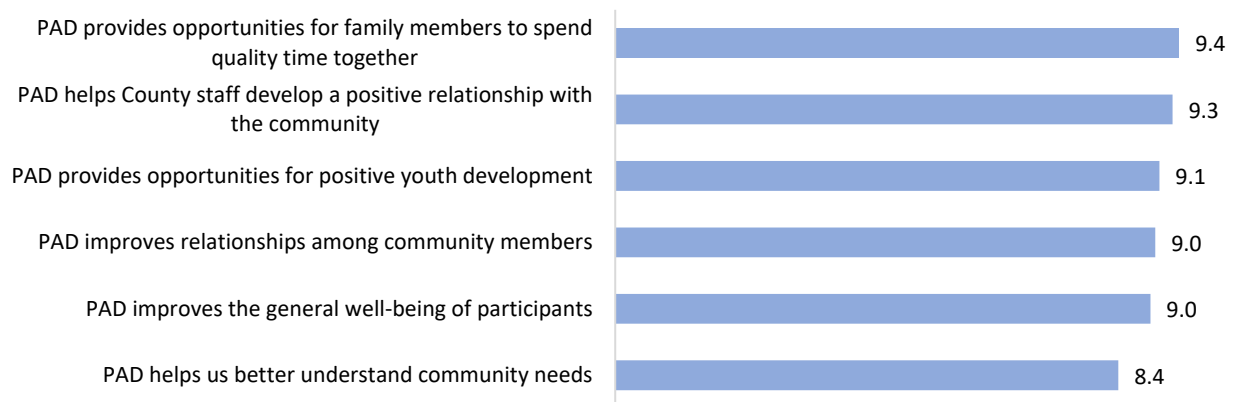
Source: 2022 summer PAD participant surveys.

Respondents highlighted how PAD’s programming provided safe opportunities for families to go outside and spend time together, “keeping their children busy” and “out of trouble.” Many comments mentioned the accessibility of PAD, noting that PAD offered quality time outside of the home that some respondents could not otherwise afford. Comments also emphasized the importance of PAD in encouraging community interaction, uniting community members through providing opportunities to build rapport and support networks, especially for their children.

PAD Key Informants on Social Cohesion and Family Bonding

In key informant surveys, PAD partners agreed that PAD improved aspects of social cohesion and family bonding, with partners strongly agreeing that PAD provided opportunities for family members to spend quality time together (9.4 of 10); helped County departments develop a positive relationship with the community (9.3); provided opportunities for youth development (9.1); and improved relationships among community members (9.0) and general well-being of participants (9.0; Exhibit 17).

Exhibit 17: PAD Key Informants on PAD Impact on Social Cohesion and Family Bonding



Source: PAD Key Informant Survey (n=53), January-February 2023.

Note: Perception rating using a scale from 0 to 10, where 0=strongly disagree and 10=strongly agree.

In key informant interviews, examples of social cohesion and family bonding were a common theme among the stories shared with DPR staff; see Exhibit 18 for specific examples shared.

Exhibit 18: Key Informant Illustrative Examples on PAD Promoting Social Cohesion and Community Well-being

Key Informant Role/Department	Illustrative Example
Intervention Worker	PAD and parks were an avenue for families to destress – especially after the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities provided an avenue for both children and parents to positively engage with one another.
Department of Public Health	At Pamela Park, families came together for a spontaneous potluck – it was a way for the community to positively interact and celebrate their ethnic traditions in a safe space, while promoting social cohesion and creating a sense of well-being.
Youth Worker	Structured programming for youth provided an avenue for fostering new relationships and simultaneously developing meaningful skills.
Department of Parks and Recreation	PAD served as a place for people of diverse backgrounds to come together and celebrate their differences, through simple engagement in activities.
Department of Parks and Recreation	PAD served as an impetus for neighborhood pride and taking better care of the surrounding community (e.g., keeping parks clean, manicured lawns and homes immediately surrounding the park).

Source: PAD Key Informant Interviews, March-May 2023.

In key informant interviews, DPR staff noted how even after PAD programming ended, PAD often had spillover effects, bringing individuals from the community to more park programming throughout the year. DPR staff described efforts to better understand and to assess community needs. Specific strategies included utilizing PAD participant surveys to understand attendee feedback of what they would like to see at future events, as well as directly interacting with attendees at PAD events to gather verbal feedback. Key informants emphasized the necessity of tailoring programming to community needs in an effort to increase social cohesion and family bonding through PAD.

“PAD brings communities, families and neighbors together and creates opportunities to interact, engage, connect and bond at their local park... PAD eliminates barriers to programs and staff and is situated in communities impacted by institutional racism and generational poverty.” -Key Informant, Department of Parks and Recreation

“Social isolation is a major factor contributing to negative outcomes for families, so the informal connectivity that is encouraged at PAD events help families stay in touch with each other.” -Key Informant, Department of Public Social Services

Goal 4: Increase Access to Quality Recreational Programming and Innovative Services

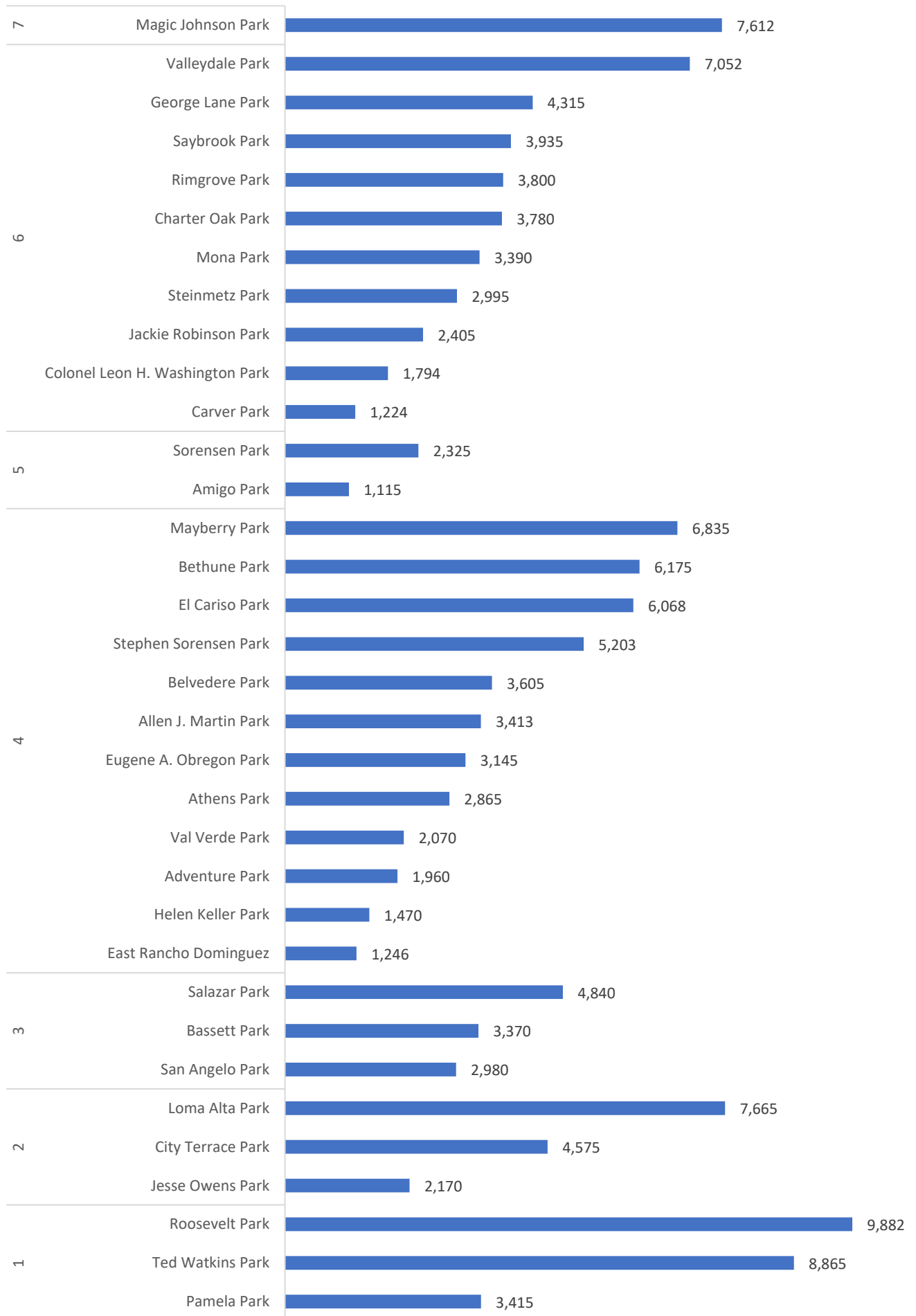
PAD aimed to provide access to free quality recreational programming that included innovative and unique services broadly across Los Angeles County. The success of PAD in achieving this goal was assessed using PAD attendance data from DPR, summer 2022 PAD participant surveys, and key informant surveys and interviews conducted with participating partners. This chapter provides data on PAD estimated attendance, as well as reach, outreach, and attendee and partner satisfaction.

PAD Estimated Attendance and Reach

PAD Attendance

An estimated 137,000 individuals visited the 34 PAD parks during summer 2022, with an average of 4,046 attendees per park. Total PAD attendance varied greatly by park, ranging from 1,115 at Amigo Park to 9,882 at Roosevelt Park (Exhibit 19).

Exhibit 19: Total PAD Visits by Park and PAD Group, Summer 2022



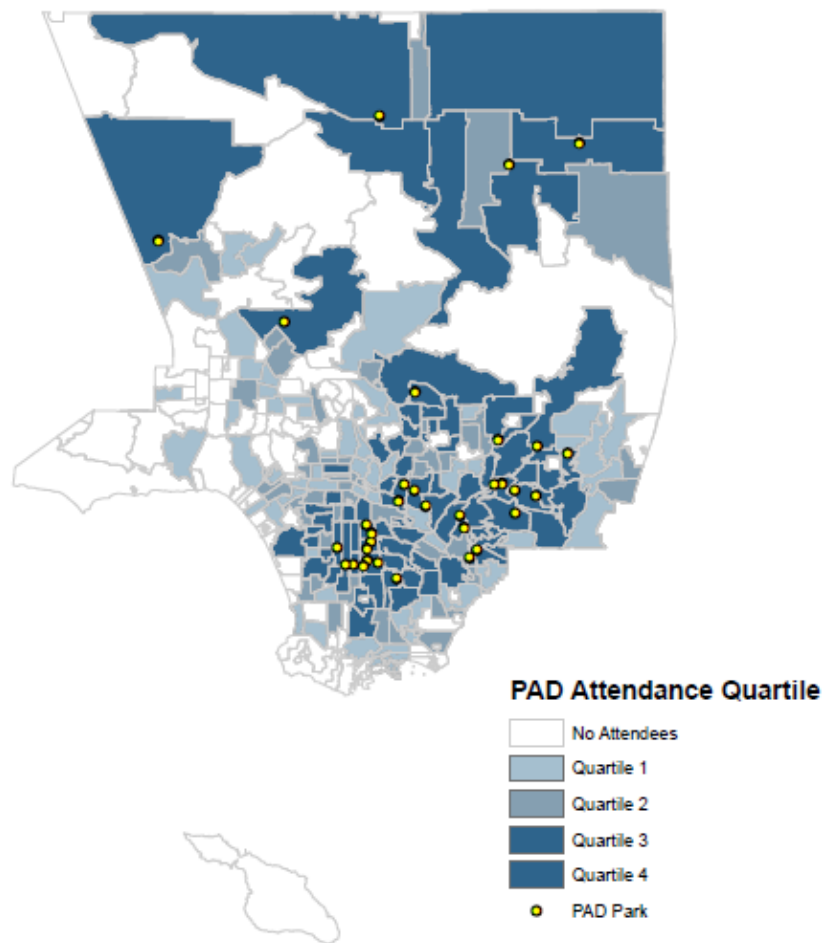
Source: Department of Parks and Recreation PAD attendance data, Summer 2022.

Note: Parks are presented by PAD Group – which is the year in which they started hosting PAD. Attendance numbers are higher than number of unique individuals attending park events as the same person may have attended multiple days; attendance was estimated by PAD park staff.

PAD Reach

UCLA used the zip code of residence of PAD survey respondents in 2022 to assess the reach of PAD parks throughout Los Angeles County (Exhibit 20). The map shows areas of the County with the highest (Quartile 4) to lowest concentration (Quartile 1) of PAD attendants. Data showed that PAD attendees primarily resided in the zip codes immediately surrounding PAD parks (Quartile 4). However, data showed that there were attendees from other areas and the program reached the majority of zip codes (62%) in Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 20: Zip Codes of Residence of PAD Participant Survey Respondents in Los Angeles County, Summer 2022



Source: Summer 2022 PAD Participant Surveys (n=8,109).

Notes: Zip codes that had participants were ordered by most to least participants, then divided evenly into four groups, or quartiles. Quartile 1 includes zip codes with the fewest participants from those zip codes and Quartile 4 had the most participants from those zip codes. Each yellow dot represents a PAD park. There were 74 participants who were from zip codes that are not in LA County, had erroneous or non-existing zip codes, or outdated zip codes from the current records under the US Postal Service (e.g., realignment/reassignment).

PAD Attendee Characteristics in 2022

Most PAD attendees who responded to the summer 2022 participant survey were ages 26-39 (39%), female (65%), and Latinx (62%; data not shown). Some respondents were youth or young adults; 13% of respondents were ages 10-15 and younger and 15% were ages 16-25.

There were some variations in these characteristics by individual parks, as well by Park Group. These variations most likely reflected variations in population characteristics in the surrounding park areas. For example, 92% of attendees at City Terrace Park were Hispanic/Latinx, whereas 38% of attendees at Steinmetz Park were Asian/Pacific Islander. See [Appendix B](#) for breakdown by individual park and PAD Group.

Exhibit 21 shows illustrative photos of the variations in age, gender, and race/ethnicity of PAD attendees.

Exhibit 21: Selected Photos Depicting Characteristics of PAD Attendees, Summer 2022



Source: Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Staff, Summer 2022.

In summer 2022 participant surveys, attendees noted PAD activities to be “great for the entire family,” while simultaneously targeting specific age groups. Many attendees appreciated youth-specific programming. Recognizing cost as a barrier to participation in quality and structured recreational and physical activity programming, attendees expressed gratitude for access to free opportunities for recreation through PAD (Exhibit 22).

Exhibit 22: Selected Illustrative Comments Reflecting Characteristics of PAD Attendees, Summer 2022

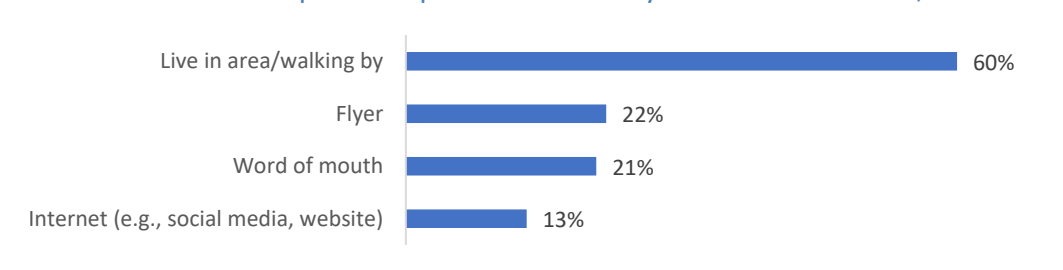
“The staff does a great job entertaining kids and adults of all ages.” (Loma Alta Park)
“Very nice for the whole family.” (Mayberry Park)
“I did not know about this, but I can honestly say that this is amazing for our kids. I don’t have to spend a lot of money out of my pocket, but my kids still have fun!” (Ted Watkins Park)
“I am very grateful for this program as I have five minors and wouldn’t be able to afford taking them out. Thank you.” (Mona Park)
“I’ve been coming to Parks after Dark with my son when he was two and he is now seven years old. I love that they have things for him to participate and that are free. I live paycheck to paycheck and these types of things are great for families that are on a budget like me. I attend Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and I love that Adventure Park has the splash pad too. I Love this park! Thank you so much for these programs! It is greatly appreciated!” (Adventure Park)

Source: Summer 2022 PAD Participant Surveys (n=8,109).

PAD Outreach

Summer 2022 participant survey data indicated that many PAD attendees visited the park frequently, independent of PAD. The vast majority of PAD attendees (80%) indicated visiting the park weekly (40%) or daily (40%). Most individuals learned about PAD because they lived in the area or were walking by (60%), but many learned through PAD flyers (22%) and word of mouth (21%; Exhibit 23).

Exhibit 23: PAD Participants’ Reports of How They Learned about PAD, Summer 2022



Source: Summer 2022 PAD Participant Surveys (n=8,109).

Note: Multiple responses possible.

Most PAD participants attended or planned to attend PAD once a week (35%) or all/most nights in the summer season (34%). Many PAD attendees were repeat visitors and had participated in PAD at least one season prior to 2022 (data not shown).

Attendees indicated that it is important for PAD to expand reach and increase attendance through outreach methods which utilize existing social networks. Most who mentioned PAD outreach activities discussed the necessity of more advertising, particularly through the distribution of flyers in popular community gathering places and schools. Attendees also highlighted the need to increase outreach on the internet and social media to keep individuals informed and up-to-date on changing weekly activities and events. Some attendees highlighted how despite living in the community, individuals may still be unaware of PAD (Exhibit 24).

Exhibit 24: Selected Comments about PAD Attendance and Outreach, 2022

PAD attendance	“There were no PAD locations near me (90017). I would love to see something like this in my area.” (Adventure Park)
	“Please keep this every year. Love the activities for our family time.” (San Angelo Park)
	“I’ve been coming to this park for 10 years.” (Salazar Park)
	“This was our first year living in California and I really enjoyed the event. I came twice a week.” (Loma Alta Park)
PAD outreach	“Not easy to navigate the parks website, no one really knows it's happening” (Loma Alta Park)
	“I absolutely love Parks after Dark and feel like there should be more advertising for it and funding during other times of the year” (Loma Alta Park)
	“More advertising. Share at local public schools before summer let's out, continue to post on local social media pages each night with the specific event.” (Loma Alta Park)
	“Put flyers up around the neighborhood.” (Stephen Sorensen Park)
	“Would be great if specific PAD activities were listed online. Right now, I have to go to the park to look at the poster. I also cannot find specific pool schedule (free swim, lanes, lessons), or what are the rules to swim (swim tests, toys allowed, adults vs kids).” (City Terrace Park)
	“I would like to have easier access to information for PAD. Texts or website -- I looked on the park's website and it was difficult to navigate.” (Sorensen Park)
	“I never knew there was Parks after Dark before this year. Social media played a part in our attendance. Kids loved it! Please continue it. We just need to get word out for other families who don't have access to internet. Local doctors' offices, school - leave flyers to advertise! That it's all free.” –Participant, Magic Johnson Park

Source: Summer 2022 PAD Participant Surveys (n=8,109).

PAD Programming

PAD offers a wide variety of programming and services at parks throughout Los Angeles County. These had varied widely in the past based on the individual parks and demographic composition of the target population and surrounding park neighborhood. In summer 2022, PAD introduced more standardized programming across all parks, which required 1) at least two special events, 2) five (community parks) to seven (regional parks) standard programs each day, and 3) three additional programs each day. Standard programs included categories such as: sports, wellness/fitness, arts/culture, education, movies or concerts, targeted youth, children, or adult programming.

The PAD participant survey data were analyzed to determine which programs drew most attendees to participate in PAD and were thus most popular. These activities were also analyzed by age and whether participants attended with children or alone.

When asked about favorite activity, the most popular category was arts/entertainment, with movie night (32%) and concerts/music (16%) as specific draws. Commonly mentioned forms of exercise included organized sports and clinics (17%), jumper/games (10%), and swim/water sports (5%).

Those who attended with children were more likely than those without children to say their favorite activity was jumper/games or movies; meanwhile, those who attended without children were more likely than those with children to say their favorite activity was concerts.

There was also variation in favorite activity by attendee age. Younger attendees (ages 10-39) were more likely to say movies were their favorite activity, while older attendees (60+) were more apt to say concerts. Ages 40-59 preferred movies, but also liked concerts.

Perceptions on PAD's Value

PAD Attendee Perceptions

As indicated in summer 2022 PAD participant surveys, the overwhelming majority of PAD attendees found PAD to be important for their community (94%). PAD attendees indicated that PAD not only provided affordable, accessible activities (90%), but also that the variety of activities were of interest to the community (93%). Overall, the vast majority would attend again (96%) and would recommend PAD to others (96%; Exhibit 25).

Exhibit 25: Perceptions of PAD Participants on Value of PAD, Summer 2022



Source: Summer 2022 PAD Participant Surveys (n=8,109).

In the open-ended responses, many attendees expressed their appreciation and enjoyment of PAD. The atmosphere, the program, and the accessibility of PAD to the community were all

highlighted as positive aspects. Many expressed a desire to return to the next season of PAD and to share this opportunity with others in their social networks.

Exhibit 26: Selected Comments about PAD Value, Summer 2022

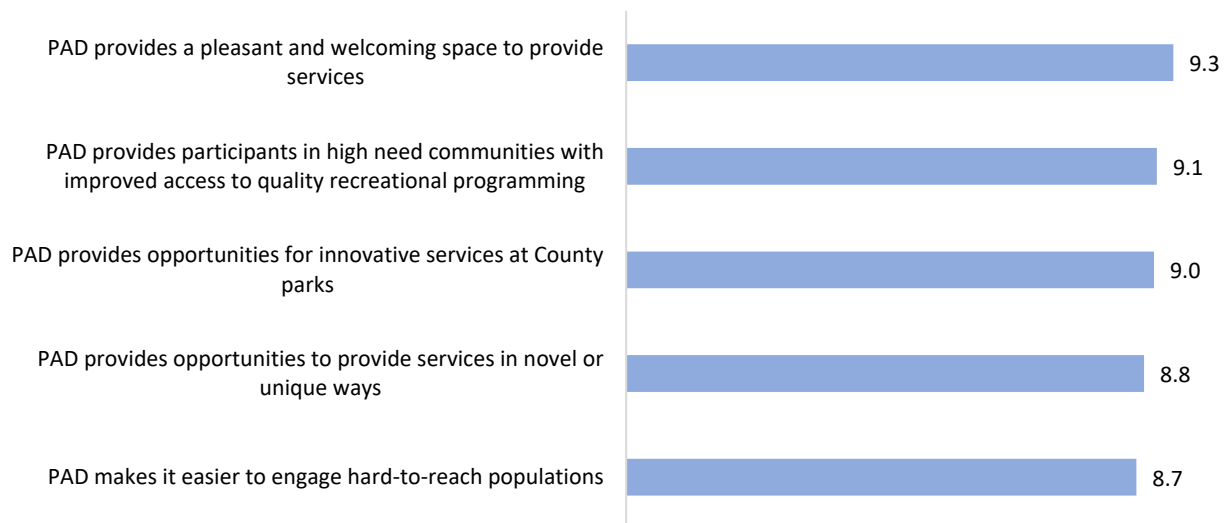
“These events bring joyful, fun experiences to children who wouldn’t otherwise have access to them. These events are a blessing and so necessary.” (Sorensen Park)
“I love the companionship, respect, and attention that you offer the members. God bless you for all of your attention.” (Mayberry Park)
“I wish more people were able to take advantage of the programs provided at the park. They have been very helpful for my family.” (City Terrace Park)
“I always invite anyone I talk to and tell them how fun it is.” (Steinmetz Park)
“I’ve been coming here since my son was one and he is now 11. It’s always been pleasant and nice vibes.” (Ted Watkins Park)
“I tell all my friends at school how much fun it is.” (Loma Alta Park)
“Keep doing PAD! It’s so much fun! And great time for friends and family to come together and hang out with others in their community.” (Mona Park)
“I love it. I have six boys who need to keep busy and out of trouble. All the resources and new learning are what brings us back.” (Obregon Park)

Source: Summer 2022 PAD Participant Surveys (n=8,109).

PAD Key Informant Perception

In key informant surveys, PAD partners agreed that PAD provided a pleasant and welcoming space to provide services (9.3 of 10); provided attendees in high need communities with improved access to quality recreational programming (9.1); and provided opportunities for innovative services at County parks (9.0; Exhibit 27).

Exhibit 27: PAD Key Informants on PAD Satisfaction and Impact



Source: PAD Key Informant Survey (n=53), January-February 2023.

Note: Perception rating using a scale from 0 to 10, where 0=strongly disagree and 10=strongly agree.

"Yeah, the program is such a great way to meet community where they are. And I think it's been advantageous for our department and others to leverage the PAD programming to reach people in the communities where it's implemented, which are often the communities that have the greatest need across different areas." -Key informant, Department of Public Health

"We've had a lot of people actually right into our department just saying how much ...[PAD] has... saved their teenager, like from going in the wrong direction or parents even talking about how they didn't have the money to take their kids on vacation for the summer when all of their friends are going away for vacation... So, PAD was like the place that they took their kids for all the fun over the summer." -Key informant, Department of Parks and Recreation

Goal 5: Increase Physical Activity, and Decrease Chronic Disease Risk

PAD offers a wide variety of free physical activity programs in communities with high rates of obesity. If attendees maintain that level of activity throughout the year, PAD has the potential to reduce the incidence of chronic disease in the community.

This chapter includes an assessment of access to physical activity through PAD using summer 2022 PAD participant surveys and DPR attendance data. The potential impact of PAD on disease burden was estimated using a modified version of the Integrated Transport and Health Impacts Model (ITHIM). Further detail on ITHIM methods are provided in [Appendix A](#).

Attendees' Routine Physical Activity

PAD attendees reported on their routine levels of physical activity independent of PAD and participation in physical activity while attending PAD. As indicated in Summer 2022 PAD participant surveys, one-third of attendees (33%) noted they routinely had at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity for five or more days per week. This percentage was highest for males (35%) and youth ages 16 and under (44%). Approximately 2% of PAD respondents indicated not having any routine weekly physical activity (data not shown).

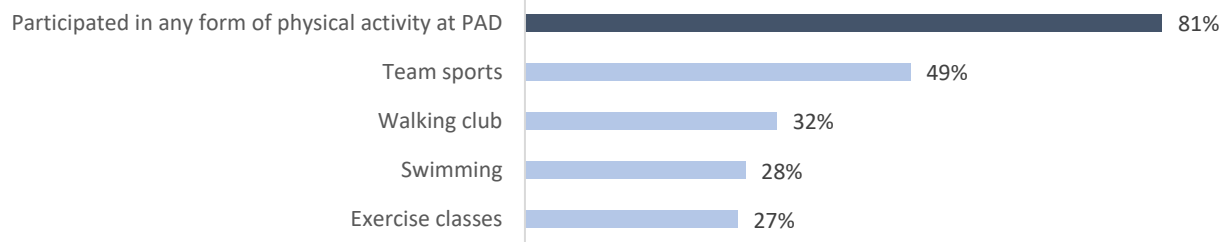
This routine level of activity was compared with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services physical activity guidelines, which indicated 60 minutes/day for youth ages 16 and under and 30 minutes for 5 days a week for adults ages 17 and older. Based on these guidelines, 46% of adults and 19% of youth PAD respondents met recommended levels of routine physical activity (see [Appendix B](#) for breakdowns by individual park and PAD Group).

Attendees' Physical Activity during PAD

Many (34%) attendees engaged in physical activity at PAD more than once a week and others participated once a week (35%), or once or twice during summer PAD (31%). The majority (75%) of respondents who did not meet the recommended activity guidelines for their age, participated in PAD physical activities (data not shown).

Most (81%) attendees participated in a physical activity at PAD, including team sports (49%) such as soccer, football, or basketball; walking club (32%); swimming (28%); and classes (27%) such as dancing, boxing, or Zumba (Exhibit 28).

Exhibit 28: Participants' Physical Activity at PAD and by Type of Activity in Percentages (%), Summer 2022



Source: Summer 2022 PAD Participant Surveys (n=8,109).

Select photos demonstrating physical activity at PAD are highlighted in Exhibit 29.

Exhibit 29: Selected Photos of Physical Activity at PAD, Summer 2022



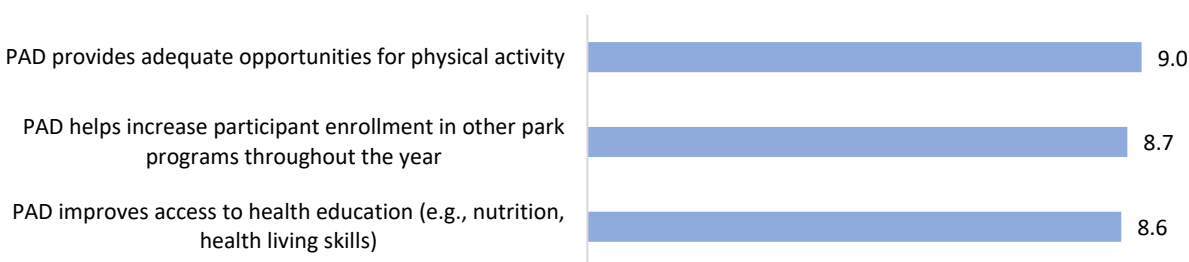
Source: Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Staff, Summer 2022.

“This was the first year I found out about PAD. My sons participate in the soccer clinic. They are excited to go every Saturday. It is very fun and the coaches are great. Very knowledgeable and caring. One coach even came to my son's basketball game he played at a different park. I appreciated that so much... I told different friends and family about PAD. I cannot wait until next summer! Thank you for offering this program because some families may not be able to afford sports for their children to enjoy!” -Participant, George Lane Park

PAD Key Informants on Physical Activity during PAD

In key informant surveys, PAD partners agreed that PAD provided attendees with adequate access to physical activity opportunities (9.0 of 10); increased enrollment in other physical activity park programs throughout the year (8.7); and improved access to health education (8.6; Exhibit 30).

Exhibit 30: PAD Key Informants on PAD Effectiveness in Improving Access to Physical Activity and Health Education



Source: PAD Key Informant Survey (n=53), January-February 2023.

Note: Perception rating using a scale from 0 to 10, where 0=strongly disagree and 10=strongly agree.

In addition, DPR partners emphasized how PAD provides an opportunity for the community to try new and innovative physical activities (e.g., yoga, sports clinics) without cost barriers or commitment. Partners further highlighted how PAD provides a positive environment and encouragement for physical activity, with an emphasis on participation and fun, instead of competition and outcomes. Accessibility was a key component of PAD physical activity programming; accordingly, participation was encouraged regardless of past experience. Activities like the DPH-led walking club encouraged participants to walk at their own pace and interact with others, while they discovered new paths and trails within their community. Other

structured activities offered access to equipment such as skates, kayaks, canoes, bikes that participants may not otherwise be able to utilize.

Potential Impact of PAD on Disease Burden

The potential impact of PAD on disease burden was estimated using ITHIM. ITHIM was originally developed to assess the impact of different modes of transportation such as walking and bicycling on years of life lost (YLL), years living with disability (YLD), and disability adjusted life years (DALYs) for a number of chronic conditions. However, ITHIM can also be used to measure the burden of disease averted due to participation in PAD.

UCLA used ITHIM to estimate the impact of physical activity on premature mortality, disability, and associated costs using available PAD data. UCLA used the age, gender, and number of participants at PAD, as well as length, type, and frequency of routine physical activity outside of PAD and physical activity during PAD.

A number of assumptions were necessary in ITHIM to assess the impact of PAD on disease burden, which are detailed in [Appendix A](#).

The estimated impact of participation in PAD physical activity programs on chronic disease burden was calculated assuming PAD participants engaged in physical activity once a week and year-round (Exhibit 31). The data indicated that PAD physical activities would save one premature death and reduce years of life lost and disability adjusted life years by eleven years each. These numbers varied by type of condition and were highest for stroke and ischemic heart disease.

Exhibit 31: Estimated Change in Burden of Disease from PAD Physical Activity by Chronic Condition Type, Summer 2022

	Rate (per Million Population)	Disease Burden	34 Existing PAD Sites
Ischemic Heart Disease			
Premature deaths	-51	6%	0
Years of Life Lost (YLL)	-601	6%	-6
Years Living with Disability (YLD)	-50	6%	0
Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)	-651	6%	-6
Hypertensive Heart Disease			
Premature deaths	-9	6%	0
YLL	-135	6%	-1
YLD	-15	5%	0
DALYs	-150	6%	-1
Stroke			
Premature deaths	-86	5%	-1
YLL	-1125	6%	-11
YLD	0	7%	0
DALYs	-1125	6%	-11
Depression			
Premature deaths	0	3%	0
YLL	0	3%	0
YLD	-242	3%	-2
DALYs	-243	3%	-2
Diabetes			
Premature deaths	-9	5%	0
YLL	-135	6%	-1
YLD	-169	6%	-2
DALYs	-304	6%	-3
Breast Cancer			
Premature deaths	-2	0%	0
YLL	-35	2%	0
YLD	-10	2%	0
DALYs	-45	2%	0
Colon Cancer			
Premature deaths	-2	3%	0
YLL	-35	3%	0
YLD	-8	3%	0
DALYs	-43	3%	0
Dementia			
Premature deaths	-15	4%	0
YLL	-87	4%	-1
YLD	-227	4%	-2
DALYs	-314	4%	-3
All Causes			
Premature deaths	-86	2%	-1
YLL	-1125	2%	-11
YLD	0	0%	0
DALYs	-1125	1%	-11

Note: Negative numbers indicate reductions in disease burden. Disease burden shown represents the fraction of cases or deaths from each condition that would be avoided if people exercised in PAD types of physical activities once per week for an entire year.

Goal 6: Achieve Cost Savings

PAD was expected to achieve cost savings due to a reduction in crime and disease burden of attendees. UCLA calculated costs of PAD in 2022 using the administrative expenditures for PAD programming from DPR. This assessment differs from previous reports that were based on budgeted rather than actual expenditures. The potential cost savings due to physical activity at PAD were estimated using the data on reduced burden of disease (see Goal 5: Increase Physical Activity, and Decrease Chronic Disease Risk). The cost savings associated with reduced crime were estimated using the cumulative reduction in numbers of Part I crimes and available literature on costs of each type of crime (see Goal 1: Decrease Community Violence and Increase Perceptions of Safety). Cost estimates for Part II crimes were only available for some crime types. Therefore, estimated savings for those crimes could not be calculated.

PAD Program Expenditures

Total PAD expenditures for Summer 2022 were \$3,273,000, with an average allocation of \$96,000 per park (Exhibit 32). DPR service and supply costs were the largest category (48%) and included purchased supplies and contracts for services. This was followed by park personnel (29%), who planned and conducted programs, and Deputy Sheriff personnel (20%), who provided safety patrol and community engagement.

Exhibit 32: PAD Overall Program Expenditures by Category, Summer 2022

Expenditure Category	Budget	Percent of Total Budget
DPR Services and Supplies	\$1,555,000	48%
DPR Personnel (Salaries and Benefits)	\$935,000	29%
Deputy Sheriff Personnel	\$640,000	20%
Other Departmental Service Orders (includes DPH, Public Library, and Internal Services)	\$143,000	4%
Total	\$3,273,000	100%

Source: Department of Parks and Recreation.

Potential PAD Cost Savings Due to Increased Physical Activity

UCLA estimated the impact of increased physical activity during PAD on reduced disease burden (see Goal 5: Increase Physical Activity, and Decrease Chronic Disease Risk). UCLA further estimated the savings associated with the reduced burden of disease in 2022. Exhibit 33 displays the potential cost savings attributable to physical activity during PAD. The increased level of activity was estimated based on the participant survey data that indicated 55% of PAD participants attended PAD at least once a week and engaged in physical activity at least once a

week, and that weekly physical activity afforded by PAD continued for the entire year. The overall savings were estimated at \$1,447,000 in 2022. The largest cost savings were due to reduction in morbidity in heart disease (31%), diabetes (31%), and dementia (20%).

Exhibit 33: Estimated Cost Savings Associated with Reduced Burden of Disease in PAD, 2022

Condition	Estimated Cost Savings from PAD (2022 Dollars)
Heart disease	\$455,000
Diabetes	\$452,000
Dementia	\$284,000
Stroke	\$107,000
Depression	\$101,000
Colon and rectum cancer	\$27,000
Breast cancer	\$21,000
Total	\$1,447,000

Source: Summer 2022 PAD participant survey data inputted into ITHIM model.

Notes: Estimated savings assume that 55% of PAD participants attend PAD and participate in physical activity weekly, as indicated in the Summer 2022 PAD participant surveys, and that weekly physical activity afforded by PAD continued for the entire year. The model assumes participation in physical activity at PAD once a week for an entire year and measures reduced burden of disease and costs associated with that decrease. See Goal 5: Increase Physical Activity, and Decrease Chronic Disease Risk) for more detail.

Potential PAD Cost Savings Due to Reduced Crime

Potential reductions in rates of Part I crimes were estimated earlier in this report (see Goal 1: Decrease Community Violence and Increase Perceptions of Safety). UCLA further estimated costs associated with categories of Part I crimes in 2022 dollars. See [Appendix A](#) for additional details. UCLA estimated a decrease of \$15,887,000 million in associated costs based on the estimated cumulative reduction of 115 Part I crimes in areas surrounding PAD parks from 2010-2022 (Exhibit 34).

Exhibit 34: Estimated Cumulative Cost Savings Associated with Reduction in Part I Crimes in Census Tracts Surrounding PAD Parks, 2010-2022

	Proportion of Crime Types in PAD Surrounding Areas (2010-2022)	Cost Per Crime, 2022	Estimated Cumulative Cost Savings from PAD, 2010-2022
Robbery	18.54%	\$233,567	\$5,000,000
Burglary	16.77%	\$211,095	\$4,089,000
Rape	40.90%	\$62,371	\$2,946,000
Murder	0.20%	\$9,739,772	\$2,284,000
Motor-vehicle theft	7.25%	\$115,124	\$964,000
Larceny-theft	15.11%	\$16,992	\$297,000
Aggravated assault	0.80%	\$314,940	\$292,000
Arson	0.43%	\$29,592	\$15,000
Total			\$15,887,000

Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) data, 2010-2022.

Note: Costs were obtained from available literature and inflated to 2022 dollars.

Furthermore, UCLA estimated a decrease of \$9,936,000 in associated costs based on the estimated reduction of 72 Part I crimes in areas surrounding PAD parks in 2022 (Exhibit 35).

Exhibit 35: Estimated Cost Savings Associated with Reduction in Part I Crimes in Census Tracts Surrounding PAD Parks, 2022

	Estimated Cost Savings from PAD in 2022
Robbery	\$3,128,000
Aggravated assault	\$2,557,000
Larceny-theft	\$1,843,000
Murder	\$1,428,000
Burglary	\$603,000
Motor-vehicle theft	\$186,000
Rape	\$182,000
Arson	\$9,000
	\$9,936,000

Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) data, 2010-2022.

Note: Costs were obtained from literature review and inflated to 2022 dollars.

Estimated Cost Savings

UCLA estimated the total cost savings associated with PAD in 2022 to be \$8,110,000. This is calculated based on the total savings of \$1,447,000 in reduced burden of disease and \$9,936,000 in reduced costs of Part I crimes net of PAD 2022 expenditures of \$3,273,000.

2022 Winter PAD

In 2018, PAD expanded programming to the winter season. This chapter summarizes winter 2022 PAD participant survey data (n=5,224) as it relates to each of the PAD goals. For winter participant survey results by park and PAD Group, please refer to [Appendix B](#). This chapter also synthesizes key takeaways from winter PAD debriefs with park staff.

All 34 parks participated in PAD during the winter season. PAD was held from December 2-17, 2022 on Fridays from 4-8 PM or on Saturdays from 12-4 PM or 4-8 PM, which reflects extended day-time hours for this particular season. Attendees could engage in free activities such as “snow days” and sledding, music, arts and crafts, physical activity programming, and health outreach and social service resource fairs. Programming revolved around the theme of “Winter Wonderland”.

2022 Winter PAD Participant Survey Findings

Winter PAD Attendee Characteristics

PAD attendees who took the survey were most likely to be between the ages of 26 to 39 (41%), female (71%), and identified as Hispanic/Latinx (71%). The majority of attendees identified English as their primary language spoken at home (71%), followed by Spanish (22%).

Winter PAD attracted individuals who were regular visitors to the park, with the majority (60%) visiting the park on either a daily (19%) or weekly (41%) basis outside of PAD. Notably, 63% of attendees lived within the same zip code as a PAD park. Steinmetz (90%) and Saybrook (79%) Parks had the highest proportion of attendees who shared the same zip code as the park.

Winter PAD also attracted families, with 84% of attendees attending with children. Of those attending with children, children were most often in the age range of 6-12 (66%), followed by 0-5 (43%), and 13-18 (19%).

Goal 1: Decrease Community Violence and Increase Perceptions of Safety

As indicated in the winter 2022 surveys, the majority of PAD attendees perceived parks to be very safe (53%) and an additional 40% perceived PAD parks to be somewhat safe. In contrast, PAD attendees perceived their neighborhoods as very safe (40%) less often. Notably, among PAD attendees who expressed not feeling safe in their neighborhood, 50% felt safe at PAD.

The overwhelming majority of PAD attendees agreed that PAD improved the relationship of the community with Deputy Sheriffs (94%). Factors that contributed to attendees' feelings of safety while at PAD included: park staff (55%), Deputy Sheriffs (54%), people around (38%), and a positive atmosphere (29%). In open-ended comments, attendees mentioned attending with people they know, such as family or friends, as a way to ensure safety. Attendees also noted that park facilities, lighting, cleanliness, and access to convenient parking were ways to improve attendees' feelings of safety at PAD. Many attendees expressed that there was little security or too few Deputy Sheriffs present at winter programming, particularly when compared to summer PAD. Law enforcement presence varied by park; see Exhibit 36 for select photos of law enforcement at winter PAD.

Exhibit 36: Select Photos of Deputy Sheriffs at PAD, Winter 2022



Source: UCLA staff site visits, Winter 2022.

Note: Multiple police cars parked near the park vicinity at Belvedere (left), law enforcement officers parked at El Cariso and monitoring winter PAD activities (right).

Goal 2: Increase Collaboration among Different Stakeholders

Similar to summer programming, winter PAD required cross-sector collaboration for implementation. LASD provided Deputy Sheriffs for patrol and engagement with attendees. Services offered by DPH included educational events such as CPR training, emergency preparedness, COVID-19 and flu vaccination booths, and substance abuse prevention education, as well as referrals to additional health and wellness opportunities within the community. Community based organizations also set up booths to provide information on available social services and resources within the surrounding area.

Goal 3: Increase Social Cohesion and Family Bonding

The vast majority of attendees (81%) were in agreement that they live in a close-knit or unified neighborhood. There was variation across park groups; 92% of PAD Group 1 (Pamela,

Roosevelt, and Ted Watkins Parks) were in agreement that they live in a close-knit or unified neighborhood, compared to only 10% of PAD Group 5 (Amigo and Sorensen Parks). Of those attendees who felt they did not live in a close-knit neighborhood, 82% agreed that PAD helped them get to know their neighbors better. See Exhibit 37 for select photos of family and community bonding at PAD.

Exhibit 37: Select Photos of Family and Community Bonding at PAD, Winter 2022

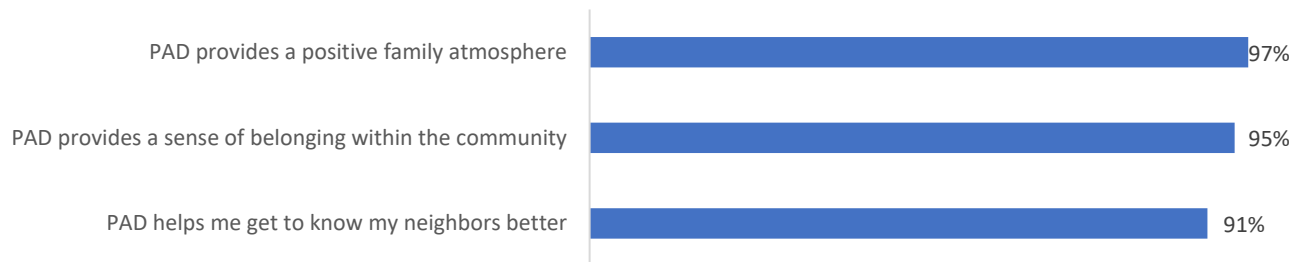


Source: UCLA staff site visits, Winter 2022.

Note: Group of young children at a coloring table at El Cariso (left), children play with inflatable structures at Sorensen (right).

Attendees overwhelmingly reported positive feedback related to community relationships and feelings of social cohesion while attending PAD. For example, an attendee at Belvedere Park noted that “kids get to enjoy free activities and get to know the community.” The vast majority of attendees agreed there was a positive family atmosphere when attending PAD (97%), felt a sense of belonging in the community (95%), and agreed that they got to know their neighbors better (91%; Exhibit 38). Across all parks, there was slight variation, but all percentages stayed above 90%.

Exhibit 38: Attendee Perspectives on Social Cohesion and Family and Community Well-being at PAD, Winter 2022

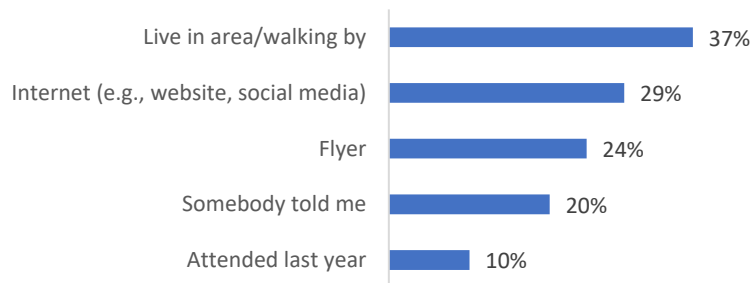


Source: 2022 PAD Winter Survey (n=5,224).

Goal 4: Increase Access to Quality Recreational Programming and Innovative Services

The majority of attendees found out about PAD by living in the area or walking by (37%), followed by the Internet (e.g., website, social media; 29%), and via flyers (24%; Exhibit 39). Notably, 58% of attendees at Ted Watkins Park found out about PAD due to living in the area or walking by. Additional methods of outreach included via community institutions (e.g., library, council, school) and other media outlets (e.g., TV, radio). There were also suggestions from attendees on additional outreach methods PAD could deploy, such as “advertising to the community, maybe through the school district in the area” (Attendee, Pamela Park) or “more flyers distributed at elementary schools” (Attendee, Loma Alta).

Exhibit 39: PAD Attendees on Outreach Method, Winter 2022



Source: 2022 PAD Winter Survey (n=5,224).

Note: Multiple responses are possible.

The top three favorite activities of attendees included: movies (27%), followed by sports (21%) and jumper/games (14%). Movies were popular across all age groups, whereas jumper/games were most popular amongst youth. Due to the winter season, some comments from attendees acknowledged that their favorite activities were the “Winter Wonderland” events, such as

having snow in the park (Exhibit 40). Open-ended comments also noted suggestions for more activities catered directly towards teens/young adults.

Exhibit 40: Select Photos of “Winter Wonderland” Programming, Winter 2022



Source: UCLA staff site visits, Winter 2022.

Note: Children sledding on fresh snow at El Cariso (left), and two children pose for a photo with a dressed up Grinch at Belvedere (right).

The great majority (93%) of attendees agreed that they can participate in activities they couldn't otherwise afford through PAD and 96% agreed that there was a variety of activities that they want to do while at winter PAD.

Goal 5: Increase Physical Activity, and Decrease Disease Risk

While physical activity programming was not the primary focus of winter PAD, attendees reported increased access to physical activity through available winter programming with 42% participating in a walking club, 41% in team sports, and 25% in an exercise class.

UCLA compared routine level of physical activity (outside of PAD) with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services physical activity guidelines, which indicated 60 minutes/day for youth ages 16 and under and 30 minutes for 5 days a week for adults ages 17 and older. Based on these guidelines, 36% of PAD attendees met recommended levels of routine physical activity (41% of adults; 5% of youth). Approximately 6% of attendees indicated not having any routine weekly physical activity.

Winter PAD Satisfaction

Nearly all attendees would participate in winter PAD again (96%) and would recommend PAD to others (97%). For example, in open-ended comments, attendees from Adventure Park noted that “every event has been great” and that they are “definitely coming to more events.”

Takeaways from Winter PAD

DPR conducted a debrief with PAD staff to understand their perspectives on elements specific to winter PAD implementation. The following takeaways and specific recommendations emerged:

- **Toy giveaways** were a large draw for winter PAD attendees, however staff felt that while the selection and quality of toys was good, there were not enough toys available to meet demand. Staff recommended starting the procurement/donation process earlier (e.g., summer) and to streamline toy giveaways by assigning timeslots and dedicating more staff to the process. In participant surveys, attendees often mentioned long wait times and lines for the toy giveaways.
- **Snow events** were another popular draw for winter PAD attendees, but required significant resources to upkeep and maintain. Some sites did not get enough snow and/or did not have adequate staffing for monitoring and upkeep. Staff recommended increasing staffing numbers, providing staff with more personal protective equipment (e.g., kneepads, uniforms) and tools to maintain the snow (e.g., gloves, shovels, rakes), and more timely delivery of enough snow to ensure smooth roll-out of the activities. In participant surveys, attendees suggested dedicated areas of the snow based on age (e.g. dedicated play area for youth) to ensure safety.
- Most staff were satisfied with the **dates and times** of winter programming. Staff suggested coordinating events with local agencies (e.g. California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles County School District) to avoid potential scheduling conflicts that may lead to lower attendance. Staff suggested more site-specific flyers for outreach. In participant surveys, the overwhelming majority (80%) preferred future PAD programming on Thursday, Friday, Saturday as opposed to Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (20%).
- **Available activities** were well received by PAD staff and attendees. Suggestions included dedicated senior activities and more active involvement of community partners in programming. Staff found the themed characters (e.g., Santa, Grinch) to be particularly popular but noted importance of size requests and distribution of costumes for all parks.

- ***Number of dedicated staff to run events*** could be increased. Sites used youth workers when available to complement the efforts of recreational staff. More staff hours were needed for event preparation and tear-down/cleanup than anticipated.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This report describes the findings of the evaluation of PAD in 2022. The findings describe whether PAD succeeded in achieving its six goals including 1) decrease community violence and increase perceptions of safety; 2) facilitate cross-sector collaboration in park communities and county-wide; 3) increase social cohesion, and family and community well-being; 4) increase access to free recreational programming, health and social services that reflect the interests and needs of communities served; 5) increase physical activity and decrease chronic disease risk; and 6) achieve cost savings.

Collectively, the findings indicated that PAD succeeded in making progress towards achieving its goals by provision of recreational programming in areas of Los Angeles County with high rates of crime and burden of disease. PAD programs included free sports, entertainment, and other activities for children and adults in a safe space for communities with few such opportunities and resources. Evidence indicated that PAD contributed to feelings of well-being, family togetherness, and social cohesion; may have reduced crime in PAD parks and their surrounding areas; and may have reduced the burden of disease for attendees that participated in sports and exercise opportunities. Contributors to these results were cross-sector collaboration between multiple departments in Los Angeles County and governmental funds and resources provided to parks to successfully implement PAD in the summer months.

These conclusions are supported by the findings presented in other sections of this report. A high-level summary of the PAD findings and recommendations for further programmatic refinements to promote achievement of goals in future years are provided below.

Goal 1: Decrease Community Violence and Increase Perceptions of Safety

UCLA examined the impact of PAD on violence and safety by analyzing data from the surveys of PAD attendees, interviews with PAD stakeholders, and administrative crime data. The existing evidence indicated that PAD attendees felt safe at PAD even when they did not feel safe in their neighborhoods where PAD parks were usually located. The feelings of safety were due to the presence of Deputy Sheriffs, park staff, and community members, as well as park features such as adequate lighting, clean facilities, and signage. These perspectives were corroborated by stakeholders including park staff and Deputy Sheriffs. In addition, analysis of crimes data indicated that while average Part I and Part II crime rates near PAD parks were higher than the that of Los Angeles County, PAD may have avoided 115 Part I crimes and 74 Part II crimes between 2010 and 2022, relative to comparison parks without PAD.

Recommendations to further decrease community violence and increase perceptions of safety included:

- **Meaningful Deputy Sheriff engagement:** Reduce variation in Deputy Sheriff interaction and engagement with the community from park to park. Encourage more Deputy Sheriff engagement with the community through efforts to walk around and actively participate in PAD activities, interact with youth, and ensure consistent assignment of the same Deputies per park.
- **Deputy Sheriff and interventionist collaboration:** Encourage communication and collaboration between law enforcement and interventionists, for greater community benefit.
- **Understand and plan for available safety resources:** Create and utilize a plan for Deputy Sheriff recruitment prior to PAD program start, interact earlier with the Sheriff's Department, and ensure resources are available for all PAD parks.
- **Expand interventionist activities:** Recognize that not all communities are comfortable with the presence of Deputy Sheriffs and rely on other options such as Department of Public Health staff and interventionists through the Safe Passages Initiative. Identify priority locations for safe passages to and from parks for PAD and expand interventionists activities in these locations, as funding allows.
- **Consistent safety measures year-round:** Encourage Deputy Sheriff and interventionist presence throughout the year to build relationships with park staff and community.

Goal 2: Increase Collaboration among Different Stakeholders

Discussions with key informants indicated that PAD implementation fostered communication, collaboration, and relationship-building amongst participating organizations. Key informants strongly agreed that PAD improved relationships between County departments and community members, communication and collaboration with PAD partners, and collaboration between County parks and CBOs. Collaborations were fostered through innovative strategies such as stakeholder engagement meetings and community resource fairs.

Recommendations to further facilitate cross-sector collaboration include:

- **Early and year-round planning and convening of partners:** Bring leadership from key departments together to strategically align resources and efficiently address community needs and involve individuals who implemented PAD and can offer "on the ground" perspective and experience.
- **Diverse and regular partner communication:** Promote frequent and active communication through a variety of modalities including regular updates via email and Zoom and in-person meetings.

- ***Continue to grow participating partner network:*** Expand partnerships within communities to include well-known businesses and services that have existing relationships with PAD attendees.

Goal 3: Increase Social Cohesion and Family Bonding

Key informants and PAD attendees indicated that PAD contributed to social cohesion and community well-being by providing opportunities for neighbors and families to socialize, spend quality time together, and develop positive relationships. The vast majority of attendees brought children to PAD, and PAD provided families access to activities that they may not otherwise be able to afford.

Recommendations to further increase social cohesion and community well-being include:

- ***Promote diversity and inclusion:*** Integrate initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion in programming by including individuals from various ages, races and ethnicities, and other groups who may be commonly excluded or underrepresented.
- ***Collect and integrate community feedback and develop targeted programming to address community needs:*** Systematically solicit community feedback and conduct needs assessments, creating more spaces for dialogues to identify population needs through additional relationships with community-based organizations and County departments. Use this information to develop PAD programming and services relevant to community needs, which contributes to family bonding and social cohesion during PAD.

Goal 4: Increase Access to Quality Recreational Programming and Innovative Services

PAD administrative data, key informant interviews, and attendee surveys showed that PAD increased access to free recreational programming by reaching residents of PAD zip codes and many others living throughout the County, with over 137,500 estimated visits across all 34 parks. PAD provided a mix of entertainment, physical activity programming, and health and social services that attracted families and participants of all ages. PAD had high levels of participant and partner satisfaction. Attendees found PAD to be important for their community. Key informants agreed that PAD provided a pleasant and welcoming space to provide services and provided attendees in high need communities with improved access to quality recreational programming.

Recommendations to further increase access to free recreational programming and health and social services include:

- ***Utilize a variety of outreach strategies to increase reach:*** Outreach should go beyond the communities where PAD parks are located and utilize a wide variety of modalities including social media platforms and local schools and CBOs who have relationships with potential attendees. Outreach should be conducted well in advance of the start of PAD so potential attendees can plan accordingly.
- ***Dedicated and reliable staffing models:*** Volunteers and youth workers can address elevated staffing needs during PAD, but need to be recruited and trained prior to PAD. Similarly, dedicated park staff need to be hired in a timely manner to assist with planning, administration, engaging stakeholders, and a smoother program implementation. Strategies to promote retention should be utilized (e.g., relationship building, offer incentives).

Goal 5: Increase Physical Activity, and Decrease Chronic Disease Risk

PAD administrative data, key informants, and attendee surveys highlighted that PAD increased access to physical activity by providing access to free sports and exercise classes. The majority of attendees who did not meet the recommended activity guidelines for their age participated in physical activity at PAD. Key informants emphasized “spillover effects,” such as increased enrollment in other physical activity park programs throughout the year. PAD findings indicated the likely reduction in disease burden in PAD high-need communities if physical activity levels were sustained year-round.

Recommendations to further increase physical activity and decrease disease risk include:

- ***Increase physical activity offerings that are in alignment with attendee interests:*** Increase physical activity offerings that cater to specific youth and adult interests. Sports programming should be feasible and consider whether the park has appropriate space and equipment.
- ***Utilize marketing to promote health and physical activity:*** Increase marketing campaigns to promote health and physical activity for youth and adult attendees. Outreach should emphasize accessibility of activities in a safe environment at no-cost to attendees.
- ***Offer popular PAD programming year-round:*** Provide year-round physical activity programming based on attendee interest at PAD parks to maximize impact on chronic disease.

Goal 6: Achieve Cost Savings

UCLA estimated the cost savings of PAD that were associated with reductions in burden of disease and crime. These cost savings were greater than the costs of PAD programming. The estimates of cost savings presented in this report do not reflect potential savings from Part II crimes, which were more common than Part I crimes but were not estimated due to lack of adequate data. PAD may also have reduced other costs associated with improved mental health and social determinants of health by providing access to these services.



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Appendices are available online. For additional details on evaluation methods – please see [Appendix A](#). For additional data, including survey descriptives by park and PAD Group – please see [Appendix B](#).