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GRYD SUMMER NIGHT LIGHTS: REFLECTIONS AND RESPONSES



SUMMER NIGHT LIGHTS (SNL) OVERVIEW

- Public & Private Partnership by the GRYD Office and the GRYD Foundation
- SNL is a violence-reduction program that targets 32 city parks historically impacted by gang-related violence
- Offers violence reduction programming and community engagement activities
- Operates between the hours of 7:00 pm to 11:00 PM during summer months
- Since 2008, there have been approximately **5,650,283** site visits recorded and over **3,563,052** meals served.

SNL 2016: A SUMMER OF TRANSFORMATIONS

Program Participation

690,523

**Total Estimate
Site Visits**

21,578

**Average Estimate Visit
at 32 SNL Sites**

Meals Served

431,577

**Meals served (healthy options such
as turkey burgers, chicken breast,
low-sugar drink mix, and fresh
produce)**



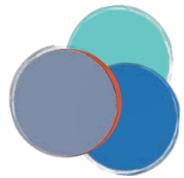
SNL 2016 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SNL Employment

359 Youth hired as SNL Youth Squad members (ages 17-24) + 64 Site Coordinators + 16 Cluster Coordinators + 5 SNL Office Staff + 42 Artists (visual arts, music) + 88 Seasonal Community Intervention Workers (CIWs) + 253 Sports Officials

827 Citywide Employment Total





EVALUATION FINDINGS

GRYD SUMMER NIGHT LIGHTS

SNL 2016 RESEARCH PLAN

Community Residents Feedback Forums

- What are residents' perceptions of social support and gang violence in their communities?
- What are residents' perspectives on LAPD and SNL?
- What do residents gain from attending SNL?

Lead Community Intervention Workers (CIW) Focus Groups

- What are CIWs perceptions of LAPD and gang violence in their communities?
- What are CIWs experiences in reducing gang violence?
- What do CIWs gain from working with SNL?

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FORUMS: PARKS INCLUDED

- Hubert Humphrey Recreation Center
- Glassell Park Recreation Center
- Lemon Grove Recreation Center
- Green Meadows Recreation Center
- Mount Carmel Recreational Center
- Sun Valley Recreational Center



PROBLEMS FACED BY COMMUNITIES PER COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

- Homelessness
- Graffiti
- Drug & Alcohol Abuse
- Human Trafficking
- Gang Recruitment
- Shootings & Violence

<i>Q: Do you think the following issues are a “big problem,” “minor problem,” or “not a problem” in your community?</i>	Big Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem
Homelessness	38	3	0
Drug Use	38	2	2
Shootings	25	10	6
Alcohol	22	0	16

PROBLEMS FACED BY COMMUNITIES PER LEAD CIWS

- When asked about the main issues in and around SNL parks, CIWs discussed the prevalence of homelessness, prevalence of graffiti, drug and alcohol abuse, human trafficking, gang recruitment, and nearby shootings. None felt that these issues had increased in severity from the previous year, and most discussed the matter casually, noting that social problems were the reason SNL operated in those parks in the first place.
- Two CIWs noted,
 - **“There were no longer any more benches, there were no longer any places where they can [hang around].”**
 - **“We had a lot of incidents right before the beginning of SNL, [but] we were able to be proactive and bring some peace to the neighborhood.”**

LEAD CIW PERCEPTIONS OF LAPD

“There was a lot of communication with LAPD. Working back and forth, they let me handle the situation before [they did]. So they gave us a lot of respect on that end; of course, we give them respect then too.”

“[The] officers assigned to our park—they kind of showed their human side. They weren’t being suppressive. [They were] engaged in the community, helped give out popcorn.”

“We had an officer that was really good with the kids, [but] the only thing he didn’t want is CIWs talking to him. He thought that was a bad look; ‘what were the kids going to say?’ [He didn’t realize that for] some of these kids—that’s their older brother.”

UPCOMING SUMMER NIGHT LIGHTS IN 2017

- Trauma Informed Care Training Curriculum for Youth Squad
- Metrics/Data- Capture the narrative/stories of participants and ripple effects of SNL beyond the summer
- Celebrating the 10th Summer of SNL programming in our communities. 2008-2017!

