

# Evaluating Shared Use: CDC's Joint Use Agreement (JUA) Evaluability Assessments

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## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- 1. Identify innovative policies and strategies related to Shared Use within and beyond the school setting.**
- 2. Identify policies and strategies determined to be highly promising for rigorous evaluation and replication.**
- 3. Understand the concept of Open Use in both the school and faith-based environment, and identify strategies for overcoming potential barriers to the adoption of an Open Use Policy.**

# WHAT IS AN EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT?

- A process for evaluators to work with program managers **to help them get ready** for evaluation.
- **A method for determining:**
  - The extent to which a program is ready for evaluation
  - The changes that are needed to increase readiness
  - The type of evaluation approach most suitable to judge a program or policies performance



# THE SYSTEMATIC SCREENING ASSESSMENT (SSA) METHODOLOGY

1. Selecting priority topics for assessment
2. Conducting a broad-based scan and nomination process to solicit innovations that address these priority topics
3. Using an expert panel of researchers and content experts to select promising innovations suitable for an EA
4. Conducting EAs of those that pass the expert panel screen
5. Engaging an expert panel to review the results of the Eas
6. Identifying those innovations that are most promising and ready for a rigorous evaluation

# 2012 EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENTS

- **Statewide:**

- Arkansas Statewide Joint Use Agreement (JUA) Grant Program
  - Little Rock, Arkansas

- **County-level:**

- Fairfax County, Joint Use Initiative (JUI)
  - Fairfax County, VA
- Joint Use Moving People to Play (JUMPP)
  - Los Angeles, California

- **Community-level:**

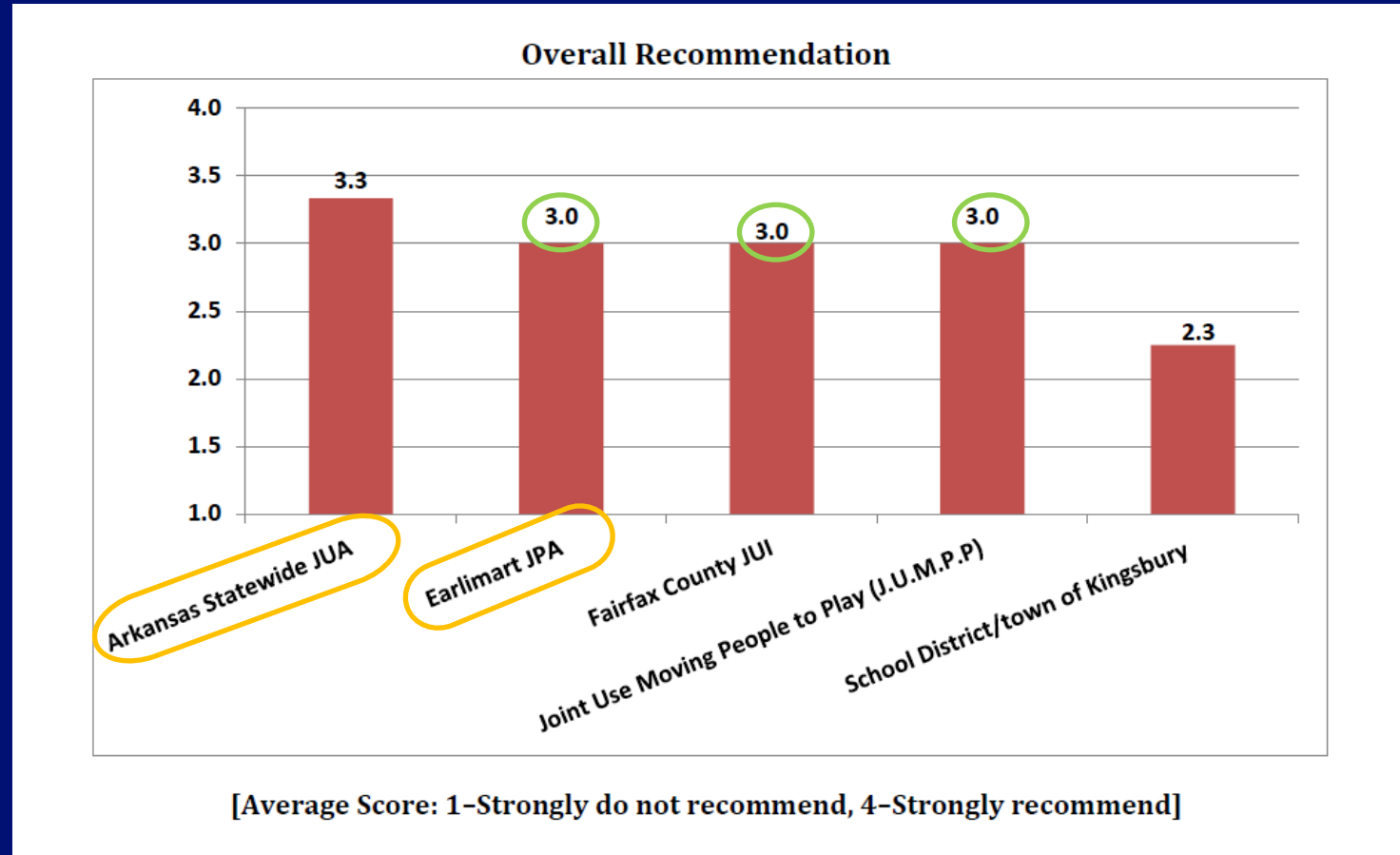
- Earlimart Neighborhood Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)
  - Earlimart, California
- Kingsbury, Joint Use Agreement for Swimming Pool
  - Kingsbury, NY

# JUA RATING CRITERIA

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1. Potential Impact
2. Reach to Target Population
3. Acceptability to Stakeholders
4. Feasibility of Implementation
5. Feasibility of Adoption
6. Transportability/Generalizability
7. Initiative Sustainability
8. Sustainability of Health Effect
9. Staff/Organizational Capacity
10. Overall Recommendation

# JUA INITIATIVES RATINGS FOR RIGOROUS EVALUATION



# ARKANSAS STATEWIDE JOINT-USE AGREEMENT (JUA) GRANT PROGRAM

- **Level:** State-wide
- **Key Partners:** The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI)
- **Program Description:** Competitive statewide JUA grant program (awards \$10,000 to eligible JUA programs)
  - Funds primary and secondary schools to increase opportunities for physical activity to improve community health and education outcomes
  - Promote the development and implementation of joint use policy and relationships between school and community entities

## Increasing Physical Activity Through Joint-Use Agreements Spotlight: Arkansas

**Methods**

Evaluability Assessments (EAs) are used as a method to better understand how effective state and community innovative policies and initiatives are being implemented. As components of the Systematic Screening and Assessment Method (SSA), EAs are considered a "pre-evaluation" activity to determine which initiatives may work the best and can help with future evaluation, and which programs and evaluations need strengthening, often saving costs and time.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity used EAs to identify the potential promise of several nutrition, physical activity, and obesity prevention initiatives and their readiness for rigorous evaluation. EAs consist of a site visit to better understand an initiative or policy by assessing implementation, data availability, intended outcomes, and staff capacity. After completing the site visit, feedback is provided to the initiative, which includes future evaluation recommendations.



**Kinds of Evaluability Assessments Used**

In 2012, CDC used the SSA method to assess the potential promise of five state- and local-level joint-use agreement initiatives. Joint-use agreements (JUA) increase opportunities for physical activity by allowing groups—usually a school and a city or private organization—to share indoor and outdoor spaces for physical activity like gymnasiums, athletic fields, and playgrounds.

**Joint-Use Spotlight: Arkansas Statewide Joint-Use Agreement (JUA) Grant Program**

One of the five initiatives selected for the 2012 CDC Evaluability Assessments project was a statewide Joint-Use Agreement grant program through the State Education Agency, Arkansas Department of Education in Arkansas.

In early 2009, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), and the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) designed a joint-use grant program. After researching best practices and reviewing model programs from California and Mississippi, the statewide Arkansas Joint-Use Agreement Grant program was created. The program provides funds to primary and secondary schools in Arkansas. Its goal is to increase opportunities for physical activity to improve community health and education outcomes. The Arkansas Department of Education awards between \$10,000 to \$30,000 per grant released, to approximately 20 to 30 schools and communities per year through a competitive application process. The application process gives preference to JUAs in neighborhoods with a high concentration of obesity and those that do not have adequate or well-maintained parks or recreational spaces.

The JUA program is implemented by grantees in two phases. In the first phase, grantees participate in technical assistance (TA) and training opportunities provided by the State-level staff and partners, where a draft joint-use school board policy is developed. In the implementation phase, grantees draft a formal joint-use agreement and a joint-use action plan that details objectives and initiatives of the agreement.

**Joint-Use Agreement Initiatives Selected (2012)**

- Arkansas Statewide Joint-Use Agreement Grant Program
- Fairfax County, Virginia Joint-Use Initiative
- Los Angeles, California, Joint-Use Moving People to Play
- Kingsbury, New York, Joint-Use Agreement for Outdoor Swimming Pool
- Earlimart, California, Earlimart Neighborhood Joint-Powers Agreement

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion  
Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity



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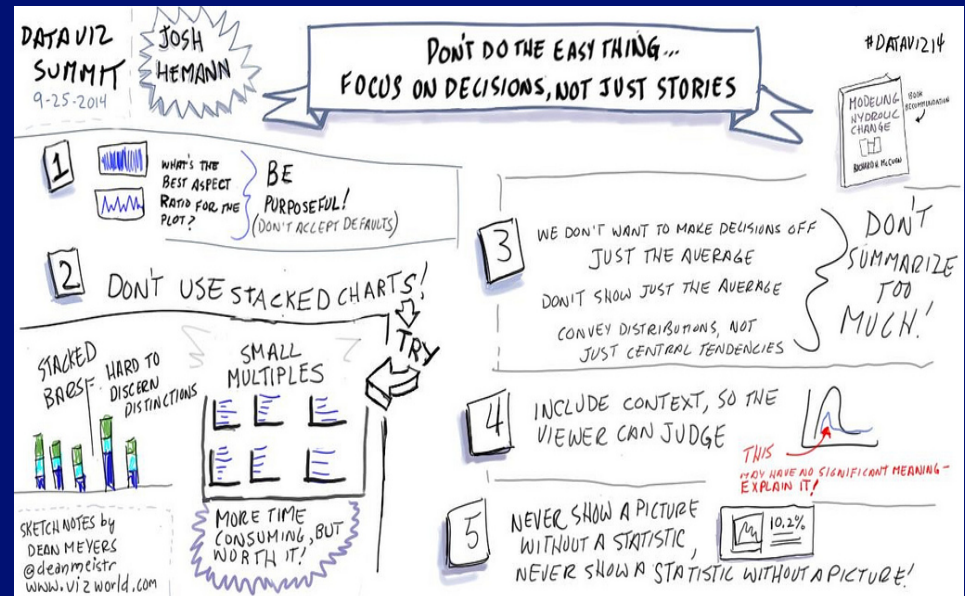


## ARKANSAS CONSIDERATIONS: EVALUATION QUESTIONS

- What is the neighborhood context?
- What types of equipment and facilities are made available to the community?
- How has the existence of JUAs increased access to physical activity for community members and increased physical activity levels of community members?
- Are there environmental factors that may inhibit the community's engagement in joint-use related activities?
- How has the program affected facility use?

# ARKANSAS EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS: DATA COLLECTION

- Total number of agreements
- Pre/post physical activity levels
- Number of JUA sites
- Types of JUAs
- Number of users
- Demographics of users
- Types of use
- Total cost of the program
- Change in court filings
  - Liability issues and accounted maintenance costs



## EARLIMART NEIGHBORHOOD JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (JPA)

- **Level:** Community-based
- **Key Partners:** Earlimart Town's school board, town council, and community members to pursue a formalized partnership with the county
- **Program Description:** Community received a CalTrans grant which led to a JPA (between the Earlimart School District [ESD] and the County of Tulare) to build a park.
  - During school hours, the school will have exclusive access to 2/3 of the park (a gated space).
  - The community will have access to the remaining 1/3 of the park during school hours and will have full access to the entire park during non-school hours and on holidays and weekends.

## **EARLIMART CONSIDERATIONS: EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

- Qualitative evaluation of the process of keeping the underserved community engaged in the building of the park for 50 years, examining the following:
  - Lessons learned about the initiative's champion
  - How the initiative progresses toward getting the park built
- Use this JUA as a case study for underserved communities with a large immigrant population

# EARLIMART CONSIDERATIONS: DATA COLLECTION

- Follow-up Community Survey
- Focus groups (community members)
- Park usage
  - Number of users
  - Demographics of users
  - Types of events
- Community health status
- Changes to physical environment
- Additional funds leveraged



## **SUSTAINING JUAs: What we learned**

1. **Buy-in:** Buy-in at all levels (district and school)
2. **Communication:** A common understanding of JUAs and language between entities involved
3. **Awareness:** Communication to the public about their ability to access facilities
4. **Needs assessment:** Use to identify which programs to implement at which sites and which to provide with environmental changes
5. **Funding:** Incentives may be needed for some sites with less buy-in