



Safe Routes
to School
**National
Partnership**

What Is Shared Use?

Supporting Health in Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities

Across the country, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities do not get enough physical activity. Asian American communities often do not have access to parks, tracks, fields, or affordable gyms. When children and adults don't participate in physical activity, it can cause poor health, which can lead to diseases like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. As a result, it is important for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to have convenient places to be active.

Shared use can help increase physical activity. Shared use involves making places in communities that are usually closed to the public – like school playgrounds or fields – available for community use. For example, in Salt Lake City, Utah, the National Tongan American Society worked with school districts and faith-based institutions to increase access to physical activity opportunities among the Pacific Islander (Samoan, Fijian, and Tongan) community. Local schools now allow children and adults from the neighborhood to come after school or on weekends to use a track or playground. Shared use makes it easier to be healthy by providing children and adults with safe, conveniently located, inviting and affordable places to exercise and play.



Too often, children find the gates of their school's blacktop or basketball court locked after school hours, leaving many children and families struggling to include physical activity in their daily lives. We can make our communities healthier by coming together and working with schools and other places to open up their facilities through shared use.