

The Role of Nonprofit Organizations in Creating Active Communities

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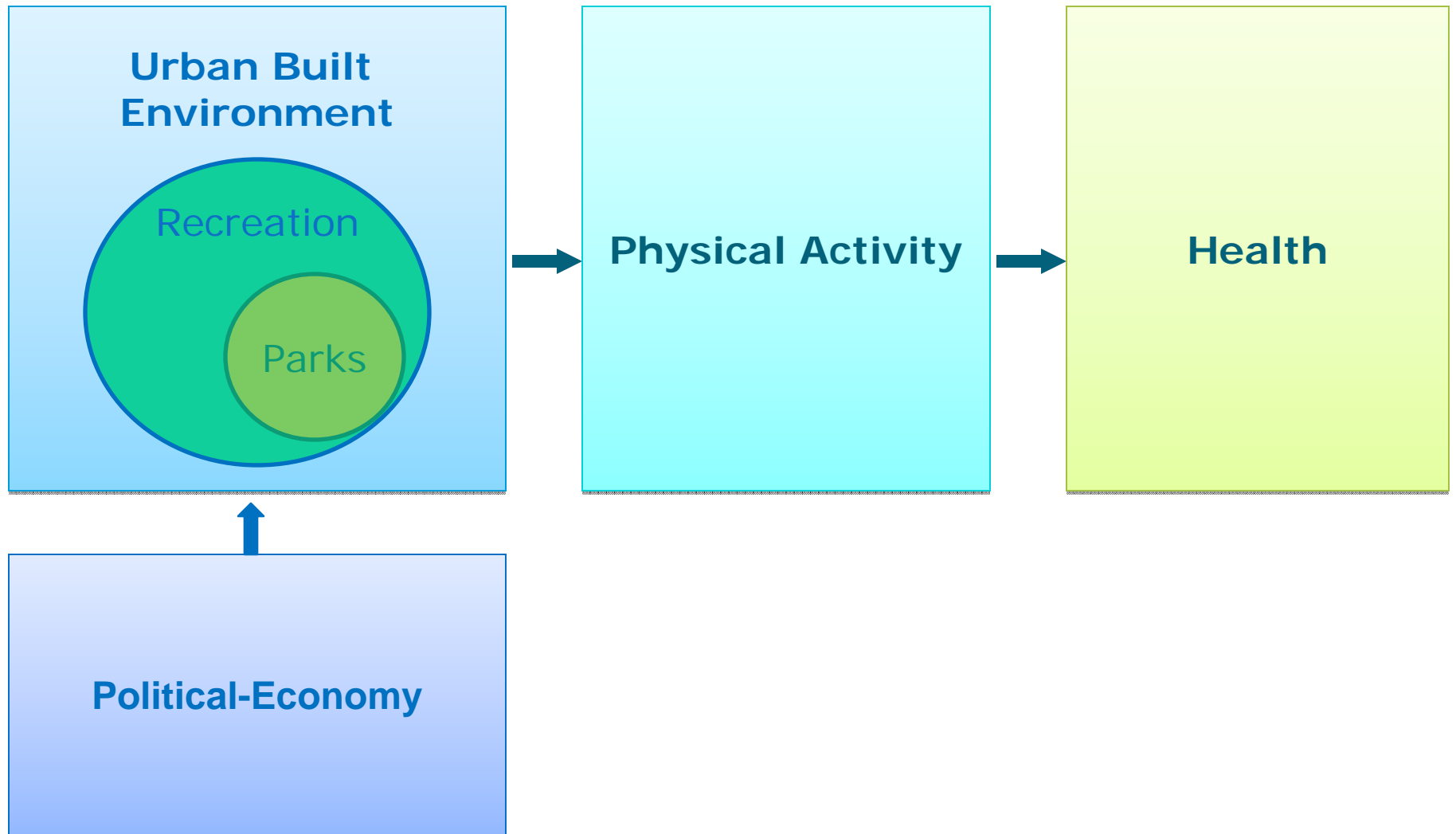
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Active Living Research



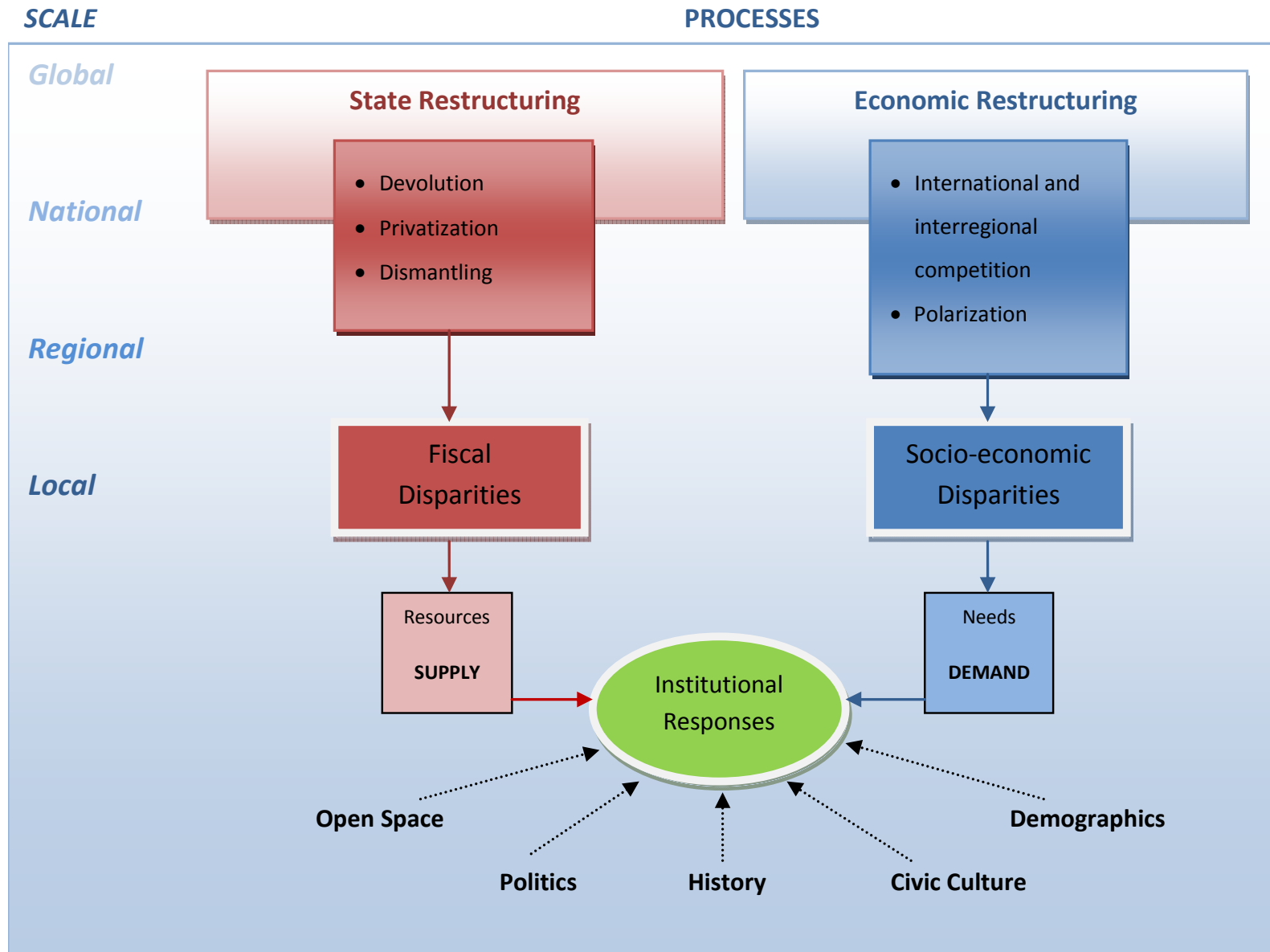
Motivations

- Evidence that access to parks and recreation opportunities promotes healthy behavior and reduces health risks
- Arguments for better distribution and improvements in parks and recreation opportunities
- Parks primarily funded by local governments, characterized by large fiscal disparities
- Increasing role of nonprofit organizations
- Limited knowledge about relative role, funding sources, types of recreation, and equity

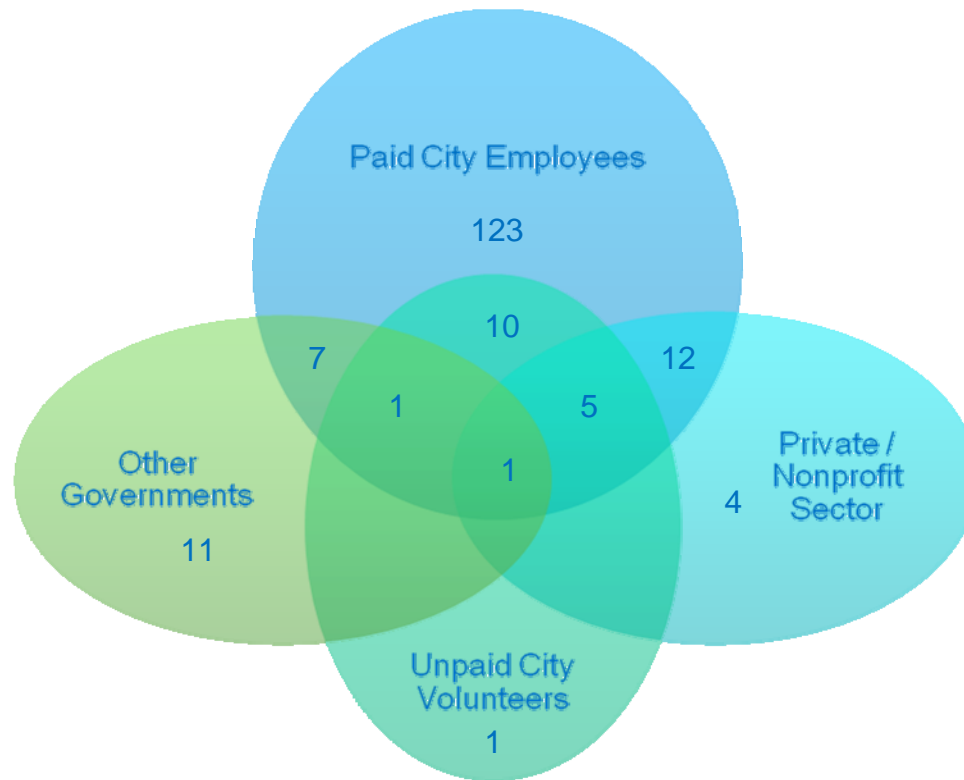
Research Goals

- Measure the relative size of the recreation nonprofit sector in southern California
- Map and analyze the distribution of recreation nonprofits and their expenditure across municipalities
- Investigate sources of funding for nonprofits
- Model nonprofit activity (numbers and expenditure) based on local government, demographic, political/cultural, and physical characteristics of municipalities
- Evaluate policies promoting nonprofitization

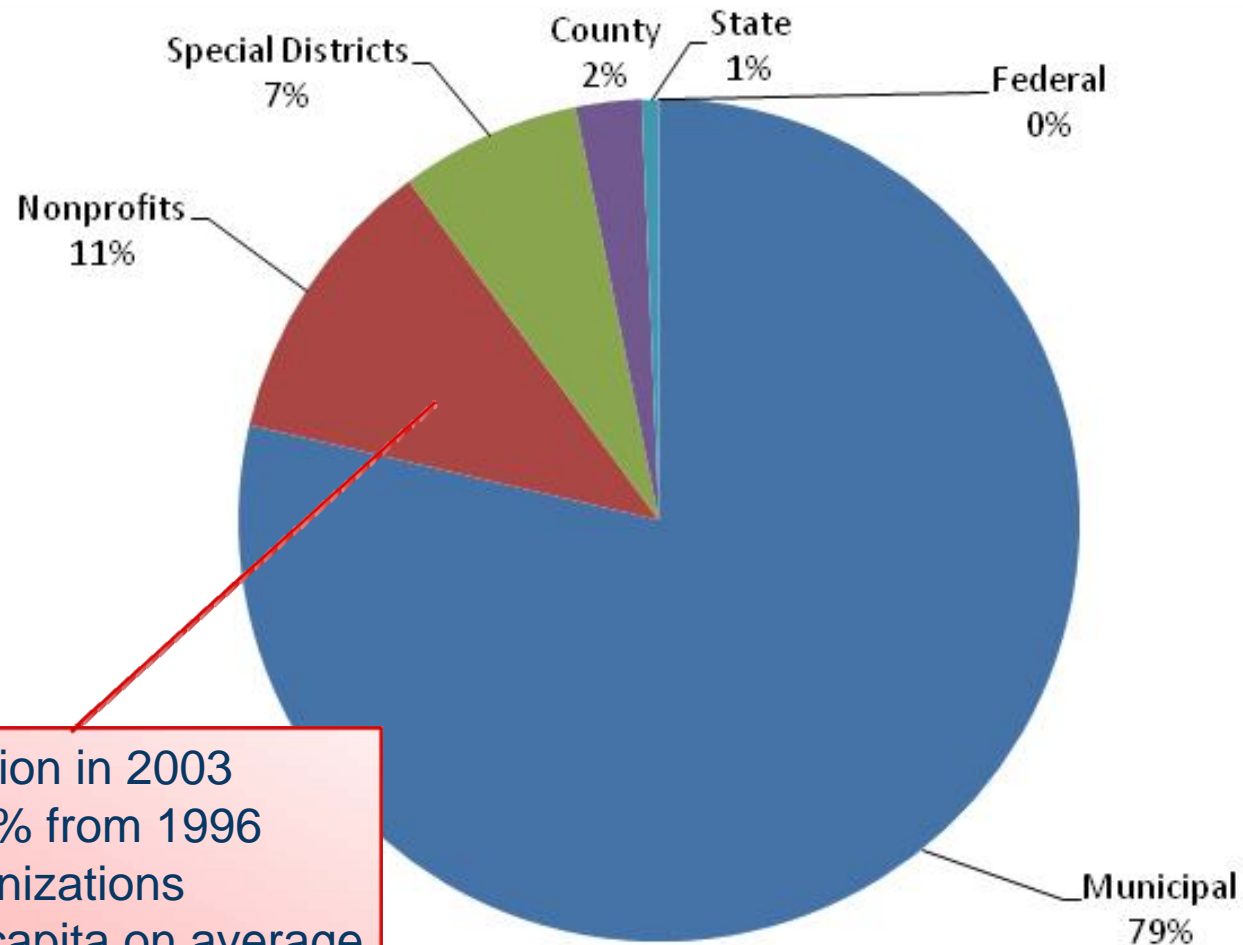
Theoretical Framework



Diversity of Institutional Arrangements for Municipal Provision of Parks and Recreation

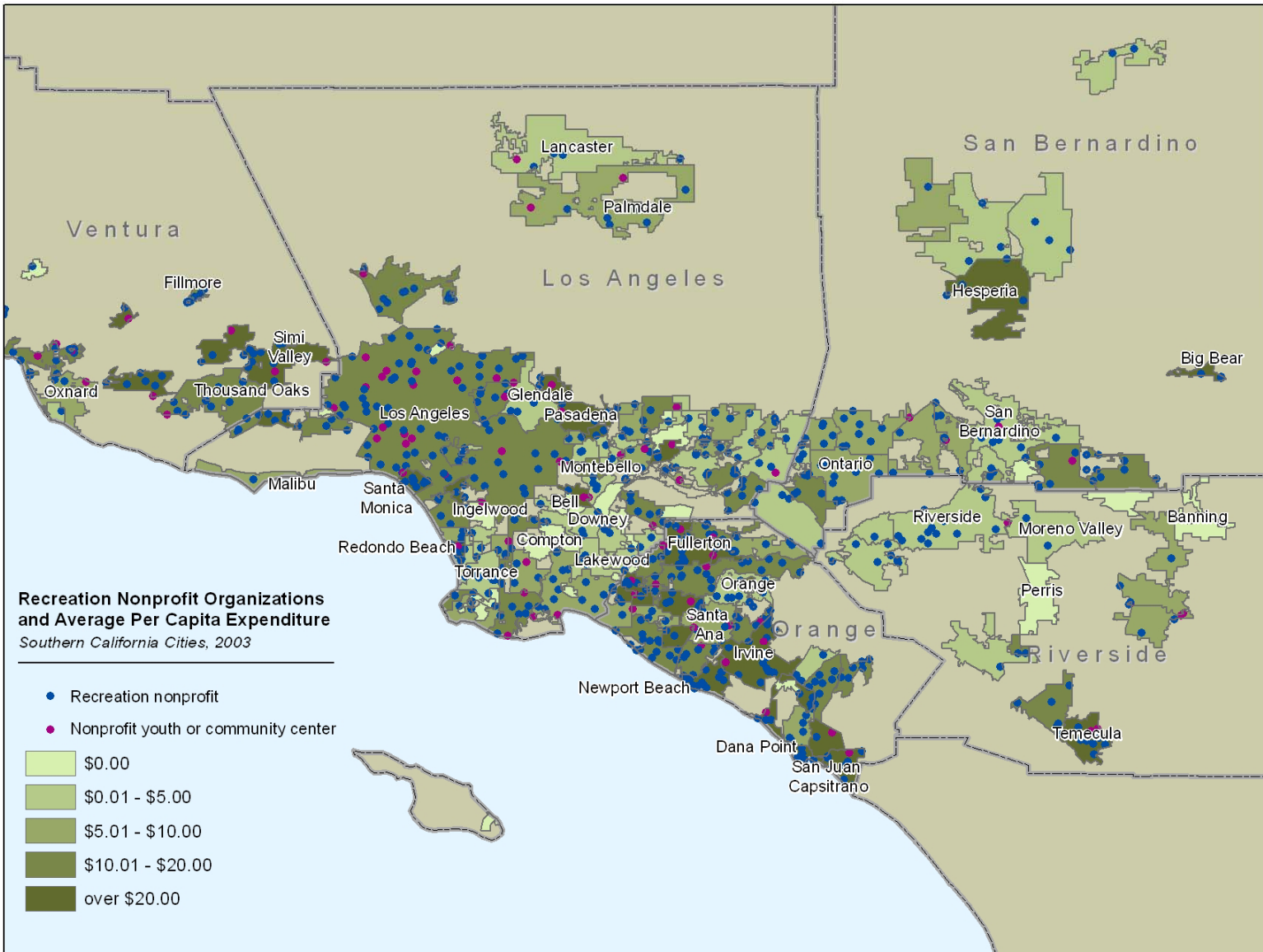


Relative Size of Park and Recreation Nonprofit Sector

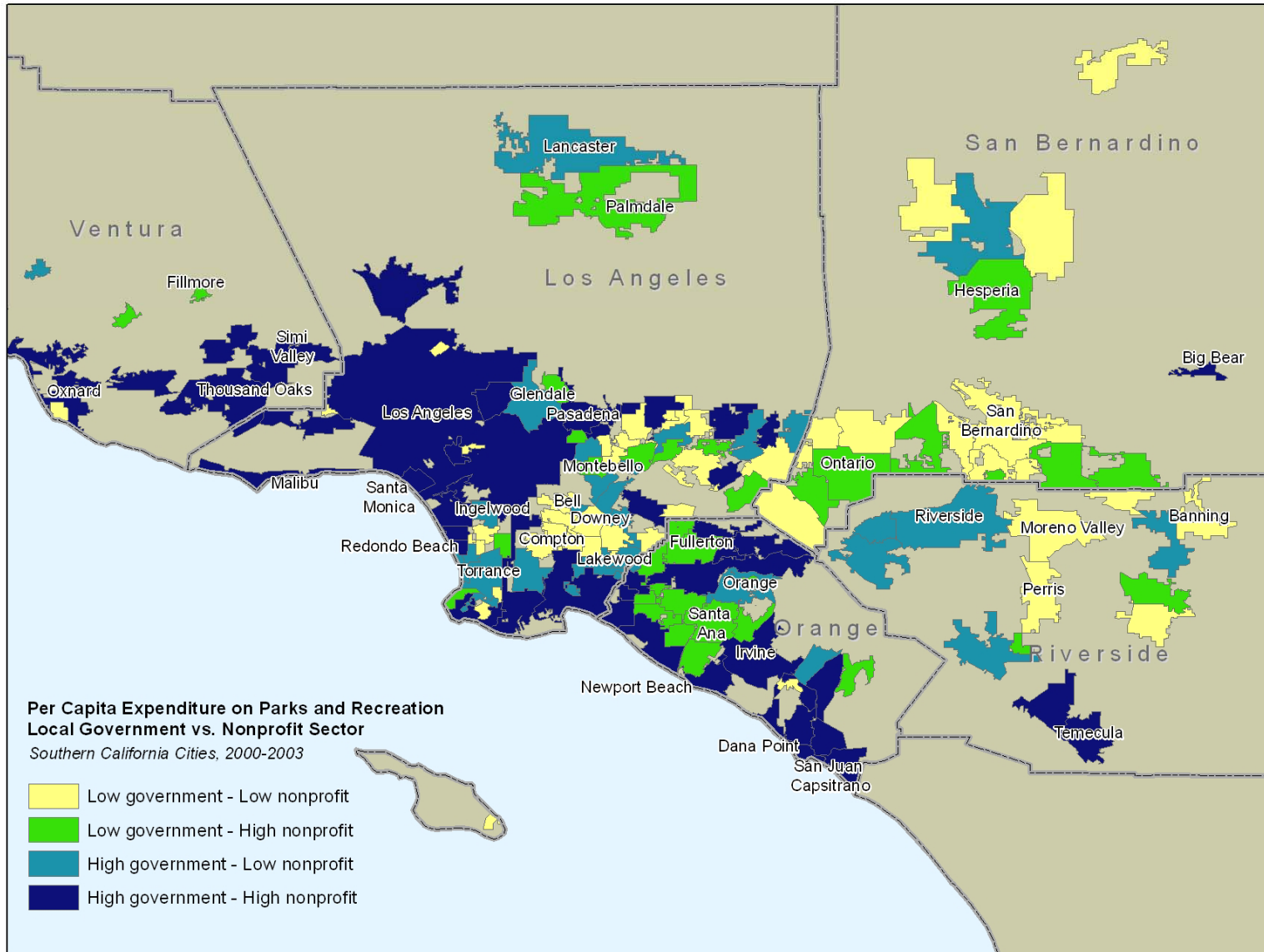


- \$190 million in 2003
- up by 13% from 1996
- 752 organizations
- \$12 per capita on average
- large variations by city

Nonprofit organizations and expenditures unevenly distributed



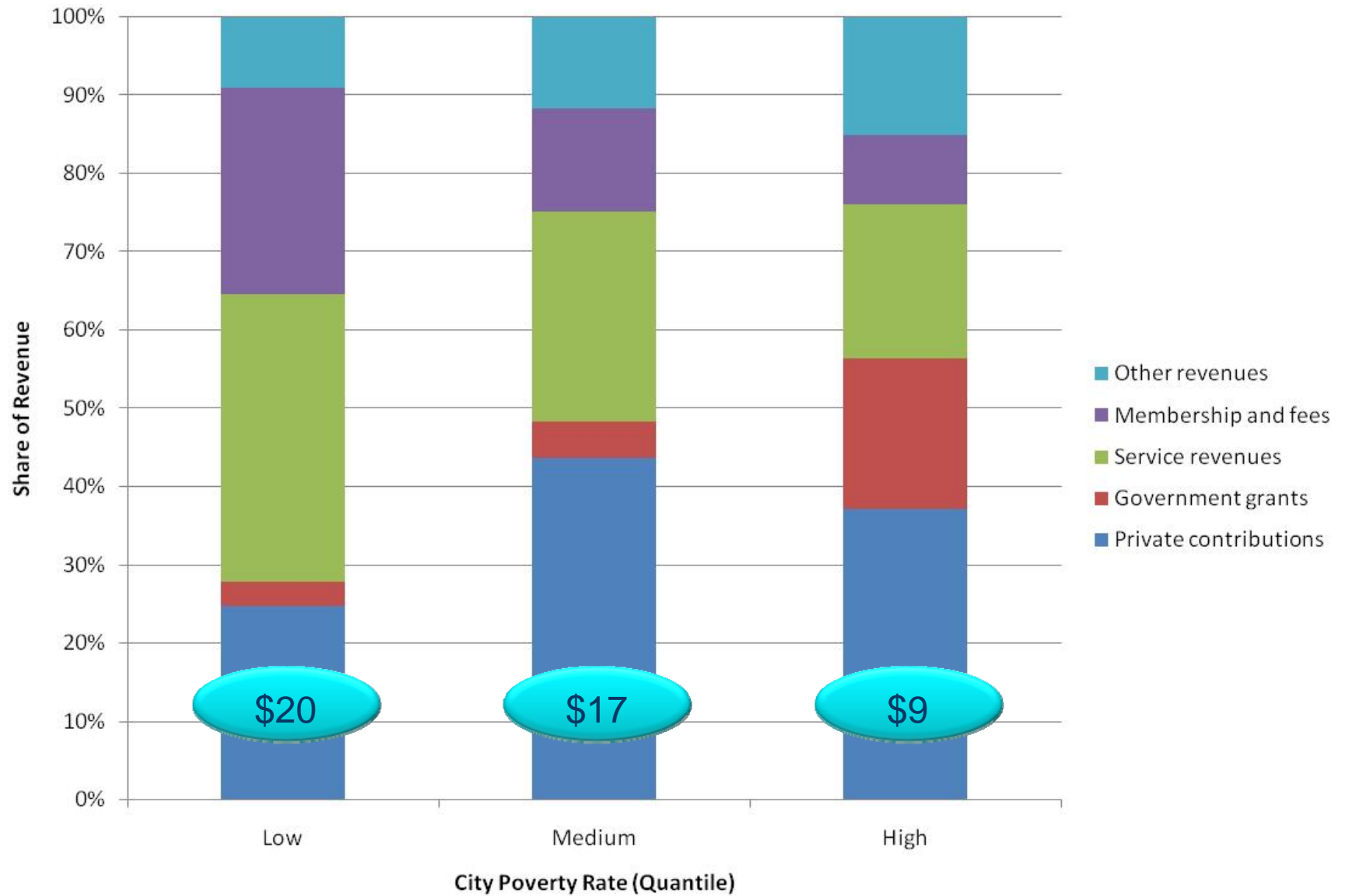
Related to municipal expenditure?



Where do nonprofits get their revenue?

	Total	Percent
Private contributions	\$ 71,501,572	36.4%
Service revenues	\$ 52,856,321	26.9%
Membership and fees	\$ 29,774,242	15.2%
Other revenues	\$ 23,865,959	12.1%
Government grants	\$ 18,519,873	9.4%
Total revenue	\$ 196,517,967	

Sources of funding differ between poor and rich cities



Modeling Nonprofit Expenditure (OLS, ln)

	<i>Coefficient</i>	<i>Beta</i>
Government		
Per capita local expenditure on parks and recreation	0.0009 (0.0023)	0.029
Per capita fiscal capacity	0.0002 (0.0005)	0.035
Government support of nonprofit (%)	3.1234 *** (1.0387)	0.190
Demographic		
Population (in thousands)	0.0049 * (0.0029)	0.128
Percent Black	-9.6066 *** (3.7090)	-0.214
Percent Latinos	-4.5837 *** (1.3122)	-0.454
Fractionalization index	3.1781 ** (1.4828)	0.202
Poverty residual	-7.9448 ** (3.3880)	-0.152
Gini Index (income)	7.5344 (5.7562)	0.113
Politics, Civic Culture		
Years since incorporation	0.0051 (0.0054)	0.073
Charter city	0.1470 (0.4742)	0.023
Percent voters registered Republican	1.8755 (2.3001)	0.094
Open Space		
Population density	0.0001 * (0.0001)	0.196
Percent single family houses	2.6923 ** (1.2852)	0.182
Suburb	0.7711 * (0.3927)	0.157

N	154
R-squared	0.4927
Adjusted R-squared	0.4376
Mean VIF	2.24
White test (p)	147.73 (0.18)
Moran's I (p)	-0.01 (0.72)

Note: standard deviations in parentheses
significance: *** 99%, **95%, * 90%

Modeling the Number of Nonprofits (OLS)

	Coefficient	Beta
Government		
Per capita local expenditure on parks and recreation	0.0061 *** (0.0021)	0.147
Per capita fiscal capacity	-0.0002 (0.0005)	-0.033
Demographic		
Population (in thousands)	0.0403 *** (0.0027)	0.778
Percent Black	-6.8467 * (3.5845)	-0.112
Percent Latinos	-2.6529 ** (1.1688)	-0.199
Fractionalization index	-0.1908 (1.3068)	-0.009
Poverty residual	-9.2066 *** (3.0626)	-0.137
Gini Index (income)	-6.5752 (5.1574)	-0.074
Politics, Civic Culture		
Years since incorporation	0.0060 (0.0050)	0.063
Charter city	-0.0187 (0.4369)	-0.002
Percent voters registered Republican	4.1126 * (2.1956)	0.150
Open Space		
Population density	0.0000 (0.0001)	0.024
Percent single family houses	-0.4784 (1.1057)	-0.025
Suburb	0.7520 ** (0.3602)	0.115



N	163
R-squared	0.7309
Adjusted R-squared	0.7054
Mean VIF	2.18
White test (p)	135.88 (0.11)
Moran's I (p)	-0.13 (0.08)

Policy Recommendations

- Findings question the equity of shifting responsibility to nonprofits
- Health policy cannot be separate from socio-economic policy (regional anti-poverty and fiscal equalization policies needed)
- State grants to nonprofits based on need
- Particular attention to minority communities: nonprofit capacity building
- Focus on partnerships between local governments and nonprofits