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Ocean Beach Fires

February 5, 2015

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Introduction

- Original Pilot program 2007-2009
- Some initial improvements with the program, but problems became continually more challenging to address
- Revised Pilot Program launched in 2014
- Similar to 2007, with some differences

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Supervisor Eric Mar District 1

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Revised Pilot Program

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Elements

- 12 new concrete fire rings installed (old pits removed)
- Curfew changed to 9PM
- Updated signage at Stairwells 15-20
- Public outreach
 - Website; public information coordinators on site; Roving Ranger on site; windmaster signs at stairwells
- Data collection and monitoring
 - Law enforcement collected data at night; maintenance documented “morning after” conditions

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Revised Pilot Program

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Law Enforcement Data (collected at night)

- The two most significant violations were for alcohol and glass
- The third most common violation being fires outside of fire rings
- Generally, peaks of all violations occurred on Friday and Saturday nights
- Highest peaks on or around holidays

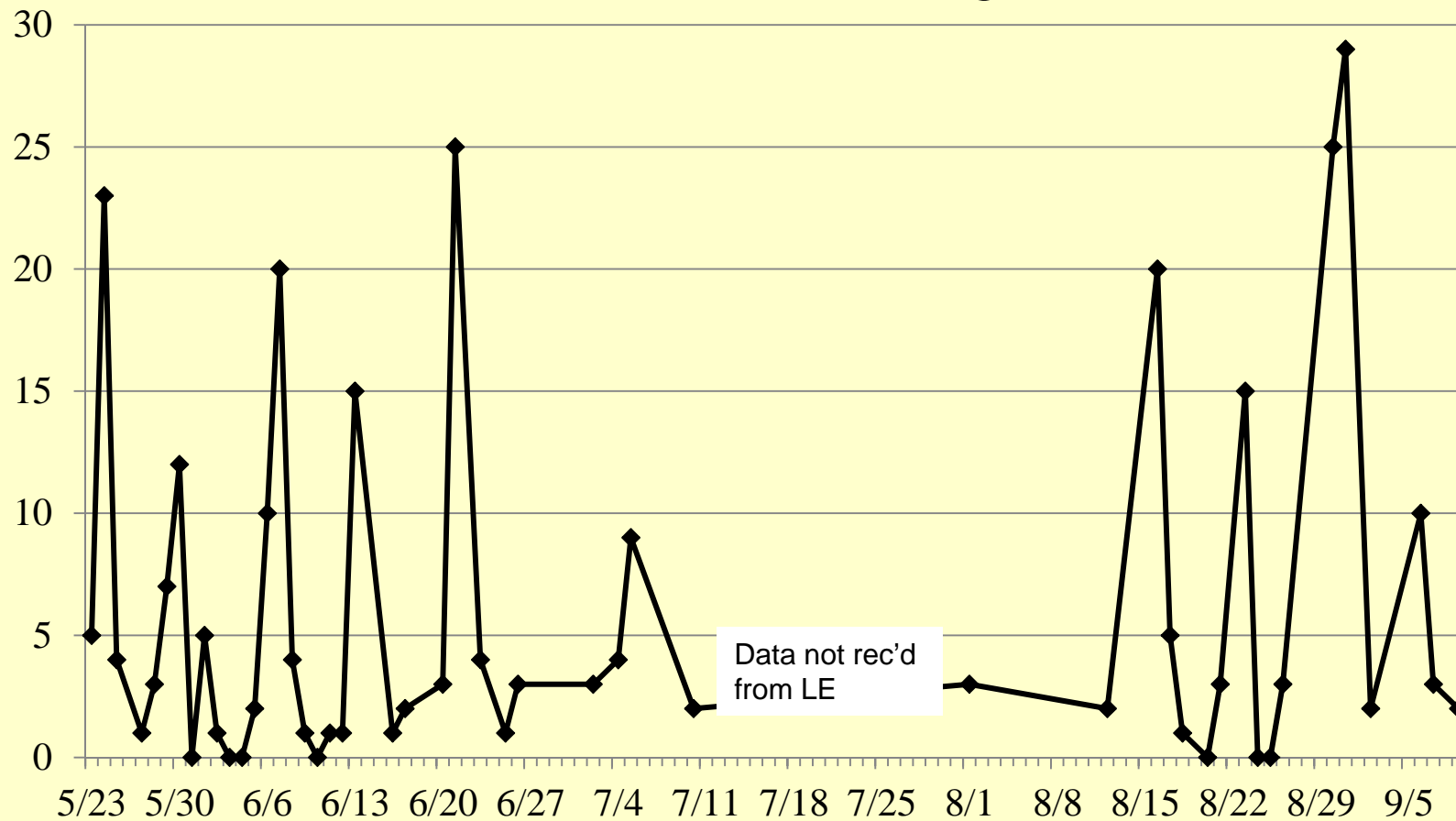
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Revised Pilot Program Fires outside of rings

n = 48

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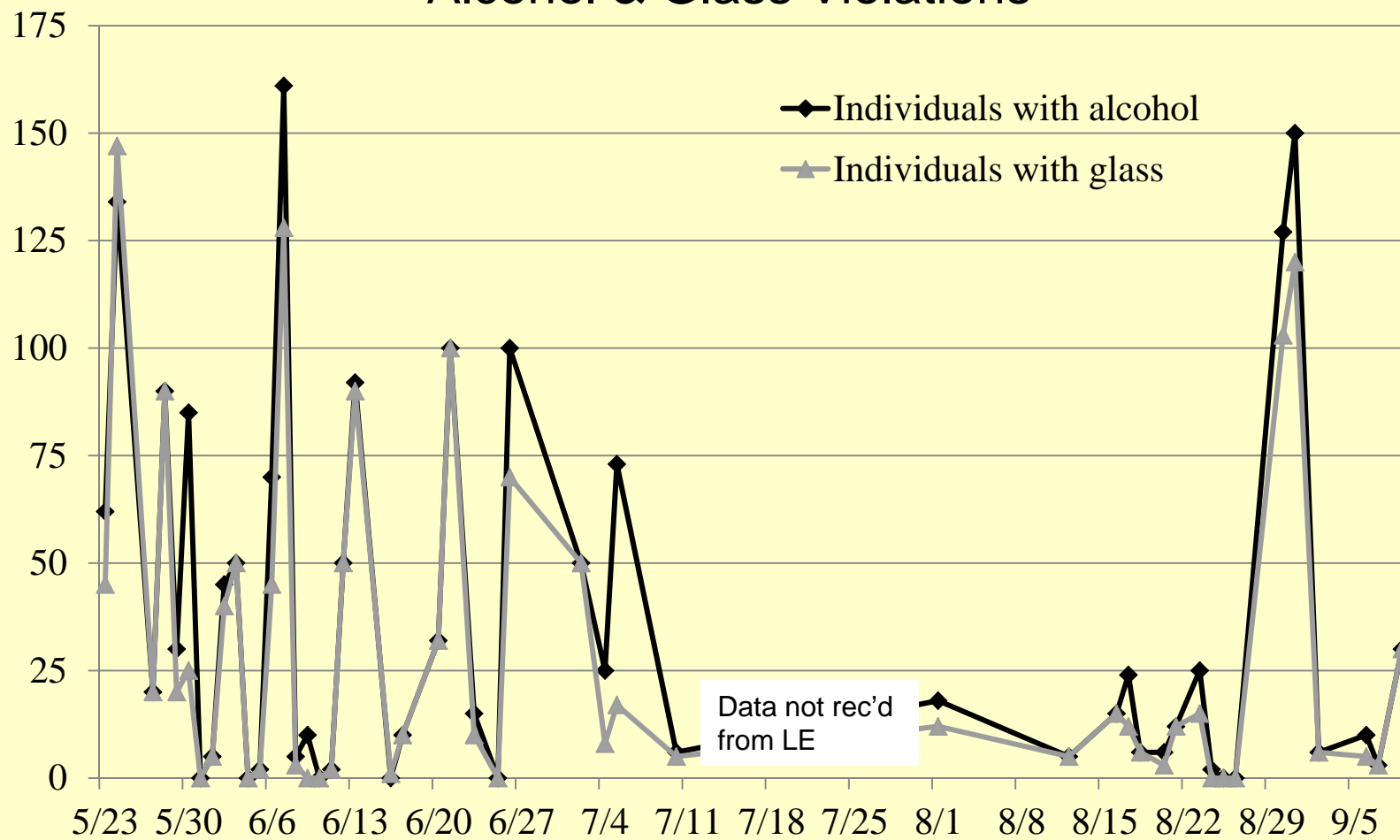


Revised Pilot Program

n = 48

Alcohol & Glass Violations

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Maintenance Data (collected between 7 – 10 AM)

- 3 most common types of debris
 - Wooden pallets
 - Glass bottles (unbroken)
 - Plastic drink cups
- 3 most common types of Hazardous Materials
 - Hot coals
 - Broken glass
 - Nails/screws

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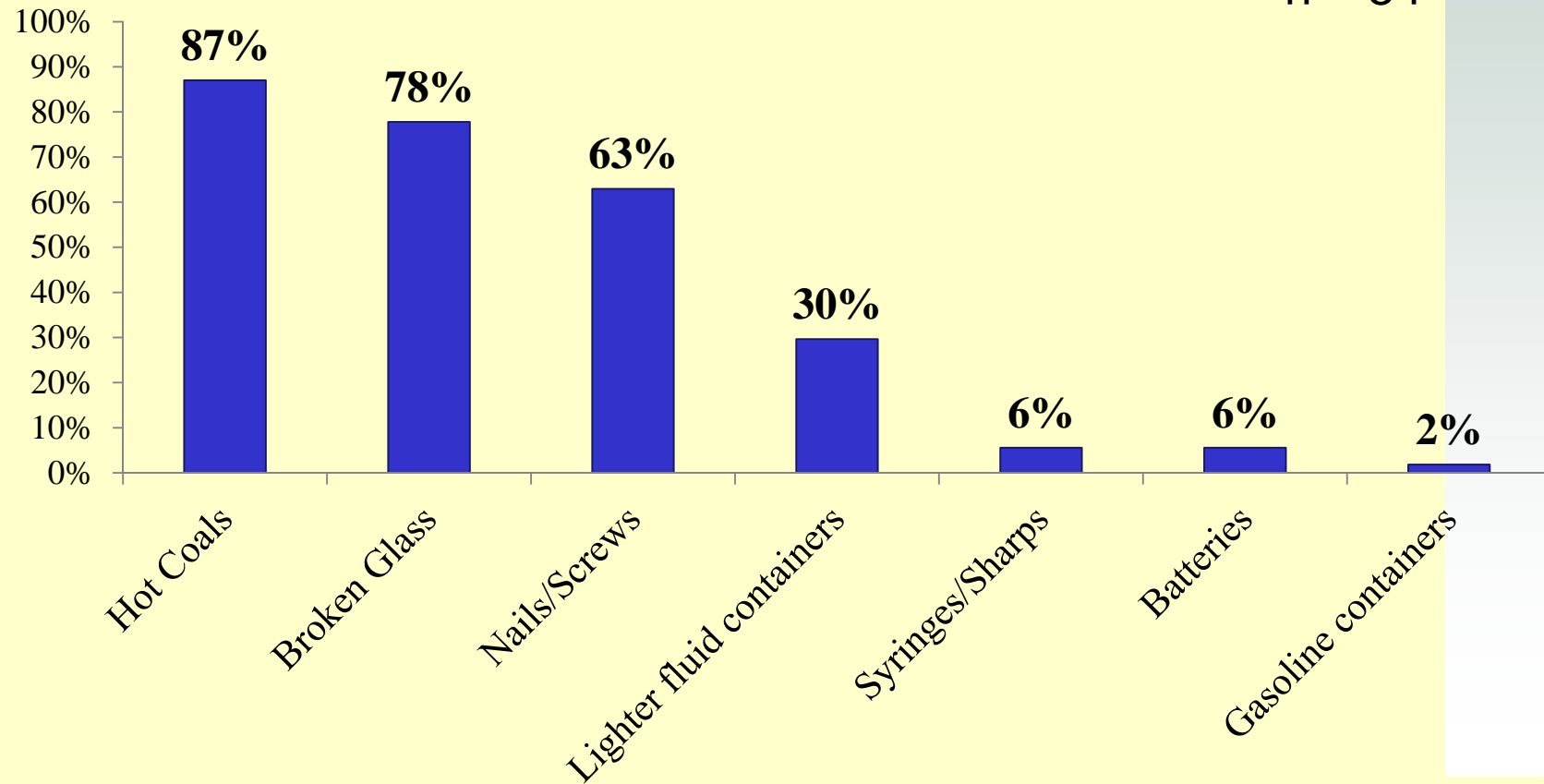


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Revised Pilot Program

Percentage of Times Items were Present
Hazardous Materials

n = 54

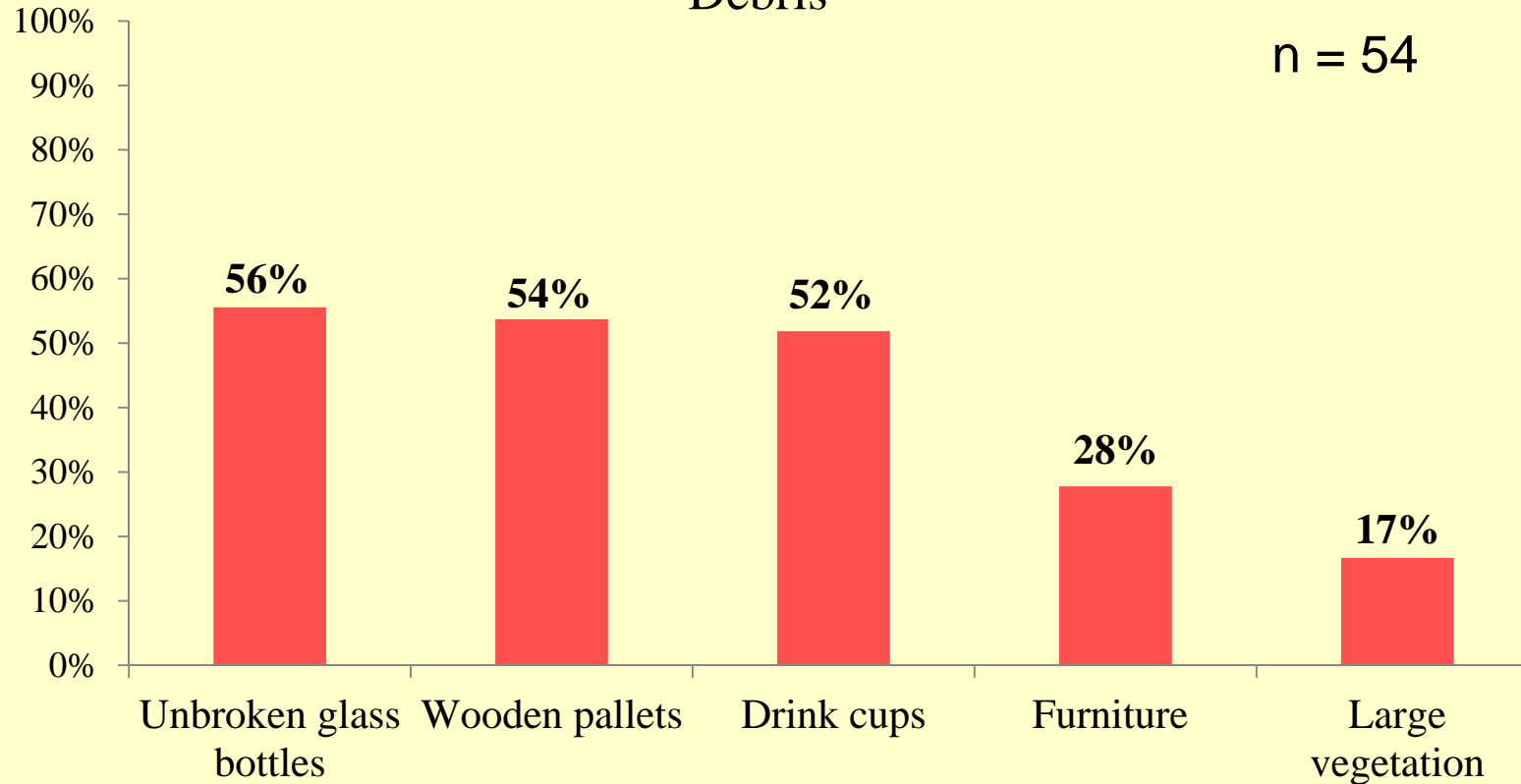




Revised Pilot Program

Percentage of Times Items were Present Debris

n = 54



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What is a Sustainable Program?



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Key Indicators of a Sustainable Program

- A reasonable level of maintenance required to keep the pits in good order; allows NPS to complete other important tasks
- Compliance with rules so that significant enforcement resources are not diverted from other issues of life and safety
- Users take personal responsibility and care of their fire and their beach, and hence the area is not a constant hazard to the public



Concepts for the Future

- No fires on Ocean Beach

-----OR-----

A program involving one or more of the following:

- A permit system
- Changes in the hours or season
- Long term partnership with City



Concepts for the Future

Permits

- Would be required for the use of each fire pit every evening
- Requires permit holder to acknowledge and agree to abide by rules
- Revenue would off-set costs associated with beach fires
- Permit price depends on City participation in beach maintenance

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Concepts for the Future

- **Seasonal Restrictions**
 - No fires November-February
 - BAAQMD Winter Spare the Air Season
- **Substantial long-term partnership with City**
 - City of SF takes responsibility for all maintenance of fire pits
 - City of SF assists with education and outreach
- **Curfew changes**

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Small Group Discussions