

# CASE STUDY

## Putting Youth On The Map



### CHALLENGE

California wants and needs for its youth to thrive—not merely to survive or face fewer problems. But how do we know whether our young people are doing well? To help answer this question, the U.C. Davis Center for Regional Change collaborated with the U.C. Davis Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources along with VESTRA Resources, Inc. (VESTRA) to create Putting Youth On the Map (PYOM).

### SOLUTION

Putting Youth on the Map (PYOM) is a data analysis viewer that provides powerful information resources for youth and adults working to ensure youth well-being in California. It provides access to new analyses of youth data, as well as links to a variety of existing data sources. New innovations include a Youth Well-Being Index and a Youth Vulnerability Index. The Youth Well-Being Index (YWI) provides a score ranging from 0% up to an optimal 100% for areas bound by California school districts. Scores are calculated based on measures of teenagers' physical and emotional health, educational outcomes, social relationships, and community contexts. The Youth Vulnerability Index (YVI) identifies places where young people might be especially vulnerable due to a lack of support for their well-being. It provides a composite score based on the relative rates at which youth experience conditions associated with inadequate support; for example, leaving secondary school without graduating, foster care referral, very low family income, and teen motherhood.

VESTRA used Esri's ArcGIS JavaScript API to build a mapping application that displays up to three maps side-by-side that can be used to compare various indices. Each map can display a different trend or index which when compared to indices in the other maps, provides an understanding of trends and patterns that can affect change in policy and decision making.

The PYOM can be used to see holistic place-based indices measuring youth well-being and severe isolation from support; view index analyses by sex and race/ethnicity; explore data maps on income adequacy, suspension/truancy, transportation access, young adult voting; print maps and download data; find curricula and examples to help youth and community advocates use data maps; link to participatory mapping tools and other youth data sites; and more.

The PYOM can be viewed at:  
<http://interact.regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/youth/>

### BENEFIT

Youth and adult advocates can use PYOM to identify issues, mobilize action and hold decision-makers accountable for helping improve young people's opportunities and outcomes. Service providers and private foundations can use PYOM to strategically allocate resources. Public agencies and policy-makers can use PYOM to focus funding, personnel, and regulation in ways that increase youth well-being, channel public resources fairly, and promote accountability. Everyone can use PYOM to identify leverage points for improving opportunity, develop multi-sector/multi-issue collaborations, and hold themselves accountable for collectively improving conditions.



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