

## **HEALTH HAPPENS IN YOUTH MEDIA**

### **School Discipline, Boys and Men of Color Camp, Smog and DUI's**

Issue 7: August 29, 2012

[Youth Media for Building Health Communities](#): Each week in the 14 BHC places, young people knit together experiences at school, at work, at home and in their neighborhoods to tell stories about how health happens.

Health Happens in  
**Schools**



A high school senior reflects on new data released from the Department of Education, concluding the school's strict discipline policies are counterproductive. *"The California Teacher's Association says that harsh school discipline is a threat to academic achievement. What happens when most of black and Latino students are not in school? What does this mean for the future of our country?"* Details and first-person stories on [Boyle Heights Beat](#).

Kern County schools meted out 38,465 suspensions and 2,578 expulsions in the 2010-11 school year. In a revelatory series on South Kern Sol, youth reporters write of [students denied opportunities](#), and of one boy's [arrest and expulsion for a small offense](#). In "I Didn't Do Anything Wrong," 13 year-old Oscar Perez through an [interview with his recently expelled classmate](#).

Tony Smith, the Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District says Oakland's graduation rate is up by four percent over the last year. He also emphasized the district's new focus on Restorative Justice, as a method of discipline, in an interview with [Youth Radio](#).

Bridget Lambert of the National Conflict Resolution Center is involved with a City Heights effort to improve San Diego Unified's school discipline policy. She described how school discipline measures can lead to incarceration. Watch her interview on [Speak City Heights](#).

When a Mecca college student took a seasonal harvest job picking grapes to bring in money for his family and school fees, he didn't predict just how hard it would be. *"One humid day, I was ready to give up and go home because I still had five hours left for that day. I looked at an older worker and saw how hard he was working, then I realized that I needed to push through it."* Read what he decided on [Coachella Unincorporated](#).

Oakland High School's Public Health Academy focuses on preparing students for jobs in the Health Care industry, and these students are not afraid to get their hands dirty in order to become health experts. Listen on [Youth Radio](#).

At Arvin High School, the Link Crew helps new freshmen transition into high school. Leaders try to help ease the assimilation experience, whether it be with homework or just talking to someone. Read what new and old students say on [South Kern Sol](#).

Health Happens with  
**Prevention**



This summer The kNOW hosted "Flex Your Health," an event organized by youth to brainstorm on how to make fresh food available in all of Fresno. Staff from California's Regional Obesity Prevention Program spoke on adopting healthier life choices in challenging environments. Find [photos](#) and [Soundslides](#) on The Know.

Youth in Baldwin Park, California produced [a video](#) interviewing youth about when, when and why they drink soda, for the [Kick The Can](#) project.

Nervous about his first trip away from his family, a Merced student felt surprisingly at home at the Boys and Men of Color camp this summer. *"We were all from different communities but had similar problems, something that made me feel closer to them because I knew exactly how they felt."* Read the story on [We'Ced](#).



While Boyle Heights often gets a bad rap for violent streets, members of the community are organizing to eliminate neighborhood environmental hazards. View an audio slideshow documenting a public demonstration to draw attention to street garbage, pollution and other industrial factors on [Boyle Heights Beat](#).

Since 2008, the demand for food in food banks has gone up 60 percent. Photojournalist Christy Porter founded Hidden Harvest, a non-profit that salvages food from eastern Coachella Valley fields and distributes them to low-income residents. *"(With) twenty-seven percent field waste and thirty percent plate waste there is no reason for anyone to be hungry in our country,"* says Porter. Read the story on [Coachella Unincorporated](#).

Growing up hearing the test siren from the Chevron refinery every Wednesday did not prepare young people in Richmond to hear the real thing. *"She looked at me, confused by time and sound, and finally listened to the sirens."* Read her story on [Richmond Pulse](#).

A youth reporter describes the state of Sacramento's many parks, after layoffs of park workers and cuts to state and local services. The solution? *"Since many teenagers need volunteer hours to complete their school requirements, they can help clean parks so they can receive their hours and make the environment a safer and cleaner place."* Read more at [Access Sacramento](#).

[Youth Radio](#) profiles a bullying prevention program at [AjA Project](#), through which school students map bullying incidents in their neighborhoods. This story was also syndicated on [Huffington Post](#).

Last month, a 7-year-old Fresno boy was struck and killed when a drunk driver hit him as he was riding his bike. The driver was a Fresno high school athletics coach. A youth reflects on [his own experience getting a DUI](#), and in an editorial on [The Know](#), youth declare the need for better role models and more clearly defined bike paths to make these incidents less common.

Long Beach neighborhoods bordering the 710 freeway are used to smoggy air as a way of life. *"My eyes used to run from the smog. It was really bad. It was like fog."* A young reporter reports on living next to this toxic thoroughfare on [Voicewaves](#).

A PSA for 'bus rapid transit' in Oakland, produced by [Youth Uprising](#).

The fatal shooting of a toddler on July 4th in Sacramento illustrates the violent consequences of gang affiliation. A student writes about her impressions of gang violence, and two programs for youth, G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education and Training) and Youth Voice, that offer positive alternatives. Read on at [Access Sacramento](#).

City Heights faces many problems, one of which is not enough places for youth to convene. Ten years ago, community members joined forces to build a skate park. Ten years later the struggle continues. Learn more on [Speak City Heights](#).

**This wouldn't be a newsletter of youth voices if everything they said fit neatly into our agenda. On that note...** With the passage of 'Deferred Action' legislation, eligible immigrant youth looking for legal resident status can now submit applications to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, to obtain a work permit and defer deportation. Find profiles of undocumented students excited about this opportunity to pursue their education and career dreams on [Richmond Pulse](#) and [Coachella Unincorporated](#).

Visit <http://ymbhc.wordpress.com/> for more youth perspectives on community health.