



Key Map Indicators for SNAP-Ed Youth Engagement Efforts

The UC Davis Center for Regional Change's Regional Opportunity Index (ROI) and Putting Youth on the Map (PYOM) are powerful information resources for youth and adults working to create policy, systems and environmental change. These mapping tools display holistic place-based indices through a multi-map interface that allows for dynamic comparisons within and between communities. ROI and PYOM measure a wide range of indicators highlighting diverse issues and opportunities and how they interact with one another. The following indicator combinations may be particularly useful for youth-adult partnerships focused on nutrition, health, food access and opportunities for physical activity with diverse, underrepresented, SNAP-eligible populations.

Access to Food & Healthcare



- **Minimum Basic Income** (People: Economy)
- **Vehicle Availability** (People: Mobility/Transportation)
- **Access to Supermarkets** (Place: Health/Environment)
- **Health Care Availability** (Place: Health/Environment)



- **Distance to Transit Stop** (Other: Transit Data)
- **% Households with 0 Cars** (Other: Transit Data)
- **Transit Service Fequency** (Other: Transit Data)
- **Food Access (#)** (Other: Food Access)
- **Food Access (%)** (Other: Food Access)

Physical Activity



- **Air Quality** (Place: Health/Environment)
- **CalEnviroScreen Score** (CalEnviroScreen 2.0)
- **Pollution Score** (CalEnviroScreen 2.0)
- **Population Characteristics Score** (CalEnviroScreen 2.0)



- **Physical Fitness** (Youth Well-Being Index: Health)
- **Youth Demographics**

Target Populations



- **English Speakers** (People: Civic Life)
- **U.S. Citizenship** (Place: Civic Life)
- **Minimum Basic Income** (People: Economy)
- **Years of Life Lost** (People: Health/Environment)



- **Community Involvement** (Youth Well-Being Index)
- **Poverty Rate** (Youth Vulnerability Index: County)
- **Adequate Financial Resources** (Other)
- **Youth Demographics**



Tips for Supporting Youth Engagement Strategies with Maps & Data

The UC Davis Center for Regional Change supports youth use of data and mapping to enhance youth engagement efforts focused on policy, systems and environmental change. Here are just some of the numerous ways specific programs engaging young people can utilize maps and data to strengthen their advocacy and civic engagement efforts. Keep in mind that many of the following suggestions may be applicable to more than just one youth engagement strategy! The center's own mapping tools—the Regional Opportunity Index (ROI) and Putting Youth on the Map (PYOM)—can serve as powerful resources to help accomplish these tasks (website links provided below).



Healthy
Living
Ambassador

- **Prioritize local issues** to support lesson planning that is relevant to the community setting and builds critical awareness about needs and assets.
- **Analyze community needs** related to health and nutrition, such as comparing levels of food and healthcare access with vehicle availability; or comparing youth physical activity levels by sex and race/ethnicity.
- **Provide context and content for lessons**, including visual aids.
- **Support garden/community mapping activities** by learning about and discussing the importance and uses of maps and data.



Smarter
Lunchrooms
Movement

- **Support lunchroom mapping activities** by learning about and discussing the importance and uses of maps and data.
- **Help youth think about representation** when acting as spokespeople, analyzing what it means to be a representative of their school/community and how data and maps can help them in this endeavor.
- **Reinforce survey data or plate waste research** with information and maps that provide local context related to physical activity levels, food access, health, and poverty.
- **Enhance presentations** with supporting data and visuals.



Youth-led
Participatory
Action
Research

- **Improve research and action efforts** by helping youth develop and refine questions, identify issues, and prioritize strategies.
- **Provide opportunities for ground truthing**, comparing youths' lived experiences and knowledge with "official" data about their community.
- **Get the word out**, sharing maps on social media and incorporating them into PhotoVoice exhibits, videos, blogs, presentations, and reports.
- **Build convincing arguments**, combining quantitative data with stories about personal experiences to make a strong case for desired changes.
- **Gauge community impacts over time** and evaluate program efforts.



Youth-run
Farmers
Markets/
Produce
Stands

- **Assess the community** to identify low-income areas that do not have access to full service grocery stores or reliable transportation.
- **Promote the creation or expansion of operations** at your site and other potential sites based on clearly articulated needs.
- **Incorporate community education into your project**, developing informational posters or handouts to share with customers that highlight local statistics about health, food access, and physical activity levels.
- **Strengthen project presentations and reports** with data and visuals that clearly describe the community setting.