

Nevada, Documenting Slow Violence

Participants

- 2 professors, 2 college interns, 2 community planners, 2 former Youth Scientist leaders, 24 Youth Scientists from Nevada

Problem

- Northern Nevadan communities are at risk of slow violence (hidden environmental injustices that occur over time, like exposure to toxins) due to the combined socioeconomic and environmental trends in the area.



Research Question

- What are the shared experiences of slow violence in Northern Nevada?
- From the local viewpoint, how best can slow violence be resolved?

Method

- **Photovoice:** community research strategy that involves members documenting their environments and experiences – making marginalization visible through photo evidence.

Findings

- Illegal dumping in Sun Valley is persistent, with trash, abandoned cars, and other waste accumulating due to a lack of enforcement.
- Calls to authorities were largely ineffective, unlike in nearby Reno/Sparks communities, where reports sometimes led to action.
- Dumping invites more dumping, as the teens documented how waste accumulation in one spot led to further illegal disposal.
- Infrastructure deterioration poses additional risks, with eroding flood ditches reducing pedestrian space and increasing hazards.

What do you like about this?

What do you think could be better?

Solution

- Youth Scientists proposed social media campaigns for reporting illegal dumping, community clean-up events, climate change education, and pooled resources for prevention efforts.

San Lorenzo, Project Eat!

Participants

- Students and stakeholders at San Lorenzo High School in California, including 75 students, school administration, and local farm leaders.

Problem

- San Lorenzo High School's community farm is maintained only by Project EAT! interns, with little support from students or staff. The lack of engagement places the entire burden of upkeep on one group, making sustainability difficult.

Research Question

- What are the barriers to greater involvement in the community farm?
- How can student and stakeholder engagement be increased?

Method

- Surveys:** The research team compiled questions and possible methods of actions to include in surveys. They used Google Forms to gather data from broader audiences (e.g., students and other school gardens) and emailed school administration officials directly, giving respondents a three month window to reply.

Findings

- Many students were unfamiliar with the community garden but supported its existence.
- The school administration could not directly assist but suggested an environment-based club as a potential partner.
- Twin Rivers Farm thrived due to strong community involvement, particularly from youth, and could serve as an example

Solution

- Built a greenhouse to grow plants year-round, reducing costs and environmental impact.
- Organized Kale Yeah! Day, an event that promotes healthy food and sustainable agriculture, which gained strong student participation.
- Collected over 300 signatures to implement California Thursdays, an initiative for more local and fresh food in school meals



What do you like about this?

What do you think could be better?

Nashville, Participatory Mapping

Participants

- 146 Nashville students in grades 6-12

Problem

- Sustainable and equitable development of urban spaces
- The quality of a physical environments impacts physical and mental wellbeing of youth but their perspectives are usually never considered when designing urban environments; built environment shapes youth ability to go outside, have fun, and enjoy themselves while feeling safe.

Research Question

- How does the built environment impact youth health and well-being in Nashville? What neighborhood locations and spatial characteristics support or detract from youth wellness? And how does proximity to wellness-supporting/detracting locations in young people's home neighborhoods impact their overall wellness?

Method

- **Mapping:** Collecting, displaying and analyzing spatial data
- **Surveys:** Designing a survey (Nashville Youth Wellness Survey) asking youth for their perspective on how they feel about their neighborhood using open-ended questions Why do people come to or leave your neighborhoods? What would you like to see changed in your neighborhoods or schools? Where is a place that supports your wellbeing?

Findings

- Being close to friends and places where they can do activities (parks, sports fields, and religious spaces) influence youth wellbeing.

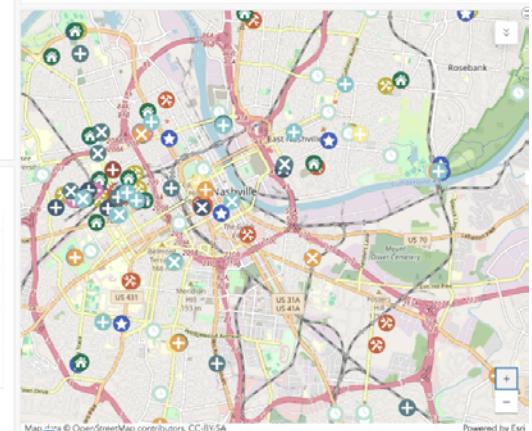
Solution

- The team used the survey results to create a Nashville Youth Wellness Map and create infographics about youth wellness which they presented to local stakeholders , including local news stations, elected officials, and nonprofit leaders.

NYDT Youth Wellness in Nashville, TN



Nashville Youth Wellness Map



What do you like about this?

What do you think could be better?