



# UC DAVIS

## CENTER FOR REGIONAL CHANGE

*“Research that Matters for Regions”*

The UC Davis Center for Regional Change (CRC) is dedicated to producing “research that matters for regions.” To accomplish this, the CRC builds two kinds of bridges. One set is on campus between faculty and students from different disciplines and departments; the other set is between the campus and diverse leaders from government, business, non-profit, and philanthropic sectors. These bridges allow us to bring together faculty, students and communities to collaborate locally and globally on innovative research to create just, sustainable, prosperous and healthy regions in California and beyond.

Organized within, and with core support, from the UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the CRC is a resource for faculty and students across the campus and partners throughout California and the world.

### Our People:

- **CRC Director:** Dr. Jonathan London, Department of Human Ecology.
- **Regional Advisory Committee:** Leaders from throughout California who advise and contribute to the Center’s work.
- **Executive Committee:** Leading UC Davis faculty who assist in the direction and planning for the Center.
- **Faculty Affiliates:** Faculty from all disciplines and colleges across the university, with an interest in collaborative and multi-disciplinary and solutions-oriented research on the social, cultural, political, economic and environmental dimensions of regional change.
- **Staff:** A talented team of academics and professionals who organize and maintain the Center’s projects and operations.

### Our Products:

- **Policy-oriented and interdisciplinary research on regional change** made available to the public.
- **Web-based resources** including a database of hundreds of maps, datasets, and reports on a wide variety of indicators of regional well-being, which can be found at [www.mappingregionalchange.ucdavis.edu/](http://www.mappingregionalchange.ucdavis.edu/)
- **Publication series** from CRC staff and affiliates, including white papers, policy reports, and newsletters highlighting CRC activities.
- **Events** held by CRC and its partners, on campus and throughout the state.
- **Community and Regional Mapping Lab** which provides a unique spatial analysis capacity visualizing regional change across scales and places.

Visit the CRC’s website at <http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu>

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## Selected Projects:

**California Civic Engagement Project (CCEP):** The CCEP is a new data repository and research initiative for the state of California conducted by the CRC and directed by Mindy Romero. Its mission is to collect and analyze civic engagement data from a broad range of sources, making them a publicly available resource to all interested audiences, including public officials, advocacy groups, non-partisan organizations and communities themselves. A key focus of data analysis is **identifying disparities and opportunities in civic participation across place and population in the state**. One unique contribution of the CCEP is its series of policy briefs on the 2012 election, each highlighting emerging analysis from California registration and voting data for the Latino, Asian and youth electorates. The project also supports research that explores non-traditional measures of civic engagement, particularly those that may be more likely experienced by historically disadvantaged or disconnected groups.

**Chronic Absence in Sacramento City Unified School District:** Dr. Nancy Erbstein (Department of Human Ecology/CRC Faculty Affiliate) and Teri Greenfield (CRC) have collaborated with Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) and Community Link to **assess chronic absence in the district**. Findings from the first phase of this project are reported in a set of issue briefs, available at [regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/projects/current/chronic-absence-scusd](http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/projects/current/chronic-absence-scusd). These findings are now informing a new district-wide effort to engage school principals, social services, community-based organizations, local leaders, youth and families in addressing chronic absence.

**Cumulative Environmental Vulnerabilities (CEVA):** A CRC team led by Dr. Jonathan London has released two path-breaking reports, “Land of Risk/ Land of Opportunity” and “Revealing the Invisible Coachella Valley,” documenting the **high levels of environmental and social risks confronting San Joaquin Valley and Eastern Coachella Valley residents**. The report uses an innovative new tool, called the Cumulative Environmental Vulnerabilities Assessment (CEVA), to identify the locations and populations within the Valley that are at **greatest risk and that require immediate protection**.

**Healthy Youth/Healthy Regions (HYHR):** This is the first study in the nation to examine youth health and well-being on a regional scale and across multiple issues (physical and mental health, education, employment and civic engagement). The report focuses on the well-being of young people ages 12 to 24 in Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. It **documents disparities** in resources and opportunities available to the region’s youth based on their geographic location, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, immigration status and other factors. The study was commissioned and funded by Sierra Health Foundation with additional support from The California Endowment and conducted by the CRC.

**Putting Youth on the Map:** Accurate, compelling and actionable community-scale youth data are a key resource in fostering healthy families and communities. CRC staff and faculty affiliates with the leadership of Dr. Nancy Erbstein and UC Cooperative Extension researchers have collaboratively produced Putting Youth on the Map ([pyom.ucdavis.edu](http://pyom.ucdavis.edu)), an interactive website with **geo-referenced indices of youth well-being and vulnerability**, 46 additional youth data maps, links to other youth data sources, and examples of youth-generated maps. Available data and analyses can: support grant proposal development, inform public and private investment, facilitate cross sector collaboration, inform youth organizing, youth service, public policy, and community advocacy at local, regional and statewide scales.

**Social Equity and Sustainable Communities:** Working with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), the CRC with the leadership of Dr. Chris Benner was primarily responsible for developing mechanisms for analyzing the social equity considerations in prioritizing transit-oriented development projects as part of the region’s sustainable communities strategy. The focus of the work involved developing two social equity indices—**a vulnerability index and an opportunity index**—to compare the social equity characteristics of specific neighborhoods to the region as a whole. This analysis is informing SACOG’s **on-going efforts to incorporate social equity into community and regional planning**. The CRC is now adapting these social equity methods to support social equity advocates’ engagement with sustainable community planning in the San Joaquin Valley.

## CRC Funders:

- Core funding from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
- California Energy Commission
- California Council for the Humanities
- The California Endowment
- The Ford Foundation
- The Hewlett Foundation
- Resources Legacy Fund
- Rabobank, N.A.
- Sierra Health Foundation
- UC Miguel Contreras Labor Studies Fund
- UC Agriculture and Natural Resources
- UCD University Outreach and International Programs
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- UC Transportation Center