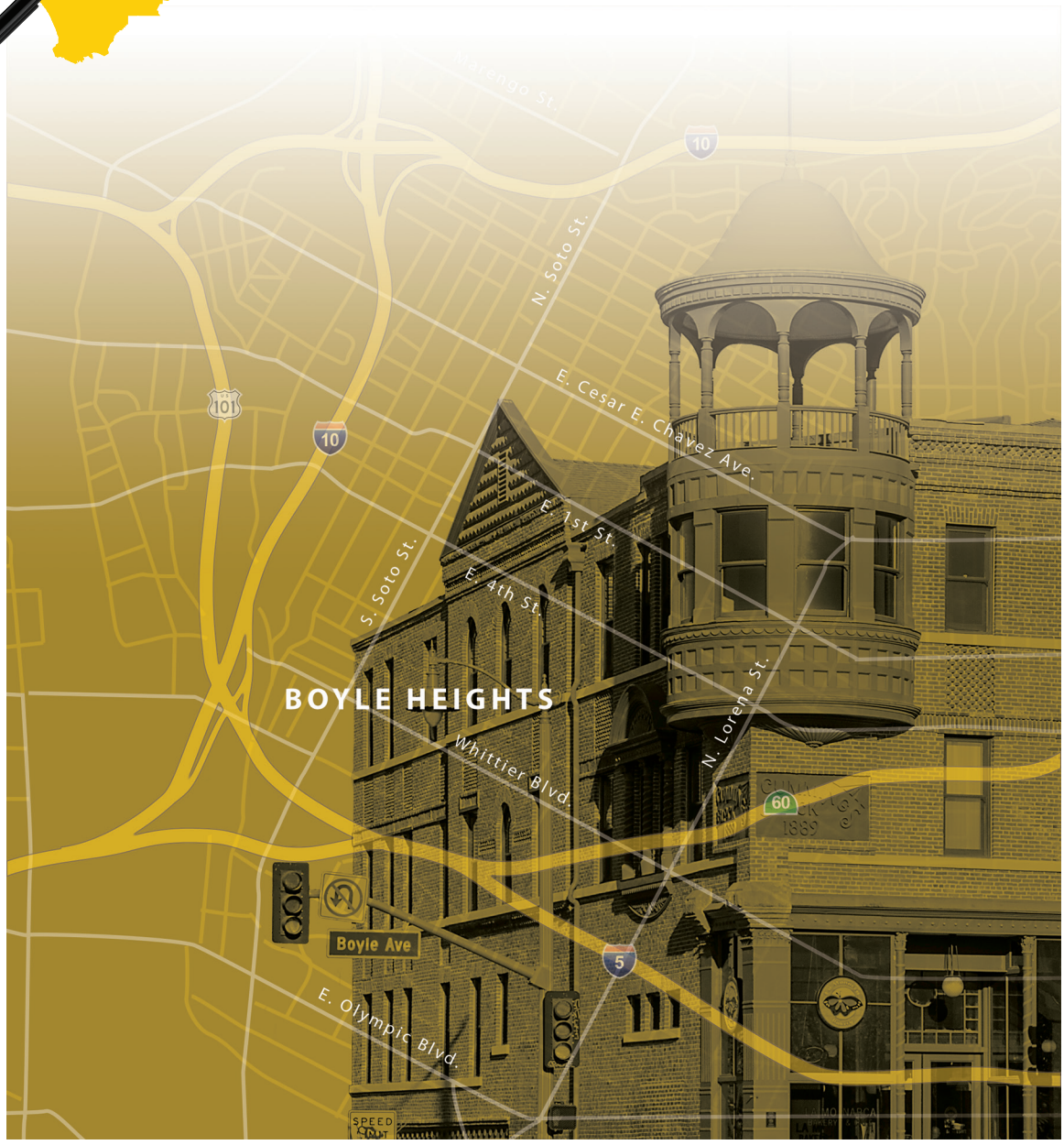
A RESEARCH SERIES OF THE PAT BROWN INSTITUTE AT CAL STATE LA

# IN FOCUS: BOYLE HEIGHTS




## Research Reports for the Boyle Heights Community

AUGUST 22, 2017


CAL STATE LA
PAT BROWN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
*Unleashing the Power of Participation*

Building Healthy Communities
Boyle Heights



# IN FOCUS

*IN FOCUS* is a research series of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at Cal State LA, covering in depth timely issues of concern to neighborhoods and communities throughout the greater Los Angeles region.

## ABOUT THE PAT BROWN INSTITUTE

The Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs, a presidentially-chartered institute at California State University, Los Angeles, is dedicated to the quest for social justice and equality of opportunity, enlightened civic engagement, and an enhanced quality of life for all Californians.

The Institute is a non-partisan public policy center committed to sustaining the vision and legacy of former California Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown through convening public policy forums, engaging multi-sector stakeholders and diverse communities, and conducting timely policy research and community-driven initiatives.

## ABOUT *BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES*

***Building Healthy Communities*** is The California Endowment's ten-year, $1 billion comprehensive community initiative that is creating a revolution in the way Californians think about and support health in their communities. In 14 places across California, residents are proving that they have the power to make health happen in their neighborhoods, schools, and with prevention—and in doing so, they're creating a brighter future for their children and for our state.

***Building Healthy Communities*** has a simple strategy: work on a local scale to create broad, statewide impact. Where we live, our race, and our income each play a big part in how well and how long we live. We need to reshape the places that shape us—our neighborhoods.

Parents want to raise their children in neighborhoods with safe parks and quality schools, but many Californians don't get to choose where they live. Because the differences between neighborhoods are linked to differences in health outcomes, The California Endowment's ***Building Healthy Communities*** initiative includes a deep investment in place.

***Building Healthy Communities*** partnered with 14 places in the state, representing California's rich diversity.

Boyle Heights
Central Santa Ana
Central/Southeast/Southwest Fresno
City Heights
Del Norte County Adjacent Tribal Lands
Eastern Coachella Valley
East Oakland
East Salinas (Alisal)
Long Beach
Richmond
Sacramento
South Los Angeles
South Kern
Southwest Merced/East Merced County



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# Building the Next Generation Part One: Infrastructure and Institutional Investment in Los Angeles Youth

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*Policy, Planning, and Design*
*University of California Irvine*

**Raphael J. Sonenshein** PhD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
*Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at Cal State LA*

**Goals and Objectives of This Report**

- Articulate the need for better coordinated youth development strategy and service provision.
- Explore what can the city do organizationally to improve focus and coordination on youth.
- Identify and examine the potential benefits and potential challenges associated with several formal youth development entities.
- Illuminate the process of forming a new city structure to oversee youth development.

**Our research questions include:**

- *What are the structural obstacles to successful youth development in Los Angeles?*
- *What structural reforms would improve the youth development efforts?*
- *What is the most appropriate means for initiating, designing, and implementing structural reform?*
- *How would a new youth development structure supplant or intersect with existing youth services?*

**Key Findings**

1. Data on youth development budgets are difficult to obtain and assess.
2. City of Los Angeles lacks a focused role regarding youth.
3. Complex multi-jurisdictional youth service system is challenging to navigate or coordinate.
4. Formal entity can improve youth development.



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# Building the Next Generation Part Two: Implementing a Citizen Commission

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### Goals and Objectives of This Report

- This report builds on Part One of this study that finds that youth development programming for the City of Los Angeles lacks coordination around a Citywide strategy for youth. This report argues that among the four alternatives outlined in Part One, the City should pursue the permanent commission, and outlines related strategic, financial, and structural considerations, with reference to the experience of several cities as well as the history of the previous Los Angeles Commission on Children, Youth, and Families.

### Key Recommendations

- The City should establish by ordinance a Commission on Youth Development.
- Membership on the commission should be established in the normal process of mayoral appointment, council confirmation, and mayoral removal.
- Some provision should be made to ensure that some seats on the commission are reserved for youth.
- The Mayor should direct City departments to share information with the Commission regarding youth programming.
- Sufficient funding should be provided for staff members whose work will be solely on behalf of the Commission. Funding should also include office space and other office requirements such as outreach and publicity.
- The Commission should be directed to conduct a needs assessment of youth in Los Angeles, with recommendations for the provision and coordination of programs. Such report shall be presented to the Mayor, the council, and the community.
- The ordinance shall call for an evaluation of the work of the Commission after three years, with recommendations for improvements and other needed changes.



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# Stakeholder Perspectives of Public Access to the Los Angeles Unified School District: The View from Boyle Heights

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*Cal State LA*

### Goals and Objectives of This Report

- This report looks at Boyle Heights community members access to, and participation in, formal decision-making structures of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). In particular, we examine to what extent and in what manner LAUSD Board activities are made visible to stakeholders in Boyle Heights and how neighborhood concerns are considered at the school district leadership level.

### Key Recommendations

- The LAUSD Board of Education (BOE) should establish regular meetings for the Successful School Climate Committee in Boyle Heights.
- Access to official LAUSD BOE meetings should be expanded by holding meetings at different times of day and in locations beyond the Beaudry Central Office building.
- LAUSD BOE members and the City's Department of Neighborhood Empowerment should explore the establishment of Education Committees as part of the City of Los Angeles' Neighborhood Council system to expand local outreach and communication.
- University-based organizations such as Cal State LA's Pat Brown Institute should be assessed as possible conduits for school district information to community stakeholders. Parent and community liaisons should be involved in developing accessible materials that explain decision-making processes and organizational structures for the benefit of marginalized constituents.



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# Restorative Justice and the Possibilities of Healing Justice

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**Goals and Objectives of This Report**

- This report presents a case study of a Restorative Justice (RJ) program at one Los Angeles United School District high school in Boyle Heights, Theodore Roosevelt Senior High School (RHS). RJ is an alternative to traditional punitive disciplinary policies; the use of RJ practices in K–12 schools has shown to decrease suspensions, expulsions, and youth contact with the justice system. This report seeks to understand the implementation and effectiveness of RJ practices, and funding for RJ programming at RHS from adult perspectives (parents/families of students, teachers, staff, administration).

**Projecting Findings + Goals**

- Provide insights about the relationship between RJ and a majority Latinx student population.
- Discover how effective RJ practices at RHS work.
- Understand the use of RJ practices with parents and families at RHS to foster positive relationships between school adults and students' families and parental/familial involvement.
- Explore how RJ practices at RHS schools decreases suspensions, expulsions, and youth contact with the justice system.
- Analyze findings from Healing Justice framework to interrogate historical, structural, and institutional forms of harm while collectively working to develop practices to promote communal and individual well-being.
- Pinpoint ways in which the adult community's perceptions around RJ exist within an individualistic and/or communal perspective to address the root causes of many interpersonal harms.



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# Health Insurance Coverage in Boyle Heights: A Comparative Demographic Perspective

**Ali Modarres** PhD
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*Cal State LA*

### Goals and Objectives of This Report

- This report provides an in-depth demographic analysis of health insurance coverage at various scales: national, Los Angeles County, and the Boyle Heights community, in order to highlight the importance of small area analysis in advancing effective healthcare policies. This information is used to identify some of the ways Boyle Heights differs from the rest of the region and how its demographic characteristics may require particular attention to age, employment dynamics, and educational attainment. By analyzing the current patterns of coverage (including no coverage), differences in access to the insurance market will be made clear. Using current patterns and projected demographic changes, the report concludes by assessing what health insurance coverage may look like over the next five to ten years.

### Key Recommendations

- Healthcare policy will do better by focusing and fine tuning its approach, using small area analyses.
- Policies aimed at access to health insurance and healthcare services should focus not just on current trends but also on changing demographics and economic and social restructuring.
- Aging and neighborhood demographic shifts cannot be fully incorporated into larger policy narratives. Community advocacy and a focus on smaller geographies is needed to adjust and/or change policies that prove less effective in particular neighborhoods.



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# Food Landscape of Boyle Heights

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### Goals and Objectives of This Report

- The overall goal of this report is to establish a foundation for further systematic data gathering that could inform better advocacy and facilitation of food justice for Boyle Heights residents. This brief provides an overall picture of the food accessibility landscape of Boyle Heights by using secondary data to describe the access residents have to primary and secondary food sources. It also discusses key data about conditions that could support small-scale food production (e.g. urban farming) in the community. Lastly, the report highlights pending legislation that could impact food production and accessibility.

### Key Recommendations

- The primary recommendation is to focus on systematically gathering additional data that would provide a clearer and more comprehensive picture of gaps in food access in Boyle Heights. In particular, it is recommended that data focus on several types of capital known to influence food justice: geographic, social, cultural, political, institutional, and economic.
- Identify and analyze cases of similar communities with food accessibility challenges and how they are addressing it.
- To facilitate data gathering, offer community dialogue sessions where residents can discuss the challenges they have with food accessibility and how they may overcome them with individual or collective action.
- Focus on how residents make food-based decisions in relation to other essential living priorities such as housing, finances, and health.



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# Community Engagement through Participatory Mapping: Community Safety in Boyle Heights

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*Cal State LA*

### Goals and Objectives of This Report

- This brief presents a case study of public safety in Boyle Heights to explore the potential prospects for community participatory mapping approaches as alternatives to traditional crime mapping methods. Participatory mapping involves processes in which community stakeholders participate in mapping activities to provide local knowledge and challenge traditional decision-making. Such approaches, which can utilize innovations in mapping technology, call for a greater role for communities in contributing to policy research, solutions, and advocacy in community health issues.

### Key Recommendations

- Participatory mapping can be used as a tool to engage communities in understanding and contributing to community health with the goal of developing more responsive, equitable, and community-supported policy solutions.
- Participatory mapping utilizing innovations in mapping technology requires adequate community capacity in terms of computer and Internet access, computer and data literacy, and the cultivation of effective community facilitators to guide participatory processes.
- Moreover, governments using innovations in mapping technology should continue to develop user-friendly interfaces and applications to engage the public, while also taking steps to ensure the accuracy and transparency of the data provided.
- Most important, for participatory processes to have a meaningful impact, public and private institutions must reflect a political commitment to incorporate participatory practices into broader decision-making processes.



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# Access to Healthcare in Los Angeles County and Boyle Heights

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### Goals and Objectives of This Report

- This report uses descriptive statistics on Los Angeles and Boyle Heights to evaluate access to care by residents, non-citizens, and the undocumented population. The report first analyzes the demographic characteristics that are associated with uninsured status. The report then examines the undocumented population and the role of local programs such as My Health LA in meeting the demand for health care.

### Key Findings and Recommendations

- In 2014, the undocumented population in Los Angeles County totaled 893,000, among whom 83% were Latinos. Approximately 457,000 or 52% of the undocumented are limited in English proficiency, which hinders their ability to acquire information concerning health insurance and health care. Multi-lingual assistance is necessary to ensure access to health insurance and services in this area.
- Between 2010 and 2014, approximately 21% of the Los Angeles County population and nearly 35% of the Boyle Heights population were uninsured, which translates to two million uninsured individuals in Los Angeles County, and 31,000 in Boyle Heights. The percent uninsured among native-born, non-citizens, and undocumented were 14%, 49%, and 61%, respectively, suggesting the scope of the problem in access to care for the undocumented.
- My Health LA will likely benefit from borrowing outreach effort practices from Covered California, including maintaining a user-friendly, multi-lingual online platform, as well as offering more in-person assistance both onsite and offsite during the enrollment process.

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