Outdoor professionals can harness vulnerable youth qualities to transform young lives and strengthen communities. Our vulnerable populations are:

**Youth with an inherent capacity to be**

- Strong
- Creative
- Resilient
- Mature
- Intuitive
- Loyal
- Bi-cultural
- Innovative
- Observant
- Resourceful
- Analytical
- Street smart
- Civic-minded
- Spiritual
- Inclusive
- Bi/multilingual
- Connected

**Issues and obstacles**

- Functional illiteracy • PTSD • suicide • alcohol/substance abuse • lack of empathy • lack of role models
- Achievement gaps • inability to access capital(s) • learning/emotional disabilities • social determinants of health
- Difficulty developing social skills • higher mortality rates • lower paying professional jobs • distrust of justice system

**Adverse conditions**

- Poor health • lack of youth resources • instability due to poor/inadequate housing • limited educational opportunities
- Elevated violence • inadequate law enforcement • cultural misunderstandings, stereotyping, labeling
- Language barriers • youth don’t fit certain norms

**Adverse circumstances**

- Poverty • policy program orientations • limited resource access • housing discrimination (de facto housing segregation)
- Immigration • social isolation/exclusion • outside dominant culture(s) • systemic bias • environmental injustice