



- Youth throughout California learn about the topics of suicide, prevention, and mental health
- Participants are exposed to "safe messaging" guidelines, warning signs, and how to respond to someone in distress
- ➤ The winning teams win prizes, receive resources, and get to meet with policy makers on these topics
- Films are used throughout the state to raise awareness

Program & Film Contest

The program received 451 submissions from 1,133 youth from 91 high schools, 35 colleges and 31 counties

Videos are judged regionally in three categories: suicide prevention, mental health matters, and a new category, Through the Lens of Culture

▶ 31 Orange County High Schools submitted videos







## Why it Matters

- ➤ 40 68% of young people experiencing thoughts of suicide turn to peers and their family for assistance
- Fewer than 25 percent of the peers tell an adult about a friend's problem or urge the young person in crisis to go to an adult for help
- ▶ By "Directing Change," the young filmmakers encourage their peers to know the warning signs and impart knowledge to connect a friend to a trusted adult or resource