

AMERICA BY THE NUMBERS

Cambodian Interviewees—Teacher’s Resource

In “Pass or Fail in Cambodia Town,” you will meet Cambodian residents of Long Beach, California. Some came as refugees fleeing genocide. Some are the children of those refugees.

These children, now young adults, talk honestly about difficulties faced by their parents, and how those problems affected them as kids.

As you watch, please note the issues discussed.

PERSON INTERVIEWED	PROBLEMS FACED BY INTERVIEWEE OR SIBLINGS	PROBLEMS FACED BY PARENTS
Vee-Bo Interviewed with others on the street	Says "when I was in juvenile hall," describes violence, theft, "just surviving"	N/A
Shameka Min High school senior	Four months pregnant and lives with her boyfriend, youngest of seven kids, father left the family when she was 8, homelessness	Parents came from Cambodia in 1975, sisters rebelled when father left, language barrier between parents and kids
Alex Pham Left high school without graduating	Couldn't focus in school, "always something happening in my life," incarcerated 11 times—first time in seventh grade	Parents had Alex when they were still in their teens, father left Cambodia when he was 4, "saw people blown up," view gangs as a form of self-defense

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<p>Sophya Chum Community organizer, Khmer Girls in Action</p>	<p>Sister in a gang, always around violence, sister at risk for deportation because of drug use-would leave four kids behind</p>	<p>Single mother was a refugee, needed to keep kids quiet so would not be discovered and killed by Khmer Rouge</p>
<p>Seng So Community organizer, Khmer Girls in Action</p>	<p>Born in refugee camp in Thailand, family came to United States in 1989, describes "trauma-informed history"</p>	<p>Parents in their 60s, perform labor-intensive work</p>
<p>David Chhom Asking for school support to close achievement gap</p>	<p>Born in a refugee camp in Thailand, social group has become like a second family</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Peter Ly High school teacher</p>	<p>Came to United States at age 4, joined a Samoan gang to be part of something</p>	<p>N/A</p>