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## **JUST HEALTH ON COLLISION COURSE**

*Just Health to be Featured at Tech Conference*

Albuquerque, New Mexico: Just Health, an innovative health screening for adolescents, has been selected as a featured start up at Collision in New Orleans on April 30, 2018. Collision is hailed by Forbes as "America's fastest growing tech conference." Apex is participating in the BETA start-up program, seeking investment and strategic partnerships to accelerate development of Just Health to expand its base in the healthcare and educational markets that include School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), public and private K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and public health departments.

"HIV and syphilis spread efficiently within the first few months, often with the person experiencing nonspecific symptoms or those that mimic the flu," says Jeffrey Klausner, MD, a professor of medicine and public health at the University of California, Los Angeles. "And because doctors rarely ask questions about patients' sexual activity — either because they're embarrassed or untrained — the diagnosis could be missed."

Vulnerable populations - including individuals in poverty, racial and ethnic minorities, and LGBT youth - are even more at risk. Adolescents ages 13-24 make up more than 50% of the 20 million Americans who contract an STD each year, and most were asymptomatic when diagnosed. Centers for Disease Control estimates that there may be 2-3 times as many instances of sexually transmitted disease that remain undiagnosed. Fifty percent of the population identified as having a mental health issue go untreated. Ninety percent of those with substance addictions do not seek treatment.

Just Health was created to improve communication and decrease stigma around sensitive topics like substance use, mental health, and sexual health to promote a continuum of education, prevention and early intervention efforts that is responsive to the intersectionality of the needs and risks of adolescents, who are underserved in the healthcare system.

To learn more, visit <https://apexeval.org/just-health>.

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## **ABOUT APEX**

Apex is a consulting firm specializing in systems evaluation and much of its work is focused on school-based health. Apex has created a data hub that brings together operational, screening, clinical, academic, and patient feedback to produce integrated

reporting to ask and answer evaluation questions that revolve around process, quality, and outcomes.

Apex' evaluation is further enhanced by its work as a National Center for Technology Innovation as part of CDC's National Network of Clinical STD Prevention Training Centers (NNPTC). Apex won this award based on the early success and promise of its Just Health risk screen app that was developed to support evaluation of SBHCs and has proven to be a valuable clinical tool for improving adolescent healthcare and reducing stigma around topics like substance use, mental health, and sexual health.