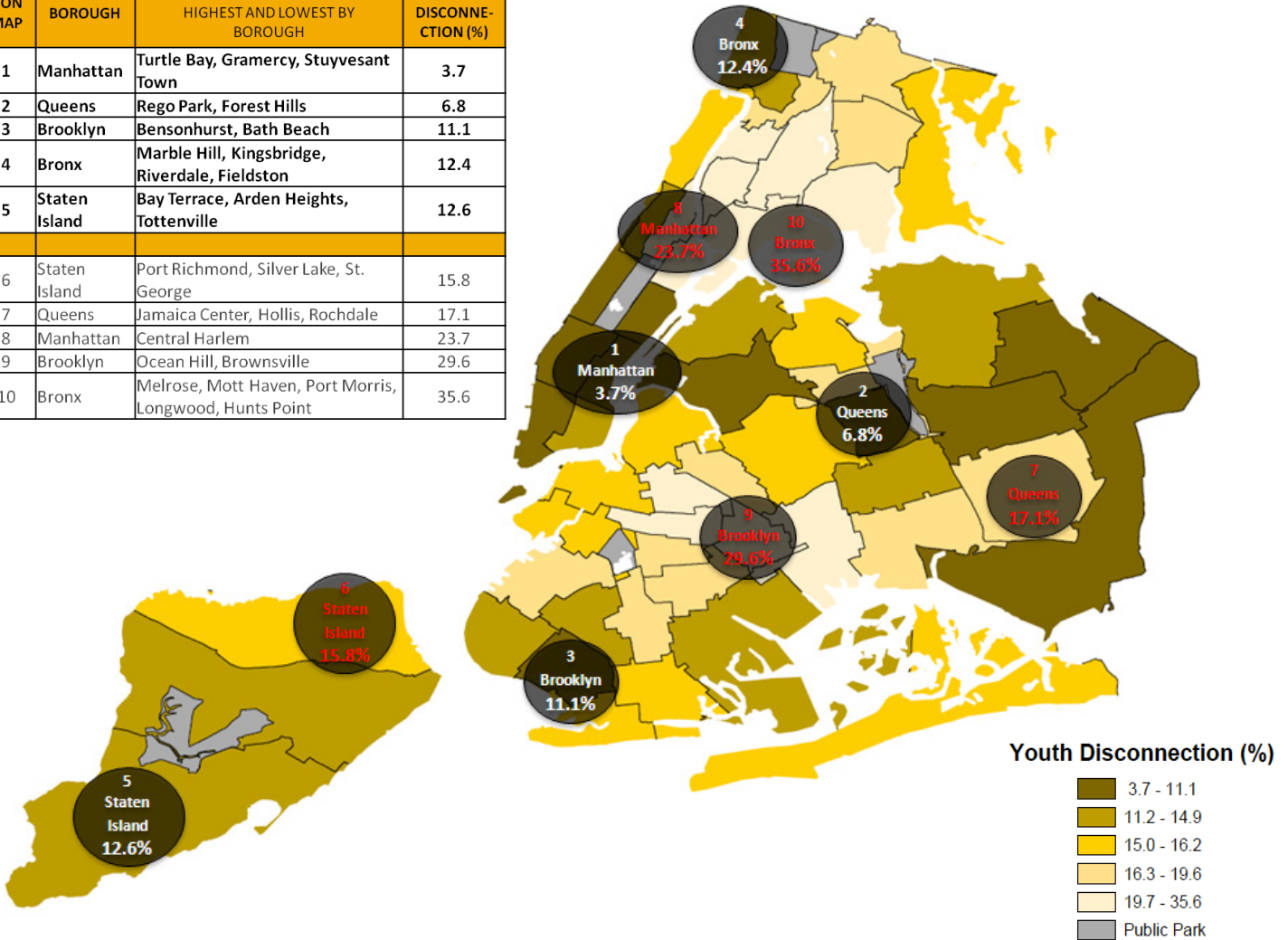


Youth Disconnection in New York City

# ON MAP	BOROUGH	CENSUS NEIGHBORHOOD: HIGHEST AND LOWEST BY BOROUGH	YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
1	Manhattan	Turtle Bay, Gramercy, Stuyvesant Town	3.7
2	Queens	Rego Park, Forest Hills	6.8
3	Brooklyn	Bensonhurst, Bath Beach	11.1
4	Bronx	Marble Hill, Kingsbridge, Riverdale, Fieldston	12.4
5	Staten Island	Bay Terrace, Arden Heights, Tottenville	12.6
6	Staten Island	Port Richmond, Silver Lake, St. George	15.8
7	Queens	Jamaica Center, Hollis, Rochdale	17.1
8	Manhattan	Central Harlem	23.7
9	Brooklyn	Ocean Hill, Brownsville	29.6
10	Bronx	Melrose, Mott Haven, Port Morris, Longwood, Hunts Point	35.6



A New York metro area closeup based on the report
 “One in Seven: Ranking Youth Disconnection in the 25 Largest Metro Areas.”

To download this report, go to <http://www.measureofamerica.org/one-in-seven>.

Youth Disconnection In New York City

For many young New Yorkers, the years that stretch from the mid-teens to the mid-twenties are exciting and alive with possibilities. Anchored by school, work, or both, these “emerging adults” are laying the foundation for productive lives of choice and value. They are earning educational credentials, gaining work experience, forging professional networks, building capacities for independent decision-making, and developing both the social and emotional skills that will make productive and rewarding relationships with colleagues, friends, and romantic partners possible.

But for the 350,000 young people ages 16-24 in the New York metro area who are neither working nor in school, life is very different. These disconnected teens and young adults find themselves isolated and adrift at society’s margins, unmoored from the systems and structures that confer knowledge, skills, identity, and purpose.

Disconnected youth are young people ages 16-24 who are not enrolled in school and not working.

The problem of youth disconnection is a serious and costly one, both for young people themselves and for society as a whole. For disconnected youth, the effects of limited education, social exclusion, employment gaps, and lack of work experience tend to snowball across the course of their lives, affecting everything from earnings and self-sufficiency to health and marital prospects. For the New York metro area more broadly, the consequences are serious as well: a labor force with too few skilled workers to fill openings in many industries; the high costs associated with poor physical and mental health, public assistance, crime, and incarceration; and too many families experiencing inter-generational poverty.

Nationwide, 5.8 million young people are disconnected—one in every seven Americans ages 16 to 24. The rate of youth disconnection in the New York metro area, which includes New York City as well as neighboring counties and communities in the larger tri-state area, is higher than the national average (15.2 percent compared to 14.7 percent nationally). And the New York metro area lags behind other large American cities. Of the country’s twenty-five most populous metro areas, New York has the ninth highest rate of youth disconnection. To see the ranking of all twenty-five metro areas, go to: www.measureofamerica.org/one-in-seven. And beneath these aggregate figures lies tremendous diversity.

The New York metro area has the widest gap by neighborhood in terms of youth disconnection of America’s largest cities. In the communities of Hicksville, Bethpage, and Plainview in Nassau County on Long Island, the rate of young adults not in school and not working is one-tenth the rate of the South Bronx neighborhoods of Mott Haven, Melrose, and Hunts Point.

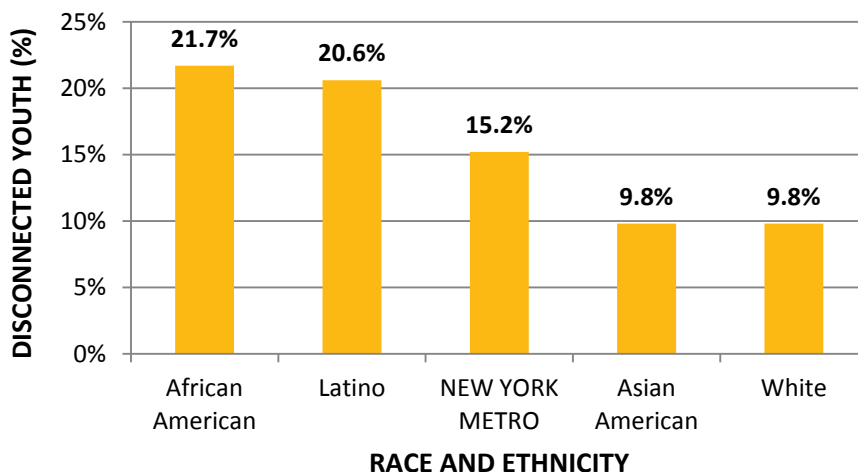
TABLE 1 Disconnection in New York City's Neighborhoods

BOROUGH	NYC COMMUNITY DISTRICT(S)	NEIGHBORHOOD(S)	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (%)
		New York Metro Area	15.2
Bronx	1, 2	Melrose, Mott Haven, Port Morris, Longwood, Hunts Point	35.6
Bronx	5	University Heights, Mount Hope, Morris Heights	23.9
Bronx	3, 6	Claremont Village, East Tremont, Belmont	23.6
Bronx	9	Unionport, Soundview, Castle Hill, Clason Point	22.8
Bronx	4	Mount Eden, High Bridge, Concourse	20.3
Bronx	7	Norwood, Bedford Park	19.5
Bronx	12	Wakefield, Eastchester, Edenwald, Williamsbridge	18.9
Bronx	11	Pelham Parkway, Pelham Gardens, Morris Park, Van Nest	18.7
Bronx	10	Schuylerville, Edgewater park, Throgs Neck, City Island	16.2
Bronx	8	Marble Hill, Kingsbridge, Riverdale, Fieldston	12.4
Brooklyn	16	Ocean Hill, Brownsville	29.6
Brooklyn	5	East New York, Spring Creek, New Lots	25.0
Brooklyn	3	Bedford Stuyvesant	24.7
Brooklyn	8	Prospect Heights, Weeksville	20.6
Brooklyn	4	Bushwick	19.6
Brooklyn	9	Wingate, Prospect Lefferts Gardens	19.2
Brooklyn	17	Rugby, Remsen Village, East Flatbush	18.3
Brooklyn	7	Windsor Terrace, Sunset Park	18.3
Brooklyn	14	Ditmas Park, Midwood, Manhattan Terrace	17.6
Brooklyn	2	Fulton Ferry, Downtown, Clinton Hill	15.8
Brooklyn	1	Greenpoint, North Side, South Side, Williamsburg	15.5
Brooklyn	6	Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Park Slope	15.5
Brooklyn	13	Sea Gate, Coney Island, Brighton Beach	15.1
Brooklyn	15	Homecrest, Sheepshead Bay, Gravesend	15.1
Brooklyn	12	Kensington, Borough Park, Ocean Parkway	14.2
Brooklyn	10	Bay Ridge, Fort Hamilton, Dyker Heights	13.3
Brooklyn	18	Canarsie, Flatlands, Georgetown, Mill Island	13.1
Brooklyn	11	Bensonhurst, Bath Beach	11.1
Manhattan	10	Central Harlem	23.7
Manhattan	11	East Harlem	22.3
Manhattan	12	Inwood, Washington Heights	15.9
Manhattan	3	East Village, NoHo, Lower East Side, Chinatown	14.9
Manhattan	9	Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, Morningside Heights	12.5
Manhattan	8	Carnegie Hill, Yorkville, Upper East Side, Lenox Hill	8.1
Manhattan	4, 5	Clinton, Chelsea, Midtown, Flatiron	7.6
Manhattan	7	Manhattan Valley, Upper West Side, Lincoln Square	6.5
Manhattan	1, 2	West Village, Greenwich Village, SoHo, Tribeca, Financial District	4.7
Manhattan	6	Turtle Bay, Tudor City, Gramercy, Stuyvesant Town	3.7

Queens	12	Jamaica Center, Hollis, Rochdale	17.1
Queens	4	Elmhurst, South Corona, Lefrak City	16.7
Queens	10	Ozone Park, Lindenwood, Howard Beach	16.6
Queens	3	East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, North Corona	15.4
Queens	14	Far Rockaway, Summerville, Neponsit, Breezy Point	15.3
Queens	5	Maspeth, Middle Village, Ridgewood, Glendale	15.1
Queens	9	Woodhaven, Richmond Hill, Kew Gardens	14.9
Queens	7	College Point, Murray Hill, Queensboro Hill	12.5
Queens	1	Steinway, Astoria, Ravenswood	11.9
Queens	2	Hunters Point, Sunnyside, Blissville	10.4
Queens	13	Bellaire, Cambria Heights, Laurelton	10.3
Queens	8	Pomonok, Utopia, Kew Gardens Hills, Jamaica Estates	8.0
Queens	11	Bayside, Oakland Gardens, Little Neck	7.1
Queens	6	Rego Park, Forest Hills	6.8
Staten Island	1	Port Richmond, Silver Lake, St. George	15.8
Staten Island	2	Bloomfield, Willowbrook, Dongan Hills	12.7
Staten Island	3	Bay Terrace, Arden Heights, Tottenville	12.6

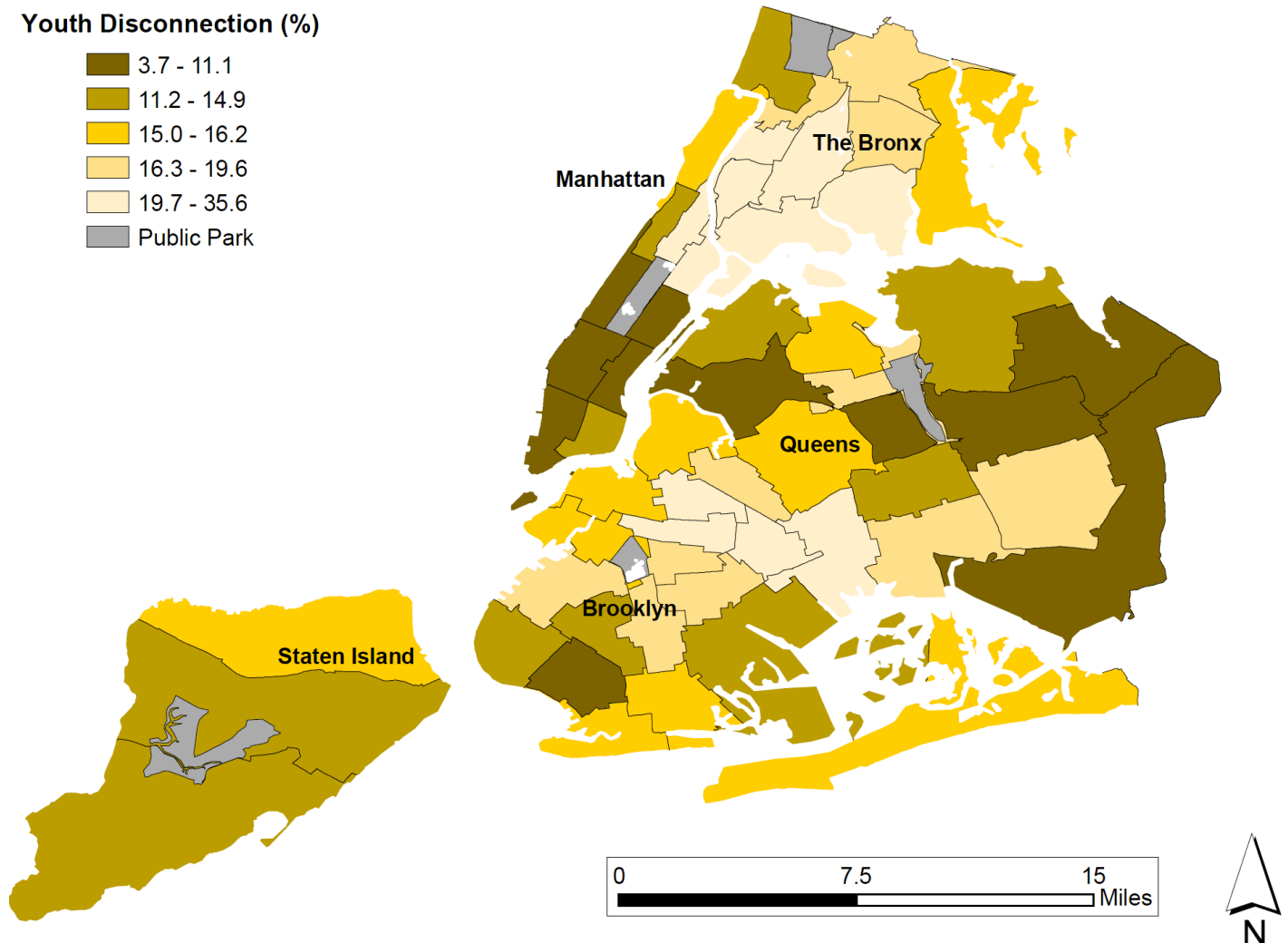
The New York metro area has significant gaps by race and ethnicity. African American young people have the highest rate of disconnection, 21.7 percent, followed by Latinos, with a rate of 20.6 percent. Both Asian American and white young people have a disconnection rate of 9.8 percent. It is noteworthy that although the rates for African Americans and whites in New York are below the national average for those groups, for Latinos and Asian Americans, rates are well above the average. Nearly one in ten New York Asian American young people are disconnected, considerably higher than the 8 percent U.S. average and the highest rate of the metro areas for which reliable data on disconnection for Asian Americans are available. Similarly, the Latino rate is well above the 18.5 percent average and second highest after Phoenix (see [FIGURE 1](#)).

FIGURE 1 Disconnection in the New York Metro Area by Race and Ethnicity



In densely populated New York City, vastly different youth disconnection rates can be found just miles, and sometimes even blocks, apart. In Manhattan’s East Side neighborhoods of Turtle Bay and Stuyvesant Town, only 3.7 percent of young people are disconnected. A relatively short ride uptown on the number 6 train away, in the Bronx neighborhoods of Hunts Point Melrose, and Mott Haven, the rate is nearly ten times higher, 35.6 percent (see MAP 1).

MAP 1 Youth Disconnection in New York City



Source: Measure of America analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey PUMS Microdata 2006-2010.

Similar extremes can be found within four of the five boroughs (see TABLE 2).

- **The Bronx** has the highest youth disconnection rate among the five boroughs (see SIDEBAR below). As mentioned earlier, the Bronx neighborhoods of Melrose, Mott Haven, Port Morris, Longwood, and

Hunts Point have the highest rate of youth disconnection, 35.6 percent. The areas in and around Marble Hill, Kingsbridge, Riverdale, and Fieldston have a rate about one-third of that, 12.4 percent.

- **Brooklyn’s** youth disconnection rate is 18 percent. In Bensonhurst and Bath Beach, the rate is 11.1 percent. In Ocean Hill and Brownsville, the rate is 29.6.
- **Staten Island’s** youth disconnection rate is 14 percent overall, and the borough has a considerably more narrow range among its neighborhoods, at least in part because of its comparatively smaller population size. Bay Terrace, Arden Heights, and Tottenville have a youth disconnection rate of 12.6, whereas Port Richmond, Silver Lake, and St. George have a rate of 15.8.
- **Queens** has a youth disconnection rate of 13.3 percent. In Rego Park and Forest Hills, the rate is just 6.8 percent. In Jamaica Center, Hollis, and Rochdale, it is 17.1 percent. This range is considerably more narrow than that found in the other large boroughs.
- **Manhattan** has the lowest youth disconnection rate of the five boroughs, 12.3 percent. The range between neighborhoods, however, is very large. In Turtle Bay, Tudor City, Gramercy, and Stuyvesant Town, the youth disconnection rate is 3.7 percent. In Harlem, the rate is 23.7 percent, more than six times as high.

**DISCONNECTED
YOUTH (%)**

NYC Metro Area	15.2
Manhattan	12.3
Queens	13.3
Staten Island	14.0
Brooklyn	18.0
Bronx	22.3

TABLE 2 Highs and Lows of Youth Disconnection by Borough

RANK	BOROUGH	CENSUS NEIGHBORHOOD: HIGHEST AND LOWEST BY BOROUGH	YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
HIGH	Manhattan	Turtle Bay, Gramercy, Stuyvesant Town	3.7
HIGH	Queens	Rego Park, Forest Hills	6.8
HIGH	Brooklyn	Bensonhurst, Bath Beach	11.1
HIGH	Bronx	Marble Hill, Kingsbridge, Riverdale, Fieldston	12.4
HIGH	Staten Island	Bay Terrace, Arden Heights, Tottenville	12.6
LOW	Staten Island	Port Richmond, Silver Lake, St. George	15.8
LOW	Queens	Jamaica Center, Hollis, Rochdale	17.1
LOW	Manhattan	Central Harlem	23.7
LOW	Brooklyn	Ocean Hill, Brownsville	29.6
LOW	Bronx	Melrose, Mott Haven, Port Morris, Longwood, Hunts Point	35.6

Source: Measure of America analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey PUMS Microdata 2006-2010.

Who is Considered a “Disconnected Youth”?

Disconnected youth are people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither in school nor working. One of the challenges of studying this population is that several different official data sources exist, each of which differs slightly in what data they make available and for what segments of the population. The result is that researchers working with different datasets, and often with different definitions of what constitutes disconnection, come up with different numbers for this indicator. Measure of America has chosen to use the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) for this research, chiefly because the ACS is reliable and updated annually, and because the survey includes young people who are in institutional group quarters such as juvenile or adult correctional facilities and supervised medical facilities.

Are part-time students considered disconnected youth? No. All youth ages 16 to 24 who are in school, whether full- or part-time, are considered connected.

Are part-time workers considered disconnected youth? No. All full- and part-time workers ages 16 to 24 are considered connected.

Are youth who are out of a job, but looking for work, counted as disconnected youth? Yes. In this study, youth who are looking for work are considered disconnected. Some studies exclude from the disconnected category young people who are actively looking for work.

How many disconnected youth live in institutions? Of the 5.8 million disconnected youth in 2010, about

four hundred thousand live in residential institutions, including juvenile or adult correctional facilities and residential medical facilities, such as psychiatric units or long-term-care hospitals.

Is a young person enrolled in a course of study while in a residential correctional or medical facility considered disconnected? No. In 2010 about 25 percent of institutionalized young people were enrolled in educational programs. These young people are considered connected.

Are young people in the military considered disconnected? No. In this study, young people who are members of the armed forces are considered connected.

What Drives Youth Disconnection?

Measure of America research found that high rates of youth disconnection in the country’s twenty-five most populous metropolitan areas, New York included, are strongly associated with two critical factors: poverty and low levels of adult educational attainment.

- **Poverty.** Disconnected youth are, not surprisingly, considerably more likely to come from disconnected communities—areas in which high rates of poverty are evidence of and contributors to isolation from mainstream social and economic systems. A startling 39 percent of disconnected youth live in households with incomes that fall below the poverty line, compared with an already-high 21 percent of connected youth. In terms of community conditions, one in five young people in high-poverty metro neighborhoods are disconnected, as compared with only about one in fourteen for youth in low-poverty neighborhoods. For the purposes of this study, low-poverty neighborhoods are those with a poverty rate below 5 percent, and high-poverty neighborhoods have a poverty rate of above 20.9 percent.

(These thresholds are one standard deviation above and below the mean for all neighborhoods, respectively.) In each borough, the poverty rate is higher in the most disconnected neighborhoods than it is in the metro area as a whole (13.8 percent), particularly in the most disconnected parts of the Bronx (42.5 percent), Brooklyn (35.8 percent), and Manhattan (28.6 percent).

- **Adult educational attainment.** Another strong link exists between connectedness of young people to work or school and the educational status of adults in their communities. Towns and neighborhoods in which fewer adults have at least a four-year college degree have a far greater proportion of disconnected young people. In fact, the positive benefits for the community seem to accelerate in impact as the proportion of adults with bachelor's degrees in an area increases. In the three most disconnected New York City neighborhood clusters, two in Brooklyn and one the Bronx, less than 13 percent of adult residents have bachelor's degrees; in three areas with the lowest rates of disconnection, all in Manhattan, about 75 percent of adults have bachelor's degrees.

For a more detailed discussion of the factors most closely associated with youth disconnection, see "One in Seven: Ranking Youth Disconnection in the 25 Largest Metro Areas," page 19 at: http://www.measureofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/MOA-One_in_Seven09-14.pdf.

What Can Be Done?

Today we are paying for societal failure; investing in success by preventing disconnection in the first place is cheaper by any measure and easier than reconnecting those who have fallen out of the mainstream. Evidence shows that two investments in our collective future merit particular attention.

RESET THE TRAJECTORY FOR AT RISK-KIDS WITH HIGH-QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION

Preschool seems distant from the teens and early twenties. But research consistently shows that the roots of high school completion are planted before a child even starts their first day of kindergarten. At-risk 3- and 4-year-olds who attend a high-quality preschool have lower dropout rates and enjoy greater labor market success decades later than their peers who did not go to preschool. High-quality, center-based preschool programs do more than enhance cognitive development; they also provide children with critical social and emotional skills that compound over time, resulting in less grade repetition and fewer behavioral problems, less crime, fewer teen births, and higher wages.

DEVELOP MEANINGFUL SCHOOL-TO-WORK OPTIONS FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

Every American young person needs some education after high school to succeed in today's globally competitive workforce. But the idea that this education must be a bachelor's degree sends the message that anything else is second best. Other affluent democracies in Western Europe and the Nordic countries have strong vocational and technical education systems that offer a host of meaningful alternatives for young people whose interests and aspirations are best met by a certificate program or two-year degree. And, as one result, many of these countries have far lower youth disconnection rates than the United States.

Every young person needs some education beyond high school to succeed in today's workforce. But the idea that this must be a bachelor's degree sends the message that anything else is second best.

Researchers have estimated that over the next five years nearly 30 million *new* jobs will require workers with an associate degree or occupational certificate. A robust career and technical education system that offers strong high school academic preparation alongside a range of on-site or classroom-based programs would offer an important option for young people who have the desire and aptitude to enter some of these "jobs of tomorrow," jobs that allow for economic security and job satisfaction and require some postsecondary education but not necessarily a bachelor's degree. These programs can include internships, apprenticeships, after-school programs, and more. In many successful models here and abroad, the participation of the private sector helps to defray costs and builds links between students and future job placements. In turn, industry benefits from a well-trained workforce.

Moving beyond the vague "college-for-all" mantra to provide meaningful guidance and concrete options both to young people aiming for a bachelor's degree and to those whose career aspirations would be better served by relevant, high-quality career and technical education programs is key to preventing youth disconnection.

Measure of America, a project of the Social Science Research Council, is a nonpartisan project to provide easy-to-use, yet methodologically sound tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in the United States and to stimulate fact-based dialogue about issues we all care about: **health**, **education**, and **living standards**.

The root of this work is the human development and capabilities approach, the brainchild of Harvard professor and Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen. Human development is about improving people's well-being and expanding their choices and opportunities to live freely chosen lives of value. The period of young adulthood is critical to developing the capabilities required to live a good life: knowledge and credentials, social skills and networks, a sense of mastery and agency, an understanding of one's strengths and preferences, and the ability to handle stressful events and regulate one's emotions, to name just a few. Measure of America is thus concerned with youth disconnection because it stunts human development, closing off some of life's most rewarding and joyful paths and leading to a future of limited horizons and unrealized potential.

Measure of America provides easy-to-use yet methodologically sound tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in America and stimulates fact-based dialogue about issues we all care about: health, education, and living standards.

Through hard copy and online reports, interactive “apps,” and custom-built dashboards, Measure of America breathes life into numbers, using data to identify areas of highest need, pinpoint levers for change, and track progress over time.

Businesses, philanthropists, and boards of directors increasingly want an answer to this question: are our efforts translating into social, economic, or environmental impacts on the ground? Several tools for measuring impact exist, but they tend to focus heavily on inputs (such as the number of loans approved or philanthropic dollars delivered) and direct, short-term results. Measure of America moves beyond inputs to help identify indicators that provide solid evidence of community-level changes and works with organizations to design performance metrics, monitor progress, and present the results.

PUBLICATIONS



Measure of America’s reports provide authoritative data-based analyses on well-being and access to opportunity at the national, state, and county levels.

Reports are frequently cited by journalists and researchers. Organizations such as Catholic Charities USA and United Way have used MOA’s work to evaluate programs, implement policy changes, and more.

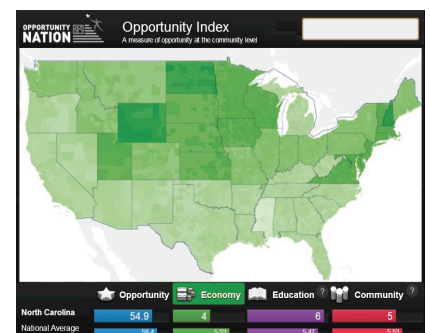
INTERACTIVE TOOLS



Measure of America develops online tools that are an innovative and engaging way to explore the latest data, in addition to being excellent for classroom use.

In *Mapping the Measure of America*, users can play with over 100 social indicators. They can calculate their personal well-being score on the *Well-O-Meter*. The *Common Good Forecaster* delves into the broader impact of education on communities.

SERVICES



Need help with data? MOA’s custom-services help clients to better understand their constituents, measure social impact, and present data in an engaging manner.

We can help you identify the right indicators; analyze, visualize, and communicate data; and write about your findings. Our clients hail from many sectors: service delivery, policy, media, private, philanthropic, nonprofit, and more.