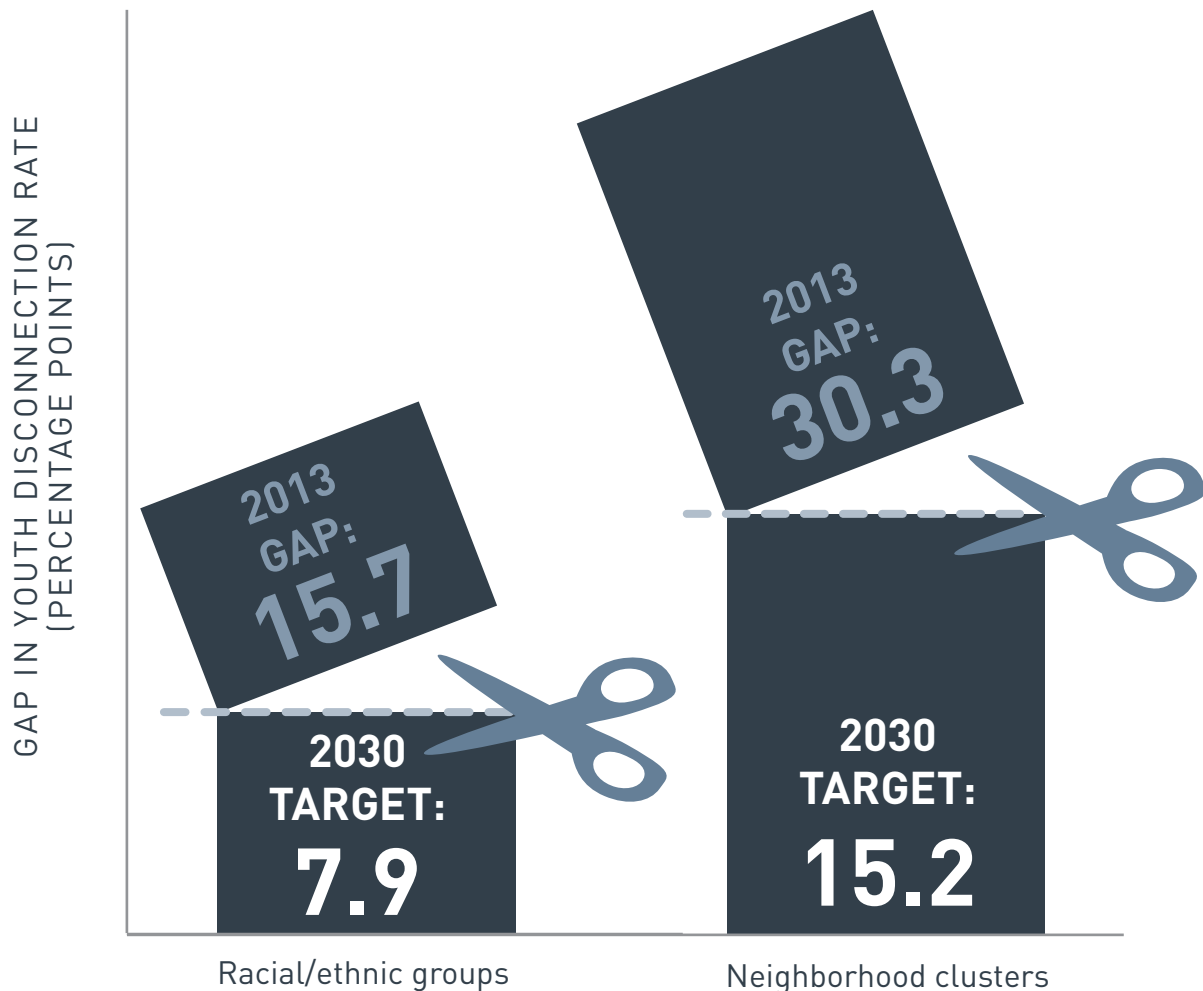


HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

LOS ANGELES METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

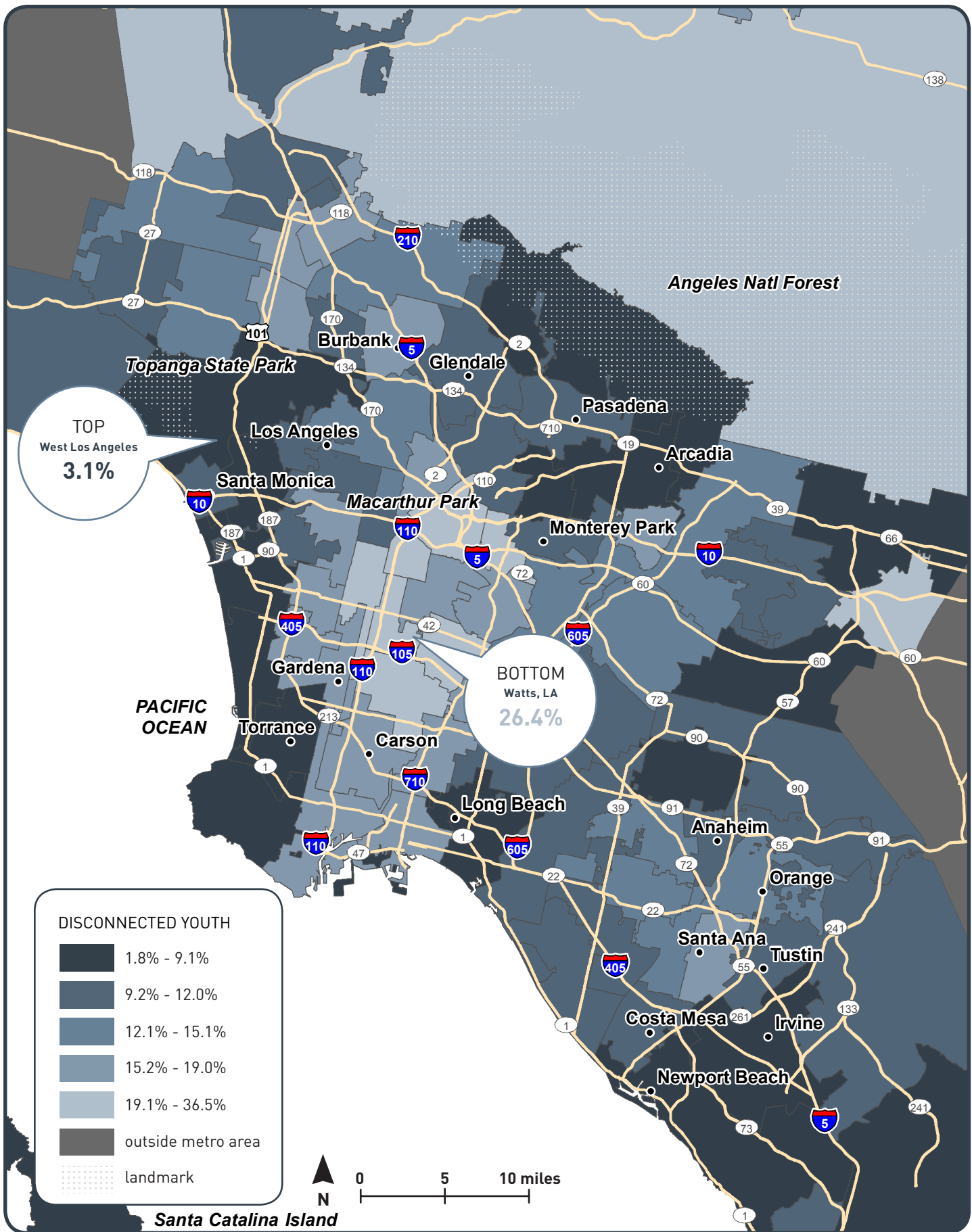
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15 YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE LOS ANGELES METRO AREA



About the Los Angeles Metro Area Close-Up

This document is an excerpt from *Halve the Gap by 2030: Youth Disconnection in America's Cities*. It portrays in detail the landscape of youth disconnection in the Los Angeles Metro Area, with a map of the metro area; identification of the neighborhood highs and lows; youth disconnection rates by race, ethnicity, and gender; and key well-being indicators to provide context.

Who Are Disconnected Youth: Definition and Data Sources

Disconnected youth are people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither in school nor working.

Young people in this age range who are working or in school part-time or who are in the military are not considered disconnected. Youth disconnection rates in this report are calculated by Measure of America using employment and enrollment data from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) of the US Census Bureau. For further details, see the Note on Methods and Definitions.

Several official data sources exist that can be used for calculating youth disconnection. As a result, researchers working with different data sets, or different definitions of what constitutes disconnection, arrive at different numbers for this indicator. Measure of America uses the ACS for four reasons: (1) it is reliable and updated annually; (2) it allows for calculations by state and metro area as well as by the more granular census-defined neighborhood clusters within metro areas; (3) it includes young people who are in group quarters, such as juvenile or adult correctional facilities, supervised medical facilities, and college dorms; and (4) it counts students on summer break as being enrolled in school.



Measure of America, a project of the Social Science Research Council, provides 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 for a full and flourishing 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.

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 5.40 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 13th out of 24

Total population: 12,945,140

Adult unemployment rate: 9.9%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 31.0%

Poverty rate: 17.0%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 22.9%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 64.5%

Sources: *Measure of America 2013-2014* and U.S. Census Bureau, 2011.

The **Los Angeles metro area**, made up of Los Angeles and Orange Counties, is the country's second largest city and home to one in every three Californians. The youth disconnection rate is 14.6 percent, a rate which is on par with the national average and gives Los Angeles a fifteenth-place ranking among the country's twenty-five most populous metro areas. In terms of absolute numbers, an astonishing 258,000 teens and young are not working and not in school. Compared with California's three other major metro areas, Los Angeles struggles with youth connection far more than San Francisco and San Diego but has a better rate than Riverside–San Bernardino.

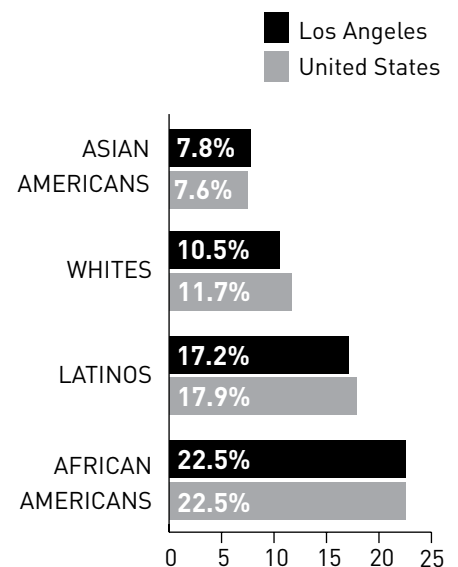
Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

The tremendous variation in youth disconnection rates by race and ethnicity in Los Angeles closely mirrors the differences among the groups at the national level. Asian Americans have the lowest disconnection rate, 7.8 percent, followed by whites at 10.5 percent. The Latino rate is 17.2 percent, and the African American rate is 22.5 percent, or more than one in every five African American teens and young adults.

Youth Disconnection by Gender

While nationally young men outnumber young women in terms of youth disconnection, in Los Angeles the differences are not statistically

How Do Racial and Ethnic Groups Compare to Each Other and to Their National Counterparts?



significant. Roughly 129,000 young men and 129,000 young women are neither working nor in school. Because of Los Angeles' large size, these are the second highest numbers after New York.

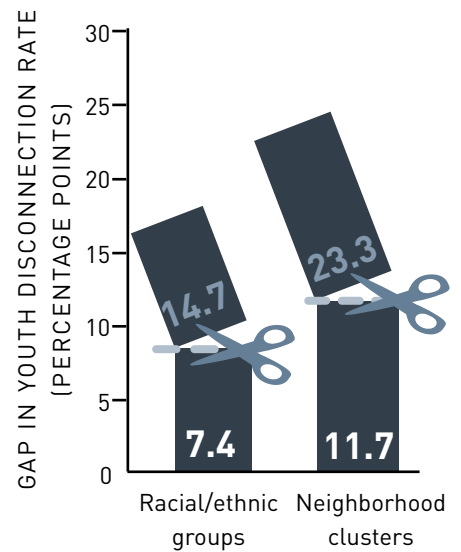
Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Los Angeles metro area is made up of eighty-four neighborhood clusters. An astonishing 23.3 percentage points separates neighborhoods with the highest and lowest youth disconnection rates. In West Los Angeles, only 3.1 percent of young people are cut off from school and work; in Watts, the rate is more than eight times that, 26.4 percent. In other big cities in California, the distance between the most and least connected neighborhood clusters is narrower—12.2 percentage points in Riverside-San Bernardino, 15.2 percentage points in San Diego, and 19.7 percentage points in San Francisco.

Two features stand out in relation to the three neighborhood clusters with the highest rates of youth disconnection. The first is that they are near one another pointing to a concentration of disadvantage and a geographical isolation from parts of the city where connection rates are higher. The second is that these areas are largely Latino and African American, highlighting the difficulties young people in low-income, majority minority neighborhoods face in connecting to educational and employment opportunities. At least seven in ten residents of these communities are Latino, and in Watts, seven in ten are Latino and the remaining three are African American.

As is the case with the neighborhoods with high rates of disconnection, the most-connected communities are also located, if not next to one another, at least near other fairly well-connected neighborhoods, a concentration of advantage and access that benefits the area's young people. West Los Angeles, where youth disconnection is the lowest in the metro area, includes the campus of the University of California Los Angeles, a magnet for students who are inherently "connected" to higher education if not employment as well.

Halve the Gap in Los Angeles



Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
West Los Angeles, CA	3.1
Irvine, CA	4.9
Newport Beach and Laguna Hills, Orange County, CA	5.2

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Vernon Central, Los Angeles, CA	22.6
Downtown Los Angeles, CA	25.0
Watts, Los Angeles, CA	26.4