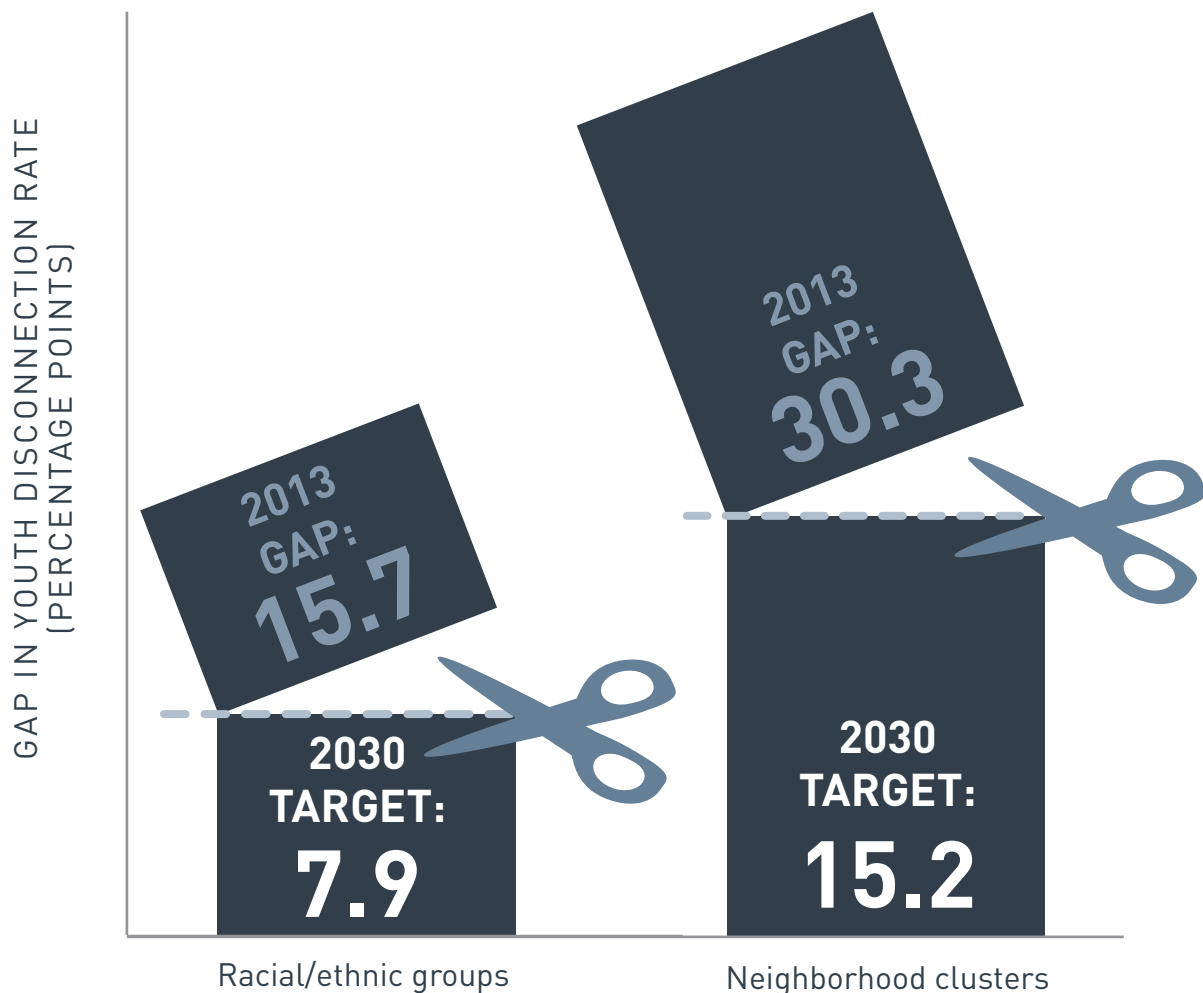


HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

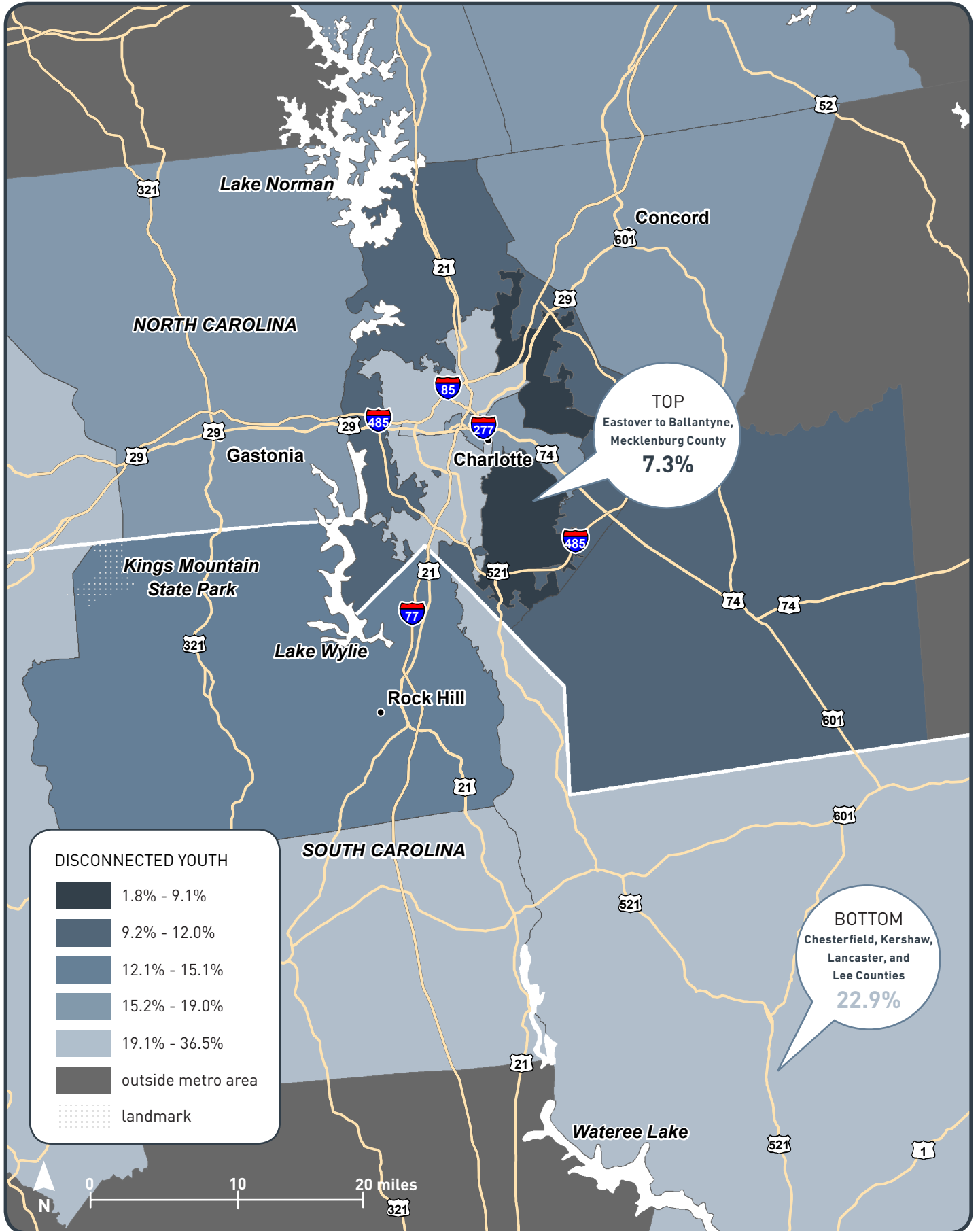
CHARLOTTE METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

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About the Charlotte 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 Charlotte 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: N/A

HD Index ranking: N/A

Total population: 2,257,134

Adult unemployment rate: 9.9%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 33.3%

Poverty rate: 15.7%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 23.9%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 56.7%

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

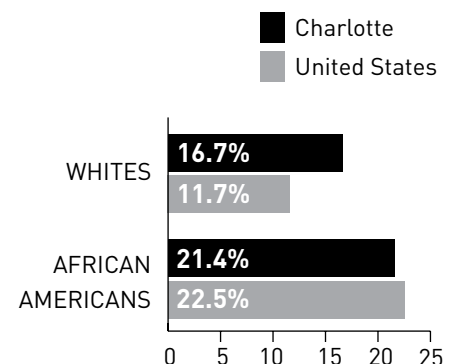
The **Charlotte metro area** is composed of Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, and Union Counties in North Carolina, and Chester, Lancaster, and York Counties in South Carolina. Charlotte has one of the highest rates of youth disconnection among the twenty-five largest US metro areas, 17.3 percent, better only than Riverside–San Bernardino and Detroit. Of the total 304,000 young people in the 16 to 24 age range, 53,000 young Charlotteans are neither working nor in school.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

The experience of youth disconnection in Charlotte by race and ethnicity is unique. While the data from the city does not wholly reverse the national trend of African Americans experiencing a rate of youth disconnection much greater than the rate among whites, Charlotte certainly does not model the overall American experience. The populations of Latinos and Asian Americans in this age range are too small for reliable disconnection calculations.

African Americans in Charlotte experience a rate of youth disconnection (21.4 percent) that is just better than the national average for African Americans of 22.5 percent while whites have a rate of 16.7 percent, far worse (5 percentage points) than the national average for white youth. The disconnection rate among Charlotte's whites is better only than that in Riverside-San Bernardino.

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



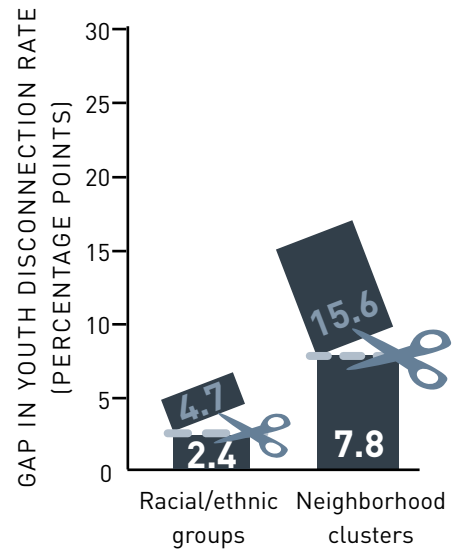
Youth Disconnection by Gender

Nationally, young men tend to experience a disconnection rate greater than that of women but, in Charlotte, the rates are nearly equal; young women have a rate of youth disconnection of 17.5 percent, young men a rate of 17.2 percent. Charlotte is one of the cities among the twenty-five largest metro areas in the country with the smallest difference between the disconnection rate of males and females.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Charlotte metro area is made up of fifteen neighborhood clusters. The rate of youth disconnection ranges from 22.9 in Chesterfield, Kershaw, Lancaster and Lee Counties in South Carolina—more than one in five young people—to just 7.3 percent in the communities between Eastover and Ballantyne in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. In all three of the least connected neighborhoods, the child poverty rate hovers just under one in three young people under age 18.

Halve the Gap in Charlotte



Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Eastover to Ballantyne, Mecklenburg County, NC	7.3
University to Mint Hill, Mecklenburg County, NC	7.6
Mecklenburg County outside Charlotte city limits, NC	9.8

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
West Charlotte and Sugar Creek, Mecklenburg County, NC	21.5
Cherokee, Chester, and Union Counties, SC	21.5
Chesterfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, and Lee Counties, SC	22.9