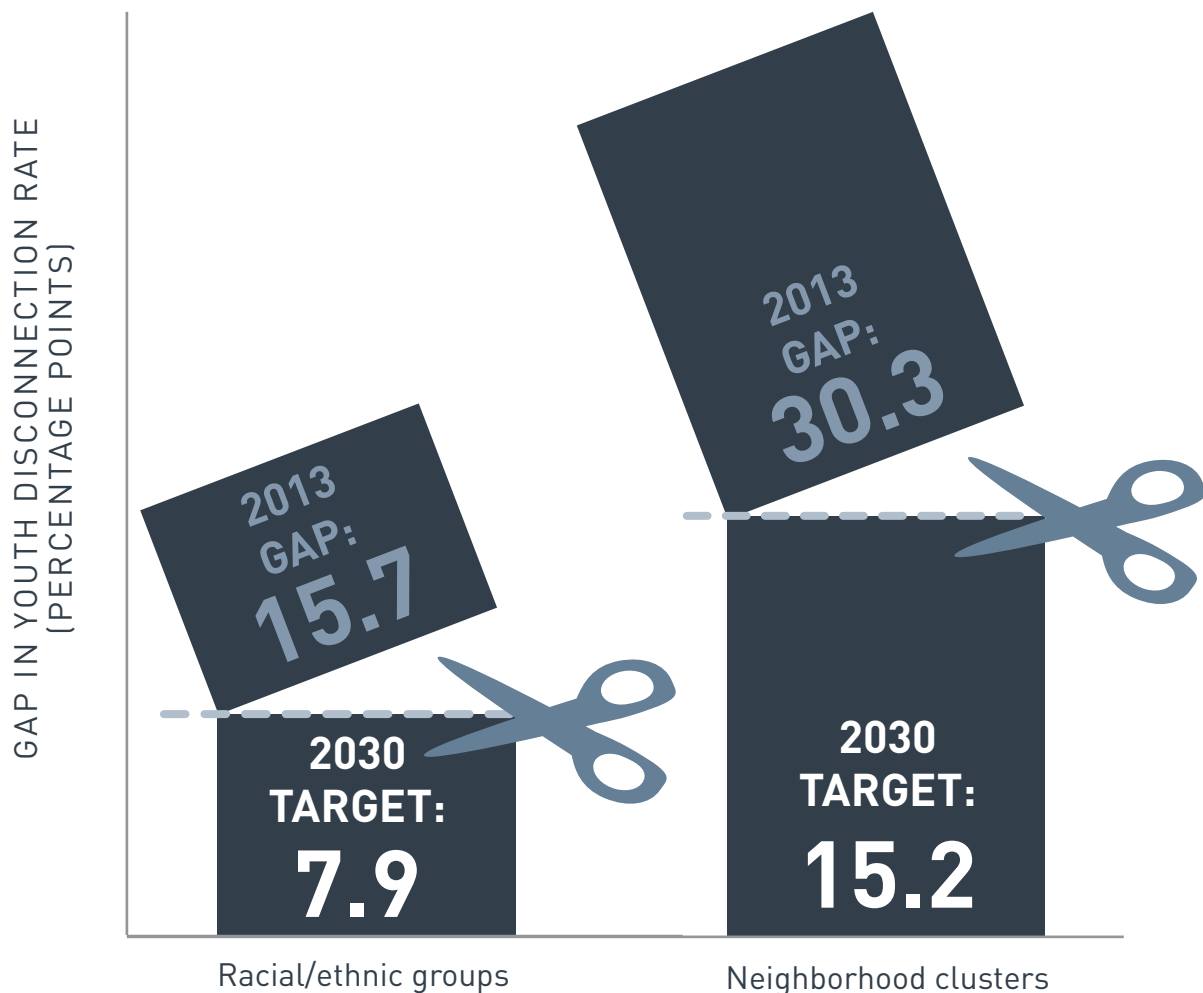


# HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION  
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

## SAN ANTONIO METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

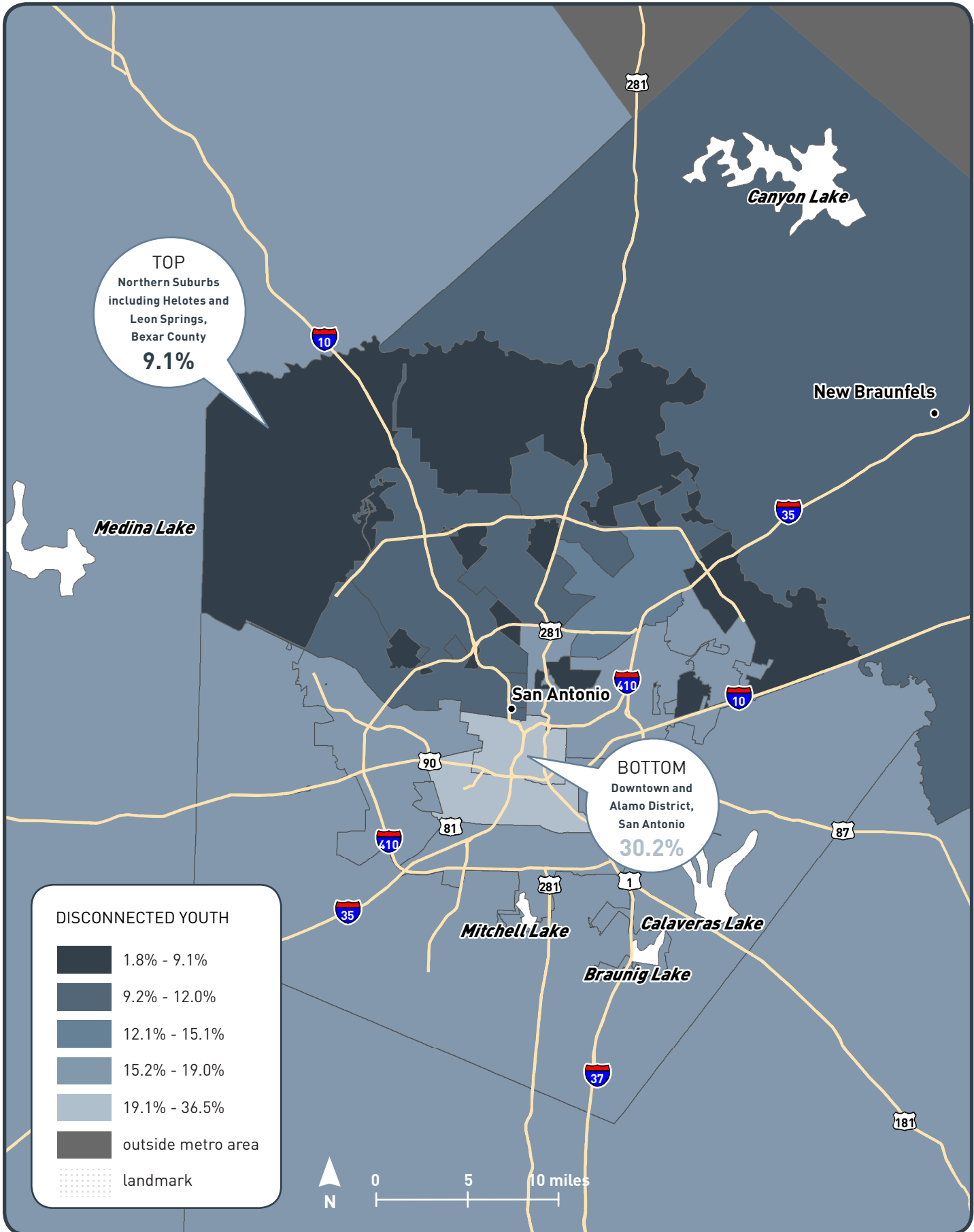
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# YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE SAN ANTONIO METRO AREA



## About the San Antonio 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 San Antonio 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:** 4.71 out of 10

**HD Index ranking:** 23rd out of 24

**Total population:** 2,191,670

**Adult unemployment rate:** 6.6%

**Adults with at least bachelor's degree:** 26.1%

**Poverty rate:** 16.6%

**Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24):** 15.9%

**School enrollment rate (ages 16–24):** 57.0%

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

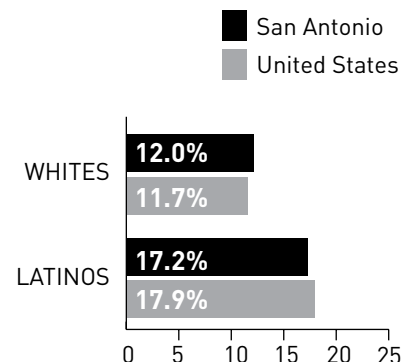
The **San Antonio metro area** is comprised of eight Texas counties—Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Medina, and Wilson. Its youth disconnection rate is 15.6 percent, indicating that almost 49,000 teens and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 are neither working nor in school. In a ranked list of the twenty-five most populous metro areas, San Antonio is ahead of Tampa–St. Petersburg but trails Dallas–Ft. Worth in terms of youth disconnection. Of the big cities in Texas that are among the country's most populous metro areas—Dallas–Ft. Worth, Houston, and San Antonio—San Antonio has the greatest percentage of young people who are disconnected from school and work.

## Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

The rates of youth disconnection among whites and Latinos in San Antonio are very similar to those found across the county, although Latinos in the city are slightly better off than their national counterparts and whites are disconnected at a slightly higher rate in San Antonio than elsewhere. The gap between Latinos and whites in San Antonio, 5.2 percentage points, is smaller than the gap between them at the national level.

Of the twenty-five most populous US metro areas, San Antonio has the highest proportion of Latino residents (54.2 percent) and it is the only city where the majority of residents are Latino. The metro area has far

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



smaller African American and Asian American communities, relative to the total population, than other major metro areas. There are not enough young people in either of these groups to allow the calculation of reliable youth disconnection figures.

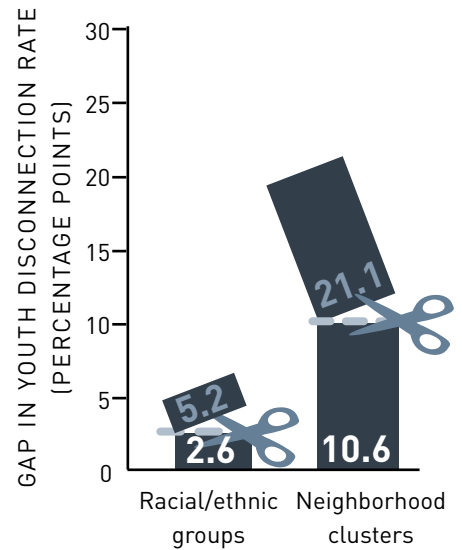
### Youth Disconnection by Gender

Running counter to the national trend, the disconnection rate for women in San Antonio is higher than that of their male counterparts. Among the twenty-five most populous US metro areas, San Antonio has one of the highest rates of disconnection among young women and the largest proportion of teenagers who are mothers; 6.3 percent of women ages 16 to 19 have children of their own.

### Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

Among the fourteen neighborhood clusters in San Antonio, youth disconnection rates range from 30.2 percent in the Downtown and Alamo Districts to 9.1 percent in the northern suburbs in Bexar County. This variation of 21.1 percentage points between the neighborhood clusters with the lowest and highest rates of youth disconnection places San Antonio towards the middle of the group of cities in terms of this range.

Halve the Gap in San Antonio



#### Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Northern suburbs including Helotes and Leon Springs, Bexar County, TX	9.1
Castle Hills, Bexar County, TX	9.6
Woodlawn and Balcones Heights, Bexar County, TX	9.7

#### Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Atascosa, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Karnes, and Wilson Counties, TX	18.8
Southside San Antonio, TX	23.6
Downtown and Alamo District, San Antonio, TX	30.2