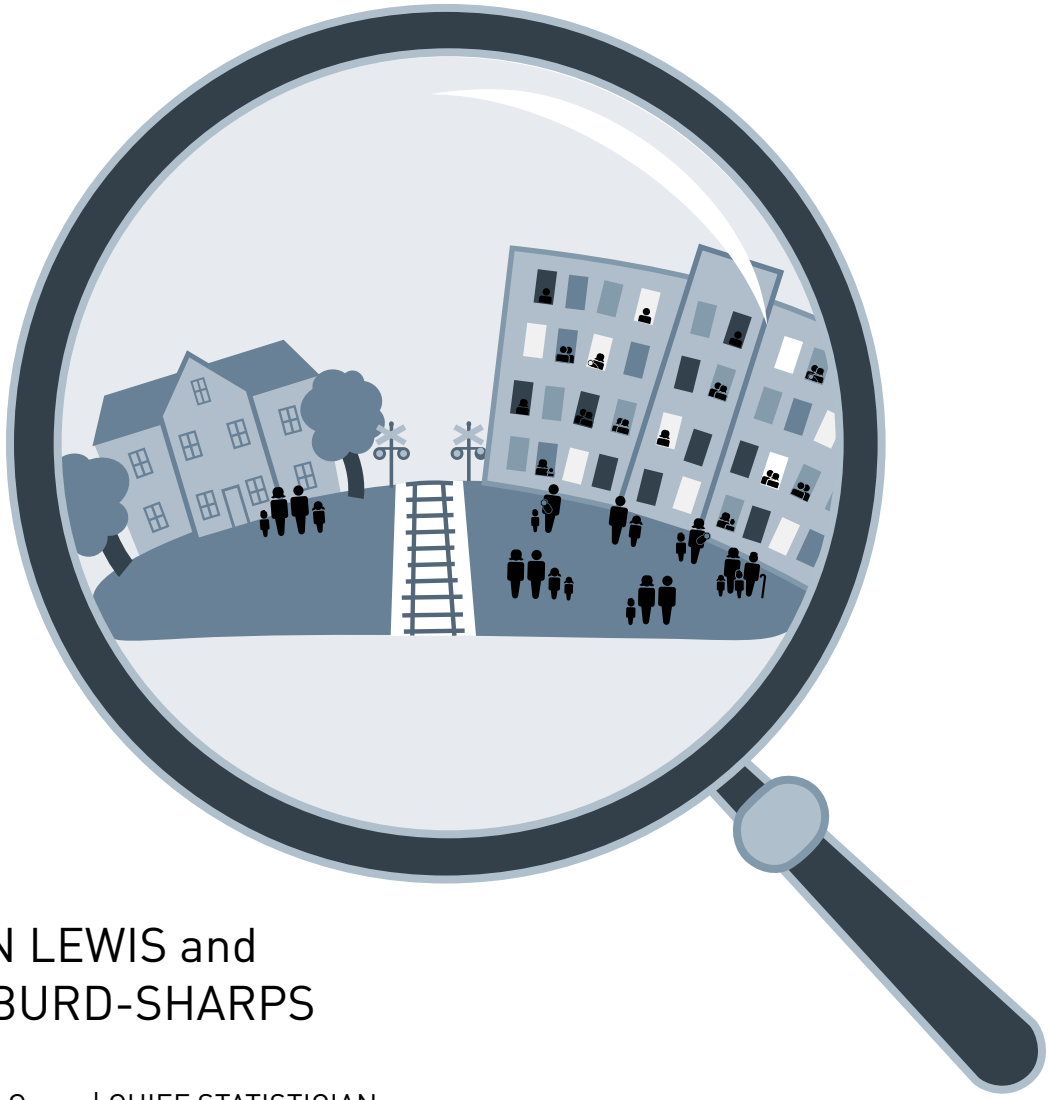
MEASURE OF AMERICA
of the Social Science Research Council

Zeroing In on Place and Race

Youth Disconnection in America's Cities



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Contents

Measure of America is a nonpartisan project of the nonprofit Social Science Research Council founded in 2007 to create easy-to-use yet methodologically sound tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in America. Through reports, interactive apps, and custom-built dashboards, Measure of America works with partners to breathe life into numbers, using data to identify areas of highest need, pinpoint levers for change, and track progress over time.

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 in 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 addressing 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 gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Opportunity Nation and Gap Inc. for this research.

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ZEROING IN ON RACE AND PLACE
YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN AMERICA'S CITIES

Disconnected youth are teenagers and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither working nor in school. There are 5,527,000 disconnected youth in America today, or **one in seven young adults (13.8 percent**)—about as many people as live in Minnesota. **The national disconnected youth population is larger than the populations of thirty US states.**

The good news is that the rate of **youth disconnection has fallen since the Great Recession.** Roughly 280,000 fewer young people are disconnected today than in 2010, the peak year for youth disconnection during the last decade. Beneath the national rate of 13.8 percent, however, lies staggering variation. In some cities and among some racial and ethnic groups, young people who are neither in school nor working are few and far between. In others, youth disconnection is an everyday reality, tragically persistent and commonplace.

The costs of disconnection are high, both for individuals and for society. Disconnected youth are **cut off** from the people, institutions, and experiences that would otherwise help them develop the knowledge, skills, maturity, and sense of purpose required to live rewarding lives as adults. And the negative effects of youth disconnection ricochet across the economy, the social sector, the criminal justice system, and the political landscape, affecting all of us. Our analysis of a very small subset of the direct costs of youth disconnection reveals an astonishingly high cost to taxpayers: **$26.8 billion in 2013 alone**, or nearly the entire amount the federal government spends on science.

Zeroing In on Place and Race was written to shine a light on the nature and extent of this problem at the national level, in nearly 100 cities, and among the country's major racial and ethnic groups. It provides practitioners and policymakers the up-to-date data necessary to target and tailor interventions and assess the effectiveness of programmatic efforts.

Of the ninety-eight major metro areas included in this report—home to two in three Americans—disconnection rates range from under 8 percent in the **Omaha, Nebraska,** and **Bridgeport, Connecticut,** metro areas to over 20 percent in greater **Lakeland, Florida; Bakersfield, California;** and **Memphis, Tennessee.**

At the national level, youth disconnection rates for **blacks** (21.6 percent), **Native Americans** (20.3 percent), and **Latinos** (16.3 percent) are markedly higher than rates for **Asian Americans** (7.9 percent) or **whites** (11.3 percent). In nine metro areas, at least one in four black youth are disconnected. In ten metro areas, at least one in five Latino youth are disconnected.

Although national patterns are generally mirrored in metro areas, important variation exists. For instance, a city can simultaneously be among the best for one racial or ethnic group and among the worst for another. The greater **Boston** metro area, which has a low overall disconnection rate (8.2 percent), is relatively good for white (6.8 percent) and black youth (9.8 percent), but not for Latinos (17.3 percent). In the **Chicago** metro area, both whites and Latinos are doing better than they are in the country as a whole (7.5 and 13.9 percent, respectively), but blacks are doing much worse (24.5 percent).

Place matters. Race matters. But our analysis shows that the combination of the two really packs a wallop. Residential segregation by race, while no longer legal, is nonetheless the de facto, on-the-ground reality for many Americans. It produces concentrations of poverty and isolation as well as islands of affluence and connection, from Ferguson and Baltimore to Los Angeles and New York. New research for this report shows that racial segregation has dramatic but very different consequences for young people depending on their race. Our research shows that **in highly segregated metro areas, black youth tend to have higher-than-average rates of disconnection, whereas white youth tend to have lower-than-average rates of disconnection.** In other words, **residential segregation by race disproportionately harms black teenagers and young adults.**

The problem is complex and highly variable. What are the solutions?

This study shows clearly that disconnected young people face challenges beyond what they can tackle alone. To alter the trajectory of his or her life, a young person needs perseverance, the ability to delay gratification, the optimism to envision a better future, and the willingness to work toward it. **But these personal characteristics, while necessary, are simply not sufficient. Disconnection is not a spontaneously occurring phenomenon; it is an outcome years in the making.** Engaged young people from middle class neighborhoods rarely drop out or drift away from the worlds of school and work. Disconnected young people tend to come from communities that are themselves disconnected from the mainstream by segregation and concentrated disadvantage, and young people's struggles with education and employment mirror those of their parents and neighbors. Currently, we're spending our time, money, and effort fighting the symptoms of youth disconnection **instead of addressing its root causes.** Knitting disconnected, opportunity-scarce communities into the fabric of our wider society and creating meaningful pathways within them is the answer to youth disconnection.

We hope that the data and analysis contained in this report will make previously invisible groups visible and help those working to reconnect young people and prevent future disconnection succeed in their efforts. These young people deserve a meaningful shot at their own American Dreams.

Introduction

Disconnected youth—young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither working nor in school—are suddenly in the public eye. From the presidential initiative **My Brother's Keeper** to the analyses of pundits and scholars on the causes of civic unrest in Ferguson and Baltimore, evidence abounds that society is finally waking up to the costs of consigning **five and a half million** American youth, or roughly one in every seven young adults, to lives at the margins of society. And this national crisis seems tame compared to the situation in some locales: in three major metro areas, **one in five youth** are out of school and work.

One in five youth are out of school and work in three metro areas

- **Lakeland–Winter Haven, FL**
- **Bakersfield, CA**
- **Memphis, TN–MS–AR**

Adding race and ethnicity to the mix paints a still more alarming picture: in nine American cities, **at least one in every four black people ages 16 to 24 are disconnected,** and in ten cities, **at least one in five Latino youth are disconnected.** Isolated from the mainstream and cut off from the information, guidance, support, and sense of purpose that school and work provide, these young people and millions like them across the country face a rocky and uncertain transition to adulthood.

Our teens and early twenties shape our adult identities and pattern our future opportunities. Through experiences in school and work, the majority of young adults have the chance to gain skills and credentials, discover interests and talents, and move toward self-sufficiency.

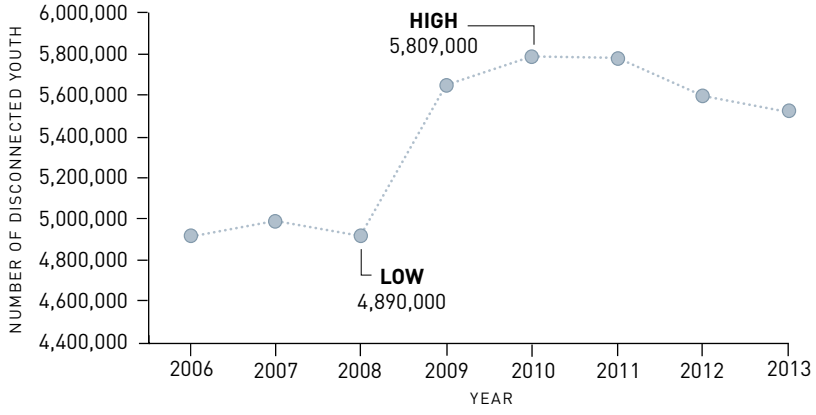
Early successes in school and work foster a teenager's self-confidence, optimism, and agency, which in turn breed future successes. High school and college provide an arena for connected young people to develop not just cognitive skills but also the social and emotional capabilities critical to a rewarding adulthood, from forming healthy, lasting relationships to regulating one's feelings and impulses. First jobs help teens and young adults develop soft skills like punctuality and collaboration, learn the unspoken rules and behavioral norms of the workplace, and forge networks of mentors and connections. And while they may at times exercise poor judgment or take seemingly harebrained risks, connected teenagers and young adults are often cushioned from the full consequences of their immaturity by supportive, sympathetic adults and institutions.

America's 5.5 million disconnected young people face a very different reality. Rather than laying the foundation for a productive life of choice

and value, they find themselves unmoored from the systems and structures that confer knowledge, skills, identity, and inclusion. Too often these youth lack a sense of belonging and the feelings of worth and dignity that come with having a purpose in life. And they enjoy comparatively little protection from the adult consequences (such as prison time or very early parenthood) of the impulsivity and risk-taking that are hallmarks of the teenage and young adult years. Indeed, most will carry scars of these lost years into adulthood. People who experience long spells of youth disconnection have lower wages and marriage rates, higher incarceration and unemployment rates, worse health, less job satisfaction, and even less happiness as adults than people who did not experience youth disconnection.[1] Just as early successes breed optimism, early setbacks plant the seeds of hopelessness.

For society, **the consequences of youth disconnection are also grave:** a labor force with too few skilled workers to compete in today's globalized, knowledge-based economy; greater need for public assistance; the high costs of crime, incarceration, and poor physical and mental health; and a heightened risk that the next generation will be caught in the same cycle. There is no easy method for estimating how many billions of dollars the 5.5 million disconnected youth cost society. Aside from direct expenditures, such as public assistance, medical care, and incarceration expenses, there are also a host of indirect costs, among them lost tax revenues, costs to the victims of crime, and lost earnings and market productivity, to name just a few. But even focusing conservatively on a narrow set of well-documented direct costs to taxpayers yields a surprisingly high number: $26.8 billion for one year alone—2013. This figure comes from summing four direct costs recorded for disconnected youth: incarceration costs, Medicaid, public assistance payments, and Supplemental Security Income payments.[2]

FIGURE 1 Youth Disconnection since 2006

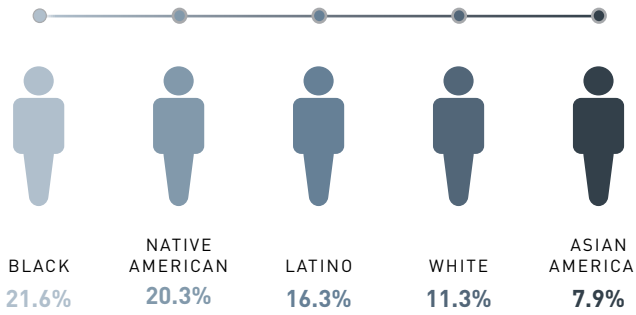


The good news is that the national youth disconnection rate has fallen from its recession-era high (see FIGURE 1). The number of disconnected youth rose sharply after 2008 and lingered around 5.8 million in 2010 and 2011. Today's rate of 13.8 percent represents a reduction in the number of disconnected youth of about 280,000 from the peak in 2010.

The bad news is that huge gaps by place and by race and ethnicity remain. In the Memphis, Bakersfield, and Lakeland–Winter Haven metro areas, youth disconnection rates top 20 percent. More than one in every five youth in these cities are out of school and out of work. In contrast, in the Omaha–Council Bluffs (Nebraska and Iowa) and Bridgeport–Stamford–Norwalk (Connecticut) metro areas, 7.7 percent—just one in every thirteen young people—are disconnected.

At the national level, disconnection rates for blacks (21.6 percent), Native Americans (20.3 percent), and Latinos (16.3 percent) are markedly higher than rates for Asian Americans (7.9 percent) or whites (11.3 percent) (see FIGURE 2). Racial gaps are as large or even larger within major metro areas.

FIGURE 2 Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity



Momentum has been growing across the nation to tackle the issue of youth disconnection. Policymakers, business and community leaders, philanthropists, and young people themselves have come together around the idea that the costs of leaving millions of young Americans behind are unacceptably high.

This report is designed to provide these actors the up-to-date data they need to target and tailor their interventions and assess the effectiveness of their efforts. It provides a ranking of **youth disconnection rates in nearly 100 of the most populous US metro areas,** identification of the top and bottom **congressional districts,** calculations for the **major racial and**

WHAT IS A METRO AREA?

This study includes youth disconnection rates for **ninety-eight of America's 100 most populous metro areas**, which includes 66 percent of the US population. The country's other metropolitan areas have populations that are too small to allow for statistically reliable calculations of the youth disconnection rate.

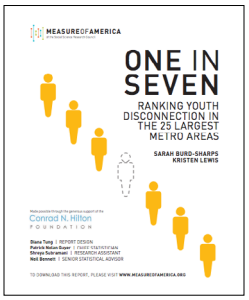
A metropolitan area is defined as a central city and the towns, suburbs, and exurbs that surround it; strong economic and social ties bind metro areas together. Metro areas are a particularly meaningful unit of analysis for assessing youth disconnection because of the regional nature of higher education and labor markets as well as transportation systems.

Metro-area boundaries are defined by the White House Office of Management and Budget. They often cross state lines; the Chicago metro area, for example, is a contiguous area made up of parts of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

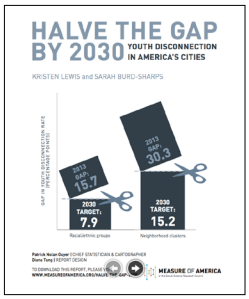
ethnic groups at the national and metro levels, and an exploration of **how disconnected young people compare to their connected counterparts** in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, parenthood status, education, poverty, and disability. Disconnected youth are not a monolithic group, and understanding the differences among them is critical for crafting effective solutions.

BOX 1 Measure of America Addresses the Data Gap

Organizations working to reduce youth disconnection need high-quality, timely data and analysis about the nature and extent of this problem to target their assistance and track the impact of their interventions over time. Until 2012, such information was not readily available.



Measure of America was the first organization to calculate and make public youth disconnection rates for racial and ethnic groups nationwide as well as for metro areas with its publications ***One in Seven: Ranking Youth Disconnection in the 25 Largest Metro Areas,*** released in 2012, and ***Halve the Gap by 2030: Youth Disconnection in America's Cities,*** released in 2013. Both reports presented disconnection rates for the twenty-five most populous metro areas overall as well as by race and ethnicity and for women and men, and *Halve the Gap* also presented rates by neighborhood cluster. The reports have been cited widely, and the calculations are being used by a number of nonprofit and government organizations to identify areas of need and track change over time.



Follow-up interactions with a number of organizations and networks, including the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions, Opportunity Nation, and the Opportunity Youth Network, revealed a need for disconnected youth rates for a larger number of cities as well as further exploration of the role of race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic factors in the youth disconnection phenomenon. **Produced to meet this demand, this report was made possible through the generous financial support of our partners, Opportunity Nation and Gap Inc.**

TABLE 1 Youth Disconnection in the Most Populous US Metro Areas

RANK	METRO AREA	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (# ages 16–24)	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24) BLACKS	LATINOS	WHITES
	United States	13.8	5,527,000	21.6	16.3	11.3
1	Omaha–Council Bluffs, NE–IA	7.7	8,945			6.1
2	Bridgeport–Stamford–Norwalk, CT	7.7	8,207			5.5
3*	Boston–Cambridge–Newton, MA–NH	8.2	49,229	9.8	17.3	6.8
4*	Minneapolis–St. Paul–Bloomington, MN–WI	9.1	41,494	16.6		7.7
5	Ogden–Clearfield, UT	9.1	9,061			8.0
6	Seattle–Tacoma–Bellevue, WA	9.3	7,247			8.7
7	Worcester, MA–CT	9.3	11,220			7.7
8	Wichita, KS	9.6	8,276			7.3
9	Oxnard–Thousand Oaks–Ventura, CA	9.8	10,853		11.1	
10	Syracuse, NY	10.0	11,207			9.8
11	Akron, OH	10.1	9,910			10.2
12*	Pittsburgh, PA	10.2	30,575	21.8		9.1
13	Raleigh, NC	10.3	15,621	12.8		
14	Des Moines–West Des Moines, IA	10.3	8,194			8.8
15	Albany–Schenectady–Troy, NY	10.4	13,855			10.8
16*	San Jose–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara, CA	10.4	50,593	19.4	12.2	9.2
17	Toledo, OH	10.7	9,628			7.7
18	Provo–Orem, UT	10.7	14,445			10.7
19	Milwaukee–Waukesha–West Allis, WI	10.7	20,219	19.9		
20	Scranton–Wilkes–Barre–Hazleton, PA	10.7	24,406		13.3	7.7
21	Springfield, MA	11.0	7,932			11.7
22	Columbus, OH	11.0	30,403	13.2		10.6
23	Hartford–West Hartford–East Hartford, CT	11.1	16,909		25.0	6.6
24*	Baltimore–Columbia–Towson, MD	11.3	39,864	18.4		7.8
25	Grand Rapids–Wyoming, MI	11.3	18,963			9.6
26	Austin–Round Rock, TX	11.5	27,959	17.8	14.4	8.8
27	Urban Honolulu, HI	11.7	14,834			
28	Dayton, OH	11.8	12,215			9.7
29	Buffalo–Cheektowaga–Niagara Falls, NY	12.0	17,348	20.3		9.0
30*	San Francisco–Oakland–Hayward, CA	12.1	54,278	17.3	16.3	11.0
31	San Antonio–New Braunfels, TX	12.2	18,812		14.8	11.1
32	Kansas City, MO–KS	12.3	30,795	22.1	12.3	10.1
33	Colorado Springs, CO	12.3	11,186			12.7
34*	Spokane–Spokane Valley, WA	12.4	50,593	20.3	16.8	10.8
35*	Washington–Arlington–Alexandria, DC–VA–MD–WV	12.4	93,663	20.4	10.3	9.7
36*	Denver–Aurora–Lakewood, CO	12.5	40,399		16.9	10.4
37	Allentown–Bethlehem–Easton, PA–NJ	12.5	12,034			9.9
38*	Chicago–Naperville–Elgin, IL–IN–WI	12.5	147,508	24.5	13.9	7.5
39	Columbia, SC	12.6	14,769	20.6		7.6
40*	Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, CA	12.7	222,396	23.2	14.6	9.0
41	New Haven–Milford, CT	12.8	14,016	24.6	24.2	6.5
42	Nashville–Davidson–Murfreesboro–Franklin, TN	12.8	29,283	17.6		10.4
43	Cincinnati, OH–KY–IN	12.8	38,312	20.6		11.8
44	Providence–Warwick, RI–MA	13.0	28,340		27.2	9.2
45	Virginia Beach–Norfolk–Newport News, VA–NC	13.2	35,271	19.4		10.3
46	St. Louis, MO–IL	13.3	15,205	21.0	24.9	9.0
47	Rochester, NY	13.4	21,701	30.8	23.0	9.8
48*	New York–Newark–Jersey City, NY–NJ–PA	13.5	324,264	21.4	16.4	9.2
49*	Dallas–Fort Worth–Arlington, TX	13.6	117,590	21.3	15.9	10.0
50	Orlando–Kissimmee–Sanford, FL	13.6	41,236	22.1	15.5	9.5

There is no automatic link between population size and disconnection rates. Large and small cities alike struggle with youth disconnection. The * denotes the twenty-five most populous metro areas.

RANK	METRO AREA	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (# ages 16–24)	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)		
				BLACKS	LATINOS	WHITES
51	Cleveland–Elyria, OH	13.6	32,354	24.4	18.3	8.5
52	Boise City, ID	13.7	12,383			11.1
53	Harrisburg–Carlisle, PA	13.8	9,168			
54	Winston–Salem, NC	13.9	10,668			13.0
55*	Salt Lake City, UT	13.9	51,021	20.8		11.6
56	Louisville/Jefferson County, KY–IN	14.0	21,750	18.5		13.3
57*	Houston–The Woodlands–Sugar Land, TX	14.2	114,787	19.1	15.6	11.4
58*	Philadelphia–Camden–Wilmington, PA–NJ–DE–MD	14.3	107,246	23.1	22.6	9.2
59	Deltona–Daytona Beach–Ormond Beach, FL	14.3	9,566			13.6
60*	San Diego–Carlsbad, CA	14.4	47,275	20.9	15.9	9.8
61	Greenville–Anderson–Mauldin, SC	14.5	17,466			14.8
62*	Charlotte–Concord–Gastonia, NC–SC	14.5	45,473	19.8		13.0
63	Oklahoma City, OK	14.6	26,447			13.0
64	Cape Coral–Fort Myers, FL	14.6	9,189			12.8
65*	Detroit–Warren–Dearborn, MI	14.7	77,581	24.9	20.5	9.6
66	Sacramento–Roseville–Arden–Arcade, CA	14.8	42,782	27.3	18.4	12.7
67*	Tampa–St. Petersburg–Clearwater, FL	14.8	46,361	20.8	14.0	14.0
68	Youngstown–Warren–Boardman, OH–PA	14.9	9,155			14.1
69*	Atlanta–Sandy Springs–Roswell, GA	14.9	111,423	18.3	16.9	12.3
70	Charleston–North Charleston, SC	14.9	13,650	24.4		
71	El Paso, TX	14.9	20,865		14.4	
72	Greensboro–High Point, NC	15.1	14,931	16.5		14.3
73*	Miami–Fort Lauderdale–West Palm Beach, FL	15.1	100,937	20.7	14.9	10.8
74	Little Rock–North Little Rock–Conway, AR	15.2	17,942			13.2
75	Stockton–Lodi, CA	15.4	15,032		15.2	
76	Richmond, VA	15.5	26,995	23.8		10.7
77	Tulsa, OK	15.5	27,199	28.2		13.9
78	Indianapolis–Carmel–Anderson, IN	15.8	35,539	22.3		14.0
79*	Portland–Vancouver–Hillsboro, OR–WA	16.1	46,657		15.0	15.5
80	Jackson, MS	16.2	12,834	16.8		16.0
81	Tucson, AZ	16.2	23,863		21.6	10.7
82	Albuquerque, NM	16.7	20,676		17.0	13.2
83	Birmingham–Hoover, AL	16.8	26,594	23.9		12.5
84	Chattanooga, TN–GA	16.8	12,226			15.7
85	Jacksonville, FL	16.9	29,551	25.6		15.3
86*	Phoenix–Mesa–Scottsdale, AZ	17.3	95,586	19.1	23.9	11.3
87	Knoxville, TN	17.5	22,708			17.0
88*	Riverside–San Bernardino–Ontario, CA	17.5	109,401	26.0	18.0	16.3
89	Fresno, CA	17.7	23,955		17.7	16.4
90	New Orleans–Metairie, LA	18.2	26,234	27.5		10.5
91	Baton Rouge, LA	18.6	22,273	31.1		10.4
92	Augusta–Richmond County, GA–SC	18.7	15,524	23.5		16.2
93	North Port–Sarasota–Bradenton, FL	19.0	12,913			16.5
94	Las Vegas–Henderson–Paradise, NV	19.6	47,568	33.2	19.8	15.5
95	McAllen–Edinburg–Mission, TX	19.8	23,481		20.3	
96	Lakeland–Winter Haven, FL	20.4	14,612			19.5
97	Bakersfield, CA	21.2	26,411		19.9	20.7
98	Memphis, TN–MS–AR	21.6	44,928	28.6		13.2

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013.
Note: A blank indicates that either the population size of youth ages 16 to 24 in that group and metro area is too small, or the survey response rate is too low, for reliable youth disconnection estimates. For Native Americans, the national disconnection rate is 20.3 percent. The numbers for individual metro areas are too small for reliable estimates. For Asian Americans, only four metro areas have a sufficient population of youth ages 16 to 24 for disconnection estimates: San Jose–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara, CA: 6.0 percent; Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, CA: 6.9 percent; New York–Newark–Jersey City, NY–NJ: 9.2 percent; Scranton–Wilkes-Barre–Hazleton, PA: 10.7 percent. The national Asian American rate is 7.9 percent.

Key Findings

In America today, 13.8 percent of youth ages 16–24 are neither working nor in school—**5,527,000 young people.**

Disconnected young people differ in important ways from their peers who are in school or working. These differences can be both causes and consequences of disconnection.

- They are nearly twice as likely to live in **poverty.**
- They are nearly three times as likely to have **left high school** without a diploma.
- They are nearly two and a half times as likely to have a **high school diploma as their highest educational credential.**
- They are half as likely to hold **bachelor's degrees.** In the aftermath of the recession, the idea of a generation of college graduates living in their parents' basements, unable to find jobs, gained currency; however, the reality is that bachelor's degree holders represent a very small sliver of the disconnected youth population, just 4 percent.
- Disconnected girls and young women are more than three times as likely to **have a child** as their connected counterparts. While common sense may suggest that having a baby is what causes disconnection, another explanation is that disconnection comes first. An already tenuous connection to school and an absence of meaningful employment possibilities reduce the opportunity cost of having a baby as a teenager. Connected girls have strong incentives to delay the joys of motherhood until they have finished school, saved money, lived independently, gained a foothold in the working world, and have a committed partner; girls whose options are very limited have far fewer incentives to put off a meaningful and fulfilling marker of adulthood that is within their grasp.[3] Data gaps on young fatherhood make it impossible to calculate the share of disconnected young men who are fathers.
- They are three times as likely to **have a disability.**

Who Are America's Disconnected Youth?

Connected Youth

34,373,000
young adults ages 16 to 24

POVERTY

21%
live in a poor household

EDUCATION

11%
dropped out of high school

EDUCATION

20%
highest degree is high school diploma or equivalent

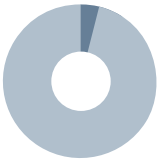
EDUCATION

8%
highest degree is bachelor's

YOUNG MOTHERHOOD

9%
women with children

DISABILITY



5%
with a disability

Disconnected Youth

5,527,000
young adults ages 16 to 24

POVERTY

39%
live in a poor household

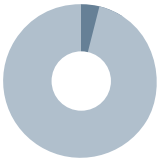
EDUCATION

29%
dropped out of high school

EDUCATION

48%
highest degree is high school diploma or equivalent

EDUCATION



4%
highest degree is bachelor's

YOUNG MOTHERHOOD

31%
women with children

DISABILITY

15%
with a disability

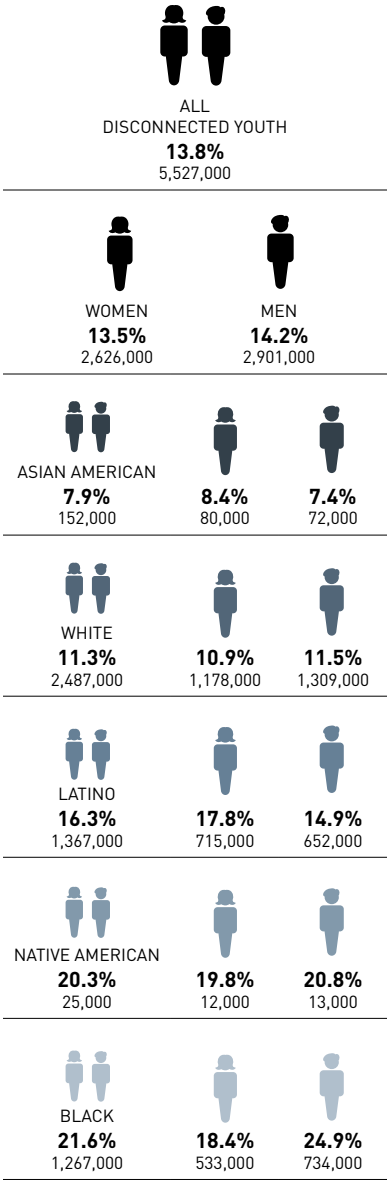
Who? Youth Disconnection by Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

The problem of youth disconnection is not borne equally by all groups; it is disproportionately shouldered by young people of color.

- The **Asian American** rate is **7.9 percent.** Because the rate is low and the Asian American population is comparatively small, the absolute number of disconnected youth who are Asian American is only about 152,000 people.
- The **white** rate is **11.3 percent.** Although whites have the second-lowest disconnection rate, they make up the largest group of disconnected young people, about 2.5 million, or 45 percent of all disconnected youth.
- The **Latino** rate is **16.3 percent.** Roughly 1.4 million Latino young people ages 16–24 are disconnected.
- **Native Americans** have a youth disconnection rate of **20.3 percent.** The Native American population is the smallest of the five major American racial and ethnic groups; therefore, even though the rate of disconnection is high, the actual number is comparatively low, around 25,000 people.
- **Black** youth experience the highest rates of youth disconnection, **21.6 percent.** Nearly 1.3 million black young people are neither working nor in school.

Adding gender to the mix widens the gap between the most- and least-connected youth populations. Black boys and young men have the highest rate of disconnection, just shy of 25 percent. Native American boys and young men have the next-highest rate, 20.8 percent, followed by Native American young women, and then black young women.

Overall, young men are more likely than young women to be disconnected. This pattern holds for whites, blacks, and Native Americans, but the opposite is true among Latinos and Asian Americans. The rate of youth disconnection among Latino girls and young women is about 20 percent higher than among their male counterparts, 17.8 percent as compared with 14.9 percent. The recent attention to boys and men of color is welcome, but a focus on black and Latino young women is likewise imperative, given their high rates of disconnection.



Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013.

Among Asian Americans, young women are also more likely than their male counterparts to be disconnected, though the gap between them is smaller than the gap between male and female Latino youth. Asian American boys and young men have the lowest disconnection rate, 7.4 percent, less than a third the rate of young black men.

One reason that black youth disconnection rates are so much higher than those of other racial and ethnic groups is that black youth are the least likely to be employed, particularly boys and young men. Sixty-five percent of out-of-school young Americans are employed, but only 50.5 percent of out-of-school black young people are (see TABLE 2). The rate for black young men is lower still, just 46.9 percent, 7.7 percentage points less than the rate of their female counterparts. The share of out-of-school Latino young people who are employed, on the other hand, is only slightly below the national average, and male Latino youth are more likely to be employed than US males overall. Both black and Latino youth are less likely to be enrolled in school than the national average. Black young women outperform their male counterparts in both employment and education. Latina youth are ahead in education, but their brothers surpass them in employment.

TABLE 2 Employment and Enrollment by Race and Ethnicity and Gender

	EMPLOYMENT-TO-POPULATION RATIO (% AGES 16–24 NOT IN SCHOOL)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% AGES 16–24)
US	65.0	60.4
WHITE	70.6	61.8
	69.2 (F) / 71.7 (M)	64.5 (F) / 59.2 (M)
LATINO	63.4	55.5
	56.6 (F) / 68.7 (M)	58.9 (F) / 52.3 (M)
BLACK	50.5	56.3
	54.6 (F) / 46.9 (M)	59.5 (F) / 53.1 (M)

Black young women outperform their male counterparts in **both employment and education.**

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013.

Best-Performing Metro Areas

1. Omaha–Council Bluffs, NE–IA **7.7%**
2. Bridgeport–Stamford–Norwalk, CT **7.7%**
3. Boston–Cambridge–Newton, MA **8.2%**
4. Minneapolis–St. Paul–Bloomington, MN–WI **9.1%**
5. Ogden–Clearfield, UT **9.1%**

Worst-Performing Metro Areas

94. Las Vegas–Henderson–Paradise, NV **19.6%**
95. McAllen–Edinburg–Mission, TX **19.8%**
96. Lakeland–Winter Haven, FL **20.4%**
97. Bakersfield, CA **21.2%**
98. Memphis, TN–MS–AR **21.6%**

Where? Youth Disconnection by Place

Metro Areas

Youth disconnection rates vary sharply by metro area, ranging from a low of 7.7 percent in the Omaha–Council Bluffs metropolitan area, which sits astride the Nebraska–Iowa border, to a high of 21.6 percent in the greater Memphis area of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas—a nearly threefold difference. (See **TABLE 1** for a full ranking of metro areas.)

The five metro areas with the highest rates of youth disconnection are Las Vegas–Henderson–Paradise, McAllen–Edinburg–Mission, Lakeland–Winter Haven, Bakersfield, and Memphis. Roughly one in five young people in these metro areas are neither working nor in school.

The best-performing cities in terms of youth disconnection are Omaha–Council Bluffs, Bridgeport–Stamford–Norwalk, Boston–Cambridge–Newton, Minneapolis–St. Paul–Bloomington, and Ogden–Clearfield. In these parts of the country, only between one in eleven and one in thirteen young people are disconnected.

America's big cities are home to extremes, and sharp residential segregation leads to concentrations of poverty and marginalization as well as islands of affluence and connection. Beneath these metro-area estimates lies tremendous variation in disconnection rates. And one consequence of the cleavages that result from residential segregation by race and income is that these two factors are often interconnected. Disconnection rates by race and ethnicity within these metro areas overall range from 7.7 percent to 21.6 percent. For whites, the range stretches from 5.5 percent in Bridgeport to 20.7 percent in Bakersfield. Among Latinos, 10.3 percent of youth in the Washington, DC, metro area are disconnected, compared to 27.2 percent in Providence. For blacks, the rates range from 9.8 percent in the Boston metro area to 33.2 percent in greater Las Vegas.

In no city is the black rate of youth disconnection lower than the white rate. In only three metro areas, Bakersfield, California; Portland in Oregon and Washington; and Tampa, Florida, do Latinos have disconnection rates comparable to whites. In the remaining thirty-eight (out of a total of forty-one metro areas for which sound estimates can be calculated), Latinos have higher rates of youth disconnection.

RANK	METRO AREA	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16-24)
LEAST DISCONNECTION FOR BLACKS		
1	Boston–Cambridge–Newton, MA–NH	9.8
2	Raleigh, NC	12.8
3	Columbus, OH	13.2
4	Greensboro–High Point, NC	16.5
5	Minneapolis–St. Paul–Bloomington, MN–WI	16.6
MOST DISCONNECTION FOR BLACKS		
49	Tulsa, OK	28.2
50	Memphis, TN–MS–AR	28.6
51	Rochester, NY	30.8
52	Baton Rouge, LA	31.1
53	Las Vegas–Henderson–Paradise, NV	33.2

RANK	METRO AREA	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16-24)
LEAST DISCONNECTION FOR LATINOS		
1	Washington–Arlington–Alexandria, VA–MD–WV	10.3
2	Oxnard–Thousand Oaks–Ventura, CA	11.1
3	San Jose–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara, CA	12.2
4	Kansas City, MO–KS	12.3
5	Scranton–Wilkes-Barre—Hazleton, PA	13.3
MOST DISCONNECTION FOR LATINOS		
37	Phoenix–Mesa–Scottsdale, AZ	23.9
38	New Haven–Milford, CT	24.2
39	St. Louis, MO–IL	24.9
40	Hartford–West, Hartford–East, Hartford, CT	25.0
41	Providence–Warwick, RI–MA	27.2

A city can be simultaneously among the best for one racial or ethnic group and among the worst for another. New England is home to several metro areas in which white and Latino young adults appear to be living in different worlds. The New Haven metro area in Connecticut is the third-best-performing metro area for white youth; only 6.5 percent are disconnected. Yet this same area is fourth from the bottom for Latinos. A similar pattern can be seen in greater Hartford, Connecticut, which is fourth-best for whites (6.6 percent), but second from the bottom for Latinos (25.0 percent). The Providence–Warwick metro area, which encompasses parts of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, is the worst metro area for Latinos, with a disconnection rate of 27.2 percent, but in the top quarter for whites.

For blacks, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Rochester, New York, have the second- and third-worst youth disconnection rates, nearly one in three. But in both metro areas, the white rate (10.4 percent and 9.8 percent, respectively) is better than the rate for whites at the national level.

Some metros show a mix. Both whites and Latinos are doing better in the Chicago metro area than they are in the country as a whole (with disconnection rates of 7.5 and 13.9 percent, respectively, but blacks are doing much worse (with a rate of 24.5 percent). The greater Boston metro area, with an overall rate of 8.2 percent, is relatively good for white (6.8 percent) and black youth (9.8 percent), but not for Latinos (17.3 percent).

RANK	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16-24)
	United States	13.8
MOST CONNECTED		
1	**Wisconsin District 2** Madison and surrounding counties	4.9
2	**Nebraska District 2** Omaha metro area	5.4
3	**California District 52** Coastal and Northern San Diego	5.9
4	**Massachusetts District 7** Some Boston suburbs and Cambridge	6.0
5	**Colorado District 2** Northwestern suburbs of Denver, including Boulder	6.0
LEAST CONNECTED		
432	**California District 8** Eastern Desert Region, including Mono, Inyo, and San Bernardino Counties	23.3
433	**Louisiana District 5** Northeast and Central Louisiana	23.7
434	**Texas District 34** Gulf Coast between Brownsville and Corpus Christi	23.8
435	**New York District 15** South Bronx	24.2
436	**Arizona District 7** Phoenix and Glendale	25.6

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013.

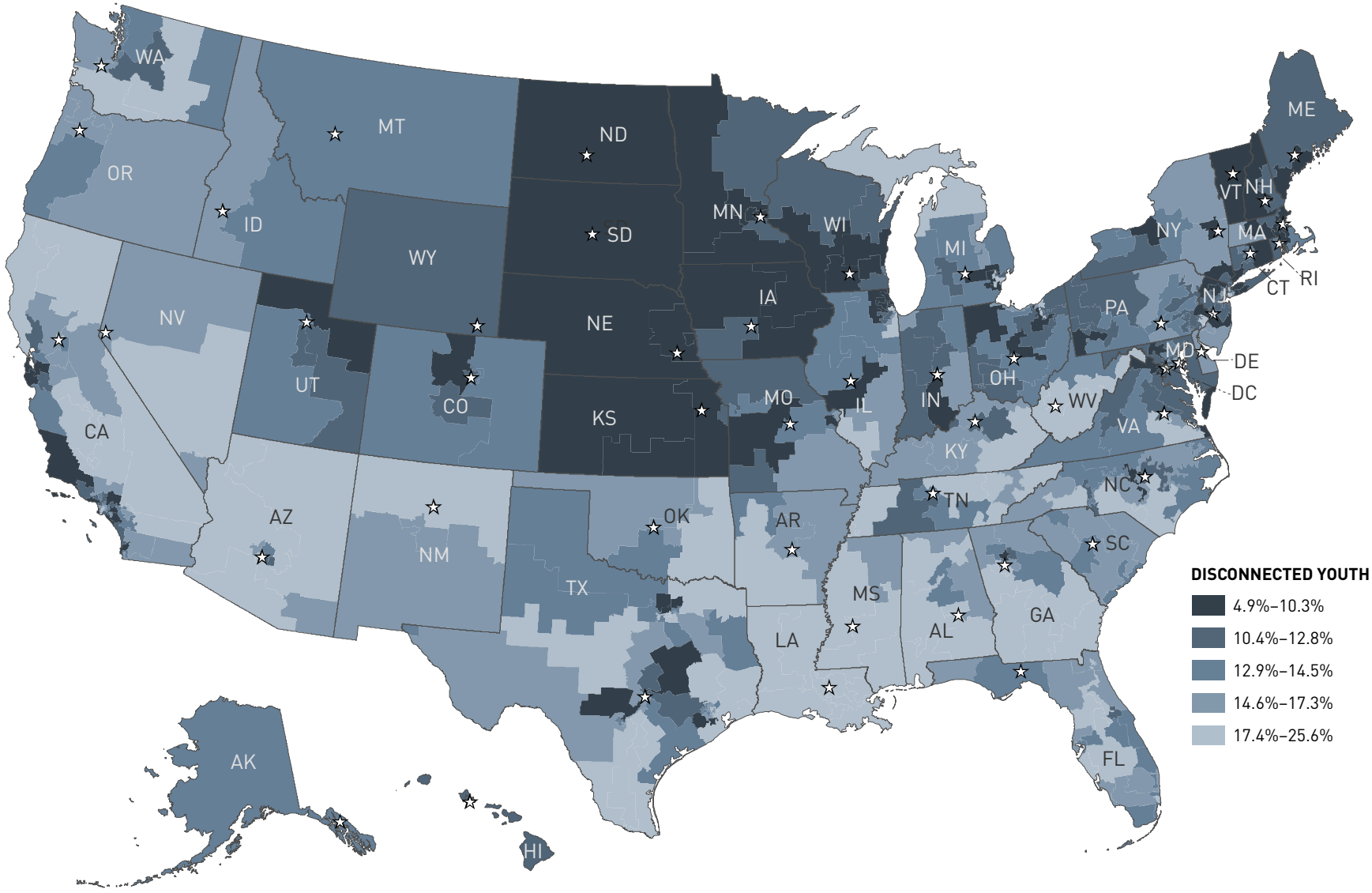
Congressional Districts

Congressional districts provide a fascinating and revealing lens through which to view the US population. The 435 districts are all roughly the same size in terms of population—about 725,000 people—and each sends a representative to Congress, connecting the population to national priority-setting and policymaking. The nonvoting District of Columbia is also included in the rankings. Although gerrymandering can obscure or distort some realities, it certainly highlights the nature of political power in a state. Political power is tied to the allocation of resources and to access to opportunity, both of which tend to be in short supply in communities with high levels of youth disconnection.

The national map on page 14, with darker colors representing lower levels of youth disconnection, reveals a remarkable pattern. In some states, among them Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin, disconnection is fairly rare, not

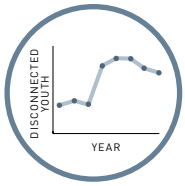
just in pockets of privilege but rather for contiguous stretches hundreds of miles long. Large swaths across inland California, the Southwest, and the Southeast experience the opposite reality: youth disconnection rates high enough that neither working nor being in school is a normative condition. In more densely populated cities along the California coast, in the DC–Boston corridor, and the Midwest, districts with high disconnection rates are often adjacent to districts with low rates.

MAP 1 **Youth Disconnection by Congressional District**



Why? Factors Associated with Youth Disconnection

Disconnected youth come overwhelmingly from communities that have long been isolated from the mainstream. Previous Measure of America research[4] using over 2,000 Census Bureau–defined neighborhood clusters[5] in the United States showed that high rates of youth disconnection in the country's most populous metropolitan areas were strongly associated with the following six factors:



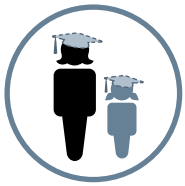
High rates of disconnection a decade ago. Rates of youth disconnection by neighborhood in 2000 were highly predictive of the rates of youth disconnection by neighborhood in 2011, even controlling for population growth and demographic change. This finding suggests that in high-disconnection neighborhoods, being out of work and school is persistent and commonplace and, as a result, almost the norm for young people. It also indicates that efforts to address the problem at scale have failed, or, in some places, not even taken place.

Low levels of human development. Human development is about improving people's well-being and expanding their choices and opportunities; we measured this concept with the American Human Development Index, a composite of health, education, and income indicators. Neighborhoods with low scores on the Index tended to have high rates of disconnection, and high-scoring areas had relatively few disconnected young people.

High rates of poverty. In high-poverty neighborhoods, about one in five young people were disconnected, as compared with only about one in fourteen for youth in low-poverty neighborhoods.[6]

High rates of adult unemployment. Parents who themselves struggle with weak attachment to the labor market are less able to help their children gain a foothold in the world of work than parents with robust employment histories. This commonsense observation showed up clearly in the data: there was a strong

positive relationship at the neighborhood level between adult employment and youth connection to school and work.



Low levels of adult educational attainment. As with the link between adult and youth employment, the link between adult educational levels and youth school attachment is both intuitive and supported by the evidence: at both the metro area and neighborhood levels, how much education adults had strongly predicted how likely young people were to be in school in the 16-to-24-year-old age range.

A high degree of racial segregation. A complex combination of factors related to both race and place contributes to youth disconnection. The divides between racial and ethnic groups at the national level are striking; blacks are almost three times as likely to be disconnected as Asian Americans. Worse still are the chasms that open up when analyzing race and place together between cities; black young adults in greater Las Vegas (with a disconnection rate of 33.2 percent) are six times as likely to be out of school and work as white youth in greater Bridgeport, Connecticut (5.5 percent). And previous Measure of America research[7] has shown the greatest gaps of all are between overwhelmingly white and overwhelmingly black neighborhoods within metro areas; in greater Chicago, Washington, DC, and Philadelphia, at least ten times as many young people living in a few predominately black neighborhoods were disconnected as youth living in a few nearly all-white neighborhoods.

Place matters. Race matters. But our analysis shows that the combination of the two really packs a wallop. Concentrated racial segregation within metro areas has dramatic but very different consequences for young people depending on their race. **And this difference is based in part on the *distance to opportunity*—not only a physical distance but also a social and aspirational distance.**

While America's neighborhoods have become less segregated by race and more segregated by income over the past decade, the fact that blacks are disproportionately poor means that both forms of segregation have a similar end result for low-income blacks: they are likely to live in

high-poverty, largely black neighborhoods. Segregated housing patterns, which stem directly from a pernicious web of discriminatory housing policies at the local, state, and federal levels from the 1930s through to the 1970s,[8] persist, particularly in metro areas in the northern United States.[9] Blacks tend to live in neighborhoods that are more racially segregated than either Asian Americans or Latinos.[10]

Extreme neighborhood segregation has dramatic but very different consequences for young people depending on their race.

Using a statistical model to examine the relationship between place and race in the metro areas studied in this report, particularly the interaction between being black and the level of segregation in the metro area,[11] **we found that the more segregated blacks and whites are from one another within a metro area, the lower the likelihood of youth disconnection is among whites, but the higher the likelihood is among blacks.** The significant interaction between being black and living in a segregated metropolitan area results in a higher likelihood of being disconnected.

Since the 1970s, Americans have increasingly lived separately from those in different economic strata. The result is that in metro areas today, poor people have mostly other poor people as their neighbors and the rich live primarily in communities with other rich people—insulated from the rest of society by their collective financial and social capital. This class-based trend was profoundly exacerbated by America's history of de jure racial segregation. Government entities from the Federal Housing Authority to local municipalities fostered segregation by, among other measures, requiring that public housing be segregated by race; by zoning predominantly black neighborhoods as "mixed-use," thus allowing undesirable businesses from liquor stores and bars to junkyards and polluting industries to set up shop there; and by making subsidized post-war loans for suburban housing available only to whites.[12] The distance to opportunity for blacks was and continues to be reinforced by physical barriers (neighborhoods that are cut off from white areas by highways, train tracks, canals, roads, and public transit systems that do not connect black and white neighborhoods), as well as economic and social barriers.

The resulting concentrations of predominantly black and brown poverty and mostly white affluence have truly severed routes for upward mobility in poor communities while simultaneously creating "homogeneously privileged" communities of opportunity for those at the top of the income scale.[13]

What is the mechanism by which this concentration of extremes disadvantages some groups while privileging others? People living in poor communities have to contend with not only the disadvantages of

having low incomes but also the effects of living among others also struggling with the damaging effects of poverty in neighborhoods scarred by decades of disinvestment and neglect. And their social networks tend to be confined to others facing similar economic struggles. The affluent, on the other hand, enjoy the rewards of their own larger incomes while also benefitting from their neighbors' advantages.[14] Together they are able to create an opportunity wonderland for their children that is characterized by good schools, strong social networks, meaningful opportunities for civic engagement, extracurricular activities, a rich array of contacts for internship opportunities, and proximity to other adults with a wide range of skills, experience, and connections. To be sure, these communities can be highly competitive hothouses with levels of stress that can be harmful to teens,[15] and too many choices can be overwhelming.[16] But there can be little doubt about which extreme is worse for the typical young person.

Living in a place replete with the ingredients of a freely chosen, rewarding life offers a young person many avenues toward a successful adulthood. Lacking not just one or two of these key ingredients but most or all of them, on the other hand, is the recipe for disconnection.

Now What? Recommendations

This work makes clear that disconnected young people face challenges beyond what they can tackle alone. To alter the trajectory of his or her life, a young person needs perseverance, the ability to delay gratification, the optimism to envision a better future, and the willingness to work toward it. **But these personal characteristics, while necessary, are simply not sufficient. Disconnection is not a spontaneously occurring phenomenon; it is an outcome years in the making.** Absent a family catastrophe, an addiction disorder, or the onset of mental illness, engaged young people from middle-class neighborhoods rarely drop out or drift away from the worlds of school and work; this comparatively anchored population is by and large not the one we need to worry about when it comes to youth disconnection. Disconnected young people tend to come from communities that are themselves disconnected from the mainstream by segregation and concentrated disadvantage, and their struggles with education and employment mirror those of their parents and neighbors. Connecting these communities to the wider society and creating meaningful opportunities within them is the answer to youth disconnection.

Disconnection is not a spontaneously occurring phenomenon; it is an outcome years in the making.

We are already paying for failure. Even leaving aside the human costs of wasted potential, a conservative estimate of a narrow range of direct financial costs associated with the country's 5.5 million disconnected youth—including incarceration, Medicaid, public assistance, and Supplemental Security Income payments—tallies $26.8 billion for 2013 alone. Society is already paying these costs, and many more, not just in 2013, but year after year. Imagine other ways in which this sum might be spent. It is sufficient to pay for more than 800,000 young people to obtain a trade school degree, or for 2.2 million to complete community college degrees. It could fund the participation of every disconnected young person in California in the state's successful high-school-based Linked Learning Program 6,000 times over.

We need to invest in success—which means preventing disconnection in the first place. It is almost always cheaper, and certainly more humane, to prevent problems from taking root than to wait until they are full-blown crises to respond. Rigorous evaluations suggest the following are cost-effective investments in preventing youth disconnection.

Helping at-risk parents help their children get a good start is key; proven programs like the Nurse-Family Partnership should be expanded.

The expert consensus is that a quality preschool for 3- and 4-year olds, particularly for at-risk children, is one of the most worthwhile interventions available. It is not only learning to count and recite the alphabet that makes the difference. The social and emotional skills taught in these early years—learning to wait your turn, be on time, work with others— are critical ingredients for success throughout life. High-quality preschool is associated with fewer behavioral problems, higher high school graduation rates, less crime, fewer teen births, and higher wages and rates of homeownership.[17]

Another clear investment priority is high-quality K–12 schooling. Children growing up in disadvantaged circumstances need schools with the expertise and resources to provide high-quality academic instruction; a safe, healthy, and respectful environment; and support, both during and out of normal school hours, for at-risk children and children exhibiting dropout warning signs. In some of America's schools, we are exceeding standards in all of these areas. In others, particularly those in high-disconnection areas, we are coming up woefully short.

High-quality preschool is associated with fewer behavioral problems, higher high school graduation rates, less crime, fewer teen births, and higher wages and rates of homeownership.

Creating diverse pathways to meaningful careers through measures like apprenticeship and mentoring programs can help at-risk youth successfully navigate the school-to-work transition by providing support, relevant instruction, and a clear end goal. These include innovative high school–based programs such as Linked Learning, which provides high school students with real-world job experience and engaging experiential learning curriculum, and partnerships between high schools, community colleges, and local businesses. Lastly, evidence suggests that civic engagement makes youth disconnection less likely. A joint research project between Measure of America and Opportunity Nation found that civic engagement may help youth, particularly low-income teens and young adults, build social capital and skills that can help them find meaningful education and career pathways. Youth who volunteer are considerably less likely than their non-volunteering peers to be disconnected from work and school. In fact, the likelihood that a young person will be disconnected drops nearly in half if he or she volunteers.[18]

But those who are already disconnected need a second chance. Reconnecting young people who are isolated from the worlds of school and work costs more than preventing disconnection in the first place. But we cannot abandon them. They need a second chance—especially since so many didn't really get a decent first chance. Rigorous evaluations of existing "second chance" programs reinforce the notion that a problem that took many years to develop cannot be solved quickly or simply.

Matching disconnected youth with one-off summer internships or low-wage jobs does not plant them firmly on the path to a productive and secure adulthood. They tend to need additional support to grapple with personal and family issues, gain credentials, develop soft skills and confidence, address health issues, deal with housing and transportation issues, and more.

More and higher-quality data are necessary regarding which approaches work with which populations. To meet this need, the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions awarded grants to twenty-one partners to test a variety of community-level approaches to connecting disconnected young people with education and employment. This effort will provide valuable evidence to inform future programming.

We need to set goals and work toward them together. Meaningful progress requires that organizations and individuals active in this area join together to establish measurable, time-bound targets for reducing youth disconnection. These targets should be ambitious, tailored to the on-the-ground realities of different cities, and based on an accelerated, but achievable, rate of progress. A meaningful starting point would be for cities to adopt the goal of cutting in half the gap between racial and ethnic groups within their metro areas. Here's how it would work, using Chicago as an example. Chicago's disconnection rate for black youth is 24.5 percent, and for white youth, 7.5 percent—a 17 percent gap. Narrowing the black-white gap to 8.5 percent, which would mean a black disconnection rate of 16 percent, would not be easy, but it is possible. Setting targets like this in metro areas across the country would make the plight of these young people visible at a more local level, spur community actors to get involved, and accelerate progress toward a better future.

Reconnecting young people who are isolated from the worlds of school and work costs more than preventing disconnection in the first place. But we cannot abandon them.

Endnotes

[1] Scarpetta, Sonnet, and Manfredi. "Rising Youth Unemployment during the Crisis: How to Prevent Negative Long-Term Consequences on a Generation?"

[2] Tangible direct costs to taxpayers that resulted from disconnected youth were calculated using data from the 2013 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample based on use of four types of assistance/costs: $11,192 million (incarceration); $12,366 million (Medicaid); $741 million (public assistance payments); and $2,490 million in Supplemental Security Income payments. For full methodological details and data sources for per-person costs, see www.measureofamerica.org/youth-disconnection-2015/methodology.

[3] Arai, "Low Expectations, Sexual Attitudes and Knowledge."

[4] Lewis and Burd-Sharps, *Halve the Gap.*

[5] Note that "neighborhoods" and "neighborhood clusters" refer to Census Bureau–defined Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs). The population of PUMAs typically range from 100,000 to 200,000 people.

[6] Poverty thresholds were set for this exercise at one standard deviation above and below the mean for all neighborhoods. Low-poverty neighborhoods were those with a poverty rate below 5.5 percent. High-poverty neighborhoods had a poverty rate above 21.4 percent. See Burd-Sharps and Lewis, *One in Seven,* page 20, for further details.

[7] Lewis and Burd-Sharps, *Halve the Gap.*

[8] Rothstein, "The Making of Ferguson."

[9] Frey, "The New Metro Minority Map."

[10] Ibid.

[11] This conclusion was arrived at by using multilevel logistic regression models that predict the likelihood that a young person is disconnected, taking individual and metro-area level characteristics (and their interaction) into account. Metro-area characteristics include the youth poverty rate, the percent of black youth, and William H. Frey's white-black Index of Dissimilarity for metro areas. See note 9. Frey calculated Index values for ninety-seven of the ninety-eight metro statistical areas that form the basis of this report. Individual characteristics accounted for in the models include race and gender.

[12] Rothstein, *The Making of Ferguson.*

[13] Massey, "The Age of Extremes."

[14] Ibid.

[15] Guthrie, *The Trouble with Perfect.*

[16] Schwartz, *The Paradox of Choice.*

[17] Heckman, "The Case for Investing in Disadvantaged Young Children."

[18] Opportunity Nation, "Connecting Youth and Strengthening Communities: The Data Behind Civic Engagement and Economic Opportunity."

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Indicator Tables: Youth Disconnection by State

RANK	STATE	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (# ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8	5,527,000
1	Nebraska	7.6	18,222
2	North Dakota	7.9	8,930
3	Iowa	8.8	34,655
4	Minnesota	8.9	57,352
5	Vermont	8.9	7,257
6	South Dakota	9.4	10,011
7	Kansas	9.4	35,508
8	Wisconsin	9.8	68,181
9	Massachusetts	9.8	84,834
10	Maine	9.8	14,593
11	New Hampshire	10.1	16,428
12	Connecticut	10.6	46,335
13	Utah	11.2	47,522
14	Hawaii	11.5	19,470
15	Colorado	11.5	73,892
16	Wyoming	11.8	8,860
17	Maryland	11.8	85,660
18	New Jersey	12.1	124,877
19	Ohio	12.3	174,132
20	Rhode Island	12.4	18,386
21	Virginia	12.5	129,665
22	Illinois	12.9	207,984
23	Montana	12.9	16,613
24	Missouri	12.9	96,721
25	Pennsylvania	13.3	208,813
26	Indiana	13.4	113,104
27	Michigan	13.7	173,899
28	California	13.8	699,150
29	New York	13.8	343,699
30	Washington	14.1	118,330
31	Alaska	14.2	14,829
32	North Carolina	14.7	182,377
33	Oregon	14.8	69,090
34	Texas	14.9	521,061
35	Idaho	14.9	30,530
36	Kentucky	15.2	81,850
37	South Carolina	15.2	94,408
38	Florida	15.3	348,366
39	Delaware	15.4	17,055
40	Oklahoma	15.9	78,557
41	Georgia	16.5	215,663
42	Arkansas	16.6	59,976
43	Tennessee	16.6	132,040
44	New Mexico	16.9	46,221
45	Arizona	17.3	146,510
46	Alabama	17.9	110,955
47	District of Columbia	18.3	16,782
48	Nevada	18.5	61,786
49	Mississippi	18.5	74,119
50	West Virginia	19.4	41,838
51	Louisiana	19.8	119,846

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013. To access data tables, go to www.measureofamerica.org/youth-disconnection-2015.

Note: Rates in all indicator tables have been rounded to one decimal place. The resulting values may appear to be tied but the rankings reflect the original values, not the rounded values.

Youth Disconnection by Congressional District

RANK	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8
1	Wisconsin Congressional District 2	4.9
2	Nebraska Congressional District 2	5.4
3	California Congressional District 52	5.9
4	Massachusetts Congressional District 7	6.0
5	Colorado Congressional District 2	6.0
6	California Congressional District 24	6.0
7	Iowa Congressional District 4	6.3
8	California Congressional District 14	6.4
9	California Congressional District 45	6.6
10	Michigan Congressional District 8	6.8
11	Wisconsin Congressional District 5	6.8
12	Maryland Congressional District 8	6.9
13	Minnesota Congressional District 1	7.1
14	Illinois Congressional District 9	7.2
15	Texas Congressional District 26	7.3
16	New Jersey Congressional District 11	7.4
17	Illinois Congressional District 6	7.4
18	Illinois Congressional District 14	7.5
19	Minnesota Congressional District 3	7.5
20	Massachusetts Congressional District 4	7.7
21	Maine Congressional District 1	7.7
22	Connecticut Congressional District 2	7.8
23	California Congressional District 12	7.9
24	North Dakota Congressional District (at Large)	7.9
25	Texas Congressional District 3	8.0
26	Connecticut Congressional District 4	8.0
27	California Congressional District 17	8.1
28	Massachusetts Congressional District 2	8.2
29	Massachusetts Congressional District 5	8.2
30	Ohio Congressional District 5	8.2
31	Illinois Congressional District 8	8.2
32	California Congressional District 48	8.2
33	Michigan Congressional District 12	8.3
34	Minnesota Congressional District 6	8.3
35	Minnesota Congressional District 5	8.3
36	Pennsylvania Congressional District 8	8.3
37	Missouri Congressional District 2	8.3
38	Illinois Congressional District 10	8.4
39	Minnesota Congressional District 4	8.4
40	New York Congressional District 3	8.4
41	Ohio Congressional District 16	8.5
42	Nebraska Congressional District 3	8.5
43	Massachusetts Congressional District 6	8.5
44	New York Congressional District 2	8.5
45	Michigan Congressional District 11	8.5
46	Wisconsin Congressional District 6	8.6
47	Wisconsin Congressional District 3	8.7
48	Kansas Congressional District 1	8.8
49	Nebraska Congressional District 1	8.8
50	Virginia Congressional District 10	8.8

RANK	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8
51	Kansas Congressional District 2	8.8
52	Iowa Congressional District 1	8.9
53	Vermont Congressional District (at Large)	8.9
54	Texas Congressional District 22	8.9
55	New Jersey Congressional District 5	8.9
56	New Jersey Congressional District 3	9.0
57	Texas Congressional District 21	9.0
58	Ohio Congressional District 12	9.0
59	Pennsylvania Congressional District 18	9.2
60	Illinois Congressional District 13	9.2
60	Illinois Congressional District 13	9.2
61	South Dakota Congressional District (at Large)	9.4
62	California Congressional District 27	9.4
63	Minnesota Congressional District 7	9.4
64	Massachusetts Congressional District 8	9.4
65	California Congressional District 33	9.4
66	New York Congressional District 24	9.5
67	New Hampshire Congressional District 2	9.5
68	Virginia Congressional District 11	9.6
69	Iowa Congressional District 2	9.6
71	California Congressional District 39	9.8
72	Kansas Congressional District 4	9.8
73	Utah Congressional District 1	9.8
74	Georgia Congressional District 6	9.8
75	Indiana Congressional District 9	9.9
76	California Congressional District 18	10.0
77	Missouri Congressional District 4	10.1
78	New York Congressional District 12	10.1
79	California Congressional District 15	10.1
80	Washington Congressional District 7	10.1
81	New York Congressional District 10	10.1
82	Texas Congressional District 17	10.2
83	Texas Congressional District 24	10.2
84	New York Congressional District 4	10.2
85	Virginia Congressional District 2	10.2
86	New York Congressional District 18	10.2
87	Illinois Congressional District 5	10.3
88	New York Congressional District 20	10.3
89	California Congressional District 37	10.4
90	California Congressional District 26	10.4
91	New Jersey Congressional District 4	10.4
92	Kansas Congressional District 3	10.5
93	California Congressional District 30	10.6
94	Pennsylvania Congressional District 14	10.6
95	Maryland Congressional District 6	10.6
96	Utah Congressional District 3	10.6
97	California Congressional District 49	10.7
98	Maryland Congressional District 2	10.7
99	Hawaii Congressional District 1	10.8
100	New Hampshire Congressional District 1	10.8

Youth Disconnection by Congressional District (continued)

RANK	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8
101	Minnesota Congressional District 8	10.8
102	Ohio Congressional District 3	10.8
103	Connecticut Congressional District 5	10.8
104	Iowa Congressional District 3	10.8
105	Arizona Congressional District 9	10.9
106	New York Congressional District 1	10.9
107	California Congressional District 32	10.9
108	Florida Congressional District 7	10.9
109	New Jersey Congressional District 7	10.9
110	Pennsylvania Congressional District 12	11.0
111	Pennsylvania Congressional District 5	11.0
112	Indiana Congressional District 4	11.0
113	Ohio Congressional District 8	11.0
114	California Congressional District 19	11.1
115	California Congressional District 5	11.1
116	Pennsylvania Congressional District 6	11.1
117	Wisconsin Congressional District 8	11.1
118	Ohio Congressional District 7	11.1
119	California Congressional District 13	11.1
120	North Carolina Congressional District 9	11.2
121	Virginia Congressional District 1	11.3
122	Maryland Congressional District 3	11.3
123	Illinois Congressional District 11	11.3
124	Utah Congressional District 4	11.3
125	Pennsylvania Congressional District 3	11.4
126	Indiana Congressional District 8	11.4
127	New York Congressional District 17	11.4
128	North Carolina Congressional District 13	11.4
129	Colorado Congressional District 7	11.5
130	New Jersey Congressional District 12	11.5
131	Kentucky Congressional District 3	11.5
132	Washington Congressional District 8	11.6
133	New Jersey Congressional District 9	11.6
134	Virginia Congressional District 6	11.6
135	Minnesota Congressional District 2	11.6
136	Texas Congressional District 31	11.7
137	Rhode Island Congressional District 2	11.7
138	California Congressional District 28	11.8
139	Wyoming Congressional District (at Large)	11.8
140	Wisconsin Congressional District 1	11.8
141	New York Congressional District 6	11.9
142	Maine Congressional District 2	11.9
143	Virginia Congressional District 7	11.9
144	New York Congressional District 26	11.9
145	Illinois Congressional District 3	11.9
146	Wisconsin Congressional District 7	11.9
147	Massachusetts Congressional District 3	12.0
148	Tennessee Congressional District 7	12.0
149	Ohio Congressional District 10	12.1
150	Georgia Congressional District 7	12.2

RANK	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8
151	New York Congressional District 16	12.2
152	Ohio Congressional District 1	12.2
153	Pennsylvania Congressional District 7	12.2
154	Hawaii Congressional District 2	12.2
155	Missouri Congressional District 7	12.3
156	Texas Congressional District 10	12.3
157	California Congressional District 47	12.3
158	Michigan Congressional District 9	12.3
159	Michigan Congressional District 3	12.3
160	New York Congressional District 23	12.3
161	Maryland Congressional District 1	12.3
162	Pennsylvania Congressional District 17	12.3
163	Arizona Congressional District 5	12.4
164	Ohio Congressional District 13	12.4
165	Kentucky Congressional District 6	12.4
166	Ohio Congressional District 14	12.5
167	Connecticut Congressional District 3	12.5
168	Virginia Congressional District 8	12.6
169	Colorado Congressional District 5	12.6
170	Indiana Congressional District 2	12.7
171	New Jersey Congressional District 6	12.7
172	Missouri Congressional District 6	12.7
173	Indiana Congressional District 5	12.7
174	Maryland Congressional District 5	12.7
175	Ohio Congressional District 2	12.8
176	Illinois Congressional District 18	12.9
177	California Congressional District 38	12.9
178	New York Congressional District 27	12.9
179	Arkansas Congressional District 3	12.9
180	Washington Congressional District 2	12.9
181	Texas Congressional District 32	12.9
182	Montana Congressional District (at Large)	12.9
183	West Virginia Congressional District 1	13.0
184	Colorado Congressional District 6	13.0
185	Florida Congressional District 8	13.0
186	Colorado Congressional District 3	13.0
187	Washington Congressional District 1	13.0
188	Texas Congressional District 6	13.0
189	Tennessee Congressional District 5	13.0
190	Virginia Congressional District 9	13.1
191	California Congressional District 53	13.1
192	Rhode Island Congressional District 1	13.1
193	Oregon Congressional District 4	13.1
194	Virginia Congressional District 5	13.1
195	Utah Congressional District 2	13.1
196	Georgia Congressional District 11	13.1
197	Michigan Congressional District 2	13.2
198	Michigan Congressional District 10	13.2
199	Missouri Congressional District 3	13.2
200	Michigan Congressional District 7	13.2

Youth Disconnection by Congressional District (continued)

RANK	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8
201	Colorado Congressional District 1	13.2
202	Florida Congressional District 21	13.2
203	Texas Congressional District 19	13.3
204	Pennsylvania Congressional District 11	13.3
205	Illinois Congressional District 17	13.4
206	Michigan Congressional District 4	13.4
207	North Carolina Congressional District 5	13.4
208	Florida Congressional District 23	13.4
209	Florida Congressional District 15	13.4
210	Florida Congressional District 9	13.4
211	Pennsylvania Congressional District 9	13.4
212	Florida Congressional District 26	13.5
213	Alabama Congressional District 6	13.5
214	California Congressional District 29	13.5
215	Texas Congressional District 13	13.5
216	Colorado Congressional District 4	13.5
217	Texas Congressional District 2	13.5
218	Pennsylvania Congressional District 15	13.6
219	California Congressional District 20	13.6
220	New York Congressional District 25	13.7
221	Texas Congressional District 12	13.7
222	California Congressional District 11	13.7
223	North Carolina Congressional District 12	13.8
224	Ohio Congressional District 15	13.8
225	Georgia Congressional District 10	13.8
226	Idaho Congressional District 2	13.8
227	Florida Congressional District 27	13.8
228	Tennessee Congressional District 4	13.8
229	South Carolina Congressional District 1	13.8
230	South Carolina Congressional District 4	13.9
231	Ohio Congressional District 4	13.9
232	North Carolina Congressional District 3	13.9
233	Connecticut Congressional District 1	14.0
234	Texas Congressional District 20	14.0
235	Arizona Congressional District 6	14.0
236	South Carolina Congressional District 2	14.0
237	Texas Congressional District 7	14.0
238	California Congressional District 34	14.0
239	Indiana Congressional District 3	14.0
240	New York Congressional District 22	14.1
241	Texas Congressional District 27	14.1
242	California Congressional District 35	14.1
243	Oklahoma Congressional District 4	14.1
244	North Carolina Congressional District 6	14.1
245	Washington Congressional District 5	14.2
246	Ohio Congressional District 6	14.2
247	Washington Congressional District 9	14.2
248	Alaska Congressional District (at Large)	14.2
249	California Congressional District 42	14.2
250	Massachusetts Congressional District 9	14.3

RANK	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8
251	Maryland Congressional District 7	14.3
252	Michigan Congressional District 6	14.3
253	Missouri Congressional District 5	14.3
254	Pennsylvania Congressional District 16	14.4
255	Illinois Congressional District 16	14.4
256	Texas Congressional District 1	14.4
257	Florida Congressional District 18	14.4
258	Texas Congressional District 16	14.4
259	Florida Congressional District 2	14.4
260	California Congressional District 7	14.5
261	Wisconsin Congressional District 4	14.5
262	Florida Congressional District 14	14.5
263	New York Congressional District 19	14.6
264	California Congressional District 4	14.6
265	Texas Congressional District 9	14.6
266	Arizona Congressional District 2	14.6
267	North Carolina Congressional District 11	14.6
268	Florida Congressional District 12	14.6
269	Maryland Congressional District 4	14.6
270	Alabama Congressional District 3	14.7
271	Florida Congressional District 22	14.7
272	New Jersey Congressional District 1	14.7
273	Oklahoma Congressional District 3	14.7
274	Florida Congressional District 19	14.7
275	Tennessee Congressional District 2	14.7
276	Washington Congressional District 10	14.8
277	Arkansas Congressional District 2	14.8
278	Georgia Congressional District 5	14.8
279	Kentucky Congressional District 2	14.8
280	Nevada Congressional District 2	14.8
281	Oregon Congressional District 1	14.8
282	California Congressional District 41	14.8
283	California Congressional District 46	15.1
284	Pennsylvania Congressional District 4	15.1
285	Indiana Congressional District 1	15.1
286	New York Congressional District 11	15.2
287	Oregon Congressional District 3	15.2
288	Indiana Congressional District 6	15.2
289	Oregon Congressional District 5	15.2
290	Texas Congressional District 25	15.4
291	Florida Congressional District 1	15.4
292	Delaware Congressional District (at Large)	15.4
293	Illinois Congressional District 15	15.4
294	Kentucky Congressional District 4	15.4
295	Massachusetts Congressional District 1	15.6
296	California Congressional District 9	15.6
297	New Jersey Congressional District 2	15.6
298	California Congressional District 51	15.7
299	Oklahoma Congressional District 5	15.7
300	Florida Congressional District 4	15.7

Youth Disconnection by Congressional District (continued)

RANK	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8
301	New Mexico Congressional District 1	15.7
302	South Carolina Congressional District 5	15.8
303	Texas Congressional District 35	15.8
304	Pennsylvania Congressional District 10	15.8
305	New Jersey Congressional District 10	15.9
306	Georgia Congressional District 14	16.0
307	New York Congressional District 5	16.0
308	Missouri Congressional District 1	16.0
309	Florida Congressional District 3	16.0
310	North Carolina Congressional District 2	16.1
311	California Congressional District 43	16.1
312	Mississippi Congressional District 1	16.1
313	Oregon Congressional District 2	16.1
314	Arizona Congressional District 8	16.1
315	New Jersey Congressional District 8	16.1
316	Nevada Congressional District 3	16.2
317	New York Congressional District 7	16.2
318	Idaho Congressional District 1	16.2
319	Ohio Congressional District 9	16.2
320	California Congressional District 25	16.2
321	South Carolina Congressional District 6	16.2
322	South Carolina Congressional District 7	16.2
323	New York Congressional District 21	16.3
324	Washington Congressional District 6	16.3
325	Kentucky Congressional District 1	16.3
326	Texas Congressional District 5	16.3
327	Florida Congressional District 25	16.4
328	Georgia Congressional District 9	16.4
329	California Congressional District 50	16.4
330	Virginia Congressional District 3	16.5
331	Florida Congressional District 13	16.6
332	Oklahoma Congressional District 1	16.6
333	Florida Congressional District 20	16.6
334	California Congressional District 3	16.6
335	Alabama Congressional District 5	16.7
336	South Carolina Congressional District 3	16.7
337	Illinois Congressional District 1	16.8
338	Michigan Congressional District 5	16.8
339	Texas Congressional District 18	16.8
340	New York Congressional District 14	16.9
341	California Congressional District 10	17.0
342	North Carolina Congressional District 1	17.1
343	Texas Congressional District 23	17.2
344	California Congressional District 40	17.2
345	Missouri Congressional District 8	17.2
346	New Mexico Congressional District 2	17.2
347	Arkansas Congressional District 1	17.2
348	Florida Congressional District 6	17.3
349	Georgia Congressional District 4	17.3
350	Pennsylvania Congressional District 13	17.3

RANK	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8
351	Florida Congressional District 10	17.3
352	California Congressional District 2	17.3
353	Louisiana Congressional District 1	17.4
354	Ohio Congressional District 11	17.5
355	Georgia Congressional District 2	17.6
356	Tennessee Congressional District 6	17.6
357	Illinois Congressional District 2	17.7
358	New Mexico Congressional District 3	17.7
359	Texas Congressional District 36	17.7
360	California Congressional District 22	17.8
361	Louisiana Congressional District 6	17.8
362	Pennsylvania Congressional District 2	17.9
363	Virginia Congressional District 4	17.9
364	North Carolina Congressional District 7	17.9
365	Florida Congressional District 5	17.9
366	North Carolina Congressional District 10	17.9
367	Texas Congressional District 4	18.0
368	Georgia Congressional District 13	18.1
369	California Congressional District 6	18.1
370	California Congressional District 31	18.1
371	Tennessee Congressional District 1	18.1
372	California Congressional District 16	18.1
373	Tennessee Congressional District 8	18.2
374	Alabama Congressional District 4	18.2
375	Texas Congressional District 8	18.3
376	District of Columbia Delegate District (at Large)	18.3
377	Texas Congressional District 29	18.3
378	Michigan Congressional District 1	18.4
379	New York Congressional District 8	18.4
380	Texas Congressional District 11	18.5
381	Mississippi Congressional District 4	18.5
382	New York Congressional District 13	18.5
383	Texas Congressional District 15	18.8
384	Pennsylvania Congressional District 1	18.9
385	Texas Congressional District 33	18.9
386	Florida Congressional District 16	18.9
387	California Congressional District 44	18.9
388	Oklahoma Congressional District 2	19.0
389	Illinois Congressional District 12	19.1
390	Illinois Congressional District 7	19.1
391	Louisiana Congressional District 3	19.2
392	Illinois Congressional District 4	19.2
393	Tennessee Congressional District 3	19.3
394	Alabama Congressional District 7	19.4
395	Florida Congressional District 24	19.5
396	Texas Congressional District 14	19.5
397	Mississippi Congressional District 2	19.5
398	Texas Congressional District 28	19.6
399	Georgia Congressional District 12	19.6
400	Florida Congressional District 11	19.6

Youth Disconnection by Congressional District (continued)

RANK	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8
401	Indiana Congressional District 7	19.7
402	Arizona Congressional District 4	19.7
403	California Congressional District 1	19.8
404	West Virginia Congressional District 2	20.0
405	Mississippi Congressional District 3	20.1
406	Louisiana Congressional District 4	20.3
407	Arizona Congressional District 3	20.3
408	Texas Congressional District 30	20.3
409	Georgia Congressional District 3	20.3
410	Nevada Congressional District 1	20.4
411	Louisiana Congressional District 2	20.5
412	Washington Congressional District 4	20.6
413	Georgia Congressional District 8	20.6
414	California Congressional District 21	20.7
415	Washington Congressional District 3	20.7
416	West Virginia Congressional District 3	20.8
417	California Congressional District 23	20.9
418	Alabama Congressional District 2	21.0
419	Arizona Congressional District 1	21.1
420	Michigan Congressional District 14	21.2

RANK	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8
421	Georgia Congressional District 1	21.2
422	North Carolina Congressional District 8	21.5
423	Nevada Congressional District 4	21.6
424	Florida Congressional District 17	21.7
425	Alabama Congressional District 1	21.8
426	Kentucky Congressional District 5	22.0
427	California Congressional District 36	22.1
428	New York Congressional District 9	22.2
429	Arkansas Congressional District 4	22.3
430	Michigan Congressional District 13	22.4
431	Tennessee Congressional District 9	22.9
432	California Congressional District 8	23.3
433	Louisiana Congressional District 5	23.7
434	Texas Congressional District 34	23.8
435	New York Congressional District 15	24.2
436	Arizona Congressional District 7	25.6

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013. To access data tables, go to: www.measureofamerica.org/youth-disconnection-2015.

Youth Disconnection by Metro Area

RANK	METRO AREA	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (# ages 16–24)	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24) BLACKS	LATINOS	WHITES
	United States	13.8	5,527,000	21.6	16.3	11.3
1	Omaha–Council Bluffs, NE–IA	7.7	8,945			6.1
2	Bridgeport–Stamford–Norwalk, CT	7.7	8,207			5.5
3*	Boston–Cambridge–Newton, MA–NH	8.2	49,229	9.8	17.3	6.8
4*	Minneapolis–St. Paul–Bloomington, MN–WI	9.1	41,494	16.6		7.7
5	Ogden–Clearfield, UT	9.1	9,061			8.0
6	Seattle–Tacoma–Bellevue, WA	9.3	7,247			8.7
7	Worcester, MA–CT	9.3	11,220			7.7
8	Wichita, KS	9.6	8,276			7.3
9	Oxnard–Thousand Oaks–Ventura, CA	9.8	10,853		11.1	
10	Syracuse, NY	10.0	11,207			9.8
11	Akron, OH	10.1	9,910			10.2
12*	Pittsburgh, PA	10.2	30,575	21.8		9.1
13	Raleigh, NC	10.3	15,621	12.8		
14	Des Moines–West Des Moines, IA	10.3	8,194			8.8
15	Albany–Schenectady–Troy, NY	10.4	13,855			10.8
16*	San Jose–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara, CA	10.4	50,593	19.4	12.2	9.2
17	Toledo, OH	10.7	9,628			7.7
18	Provo–Orem, UT	10.7	14,445			10.7
19	Milwaukee–Waukesha–West Allis, WI	10.7	20,219	19.9		
20	Scranton–Wilkes–Barre–Hazleton, PA	10.7	24,406		13.3	7.7
21	Springfield, MA	11.0	7,932			11.7
22	Columbus, OH	11.0	30,403	13.2		10.6
23	Hartford–West Hartford–East Hartford, CT	11.1	16,909		25.0	6.6
24*	Baltimore–Columbia–Towson, MD	11.3	39,864	18.4		7.8
25	Grand Rapids–Wyoming, MI	11.3	18,963			9.6
26	Austin–Round Rock, TX	11.5	27,959	17.8	14.4	8.8
27	Urban Honolulu, HI	11.7	14,834			
28	Dayton, OH	11.8	12,215			9.7
29	Buffalo–Cheektowaga–Niagara Falls, NY	12.0	17,348	20.3		9.0
30*	San Francisco–Oakland–Hayward, CA	12.1	54,278	17.3	16.3	11.0
31	San Antonio–New Braunfels, TX	12.2	18,812		14.8	11.1
32	Kansas City, MO–KS	12.3	30,795	22.1	12.3	10.1
33	Colorado Springs, CO	12.3	11,186			12.7
34*	Spokane–Spokane Valley, WA	12.4	50,593	20.3	16.8	10.8
35*	Washington–Arlington–Alexandria, DC–VA–MD–WV	12.4	93,663	20.4	10.3	9.7
36*	Denver–Aurora–Lakewood, CO	12.5	40,399		16.9	10.4
37	Allentown–Bethlehem–Easton, PA–NJ	12.5	12,034			9.9
38*	Chicago–Naperville–Elgin, IL–IN–WI	12.5	147,508	24.5	13.9	7.5
39	Columbia, SC	12.6	14,769	20.6		7.6
40*	Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, CA	12.7	222,396	23.2	14.6	9.0
41	New Haven–Milford, CT	12.8	14,016	24.6	24.2	6.5
42	Nashville–Davidson–Murfreesboro–Franklin, TN	12.8	29,283	17.6		10.4
43	Cincinnati, OH–KY–IN	12.8	38,312	20.6		11.8
44	Providence–Warwick, RI–MA	13.0	28,340		27.2	9.2
45	Virginia Beach–Norfolk–Newport News, VA–NC	13.2	35,271	19.4		10.3
46	St. Louis, MO–IL	13.3	15,205	21.0	24.9	9.0
47	Rochester, NY	13.4	21,701	30.8	23.0	9.8
48*	New York–Newark–Jersey City, NY–NJ–PA	13.5	324,264	21.4	16.4	9.2
49*	Dallas–Fort Worth–Arlington, TX	13.6	117,590	21.3	15.9	10.0
50	Orlando–Kissimmee–Sanford, FL	13.6	41,236	22.1	15.5	9.5

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013. To access data tables, go to: www.measureofamerica.org/youth-disconnection-2015.

Youth Disconnection by Metro Area (continued)

RANK	METRO AREA	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (# ages 16–24)	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24) BLACKS	LATINOS	WHITES
51	Cleveland–Elyria, OH	13.6	32,354	24.4	18.3	8.5
52	Boise City, ID	13.7	12,383			11.1
53	Harrisburg–Carlisle, PA	13.8	9,168			
54	Winston–Salem, NC	13.9	10,668			13.0
55*	Salt Lake City, UT	13.9	51,021	20.8		11.6
56	Louisville/Jefferson County, KY–IN	14.0	21,750	18.5		13.3
57*	Houston–The Woodlands–Sugar Land, TX	14.2	114,787	19.1	15.6	11.4
58*	Philadelphia–Camden–Wilmington, PA–NJ–DE–MD	14.3	107,246	23.1	22.6	9.2
59	Deltona–Daytona Beach–Ormond Beach, FL	14.3	9,566			13.6
60*	San Diego–Carlsbad, CA	14.4	47,275	20.9	15.9	9.8
61	Greenville–Anderson–Mauldin, SC	14.5	17,466			14.8
62*	Charlotte–Concord–Gastonia, NC–SC	14.5	45,473	19.8		13.0
63	Oklahoma City, OK	14.6	26,447			13.0
64	Cape Coral–Fort Myers, FL	14.6	9,189			12.8
65*	Detroit–Warren–Dearborn, MI	14.7	77,581	24.9	20.5	9.6
66	Sacramento–Roseville–Arden–Arcade, CA	14.8	42,782	27.3	18.4	12.7
67*	Tampa–St. Petersburg–Clearwater, FL	14.8	46,361	20.8	14.0	14.0
68	Youngstown–Warren–Boardman, OH–PA	14.9	9,155			14.1
69*	Atlanta–Sandy Springs–Roswell, GA	14.9	111,423	18.3	16.9	12.3
70	Charleston–North Charleston, SC	14.9	13,650	24.4		
71	El Paso, TX	14.9	20,865		14.4	
72	Greensboro–High Point, NC	15.1	14,931	16.5		14.3
73*	Miami–Fort Lauderdale–West Palm Beach, FL	15.1	100,937	20.7	14.9	10.8
74	Little Rock–North Little Rock–Conway, AR	15.2	17,942			13.2
75	Stockton–Lodi, CA	15.4	15,032		15.2	
76	Richmond, VA	15.5	26,995	23.8		10.7
77	Tulsa, OK	15.5	27,199	28.2		13.9
78	Indianapolis–Carmel–Anderson, IN	15.8	35,539	22.3		14.0
79*	Portland–Vancouver–Hillsboro, OR–WA	16.1	46,657		15.0	15.5
80	Jackson, MS	16.2	12,834	16.8		16.0
81	Tucson, AZ	16.2	23,863		21.6	10.7
82	Albuquerque, NM	16.7	20,676		17.0	13.2
83	Birmingham–Hoover, AL	16.8	26,594	23.9		12.5
84	Chattanooga, TN–GA	16.8	12,226			15.7
85	Jacksonville, FL	16.9	29,551	25.6		15.3
86*	Phoenix–Mesa–Scottsdale, AZ	17.3	95,586	19.1	23.9	11.3
87	Knoxville, TN	17.5	22,708			17.0
88*	Riverside–San Bernardino–Ontario, CA	17.5	109,401	26.0	18.0	16.3
89	Fresno, CA	17.7	23,955		17.7	16.4
90	New Orleans–Metairie, LA	18.2	26,234	27.5		10.5
91	Baton Rouge, LA	18.6	22,273	31.1		10.4
92	Augusta–Richmond County, GA–SC	18.7	15,524	23.5		16.2
93	North Port–Sarasota–Bradenton, FL	19.0	12,913			16.5
94	Las Vegas–Henderson–Paradise, NV	19.6	47,568	33.2	19.8	15.5
95	McAllen–Edinburg–Mission, TX	19.8	23,481		20.3	
96	Lakeland–Winter Haven, FL	20.4	14,612			19.5
97	Bakersfield, CA	21.2	26,411		19.9	20.7
98	Memphis, TN–MS–AR	21.6	44,928	28.6		13.2

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013.
Note: A blank indicates that the population size of youth ages 16 to 24 in that group and metro area is too small for reliable youth disconnection estimates. For Native Americans, the national disconnection rate is 20.3 percent. The numbers for individual metro areas are too small for reliable estimates. For Asian Americans, only four metro areas have a sufficient population of youth ages 16 to 24 for disconnection estimates: San Jose: 6.0 percent; Los Angeles: 6.9 percent; New York: 9.2 percent; Scranton: 10.7 percent. The national Asian American rate is 7.9 percent. **The * denotes the twenty-five most populous metro areas.**

Youth Disconnection by County: Seventy Least Disconnected Counties

RANK	COUNTY	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)	RANK	COUNTY	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8		United States	13.8
1	Logan County, North Dakota	0.0	23	Dunn County, Wisconsin	5.0
1	Cheyenne County, Kansas	**0.0**	24	Benton County, Oregon	**5.0**
1	Deuel County, Nebraska	**0.0**	25	Charlottesville city, Virginia	**5.0**
1	Greeley County, Kansas	**0.0**	26	St. Croix County, Wisconsin	**5.0**
1	Garfield County, Montana	**0.0**	27	Brazos County, Texas	**5.1**
1	McCone County, Montana	**0.0**	28	Stearns County, Minnesota	**5.1**
1	Treasure County, Montana	**0.0**	29	Washtenaw County, Michigan	**5.1**
1	Garfield County, Nebraska	**0.0**	30	Tippecanoe County, Indiana	**5.1**
1	Grant County, Nebraska	**0.0**	31	Madison County, Idaho	**5.3**
1	Wheeler County, Nebraska	**0.0**	32	Carver County, Minnesota	**5.3**
1	Oliver County, North Dakota	**0.0**	33	Athens County, Ohio	**5.3**
1	Slope County, North Dakota	**0.0**	34	Buffalo County, Nebraska	**5.4**
1	Campbell County, South Dakota	**0.0**	35	McLean County, Illinois	**5.4**
1	Story County, Iowa	**2.3**	36	Dane County, Wisconsin	**5.4**
2	Potter County, South Dakota	**2.4**	37	Boulder County, Colorado	**5.4**
3	Montgomery County, Virginia	**2.4**	38	Oktibbeha County, Mississippi	**5.5**
4	Hampshire County, Massachusetts	**3.1**	39	Isabella County, Michigan	**5.6**
5	Douglas County, Kansas	**3.2**	40	Ozaukee County, Wisconsin	**5.6**
6	Riley County, Kansas	**3.3**	41	Payne County, Oklahoma	**5.6**
7	McDonough County, Illinois	**3.5**	42	Cass County, North Dakota	**5.7**
8	Pierce County, Wisconsin	**3.6**	43	Boone County, Missouri	**5.7**
9	Champaign County, Illinois	**3.8**	44	Lancaster County, Nebraska	**5.9**
10	Harrisonburg city, Virginia	**3.9**	45	Portage County, Wisconsin	**5.9**
11	Johnson County, Iowa	**4.0**	46	Bristol County, Rhode Island	**5.9**
12	Tompkins County, New York	**4.0**	47	Burleigh County, North Dakota	**5.9**
13	Blue Earth County, Minnesota	**4.1**	48	Greene County, Ohio	**5.9**
14	Monroe County, Indiana	**4.1**	49	Clarke County, Georgia	**5.9**
15	Centre County, Pennsylvania	**4.2**	50	Coles County, Illinois	**6.0**
16	Wood County, Ohio	**4.2**	51	Lafayette County, Mississippi	**6.1**
17	Grand Forks County, North Dakota	**4.3**	52	Tolland County, Connecticut	**6.1**
18	Orange County, North Carolina	**4.4**	53	Cheshire County, New Hampshire	**6.2**
19	Latah County, Idaho	**4.4**	54	Waukesha County, Wisconsin	**6.2**
20	La Crosse County, Wisconsin	**4.4**	55	Leon County, Florida	**6.3**
21	Chittenden County, Vermont	**4.7**	56	DeKalb County, Illinois	**6.3**
22	Washington County, Rhode Island	**4.9**	57	Cache County, Utah	**6.4**

Source: Custom tabulations provided by special arrangement with the US Census Bureau and Opportunity Nation for 2008–2012.
Note: Estimates are available for 2,034 of the 3,143 US counties and county equivalents due to the small population size of 16–24 year olds in the remaining counties. For all county-level estimates, go to: www.measureofamerica.org/youth-disconnection-2015.

Youth Disconnection by County: Seventy Most Disconnected Counties

RANK	COUNTY	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8
1,965	Wade Hampton Census Area, Alaska	37.0
1,966	Lee County, Arkansas	37.0
1,967	Choctaw County, Alabama	37.0
1,968	Chicot County, Arkansas	37.1
1,969	Winn Parish, Louisiana	37.3
1,970	Jack County, Texas	37.3
1,971	Caldwell County, Texas	37.5
1,972	Wolfe County, Kentucky	37.5
1,973	Phillips County, Arkansas	37.6
1,974	Dillon County, South Carolina	37.6
1,975	Bent County, Colorado	37.6
1,976	Greene County, Mississippi	37.7
1,977	Roosevelt County, Montana	38.0
1,978	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, Alaska	38.0
1,979	Shannon County, South Dakota	38.0
1,980	Greene County, New York	38.1
1,981	Wilcox County, Alabama	38.1
1,982	Buckingham County, Virginia	38.3
1,983	Beckham County, Oklahoma	38.3
1,984	Jefferson County, Georgia	38.5
1,985	Morgan County, Kentucky	38.7
1,986	Tallahatchie County, Mississippi	38.8
1,987	Madison Parish, Louisiana	38.8
1,988	Van Buren County, Arkansas	39.4
1,989	Crowley County, Colorado	39.5
1,990	Hardeman County, Tennessee	40.3
1,991	Greensville County, Virginia	40.4
1,992	McCreary County, Kentucky	40.4
1,993	Gilchrist County, Florida	40.8
1,994	Lee County, Kentucky	40.9
1,995	Calhoun County, Florida	41.0
1,996	Corson County, South Dakota	41.1
1,997	Mitchell County, Texas	41.4
1,998	Bracken County, Kentucky	41.4
1,999	Lincoln County, West Virginia	41.6

RANK	COUNTY	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% ages 16–24)
	United States	13.8
2,000	Todd County, South Dakota	41.7
2,001	Telfair County, Georgia	41.8
2,002	Sierra County, New Mexico	41.9
2,003	Dawson County, Texas	42.4
2,004	Forest County, Pennsylvania	42.5
2,005	Reynolds County, Missouri	42.9
2,006	Northwest Arctic Borough, Alaska	42.9
2,007	Dodge County, Georgia	43.0
2,008	Catahoula Parish, Louisiana	43.3
2,009	McDowell County, West Virginia	43.5
2,010	Noble County, Ohio	43.5
2,011	Karnes County, Texas	43.7
2,012	Union County, Kentucky	43.7
2,013	Menominee County, Wisconsin	44.7
2,014	Lincoln County, Arkansas	45.1
2,015	Emporia city, Virginia	45.8
2,016	East Carroll Parish, Louisiana	45.9
2,017	Jones County, Texas	46.4
2,018	Sabine County, Texas	47.2
2,019	Allendale County, South Carolina	47.4
2,020	Martin County, Kentucky	47.8
2,021	Wilcox County, Georgia	48.4
2,022	Wilkinson County, Mississippi	48.4
2,023	Haskell County, Texas	48.9
2,024	Lassen County, California	48.9
2,025	Childress County, Texas	51.4
2,026	Lafayette County, Florida	51.4
2,027	Lawrence County, Illinois	52.0
2,028	Clay County, Georgia	53.5
2,029	Hamilton County, Florida	53.7
2,030	Rolette County, North Dakota	55.0
2,031	Issaquena County, Mississippi	55.8
2,032	Lake County, Tennessee	56.1
2,033	Hancock County, Georgia	56.8
2,034	Wheeler County, Georgia	82.0

To access data tables, go to: www.measureofamerica.org/youth-disconnection-2015.