HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN AMERICA'S CITIES

KRISTEN LEWIS and SARAH BURD-SHARPS

GAP IN YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE
(PERCENTAGE POINTS)

2013 GAP: 15.7

2013 GAP: 30.3

2030 TARGET: 7.9

2030 TARGET: 15.2

Racial/ethnic groups

Neighborhood clusters

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Halve the Gap by 2030: Overview

Once again, an autumnal snap is in the air, and the back-to-school season has come and gone. High school and college students have now settled into new routines, and recent grads have moved on to assume new roles. **But more than one in every seven young people in America have been left behind.** An astounding 5.8 million teens and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 are neither working nor in school. As their peers lay the foundation for a productive and meaningful adulthood, these disconnected youth find themselves adrift, unmoored from the structures that confer knowledge, skills, identity, and purpose. This disengagement is costly not only to individuals but to their communities and the country as a whole.

Just over a year ago, Measure of America published its initial research on the epidemic of youth disconnection, called *One in Seven: Ranking Youth Disconnection in the 25 Largest Metro Areas.* This report updates last year's findings with the latest numbers and, to better map the landscape of youth disconnection, also presents the data disaggregated by neighborhood cluster for each of the twenty-five most populous US metro areas. Key findings include the following:

- **Boston** (9.2 percent), **Minneapolis** (9.5 percent), and **Washington, DC** (11.3 percent), have the lowest rates of youth disconnection among the twenty-five most populous metro areas.

- **Charlotte** (17.3 percent), **Detroit** (17.4 percent), and **Riverside–San Bernardino** (18.8 percent) are home to the greatest share of disconnected young people.

- The greatest disparities are found not between but within our nation's big cities. In **Chicago**, **New York**, and **Detroit**, gaps of approximately 30 percentage points separate the most- and least-connected neighborhood clusters.

- A chasm likewise separates different racial and ethnic groups. For example, in **Pittsburgh** and **St. Louis**, one in every four African American young people is disconnected, compared to one in every ten white youth. Nationwide, African Americans are roughly three times as likely as Asian Americans and twice as likely as whites to be disconnected in their teens and early twenties.

The report identifies six factors associated with youth disconnection: high rates of disconnection a decade ago, low human development levels, high poverty, high adult unemployment, low adult educational attainment, and a high degree of residential segregation by race and ethnicity.

In addition to painting a picture of youth disconnection in America today, in this report we imagine, in very specific terms, a different, better tomorrow. We lay out an ambitious but attainable goal: **to cut the gaps between the most- and least-connected neighborhoods and between racial groups in half by 2030.** Our research has convinced us that, through the collective efforts of educational institutions, social service delivery organizations, the justice system, the private and nonprofit sectors, and others, this objective is within reach. By coalescing around a shared goal, we can galvanize greater attention to the problem, mobilize more resources and collaborative efforts to address it, and put in place a system of accountability for tracking our progress annually.

What would it mean in practice to **halve the gap**? Here's an example. In Philadelphia, the African American youth disconnection rate is 25.2 percent, and the white rate is 8.9 percent, a gap of 16.3 percentage points; halving the racial gap would mean that no more than 8.15 percentage points would separate blacks and whites by 2030. In terms of Philly neighborhoods, the highest youth disconnection rate is 30 percent, the lowest, 3.2 percent, a gap of 26.8 percentage points; halving the neighborhood gap would mean no more than 13.4 percentage points would separate any two neighborhoods by 2030. Of course, the gap could also close if today's highly connected groups did worse, but implicit in the goal is that no neighborhood or racial group moves backward. The target gaps for many cities are still sizable—and in an ideal world such gaps would not exist at all—but given how vast the current differences are, a halve-the-gap reduction represents a realistic goal around which stakeholders can rally to achieve **real results.**

We firmly believe that setting measureable, time-bound targets for reducing youth disconnection is key to moving the needle on this critical issue. Knowing where you want to go is fundamental to getting there.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

RANK	METRO AREA	ALL	AFRICAN AMERICAN	ASIAN AMERICAN	LATINO	WHITE
			DISCONNECTED YOUTH (%)			
	United States	14.6	22.5	7.6	17.9	11.7
1	Boston	9.2	14.2	...	18.6	7.2
2	Minneapolis	9.5	20.2	...	...	7.2
3	Washington	11.3	19.6	...	11.2	7.4
4	San Diego	12.2	19.0	...	16.1	8.2
5	San Francisco	12.3	19.4	8.5	14.3	11.0
6	Pittsburgh	12.6	24.8	...	...	10.3
7	Denver	13.0	...	...	18.2	10.0
8	Seattle	13.2	21.2	9.3	18.3	12.1
9	Chicago	14.1	24.9	...	15.6	9.2
10	Houston	14.1	16.5	7.6	16.2	11.2
11	St. Louis	14.2	24.9	...	...	10.3
12	Philadelphia	14.3	25.2	...	24.0	8.9
13	Baltimore	14.3	22.4	...	...	10.7
14	New York	14.5	23.3	6.5	18.5	9.8
15	Los Angeles	14.6	22.5	7.8	17.2	10.5
16	Dallas–Fort Worth	14.9	19.3	...	17.6	12.4
17	San Antonio	15.6	...	...	17.2	12.0
18	Tampa–St. Peterburg	15.8	22.3	...	18.6	13.2
19	Miami	16.0	21.0	...	16.6	10.8
20	Atlanta	16.8	21.1	...	16.5	14.1
21	Portland	17.0	...	...	20.2	16.0
22	Phoenix	17.2	22.5	...	22.3	12.2
23	Charlotte	17.3	21.4	...	...	16.7
24	Detroit	17.4	26.9	...	19.5	12.8
25	Riverside–San Bernardino	18.8	24.5	...	19.4	17.5

Note: ... Data unavailable because there are too few 16– to 24–year-olds to allow for reliable calculations. Source: Measure of America analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011 PUMS Microdata File.

Introduction

The teens and early twenties are chockablock with life-changing firsts: first job, first car, first bank account, first love, first heartbreak, first experience with independent living. During the emotionally intense years of emerging adulthood, we forge our grown-up identities and set a course for our journey through life.

For six in every seven Americans teens and young adults, this period of transition is anchored in school, work, or both. A connection to an educational institution or employer gives a young person at least a foothold—and at best a firm foundation—for the climb toward independent, self-sufficient adulthood. Through education and early work experiences, young people acquire formal credentials as well as the informal prerequisites for professional success—soft skills like punctuality and collaboration, exposure to the unspoken rules and behavioral norms of the workplace, and networks of contacts and connections. Interactions with peers, teachers, and mentors in class and on the job help young people develop critical social and emotional capabilities, such as knowing how to form and maintain healthy relationships, understanding one's own strengths and weaknesses, and learning to regulate one's feelings and impulses. Equally important, school and work provide a sense of belonging and the feelings of worth and dignity that come with having a purpose in life. Successful firsts in school and work foster self-confidence, optimism, and agency.

But one in every seven Americans between the ages of 16 and 24—5.8 million young people in all—are neither working nor in school. These vulnerable teens and young adults are unmoored from institutions that provide knowledge, networks, skills, identity, and direction. Their firsts, whether a first September not returning to high school, a first job rejection, or a first arrest, can be prominent and profoundly discouraging features of early adulthood that cast a long shadow across the life course. Mainstream milestones like college graduation may appear as improbable as a fairy tale, and the limited skills of some high school dropouts push even second-chance programs out of reach.[1] Unemployed young people are missing out not just on a paycheck and benefits, but also on the social inclusion, status, and social support that employment affords, with negative effects on psychological and physical well-being.

Disconnected youth are people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in school and not working.

The evidence is clear: in today's knowledge-based world, youth disconnection has harmful, lifelong effects on those who experience it. A new study of adult skills in twenty-three affluent democracies, including the United States, finds that only half the adults with the lowest literacy levels are employed, compared to four in five of the most literate adults. Adults with fewer literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving skills not only work and earn less, they are also less likely to trust others and more likely "to report poor health, to believe that they have little impact on political processes, and not to participate in associative or volunteer activities."[2]

Most young people never recover from long spells of disconnection. They carry scars of their lost years for the rest of lives in the form of lower wages and marriage rates, and higher incarceration and unemployment rates. Early spells of disconnection rain serious blows on long-term health, happiness, and job satisfaction.[3] Just as early successes yield optimism and self-confidence, early defeats sow hopelessness and self-doubt.

Society, too, pays a heavy price for youth disconnection.

- GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS. Youth disconnection undermines US economic competitiveness. The OECD study in affluent democracies referenced above found that US adults already rank sixteenth among twenty-three industrialized countries in basic literary skills and twenty-first in basic numeracy skills. Failing to reverse this trend spells disaster for America's ability to compete in a globalized economy.[4]

- TAX REVENUE. Typically earning too little to pay taxes, each disconnected young person creates a burden for taxpayers of, on average, $13,900 per year in foregone tax revenue.[5]

- UNEMPLOYMENT. High school dropouts face far higher unemployment rates—the rate for adults 25 and older without a high school diploma in 2012 was 12.4 percent, compared to 6.2 percent for people with an associate degree and 4.5 percent for people with a bachelor's degree. Even when they are working, poorly educated Americans in our increasingly knowledge-based economy are unlikely to ever earn more than poverty wages. Weekly earnings for full-time workers over 25 without a high school diploma are just $471—compared to $815 for all full-time workers.[6]

Just as early successes yield optimism and self-confidence, early defeats sow hopelessness and self-doubt.

- HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL SERVICES. Low educational levels and long-term unemployment are both associated with poor physical and mental health as well as greater need for income supports such as housing vouchers, public assistance, and nutrition assistance programs. The additional services and public benefits that disconnected youth typically require cost society about $37,450 per year.[7] The children of disconnected young people (and one in three disconnected young women is a mother) tend to face deprivations in early childhood that lead to behavioral issues and poor school performance, increasing educational costs and heightening the risk that these children, too, will find themselves adrift in adolescence and early adulthood.

- CRIME AND INCARCERATION. One in ten male high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24 is behind bars—a figure that jumps to nearly one in four for young African American men who dropped out.[8] The Vera Institute of Justice has developed a methodology for calculating the cost of prisons to taxpayers and applied it to forty states; they found that the "total per-inmate cost averaged $31,286 and ranged from $14,603 in Kentucky to $60,076 in New York."[9]

Our research shows that the high costs of youth disconnection are not borne equally across American society. In 2012, Measure of America released *One in Seven: Ranking Youth Disconnection in the 25 Largest Metro Areas*, which drew on 2010 demographic information. The report ranked the nation's most populous metropolitan areas in terms of youth

> The children of disconnected young people (and one in three disconnected young women is a mother) tend to face deprivations in early childhood that put them at heightened risk of being disconnected, too.

BOX 1: Who Are Disconnected Youth?

Disconnected youth are people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither in school nor working. Young people in this age range who are working or in school part-time or who are in the military are not considered disconnected. Youth disconnection rates in this report are calculated by Measure of America using employment and enrollment data from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) of the US Census Bureau.

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

disconnection, revealing surprising differences from city to city. Most striking of all, however, were the differences found *within* metropolitan areas, which were much greater than the differences between them. Parts of Washington, DC, for example, had a youth disconnection rate of just 3 percent, whereas others had a rate an astonishing eleven times as high. Metropolitan youth disconnection rates for young people of different racial and ethic groups were found to differ wildly as well.

One in Seven was met with strong interest from those who work with disconnected young people as well as from foundations, the private sector, and the media. The response pointed to an unmet demand for information about the spatial and racial distribution of youth disconnection at the local level coupled with a growing concern about this issue at the national level. This report seeks to answer the demand for more granular data, with metro area maps that show the geography of youth disconnection, tables that break down cities' disconnected youth populations by race, ethnicity, and gender; and a discussion of the arresting disparities in disconnection rates within some cities. It also updates the metro area ranking with the most recent data (2011). More specifically:

- The following section, **What Do the Numbers Show**, paints a picture of youth disconnection for the country as a whole, with metro area rankings and an exploration of the national situation for young women and men of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

- Next up is an exploration of the overall level of human development, poverty, adult unemployment, adult educational

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BOX 2: About Measure of America

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

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

attainment, and residential segregation as **factors associated with youth disconnection.**

• **The Way Forward** issues a call for concerted efforts to reduce youth disconnection, suggesting ambitious but attainable goals for the country.

• For those interested in a closer look at neighborhood variation, the final section is comprised of twenty-five **Metro Area Close-Ups**, each including a map; identification of the best- and worst-performing areas; a breakdown by race, ethnicity, and gender; and a brief exploration of the overall development context.
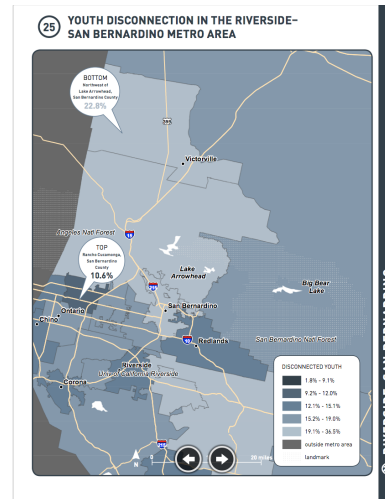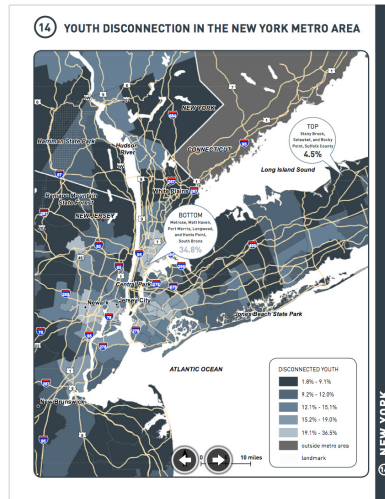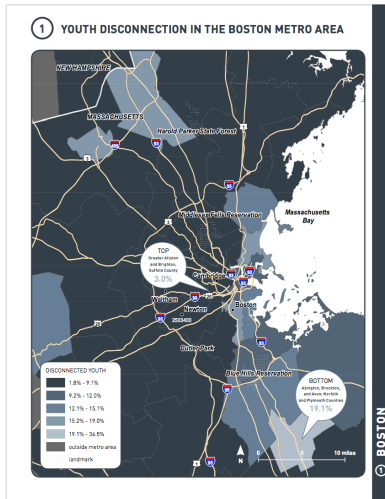
Who Are America's Disconnected Youth?
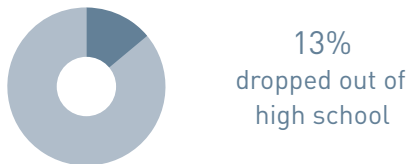
Connected Youth
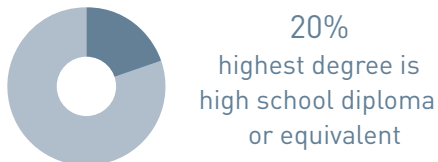
33,903,121
young adults ages 16 to 24

49% — 51%

POVERTY

22%
live in a poor household

EDUCATION

13%
dropped out of high school

EDUCATION

20%
highest degree is high school diploma or equivalent

YOUNG MOTHERHOOD

10%
women with children

DISABILITY

4%
with a disability

Disconnected Youth

5,802,087
young adults ages 16 to 24

47% — 53%

POVERTY

40%
live in a poor household

EDUCATION

31%
dropped out of high school

EDUCATION

47%
highest degree is high school diploma or equivalent

YOUNG MOTHERHOOD

33%
women with children
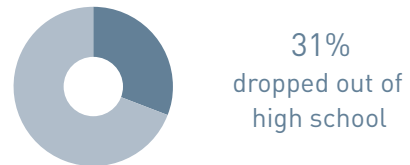
DISABILITY

13%
with a disability

Source: Measure of America analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011 PUMS Microdata.
Note: Women with children includes biological, step, and adopted children.

What Do the Numbers Show?

The Great Recession triggered a surge in youth disconnection from which we have yet to recover. In 2007, about 5 million young Americans were disconnected. By 2010, that figured had swelled to 5.8 million, and it has barely receded since then, although the recession officially ended in June 2009. The total estimated number of disconnected youth for 2011 is 5,802,087, a reduction of only 6,740 young people since 2010. The national youth disconnection rate, 14.6 percent, is little changed since 2010, when the rate was 14.7 percent **(see** SIDEBAR**)**.

The overall national rate of 14.6 percent for all young people ages 16 to 24 years, alarming as it is, obscures rates for some groups of Americans that are more shocking still. Disaggregating the data by race, ethnicity, gender, and neighborhood reveals a profoundly uneven playing field for American young people. Many metro areas have neighborhoods in which nearly all young people are laying the groundwork for fruitful, freely chosen lives, and others where one in every three or four teens and young adults faces a future of economic insecurity and isolation from the mainstream.
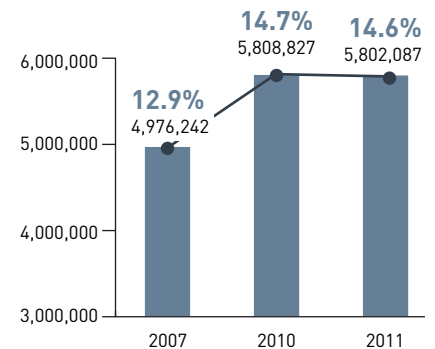
DISCONNECTED YOUTH: RACE AND ETHNICITY

Tremendous variation can be observed among America's major racial and ethnic groups in terms of the disconnection rates of teenagers and young adults **(see** SIDEBAR**)**.

African Americans experience the highest rate of youth disconnection, an astonishing 22.5 percent. African Americans (especially African American young men) lag primarily in their attachment to the workforce. The proportion of all young people ages 16–24 who are employed and not in school is 61.9 percent, but for African American youth, it is 45.2 percent. African American young people also trail other young Americans in school enrollment, 59 percent versus 61.7 percent, but the education gap is not nearly as large as the employment gap **(see** TABLE 1**).**

Latinos have the second-highest youth disconnection rate, 17.9 percent. For Latinos, attachment to education is the key challenge. While they are about as likely as other young people to have a job (60.5 percent), they are much less likely to be enrolled in school (54.6 percent compared to the national figure of 61.7 percent).

The Disconnection Rate Rose During the Great Recession and Has Yet to Recede

Source: Measure of America analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2007, 2010, and 2011 PUMS Microdata File.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity
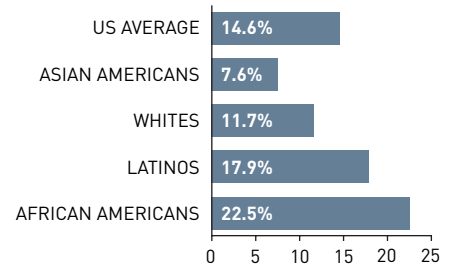
Source: Measure of America analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011 PUMS Microdata File.

METRO AREA	EMPLOYMENT-TO-POPULATION RATIO (ALL YOUTH 16–24)	EMPLOYMENT-TO-POPULATION RATIO (% AGES 16–24 NOT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% AGES 16–24)
United States	45.7	61.9	61.7
All Women	46.5	60.0	64.7
All Men	44.9	63.4	58.8
African Americans	34.5	45.2	59.0
African American Women	37.7	49.4	62.5
African American Men	31.4	41.7	55.5
Latinos	44.1	60.5	54.6
Latinas	40.8	52.6	58.6
Latino Men	47.0	66.5	51.1

Source: Measure of America analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011 PUMS Microdata File.

Whites have a youth disconnection rate of 11.7 percent, better than the national average by about 3 percentage points, and about half the rate for African Americans. But this is not cause for celebration; one in nine white teens and young adults is out of school and work. In addition, the rate varies tremendously by metro area, as discussed below.
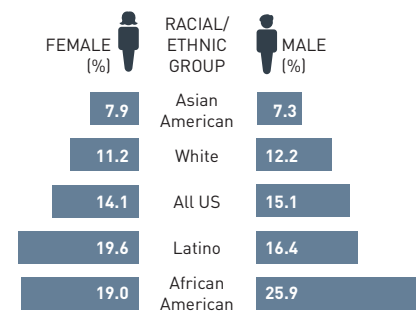
Asian Americans have the lowest youth disconnection rate, 7.6 percent, close to half the national rate and a third the rate of African Americans. Asian American young people are strongly attached to education, with an educational enrollment rate for youth ages 16–24 years head and shoulders above other groups. As will be discussed later in greater detail **(see PAGE 21)**, the educational attainment of adults in a community is strongly associated with youth connectedness in that community. Half of all Asian American adults have at least a four-year bachelor's degree, and a fifth hold graduate degrees—about double the rates for all American adults.

DISCONNECTED YOUTH: GENDER

At the national level, **young women** are more likely to be connected to school, work, or both than are **young men**; the female youth disconnection rate is 14.1 percent, the male rate, 15.1 percent **(see SIDEBAR)**. Historically, young women had been more likely than young men to be neither working nor in school; in fact, that was the case up to 2007.[10] By 2010, however, the ranks of the disconnected had grown by about 638,000 men and only 194,000 women. Women's better outcomes are part of a longer-term trend of greater female attachment to school

One in nine white teens and young adults is out of school and work.

Youth Disconnection by Gender in the United States

FEMALE (%)	RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP	MALE (%)
7.9	Asian American	7.3
11.2	White	12.2
14.1	All US	15.1
19.6	Latino	16.4
19.0	African American	25.9

Measure of America analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011 PUMS Microdata File.

and work, though the Great Recession may have hastened the flip. For instance, the majority of current postsecondary school students are women, as are the majority of recent high school and college graduates.

The national pattern for young women and men is mirrored for whites (11.2 percent versus 12.2 percent) and for African Americans (19 percent versus 25.9 percent, the largest gender gap for any racial or ethnic group). The rates for Asian American young women and young men are the closest of any major ethnic group. Among Latino young people, women are significantly more likely than men to be disconnected, 19.6 percent versus 16.4.

One in every three disconnected young women between 16 and 24 years old is a mother, more than triple the rate among connected young women in that age group. Mainstream assumptions about motherhood and youth disconnection—namely that the former causes the latter—are overly simplistic. A young woman who becomes a mother in her teens is often already disconnected, or only tenuously attached to school or work; she may see very few viable, rewarding routes to adulthood, and motherhood may be the most accessible and appealing option. Connected young women don't necessarily forgo the joys of motherhood, but they tend to postpone them to first experience other joys—going to college, embarking on a career, living on their own, dating, and having fun.[11]

DISCONNECTED YOUTH: METRO AREAS

A metropolitan area is defined as a central city and the surrounding towns, suburbs, and exurbs with strong economic and social ties to it. Metro area boundaries are defined by the White House Office of Management and Budget. The country's twenty-five most populous metropolitan areas, the focus of this report, are home to roughly 40 percent of Americans. Overall, people living in major metropolitan areas enjoy higher levels of well-being than the average American—they have more education, they earn more, and they enjoy better health.[12] However, America's big cities are home to extremes in well-being, and sharp residential segregation by income and race leads to concentrations of poverty and disconnection as well as islands of affluence. Metro areas are a particularly meaningful unit of analysis for assessing youth disconnection because of the regional nature of higher education and labor markets.

Total Number of Disconnected Youth

Pittsburgh: **38,796**

Minneapolis–St. Paul: **45,016**

Denver: **47,880**

San Antonio: **48,023**

Portland: **48,871**

St. Louis: **49,011**

Tampa–St. Peterburg: **49,519**

Baltimore: **50,044**

Charlotte: **52,803**

San Diego: **55,655**

Seattle: **57,744**

San Francisco: **58,615**

Boston: **61,561**

Detroit: **87,170**

Washington, DC: **87,581**

Phoenix: **93,484**

Miami: **106,925**

Houston: **108,662**

Philadelphia: **111,725**

Riverside–San Bernardino: **116,504**

Atlanta: **126,011**

Dallas–Ft.Worth: **128,095**

Chicago: **166,047**

Los Angeles: **257,654**

New York: **353,447**

TOP THREE

The best-performing metro area is **Boston,** with a youth disconnection rate of 9.2. **Minneapolis–St. Paul** is close on Boston's heels with a rate of 9.5 percent, and **Washington, DC,** comes in third with a rate of 11.3 percent.

BOTTOM THREE

The **Riverside–San Bernardino** metro area takes last place in the ranking this year, with a youth disconnection rate of 18.8 percent. **Detroit** (17.4 percent) and **Charlotte** (17.3 percent) rounded out the bottom three. Charlotte was not part of the analysis in *One in Seven*. Since that 2012 report, the Office of Management and Budget has enlarged the Charlotte metro area by four additional counties, increasing its population, and Charlotte is now one of the twenty-five most populous metro areas (knocking Sacramento off the list).

Deeper exploration of the situation within each of these metro areas can be found in Metro Area Close-Ups starting on .

METRO AREA VARIATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

Even in top-performing cities, not all groups are doing well. In all three of the best-performing metro areas, white youth have low rates of disconnection, just above 7 percent. But African American and Latino young people are living a different reality. Boston's Latino youth disconnection rate is 18.6 percent, and in both Minneapolis and Washington, one in five African American young people is disconnected.

This variation by place and race within the top and bottom metro areas is found in big cities across America. Yet inequality is more pronounced and extreme in some than in others. In some cities, one group is doing particularly well while another group is doing particularly badly. Chicago, for example, has one of the lowest rates of Latino youth disconnection alongside one of the highest rates of African American youth disconnection.

The cities with the lowest disconnection rates for **African American** young people are Boston (14.2 percent), Houston (16.5 percent), and San Diego (19 percent). On the other hand, about one in five African American young people in Detroit, Philadelphia, and Chicago is disconnected, the

Least Disconnection

1. Boston
2. Minneapolis–St. Paul
3. Washington, DC

Most Disconnection

23. Charlotte
24. Detroit
25. Riverside–
    San Bernardino

In some cities, one group is doing particularly well while another group is doing particularly badly. Chicago has one of the lowest rates of Latino youth disconnection alongside one of the highest rates of African American youth disconnection.

RANK	METRO AREA	ALL	AFRICAN AMERICAN	ASIAN AMERICAN	LATINO	WHITE
			DISCONNECTED YOUTH (%)			
	United States	**14.6**	**22.5**	**7.6**	**17.9**	**11.7**
1	Boston	9.2	14.2	...	18.6	7.2
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4	San Diego	12.2	19.0	...	16.1	8.2
5	San Francisco	12.3	19.4	8.5	14.3	11.0
6	Pittsburgh	12.6	24.8	...	...	10.3
7	Denver	13.0	...	...	18.2	10.0
8	Seattle	13.2	21.2	9.3	18.3	12.1
9	Chicago	14.1	24.9	...	15.6	9.2
10	Houston	14.1	16.5	7.6	16.2	11.2
11	St. Louis	14.2	24.9	...	...	10.3
12	Philadelphia	14.3	25.2	...	24.0	8.9
13	Baltimore	14.3	22.4	...	...	10.7
14	New York	14.5	23.3	6.5	18.5	9.8
15	Los Angeles	14.6	22.5	7.8	17.2	10.5
16	Dallas–Fort Worth	14.9	19.3	...	17.6	12.4
17	San Antonio	15.6	...	...	17.2	12.0
18	Tampa–St. Peterburg	15.8	22.3	...	18.6	13.2
19	Miami	16.0	21.0	...	16.6	10.8
20	Atlanta	16.8	21.1	...	16.5	14.1
21	Portland	17.0	...	...	20.2	16.0
22	Phoenix	17.2	22.5	...	22.3	12.2
23	Charlotte	17.3	21.4	...	...	16.7
24	Detroit	17.4	26.9	...	19.5	12.8
25	Riverside–San Bernardino	18.8	24.5	...	19.4	17.5

Note: ... Data unavailable because there are too few 16– to 24–year-olds to allow for reliable calculations. Source: Measure of America analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011 PUMS Microdata File.

highest rate not only for African Americans but also for any group in any of the twenty-five cities.

Only five cities have a sufficiently large population of **Asian American** young people in the 16–24 age range to calculate youth disconnection rates; their range of youth disconnection is narrowest, from 6.5 percent in New York to 9.3 percent in Seattle.

For **Latinos**, Washington (11.2 percent), San Francisco (14.3 percent), and Chicago (15.6 percent) have the lowest rates of youth disconnection,

and Philadelphia (24 percent), Phoenix (22.3 percent), and Portland (20.2 percent) the highest. Latinos have the widest range in rates across the twenty-five metro areas, a span of 12.8 percentage points.

For **whites,** the lowest disconnection rates are found in Minneapolis (7.2 percent), Boston (7.2 percent), and Washington (7.4 percent); the most disconnected cities are Riverside–San Bernardino (17.5 percent), Charlotte (16.7 percent), and Portland (16 percent).

The highest disconnection rate for **Asian Americans** is lower than the lowest rate for African Americans or Latinos. In no city do either Asian Americans or whites have higher disconnection rates that African Americans or Latinos.

A final way to analyze racial and ethnic disparities is to look at gaps between groups within cities. In this analysis, **New York** has the dubious distinction of having the biggest racial gap; Asian Americans have a youth disconnection rate of just 6.5 percent, but African Americans have a rate of 23.3 percent—a nearly four-fold difference. **Philadelphia**, where the African American youth disconnection rate is 25.2 percent and the white rate is 8.9 percent, has the second-largest gap between two racial or ethnic groups among the twenty-five largest metro areas. **Chicago** registers a 15.7 percentage point gap between whites and African Americans, the third-largest gap. The smallest racial/ethnic disparities in youth disconnection are found in **Portland**, where the gap between whites and Latinos is just 4.2 percentage points, and **Charlotte**, where the variation between those groups is 4.7 percentage points.

METRO AREA VARIATION BY NEIGHBORHOOD

While understanding variation in youth disconnection from city to city provides useful context, agencies and organizations on the ground need more granular data to target their assistance today and to track their impact tomorrow. This report uses census-defined geographic areas called Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) to analyze variation by neighborhood (see **BOX 3**). The nearly nine hundred PUMAs that make up these twenty-five metro areas all have roughly equal populations, enabling apples-to-apples comparisons, and are all built on counties or, in densely populated areas, on parts of counties.

The range in youth disconnection rates by neighborhood is huge in some cities, comparatively narrow in others. The starkest inequalities are

New York has the dubious distinction of having the biggest racial gap; Asian Americans have a youth disconnection rate of just 6.5 percent, but African Americans have a rate of 23.3 percent.

found in **Chicago**, **New York**, and **Detroit,** in that order. In these cities, gaps of 30 percentage points separate the most- and least-connected communities. Yet they fall at different places in the twenty-five metro area rankings. Detroit is twenty-forth; only one metro area in this study faces greater disconnection challenges. Chicago ranks ninth, and New York fourteenth.

However, these three cities do have something in common: they are the three most racially segregated of the twenty-five most populous metro areas.[13] Detroit is the most segregated city in America, with an almost entirely African American inner city and overwhelmingly white suburbs. Of the twenty-five most populous metro areas, New York is the second-most segregated. While Queens and the Bronx are diverse, Manhattan is cleaved in two by 125th street, almost as though a Berlin wall existed there; below, it is mostly white, except for Chinatown; above, chiefly African American and Latino. The New York City borough of Brooklyn is likewise sharply divided into white and African American neighborhoods. And Chicago is number three in terms of residential segregation by race among the populous metros, with mostly African American South and West Sides, overwhelmingly white suburbs, and pockets that are heavily Latino. Further discussion of the relationship between residential segregation by race and ethnicity and youth disconnection is below.

Portland (12.2 percentage points), **Riverside-San Bernardino** (12.2 percentage points), and **Minneapolis–St. Paul** (13 percentage points) have the smallest range of youth disconnection among neighborhoods. Portland (twenty-first) and Riverside-San Bernardino (twenty-fifth) have very high disconnection rates overall, but Minneapolis is low

> In **Chicago**, **New York**, and **Detroit** gaps of 30 percentage points separate the most- and least-connected communities. They are the three most racially segregated of the twenty-five most populous metro areas.

BOX 3: How are neighborhood clusters defined?

The neighborhoods and neighborhood clusters in this study are geographic units defined by the US Census Bureau that are called Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs). They each contain at least one hundred thousand people and most have fewer than two hundred thousand. In less populated areas, a PUMA is made up of one county or a group of contiguous counties. In more densely populated metro areas, a county is carved up into many PUMAs. The number of PUMAs varies widely among the twenty-five most populous metro areas: the New York metro area has the most PUMAs, one hundred forty-one, and the San Antonio metro area has the fewest, fourteen.

PUMAs are not perfect; within metro areas, they do not always line up neatly with boundaries that residents readily recognize and sometimes combine dissimilar communities, obscuring important differences. However, they allow for a far more granular level of analysis within metropolitan areas than would be afforded by other available geographic units, such as congressional districts or counties, which can range in size from a few hundred people to nearly ten million in Los Angeles County.

(second). The gap is relatively small in the Inland Empire because most neighborhoods are doing poorly, and even the best-performing area of the city still has a disconnection rate of 10.6 percent, higher than the overall metro area score for all of Boston and Minneapolis. In Portland, the lowest rate, 7.2 percent, is still higher than the lows in many other cities, and its high, 19.4 percent, is well below the highs found elsewhere. In Minneapolis, the whole range is shifted downward, with a low of 4.1 percent and a high of 17.1 percent.

The **Metro Area Close-Ups** that appear later in the report provide a detailed portrait of disconnection in each of the nation's most populous twenty-five cities, with data by race and ethnicity, gender, and neighborhood, and a roundup of key statistics on well-being and demographics.

What drives these profoundly different outcomes for young people of different backgrounds and in different cities and neighborhoods? Identifying causality can seem at times to be social science's version of the search for Big Foot, and common sense tells us that a complex problem like youth disconnection cannot be traced to a single cause. Nonetheless, it is clear that certain factors are strongly associated with youth disconnection. The next section will explore some of these issues.

Factors Associated with Youth Disconnection

Disconnected young people come overwhelmingly from disconnected neighborhoods—neighborhoods where entrenched poverty, residential segregation by race and income, low levels of education, and high rates of unemployment conspire to isolate whole communities from the mainstream.

Our research using the census-defined PUMAs shows that high rates of youth disconnection in the country's twenty-five most populous metropolitan areas are strongly associated with the following six factors: high rates of disconnection a decade ago, low levels of human development, high rates of poverty, high rates of adult unemployment, low levels of adult educational attainment, and a high degree of racial segregation.

Although the factors discussed below are only *correlated* with youth disconnection—and cannot be said to *cause* youth disconnection—the associations are sufficiently robust to suggest strongly that these factors, singly and in concert, constrain the choices and opportunities of young people and hobble their chances for a successful transition to adulthood.

High rates of disconnection a decade ago. The rate of youth disconnection by neighborhood cluster in 2000 is highly predictive of the rate of youth disconnection there today. Analyzing the roughly two thousand PUMAs in the United States, we find that neighborhood-level youth disconnection in 2000 explains about 74 percent of the variation in disconnection in those same neighborhoods at the end of the decade (2011); this relationship holds true even when controlling for population growth and demographic change.

That disconnected communities today were by and large disconnected communities a decade ago is alarming for three reasons:

1. It suggests an **absence of effective action** on the scale necessary to make meaningful change. Over the last decade, concerted efforts to prevent disengagement or reattach disconnect youth in our worse-off communities have either been absent, used ineffective approaches, or used effective approaches but reached far too few young people—or some mix of all three.

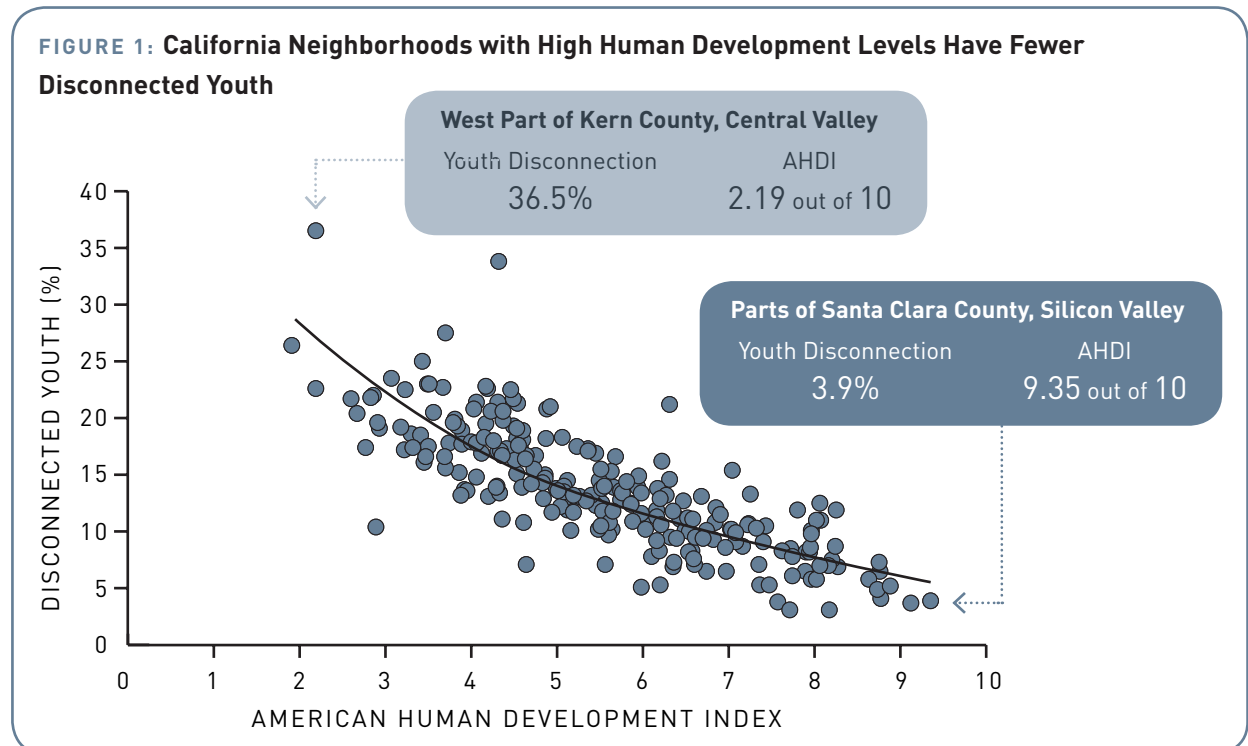**Six factors strongly associated with youth disconnection:**

HIGH

LOW

- Disconnection rates in 2000
- Poverty
- Adult unemployment
- Racial segregation

- Human development
- Adult educational attainment

Disconnected communities today were by and large disconnected communities a decade ago.

2. It speaks to a pernicious **persistence of human poverty** in these communities—not just a lack of money, but also a paucity of the other ingredients of a freely chosen, rewarding life, such as access to knowledge, strong social networks, and civic engagement.

3. It means that **youth disconnection is a normative experience** in these communities. When today's disconnected young people were in elementary school, as many as three in ten of the teens and young adults in their lives were not working or in school, shaping their own expectations about the future.

Low levels of human development. Human development is about improving people's well-being and expanding their choices and opportunities. We gauge human development with the American Human Development Index (AHDI), a composite measure focused on the basic ingredients of a good life and comprised of health, education, and income indicators. High levels of youth disconnection are associated with low scores on the AHDI. **FIGURE 1** shows the relationship between a neighborhood cluster's AHDI score and its rate of youth disconnection for the state of California. In communities with high human development levels, young people have many opportunities to connect to school and work and greater access to adults with the skills, networks, and experience to help them navigate the transition to adulthood.

> In communities with high human development levels, young people have many opportunities to connect to school and work and greater access to adults with the skills, networks, and experience to help them navigate the transition to adulthood.

FIGURE 1: California Neighborhoods with High Human Development Levels Have Fewer Disconnected Youth

West Part of Kern County, Central Valley
Youth Disconnection AHDI
36.5% 2.19 out of 10

Parts of Santa Clara County, Silicon Valley
Youth Disconnection AHDI
3.9% 9.35 out of 10

DISCONNECTED YOUTH (%)

AMERICAN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

High rates of poverty. Disconnected young people are concentrated in high-poverty neighborhoods isolated from mainstream social and economic systems. Such neighborhoods tend to be ill-served by public transportation, education, and health systems and have low levels of social capital and trust; the key ingredients for building a promising future are in short supply. In high-poverty neighborhoods, one in five young people is disconnected, as compared with only about one in fourteen for youth in low-poverty neighborhoods. Low-poverty neighborhoods are those with a poverty rate below 5.5 percent. High-poverty neighborhoods have a poverty rate above 21.4 percent.

High rates of adult unemployment. High adult unemployment and high youth disconnection go hand in hand. Adults whose own connection to the labor market is tenuous have few contacts to pass on to the teens and young adults in their lives, and the job and career advice they have to offer may not be helpful. In the nearly nine hundred neighborhood clusters analyzed for this report, there was a strong positive relationship between adult employment and youth connection to school and work.

Low levels of adult educational attainment. The link between adult educational attainment and youth connection can be seen at both the metro area and neighborhood levels. The best metro areas for youth connection are also among the best performing in terms of adult education. Boston has a high concentration of students, to be sure, but it also has an unusually well-educated adult population; comparatively few adults lack a high school degree (just 9.4 percent), four in ten adults have completed at least a bachelor's degree, and two in ten adults hold graduate degrees. Minneapolis also enjoys high levels of adult educational attainment, including the smallest share of adults who lack a high school diploma among the twenty-five largest metro areas. Washington adults register the country's highest educational levels: nearly half have at least a bachelor's degree, and nearly a quarter have graduate degrees.

A high degree of residential segregation by race. By and large, the neighborhoods at either end of the connection-disconnection spectrum are extremely segregated. Parts of metro areas with disconnection rates below 5 percent are overwhelmingly white; parts of metro areas with disconnection rates upward of 20 percent are overwhelmingly composed of minority groups. There are exceptions, but some turn out to be exceptions that prove the rule. For instance, many high-connection, racially diverse neighborhoods are home to colleges and universities with large, transient student populations. However, other exceptions

Disconnected Youth Are Three Times as Likely to Come from Poor Neighborhoods
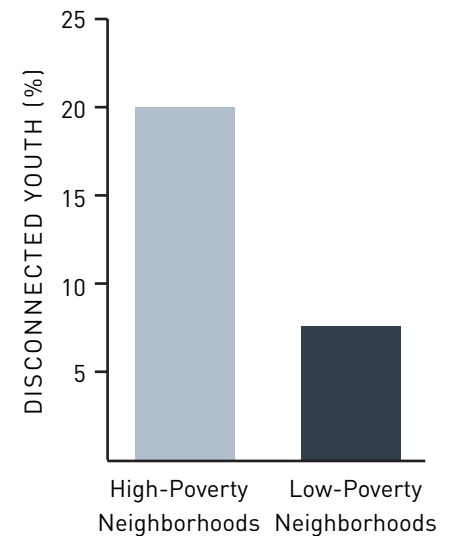
The best metro areas for youth connection are also among the best performing in terms of adult education.

show clearly that race and ethnicity are not deterministic; in Miami, for instance, some of the most connected areas are largely Latino.

Today's de facto residential segregation by race and ethnicity in metro areas as well as the disproportionate poverty people of color experience overlap and contribute to youth disconnection in a variety of ways. A significant portion of school funding is derived from local property taxes, putting low-income communities at a tremendous funding disadvantage that contributes to poor educational outcomes, such as high drop-out rates. Residential segregation means that low-income people of color are frequently isolated in neighborhoods far from employment opportunities and ill-served by public transportation. Finally, residential segregation results in low-income families of color tending to live among others who share their financial circumstances, thus limiting their access to the broader social networks and connections so vital for employment. Making progress on reducing youth disconnection will in many cases require overcoming the distressingly persistent legacies of our country's history of discrimination and exclusion.

Today's de facto residential segregation by race and ethnicity in metro areas as well as the disproportionate poverty people of color experience overlap and contribute to youth disconnection in a variety of ways.

The Way Forward

Measure of America's work on disconnected youth has made one point abundantly clear: youth disconnection is a stubborn and complex problem with no easy solution.

The current focus of many actors is on job readiness and jobs. Jobs are doubtless a key part of the puzzle. Private sector firms that establish mentoring, internship, and entry-level jobs programs are providing a vital, much-needed service. Excellent organizations and coalitions are on the ground across the country helping young people develop the skills they need to get their lives on track. New educational models that make high school more compelling and relevant to at-risk kids, build on-the-job experience into the curriculum, and create clear school-to-work pathways are taking hold.

But more is needed. Many of these adrift young people have challenges that extend well beyond getting that first job or completing a GED. As the above analysis makes clear, the typical disconnected youth has had a limited, low-quality education and has grown up in poverty, surrounded by others who are likewise disadvantaged in a neighborhood where youth disconnection is so entrenched as to be normative. The adults in this young person's life also struggle with connection—they have little education, are frequently out of work, and have limited social networks.

It's not enough to offer narrow interventions late in the game. Social and economic conditions in the country as a whole and in the neighborhoods where the overwhelming majority of these young people grow up shape the choices and opportunities open to them. Looking only at the ranks of disconnected youth that swelled from 5 million in 2007 to 5.8 million by 2010, the economic downturn took the opportunities of hundreds of thousands of young people along with it. And no recovery is in sight in the low-income neighborhoods where the lion's share of these youth live.

The youth disconnection crisis requires three sets of actions of us as a society. First, we must take active steps to reengage and reconnect young people who are disconnected today. Second, we need to prevent disconnection in the future by improving the conditions and opportunities in today's high-disconnection communities. And third, organizations and individuals actively working in this area must join together to establish measureable, time-bound targets for reducing youth disconnection; these targets should be ambitious, tailored to the

The crisis of youth disconnection requires three sets of actions of us as a society:

1. Anchor Disconnected Youth

2. Prevent Disconnection

3. Halve the Gap by 2030

on-the-ground realities of different cities, and based on an accelerated, but achievable, rate of progress.

Anchor Disconnected Youth

Historically, second-chance programs for adolescents and young adults have had limited success.[14] But new models have shown great promise in recent years by not only providing job training but also connecting young people to employment and support services. In addition, consensus is growing that the problem of youth disconnection requires that the different agencies and systems that deal with disconnected youth align their resources such that their collective impact is greater than the sum of their parts. The Aspen Forum for Community Solutions has just awarded grants to twenty-one partners that will test a variety of community-level approaches to connecting disconnected young people to school and work. All will employ cross-sectoral, collaborative means that bring education, the foster care system, the justice system, philanthropic organizations, and the private sector together to help disconnected youth transition to a productive adulthood. The hope is that from these pilot efforts will emerge high-quality evidence about what works.

Prevent Disconnection

It is easier and cheaper—not to mention kinder and more just—to keep young people in school and on track than to reengage them as teens and young adults. This requires ensuring that children are ready to learn when they start school, that they remain attached to educational institutions through high school, and that viable, attractive postsecondary options exist for young people who do not choose a traditional, four-year bachelor's degree program.

How to prevent youth disconnection is not a mystery. But it does requires a number of steps:

Support young parents. Programs like the Nurse Family Partnership help fragile families, particularly young parents with little education, learn the skills they need to be the parents they want to be with early interventions—and break the inter-generational transmission of disconnection.

Give at-risk children access to high-quality, center-based preschool programs. Preschool may seem a long way off from these young adult years. But preschool is not just about learning to count and write the ABCs. Research shows that a quality preschool experience has a higher

It is easier and cheaper—not to mention kinder and more just—to keep young people in school and on track than to reengage them as teens and young adults.

return than any other educational investment. By teaching critical social and emotional skills like persistence, impulse control, and emotional regulation, high-quality preschool prepares children to succeed in school; the benefits of these noncognitive skills compound over time, resulting in higher high school graduation rates, less crime, fewer behavioral problems, fewer teen births, greater workforce attachment, and higher wages.[15] Momentum is growing around the country for universal access to preschool, and local-level programs like those recently launched in Washington, DC, and Los Angeles have shown how such programs meet the needs of parents as well as children.

Get schools to act on dropout warning signs. Keeping children from leaving school is easier than getting them back. Repeating a grade, failing more than one class, and frequent absence from school are well-known early warning signs that a child is at heightened risk for dropping out. Such children require early identification and intensive services to address the obstacles they face to school success—which can range from learning disabilities to problems at home.

Give at-risk children the supportive services they need. Disabled youth, youth in juvenile detention or residential medical facilities, runaways, youth aging out of foster care, young parents, and young people facing mental illness or severe family crisis all face a heightened risk of youth disconnection. Though their challenges are varied, their numbers are sufficiently few to make a meaningful response possible. Greater coordination across the systems and agencies that assist these vulnerable populations is needed to generate collective impact.

Embrace our boys and young men of color. Young men of color in American society today are disproportionately marginalized in school, monitored in their neighborhoods, discriminated against in the labor market, and put behind bars. School discipline practices are pushing African American and Latino boys out of the classroom due to the lack of culturally competent curricula and loosely defined, unevenly applied suspension and expulsion practices. Policing practices like New York's stop-and-frisk policy, recently ruled unconstitutional, subject hundreds of thousands of innocent African American and Latino young men to police stops and street interrogation.[16] A dismaying 2009 study found that African American job applicants were half as likely as equally qualified white applicants to receive a callback or job offer—and about as likely to be offered a job as a white applicant just released from prison.[17] The high rates of youth disconnection among young people of color in our cities gives lie to the nation's promise of equality. Our education and justice

> Young men of color in American society today are disproportionately marginalized in school, monitored in their neighborhoods, discriminated against in the labor market, and put behind bars.

systems must take a different approach, one in which the vast resources now deployed to isolate and disenfranchise black and brown boys and men are instead deployed in support of their hopes and dreams.

Make meaningful postsecondary options available to all young people, including those who are not bound for a four-year bachelor's degree program. Career and technical paths that are linked to internships, job placement, life skills classes, and postsecondary certificate or degree programs can build bridges to a productive, rewarding adulthood for young people whose interests and aspirations are not best served by a traditional bachelor's degree program. In many European countries, the majority of students undertake a vocational track for secondary education. Already, many programs that link career and technical education in high school to postsecondary institutions and jobs have shown promise in the United States.

Preventing disconnection is not just the job of schools. It also requires improving the conditions in low-income communities. This means improving transportation between poor and more affluent neighborhoods, so that residents can access often-distant jobs and educational opportunities. It means changing the relationship between communities and the police so that streets are safe but young men of color are not disproportionately targeted for tactics like stop and frisk that can leave them at a permanent disadvantage in the labor market. And it means tackling racial discrimination as well as concentrated poverty and residential segregation, whose pernicious effects on youth opportunity are well documented.

Our alternatives are clear: we can pay now, or we can pay later. We can pay now by investing in supportive interventions with fragile families, high-quality preschool, wrap-around schools for poor children, relevant high school curricula that includes career and technical education, apprenticeship and other "on ramp" programs for young people, greater assistance to low-income young people to attend college and certificate programs, and jobs programs that target disconnected young people. Or we can pay later, picking up the tab for juvenile justice, incarceration, crime, public assistance, higher health costs, reduced American competitiveness, and lost tax revenues.

Preventing disconnection is not just the job of schools. It also requires improving the conditions in low-income communities.

Halve the Gap by 2030!

What if the diverse actors who work with disconnected young people—educational institutions, social service delivery organizations, the justice system, the private and nonprofit sectors, and others—not only agreed to coordinate, work together, and build synergies but also decided **what exactly success would look like?** What if this success was defined not by meetings held, dollars spent, classes conducted, reports written, and best practices identified but rather by **a decrease in the youth disconnection rate?**

Our recommendation is that the key relevant actors join together to set an ambitious target, namely, to **halve the gap by 2030.**

Many readers may think that a proposal to get the stakeholders involved in this issue to agree on a shared target is naïve. We would counter that it can hardly be more difficult than getting all the world's political leaders to sign on to not one but eight ambitious global goals to fight poverty—yet that is what happened in 2000 with the Millennium Development Goals, an ambitious plan to dramatically reduce extreme poverty that has accelerated progress around the world (see **BOX 4**).

What might halving the gap look like? Setting a goal to cut the national youth disconnection rate from 14.6 to 7.3 percent by 2030 is appealing in its simplicity. However, a national goal is too removed from the on-the-ground efforts in communities across the country required to meet it. More motivating and meaningful would be to adopt the goal of cutting in half the gap between neighborhoods and between racial and ethnic groups **within each metro area.** This formulation is at once universal and

> The US is falling behind many other countries in using data not just to establish baselines and measure progress but also to **set ambitious goals.**

BOX 4: Setting targets, tracking progress, meeting goals

Interest in metrics and outcome measurement has been growing in the United States in recent years. Where the US is falling behind many other countries and the international development community, however, is in using data not just to establish baselines and measure progress but also to **set ambitious goals** around which a group of actors can rally.

The Millennium Development Goals, eight ambitious, time-bound targets for ending extreme deprivation by 2015, are an excellent example of this sort of effort. In 2000, heads-of-state from nearly every country in the world pledged to cut extreme poverty in half, achieve universal primary education, reduce the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds, halt the spread of AIDS, and more from a 1990 starting point to a 2015 end-date. The Goals galvanized resources and action and encouraged diverse actors to pull together toward the same ends. Though not all targets will be met by 2015, some already have been, among them the safe water, education, extreme poverty, and hunger targets.

particular. Here's how it would work using Philadelphia and Denver as examples.

In **Philadelphia**, the African American youth disconnection rate is 25.2 percent, and the white rate is 8.9 percent—a gap of 16.3 percentage points. In terms of neighborhood clusters, the highest youth disconnection rate is 30 percent, the lowest 3.2—a gap of 26.8 percentage points. The target would be no more than 8.15 percentage points separating African Americans and whites, and no more than 13.4 percentage points separating neighborhoods. These target gaps are still large, but given how vast the current gaps are, these reductions would represent significant, achievable objectives.

In **Denver**, the Latino disconnection rate is 18.2 percent, and the white rate is 10 percent, a gap of 8.2 percentage points. In terms of neighborhood clusters, the highest youth disconnection rate is 26.4 percent, the lowest 6.2—a gap of 20.2 percentage points. The target gaps for 2030 in Denver are smaller than the target gaps in Philadelphia simply because Denver has a slightly shorter road to travel.

Of course, another way to close these gaps would be for the best-performing groups to get worse. **In order to make real progress toward this goal, the overall metro area and the best-performing groups must not backslide.**

Why do we advocate only halving the gap, not eliminating disconnection entirely? A zero percent disconnection rate is unrealistic. There will always be young people who withdraw from school and work for a limited or prolonged period due to misfortune, such as an accident, crisis, or serious physical or mental illness; in order to care for a new baby or an ailing or disabled relative; or to take an extended trip or prepare for a difficult professional exam, among other reasons. About 3 percent is the lowest observed disconnection rate for the neighborhood clusters in this study.

If the end date for halving the gap is 2030, then the oldest of the 16–24 target age group are seven years old today, and the youngest will not be born until next year. There is still ample time to prevent even the oldest cohort, now first and second graders, from becoming detached from school, and at least half of them can benefit from preschool.

Disconnected young people are a difficult population to serve. They are nearly adult, sometimes truculent, often sexually active, and vexingly prone to take actions that defy common sense. They are associated

Halve the Gap in Philadelphia
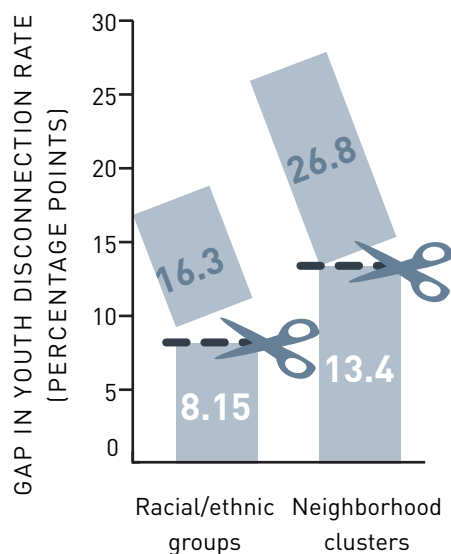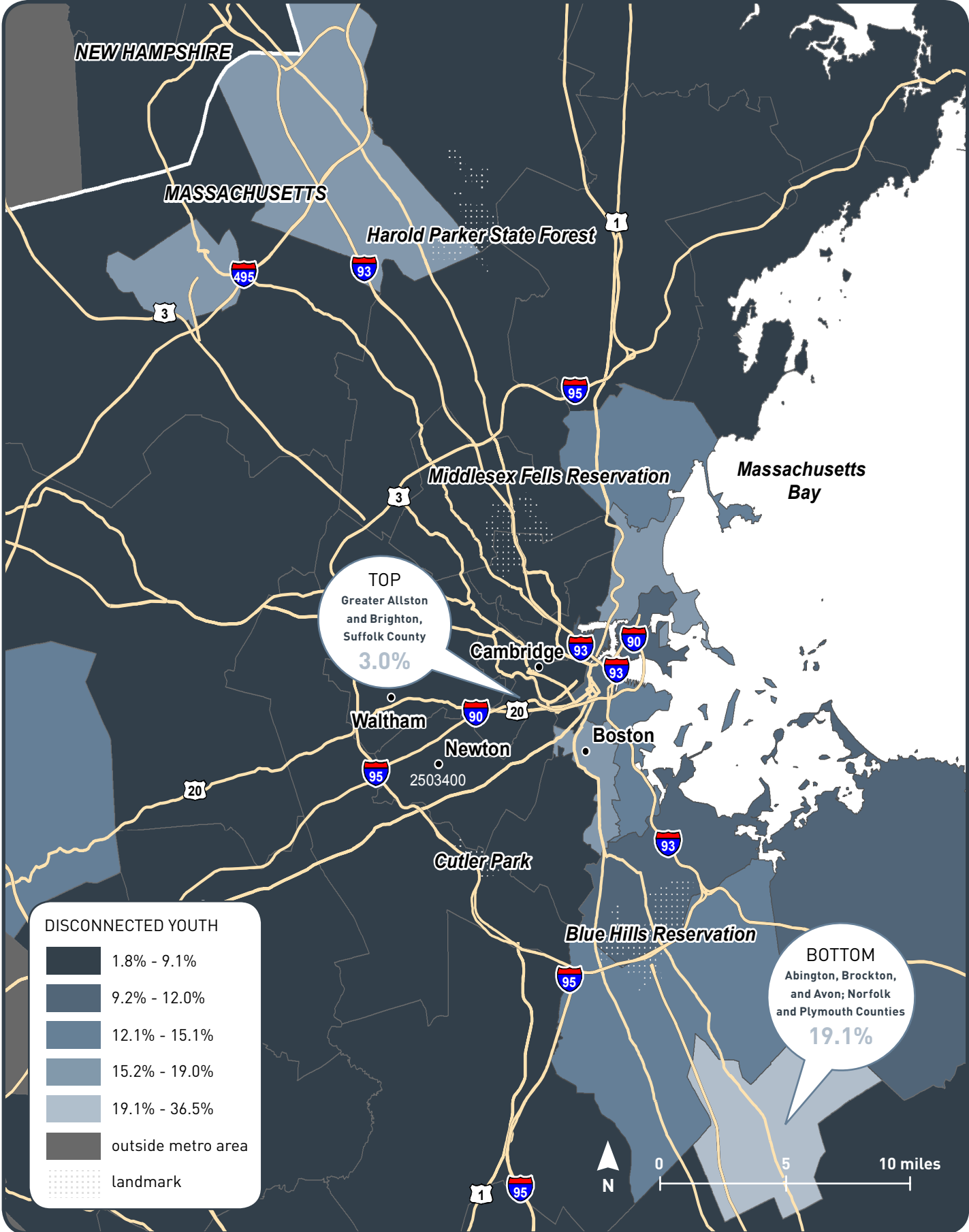

Halve the Gap in Denver
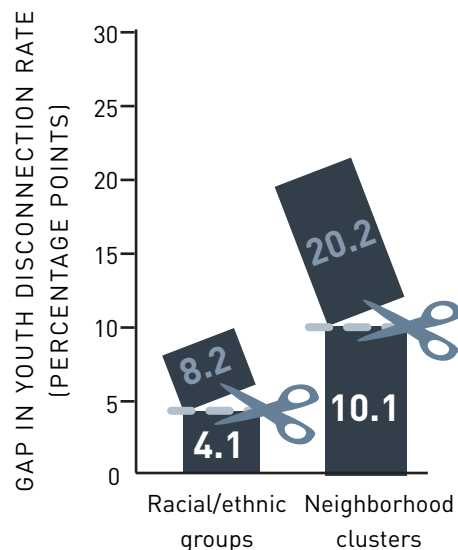
with, and even blamed for, a raft of societal ills like crime, gangs, and teen pregnancy. It doesn't help that, like most teens and young adults, they sometimes do things that madden their elders, expose them to seemingly pointless risk, and run counter to their best interests. But unlike their connected counterparts, disconnected youth are very often not attached to structures and embedded in communities that have sufficient resources to channel their energies productively, limit their scope for acting on bad decisions, provide some protection from the consequences of poor judgment, or offer tangible incentives for staying on track.

This group can be hard to help—but we can't give up on them. Society has a vested interest in supporting their efforts to find purpose, meaning, and a productive place in the mainstream.

The following **Metro Area Close-Ups** zoom in on each of the twenty-five most populous US cities, with maps; rates by race, ethnicity, gender, and neighborhood cluster; and key well-being indicators. They include:

1. Boston
2. Minneapolis–St. Paul
3. Washington, DC
4. San Diego
5. San Francisco
6. Pittsburgh
7. Denver
8. Seattle
9. Chicago
10. Houston
11. St. Louis
12. Philadelphia
13. Baltimore
14. New York
15. Los Angeles
16. Dallas–Ft. Worth
17. San Antonio
18. Tampa–St. Petersburg
19. Miami
20. Atlanta
21. Portland
22. Phoenix
23. Charlotte
24. Detroit
25. Riverside–San Bernardino

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MASSACHUSETTS

Harold Parker State Forest

Middlesex Fells Reservation

Massachusetts Bay

TOP
Greater Allston and Brighton, Suffolk County
3.0%

Cambridge

Waltham

Newton
2503400

Boston

Cutler Park

Blue Hills Reservation

BOTTOM
Abington, Brockton, and Avon; Norfolk and Plymouth Counties
19.1%

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

- 1.8% – 9.1%
- 9.2% – 12.0%
- 12.1% – 15.1%
- 15.2% – 19.0%
- 19.1% – 36.5%
- outside metro area
- landmark

N

0   5   10 miles

The **Boston metro area** is comprised of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, and Suffolk Counties in Massachusettes and Rockingham and Strafford Counties in New Hampshire. The youth disconnection rate in the Boston metro area is 9.2 percent, the best-ranking of the country's twenty-five most populous metro areas. This disconnection rate is 5.4 percentage points better than the national average. Yet even in top-ranked Boston, nearly 62,000 teens and young adults ages 16 to 24 are neither in school nor in the workplace.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Nationally, African American and Latino young people have higher rates of disconnection than their white counterparts. This is the case in Boston as well though Boston's Latinos, rather than African Americans, have the highest disconnection rate; in most metro areas, the African American rate is the highest. In a metro area where conditions are generally quite favorable for young people's connection to the important institutions of school and work, disconnection among Latino youth is very high. Only six other metro areas have higher Latino youth disconnection rates. On the other hand, the African American rate of disconnection, 14.2 percent, is the lowest African American rate of America's major metro areas. The gap between the group with the most (whites) and the least (Latinos) connected youth is 11.4 percentage points.

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

■ Boston
▪ United States

WHITES
7.2%
11.7%

LATINOS
18.6%
17.9%

AFRICAN AMERICANS
14.2%
22.5%

0   5   10   15   20   25
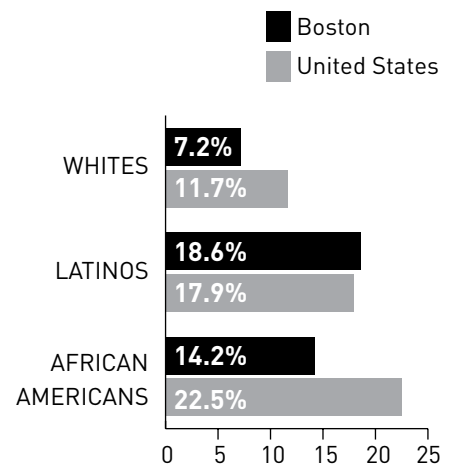
Youth Disconnection by Gender

Beneath Boston's excellent rate of youth connection lies a significant gender gap. While 10.1 percent of young males are neither working nor in school, the female disconnection rate is only 8.3 percent, a gap that is nearly twice the national average. These percentages represent roughly 34,000 young men and 28,000 young women.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Boston metro area is made up of forty-one neighborhood clusters. In the Boston neighborhoods of greater Allston and Brighton, only 3 percent of young people are cut off from school and work; in Abington, Brockton, and Avon, the rate is more than six times that, 19.1 percent. The three neighborhood clusters with the highest rates of youth disconnection all have far larger African American or Latino shares of their population than the Boston metro area overall. Factors strongly associated with neighborhood youth disconnection rates are discussed on pages 19–22.
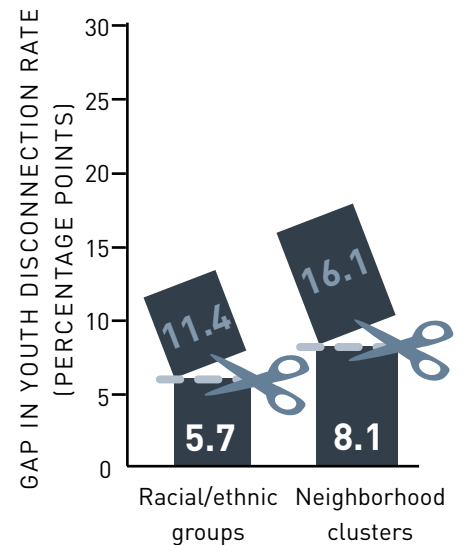
Halve the Gap in Boston

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Greater Allston and Brighton, Suffolk County, MA	3.0
Brookline and Newton, Middlesex and Norfolk Counties, MA	3.2
Cambridge, MA	3.3

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters
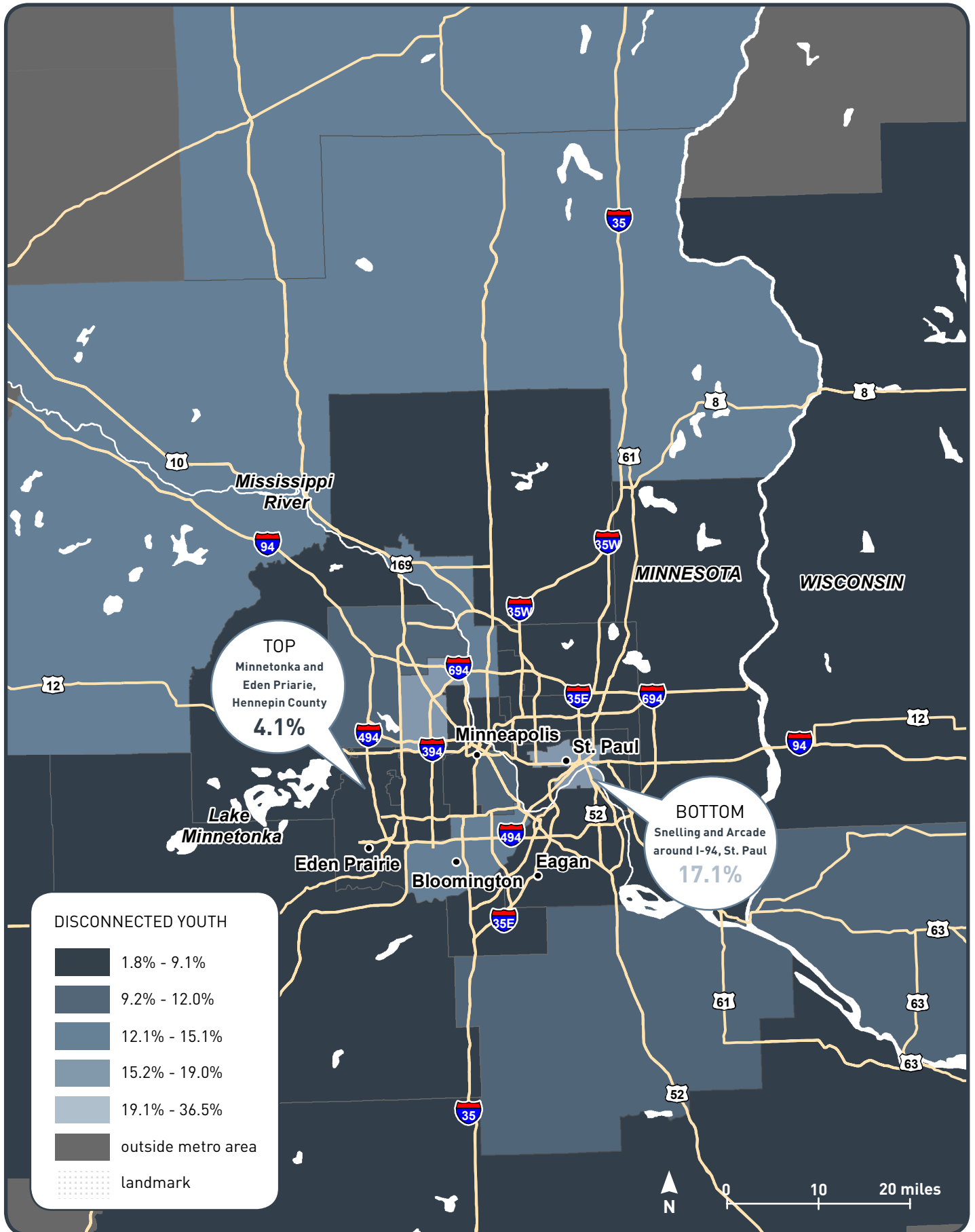
NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Lawrence, Methuen, and Andover, Essex County, MA	16.9
Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Suffolk County, MA	17.3
Abington, Brockton, and Avon Cities in Norfolk and Plymouth Counties, MA	19.1

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE MINNEAPOLIS–ST. PAUL METRO AREA

Mississippi River

MINNESOTA

WISCONSIN

TOP
Minnetonka and
Eden Priarie,
Hennepin County
4.1%

Lake Minnetonka

Minneapolis   **St. Paul**

BOTTOM
Snelling and Arcade
around I-94, St. Paul
17.1%

Eden Prairie

Bloomington   **Eagan**

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

1.8% - 9.1%

9.2% - 12.0%

12.1% - 15.1%

15.2% - 19.0%

19.1% - 36.5%

outside metro area

landmark

0   10   20 miles

N

The **Minneapolis–St. Paul–Bloomington metro area** is comprised of fourteen Minnesota counties (Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, and Wright) plus Pierce and St. Croix counties in Wisconsin. The youth disconnection rate in Minneapolis–St. Paul is 9.5 percent, the second-best rate among American's twenty-five largest metro areas; only Boston performs better. The good news is that more than nine in ten young people ages 16 to 24 are connected to education or employment. But there remain roughly 45,000 Twin Cities teens and young adults who are unmoored from the critical anchors of work and school, and those youth are disproportionately African American.

One driver of connection for youth in this area is the high educational attainment of adults. Compared to the other big cities, adults in Minneapolis–St. Paul are the least likely to lack a high school diploma (only 7 percent do, half the US average) and among the most likely to have completed a bachelor's degree or more (about 38 percent have done so, as compared with 29 percent nationally).

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

While the overall metro area disconnection rate is relatively low, this average obscures large gaps by race and ethnicity. African American young people in the Twin Cities are disconnected at nearly triple the rate of their white counterparts, about 20 percent as compared to 7 percent. One in five African American teens and young adults is disengaged from both work and school. Though both African Americans and whites have lower disconnection rates in the Minneapolis metro area than their national counterparts, the gap between them in the Twin Cities is larger. The populations of both Asian American and Latino young people are too small to reliably calculate their youth disconnection rates.

Youth Disconnection by Gender

Nationally, young men are slightly more likely than young women to be disconnected (15.1 percent versus 14.1 percent). This gender gap is significantly larger in Minneapolis-St. Paul than in the rest of the country. Of Minneapolis' young men, 10.6 percent (roughly 26,000 male youth) are disconnected, whereas only 8.3 percent of their female counterparts (about 19,000 young women) similarly struggle—a gender gap over twice the national average. Racial and ethnic composition could be a contributing factor. This predominantly white city has less than a third of the national proportion of Latinos, a group whose young women are more likely to be disconnected than their male counterparts.

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 6.19 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 4th out of 24

Total population: 3,389,049

Adult unemployment rate: 6.7%
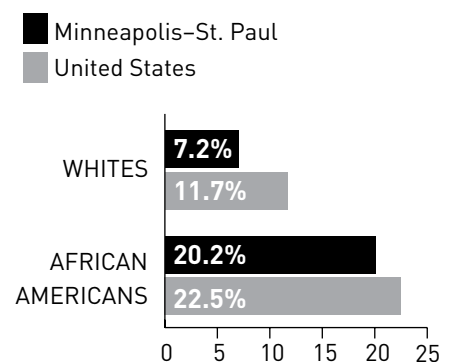
Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 38.5%

Poverty rate: 11.0%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 14.3%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 63.9%

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

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

■ Minneapolis–St. Paul
■ United States

WHITES
7.2%
11.7%

AFRICAN AMERICANS
20.2%
22.5%

0 5 10 15 20 25

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Minneapolis–St. Paul metro area is made up of twenty-six neighborhood clusters. Youth disconnection rates range from 4.1 percent in Minnetonka and Eden Prairie in Hennepin County to 17.1 percent in St. Paul around Snelling, Arcade, and I-94, a four-fold difference.

As in the nation overall, predominately white neighborhoods tend to have lower youth disconnection rates than neighborhoods with higher shares of Latino and African American residents. However, Minneapolis has a few exceptions.

- The Aitkin, Carlton, and Crow Wing cluster, which has the third-highest youth disconnection rate, is 93.1 percent white. This neighborhood cluster consists of Mille Lacs County and other areas on the northern fringe of Minneapolis–St. Paul. While 38 percent of adults in the metro area as a whole have at least a bachelor's degree, only 18 percent of adults in this neighborhood have studied to this level.

- Snelling and Arcade around I-94 in St. Paul, which has the highest youth disconnection rate in the Twin Cities metro area, is 18.6 percent Asian American, and Asian Americans tend to have low disconnection rates. While the Asian American youth population in this age range is too small for reliable youth disconnection calculations, the reason for this anomalous finding is likely found in immigration patterns. Minneapolis–St. Paul is home to a large Hmong population—nearly one in three Asian Americans there is Hmong. Hmong people, fleeing persecution in Laos after the Vietnam War, began to arrive in the Twin Cities in 1975. With limited English, little formal education, no assets, and a recent history marked by trauma and displacement, these new Americans faced many barriers that are still reflected in their below-average well-being.

Halve the Gap in Minneapolis
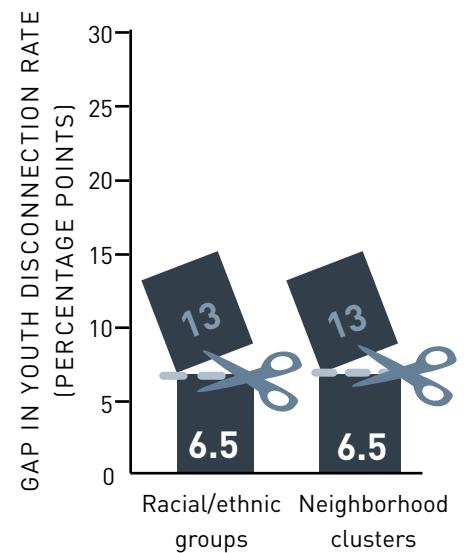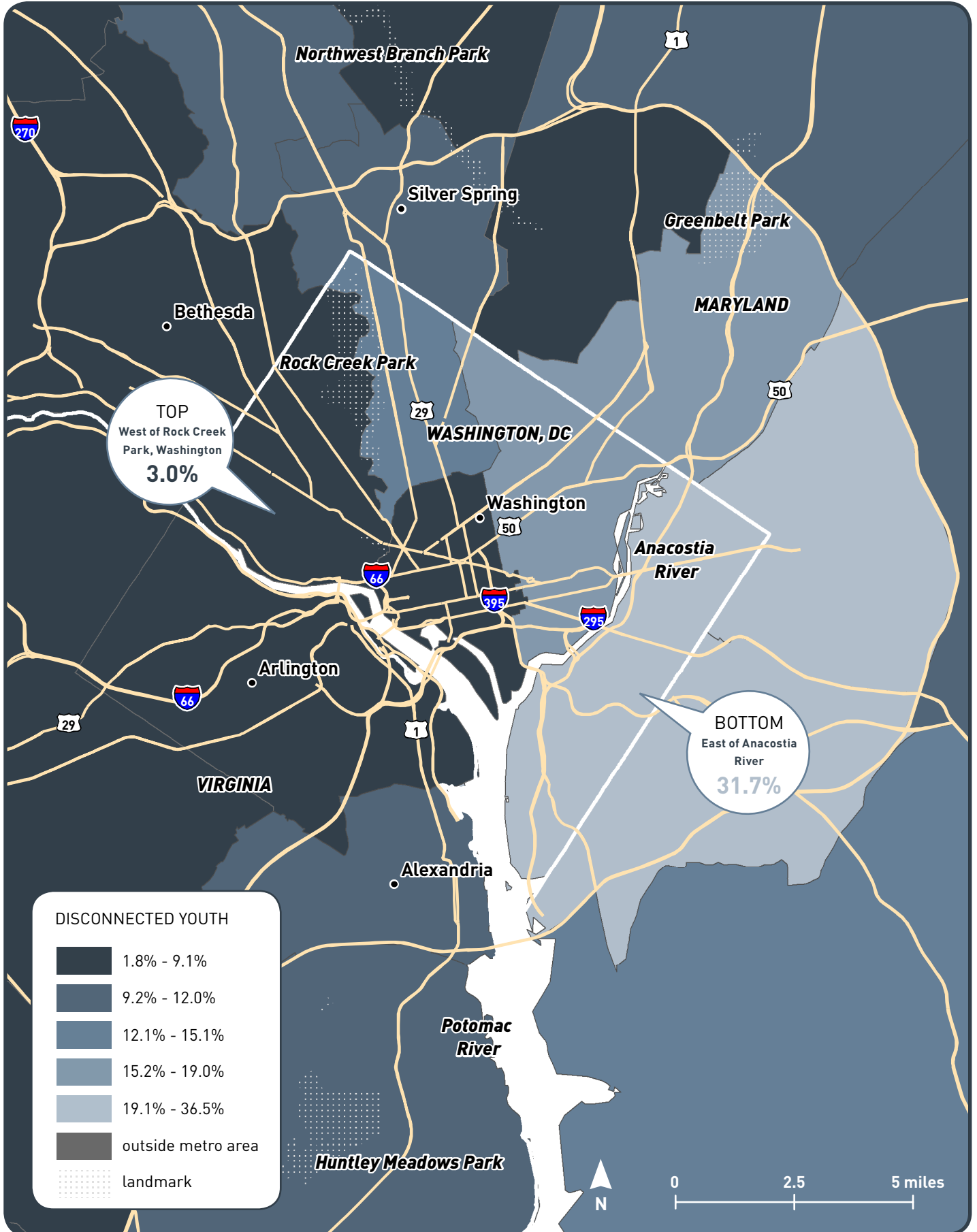

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Minnetonka and Eden Prairie, Hennepin County, MN	4.1
Rogers, Dayton, Corcoran, Medina, Wayzata, Orono, Shorewood, Minnetrista, and Lake Minnetonka, Hennepin County, MN	5.4
White Bear Lake, Vadnais Heights, North Oaks, and Blaine, Ramsey County, MN	5.4

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Aitkin, Carlton, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine Counties, MN	14.7
Brooklyn Center, New Hope, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Golden Valley, Hennepin County, MN	16.3
Snelling and Arcade around I-94, St. Paul, MN	17.1

Northwest Branch Park

Silver Spring

Greenbelt Park

MARYLAND

Bethesda

Rock Creek Park

TOP
West of Rock Creek Park, Washington
3.0%

WASHINGTON, DC

Washington

Anacostia River

Arlington

BOTTOM
East of Anacostia River
31.7%

VIRGINIA

Alexandria

Potomac River

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

- 1.8% – 9.1%
- 9.2% – 12.0%
- 12.1% – 15.1%
- 15.2% – 19.0%
- 19.1% – 36.5%
- outside metro area
- landmark

Huntley Meadows Park

0   2.5   5 miles

N

The **Washington, DC metro area** is comprised of Washington, DC, the counties of Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George in Maryland; Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties as well as Alexandria City, Fairfax City, Falls Church City, Fredericksburg City, Manassas City, and Manassas Park City in Virgina; and Jefferson County in West Virgina. The youth disconnection rate in the Washington, DC, metro area is 11.3 percent, the third best rate of among the nation's twenty-five largest metro areas; only Minneapolis–St. Paul and Boston face a lower youth disconnection rate. While DC is doing well compared to other big cities, nearly 88,000 teenagers and young adults in and around the nation's capital are nontheless adrift at society's margins, engaged with neither work nor school.

One important driver might be the high level of adult educational attainment in this metro area. According to the 2011 American Community Survey, Washington, DC, has the highest percentage of bachelor degree holders among the twenty-five most populated metro areas (48 percent of adults). Even when accounting for subgroups of gender and race/ethnicity, we see that in each case the Washington metro area consistently scores near the top (if not at the top). Washington, DC is a magnet for highly educated workers.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Strong overall outcomes in our nation's capital and surrounding areas mask tremendous variation by race and ethnicity within the metro area. Youth disconnection by race and ethnicity in the DC metro area follows the national trend, with white young people having the best connection rates (7.4 percent) and African American youth struggling the most with connection to school and work (19.6 percent). Nearly one in five African American youth is disconnected in Washington, DC.

Latinos fall in the middle of the pack. While young people of all racial and ethnic groups are less likely to be disconnected in the DC metro area than in the nation overall, Latinos have the best outcomes relative to the national average. Whereas the national average disconnection rate for Latinos is 17.9 percent, only 11.2 percent of Latinos in Washington, DC, are disconnected. This is the lowest percentage for Latino young people across the twenty-five largest metro areas. There are too few Asian American young people in this age range for reliable youth disconnection calculations.

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

Legend: ■ Washington, DC ▪ United States

WHITES: 7.4% / 11.7%
LATINOS: 11.2% / 17.9%
AFRICAN AMERICANS: 19.6% / 22.5%

(scale 0 5 10 15 20 25)
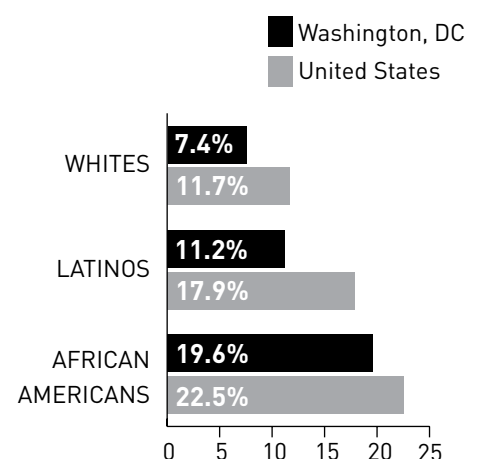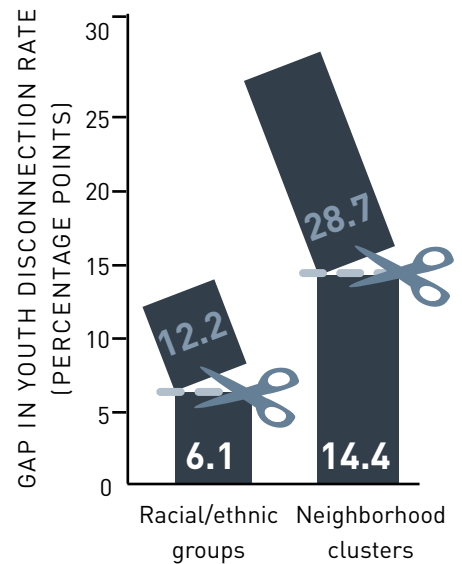
Youth Disconnection by Gender

In the DC metro area, the likelihood of being not in work and not in school is 10.3 percent for young women and 12.3 percent for young men. This gender gap is slightly larger than the national average. Nationally, African American young women are nearly six percentage points more likely than their male counterparts to be working or in school, so the larger-than-usual gender gap in Washington may arise in part because African Americans make up 25.3 percent of DC's population, over twice the national average (12.2 percent).

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Washington, DC, metro area is made up of thirty-seven neighborhood clusters. By neighborhood, the metro area demonstrates high variability in rates of disconnection between youth populations. Between the neighborhood with the highest proportion of disconnected youth, east of the Anacostia River in DC, and the lowest, west of Rock Creek Park, also in DC (31.7 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively), there is a 28.7 percentage point difference. Furthermore, while the metro area ranks number three overall, the rate of disconnection in Washington, DC east of the Anacostia River is nearly three times the rate for the whole metro area. Of the nearly nine hundred metro area neighborhood clusters nationwide included in this study, only seven neighborhoods have more severe youth disconnection.

The three least connected communities, DC east of the Anacostia River, Suitland, Hillcrest Heights, and Temple Hills in PG County, and Landover, Walker Mill, and Capitol Heights, also in PG County, are home predominantly to African Americans (86 percent or more), and they have the smallest percentages of white residents in the metro area (less than 4.5 percent). Conversely, the most connected neighborhoods are either majority white, as in Potomac and Bethesda in Montgomery County and DC west of Rock Creek Park, or reflect a wide-ranging diversity, such as the College Park area in PG County, which has large African American, Latino, and white populations and a rate of youth disconnection of only 6.1 percent. This area of Maryland's PG County is home to the University of Maryland, and students are, by definition, connected.

Halve the Gap in Washington, DC
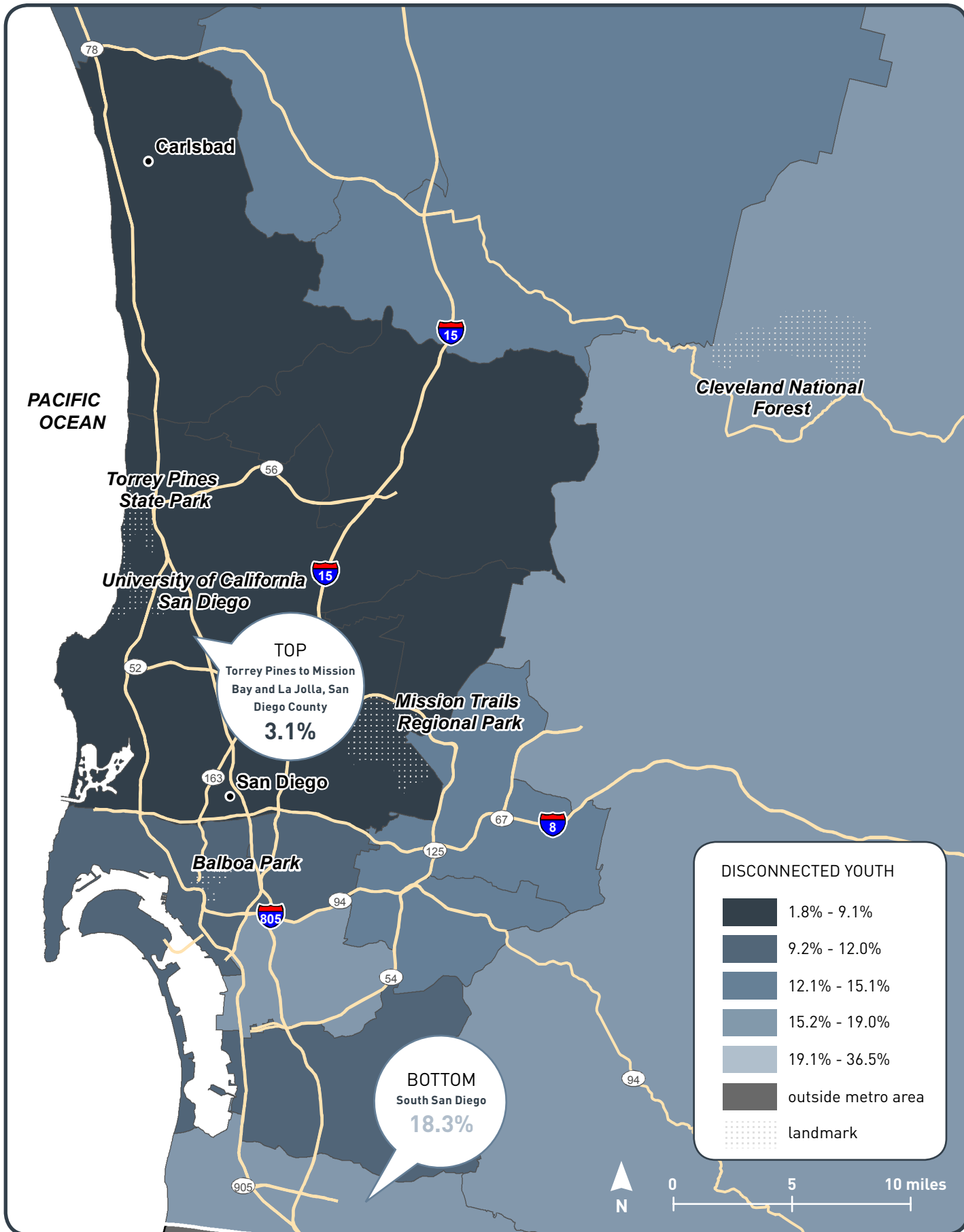

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
West of Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC	3.0
Potomac and Bethesda, Montgomery County, MD	5.1
College Park, Adelphi, and Chillum, Prince George's County, MD	6.1

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Landover, Walker Mill, and Capitol Heights, Prince George's County, MD	20.7
Suitland, Hillcrest Heights, and Temple Hills, Prince George's County, MD	22.1
East of the Anacostia River, Washington DC	31.7

Carlsbad

PACIFIC OCEAN

Cleveland National Forest

Torrey Pines State Park

University of California San Diego

TOP
Torrey Pines to Mission Bay and La Jolla, San Diego County
3.1%

Mission Trails Regional Park

San Diego

Balboa Park

BOTTOM
South San Diego
18.3%

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

1.8% – 9.1%

9.2% – 12.0%

12.1% – 15.1%

15.2% – 19.0%

19.1% – 36.5%

outside metro area

landmark

0   5   10 miles

N

The youth disconnection rate in the **San Diego metro area** is 12.2 percent, fourth best in the nation. San Diego has the lowest youth disconnection rate of California's four largest metro areas. The San Diego metro area, which encompasses all of San Diego County, has a disconnection rate 2.4 percentage points lower than the national average; about 56,000 young people are neither in school nor working.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Variation in disconnection rates in the San Diego metro area by race and ethnicity follows national trends, but in each case, San Diego has better-than-average outcomes. Whites have the lowest rate of disconnection, 8.2 percent, followed by Latinos with a rate of 16.1 percent, nearly double that of their white counterparts. African American young people have the highest rate of disconnection at 19 percent. In other words, whereas fewer than one in ten white youth is likely to be disconnected, nearly one in five African American young people is disconnected. The number of Asian Americans in San Diego in this age range is too small for reliable calculations.

Youth Disconnection by Gender

While nationally young men are slightly more likely than young women to be disconnected (15.1 percent versus 14.1 percent), the pattern in San Diego is reversed and the gap is wider. Young women are significantly more likely to be disconnected than young men—14.8 percent as compared to 10.1 percent. Nearly 6,000 more young women than men are not working and not in school. This pattern also appears in Portland,

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

■ San Diego
■ United States

WHITES
8.2%
11.7%

LATINOS
16.1%
17.9%

AFRICAN AMERICANS
19.0%
22.5%
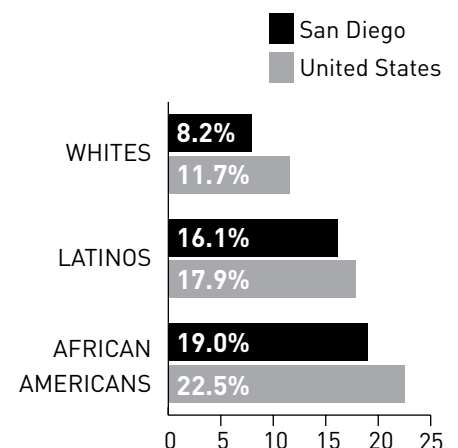
Houston, and Dallas. While this reversal from the national trend may be due to a number of factors, all of these metro areas, except for Portland, have a larger Latino population than the cities that follow the national trend. Latinos are the only major racial and ethnic group where women are, on average, considerably more likely to be disconnected than young men.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The San Diego metro area is made up of sixteen neighborhood clusters. Youth disconnection ranges from a low of 3.1 percent in Torrey Pines to Mission Bay, which includes the community of La Jolla, to 18.3 percent in South San Diego. This is not the most extreme range among major US cities (in Chicago and New York, the highs and lows are separated by some 30 percentage points), yet in a relatively small metro area, this six-fold difference is considerable.

The two least connected neighborhoods, National City and South San Diego, are among those with the largest share of Latinos in the their population. Conversely, San Diego's three most connected neighborhoods have the smallest Latino populations. Interestingly, the East County area to the east of San Diego proper, with the third highest rate of disconnection (17.1 percent), has a majority white population. In this part of San Diego County, only 22 percent of adults have at least a bachelor's degree, compared to 34 percent of adults in the San Diego metro area overall. Adult education levels are a strong predictor of youth disconnection.

Halve the Gap in San Diego

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

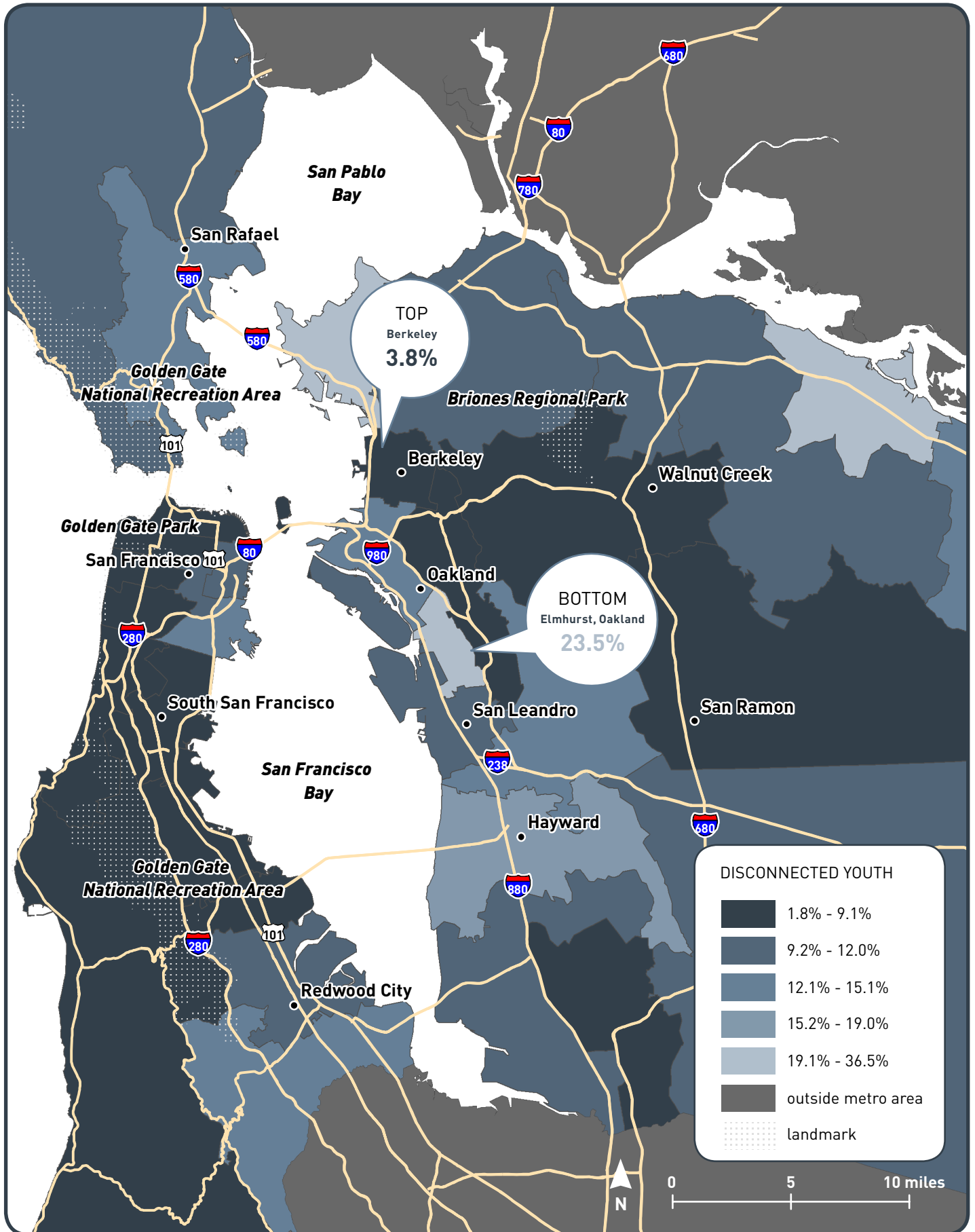| NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Torrey Pines to Mission Bay and La Jolla, San Diego County, CA	3.1
Poway, CA	5.8
Encinitas, CA	7.0

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
East County, San Diego County, CA	17.1
National City, San Diego County, CA	18.0
South San Diego, CA	18.3
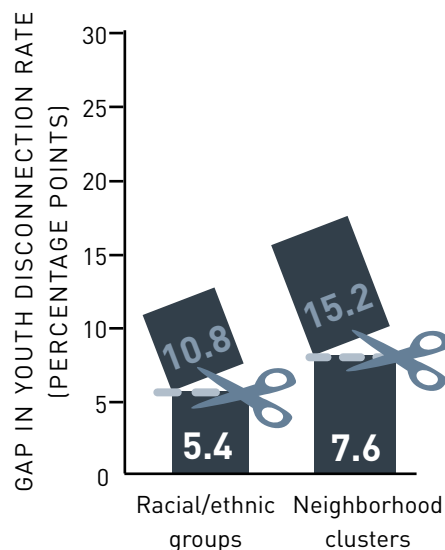
YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE SAN FRANCISCO METRO AREA

San Pablo Bay

San Rafael

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

TOP
Berkeley
3.8%

Briones Regional Park

Berkeley

Walnut Creek

Golden Gate Park

San Francisco

BOTTOM
Elmhurst, Oakland
23.5%

Oakland

South San Francisco

San Leandro

San Ramon

San Francisco Bay

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Hayward

Redwood City

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

- 1.8% – 9.1%
- 9.2% – 12.0%
- 12.1% – 15.1%
- 15.2% – 19.0%
- 19.1% – 36.5%
- outside metro area
- landmark

0   5   10 miles

N

SAN FRANCISCO

5

The **San Francisco metro area** is comprised of five counties, San Francisco, Alameda, Marin, Contra Costa, and San Mateo. Among the twenty-five most populous metro areas in the United States, San Francisco has the fifth-best ranking, with a disconnection rate of 12.3 percent, about two percentage points better than the national average. Nonetheless, this represents almost 60,000 young people adrift at society's margins, not attached to either school or work. While it bests Los Angeles and Riverside–San Bernardino, San Francisco struggles slightly more with youth disconnection than San Diego.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Youth disconnection by race and ethnicity in the San Francisco metro area follows the national trend: Asian American youth have the lowest rates of disconection (8.5 percent); African American youth have the highest, 19.4 percent; and whites and Latinos fall between the two extremes, with 11 percent and 14.3 percent respectively. Only San Francisco's African Americans have a higher youth disconnection rate than the national average for all youth; nearly one in every five African American youth in San Francisco is disconnected. The racial and ethnic gap in youth disconnection outcomes in San Francisco is 10.9 percentage points—nearly as big a gap as the overall rate for all white young people in the metro area.

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

■ San Francisco
▨ United States

ASIAN AMERICANS	8.5%
	7.6%
WHITES	11.0%
	11.7%
LATINOS	14.3%
	17.9%
AFRICAN AMERICANS	19.4%
	22.5%

0 5 10 15 20 25

SAN FRANCISCO

⑤
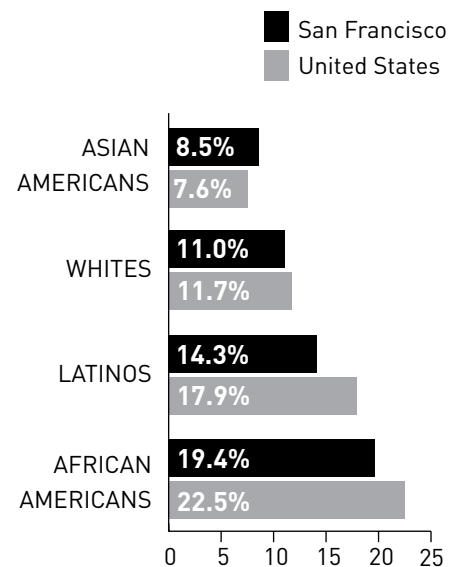
Youth Disconnection by Gender

The likelihood of San Francisco youth being not in the workforce and not in school is nearly equal for both genders: 12.4 percent for young men, and 12.1 percent for young women. San Francisco's large Asian American population—nearly one in four, compared to just under one in twenty nationwide—may account for some measure of its gender parity, since Asian Americans are the most likely racial or ethnic group to close the gender gap in youth disconnection.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The San Francisco metro area is made up of thirty-three neighborhood clusters. Among these districts, the youth disconnection rates range from 3.8 percent in Berkeley to 23.5 percent in Elmhurst, Oakland, a more than six-fold difference between communities that are only about ten miles apart. Youth disconnection by neighborhood in the San Francisco area demonstrates the strong correlation observed between adult educational attainment and youth disconnection. In the three areas with the highest youth disconnection, fewer than about one in five adults has completed a bachelor's degree. In the three most connected areas, more than 60 percent or better than three in five adults has at least a bachelor's degree.
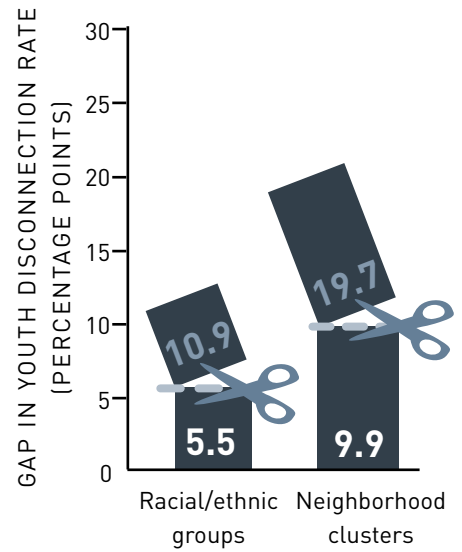
Halve the Gap in San Francisco

GAP IN YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE (PERCENTAGE POINTS)

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

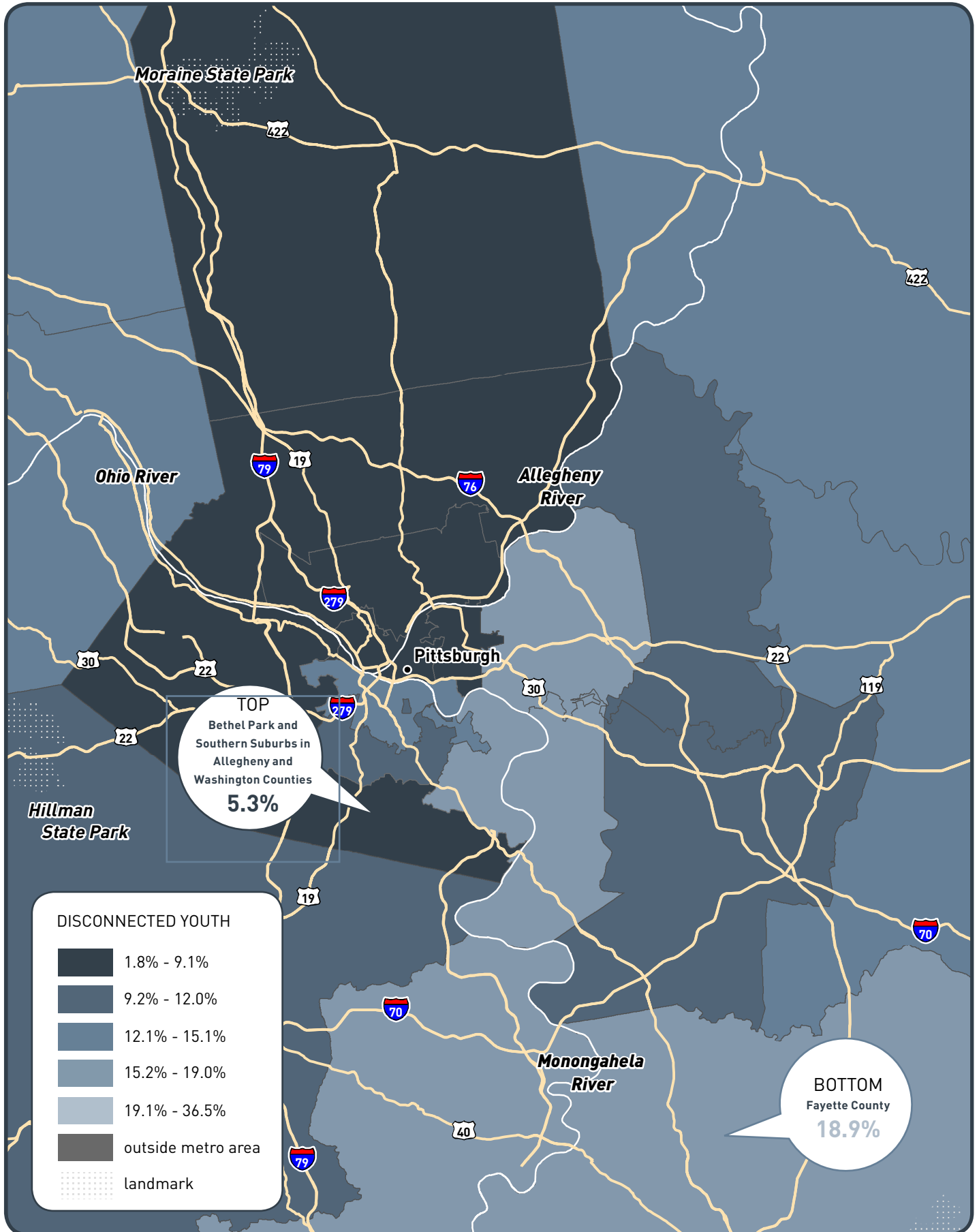| NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Berkeley, CA	3.8
Moraga and Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County, CA	4.1
San Ramon, Contra Costa County, CA	6.5

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
San Pablo and Richmond, Contra Costa County, CA	21.3
Pittsburg, Contra Costa County, CA	21.4
Elmhurst, Oakland, CA	23.5

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE PITTSBURGH METRO AREA

Moraine State Park

422

Ohio River

I-79 19

I-76

Allegheny River

30

22

22

I-279

Pittsburgh

30

I-279

422

22

119

TOP
Bethel Park and Southern Suburbs in Allegheny and Washington Counties
5.3%

Hillman State Park

19

I-70

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

	1.8% - 9.1%
	9.2% - 12.0%
	12.1% - 15.1%
	15.2% - 19.0%
	19.1% - 36.5%
	outside metro area
	landmark

I-70

Monongahela River

40

I-79

BOTTOM
Fayette County
18.9%

The **Pittsburgh metro area** covers the seven Pennsylvania counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland. Among the twenty-five most populous metro areas in the United States, Pittsburgh ranks sixth best, with a disconnection rate of 12.6 percent. This represents about 39,000 young people who are both out of work and not in school. The Pittsburgh rate is two percentage points better than the national average, 14.6 percent, and also appreciably better than Philadelphia's rate of 14.3 percent.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

In Pittsburgh, African Americans are more than twice as likely to be disconnected as white youth (24.8 percent versus 10.3 percent); nearly one in every four African Americans ages 16 to 24 is disconnected, compared with just over one in ten white young people. The gap between African American and white youth disconnection in Pittsburg is wider than the gap between these two groups nationally. The population of Asian American and Latino youth in this age range is too small to reliably calculate their youth disconnection rates. The disparity in outcomes between white and African American young people is a stark 14.5 percentage points. This gap is nearly equal to the US rate of youth disconnection. Pittsburgh is the least diverse of the twenty-five largest metro areas in the nation in terms of race and ethnicity, with a population that is 87 percent white.

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

Pittsburgh
United States

WHITES
10.3%
11.7%

AFRICAN AMERICANS
24.8%
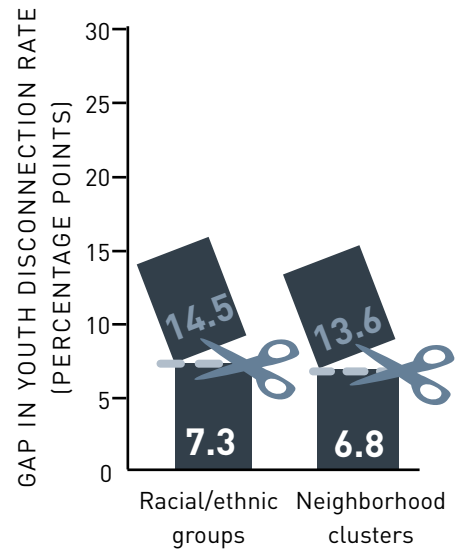22.5%

0   5   10   15   20   25
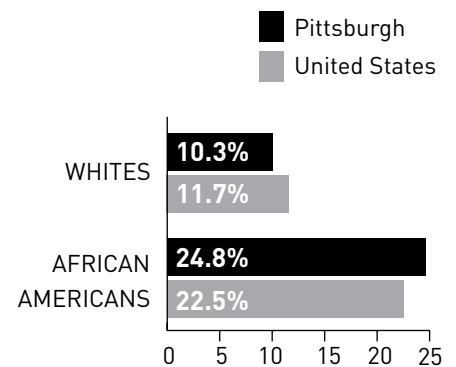
Youth Disconnection by Gender

The rate of youth disconnection in Pittsburgh by gender is 11.7 percent for young women and 13.4 percent for young men, which translates to roughly 18,000 young women and 21,000 young men. The pattern nationally of males being more likely to be disconnected than females is mirrored in Pittsburgh, though the difference in Pittsburgh is small and not statistically significant.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Pittsburgh metro area is made up of twenty neighborhood clusters. Youth disconnection tends to correlate with poverty rates and educational attainment in Pittsburgh as in the nation as a whole. In the three areas of the metro region with the highest rates of youth disconnection, at least 15 percent of the population lives in poverty, and no more than 19 percent of adults have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to over 29 percent of adults in the wider Pittsburgh metro area. In the three areas with the lowest percentage of disconnected youth, adult higher degree attainment ranges from the metro average to as high as 53 percent, and poverty is much less prevalent. One interesting outlier is Oakland, East Liberty, and East End area, a diverse section of Pittsburgh with relatively high poverty (19 percent) and low youth disconnection (7.5 percent) alongside strong adult educational outcomes. These outcomes may partially be explained by the presence of both Carnegie Mellon University and Chatham College in this area of the city.

Halve the Gap in Pittsburgh

GAP IN YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE (PERCENTAGE POINTS)

	Racial/ethnic groups	Neighborhood clusters
	14.5	13.6
	7.3	6.8

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Bethel Park and Southern Suburbs in Allegheny and Washington Counties, PA	5.3
Butler County, PA	6.7
Oakland, East Liberty, and East End, Pittsburgh, PA	7.5

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Greene County and part of Washington County, PA	15.3
McKeesport and Southeastern Suburbs, Allegheny County, PA	17.8
Fayette County, PA	18.9

TOP
Broomfield and Westminister, Adams, Boulder, Broomfield, and Jefferson Counties
6.2%

Roosevelt National Forest

Rocky Mountain National Park

Golden Gate Canyon State Park

Broomfield

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

Lakewood

Denver

Aurora

Pike National Forest

BOTTOM
Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, and Teller Counties
26.4%

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

	1.8% - 9.1%
	9.2% - 12.0%
	12.1% - 15.1%
	15.2% - 19.0%
	19.1% - 36.5%
	outside metro area
	landmark

0   10   20 miles

N
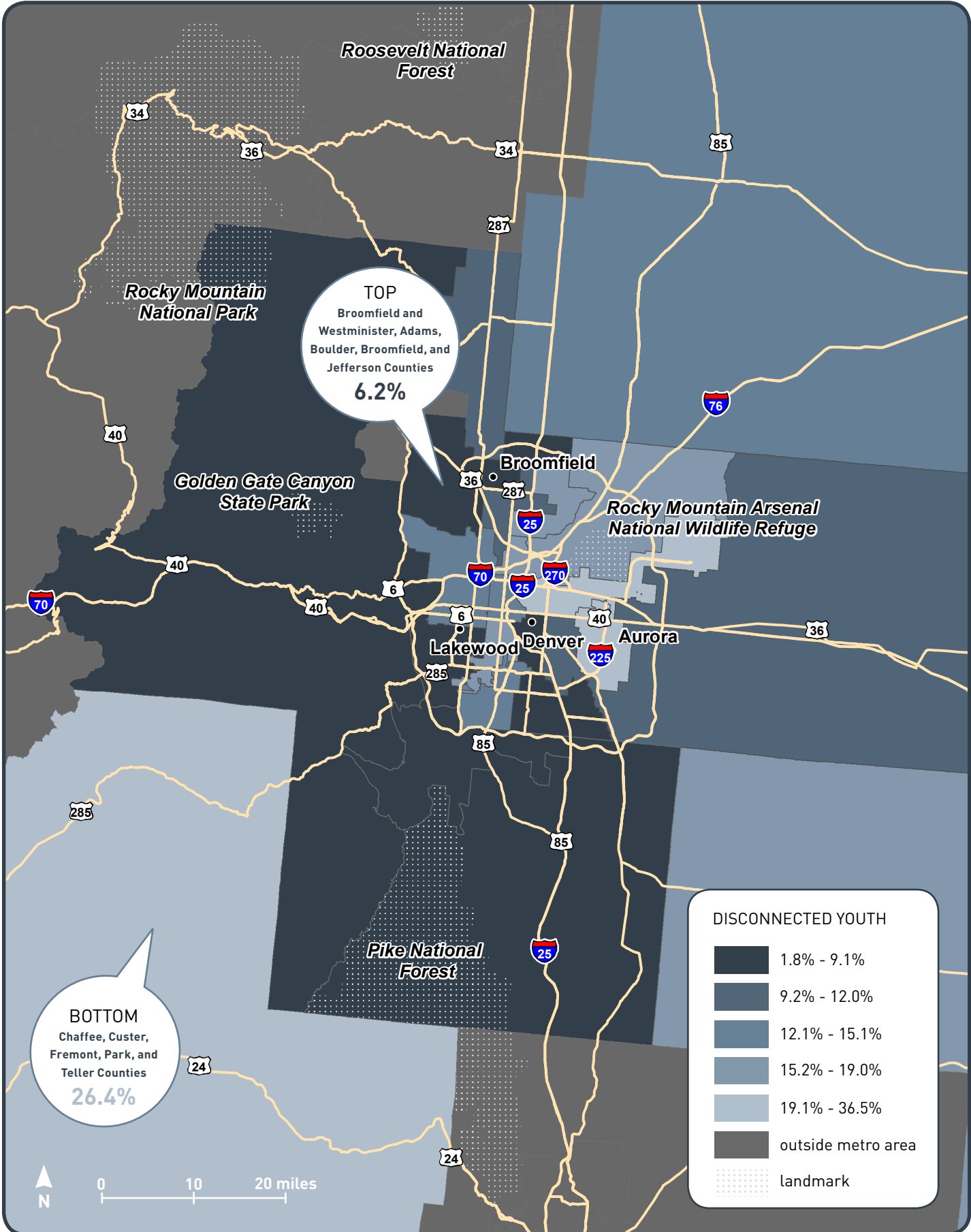
KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 5.69 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 8th out of 24

Total population: 2,598,496

Adult unemployment rate: 7.4%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 38.4%

Poverty rate: 12.8%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 18.8%

**School enrollment rate (ages 16–24):** 57.6%

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

The youth disconnection rate in the **Denver metro area** is 13 percent, placing the Mile-High City between Seattle and Pittsburgh in terms of the proportion of youth ages 16 to 24 neither working nor in school. Composed of ten Colorado counties—Denver, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Adams, Douglas, Broomfield, Elbert, Park, Clear Creek, and Gilpin—the region is home to over 2.5 million people and over 360,000 young people. Almost 48,000 of these teens and young adults are detached from the key anchor institutions of work and school.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Latinos and white Americans are the only racial and ethnic groups in Denver with populations in this age group large enough to provide reliable calculations regarding youth participation in school and in the workforce. Denver's white youth experience a disconnection rate of 10 percent, just under the natonal average for whites and considerably better than the US average for all groups. Latinos, on the other hand, have a rate that is higher than the national average for Latinos, at 18.2 percent. While Denver has the seventh-best overall disconnection rate of the twenty-five metro areas, Latino outcomes are not as good, ranking in the middle of the pack of twenty metro areas with Latino populations large enough to be included in the analysis.

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

■ Denver
■ United States

WHITES
10%
11.7%

LATINOS
18.2%
**17.9%**

0   5   10   15   20   25
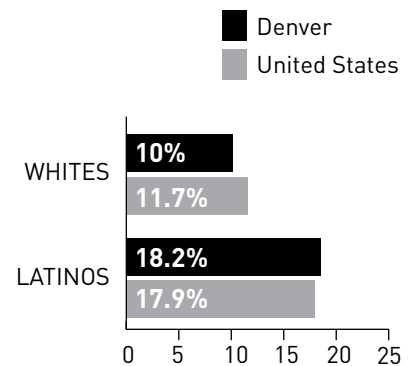
Youth Disconnection by Gender

In Denver, as across the country, young men are more likely to be disconnected than young women, but in the Mile-High City, the gender gap is wider. While 14.2 percent of young males are disconnected, the rate for their female counterparts is 11.7 percent. In Denver, roughly 21,000 females and 27,000 males are disengaged from work and school at the threshold of adulthood.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Denver metro area is made up of twenty-four neighborhood clusters. The range, distribution, and variation of youth disconnection among these districts is about average compared to other cities across the country. The youth disconnection rates in Denver range from 6.2 percent in communities around Broomfield and Westminster Cities in Adams, Boulder, Broomfield, and Jefferson Counties to 26.4 percent in Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, and Teller Counties, a difference of 20.2 percentage points. Notably, communities in Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, and Teller Counties significantly underperform the next most disconnected area, the communities of Aurora, Fitzsimmons, and Montbello, in Adams and Arapahoe Counties.
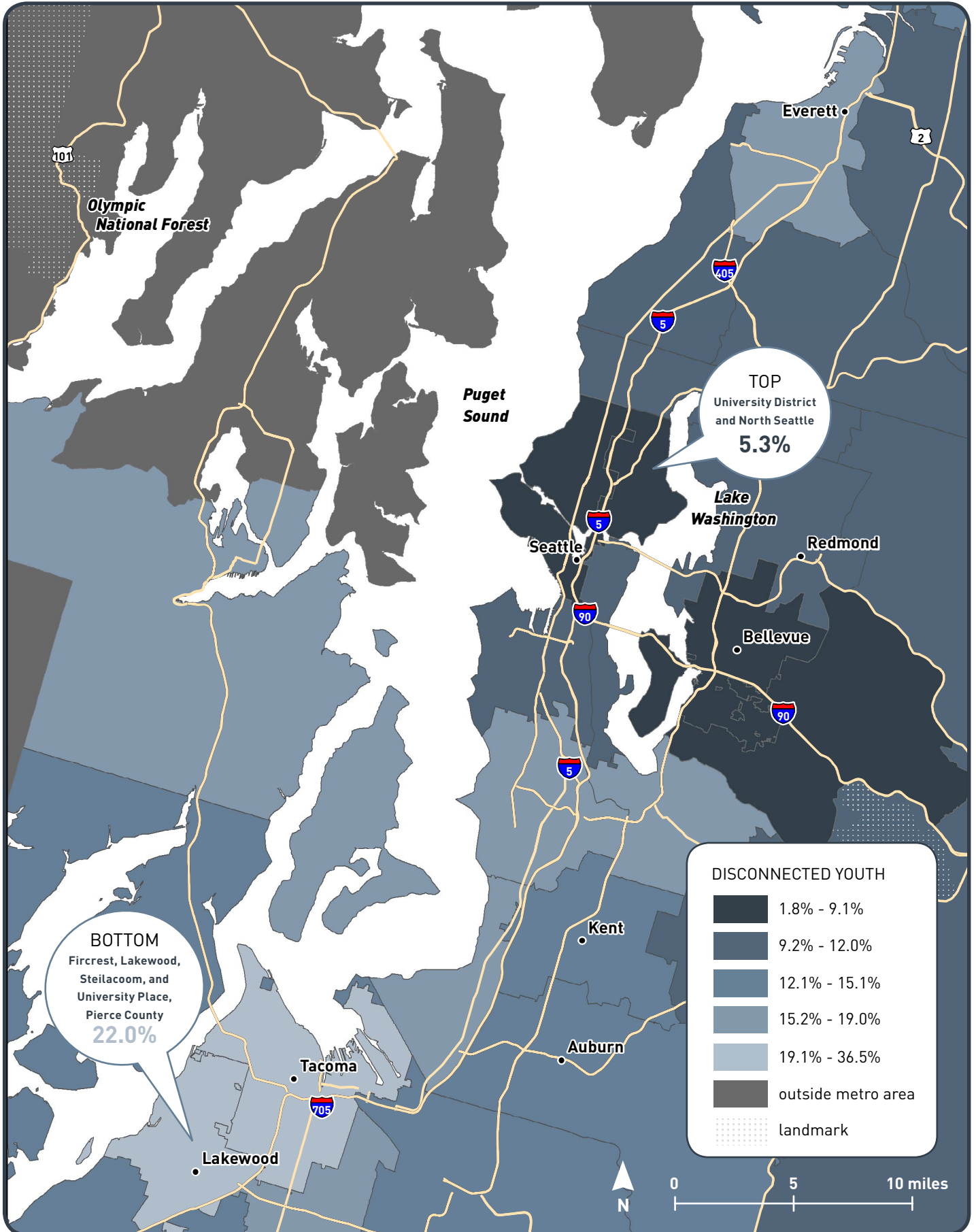
Halve the Gap in Denver
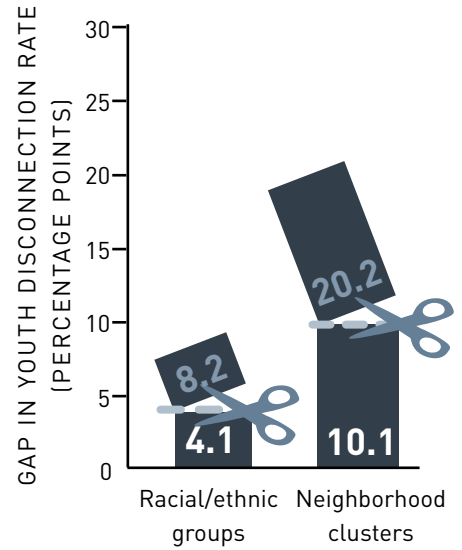
Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Broomfield and Westminster Cities Adams, Boulder, Broomfield, and Jefferson Counties, CO	6.2
Park Meadows, Lone Tree, Highlands Ranch, and Chatfield, Douglas and Jefferson Counties, CO	6.4
University of Denver, Cherry Creek, Washington Park, and Governors Park, Denver, CO	7.1

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Stapleton and Communities Near Denver International Airport, Denver, CO	19.7
Aurora, Fitzsimmons, and Montbello, Adams and Arapahoe Counties, CO	19.7
Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, and Teller Counties, CO	26.4

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE SEATTLE METRO AREA

Olympic National Forest

101

Puget Sound

Everett

2

405

5

TOP
University District
and North Seattle
5.3%

Lake Washington

Redmond

Seattle

90

Bellevue

90

BOTTOM
Fircrest, Lakewood,
Steilacoom, and
University Place,
Pierce County
22.0%

5

Kent

Auburn

Tacoma

705

Lakewood

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

- 1.8% – 9.1%
- 9.2% – 12.0%
- 12.1% – 15.1%
- 15.2% – 19.0%
- 19.1% – 36.5%
- outside metro area
- landmark

0   5   10 miles

N

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 5.97 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 6th out of 24

Total population: 3,497,819

Adult unemployment rate: 8.3%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 37.1%

Poverty rate: 11.9%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 19.9%

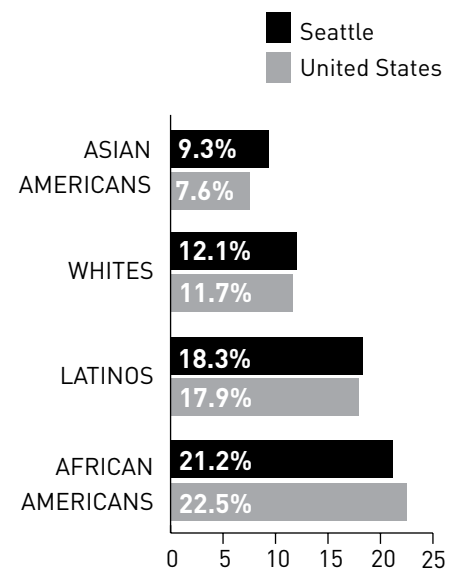**School enrollment rate (ages 16–24):** 58.3%

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

The **Seattle metro area** covers King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties in Washington State. Out of more than 437,000 young people ages 16 to 24 in greater Seattle, nearly 58,000 are neither employed nor in school, representing 13.2 percent of the youth across the region. Young residents of Seattle are slightly less likely to lack key connections than their national counterparts, and this rate places the Emerald City between Denver and Chicago in terms of youth disconnection.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Seattle is one of only five metro areas among the twenty-five largest in the nation in which all of the major national racial and ethnic groups—African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and whites—have communities sizeable enough to calculate youth disconnection rates for each group. Youth disconnection by race and ethnicity in Seattle follows the national pattern; Asian American young people have the lowest rates of disconnection, followed by whites, Latinos, and African Americans. For African Americans, the Seattle rate, 21.2 percent, is slightly better than the national rate; nonetheless, more than one in four African American young people in Seattle is disconnected. The disconnection rate for Latinos is 18.3 percent and for whites, 12.1 percent.

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

■ Seattle
■ United States

ASIAN AMERICANS	9.3% / 7.6%
WHITES	12.1% / 11.7%
LATINOS	18.3% / 17.9%
AFRICAN AMERICANS	21.2% / 22.5%

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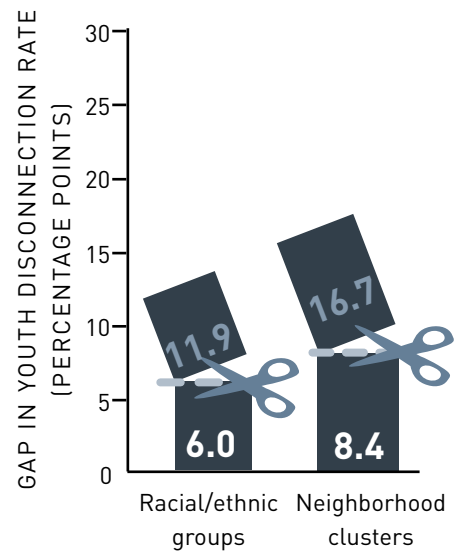
Youth Disconnection by Gender

As in the country as a whole, in Seattle young men have higher rates of youth disconnection than young women, but young people of both genders experience a disconnection rate in the Seattle metro area that is somewhat lower than the national average. The difference is greater for male youth, who face a disconnection rate of 13.6 percent in the city and just over 15.0 percent nationwide, compared to 12.8 percent for young female residents of Seattle and 14.1 percent nationally. Of particular note is the very low proportion of young mothers in Seattle; just 2 percent of young women ages 16 to 19 have children of their own, a proportion lower than every major city except for Boston and San Francisco.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Seattle metro area is made up of twenty-six neighborhood clusters. Among these districts, youth disconnection rates range from 22.0 percent in Fircrest, Lakewood, Steilacoom, and University Place to 5.3 percent in the University District and North Seattle neighborhood. This variation of 16.7 between the lowest and highest rates of youth disconnection by neighborhood places Seattle among the cities with the smallest range of values across their metro areas.

Although there are certainly correlations between the racial and ethnic breakdown and the rate of youth disconnection in each of these neighborhoods, these trends are less stark in Seattle than in many of the other major US metro areas.
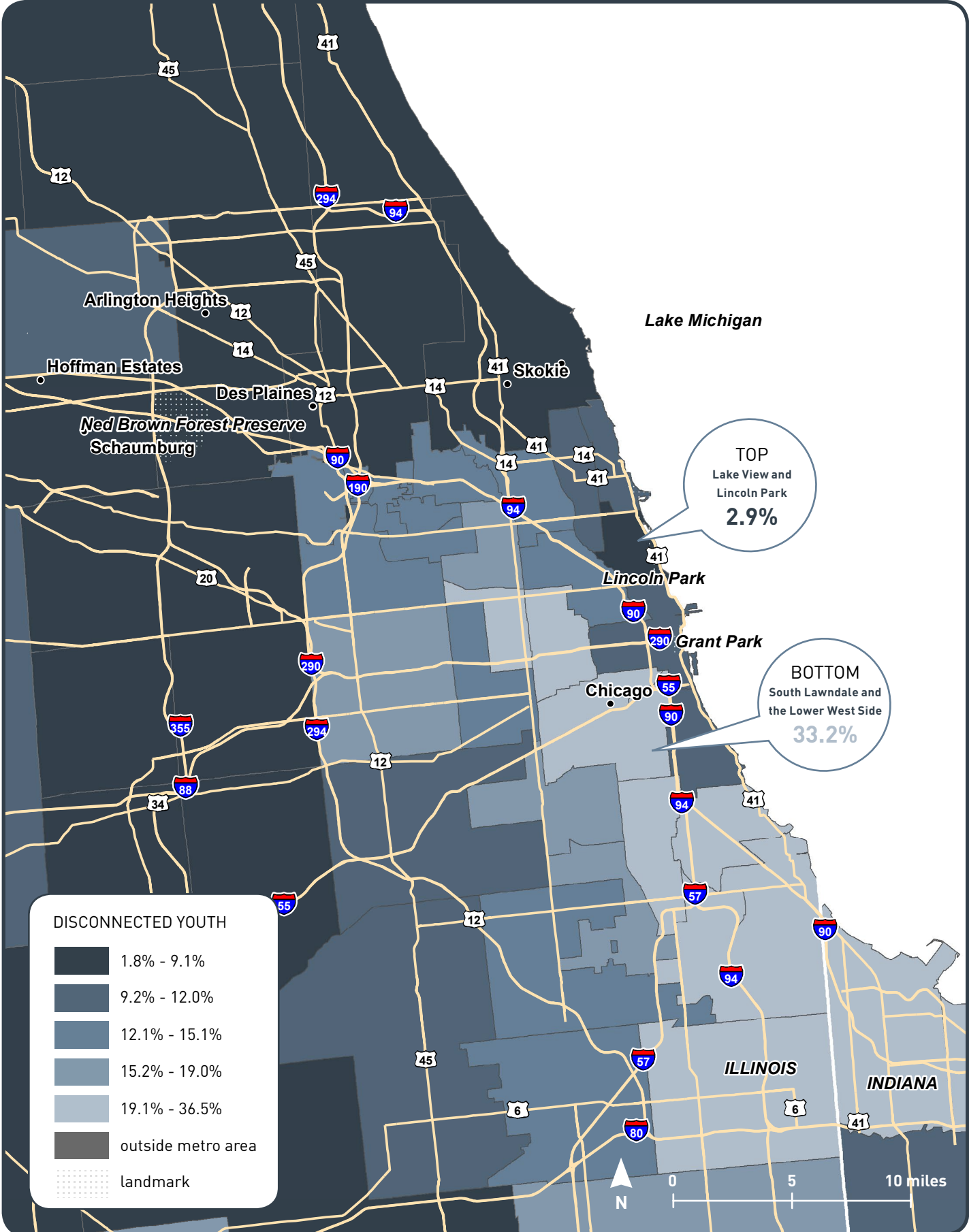
Halve the Gap in Seattle

GAP IN YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE (PERCENTAGE POINTS)

- Racial/ethnic groups: 11.9 / 6.0
- Neighborhood clusters: 16.7 / 8.4

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
University District and North Seattle, WA	5.3
Beaux Arts Village, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Newcastle, and Sammamish, King County, WA	5.4
Ballard, Fremont, and Northwest Seattle, WA	7.7

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Burien, Normandy Park, Sea Tac, and Tukwila, King County, WA	18.9
Tacoma, WA	20.4
Fircrest, Lakewood, Steilacoom, and University Place, Pierce County, WA	22.0

TOP
Lake View and
Lincoln Park
2.9%

BOTTOM
South Lawndale and
the Lower West Side
33.2%

Lake Michigan

Arlington Heights

Hoffman Estates

Des Plaines

Skokie

Ned Brown Forest Preserve
Schaumburg

Lincoln Park

Grant Park

Chicago

ILLINOIS

INDIANA

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

- 1.8% – 9.1%
- 9.2% – 12.0%
- 12.1% – 15.1%
- 15.2% – 19.0%
- 19.1% – 36.5%
- outside metro area
- landmark

0   5   10 miles

N

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 5.51 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 11th out of 24

Total population: 9,495,719

Adult unemployment rate: 9.8%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 34.2%

Poverty rate: 14.7%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 23.4%
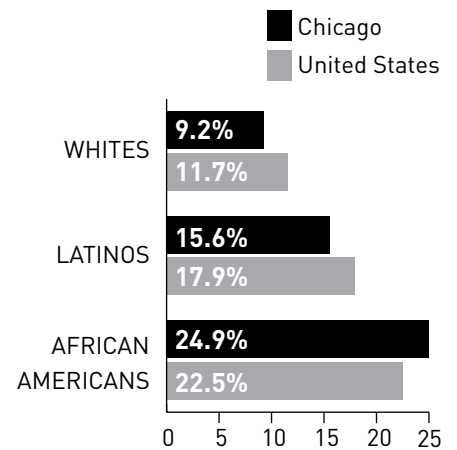
School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 62.7%

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

The third most populous metro area in the country, **the Chicago metro area** covers fourteen counties in three states: Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, McHenry, Will, and Lake Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin. The rate of youth disconnection in Chicago is 14.1 percent, almost exactly the value in Houston, Texas and between Seattle and St. Louis. This rate is slightly better than the national average and translates into just over 166,000 young people ages 16 to 24 who lack connections to both work and school.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Beneath the metro area average lies a more complex story in terms of disconnection rates by race and ethnicity. In Chicago, youth disconnection rates among the major racial and ethnic groups differ considerably from national averages. Both Latinos and whites in Chicago are more likely to have positive outcomes in terms of youth connection than their national counterparts. On the other hand, African Americans in Chicago have worse outcomes than African Americans nationally. Chicago African Americans have the third highest rate of disconnection after African Americans in Detroit and Philadelphia. One in four African Americans is disconnected, more than two and a half times higher than the rate of their white neighbors. Latinos are at the other end of the spectrum. Only San Francisco and Washington, DC have better outcomes for Latinos. As a result of these extremes, Chicago has one of the highest

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

■ Chicago
■ United States

WHITES	**9.2%**
	11.7%
LATINOS	**15.6%**
	17.9%
AFRICAN AMERICANS	**24.9%**
	22.5%

0 5 10 15 20 25

gaps by race and ethnicity. Nearly sixteen percentage points separate African Americans and whites, the third highest gap after New York and Philadelphia.
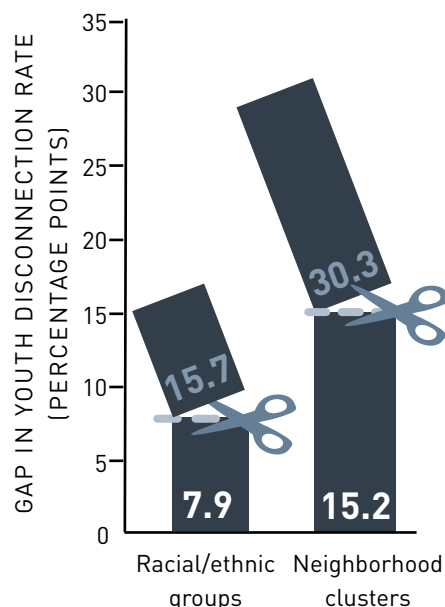
Youth Disconnection by Gender

As in the nation as a whole, male teens and young adults in Chicago have higher rates of disconnection than females. Just over 80,000 (13.8 percent) young women are neither employed nor in school, while this figure is over 86,000 (14.3 percent) for young men. Chicago has one of the smallest gender gaps nationwide at just 0.5 percentage points.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Chicago metro area is made up of sixty-two neighborhood clusters. Chicago ties the New York metro area for the greatest range between the neighborhood with the lowest and highest rates of youth disconnection, a striking 30.3 percentage points, from 33.2 percent in the South Lawndale and the Lower West Side neighborhoods to just 2.9 percent in the Lake View and Lincoln Park areas. This means that while just one in thirty-three youth are neither employed nor in school in some Chicago neighborhoods, this figure balloons eleven times over to one in three in others. The Lake View and Lincoln Park neighborhoods enjoy the lowest rate of youth disconnection among all of the nearly nine hundred neighborhoods in this study.

There are also strong trends relating youth disconnection in Chicago's neighborhoods to the racial and ethnic breakdown of these areas. There is a strong negative correlation between the percent of white residents in districts across the city and the rate of youth disconnection; as the percentage of white residents increases, the rate of youth disconnection decreases. In addition, the neighborhood in the Chicago metro area with the highest percentage of Latino residents is also home to the highest proportion of youth neither employed nor in school. Residential segregation can be extreme in the Chicago metro area. Of the twenty-five largest metro areas nationwide, Chicago is home to the neighborhood with both the lowest percentage of white residents—0.7 percent—and the highest proportion of African American residents—97.3 percent.
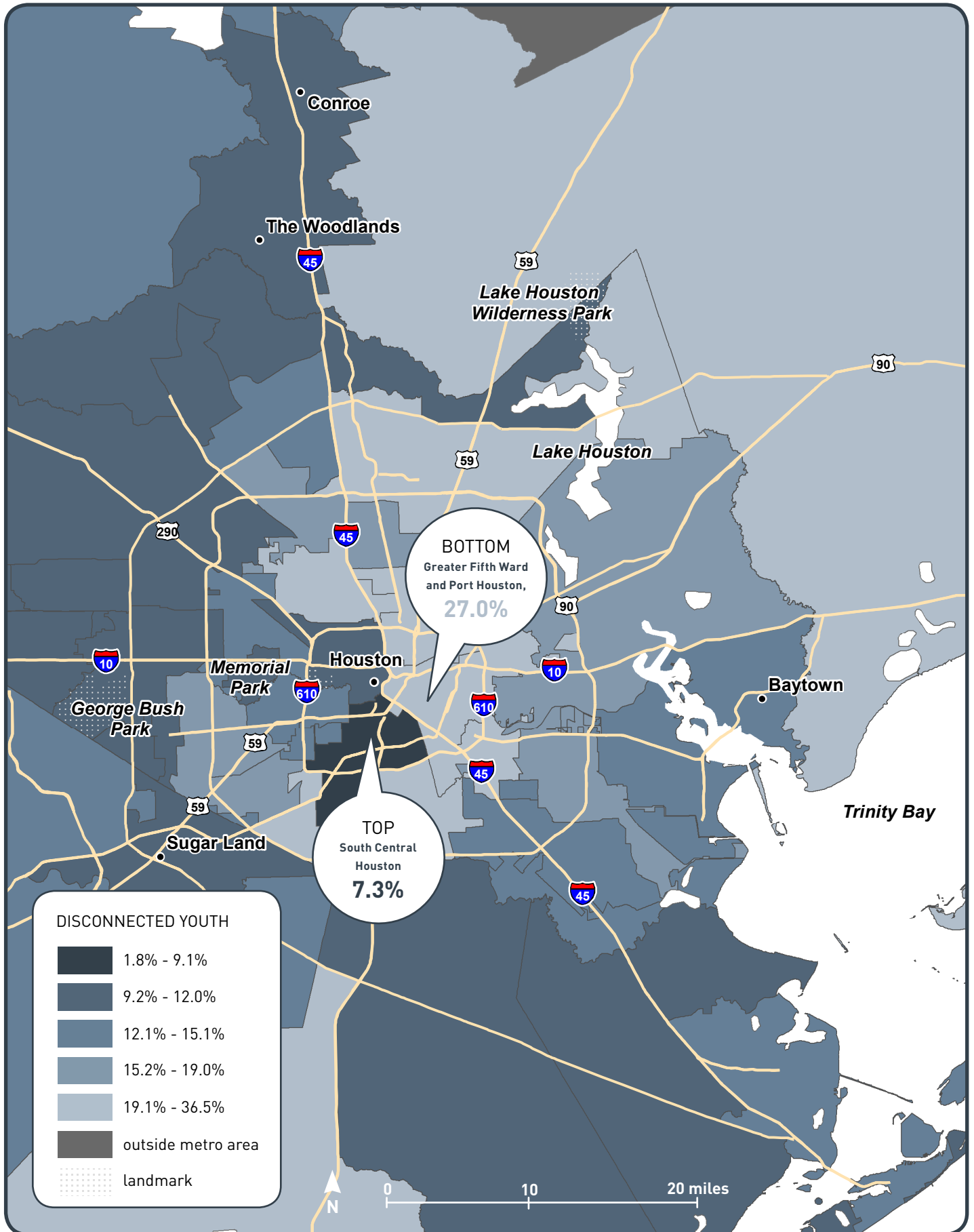
Halve the Gap in Chicago

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Lake View and Lincoln Park, Chicago, IL	2.9
Deerfield, Highland Park, Lake Forest and North Chicago, Lake County, IL	5.0
Forest Glen, North Park, Albany Park and Irving Park, Chicago, IL	5.2

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
West Englewood, Englewood, Auburn Gresham and Washington Heights, Chicago, IL	30.4
Humboldt Park, Garfield Park, and North Lawndale, Chicago, IL	30.8
South Lawndale and the Lower West Side, Chicago, IL	33.2

Conroe

The Woodlands

45

59

*Lake Houston
Wilderness Park*

90

Lake Houston

59

290

45

BOTTOM
**Greater Fifth Ward
and Port Houston,**
27.0%

90

Houston

10

*Memorial
Park*

610

10

Baytown

610

*George Bush
Park*

59

45

Trinity Bay

59

TOP
**South Central
Houston**
7.3%

Sugar Land

45

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

	1.8% - 9.1%
	9.2% - 12.0%
	12.1% - 15.1%
	15.2% - 19.0%
	19.1% - 36.5%
	outside metro area
	landmark

N

0   10   20 miles

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 5.02 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 21st out of 24

Total population: 6,051,850

Adult unemployment rate: 7.0%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 28.9%

Poverty rate: 17.4%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 18.1%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 60.5%

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

Of the three major metro areas in Texas that rank among the twenty-five largest in the nation, the **Houston metro area** has the lowest rate of youth disconnection. Dallas and San Antonio rank sixteenth and seventeenth, respectively. Composed of nine Texas counties—Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Brazoria, Galveston, Liberty, Waller, Chambers, and Austin—the Houston metro area has a disconnection rate of 14.1 percent, translating to a troubling 110,000 teens and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 lacking the key anchors provided by a job or school enrollment. This rate places the Space City between Chicago and St. Louis in terms of youth disconnection.
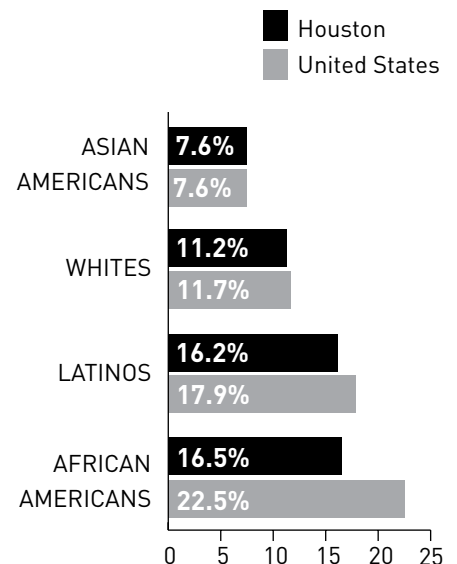
Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

All major racial and ethnic groups in Houston—African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and whites—have youth disconnection rates that are better than or equal to the national average for those groups. This difference is most marked for African Americans; their youth disconnection rate of 16.5 percent is 6 percentage points less than the US average for African Americans (22.5 percent) and the second-best among US big cities, behind only Boston.

Youth Disconnection by Gender

As in Dallas–Ft. Worth, Houston runs counter to the national trend in terms of the gender difference in youth disconnection. Young women in Houston are significantly less likely to be enrolled in school or employed than their male counterparts. This difference derives both from a female youth disconnection rate that is greater than the national average, and

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

■ Houston
■ United States

ASIAN AMERICANS	**7.6%** / 7.6%
WHITES	**11.2%** / 11.7%
LATINOS	**16.2%** / 17.9%
AFRICAN AMERICANS	**16.5%** / 22.5%

0   5   10   15   20   25

a male youth disconnection rate that is among the lowest in the country. Just 12.5 percent of Houston's young men are disconnected, far less than the national rate for young men of 15.1 percent, whereas 15.8 percent of Houston's young women are disconnected, compared to 14.1 percent nationally. In real numbers, there are 8,000 more young women not in work and not in school in Houston than there are young men in this situation.

Just over six percent of teenage girls ages 16 to 19 have children of their own, the second highest teen motherhood rate among the largest US metro areas (San Antonio's rate is the highest, 6.3 percent). The association between teen motherhood and disconnection is strong— disconnected young women are three times as likely to be mothers as connected young women. Some teens and young women leave school or work because they have a child, but others have a child because the other appealing choices and opportunities open to them are few to none.
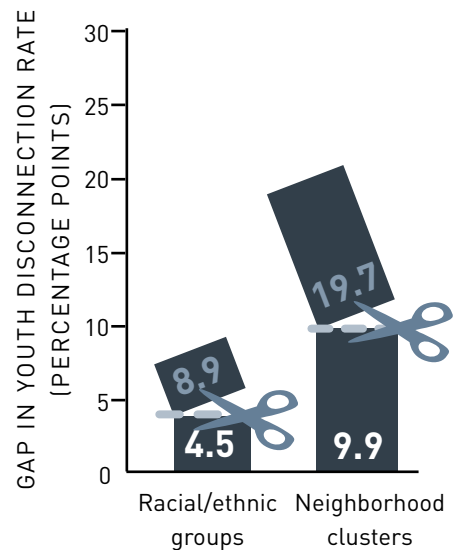
Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

Houston is one of the most racially diverse metro areas in the country. Just under 40 percent of the city's population is white, and the other three major racial and ethnic groups make up a greater proportion of Houston's populaton than they do nationally. Latino Houstonians make up nearly 36 percent of the city's population, more than double the proportion nationwide.

The Houston metro area is made up of thirty-five neighborhood clusters. Youth disconnection rates range from 27.0 percent in the Greater Fifth Ward and Port Houston neighborhood to 7.3 percent in the South Central Houston neighborhood. This variation of 19.7 percentage points between the neighborhood clusters with the highest and lowest rates of youth disconnection places Houston towards the middle of the twenty-five largest metro areas in terms of this range.

Regarding the racial and ethnic populations within these distinct neighborhood clusters, correlations between the youth disconnection rate and the various racial populations within each district of the city are relatively insignificant. Unlike many of the other largest metro areas across the country, neighborhoods at both ends of the spectrum in terms of youth disconnection have signifciant populations of African Americans, Latinos, and whites, indicating that Houston is less racially segregated than other big US cities. One exception to this is that the neighborhood cluster with the highest rate of youth disconnection in Houston is also home to the highest proportion of Latino residents.
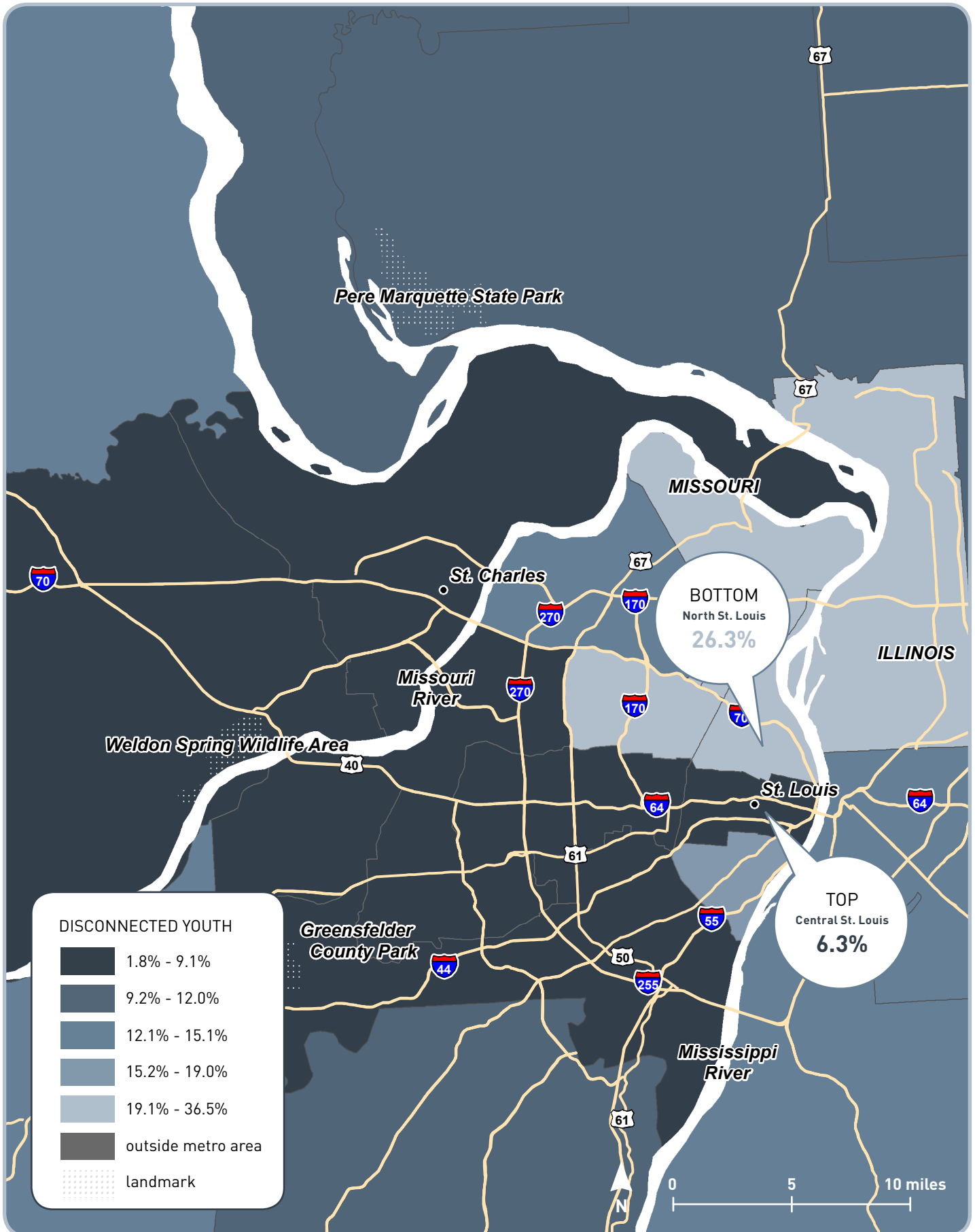
Halve the Gap in Houston

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
South Central Houston, TX	7.3
Jersey Village and Northwest Harris County, TX	9.2
Galveston, TX	9.7

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Humble, Harris County, TX	22.0
Spring, Harris County, TX	22.7
Greater Fifth Ward and Port Houston, TX	27.0

BOTTOM
North St. Louis
26.3%

MISSOURI

ILLINOIS

Pere Marquette State Park

St. Charles

Missouri River

Weldon Spring Wildlife Area

St. Louis

TOP
Central St. Louis
6.3%

Greensfelder County Park

Mississippi River

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

	1.8% - 9.1%
	9.2% - 12.0%
	12.1% - 15.1%
	15.2% - 19.0%
	19.1% - 36.5%
	outside metro area
	landmark

0   5   10 miles

N

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 5.17 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 17th out of 24

Total population: 2,793,375

Adult unemployment rate: 8.1%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 30.7%

Poverty rate: 13.7%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 21.0%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 62.8%

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

The **St. Louis metro area** is made up of seven counties in Missouri and eight counties in neighboring Illinois that have strong social and economic ties to the cities of St. Louis and St. Charles. The youth disconnection rate in the St. Louis metro area is 14.2 percent, slightly below the national average of 14.6 percent. Roughly 49,000 young people between the ages of 16 and 24 years are neither working nor in school.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

White youth have a rate of disconnection slightly lower than the national rate for whites, while African Americans have a rate of disconnection slightly higher than the national rate for African Americans. St. Louis is roughly three-quarters white and one-fifth African American; Asian Americans and Latinos each make up less than 3 percent of the St. Louis population, meaning that there are too few young people from these two groups for a reliable calculation of their youth disconnection rates.

Youth Disconnection by Gender

Young women in St. Louis are less likely than young men to be disconnected by a considerable and significant margin—4.7 percentage points. While the metro area ranks seventeenth in terms male disconnection, teenage girls and young women in St. Louis fare much better; the city is the sixth-best in terms of female disconnection.

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

■ St. Louis
■ United States

WHITES **10.3%** / 11.7%

AFRICAN AMERICANS **24.9%** / 22.5%

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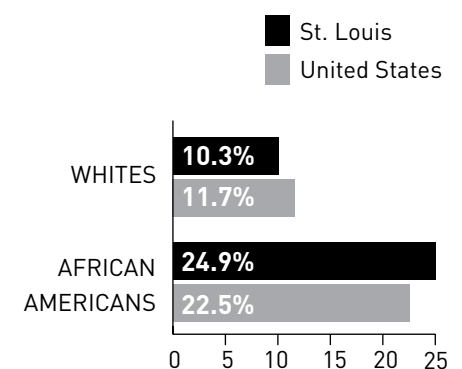
Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

St. Louis is made up of twenty-one neighborhood clusters, and the range of outcomes for youth education and employment among them is startling. In St. Louis City North, 26.3 percent of young people, or more than one of every four, are not working or in school. In contrast, in St. Louis City Central, just next door, only 6.3 percent of youth are disconnected.

St. Louis City North is 94 percent African American. It also faces extraordinary challenges in terms of key social and economic indicators. Nearly half of the children in the neighborhood live in poverty, and one in four adults did not complete a high school diploma. The unemployment rate for adults 16 years and older is 24 percent, as compared to the average of 8.1 percent in the broader metro area.

St. Louis is one of the ten most segregated cities in the U.S. in terms of black-white residential segregation, one of a handful of Rustbelt metro areas where segregation has been stubbornly persistent for several decades. Nationally, communities of color tend to be disproportionately poor, and the confluence of segregation by race and segregation by income is associated with high rates of youth disconnection. Schools in segregated neighborhoods tend to have fewer resources and thus worse educational outcomes, ranging from higher dropout rates to a lower quality education. Segregation by race and income also typically translates to fewer transportation options and employment opportunities. And people living in low-income neighborhoods of color tend to have social networks limited to others who share their financial circumstances, thus limiting vital connections so helpful for job-seekers.
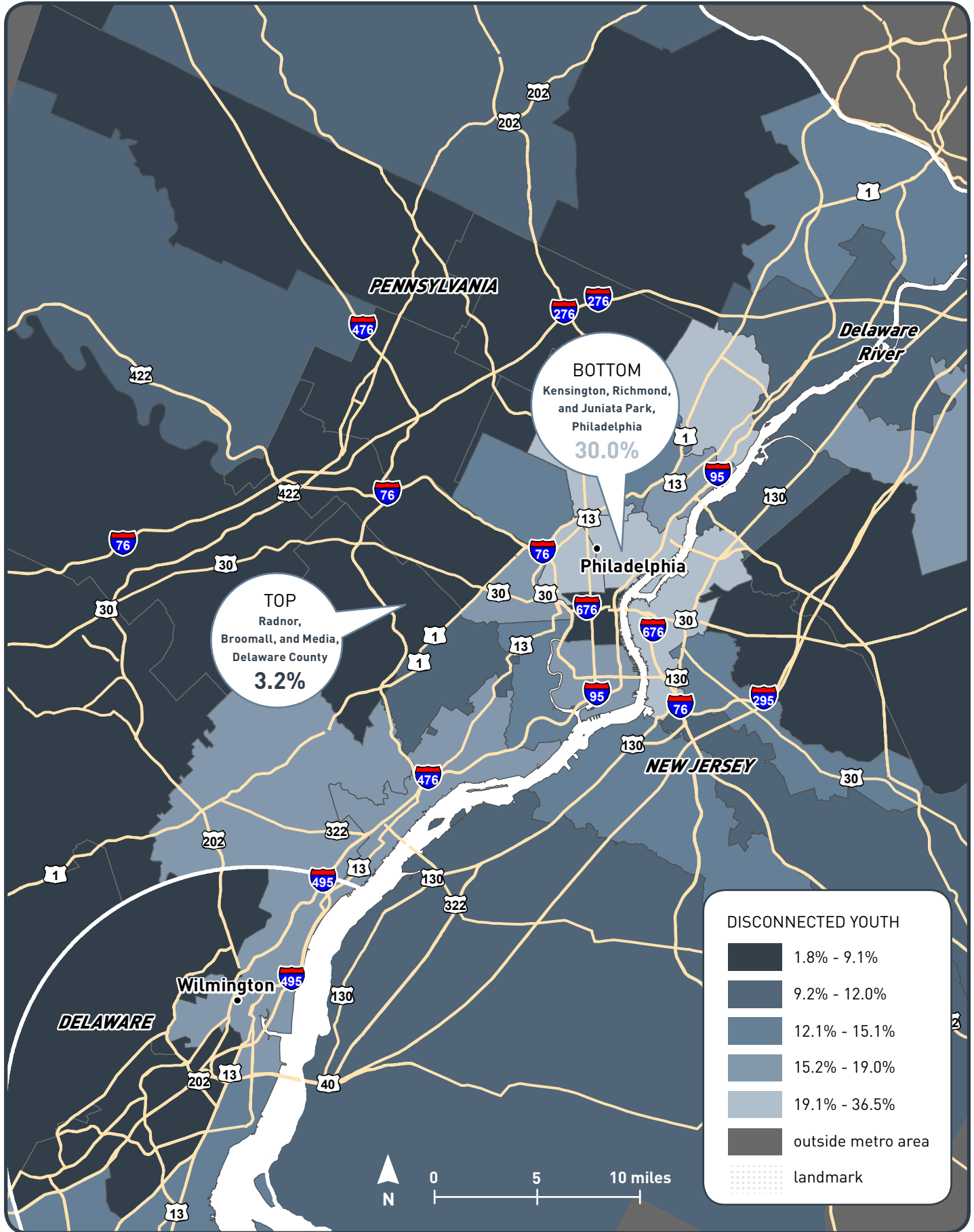
Halve the Gap in St. Louis
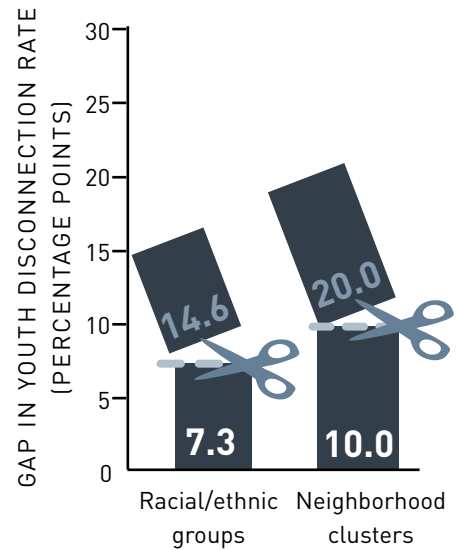
Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
St. Louis City Central, MO	6.3
St. Charles County West, MO	6.6
West Central St. Louis County, MO	7.2

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Inner Ring North, St. Louis County, MO	21.0
St. Louis County Northeast, MO	24.1
St. Louis City North, MO	26.3

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE PHILADELPHIA METRO AREA

BOTTOM
Kensington, Richmond, and Juniata Park, Philadelphia
30.0%

TOP
Radnor, Broomall, and Media, Delaware County
3.2%

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

1.8% - 9.1%

9.2% - 12.0%

12.1% - 15.1%

15.2% - 19.0%

19.1% - 36.5%

outside metro area

landmark

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 5.62 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 10th out of 24

Total population: 5,997,474

Adult unemployment rate: 8.9%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 32.9%

Poverty rate: 13.5%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 22.5%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 65.0%

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

The country's sixth most populous metropolitan area, **greater Philadelphia** is home to approximately six million people. The metro area is comprised of eleven counties in four different states—Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montegomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania County; Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland. The youth disconnection rate in and around the City of Brotherly Love is 14.3 percent, the same rate as nearby Baltimore. While both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh enjoy youth disconnection rates lower than the national average of 14.6 percent, Pittsburgh bests Philadelphia with a disconnection rate of 12.6 percent. Philadelphia has nearly triple the number of disconnected young people, 112,000, as Pittsburgh, 39,000.
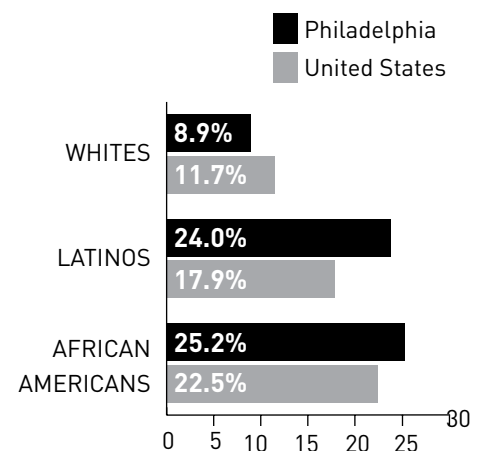
Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

In Philadelphia, white youth experience a very different reality than their peers. The disconnection rate for white youth in the city is one of the five lowest in this study, whereas the rates for both Latinos and African Americans in Philly are among the highest in urban America. More than a quarter—25.2 percent—of African American youth are disconnected from school and work, a higher rate for African Americans than in all of the other metro areas except Detroit, and the Latino population experiences a rate of youth disconnection—24.0 percent—that is the highest of any of the largest metro areas for Latinos.

Youth Disconnection by Gender

Although the gender difference among youth disconnection rates in the Philadelphia metro area reflects the American trend of young men

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

Legend:
- Philadelphia (black)
- United States (gray)

|	Philadelphia	United States
WHITES	8.9%	11.7%
LATINOS	24.0%	17.9%
AFRICAN AMERICANS	25.2%	22.5%

experiencing higher rates of youth disconnection than young women, the Philly gender gap is one of the widest in the nation. While just 12 percent of young women lack key social and economic anchors, 16.6 percent of males between the ages of 16 and 24 do. The only cities where this gap is larger are St. Louis and San Diego.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Philadelphia metro area is made up of forty-three neighborhood clusters. The rate of young people neither working nor in school ranges from a low of only 3.2 percent in Radnor, Broomall, and Media in Delaware County, PA neighborhood, to a high of 30.0 percent in Kensington/Eastern North Philly, a range of nearly 27 percentage points. Parts of the Philadelphia metro area with low levels of youth disconnection tend to have low poverty, low unemployment, relatively little racial and ethnic diversity, and high levels of adult educational attainment. In fact, in the three neighborhoods with the lowest rates of youth disconnection, more than half the adult population has at least a bachelor's degree. Areas with higher youth disconnection tend to have more poverty and adult unemployment, weaker educational attainment, and higher proportions of African Americans and Latinos. However, some majority white neighborhoods struggle with high youth disconnection as well, such as Torresdale, Bustleton, and Somerton in Far Northeast Philadelphia, where one out of every four youths is disconnected. Only about 21 percent of adults in this section of the city have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 33 percent for the wider metro area.
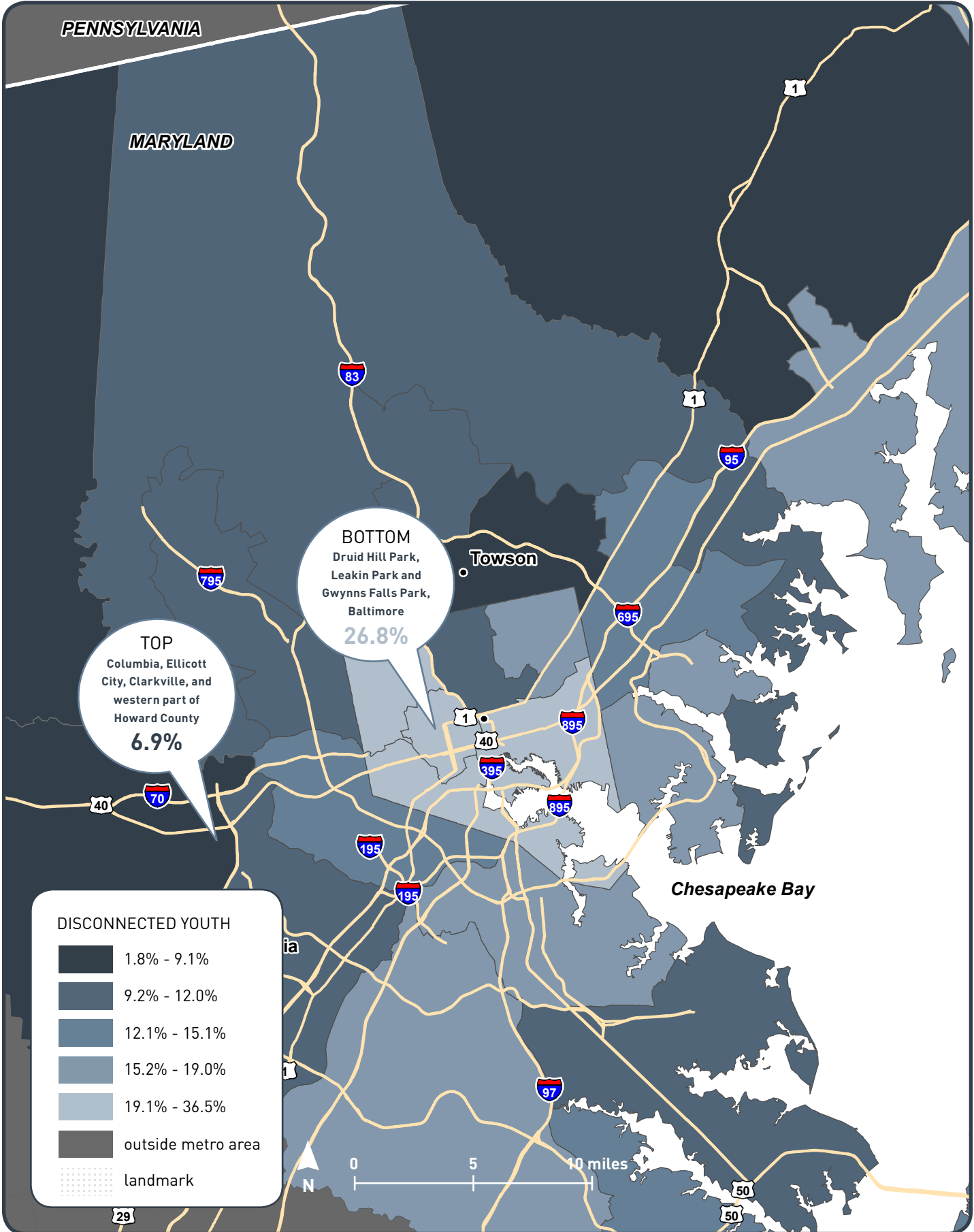
Halve the Gap in Philadelphia
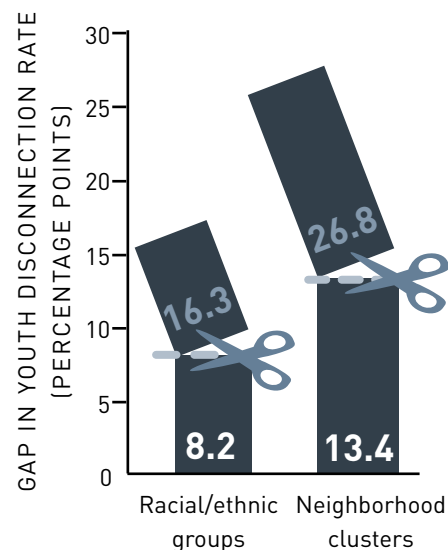
Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Radnor, Broomall, and Media, Delaware County, PA	3.2
Newark, Pike Creek, and Hockessin, New Castle County, DE	3.8
King of Prussia, Bryn Mawr, and Penn Wynne, Montgomery County, PA	3.8

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
East Park, North Central, and Tioga, Philadelphia, PA	23.8
Torresdale, Bustleton, and Somerton, Philadelphia, PA	25.2
Kensington, Richmond, and Juniata Park, Philadelphia, PA	30.0

PENNSYLVANIA

MARYLAND

TOP
Columbia, Ellicott City, Clarkville, and western part of Howard County
6.9%

BOTTOM
Druid Hill Park, Leakin Park and Gwynns Falls Park, Baltimore
26.8%

Towson

Chesapeake Bay

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

	1.8% - 9.1%
	9.2% - 12.0%
	12.1% - 15.1%
	15.2% - 19.0%
	19.1% - 36.5%
	outside metro area
	landmark

0   5   10 miles

N

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 5.75 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 7th out of 24

Total population: 2,733,678

Adult unemployment rate: 7.9%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 35.8%

Poverty rate: 11.6%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 19.4%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 61.3%

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

The **Baltimore metro area**—composed of the city of Baltimore and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's Counties in Maryland—ranks in the middle of the twenty-five largest US metro areas in terms of youth disconnection. Of the total youth population of about 350,000, just over 50,000 young people are not connected to school or work, representing 14.3 percent of teens and young adults ages 16 to 24. This rate places Baltimore between two other major cities on the Eastern seaboard in terms of youth disconnection— New York and Philadelphia—but with rates worse than neighboring Washington, DC, which has a disconnection rate of just 11.3 percent.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

In Baltimore, both whites and African Americans—the only two racial and ethnic groups with populations large enough to produce reliable estimates of youth disconnection—experience levels of youth disconnection comparable to how these same groups fare nationwide. However, this average performance means that in Baltimore, as in many American cities, the youth disconnection rate among African Americans is more than double the value for whites, with almost one in every four young African Americans lacking key social anchors in education or employment.

Youth Disconnection by Gender

Young men are more likely than young women to be disconnected throughout the country, and this pattern holds true in Baltimore as well. The disconnection gender gap between males (15.2 percent) and females

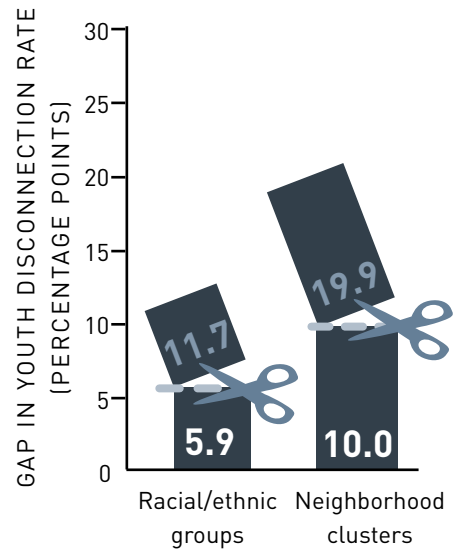**How Do Racial and Ethnic Groups Compare to Each Other and to Their National Counterparts?**

■ Baltimore
■ United States

WHITES 10.7%
        11.7%

AFRICAN
AMERICANS 22.4%
           22.5%

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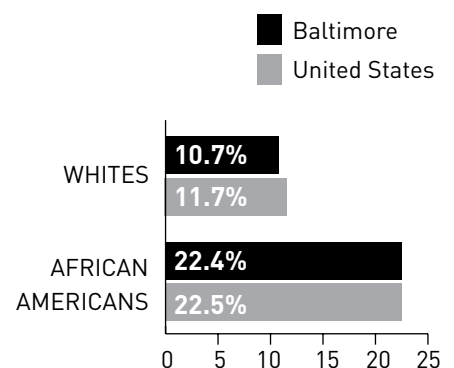
(13.5 percent) accounts for a difference of nearly 4,000 more adolescent men than women not working and not in school.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Baltimore metro area is made up of twenty-three neighborhood clusters. Youth disconnection rates range from 6.9 percent in Columbia, Ellicott City, Clarkville, West Friendship, and Clarksville, Howard County to 26.8 percent in the Druid Hill Park, Leakin Park, and Gwynns Falls Park neighborhoods, representing a difference of nearly 20 percentage points between the most and least connected neighborhoods. This range is fairly typical among the twenty-five largest US metro areas.

Among these neighborhood clusters, low levels of youth disconnection tend to be found in areas with low poverty, low unemployment, and high adult educational outcomes. In Columbia, Ellicott City, Clarkville, West Friendship, and Clarksville, Howard County, for example, where only 6.9 percent of young people are disconnected, over 64 percent of adults have completed a bachelor's degree or higher and both the poverty and unemployment rates are under 4 percent. Only 10 miles to the east, but a world away in terms of well-being in Druid Hill Park, Leakin Park and Gwynns Falls Park, nearly 27 percent of young people are disconnected and a similar proportion of adults never completed high school let alone a higher degree. More than a third of the population in this area of Baltimore lives in poverty and unemployment is over 20 percent.
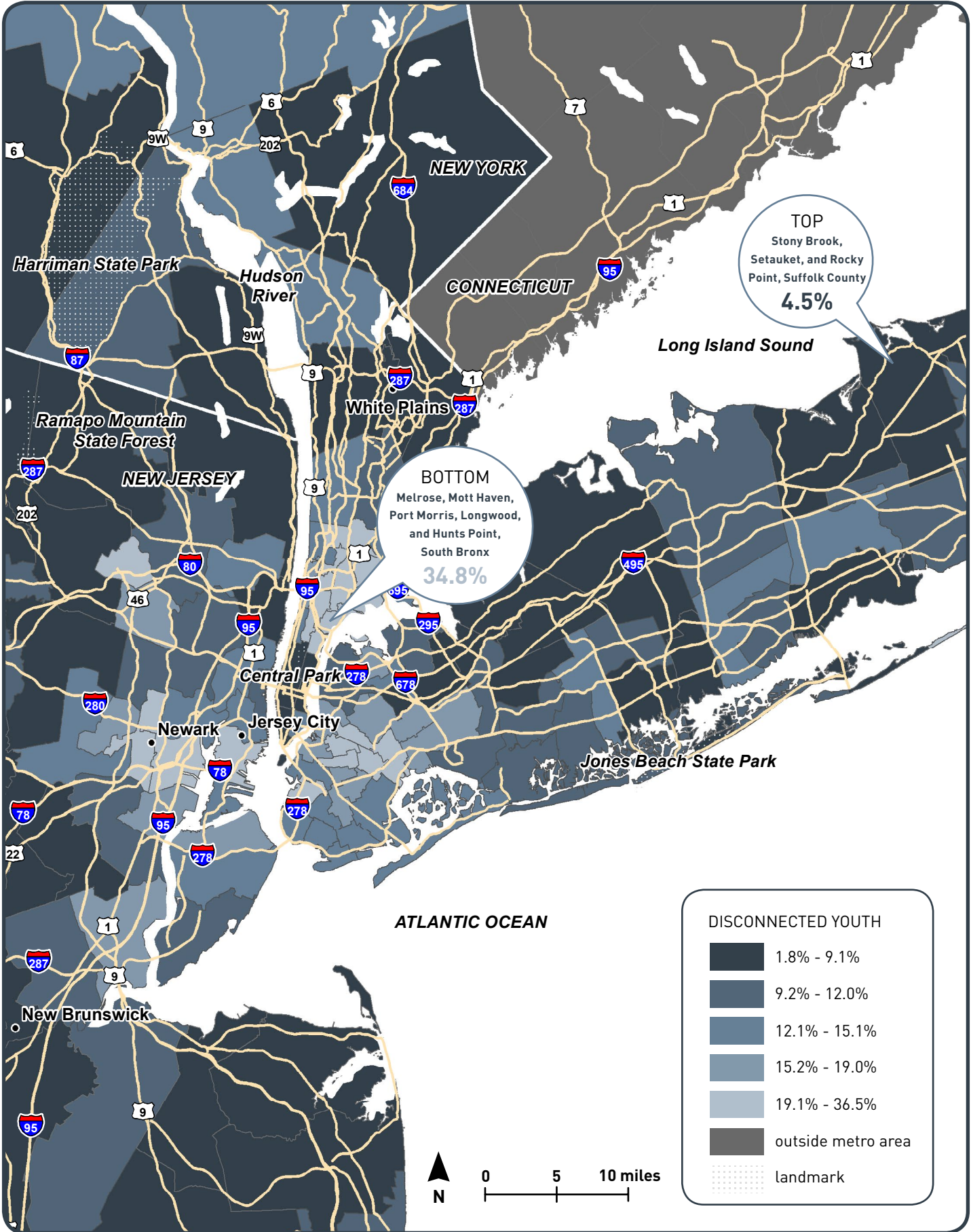
Halve the Gap in Baltimore

GAP IN YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE (PERCENTAGE POINTS)

Racial/ethnic groups: 11.7 / 5.9
Neighborhood clusters: 19.9 / 10.0

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Columbia, Ellicott City, Clarkville, and western part of Howard County, MD	6.9
Belair and Northern Harford County, MD	7.3
Westminster and Eldersburg, Carroll County, MD	8.0

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Northwest Baltimore, MD	23.7
Downtown and Southeast Baltimore, MD	23.9
Druid Hill Park, Leakin Park and Gwynns Falls Park, Baltimore, MD	26.8

Harriman State Park

Hudson River

NEW YORK

CONNECTICUT

White Plains

TOP
Stony Brook, Setauket, and Rocky Point, Suffolk County
4.5%

Long Island Sound

Ramapo Mountain State Forest

NEW JERSEY

BOTTOM
Melrose, Mott Haven, Port Morris, Longwood, and Hunts Point, South Bronx
34.8%

Central Park

Jersey City

Newark

Jones Beach State Park

New Brunswick

ATLANTIC OCEAN

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

- 1.8% - 9.1%
- 9.2% - 12.0%
- 12.1% - 15.1%
- 15.2% - 19.0%
- 19.1% - 36.5%
- outside metro area
- landmark

0   5   10 miles

N

The **New York metro area** falls in the middle of the pack in terms of youth disconnection, with a rate of 14.5 percent of teens and young adults ages 16 to 24 who are neither in school nor working. New York is the most populous metro area nationwide, with 19.8 million residents spread out over twenty-five counties. These counties are New York City's five boroughs as well as Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Suffolk, Nassau, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties in New York State; New Jersey's Bergen, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Essex, Union, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Hunterdon Counties; and Pennsylvania's Pike County. Almost one out of every sixteen Americans lives in this region, translating into a population of nearly 2.5 million young people. Over 353,000 of them are disconnected. The New York metro area falls between Baltimore and Los Angeles in terms of the rate of youth disconnection.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Disaggregated by racial and ethnic group, the youth disconnection rate for the New York metro area depicts an unfortunate reality of inequity. While the proportion of youth neither working nor in school in this region is lower for whites and Asian Americans than for those groups nationwide, both African Americans and Latinos are more likely to be unconnected than their national counterparts. This difference is most pronounced for white youth, for whom the disconnection rate in the New York area is 1.9 percentage points less than for the rest of the US. These values reveal shocking facts; the population of disconnected African American and Latino youth in the New York metro area is equal to the entire populace of Madison, Wisconsin.

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

■ New York
■ United States

ASIAN AMERICANS: 6.5% / 7.6%
WHITES: 9.8% / 11.7%
LATINOS: 18.5% / 17.9%
AFRICAN AMERICANS: 23.3% / 22.5%
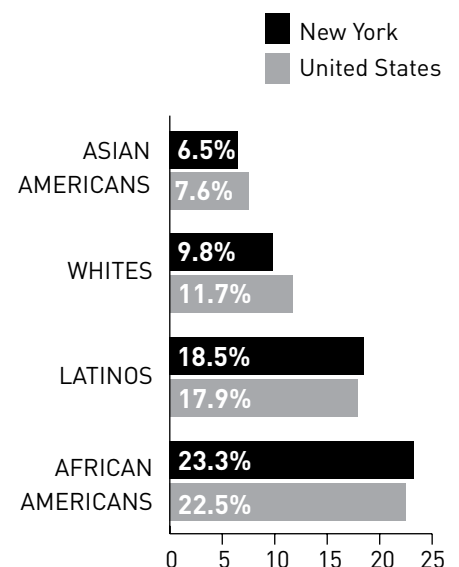
Youth Disconnection by Gender

With the largest population of youth of any major city in America, the stakes are high in the Big Apple and the surrounding metro area. Roughly 160,000 young women and 190,000 young men are engaged with neither school nor work. The gender difference among disconnected youth in the New York metro area mirrors that of the national trend: young men have higher rates than young women. But the gap is wider in the Big Apple than elsewhere: 13.6 percent of young women as compared to 15.4 percent of males between the ages of 16 and 24. The rate for women is a bit better than the national average; for men, it is worse.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The New York metro area is made up of 141 neigborhood clusters. New York ties with the Windy City in terms of the largest range of youth disconnection rates between neighborhood clusters, a striking difference of 30.3 percentage points between the 34.8 percent rate of youth disconnection in the Melrose, Mott Haven, Port Morris, Longwood, and Hunts Point neighborhoods in the South Bronx and the 4.5 percent rate found in the Long Island communitieis of Stony Brook, Setauket, and Rocky Point. These South Bronx neighborhoods suffer from the second highest rate of youth disconnection among all of the neighborhood clusters within the twenty-five largest metro areas; only a single neighborhood cluster in Detroit has a greater proportion of youth out of work and out of school. Reflecting nationwide trends, this area of the Bronx also suffers from high poverty and low levels of adult educational attainment. More than half of all children in these neighborhoods live in poverty, and nearly half of all adults never finished high school.
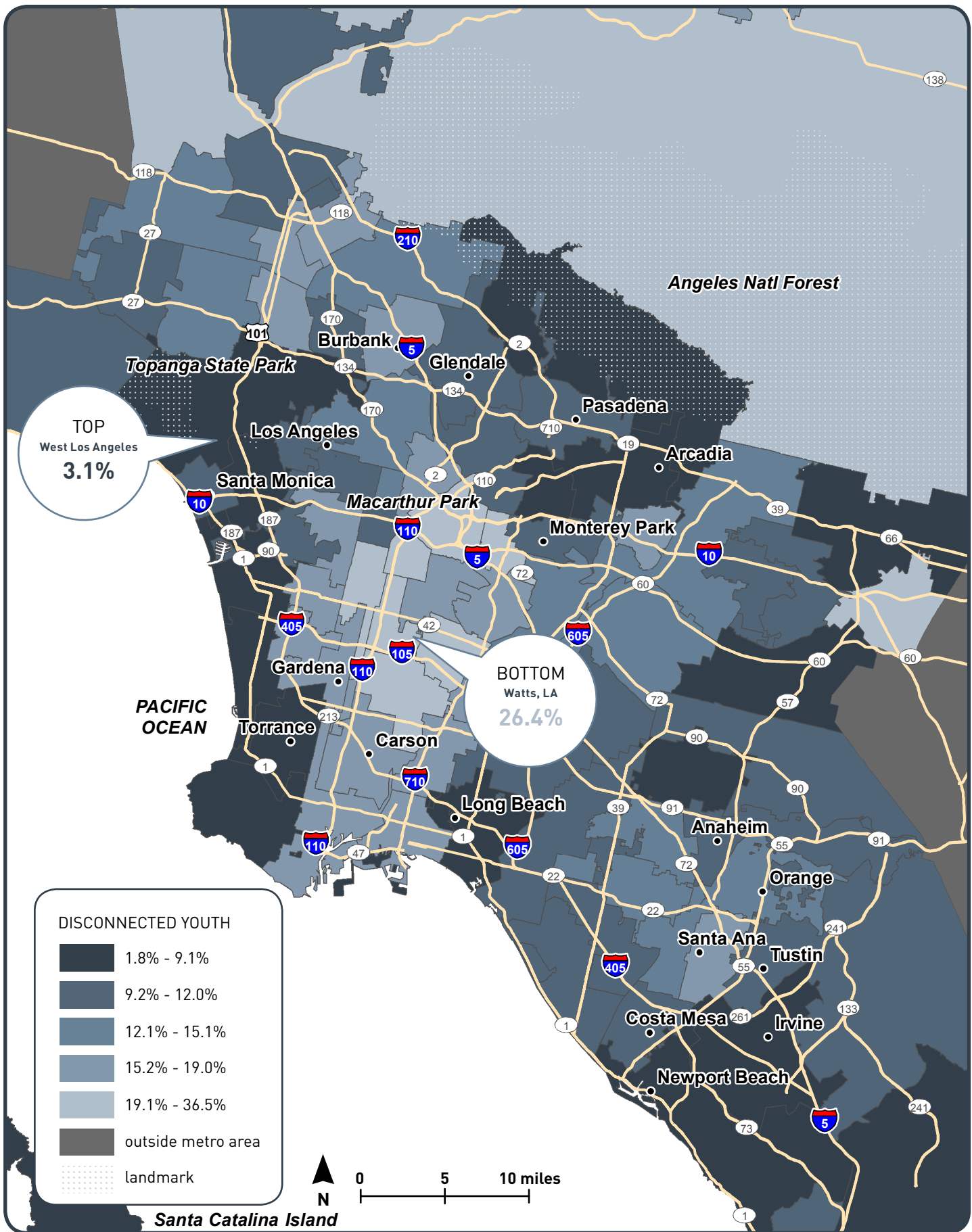
Halve the Gap in New York
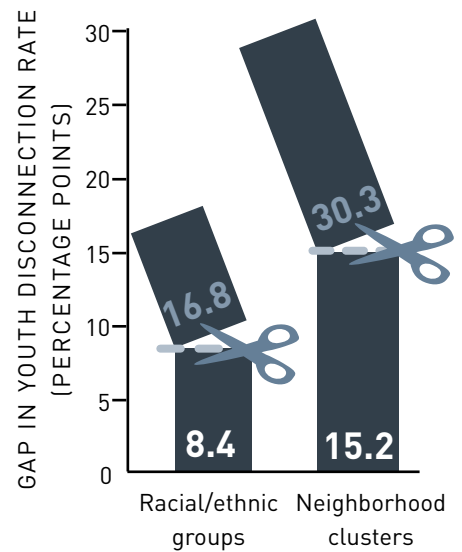
Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Stony Brook, Setauket, and Rocky Point, Suffolk County, NY	4.5
West Village, Greenwich Village, SoHo, Tribeca, and Financial District, Manhattan, NY	4.6
Bethpage, Hicksville, and Plainview, Nassau County, NY	5.1

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Paterson, NJ	29.6
Ironbound, Broadway, and Forest Hill, Newark, NJ	31.3
Melrose, Mott Haven, Port Morris, Longwood, and Hunts Point, South Bronx, NY	34.8

TOP
West Los Angeles
3.1%

BOTTOM
Watts, LA
26.4%

Angeles Natl Forest

Topanga State Park

Macarthur Park

Burbank
Glendale
Pasadena
Arcadia
Los Angeles
Santa Monica
Monterey Park
PACIFIC OCEAN
Gardena
Torrance
Carson
Anaheim
Orange
Long Beach
Santa Ana
Tustin
Costa Mesa
Irvine
Newport Beach
Santa Catalina Island

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

1.8% - 9.1%
9.2% - 12.0%
12.1% - 15.1%
15.2% - 19.0%
19.1% - 36.5%
outside metro area
landmark

N

0   5   10 miles

HD Index: 5.40 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 13th out of 24

Total population: 12,945,140

Adult unemployment rate: 9.9%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 31.0%

Poverty rate: 17.0%

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

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

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

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

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

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

Youth Disconnection by Gender

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

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

■ Los Angeles
■ United States

ASIAN AMERICANS — **7.8%** / 7.6%
WHITES — **10.5%** / 11.7%
LATINOS — **17.2%** / 17.9%
AFRICAN AMERICANS — **22.5%** / 22.5%

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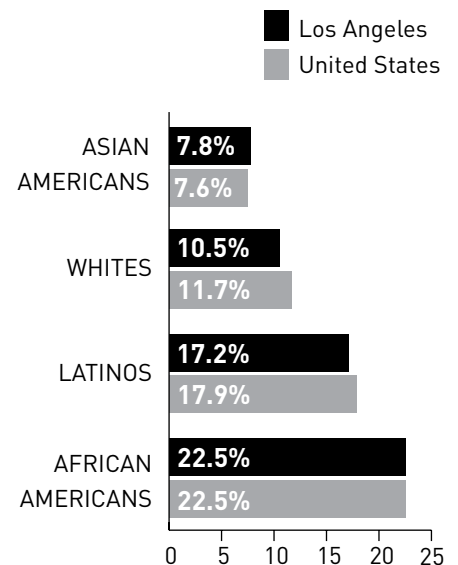
LOS ANGELES

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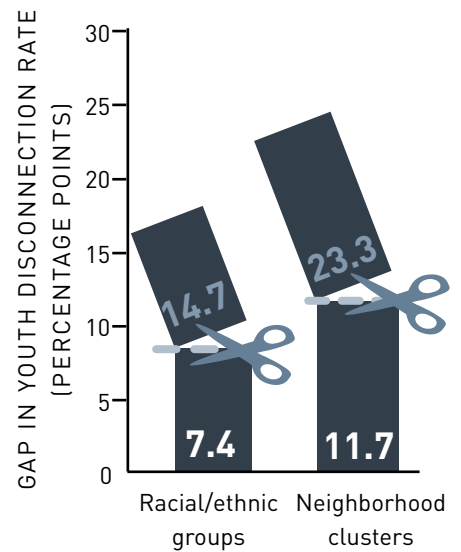
Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

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

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

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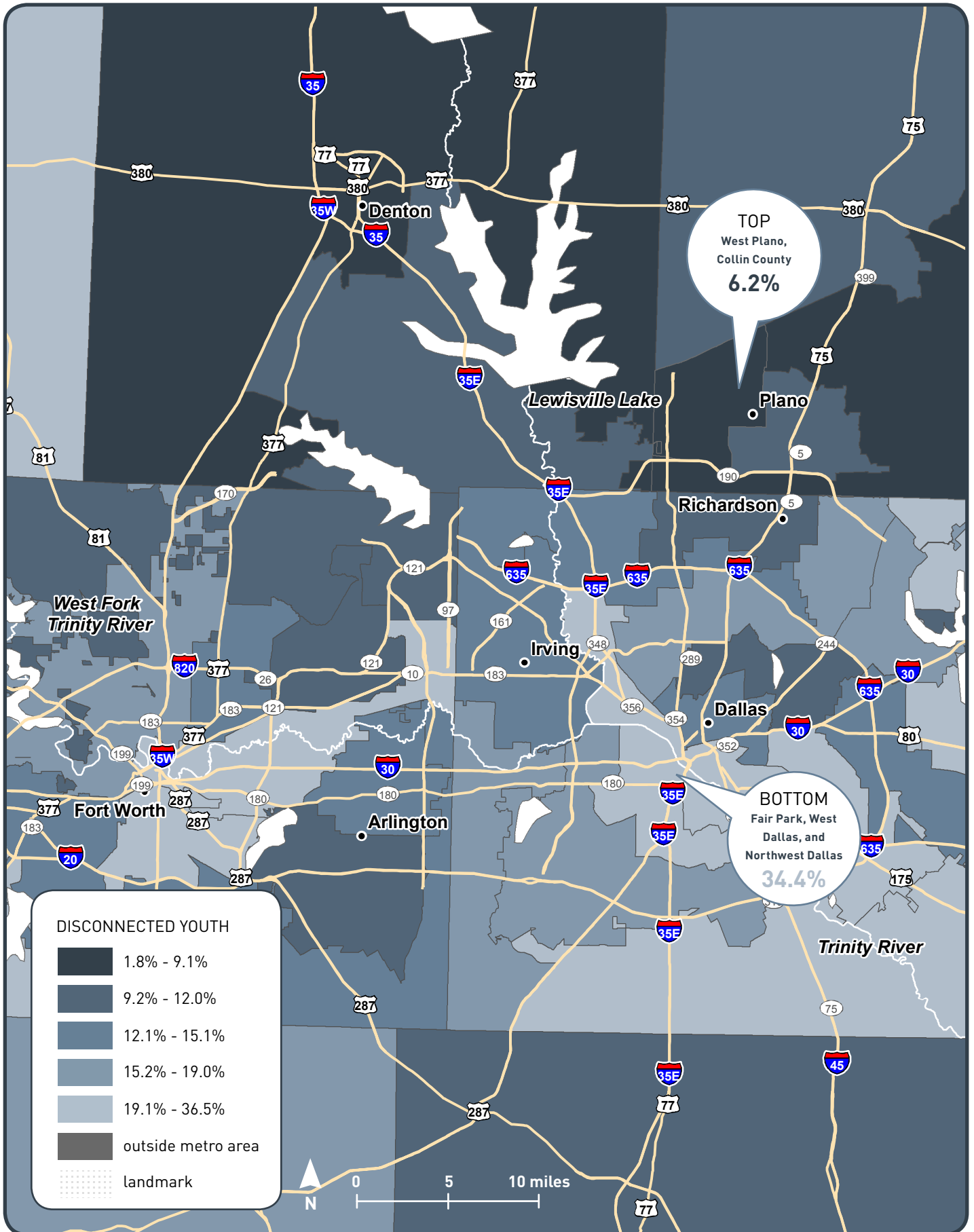
Halve the Gap in Los Angeles

GAP IN YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE (PERCENTAGE POINTS)

14.7 — 7.4 — Racial/ethnic groups
23.3 — 11.7 — Neighborhood clusters

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

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

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

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

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE DALLAS–FT. WORTH METRO AREA

TOP
West Plano,
Collin County
6.2%

BOTTOM
Fair Park, West
Dallas, and
Northwest Dallas
34.4%

Denton

Lewisville Lake

Plano

Richardson

West Fork
Trinity River

Irving

Dallas

Fort Worth

Arlington

Trinity River

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

- 1.8% – 9.1%
- 9.2% – 12.0%
- 12.1% – 15.1%
- 15.2% – 19.0%
- 19.1% – 36.5%
- outside metro area
- landmark

0   5   10 miles

N

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 5.18 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 16th out of 24

Total population: 6,569,112

Adult unemployment rate: 7.0%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 31.4%

Poverty rate: 15.8%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 19.5%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 59.8%

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

The **Dallas–Fort Worth metro area** is comprised of thirteen Texas counties—Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise. The youth disconnection rate in greater Dallas is 14.9 percent; approximately 128,000 teens and young adults there are not working or in school. Dallas trails Houston, but performs slighty better than San Antonio.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

White youth experience the lowest rate of youth disconnection, 12.4 percent, followed by Latinos (17.6 percent), and then African Americans (19.3 percent). Latinos and African Americans in Dallas–Fort Worth experience youth disconnection rates below the national averages for those groups, but white young people in Dallas are slightly more likely to be disconnected than their counterparts elsewhere. The gap between the most and least connected racial and ethnic group is 6.9 percentage points.

Dallas is one of ten metro areas among the twenty-five most populous where whites do not make up the majority of residents. The proportion of Latinos in the city is almost double the national average. Dallas is home to too few Asian American young people to calculate a youth disconnection rate for that group.

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

Legend:
- Dallas–Ft. Worth
- United States

|	Dallas–Ft. Worth	United States
WHITES	12.4%	11.7%
LATINOS	17.6%	17.9%
AFRICAN AMERICANS	19.3%	22.5%
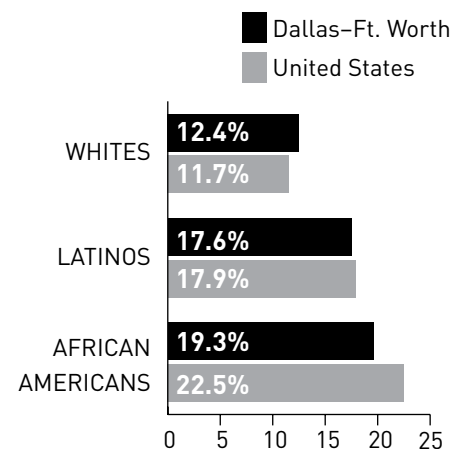
Youth Disconnection by Gender

Like Houston, Dallas departs from the national pattern when it comes to youth disconnection by gender. Young women in these cities are more disengaged and disconnected than their male counterparts. In Dallas–Fort Worth, 16.1 percent of young women are disconnected, compared to 13.8 percent of young men. A noteworthy finding is that the three Texas metro areas in this study have the highest rates of teenage motherhood among the twenty-five most populatious metro areas.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The range of youth disconnection among Dallas–Fort Worth's thirty-nine neighborhood clusters is among the largest of the most populous metro areas in the country. In West Plano and the surrounding communities in Collin County, 6.2 percent of young people are out of work and out of school, while in Fair Park, West and Northwest Dallas, the value is 34.4 percent. This neighborhood cluster is, in fact, the district with the third highest rate of youth disconnection of the nearly nine hundred neighborhood clusters that make up the major metro areas studied. The gap between the most and least connected neighborhoods in the metro area is an astonishing 28.2 percentage points.

Halve the Gap in Dallas
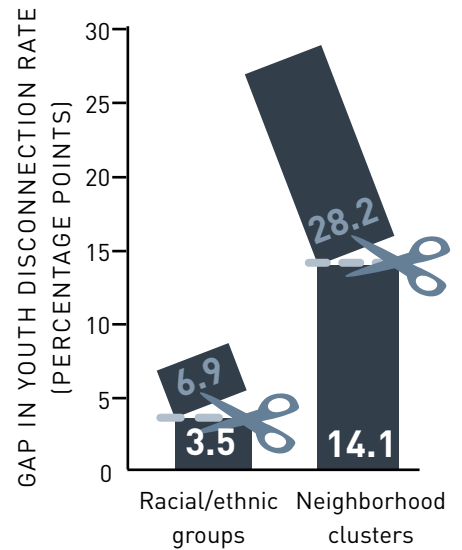
Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
West Plano, Collin County, TX	6.2
Greater Denton, The Colony and Sanger, Denton County, TX	7.9
Allen, Wylie and Princeton, Collin County, TX	9.0

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Oak Cliff and South Dallas, TX	25.0
Southeast Dallas, Buckner Terrace, Everglade Park, Pleasant Grove and Kleberg, Dallas, TX	25.1
Fair Park, West Dallas and Northwest Dallas, Dallas, TX	34.4
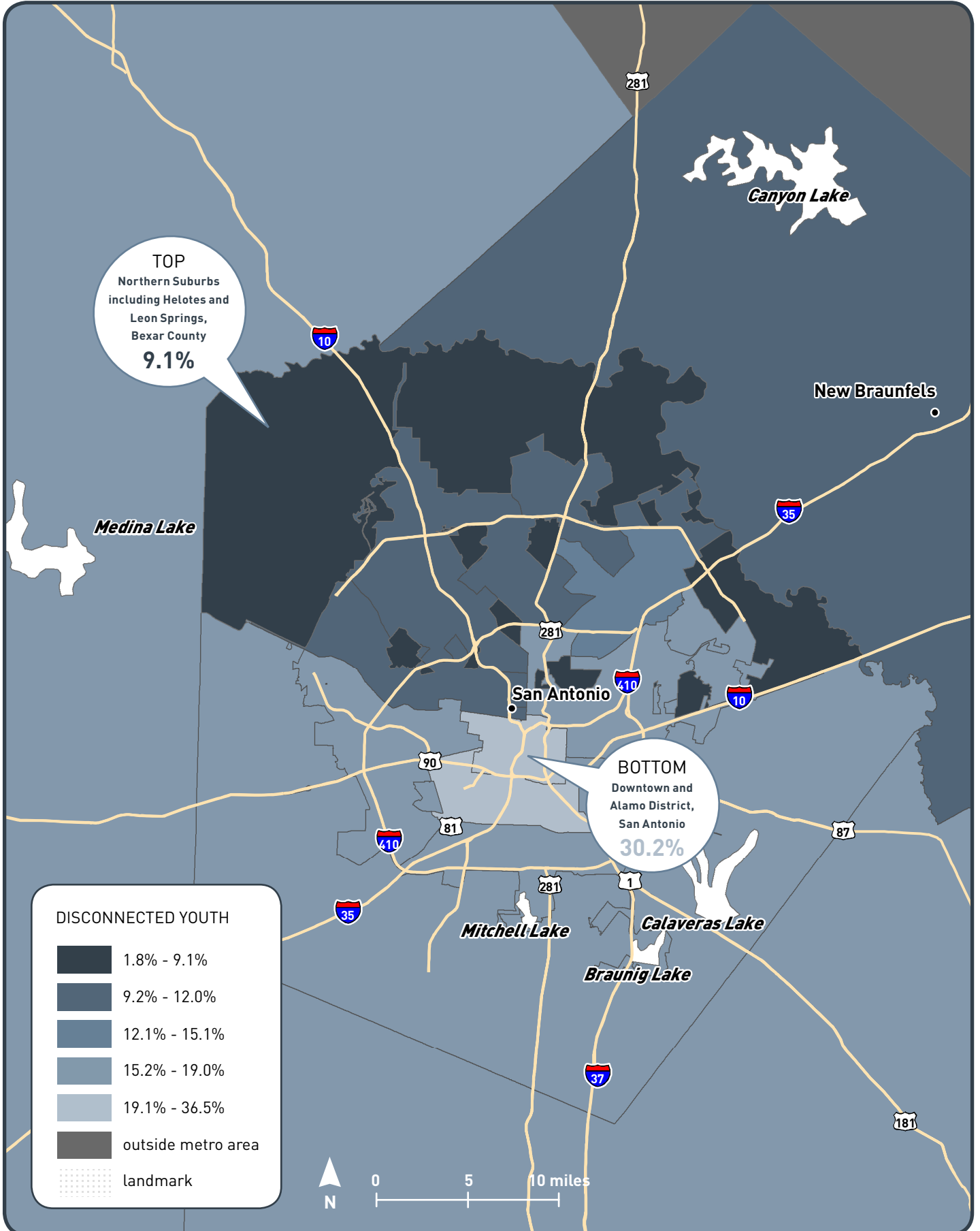
TOP
Northern Suburbs including Helotes and Leon Springs, Bexar County
9.1%

BOTTOM
Downtown and Alamo District, San Antonio
30.2%

Canyon Lake

New Braunfels

Medina Lake

San Antonio

Mitchell Lake

Calaveras Lake

Braunig Lake

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

- 1.8% – 9.1%
- 9.2% – 12.0%
- 12.1% – 15.1%
- 15.2% – 19.0%
- 19.1% – 36.5%
- outside metro area
- landmark

0   5   10 miles

N

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

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

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

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

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

■ San Antonio
■ United States

WHITES
12.0%
11.7%

LATINOS
17.2%
17.9%

0   5   10   15   20   25
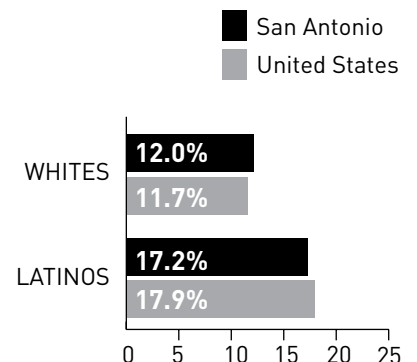
smaller African American and Asian American communities, relative to the total population, than other major metro areas. There are not enough young people in either of these groups to allow the calculation of reliable youth disconnection figures.
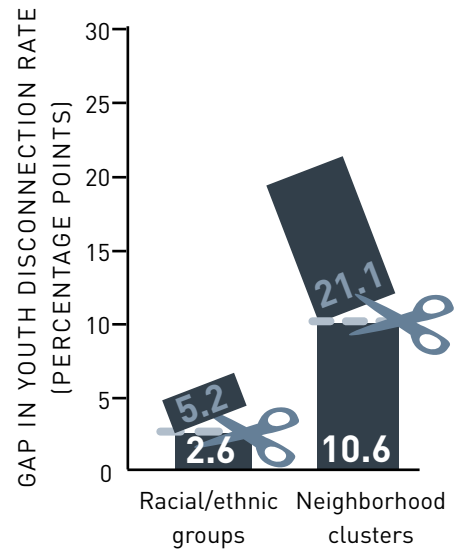
Youth Disconnection by Gender

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

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

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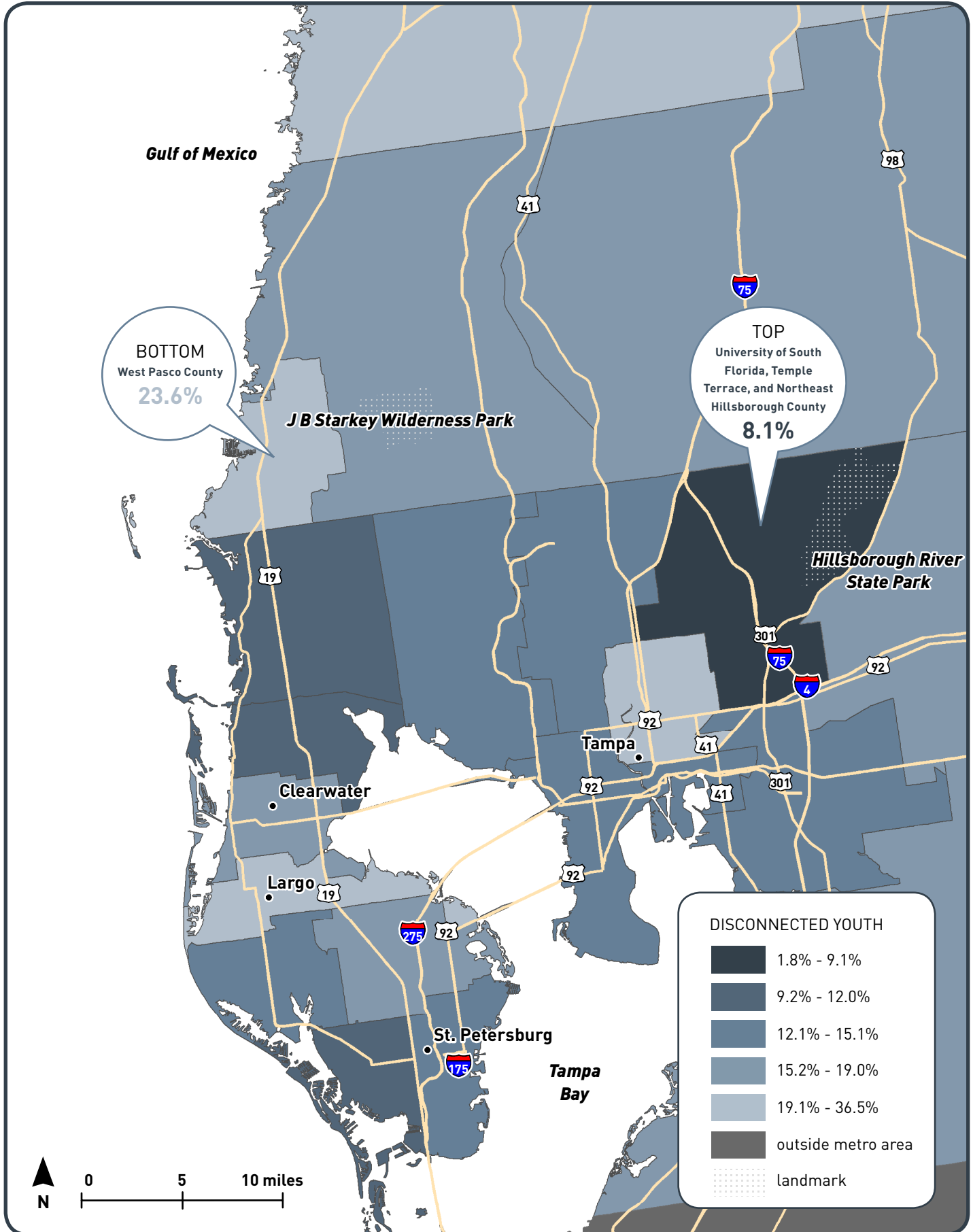
Halve the Gap in San Antonio

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

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

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

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

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE TAMPA–ST. PETERSBURG METRO AREA

Gulf of Mexico

BOTTOM
West Pasco County
23.6%

J B Starkey Wilderness Park

TOP
University of South Florida, Temple Terrace, and Northeast Hillsborough County
8.1%

Hillsborough River State Park

Tampa

Clearwater

Largo

St. Petersburg

Tampa Bay

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

- 1.8% - 9.1%
- 9.2% - 12.0%
- 12.1% - 15.1%
- 15.2% - 19.0%
- 19.1% - 36.5%
- outside metro area
- landmark

0   5   10 miles

N

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 4.75 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 22nd out of 24

Total population: 2,826,438

Adult unemployment rate: 10.5%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 24.9%

Poverty rate: 16.3%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 22.6%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 60.2%

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

The **Tampa–St.Petersburg metro area** is comprised of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, and Hernando Counties and extends over some 2,500 square miles. Tampa–St. Pete has a youth disconnection rate of 15.8 percent, just edging out Miami in the rankings and close on the heels of San Antonio. Almost 50,000 young people in this metro area are neither working nor in school; detached from these key social and economic anchors, they are adrift at a critical point in life.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Both the racial breakdown of the Tampa–St. Petersburg metro area and the rates of youth disconnection among the largest racial and ethnic groups in the city resemble broader nationwide patterns. African Americans make up 11.5 percent of the city's population, Latinos make up 16.6 percent of the population, and whites account for 66.6 percent. There are too few Asian Americans in the 16–24 year-old age group in Tampa to reliably calculate their rate of youth disonnection.

Youth disconnection rates likewise largely mirror the national pattern. In Tampa–St. Pete, the youth disconnection rate is 22.3 percent for African Americans, 18.6 percent for Latinos, and 13.2 percent for whites.

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

■ Tampa–St. Petersburg
▨ United States

WHITES
13.2%
11.7%

LATINOS
18.6%
17.9%

AFRICAN AMERICANS
**22.3%**
22.5%

0   5   10   15   20   25
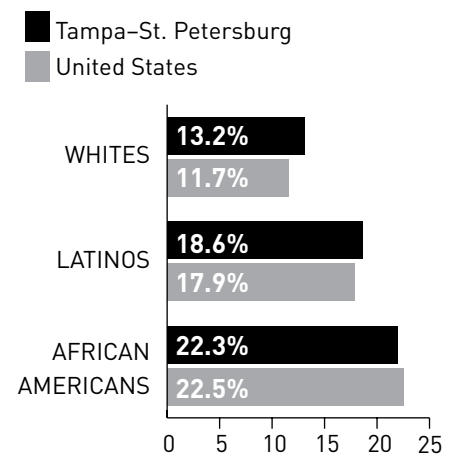
Youth Disconnection by Gender

In Tampa, 14.7 percent of female youth are neither in school nor work, compared with 14.1 percent nationwide; and 16.9 percent of male youth are disconnected, compared with 15.1 percent nationwide. Thus, the gender gap is slightly larger in Tampa than in the nation as a whole.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The range of youth disconnection rates among the twenty neighborhood clusters in the Tampa–St. Petersburg metro area is relatively small compared to other cities across the country and less than half of the range found in the most unequal metro areas, such as Detroit. The youth disconnection rates in Tampa–St. Petersburg span from 8.1 percent in the areas of University of South Florida, Temple Terrace, and Northeast Hillsborough County to 23.6 percent in West Pasco County, a difference of 15.5 percentage points. This is among the smallest neighborhood ranges found among the twenty-five largest metro areas.

Halve the Gap in Tampa–St. Petersburg
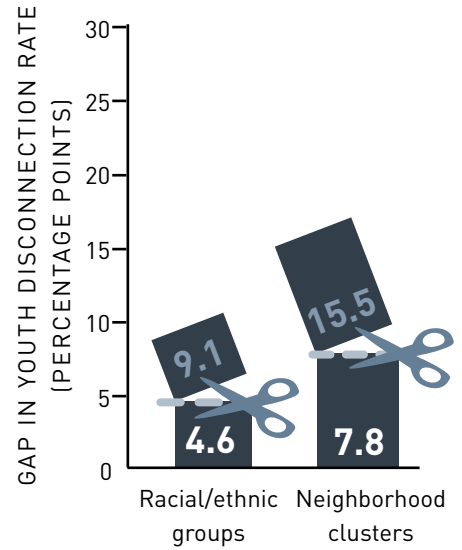
GAP IN YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE (PERCENTAGE POINTS)

9.1 / 4.6 — Racial/ethnic groups
15.5 / 7.8 — Neighborhood clusters

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
University of South Florida, Temple Terrace, and Northeast Hillsborough County, FL	8.1
Dunedin and Safety Harbor, Pinellas County, FL	9.6
St. Petersburg Beach, FL	9.9

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Hernando County, FL	19.6
Tampa, Ybor City, and Egypt Lake, Hillsborough County, FL	22.0
West Pasco County, FL	23.6
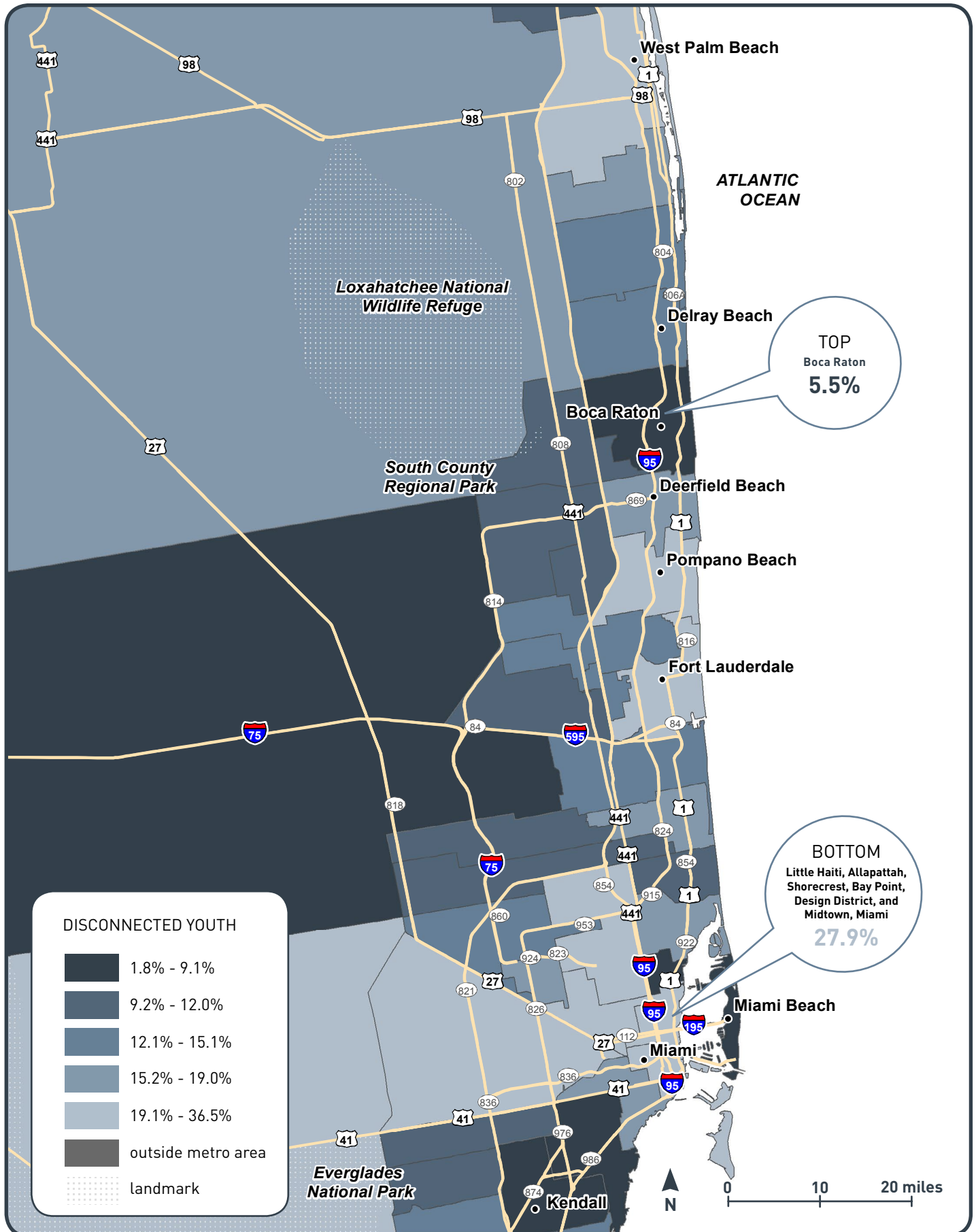
YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE MIAMI METRO AREA

West Palm Beach

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Delray Beach

TOP
Boca Raton
5.5%

Boca Raton

South County Regional Park

Deerfield Beach

Pompano Beach

Fort Lauderdale

BOTTOM
Little Haiti, Allapattah, Shorecrest, Bay Point, Design District, and Midtown, Miami
27.9%

Miami Beach

Miami

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

- 1.8% - 9.1%
- 9.2% - 12.0%
- 12.1% - 15.1%
- 15.2% - 19.0%
- 19.1% - 36.5%
- outside metro area
- landmark

Everglades National Park

Kendall

0   10   20 miles

N

The **Miami metro area** is comprised of three Florida counties, Miami–Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach. Sixteen percent of Miami youth are neither in school nor employed, a nineteenth place finish among America's twenty-five most populous metropolitan areas. Miami lags behind eighteenth-ranked Tampa–St. Petersburg. Of greater Miami's almost 670,000 teens and young adults, about 107,000 are detached from key social and economic anchors as they transition to adulthood.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

All three major racial and ethnic groups in Miami—African Americans, Latinos, and whites—experience disconnection rates that are lower than the national rate for their respective racial and ethnic group. For example, the Miami youth disconnection rate for Latinos is 16.6 percent, and the national rate for Latinos is 17.9. It may therefore seem paradoxical that Miami nonetheless falls to 19th place in the metro area rankings. This is because although African Americans and Latinos are doing slightly better in Miami than African Americans and Latinos in the United States as a whole, their disconnection rates are still much higher than the disconnection rate of whites. The population of the Miami metro area is also more heavily African American and Latino than the nation as a whole. The gap between the youth disconnection rates of African Americans and whites is 10.2 percentage points.

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

Legend: ■ Miami ■ United States

	Miami	United States
WHITES	10.8%	11.7%
LATINOS	16.6%	17.9%
AFRICAN AMERICANS	21.0%	22.5%
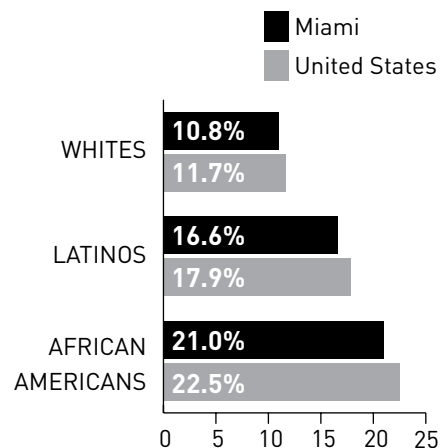
Youth Disconnection by Gender

Miami is one of eight metro areas in this study where young men are significantly more likely to be disconnected than young women. Young men in Miami have a disconnection rate of 17.2, whereas young women have a rate of 14.8 percent. The other major metro areas where young men significantly trail their female counterparts are Boston, Denver, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Washington, DC.
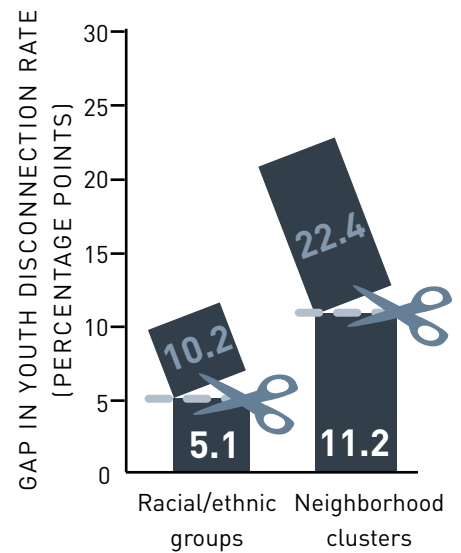
Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

In the three Miami neighborhood clusters with the highest rates of youth disconnection, Brownsville and Gladeview in Miami–Dade, Ft. Lauderdale, and the Miami neighborhoods of Little Haiti, Allapattah, Shorecrest, Bay Point, Design District, and Midtown, nearly one in four young people is out of school and not working. At least one-third of all children in these neighborhood clusters live in poverty, and adult unemployment is in the double-digits.

In contrast, in the three neighborhood clusters with the lowest rates of youth disconnection, Boca Raton, South Miami and Coral Gables in Miami–Dade County, and Weston and Cooper City in Broward County, fewer than seven in every one hundred young people are disconnected, poverty rates and unemployment are low, and adult educational attainment is high.

Across urban neighborhoods, areas with larger non-white populations tend to have higher rates of youth disconnection and areas with smaller non-white populations tend to have lower rates youth disconnection. Miami is an interesting exception. In South Miami and Coral Gables in Miami–Dade County, where youth disconnection is only 6.7 percent, Latinos are a strong majority, comprising nearly two-thirds of the population. About 46 percent of adults in this neighborhood have completed a bachelor's degree, compared to 29 percent for the Miami metro area overall.
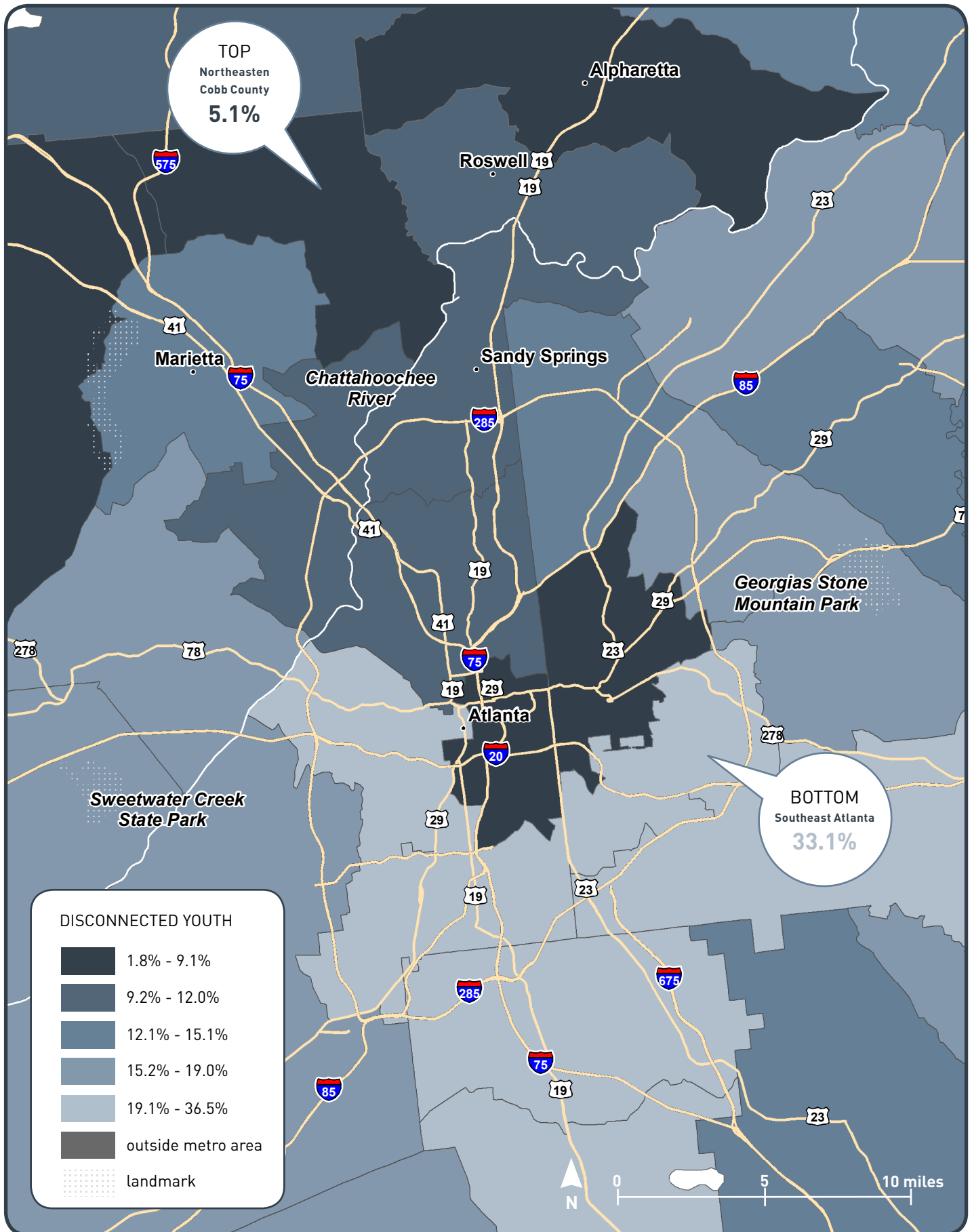
Halve the Gap in Miami

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Boca Raton, FL	5.5
South Miami and Coral Gables, Miami-Dade County, FL	6.7
Weston and Cooper City, Broward County, FL	7.0

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Brownsville and Gladeview, Miami-Dade County, FL	24.4
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	24.9
Little Haiti, Allapattah, Shorecrest, Bay Point, Design District, and Midtown, Miami, FL	27.9

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE ATLANTA METRO AREA

TOP
Northeasten Cobb County
5.1%

Alpharetta

Roswell

Chattahoochee River

Marietta

Sandy Springs

Georgias Stone Mountain Park

Sweetwater Creek State Park

Atlanta

BOTTOM
Southeast Atlanta
33.1%

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

- 1.8% - 9.1%
- 9.2% - 12.0%
- 12.1% - 15.1%
- 15.2% - 19.0%
- 19.1% - 36.5%
- outside metro area
- landmark

0   5   10 miles

N

The **Atlanta metro area** is composed of twenty-nine Georgia counties: Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gweinnett, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton. The rate of youth disconnection in Atlanta is 16.8 percent; the city falls between Portland (17 percent) and Miami (16 percent). This rate translates into over 126,000 young people ages 16 to 24 who are falling through the cracks—a group comparable to the entire population of the cities of New Haven, Connecticut or Cedar Rapids, Michigan.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Despite Atlanta's relatively high overall rate of youth disconnection, the rates among both African Americans (21.1 percent) and Latinos (16.5 percent) are slightly lower than the national average for these groups. Atlanta's white disconnection rate of 14.1 percent, on the other hand, is higher than the national average for whites. Seven percentage points separate the rates for whites and African Americans.

Youth Disconnection by Gender

Following the national trend, males are more likely to be disconnected in Atlanta than females, 17.5 percent of young men and 16 percent of young

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

Legend: ■ Atlanta ■ United States

WHITES
- **14.1%** (Atlanta)
- 11.7% (United States)

LATINOS
- **16.5%** (Atlanta)
- 17.9% (United States)

AFRICAN AMERICANS
- **21.1%** (Atlanta)
- 22.5% (United States)

Axis: 0 5 10 15 20 25
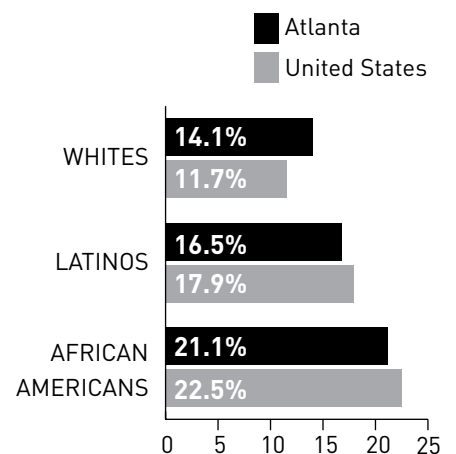
women. The Atlanta Metro area is home to roughly 58,000 young women and 68,000 young men disconnected from school and work.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Atlanta metro area is made up of thirty-nine neighborhood clusters. The rate of youth neither in school nor employed ranges from 33.1 percent in Southeast Atlanta, to just 5.1 percent in Northeast Cobb County—more than a six-fold difference. This range is one of the widest among the twenty-five most populous US metro areas and speaks to stark geographic inequalities within the city. In addition, there is a notable gap of almost 7 percentage points between the neighborhood with the highest rate of youth disconnection and that with the second-highest rate—the Fulton County areas of Cascade Heights, West End, Bankhead, and Vine City.

Halve the Gap in Atlanta

GAP IN YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE (PERCENTAGE POINTS)

Racial/ethnic groups	Neighborhood clusters
7.0 / 3.5	28.0 / 14.0
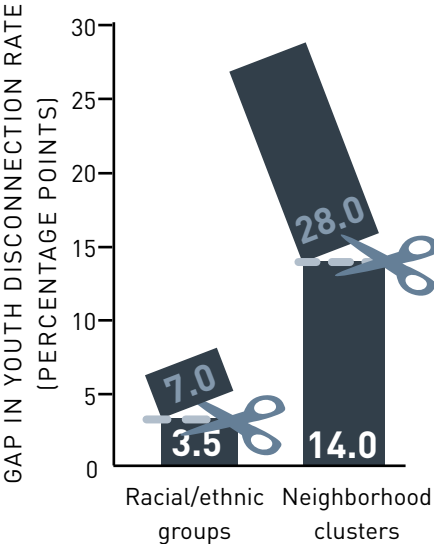
Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Northeast Cobb County, GA	5.1
Downtown Atlanta, GA	6.0
Alpharetta, GA	6.4

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Briargate and Sandy Creek, Clayton County, GA	25.2
Cascade Heights, West End, Bankhead, and Vine County, Fulton County, GA	26.2
Southeast Atlanta, GA	33.1

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE PORTLAND METRO AREA

BOTTOM
Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties
19.4%

Columbia River

Gifford-Pinchot NF

OREGON

30

WASHINGTON

Gifford-Pinchot NF

Vancouver

205

Forest Park

Hillsboro 26

30

Beaverton Portland 205

405

I-84

TOP
West Portland
7.2%

26

Willamette River 205

OREGON

Mount Hood NF

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

- 1.8% - 9.1%
- 9.2% - 12.0%
- 12.1% - 15.1%
- 15.2% - 19.0%
- 19.1% - 36.5%
- outside metro area
- landmark

0   5   10 miles

N
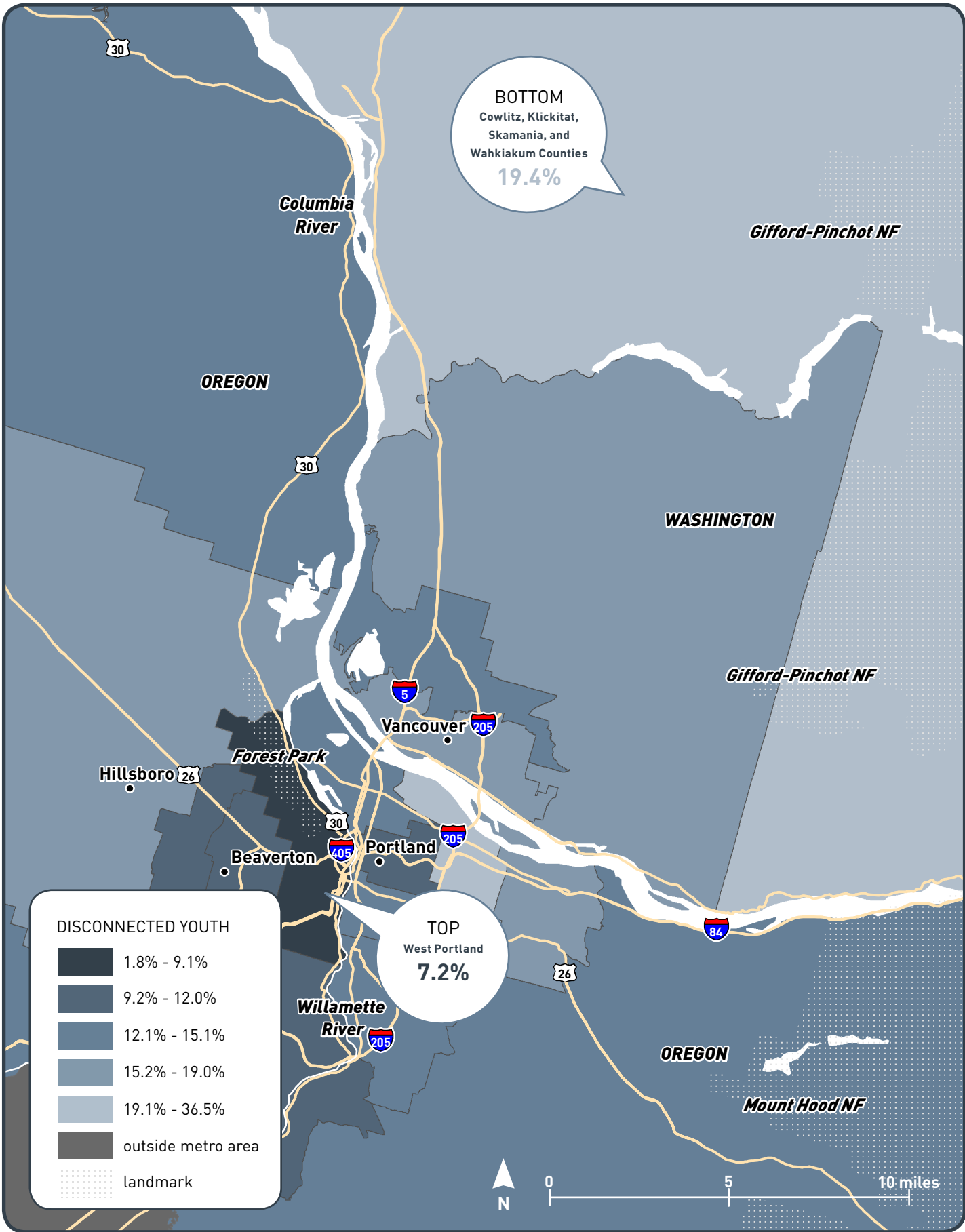
HD Index: 5.46 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 12th out of 24

Total population: 2,260,928

Adult unemployment rate: 9.2%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 34.2%

Poverty rate: 15%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 20.8%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 56.4%

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

The **Portland metro area** is made up of Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill Counties in Oregon, and Clark and Skamania Counties in Washington. Seventeen percent of the city's youth ages 16 to 24 are neither in school nor in work, a rate that places Portland slightly ahead of Phoenix and slightly behind Atlanta. This figure translates into almost 49,000 young people who are detached from school and work, key sources of connection, meaning, and purpose at a pivotal time in their lives.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

For both whites and Latinos, the percentage of young people neither working nor in school in Portland is much higher than the national values. Among Latinos, the city is 2.3 percentage points higher than the national disconnection rate for Latinos; among whites, the difference is 4.3 percentage points. The racial and ethinc gap between the best rate (16 percent for whites) and worst rate (20.2 percent for Latinos) is 4.2 percentage points. Too few African American and Asian American young people live in the Portland metro area to allow for reliable calculations of their youth disconnection rates.

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

■ Portland
▉ United States

WHITES **16.0%** / 11.7%

LATINOS **20.2%** / 17.9%

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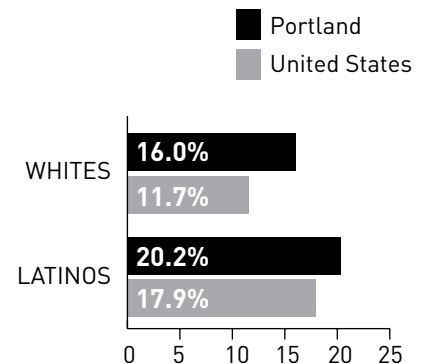
Youth Disconnection by Gender

The prevalence of youth disconnection among females tends to be lower than among males nationwide. But in Portland, 18.6 percent of young women are not in work and not in school, compared to 15.3 percent of their male counterparts. This is the second highest rate for females after Riverside–San Bernardino and is significantly above the national average for young women of 14.1 percent, signaling a particular area of concern. The rate of disconnection among Portland's male youth, by contrast, falls near the national average of 15.1 percent. This translates into roughly 27,000 young women and 22,000 young men who are adrift from anchor institutions of school and work.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Portland metro area is composed of nineteen neighborhood clusters. Among the twenty-five largest metro areas, Portland is tied with the Riverside-San Bernardino area for the smallest range between the rates of disconnected youth among different neighborhood, just 12.2 percentage points. This means that in areas with the highest rate of youth disconnection—Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties in Washington State—nearly one in five young people (19.4 percent) is disconnected, while the area with the lowest rate, West Portland— experiences a rate of 7.2 percent or about one in every fourteen young people.

Halve the Gap in Portland
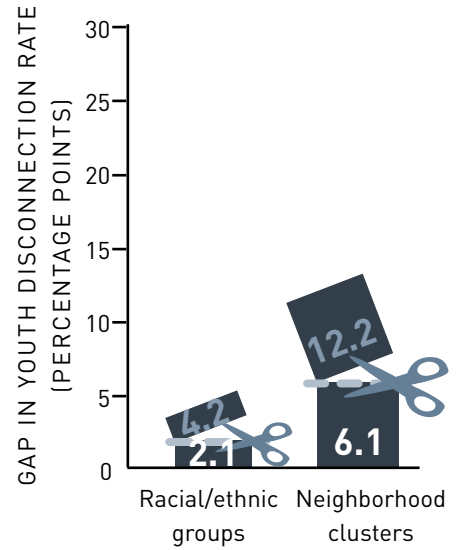
Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
West Portland, OR	7.2
Aloha and Beaverton, Washington County, OR	10.2
West Clackamas County, OR	10.7

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Gresham/East Multnomah County, OR	18.3
Outer East Portland, OR	19.3
Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties, WA	19.4
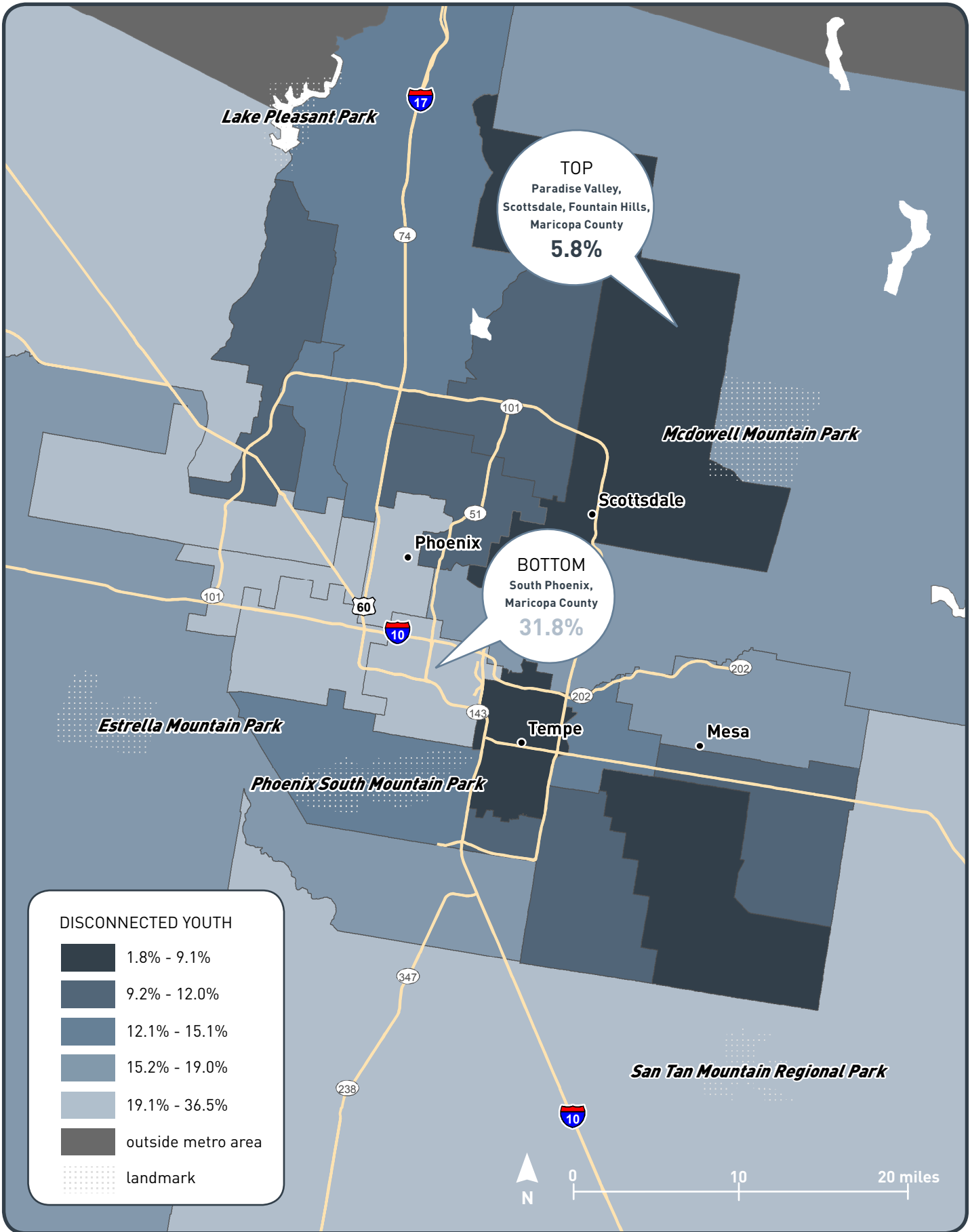
Lake Pleasant Park

TOP
**Paradise Valley,
Scottsdale, Fountain Hills,
Maricopa County**
5.8%

Mcdowell Mountain Park

Scottsdale

Phoenix

BOTTOM
**South Phoenix,
Maricopa County**
31.8%

Estrella Mountain Park

Tempe

Mesa

Phoenix South Mountain Park

San Tan Mountain Regional Park

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

1.8% - 9.1%

9.2% - 12.0%

12.1% - 15.1%

15.2% - 19.0%

19.1% - 36.5%

outside metro area

landmark

0   10   20 miles

N

The **Phoenix metro area** is composed of two Arizona counties, Maricopa and Pinal. The youth disconnection rate in the greater metropolitan area is 17.2 percent, nearly equal to the rate in Charlotte, North Carolina. Over 93,000 young adults ages 16 to 24 are disconnected from both school and work.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

African Americans, Latinos, and whites all have very distinct stories concerning youth disconnection in Phoenix. While the relatively small Phoenix African American population experiences a rate of disconnected youth exactly equal to the national average for African Americans, 22.5 percent, both Latinos and whites suffer rates greater than the national averages for their groups. The racial and ethnic disconnection gap is 10.3 percentage points.

Although in Phoenix the rates among both Latinos and whites remain lower than that of African Americans, just as they do nationally, the Latino disconnection rate in Phoenix is in fact the second highest rate for Latinos among the largest twenty-five metro US areas at 22.3 percent. Phoenix is behind only Philadelphia, where almost a quarter of young Latinos are neither in school nor in work. Latinos make up almost twice the percentage of the population in Phoenix that they do in the country as a whole—29.9 percent. The difference between the rates of youth disconnection for whites in Phoenix and whites nationwide is less notable, at only .5 percent.

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

■ Phoenix
■ United States

WHITES
12.2%
11.7%

LATINOS
22.3%
17.9%

AFRICAN AMERICANS
22.5%
22.5%

0   5   10   15   20   25
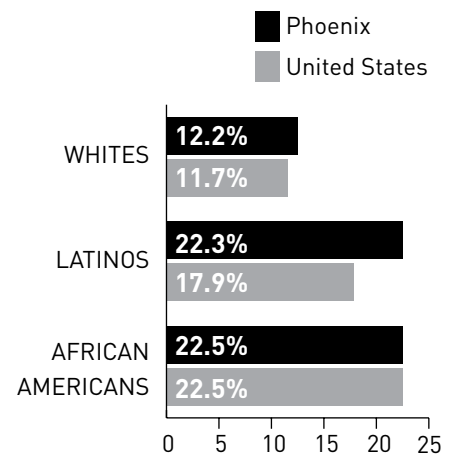
PHOENIX

Youth Disconnection by Gender

While young men outnumber young women among disconnected youth nationwide, this pattern does not hold in Phoenix. Young women have a slightly higher rate of disconnection than young men—17.7 percent as compared to 16.6 percent. Because there are more male youth in the city than female, this figures translate into numbers of disconnected youth that are very similar in real terms for each gender. Just over 46,000 young women are not connected to either school or work, and approximately 47,000 young men fit this description.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Phoenix metro area is made up of twenty-three neighborhood clusters. Among these districts, there is significant variation in terms of the rate of disconnected youth. The values in the areas with the lowest and highest rates of disconnected youth are separated by 26.0 percentage points. In the neighborhood of South Phoenix, almost one out of every three youths is not connected to either school or work, while in Paradise Valley, Scottsdale, and Fountain Hills only one in every seventeen is adrift. South Phoenix has a disconnection rate that is the seventh most severe rate of the nearly nine hundred neighborhoods included in this study. The three Phoenix area neighborhoods with the highest rates of youth disconnection experience rates far greater than any other areas of the city.
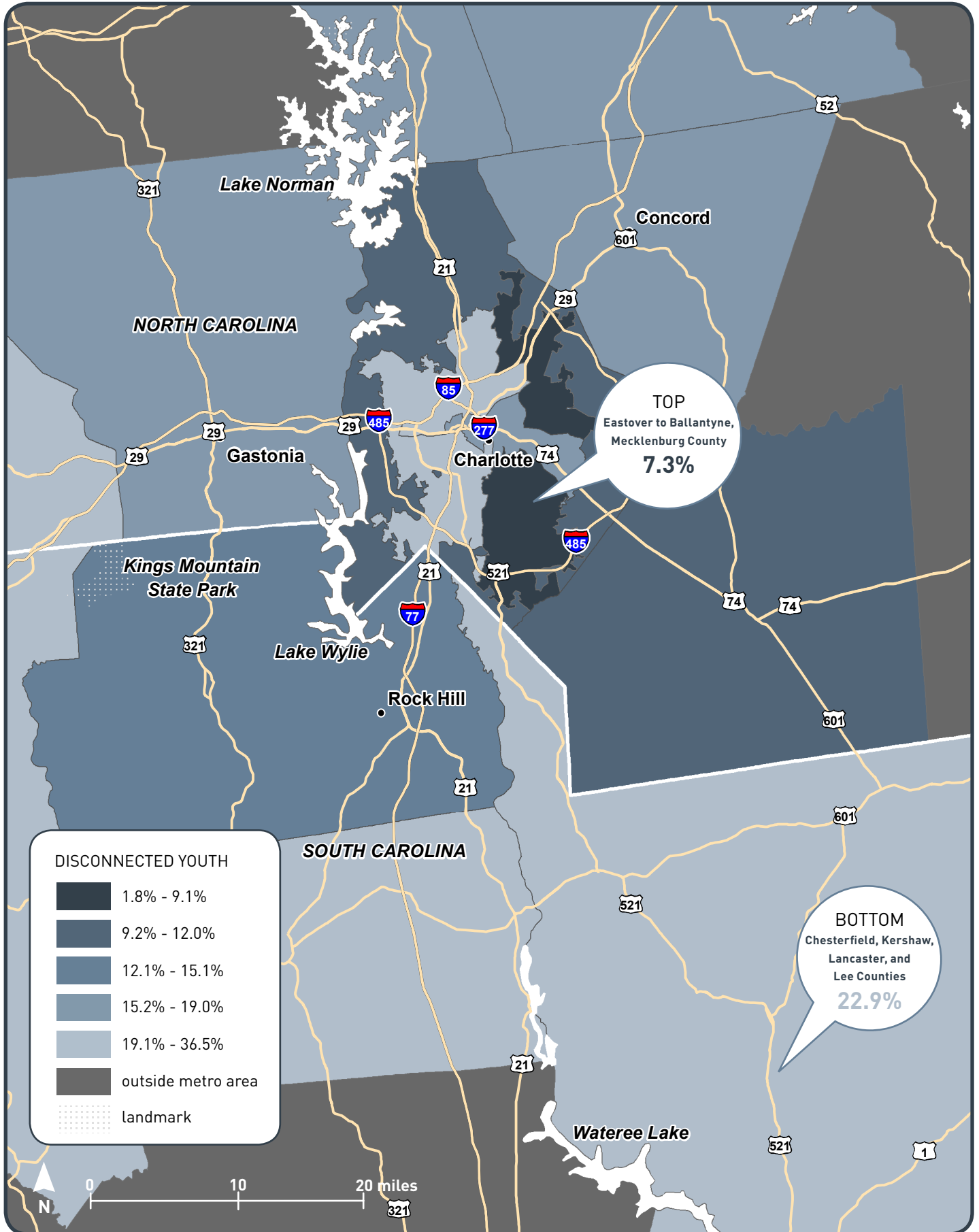
Halve the Gap in Phoenix

GAP IN YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE (PERCENTAGE POINTS)

	Racial/ethnic groups	Neighborhood clusters
Gap	10.3	26.0
Half	5.2	13.0
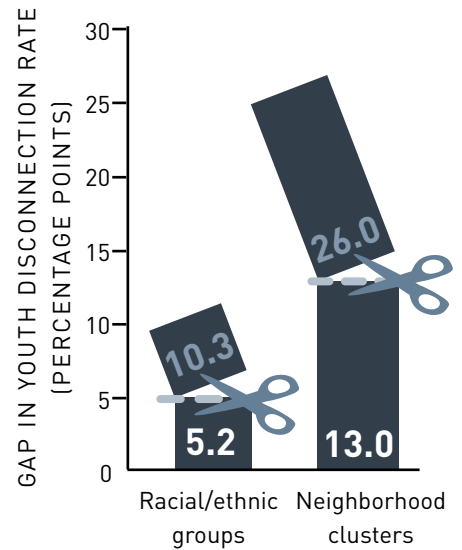
Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Paradise Valley, Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, Maricopa County, AZ	5.8
Gilbert through Queen Creek/Chandler Heights, Maricopa County, AZ	8.0
North Tempe to North Chandler, Maricopa County, AZ	8.7

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Gila and Pinal Counties, AZ	29.5
Estrella, Maricopa County, AZ	31.6
South Phoenix, Maricopa County, AZ	31.8

TOP
Eastover to Ballantyne, Mecklenburg County
7.3%

BOTTOM
Chesterfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, and Lee Counties
22.9%

Lake Norman

Concord

NORTH CAROLINA

Gastonia

Charlotte

Kings Mountain State Park

Lake Wylie

Rock Hill

SOUTH CAROLINA

Wateree Lake

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

■	1.8% – 9.1%
■	9.2% – 12.0%
■	12.1% – 15.1%
■	15.2% – 19.0%
■	19.1% – 36.5%
■	outside metro area
⋮	landmark

0   10   20 miles

N

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

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

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

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

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

Legend:
- ■ Charlotte
- ■ United States

WHITES
- Charlotte: 16.7%
- United States: 11.7%

AFRICAN AMERICANS
- Charlotte: 21.4%
- United States: 22.5%

(x-axis: 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25)
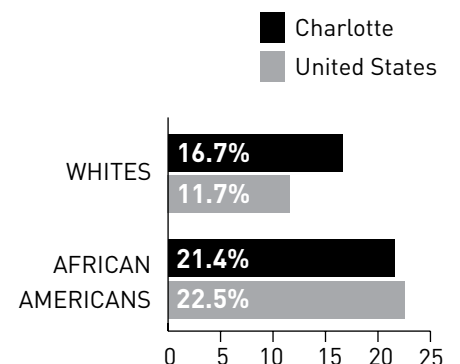
Youth Disconnection by Gender

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

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

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

Halve the Gap in Charlotte
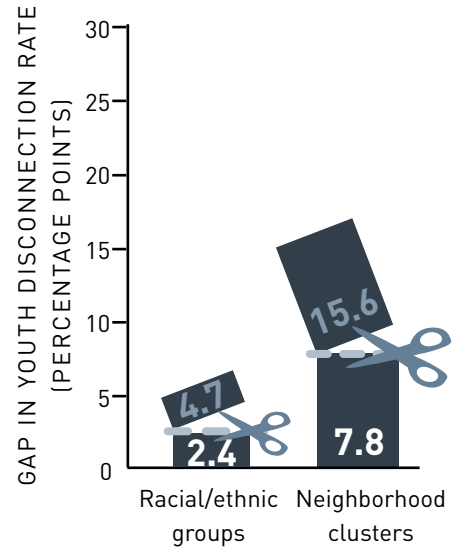
Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

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

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

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

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE DETROIT METRO AREA

Pontiac

South Clinton River Park

TOP
Troy and Rochester,
Oakland County
5.9%

Troy

Warren

Farmington Hills

Southfield

Palmer Park

Detroit

Livonia

River Rouge Park

Belle Isle Park

Dearborn

BOTTOM
**Boynton to Woodbridge
and Tireman to
Delray, Detroit**
35.9%

Taylor

CANADA

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

	1.8% – 9.1%
	9.2% – 12.0%
	12.1% – 15.1%
	15.2% – 19.0%
	19.1% – 36.5%
	outside metro area
	landmark

0   5   10 miles

N

DETROIT

HD Index: 5.06 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 20th out of 24

Total population: 4,287,966

Adult unemployment rate: 12.3%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 27.8%

Poverty rate: 18%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 27.7%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 63.2%

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

The **Detroit metro area** is made up of Michigan's Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, and Wayne Counties. The youth disconnection rate in this metro area is 17.4 percent, the second highest rate among the nation's twenty-five largest US metro areas. Over 87,000 young people ages 16 to 24 are neither enrolled in school nor working and are therefore disconnected from these critical anchor institutions at the threshold of adulthood.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

A sizable gap separates the disconnection rates of whites (12.8 percent), Latinos (19.5 percent), and African Americans (26.9 percent). The youth disconnection rate for African American young people in Detroit is more than double that of their white counterparts, and the two groups are 14.1 percentage points apart.

Young people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds experience a rate of disconnection in Detroit that is higher than those of their counterparts nationwide. The difference is most striking for African Americans, for whom the youth disconnection rate is 4.0 percentage points higher in Detroit than in the county as a whole. The difference is smallest among whites; Detroit's white youth disconnection rate is just 1.1 percentage points higher than the national rate for white youth.

Youth Disconnection by Gender

Although the city's rates of youth disconnection by gender follow the national trend of males being more likely to be disconnected than

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

■ Detroit
■ United States

WHITES	12.8%
	11.7%
LATINOS	19.5%
	17.9%
AFRICAN AMERICANS	26.9%
	22.5%

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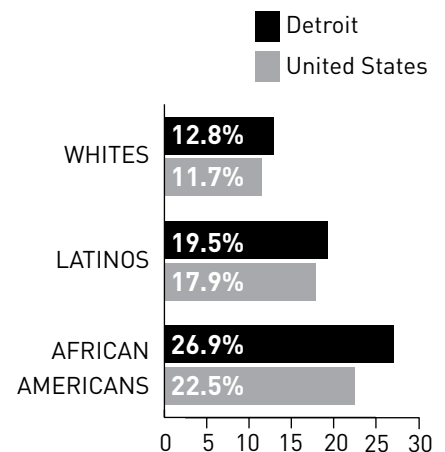
DETROIT

females, the numbers in Detroit are more extreme than elsewhere. In Detroit, while 18.5 percent of young men are not in work and not in school—the second highest rate in the country—a smaller proportion of young women,16.4 percent, are disconnected. The resultant gender gap of 2.1 percentage points is more than double the national gap.
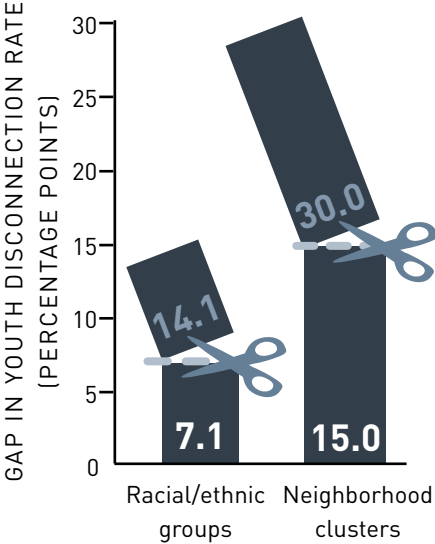
Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Detroit metro area is made up of thirty-two neighborhood clusters. By neighborhood, youth disconnection rates in Detroit range from 5.9 percent in the Oakland County communities of Troy and Rochester to 35.9 percent in the Detroit neighborhoods of Boynton, Woodbridge, and Delray, a six-fold difference. Detroit has the unfortunate distinction of having the area with the highest rate of disconnected youth of the nearly nine hundred included in this study, the Detroit neighborhoods between Boynton to Woodbridge and Tireman to Delray, where more than one in three young people ages 16 to 24 lack attachment to both work and school.

Three features highlight the importance of race and ethnicity within these values. The first is that there is a strong correlation between the share of the population that is African Americans and the rate of disconnected youth by neighborhood; as the African American population expands so too does disconnection among youth. In the Detroit neighborhoods between State Fair, Grant, and City Airport, one of the neighborhood clusters with the most severe challenges with youth disconnection, African Americans make up 92 percent of the population. In addition, the Detroit neighborhoods with the highest rate of disconnected youth also have the largest population of Latinos. Conversely, the three most connected neighborhoods are those with the highest percentages of Asian Americans citywide. These data highlight the particular challenges facing specific minority groups. It also hints at the deep racial inequalities within this highly segregated city.

Although education levels in Detroit are similar to those found in the rest of the twenty-five largest US metro areas, the conditions of poverty within the city are extreme. The poverty rate is 18 percent, equal to that of the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area and surpassed by no other large US city. And the story is even worse for young people. 26.3 percent of children under the age of 18 live below the poverty line, more than in any other of the twenty-five largest metro areas. Child poverty rate is a strong predictor of the rate of youth disconnection.
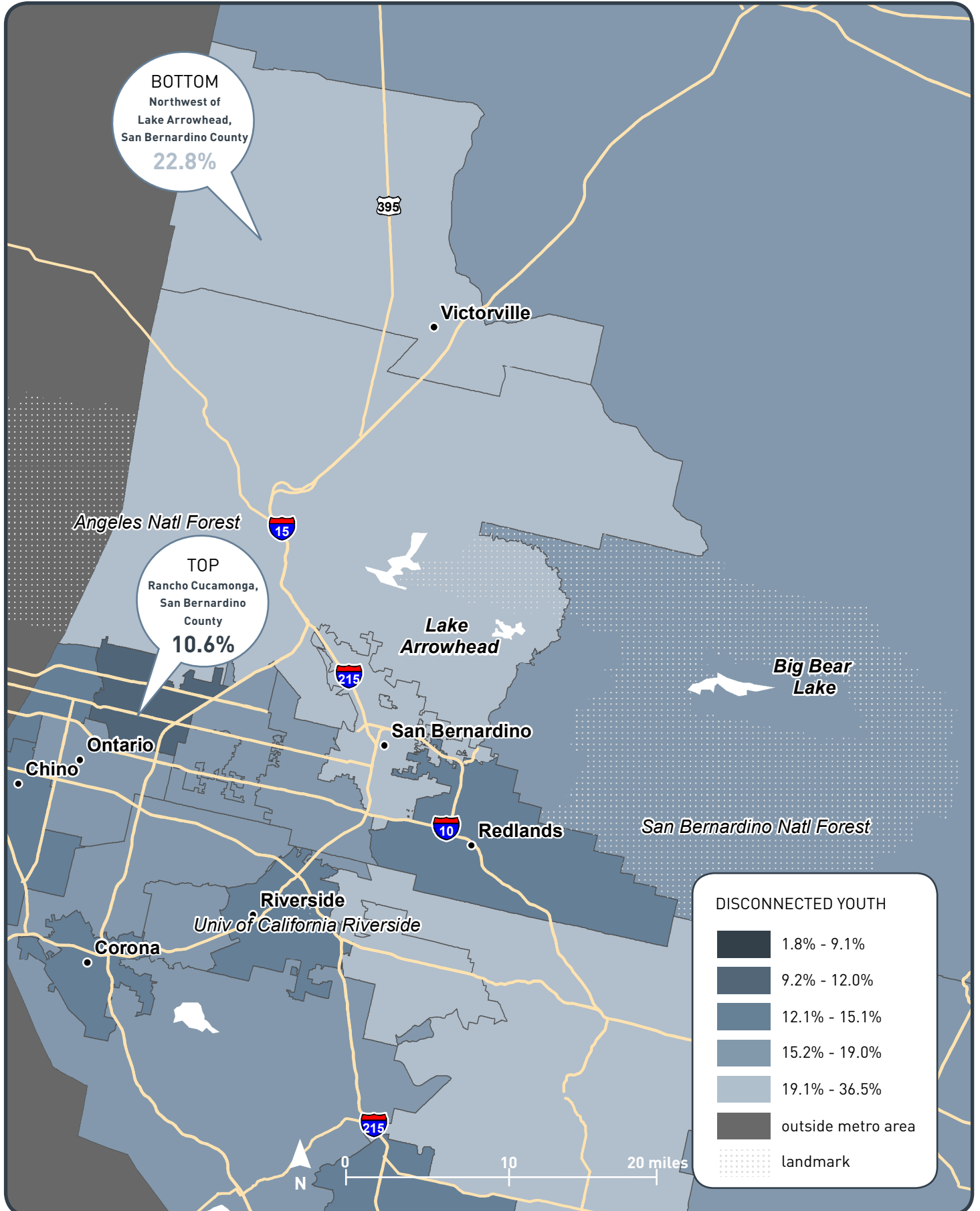
Halve the Gap in Detroit

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Troy and Rochester, Oakland County, MI	5.9
Belleville to Northville, Wayne County, MI	6.7
Sterling Heights, Macomb County, MI	7.8

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
State Fair to Grant and City Airport, Detroit, MI	31.4
Mt. Olivet, Denby, Burbank, and Conner, Detroit, MI	33.8
Boynton to Woodbridge and Tireman to Delray, Detroit, MI	35.9

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE RIVERSIDE–SAN BERNARDINO METRO AREA

BOTTOM
Northwest of Lake Arrowhead, San Bernardino County
22.8%

395

● **Victorville**

Angeles Natl Forest

15

TOP
Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino County
10.6%

215

Lake Arrowhead

Big Bear Lake

Ontario

Chino ●

● **San Bernardino**

San Bernardino Natl Forest

10

Redlands

Riverside
Univ of California Riverside

Corona ●

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

	1.8% - 9.1%
	9.2% - 12.0%
	12.1% - 15.1%
	15.2% - 19.0%
	19.1% - 36.5%
	outside metro area
	landmark

0   10   20 miles

N

215

The **Riverside–San Bernardino metro area**, one of the fastest-growing areas of California over the past decade, is now home to one in every nine Californians. It is comprised of Riverside County and San Bernardino County. The youth disconnection rate in the Inland Empire is 18.8 percent, or nearly one in five; an alarming 117,000 of the roughly 620,000 teens and young adults in the 16 to 24 year old age range are not engaged with either school or work. This is the higest rate of youth disconnection among the country's most populous twenty-five metro areas.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

The national pattern of disconnection by race and ethnicity is reflected in Riverside–San Bernardino: whites have the lowest rates followed by Latinos and African Americans (the Asian American population is too small to allow reliable calculations for this group). Seven percentage points separate whites and African Americans.

Yet in a metro area facing steep challenges with youth employment and education, the group that is farthest off from the national trend is white teenagers and young people. The white rate of disconnection is nearly 50 percent higher than the national rate for white youth and more than double that of nearby San Diego. One important factor driving this is the rate of education among white adults in the city. While over 40 percent of white adults in both Los Angeles and San Diego have at least a bachelor's degree, only 25 percent of whites do in the Inland Empire. As discussed

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

■ Riverside–San Bernardino
▨ United States

WHITES
17.5%
11.7%

LATINOS
19.4%
17.9%

AFRICAN AMERICANS
24.5%
22.5%

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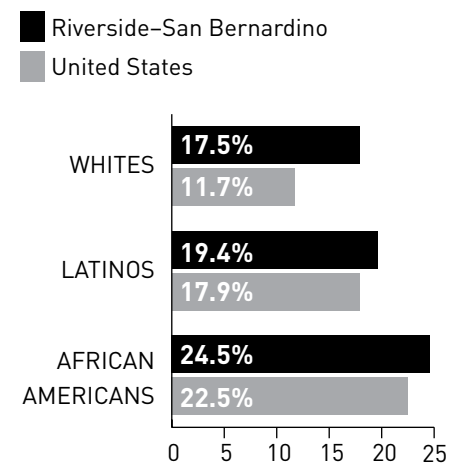
above, the positive relationship between college-educated adults in a community and youth connection is clear, not only for their own children but for all young adults in the community: as the proportion of adults with a bachelor's degree increases, disconnection among youth declines rapidly.
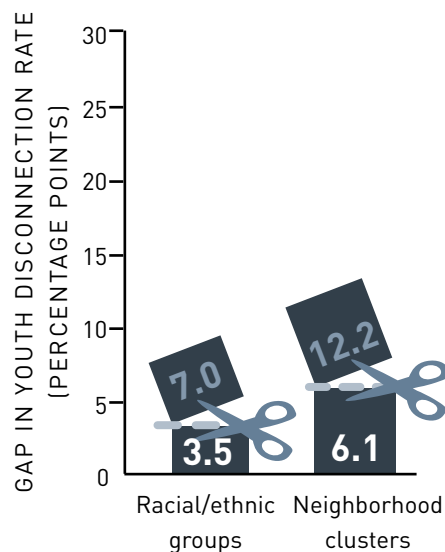
Youth Disconnection by Gender

Disconnection rates are identical for males and females, in contrast to the national trend where young men are more likely to be out of the workforce and not in school than young women. This translates to roughly 56,000 young women and 60,000 young men who are unmoored from these anchor institutions.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Riverside–San Bernardino metro area is made up of twenty neighborhood clusters. Youth disconnection rates range from 10.6 percent in Rancho Cucamonga to 22.8 percent in the area northwest of Lake Arrowhead. Reflecting the scale of its challenges with this issue, Riverside–San Bernardino is the only metro area in the twenty-five studied where the best rate of disconnection is above 10 percent; Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego all have at least one neighborhood with a disconnection rate below 4 percent.

Halve the Gap in Riverside–San Bernardino

Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino County, CA	10.6
Redlands, San Bernardino County, CA	13.2
Chino Hills, San Bernardino County, CA	13.4

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
San Bernardino proper, CA	22.5
Southwest of Lake Arrowhead, San Bernardino County, CA	22.5
Northwest of Lake Arrowhead, San Bernardino County, CA	22.8

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Acknowledgments

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

Through hard copy and online reports, custom-built dashboards, and evidence-based research and analysis, Measure of America breathes life into numbers, using data to identify areas of need, pinpoint levers for change, and track progress over time.

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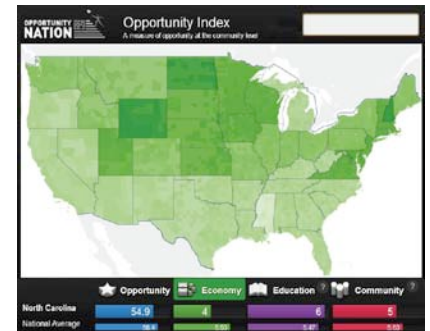
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