



# MEASURE OF AMERICA

of the Social Science Research Council

## ONE IN SEVEN: Ranking Youth Disconnection in the 25 Largest Metro Areas

### Note on Methods and Definitions

#### Introduction

*One in Seven: Ranking Youth Disconnection in the 25 Largest Metro Areas* ranks the country's twenty-five most populous metropolitan areas—and racial and ethnic groups within those areas—on the percentage of young people ages 16-24 who are not employed and not in school. This note provides a brief supplement to the report to elaborate on the methods and definitions used to determine youth disconnection rates in major metropolitan areas as well as other indicators presented in the report.

#### Methods

Unless otherwise noted, all estimates presented in the report are from Measure of America's analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) microdata. Estimates of youth disconnection and other indicators for the nation and for major metro areas are calculated using data from the 2010 ACS. Demographic data for metro areas are from Census 2010. Estimates of youth disconnection and other indicators for neighborhoods (PUMAs) within metro areas are calculated using ACS microdata spanning 2006 to 2010.

#### Definitions

*Disability* – Disability status in this report refers to any enduring emotional, physical, or mental condition that makes everyday activities like walking, dressing, or remembering things difficult and restricts an individual's ability to work or to perform basic required tasks without assistance. This is a self-reported condition so individuals who report having such a condition on the ACS are counted as having a disability. Those who do not are counted as not having a disability.

*Disconnected Youth* – The Disconnected Youth Rate is the percentage of young people ages 16 through 24 who are not in school and are not employed. This includes all young people who are unemployed or not in the labor force who are also not enrolled in school. Young people in this age range who are working or attending any kind of school, regardless of full- or part-time status, are considered connected, as are young people serving in the armed forces. Please see BOX 1 Who Is Considered a "Disconnected Youth"? on page 13 of [the report](#) for more information.

*Employment-to-Population Ratio* – The Employment-to-Population Ratio is the ratio of the total number of people employed to the total population. When this indicator is shown as a percentage of youth ages

16 through 24 *who are not in school*, both the total employed and the total population are restricted to only those youth who are not enrolled in school.

*Group Quarters* – The U.S. Census Bureau refers to people who live in any kind of non-household living arrangement as living in “group quarters”. These can be *institutional* group quarters such as correctional or supervised medical facilities or *non-institutional* group quarters such as college or university dormitories, military bases, or group homes. One of the primary advantages of using the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey as the data source for this research is that the survey includes young people living in both types of group quarters.

*Metro Area* – Metro areas used in this report are formally known as Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), geographic areas defined by the White House Office of Management and Budget and used by the U.S. Census Bureau and other government entities. MSAs constitute counties grouped around an urban center and include outlying suburban and exurban counties from which a substantial percentage of the population commutes to the urban center for work. MSA names used in this report have been shortened from their official versions for simplicity to refer only to the principal city or cities of the metro area. The following table shows the shortened name for each metro area featured in the report and the official name of each MSA.

<b>Metro Area</b>	<b>Metropolitan Statistical Area - Full Name</b>
Atlanta	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA
Baltimore	Baltimore-Towson, MD
Boston	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH
Chicago	Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI
Dallas-Ft. Worth	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX
Denver	Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO
Detroit	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI
Houston	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX
Los Angeles	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA
Miami	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL
Minneapolis-St. Paul	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI
New York	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA
Philadelphia	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD
Phoenix	Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ
Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, PA
Portland	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA
Riverside-San Bernardino	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA
Sacramento	Sacramento--Arden-Arcade--Roseville, CA
St. Louis	Saint Louis, MO-IL
San Antonio	San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX
San Diego	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA
San Francisco	San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA
Seattle	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA
Tampa-St. Petersburg	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL
Washington, DC	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV

*Neighborhoods* – Please see “Public Use Microdata Areas” below.

*Public Use Microdata Areas* – “Neighborhoods” in this report refer to Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) that are all or partially inside the boundaries of the 25 most populous metro areas in the nation. PUMAs are sub-state geographic units designated by the U.S. Census Bureau. PUMAs have populations of at least 100,000 and generally less than 200,000. A challenge of working with data for PUMAs is that the boundaries of these areas do not always follow neighborhood boundaries that are recognizable to local residents. However, the advantage of using these units for exploring variations in the data within metro areas is that all PUMAs are roughly equal in population size and timely and reliable estimates for a variety of indicators are available for PUMAs from the ACS.

*Race and Ethnic Groups* – Racial and ethnic groups in this report are based on definitions established by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and used by the Census Bureau and other government entities. Since 1997 the OMB has recognized five racial groups and two ethnic categories. The racial groups include Native Americans, Asian Americans, African Americans, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and whites. The ethnic categories are Latino and not Latino. People of Latino ethnicity may be of any race. In this report, members of each of these racial groups include only non-Latino members of these groups. Measure of America recognizes that Native Americans and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders constitute two of the five racial groups recognized by the OMB. However, due to the very small population sizes of these groups in most metropolitan areas, data on youth disconnection for these groups cannot be presented in this brief.

*Status Drop-Out Rate* – The Status Drop-Out Rate is the percentage of young people ages 16 through 24 who are not currently enrolled in school and who have not completed a high school diploma or a GED.

*Teen Motherhood Rate* – The Teen Motherhood Rate is the percentage of young women ages 16 through 19 who have one or more children of their own. These could be biological, adopted, or step children. Young women who live in any kind of group quarters (see above) are not included in the Teen Motherhood Rate as information on motherhood is only available from the ACS for women living in households.

*Unemployment Rate* – The Unemployment Rate is the total number of people who do not have jobs but who have actively looked for work within the preceding four weeks and are available to work, as a percentage of the total number of people in the labor force. Unemployment rates for different age groups presented in this report count members of military as both employed and as part of the labor force. Adult unemployment refers to unemployment of adults ages 25 and older.

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