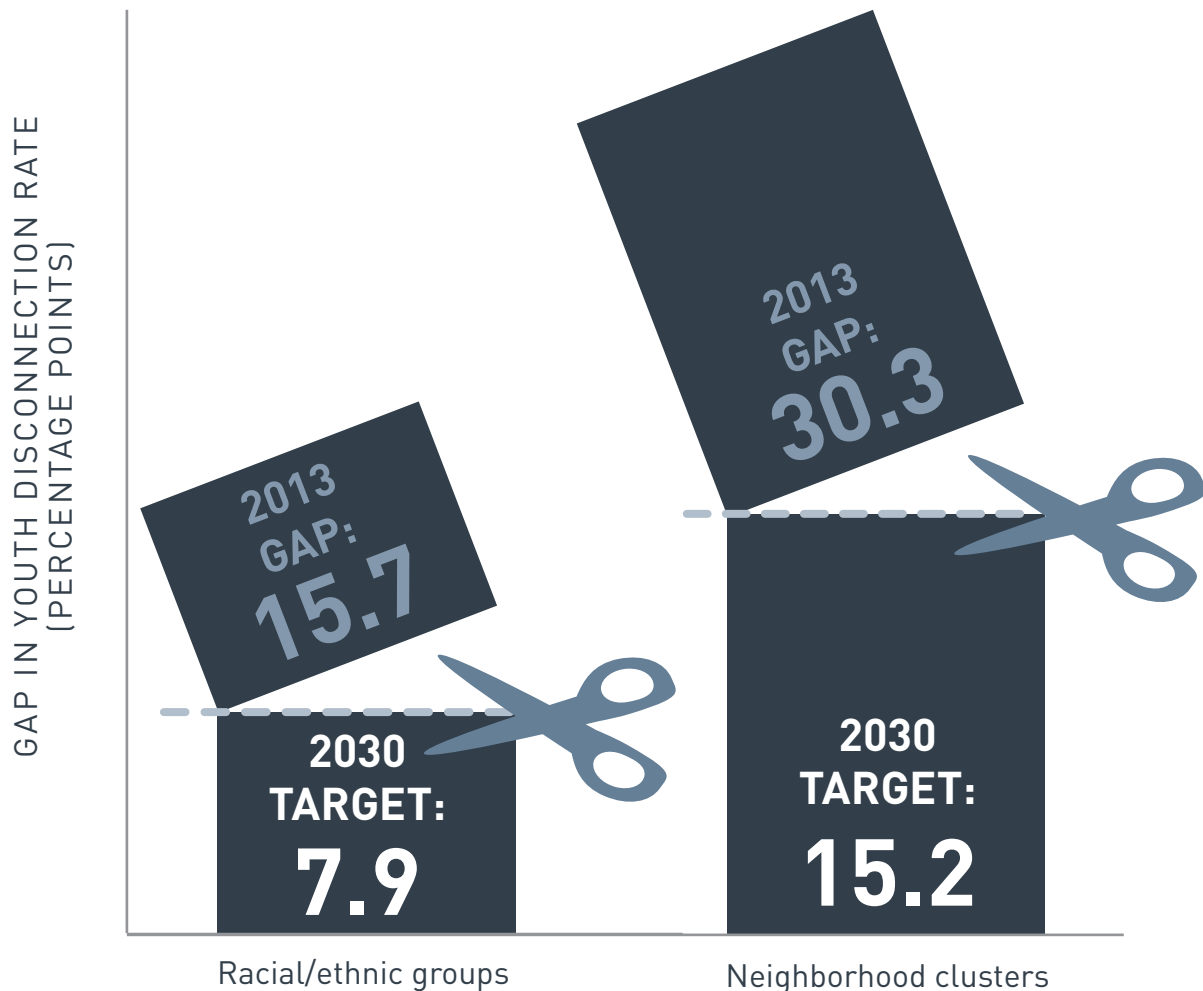


HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

BALTIMORE METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

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About the Baltimore Metro Area Close-Up

This document is an excerpt from *Halve the Gap by 2030: Youth Disconnection in America's Cities*. It portrays in detail the landscape of youth disconnection in the Baltimore Metro Area, with a map of the metro area; identification of the neighborhood highs and lows; youth disconnection rates by race, ethnicity, and gender; and key well-being indicators to provide context.

Who Are Disconnected Youth: Definition and Data Sources

Disconnected youth are people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither in school nor working.

Young people in this age range who are working or in school part-time or who are in the military are not considered disconnected. Youth disconnection rates in this report are calculated by Measure of America using employment and enrollment data from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) of the US Census Bureau. For further details, see the Note on Methods and Definitions.

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



Measure of America, a project of the Social Science Research Council, provides easy-to-use yet methodologically sound tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in the United States and to stimulate fact-based dialogue about issues we all care about: **health**, **education**, and **living standards**. The root of this work is the human development and capabilities approach, the brainchild of Harvard professor and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.

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

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 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.

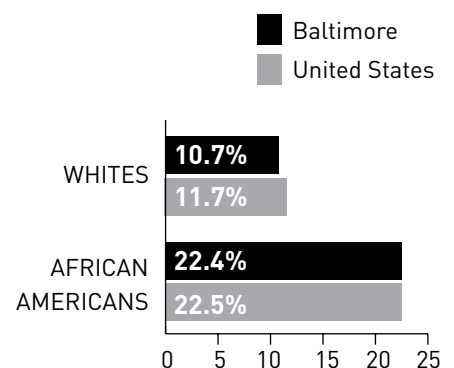
Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

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?



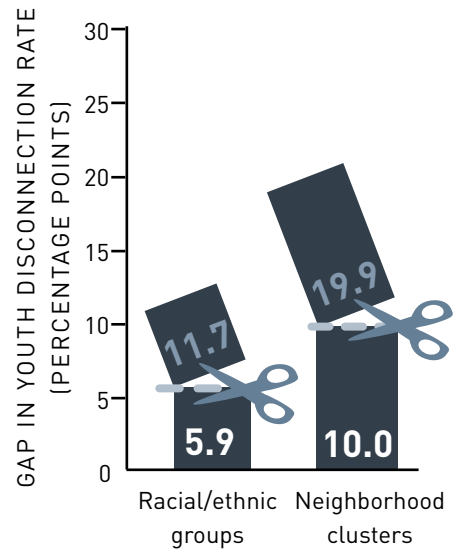
(13.5 percent) accounts for a difference of nearly 4,000 more adolescent men than women not working and not in school.

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



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