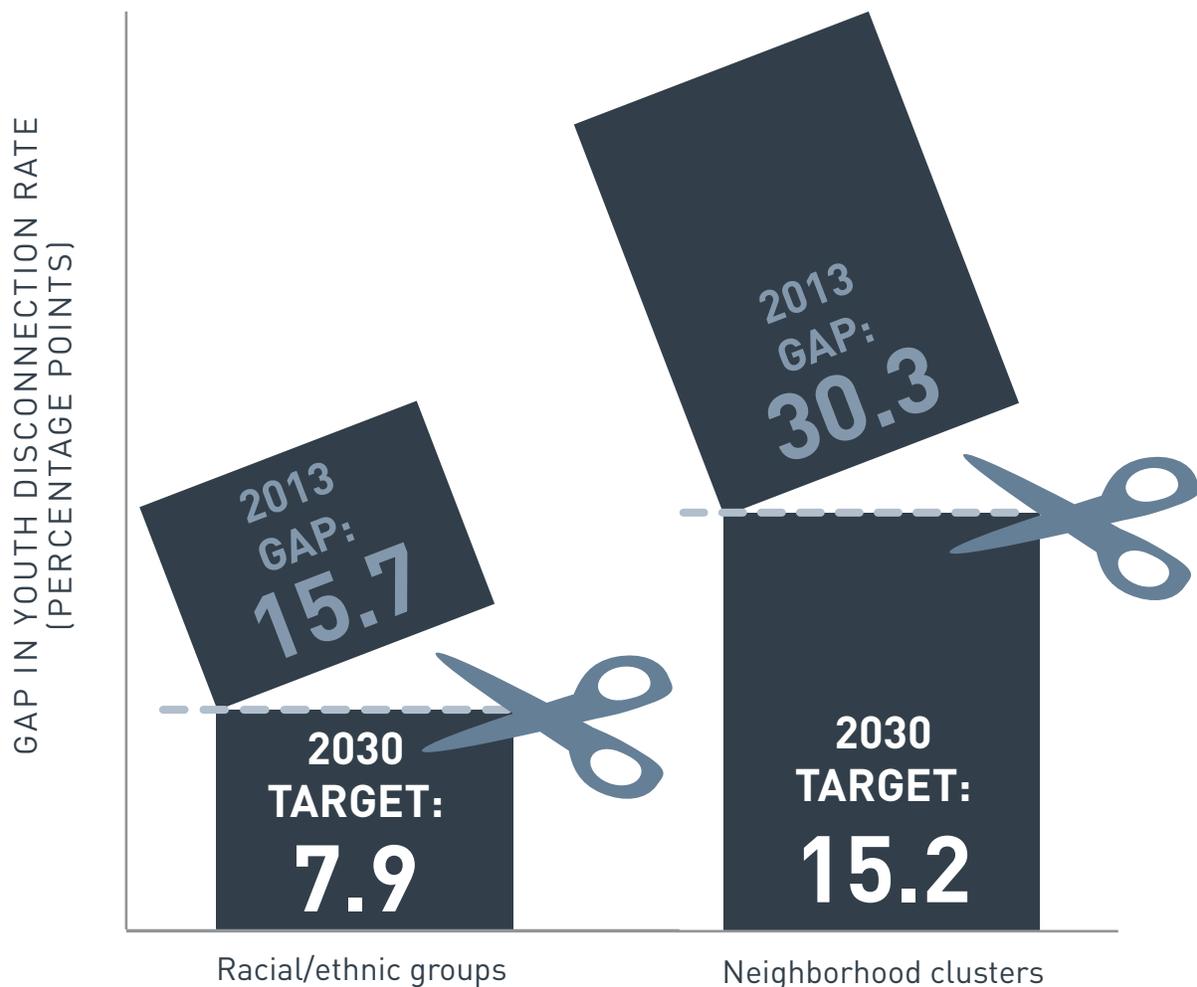


HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

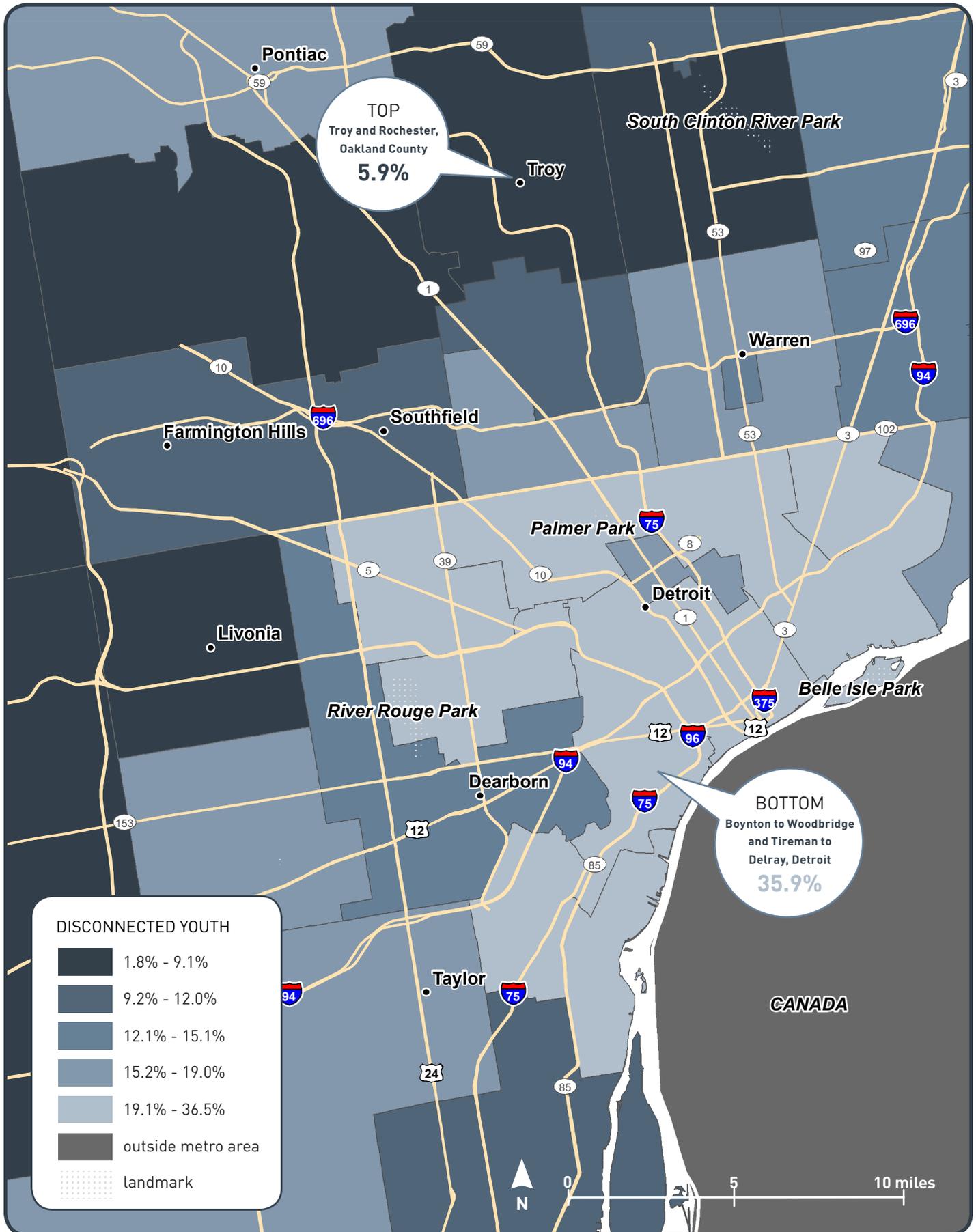
DETROIT METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

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About the Detroit 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 Detroit 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: 5.06 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

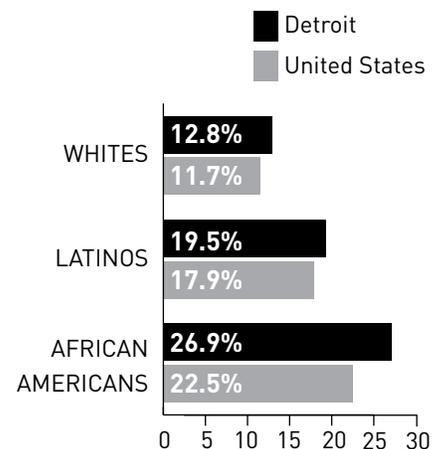
A sizable gap separates the disconnection rates of whites (12.8 percent), Latinos (19.5 percent), and African Americans (26.9 percent). The youth disconnection rate for African American young people in Detroit is more than double that of their white counterparts, and the two groups are 14.1 percentage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



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.

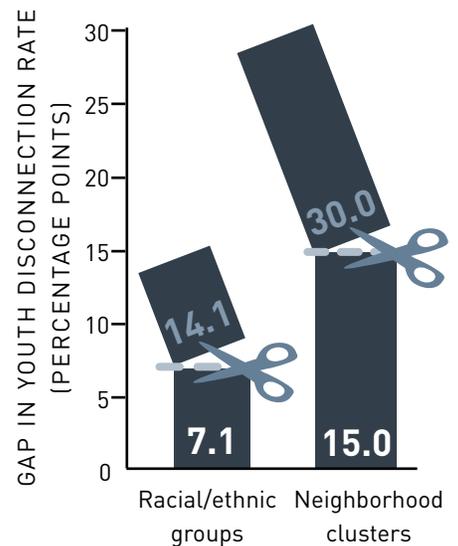
Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

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 |