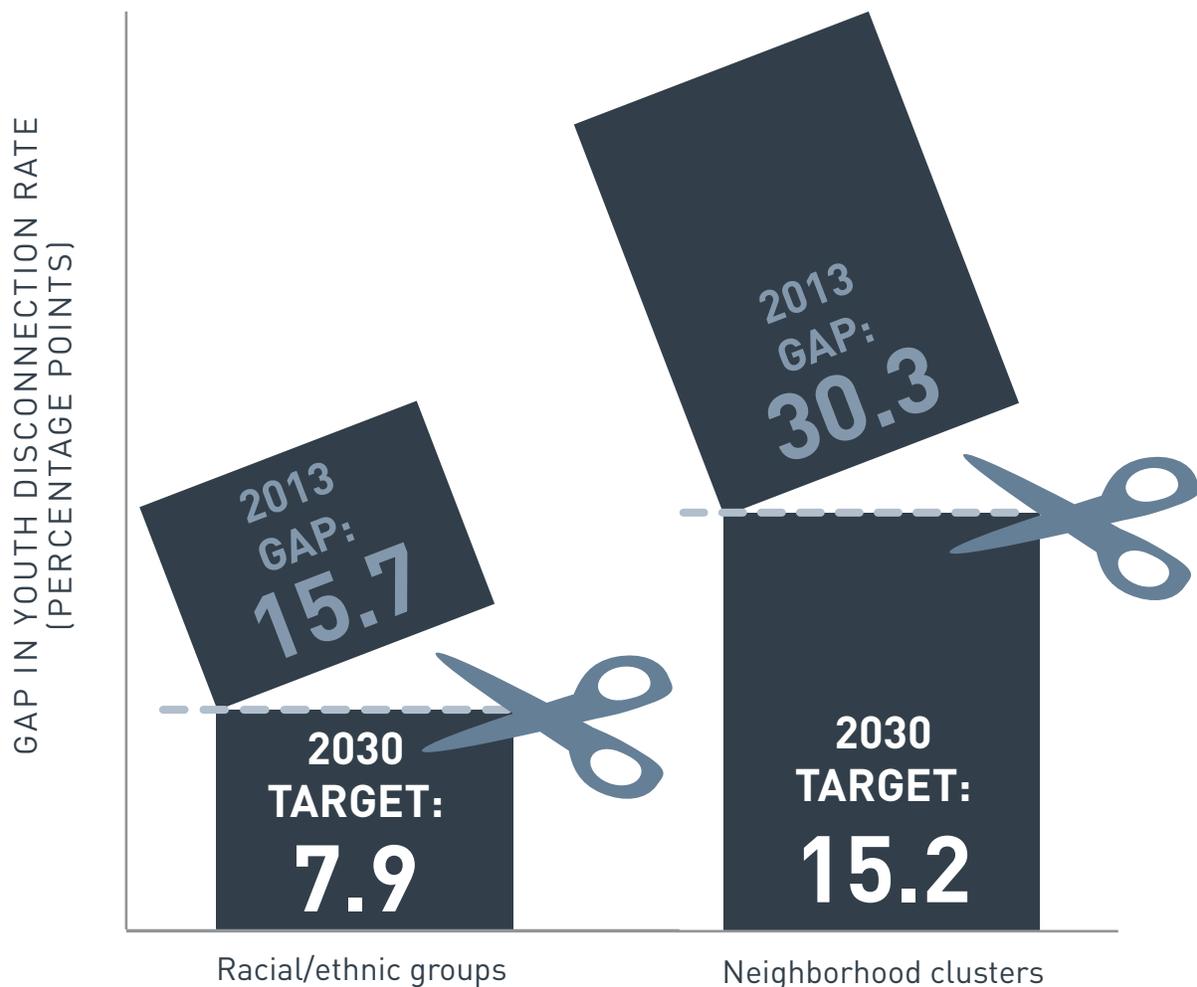


HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

PITTSBURGH METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

KRISTEN LEWIS and SARAH BURD-SHARPS

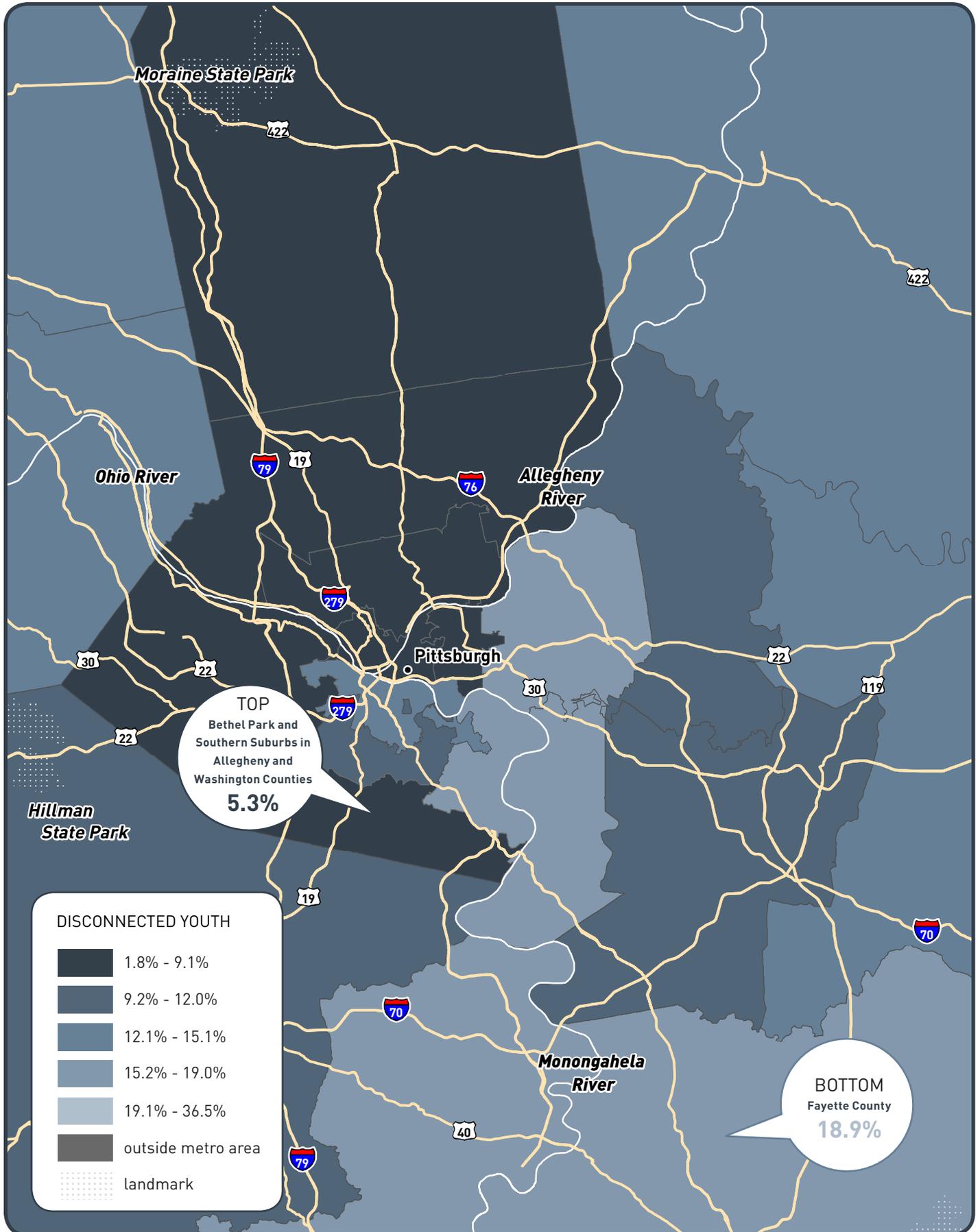


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YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE PITTSBURGH METRO AREA



About the Pittsburgh 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 Pittsburgh 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: 5.16 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 18th out of 24

Total population: 2,360,114

Adult unemployment rate: 6.4%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 29.4%

Poverty rate: 12.6%

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

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 65.4%

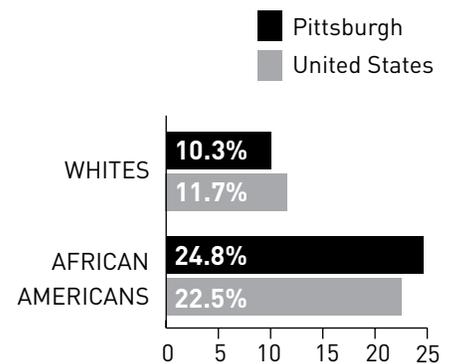
Sources: *Measure of America 2013-2014* and U.S. Census Bureau, 2011.

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 Pittsburgh 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?



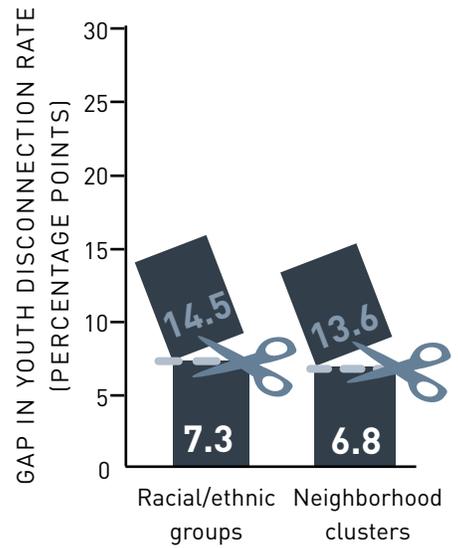
Youth Disconnection by Gender

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



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