

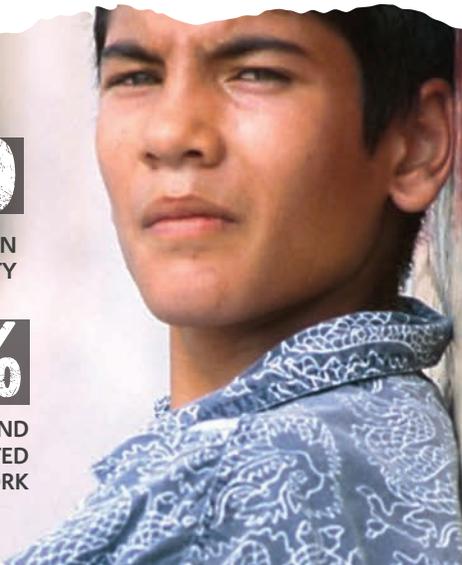
FLIP THE SCRIPT

SAN DIEGO
WORKFORCE
PARTNERSHIP®

APRIL 2017

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY OF
SAN DIEGO'S OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

THE OPPORTUNITY



43,210

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

9.7%

OF SAN DIEGANS BETWEEN 16 AND 24 YEARS OLD ARE DISCONNECTED FROM SCHOOL AND WORK

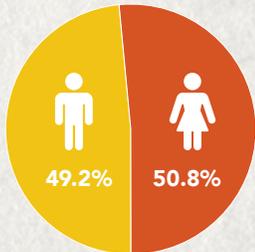
There are approximately **43,000 opportunity youth in San Diego County**. These are 16–24-year-olds who are neither in school nor employed. This study tells the story of San Diego's opportunity youth and the organizations that serve them, and presents a vision for how we might flip the script for San Diego's youth.

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

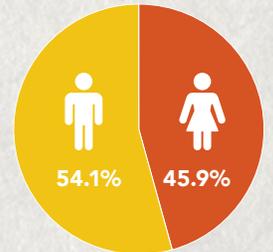
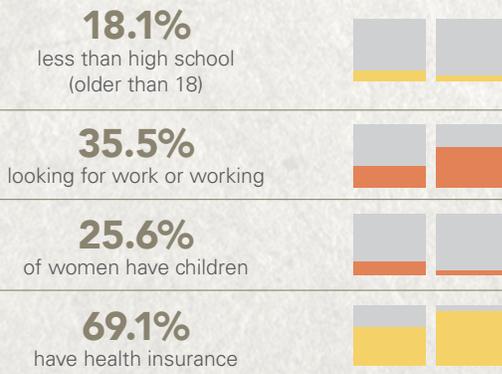
ALL 16–24-YEAR-OLDS (SAN DIEGO COUNTY)

43,210

444,132



AVERAGE AGE: 21.3



AVERAGE AGE: 20.1



DISCONNECTION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY



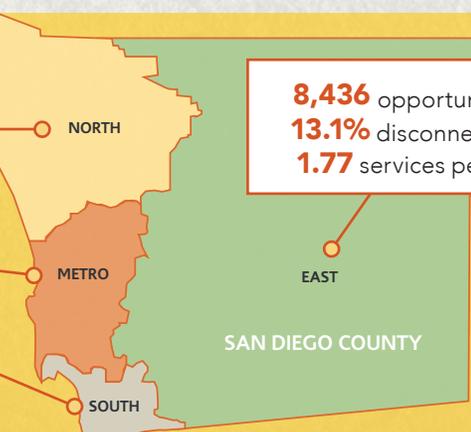
There are **1184 services** delivered through **826 unique locations** in San Diego County that support opportunity youth. These resources include employment, education, basic needs, mental health, transportation and housing.

12,490 opportunity youth
7.2% disconnection rate
5.03 services per 100 OY

12,203 opportunity youth
10.2% disconnection rate
2.33 services per 100 OY

8,436 opportunity youth
13.1% disconnection rate
1.77 services per 100 OY

10,081 opportunity youth
11.6% disconnection rate
1.22 services per 100 OY



Opportunity youth estimates were calculated using 2015 1-year estimates from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Education, parenting, insurance and race/ethnicity rates are 2013–2015 3-year estimates to achieve reliable sample sizes. Services were identified using the 2-1-1 San Diego service provider database.

THE VISION

CUT THE RATE

7.3% by 2020

We must reconnect and prevent disconnection for an estimated 10,800 youth, reducing the rate by 0.5% annually.

HALVE THE GAP

4.4% by 2020

By 2020, no neighborhood should be more than 4.4% above the countywide disconnection rate. This would “halve the gap” between the area with the current highest rate (18.6%) and the county average, focusing efforts and resources on underserved communities.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Develop an action plan to “cut the rate and halve the gap.” Reconvene annually to measure progress.
- Center the action plan and its implementation on the voice and experience of the experts: San Diego’s youth and young adults.
- Work with employers to develop competency-based hiring standards in growing sectors, ensuring young people with “non-traditional” educational pathways are evaluated on what they can do, not just what they did or did not do in school.
- Support and strengthen the transition from high school to post-secondary degree and certificate programs in high-demand industries.
- Expand employer efforts to hire opportunity youth, targeting public sector hiring initiatives, the businesses leading the 100K Opportunities initiative and apprenticeship programs.
- Increase secure, proactive data sharing between education, government and service providers. Align youth service provider program goals with success measures of big public systems (e.g., K–12 education, probation, foster care, community college).
- Increase the number of youth services in the 2-1-1 San Diego information and referral network; focus on areas with fewer services and high youth disconnection rates.

For more information, view the full report at workforce.org/reports

“

I have many goals right now. I want to get my GED, I want to go to college, I want to study and I want to be a nurse. The most important thing is language right now. And a job. Without these two things, we can't do anything.

My mother makes me strong. She tells me to study and do something good in my life. She tells me, ‘David, don't stop. Just learn and learn, and don't stop.’”

—David, 20, Refugee from Iraq, East Region



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