



INITIATE!

SAN DIEGO
WORKFORCE
PARTNERSHIP®

APRIL 2018

A REPORT ON SAN DIEGO'S PROGRESS
REDUCING YOUTH DISCONNECTION

CUT THE RATE

2020 target: Reduce the percentage of 16–24-year-olds not in school and not working to 7.3% or lower. To achieve this goal, we must reconnect and prevent disconnection for an estimated 10,800 youth, reducing the rate by 0.5% annually.

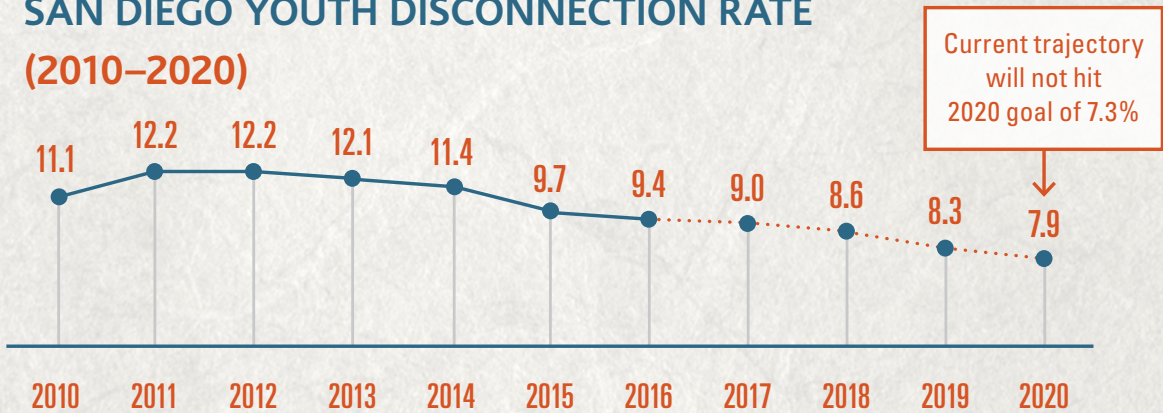
40,788

OF 16–24-YEAR-OLDS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY ARE DISCONNECTED FROM WORK AND SCHOOL, DOWN FROM 43,210 (IN 2015)

9.4%

OF YOUTH ARE DISCONNECTED, DOWN FROM 9.7% A YEAR AGO

SAN DIEGO YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE (2010–2020)



Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016

DRIVERS OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

12,922

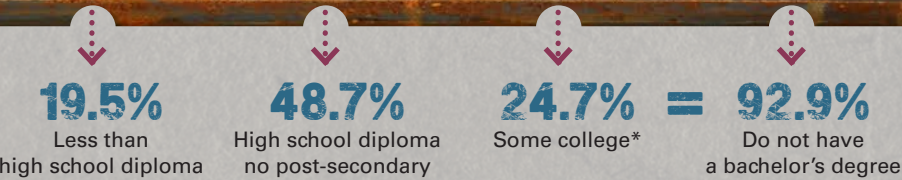
opportunity youth actively looking for work but can't find it

YOUTH LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

27,866

opportunity youth not actively looking for work

LEAKY EDUCATION PIPELINE



*This includes a very small number of youth who have completed associate degrees. The sample size number is too small to reliably separate.

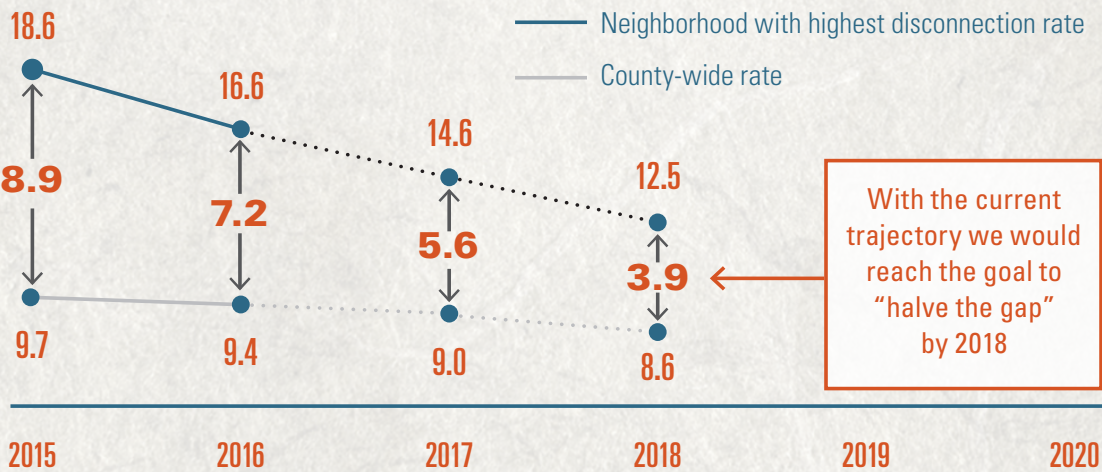
"The [lack of] experience—that's always one of the biggest issues that I've had [finding a job]. It's always 'I don't have this, I don't have that, I don't have a bachelor's degree' and it's always very hard, because no one is really offering that chance to say, 'Hey, we will turn this person into a talent.'"

—Jahir

HALVE THE GAP

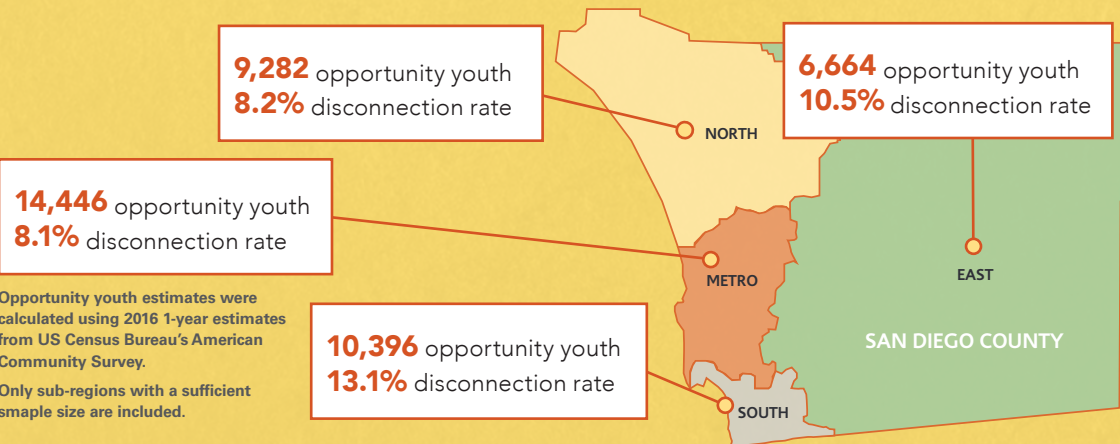
By 2020, no neighborhood should be more than 4.4% above the countywide disconnection rate. This would "halve the gap" between the area with the highest rate (18.6%) and the county average of 9.7% outlined in our 2017 report (using 2015 data). This can be achieved by focusing efforts and resources on underserved communities.

ADDRESSING NEIGHBORHOOD DISPARITIES



Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016

| SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUB-REGIONS (Areas defined by ACS Data) | 2015 OY Rate | Above 2015 Avg. | 2016 OY Rate | Above 2016 Avg. | 2016 (#) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------|
| Fallbrook, Alpine, Valley Center | 18.0% | 8.3 | 16.6% | 7.2 | 2,291 |
| South/Otay Mesa & South Bay | 13.6% | 3.9 | 15.8% | 6.4 | 3,638 |
| Vista | 18.6% | 8.9 | 15.1% | 5.7 | 2,375 |
| Southeastern San Diego/Encanto, Skyline | 14.4% | 4.7 | 14.4% | 5.0 | 3,554 |
| Lemon Grove, La Presa, Spring Valley | 17.2% | 7.5 | 14.0% | 4.6 | 2,386 |
| El Cajon, Santee | 15.5% | 5.8 | 13.9% | 4.5 | 3,042 |
| Chula Vista (West), National City | 13.3% | 3.6 | 12.1% | 2.7 | 3,064 |
| Escondido (East) | 15.5% | 5.8 | 11.6% | 2.2 | 2,318 |
| San Diego County Average/Total | 9.7% | 0% | 9.4% | 0% | 40,788 |



"Actually, I don't really talk about [paying for college] with my mother because I don't want to stress her out. Yesterday, she pulled a 12-hour shift so she can pay for my ticket at grad night, which is 140 bucks. She only made about \$200, and I took \$140. Money is a big topic."

—Jazmin

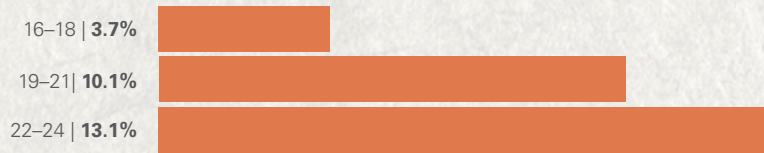
ANOTHER TROUBLING GAP:

The disconnection rate among San Diego County African American youth is 26.4%, almost three times the county average. Only one other city in America has a worse African American youth disconnection rate. SDWP is working with partners to understand and reduce this disparity.

COMPARED TO ALL 16–24-YEAR-OLDS IN
SAN DIEGO, OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ARE MORE
LIKELY TO BE:

| OPPORTUNITY YOUTH | | ALL YOUTH |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 68% | People of color | 62% |
| 46% | Low income | 36% |
| 24% | Uninsured (lack health insurance) | 13% |
| 65% | High school grads or less (age 19+) | 38% |
| 18% | Married | 8% |
| 26% | Mothers (among females—data set does not identify fathers) | 8% |
| 10% | Limited English proficient | 6% |
| 52% | Inexperienced in the labor force (never worked or haven't worked in 5+ years) | 32% |

DISCONNECTION RATES BY AGE
(share of all young adults in county)



THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR VOICE

With gratitude we acknowledge the young adult leaders who helped inform this research and gave voice—personal stories, expertise and insights—to round out SDWP’s understanding of youth disconnection in San Diego over the last 12 months.

Jazmin Alas Jahir Castelo Diego Oliva
Jacinto Carrera Ana Lomeli-Cadenas Paulo Pampolina

San Diego County’s youth population includes more than 34,000 military personnel, all of whom are employed. Therefore, our civilian (non-military) opportunity youth rate is higher than 9.4%. SDWP and MOA plan to calculate a civilian opportunity youth rate for next year’s report.

Youth mothers are at high risk of disconnection: 38% are opportunity youth. But disconnected young women may also be more likely to get pregnant and give birth, so it is difficult to know cause vs. effect. This is a topic for further research.

Disconnection increases with age. Almost all 15-year-olds are in school. As age increases between 16 and 24 more and more youth find themselves off track and neither learning nor earning (see graph to the left). We aim to understand more about the time dynamics of disconnection in upcoming research.

“I liked being able to give my voice—it’s really cool. At least one little voice. At least something is being heard.”
—Jazmin



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