



CHANGE IS COMING



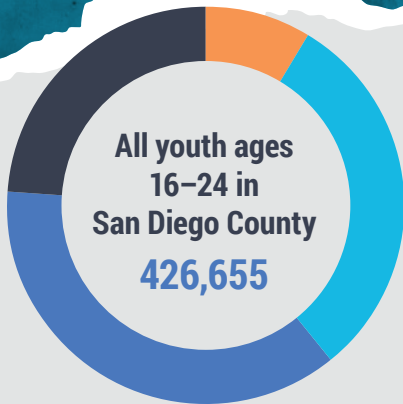
San Diego
Workforce
Partnership

#OPPORTUNITYSD

**A REPORT ON SAN DIEGO'S PROGRESS
ON REDUCING YOUTH DISCONNECTION**

CUT THE RATE

An update on our region-wide goal to reduce the percentage of 16–24-year-olds not in school and not working to 7.3% or lower by the year 2020.



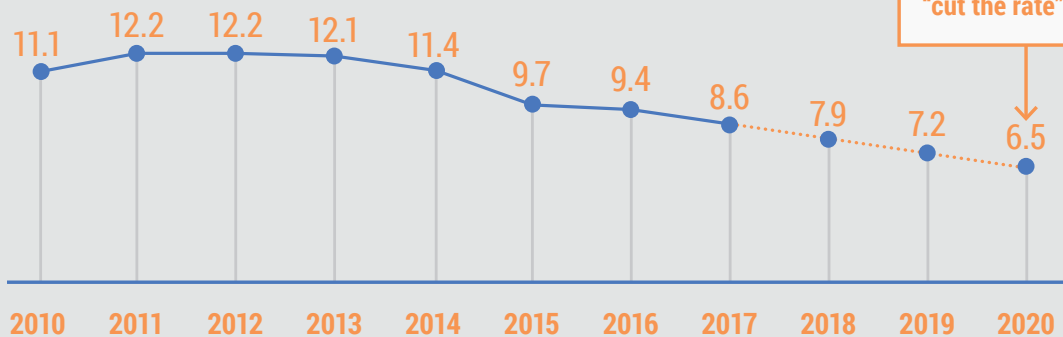
8.6% | 36,853 | Opportunity youth—not working and not in school

30.6% | 130,556 | Working and not in school

37% | 157,831 | In school and not working

23.8% | 101,415 | In school and working

SAN DIEGO COUNTY YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE (2010–2020)



We are on track to exceed the 2020 “cut the rate” goal.

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

INDICATORS OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION

UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

12,353

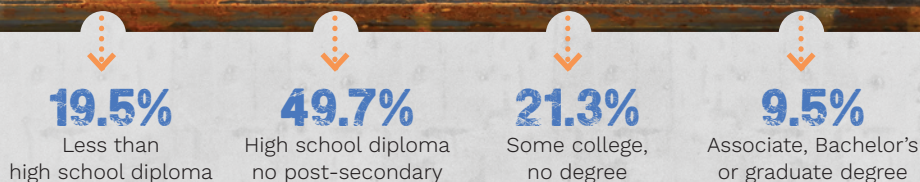
opportunity youth who are actively looking for work but can’t find it

YOUTH LABOR FORCE NON-PARTICIPANTS

24,500

opportunity youth who are not actively looking for work

LEAKY EDUCATION PIPELINE



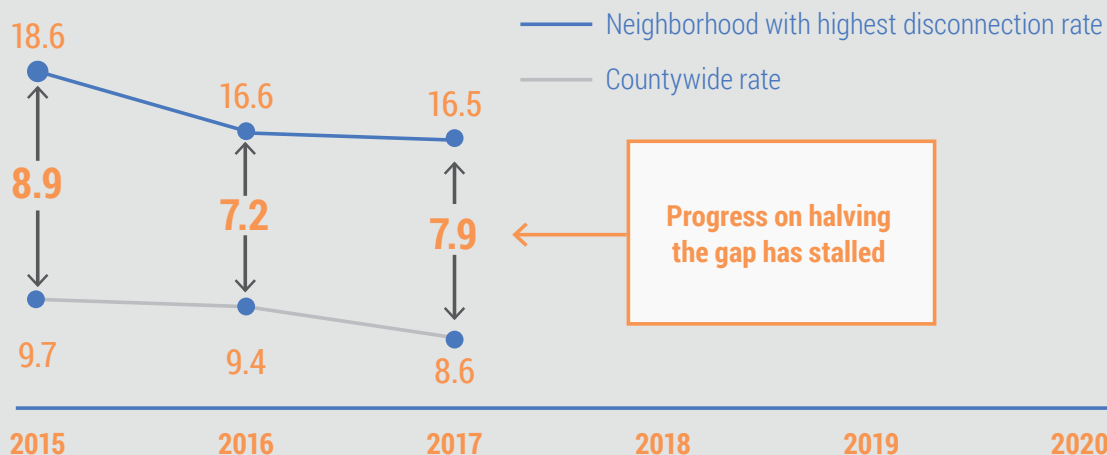
“The education system is not really preparing students for the changing workforce. Technology continues to expand and the jobs that are out on the market now are most likely not going to be the ones that they’ve prepared for before graduating high school. If the youth of today are expected to be successful then their education has to keep up with the technological changes.”

—Khadijah Abdulmateen, 18, Vista

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), focusing efforts and resources on underserved communities.

ADDRESSING NEIGHBORHOOD DISPARITIES



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

MUCH PROGRESS, SOME REGRESSION

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUB-REGIONS (Areas defined by ACS Data)	2015 OY Rate	2016 OY Rate	2017 OY Rate
South/Otay Mesa & South Bay	13.6%	15.8%	16.5%
Fallbrook, Alpine, Valley Center	18.0%	16.6%	15.1%
Southeastern San Diego/Encanto, Skyline	14.4%	14.4%	14.1%
Chula Vista (West), National City	13.3%	12.1%	14.1%
Vista	18.6%	15.1%	13.4%
Lemon Grove, La Presa, Spring Valley	17.2%	14.0%	13.2%
El Cajon, Santee	15.5%	13.9%	12.7%
San Diego East & La Mesa	11.8%	10.5%	11.8%
Escondido (East)	15.5%	11.6%	9.3%
San Diego Center City & Balboa Park*	13.4%	10.6%	8.1%/11.4%*
San Diego Central & Mid-City	9.2%	8.2%	6.6%
Oceanside & Camp Pendleton*	9.4%	8.7%	6.5%/11.1%*
San Diego County Average	9.7%	9.4%	8.6%/9.5%*

*The youth disconnection rates of these sub-regions are substantially higher when military personnel are excluded. See side bar for more information.

Source: Measure of America calculations using U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013–2015, 2014–2016, and 2015–2017.

Note: Only sub-regions with reliable youth disconnection rates are included.

The youth disconnection rate has decreased in many communities over the past three years. One area, Otay Mesa and South Bay, has seen a large increase.



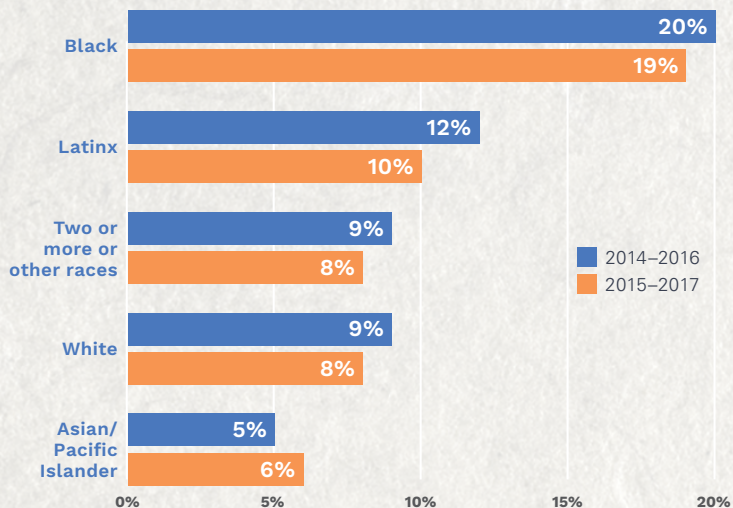
"A lot of the jobs that programs offer us are in fast food instead of helping you get a job that helps you get into a career. They say we have to take jobs just for the money to deal with our immediate needs, as if we can't reach for something better. And then we can't get ahead."

—Mallory Webb, 20, City Heights

*Civilian youth disconnection

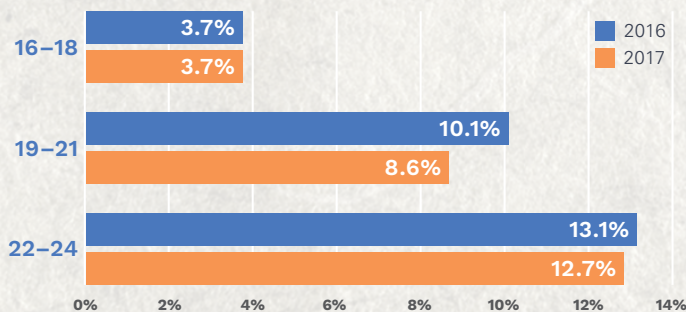
In the chart at left, the numbers in orange represent the civilian youth disconnection rate. San Diego County includes several large military bases, which employ tens of thousands of young adults. If we remove military personnel from the youth disconnection analysis, San Diego's overall opportunity youth rate rises to 9.5% for 2017 (compared to the overall rate of 8.6%). And for the two communities that include our largest military installations, removing military personnel from the analysis increases the youth disconnection rate. This adjustment to the analysis provides a more accurate representation of youth disconnection, especially in communities with a large military population.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY YOUTH DISCONNECTION BY RACE/ETHNICITY



Source: Measure of America calculations using U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (2015–2017)—three-year average used due to small sample size for black youth and youth from two or more or other races.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY YOUTH DISCONNECTION BY AGE



Source: Measure of America calculations using U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you for sharing your voice.

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

Khadijah Abdulmateen	Marco Flores	Desjonae Hixon
Joi Cole	Samantha Harmer	Mallory Webb
East Coast	Josue Hernandez	Rickanian Williams
	Stephanie Hernandez	

Black and Latinx youth disconnection

Black youth disconnection in the San Diego region continues to outpace all other races by a significant margin. In addition, it is possible that the American Community Survey—the basis for this analysis—underestimates Latinx youth disconnection if families in some of those households are reluctant to respond to the government survey due to immigration status concerns.

Youth disconnection by age

Youth disconnection is much more prevalent among young adults in their early 20s. One important finding this year is that most of our region's improvement in youth disconnection occurred among 19–21-year-olds, which could be the result of better transitions from high school to higher ed and better retention in higher ed. Regardless of the cause, this finding bodes well for next year's results, since young adults who are connected in the years after high school are more likely to stay connected in their early 20s.

"I want to apply what I am taught here to my community so I can start making changes. We have enough resources... and I have the vision to help my people. If it's now, or two years from now, change is coming."

—Rickanian Williams, 19, City Heights