



RACE, PLACE AND OPPORTUNITY

An Update on San Diego County's Progress Toward Reducing Youth Disconnection

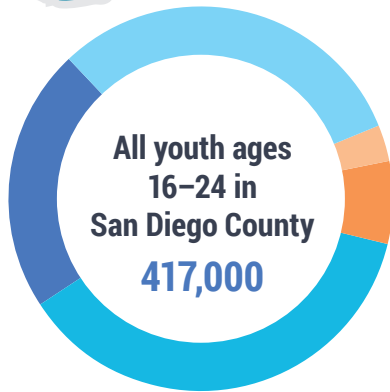


workforce.org/opportunitysd

Addressing systemic inequality is more important now than ever as COVID-19 disproportionately impacts San Diegans who have long been excluded from opportunity. While we mount a full-scale response to the unprecedented layoffs caused by this pandemic, the Workforce Partnership is not losing sight of our long-term goals, including cutting the rate of youth disconnection and reducing the gaps in economic opportunity between communities. This is our fourth annual report sharing the latest available data on youth disconnection from the American Community Survey.

CUT THE RATE

An update on our region-wide goal to reverse disconnection and create more opportunities for every young adult

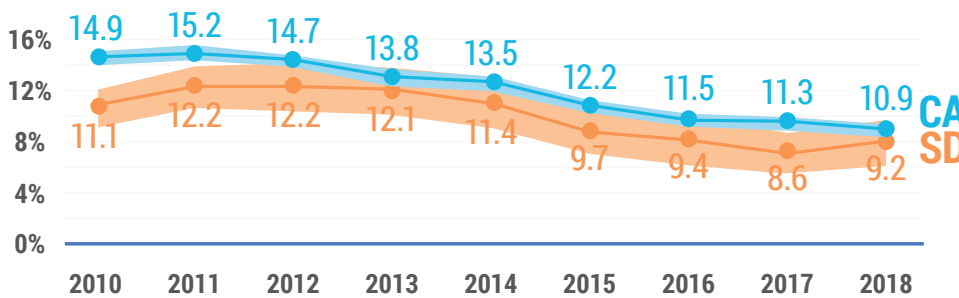


38,000 OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

- 2.8% | 12,000 | Not working but looking for work
- 6.4% | 27,000 | Not working & not looking for work
- 37% | 155,000 | In school
- 22% | 91,000 | Working & in school
- 32% | 133,000 | Working

Source: US Census American Community Survey (ACS), 2018
Estimates are rounded to nearest thousand.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE (2010-2018)



San Diego County's youth disconnection rate increased slightly in 2018, but remained below the statewide and national averages (10.9% and 11.2%, respectively).

Source: ACS 2018
Shaded areas are 95% confidence intervals.

EDUCATION & DISCONNECTION

In 2019, youth shared some of the obstacles they've faced in their pursuit of education:

"I had to work full-time through undergrad and almost full-time through grad school to pay bills, and sometimes I couldn't afford groceries."

"Neither of my parents finished high school, so I had to figure out a career path."

"It was difficult to work and go to school while being a mom."

"My family are refugees and couldn't give clear guidance on how to make it to college."

"Crossing the border every day to go to school was definitely a physical hurdle."

"As a first-generation Latinx mujer, what is my place in the UC system?"

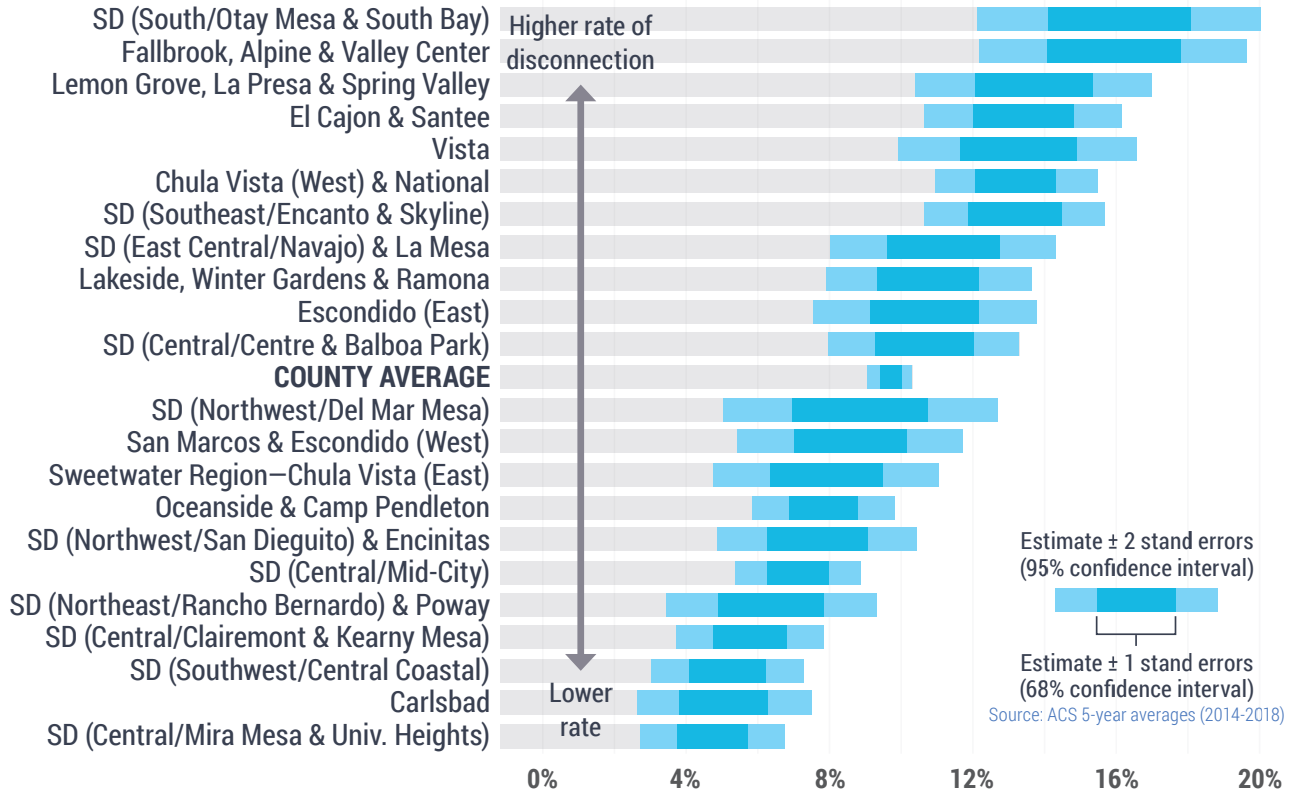


- 19% | Less than HS
- 49% | High school diploma/GED
- 21% | Some college
- 2.6% | Associate degree
- 8.2% | Bachelor's degree

Source: ACS 5-year averages (2014-2018)

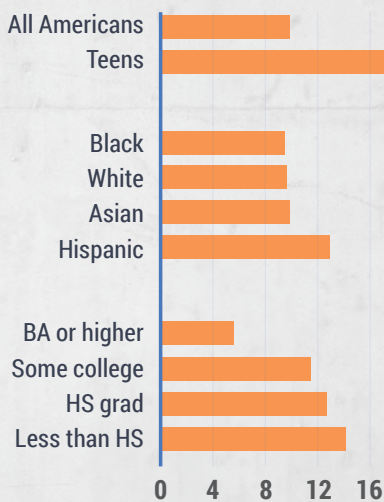
REDUCE THE GAPS

Children in every community are born with the same potential, but not the same opportunity. This is often a result of systemic inequities beyond young people's control. To reduce gaps in the disconnection rate between communities, we must do more than connect individual youth to education and employment—we must address structural forces like racism and intergenerational poverty that sustain these differences.



COVID-19 & DISCONNECTION

Percentage point Increase in unemployment rate, March to April 2020



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment, "The Employment Situation—April 2020."

In March and April 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic caused the sharpest unemployment spike in modern US history.

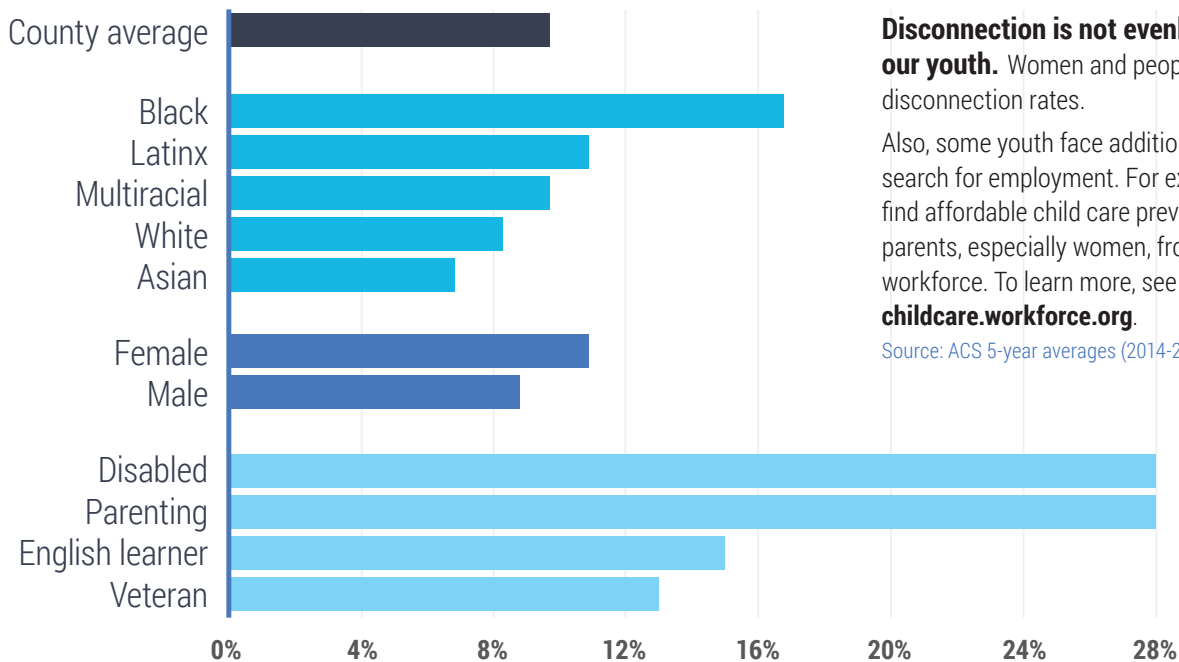
(See our report: workforce.org/news/covidimpact)

The data available for this report does not reflect the effects of the pandemic. At the time of publication (June 2020), the economic recovery is unknown and very uncertain.

We do know COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted young adults. The unemployment data in the first quarter of the pandemic shows it has greatly affected those who work in sectors such as retail, tourism and food service—positions often filled by young adults as they begin their career journey.

We also know that not all youth will be equally impacted. Nationwide, unemployment has risen more sharply among Hispanic workers and those with less education.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATES



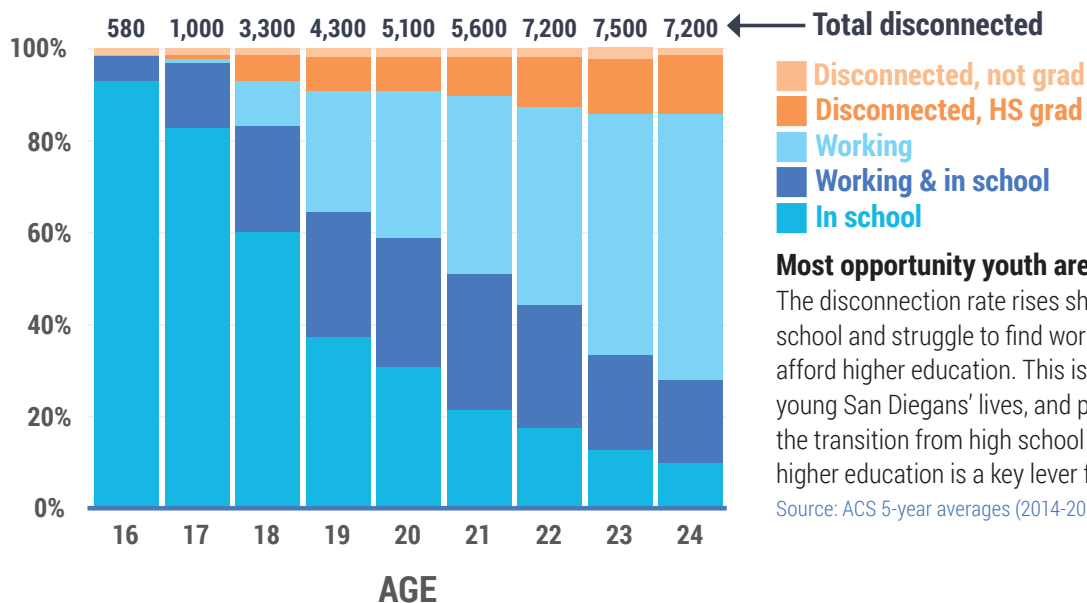
Disconnection is not evenly distributed among our youth. Women and people of color have higher disconnection rates.

Also, some youth face additional challenges in their search for employment. For example, the struggle to find affordable child care prevents many young parents, especially women, from joining the workforce. To learn more, see our report:

childcare.workforce.org

Source: ACS 5-year averages (2014-2018)

SAN DIEGO COUNTY YOUTH DISCONNECTION BY AGE



Most opportunity youth are high school graduates.

The disconnection rate rises sharply as youth leave high school and struggle to find work or to enroll in and/or afford higher education. This is a crucial inflection point in young San Diegans' lives, and providing more support for the transition from high school to the job market or to higher education is a key lever for reducing disconnection.

Source: ACS 5-year averages (2014-2018)



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We provide equal opportunity for our programs, services and employment. Auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities are available upon request.

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How we use this data: The Workforce Partnership uses data to inform our investment priorities and program strategies so that our efforts are focused on those that need the most intervention and support. Email us at communications@workforce.org to share your thoughts on this data.

On the cover: Young adults declare San Diego County's Youth Bill of Rights, setting out 11 priorities to provide youth with what they need to be "happy, healthy and prepared to reach their potential:" everything from basic food and nutrition, freedom of expression and having an equal role in developing community solutions. Led by local nonprofit Youth Will, it is meant as a catalyst for action and call for collaboration between youth and the systems positioned to serve them.