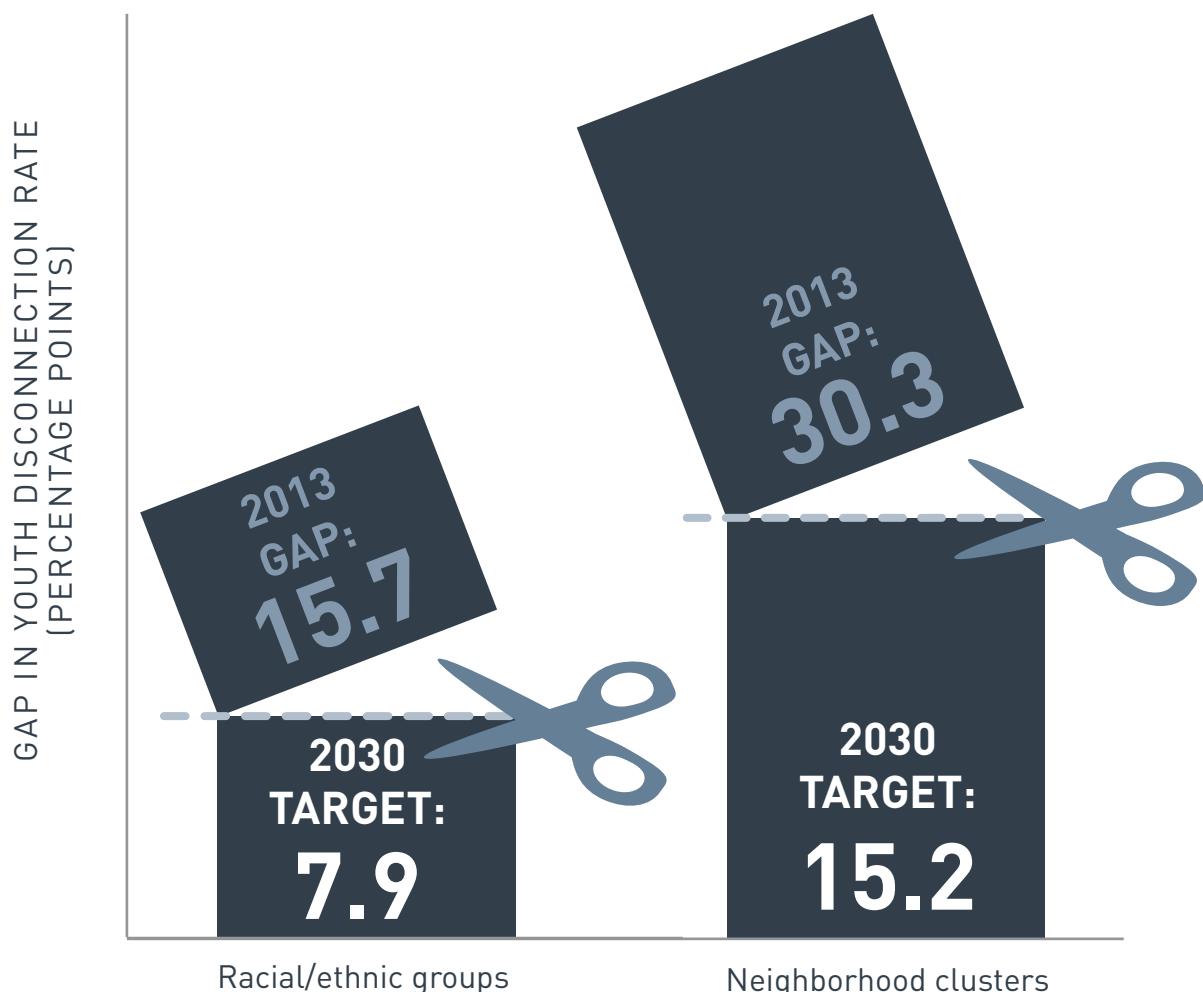


HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

WASHINGTON, DC METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

KRISTEN LEWIS and SARAH BURD-SHARPS

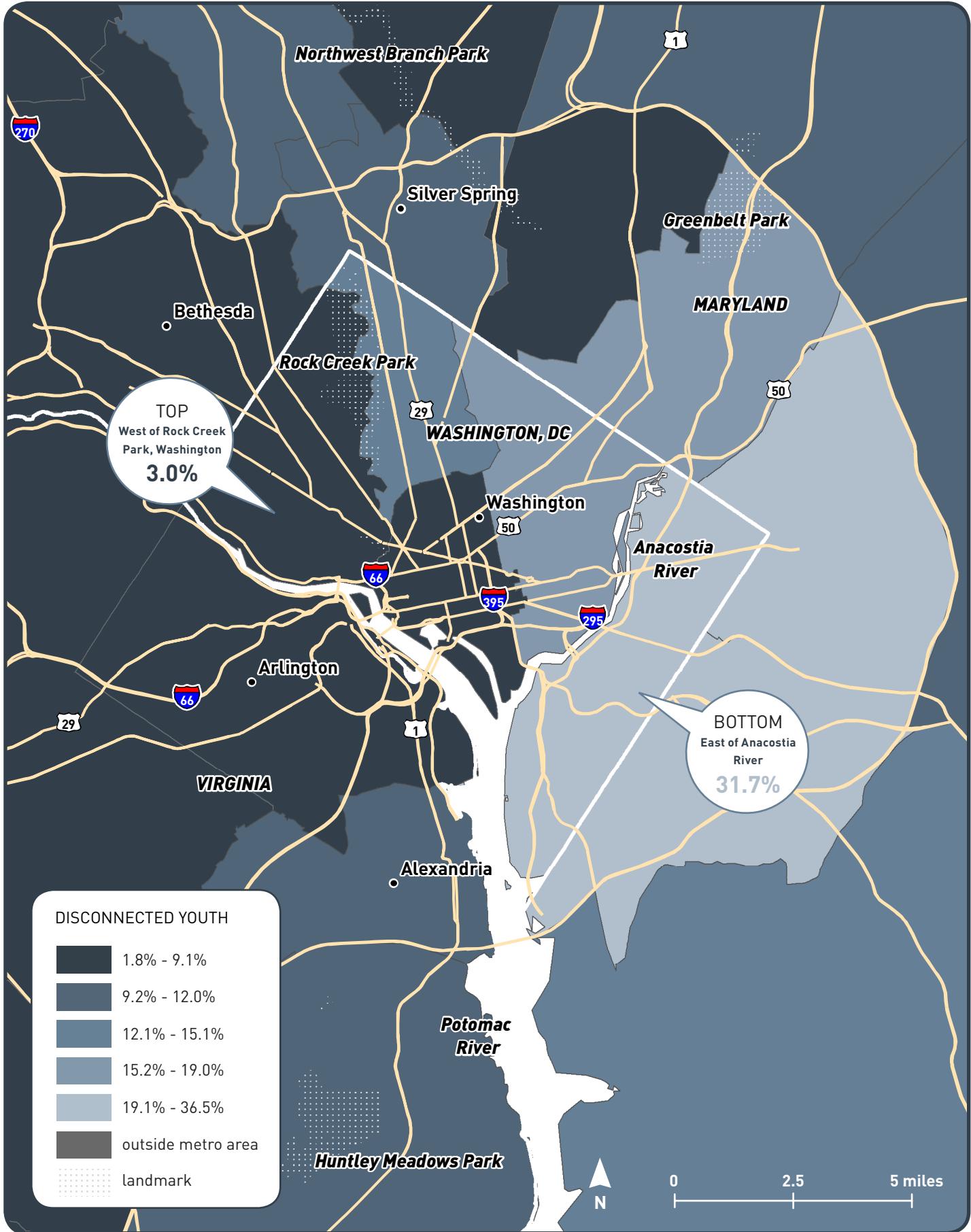


Patrick Nolan Guyer | CHIEF STATISTICIAN & CARTOGRAPHER

Diana Tung | REPORT DESIGN

TO DOWNLOAD THIS REPORT, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.MEASUREOFAMERICA.ORG/HALVE-THE-GAP-2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE WASHINGTON, DC METRO AREA



About the Washington, DC Metro Area Close-Up

This document is an excerpt from *Half the Gap by 2030: Youth Disconnection in America's Cities*. It portrays in detail the landscape of youth disconnection in the Washington, DC 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.

The **Washington, DC metro area** is comprised of Washington, DC, the counties of Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George in Maryland; Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties as well as Alexandria City, Fairfax City, Falls Church City, Fredericksburg City, Manassas City, and Manassas Park City in Virginia; and Jefferson County in West Virginia. The youth disconnection rate in the Washington, DC, metro area is 11.3 percent, the third best rate of among the nation's twenty-five largest metro areas; only Minneapolis-St. Paul and Boston face a lower youth disconnection rate. While DC is doing well compared to other big cities, nearly 88,000 teenagers and young adults in and around the nation's capital are nonetheless adrift at society's margins, engaged with neither work nor school.

One important driver might be the high level of adult educational attainment in this metro area. According to the 2011 American Community Survey, Washington, DC, has the highest percentage of bachelor degree holders among the twenty-five most populated metro areas (48 percent of adults). Even when accounting for subgroups of gender and race/ethnicity, we see that in each case the Washington metro area consistently scores near the top (if not at the top).

Washington, DC is a magnet for highly educated workers.

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 6.83 out of 10

HD Index ranking:
1st out of 24

Total population: 5,771,213

Adult unemployment rate:
6.2%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 48.0%

Poverty rate: 8.3%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 16.3%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 62.7%

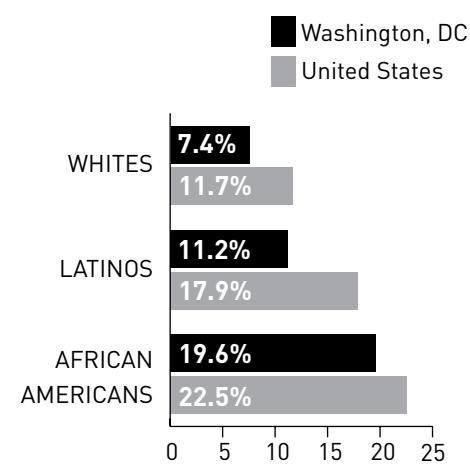
Sources: *Measure of America* 2013-2014 and U.S. Census Bureau, 2011.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Strong overall outcomes in our nation's capital and surrounding areas mask tremendous variation by race and ethnicity within the metro area. Youth disconnection by race and ethnicity in the DC metro area follows the national trend, with white young people having the best connection rates (7.4 percent) and African American youth struggling the most with connection to school and work (19.6 percent). Nearly one in five African American youth is disconnected in Washington, DC.

Latinos fall in the middle of the pack. While young people of all racial and ethnic groups are less likely to be disconnected in the DC metro area than in the nation overall, Latinos have the best outcomes relative to the national average. Whereas the national average disconnection rate for Latinos is 17.9 percent, only 11.2 percent of Latinos in Washington, DC, are disconnected. This is the lowest percentage for Latino young people across the twenty-five largest metro areas. There are too few Asian American young people in this age range for reliable youth disconnection calculations.

How Do Racial and Ethnic Groups Compare to Each Other and to Their National Counterparts?



Youth Disconnection by Gender

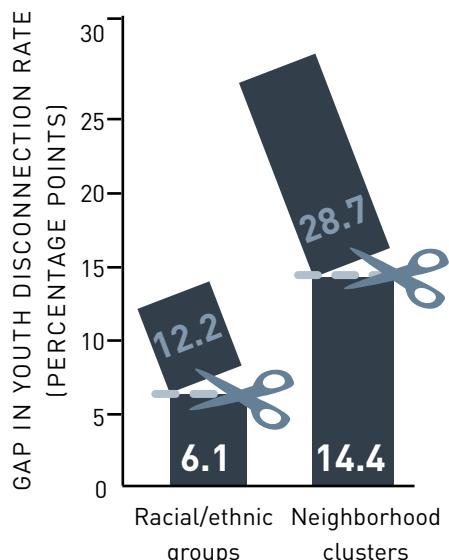
In the DC metro area, the likelihood of being not in work and not in school is 10.3 percent for young women and 12.3 percent for young men. This gender gap is slightly larger than the national average. Nationally, African American young women are nearly six percentage points more likely than their male counterparts to be working or in school, so the larger-than-usual gender gap in Washington may arise in part because African Americans make up 25.3 percent of DC's population, over twice the national average (12.2 percent).

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Washington, DC, metro area is made up of thirty-seven neighborhood clusters. By neighborhood, the metro area demonstrates high variability in rates of disconnection between youth populations. Between the neighborhood with the highest proportion of disconnected youth, east of the Anacostia River in DC, and the lowest, west of Rock Creek Park, also in DC (31.7 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively), there is a 28.7 percentage point difference. Furthermore, while the metro area ranks number three overall, the rate of disconnection in Washington, DC east of the Anacostia River is nearly three times the rate for the whole metro area. Of the nearly nine hundred metro area neighborhood clusters nationwide included in this study, only seven neighborhoods have more severe youth disconnection.

The three least connected communities, DC east of the Anacostia River, Suitland, Hillcrest Heights, and Temple Hills in PG County, and Landover, Walker Mill, and Capitol Heights, also in PG County, are home predominantly to African Americans (86 percent or more), and they have the smallest percentages of white residents in the metro area (less than 4.5 percent). Conversely, the most connected neighborhoods are either majority white, as in Potomac and Bethesda in Montgomery County and DC west of Rock Creek Park, or reflect a wide-ranging diversity, such as the College Park area in PG County, which has large African American, Latino, and white populations and a rate of youth disconnection of only 6.1 percent. This area of Maryland's PG County is home to the University of Maryland, and students are, by definition, connected.

Half the Gap in Washington, DC



Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
West of Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC	3.0
Potomac and Bethesda, Montgomery County, MD	5.1
College Park, Adelphi, and Chillum, Prince George's County, MD	6.1

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Landover, Walker Mill, and Capitol Heights, Prince George's County, MD	20.7
Suitland, Hillcrest Heights, and Temple Hills, Prince George's County, MD	22.1
East of the Anacostia River, Washington DC	31.7