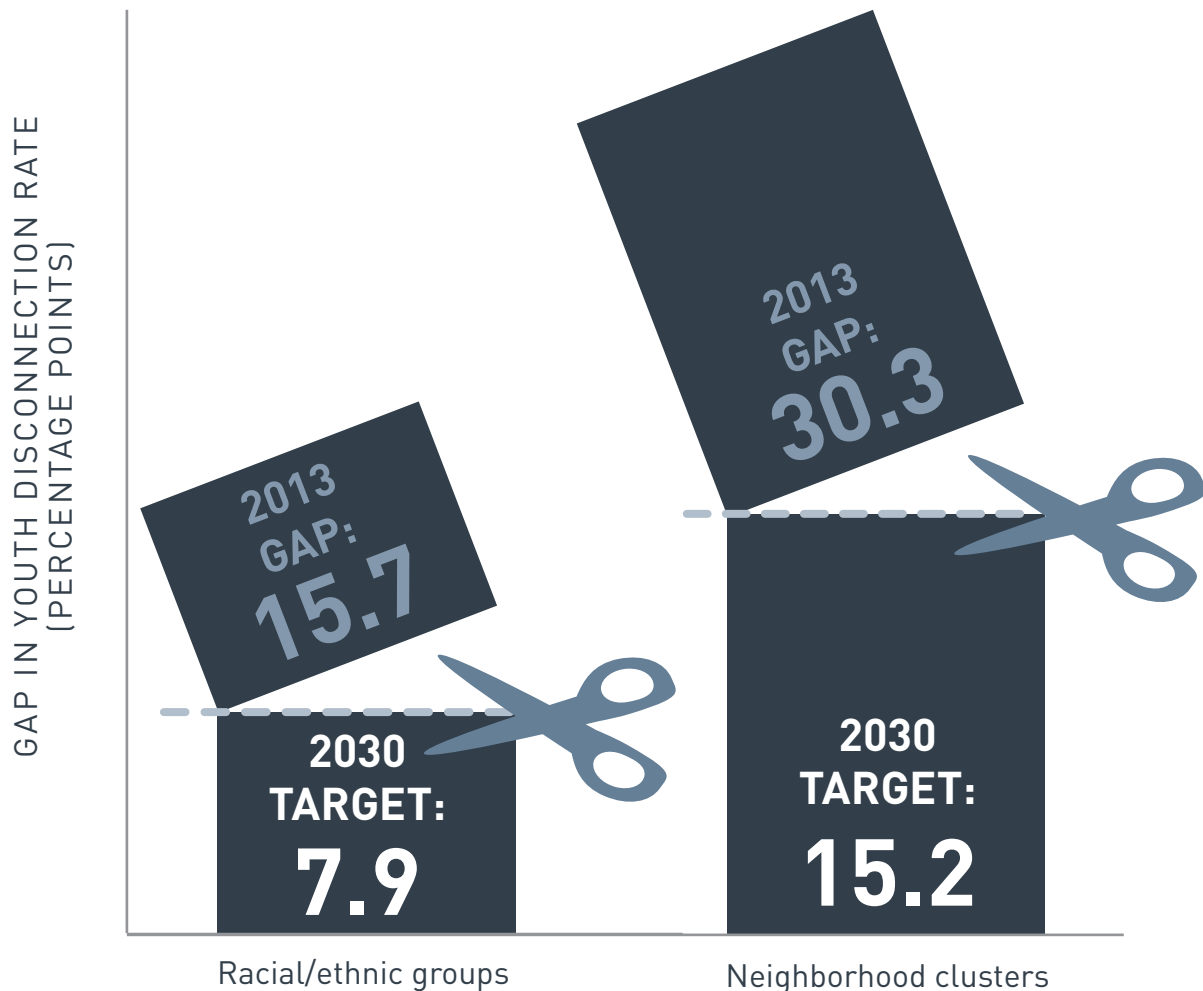


HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

CHICAGO METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

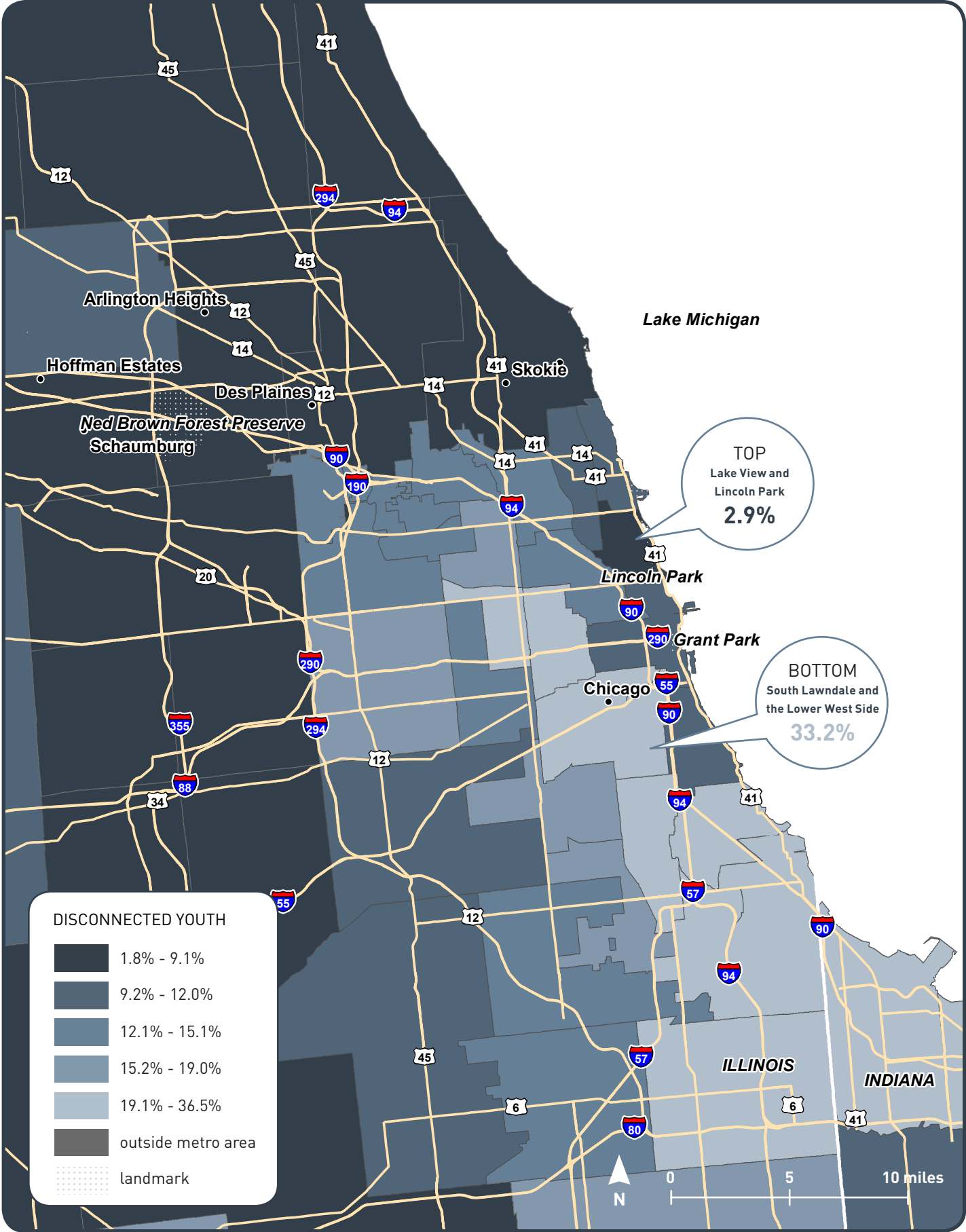
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YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE CHICAGO METRO AREA



About the Chicago Metro Area Close-Up

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

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 5.51 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 11th out of 24

Total population: 9,495,719

Adult unemployment rate: 9.8%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 34.2%

Poverty rate: 14.7%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 23.4%

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

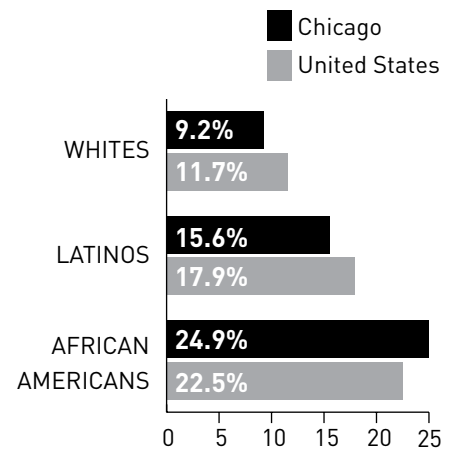
Sources: *Measure of America 2013-2014* and U.S. Census Bureau, 2011.

The third most populous metro area in the country, **the Chicago metro area** covers fourteen counties in three states: Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, McHenry, Will, and Lake Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin. The rate of youth disconnection in Chicago is 14.1 percent, almost exactly the value in Houston, Texas and between Seattle and St. Louis. This rate is slightly better than the national average and translates into just over 166,000 young people ages 16 to 24 who lack connections to both work and school.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Beneath the metro area average lies a more complex story in terms of disconnection rates by race and ethnicity. In Chicago, youth disconnection rates among the major racial and ethnic groups differ considerably from national averages. Both Latinos and whites in Chicago are more likely to have positive outcomes in terms of youth connection than their national counterparts. On the other hand, African Americans in Chicago have worse outcomes than African Americans nationally. Chicago African Americans have the third highest rate of disconnection after African Americans in Detroit and Philadelphia. One in four African Americans is disconnected, more than two and a half times higher than the rate of their white neighbors. Latinos are at the other end of the spectrum. Only San Francisco and Washington, DC have better outcomes for Latinos. As a result of these extremes, Chicago has one of the highest

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



gaps by race and ethnicity. Nearly sixteen percentage points separate African Americans and whites, the third highest gap after New York and Philadelphia.

Youth Disconnection by Gender

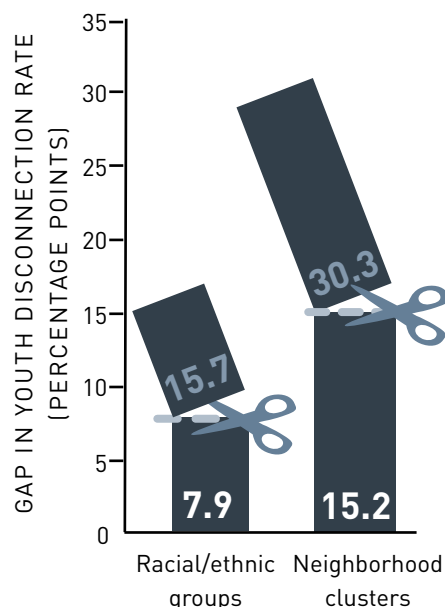
As in the nation as a whole, male teens and young adults in Chicago have higher rates of disconnection than females. Just over 80,000 (13.8 percent) young women are neither employed nor in school, while this figure is over 86,000 (14.3 percent) for young men. Chicago has one of the smallest gender gaps nationwide at just 0.5 percentage points.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Chicago metro area is made up of sixty-two neighborhood clusters. Chicago ties the New York metro area for the greatest range between the neighborhood with the lowest and highest rates of youth disconnection, a striking 30.3 percentage points, from 33.2 percent in the South Lawndale and the Lower West Side neighborhoods to just 2.9 percent in the Lake View and Lincoln Park areas. This means that while just one in thirty-three youth are neither employed nor in school in some Chicago neighborhoods, this figure balloons eleven times over to one in three in others. The Lake View and Lincoln Park neighborhoods enjoy the lowest rate of youth disconnection among all of the nearly nine hundred neighborhoods in this study.

There are also strong trends relating youth disconnection in Chicago’s neighborhoods to the racial and ethnic breakdown of these areas. There is a strong negative correlation between the percent of white residents in districts across the city and the rate of youth disconnection; as the percentage of white residents increases, the rate of youth disconnection decreases. In addition, the neighborhood in the Chicago metro area with the highest percentage of Latino residents is also home to the highest proportion of youth neither employed nor in school. Residential segregation can be extreme in the Chicago metro area. Of the twenty-five largest metro areas nationwide, Chicago is home to the neighborhood with both the lowest percentage of white residents—0.7 percent—and the highest proportion of African American residents—97.3 percent.

Halve the Gap in Chicago



Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Lake View and Lincoln Park, Chicago, IL	2.9
Deerfield, Highland Park, Lake Forest and North Chicago, Lake County, IL	5.0
Forest Glen, North Park, Albany Park and Irving Park, Chicago, IL	5.2

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
West Englewood, Englewood, Auburn Gresham and Washington Heights, Chicago, IL	30.4
Humboldt Park, Garfield Park, and North Lawndale, Chicago, IL	30.8
South Lawndale and the Lower West Side, Chicago, IL	33.2