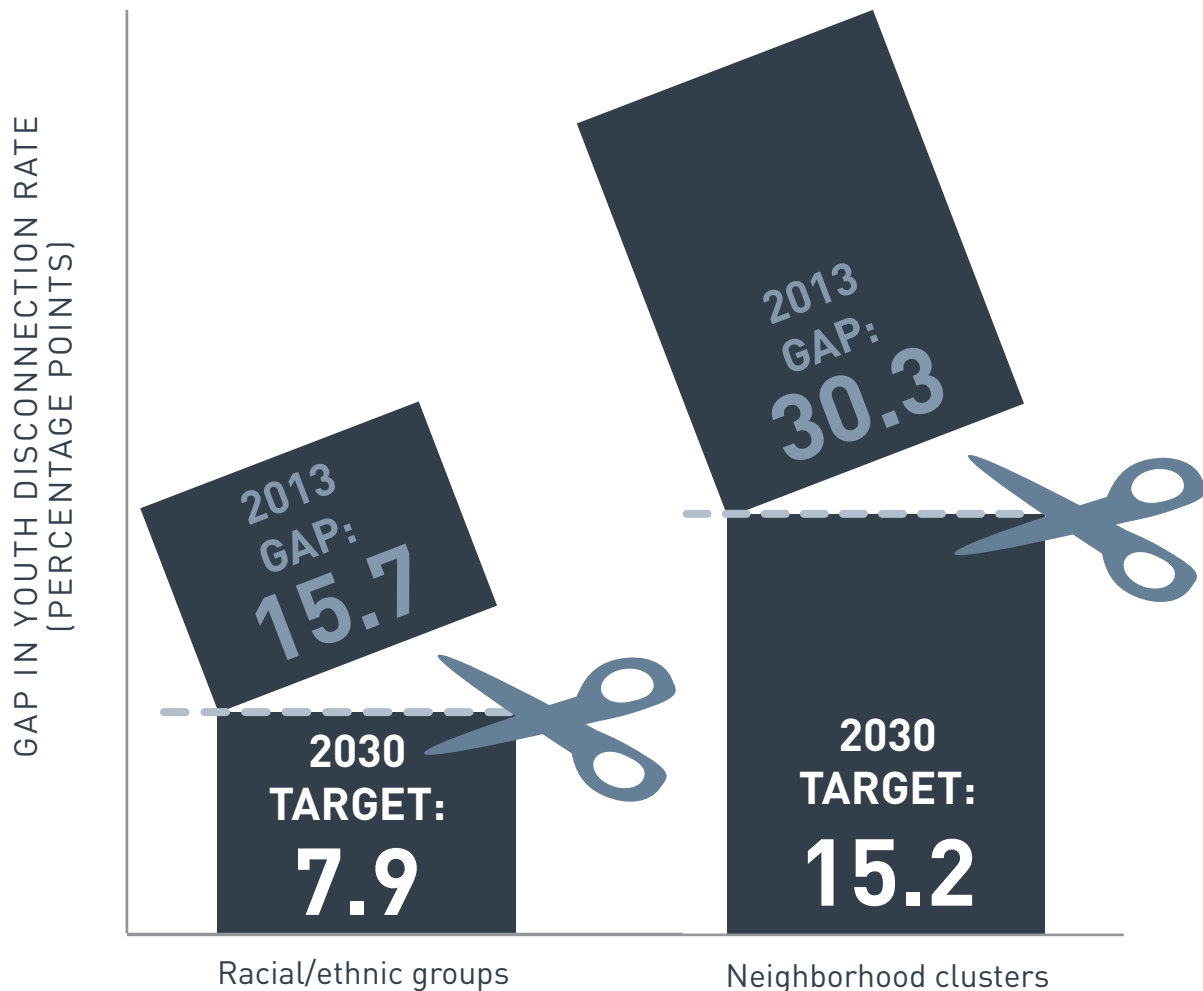


# HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION  
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

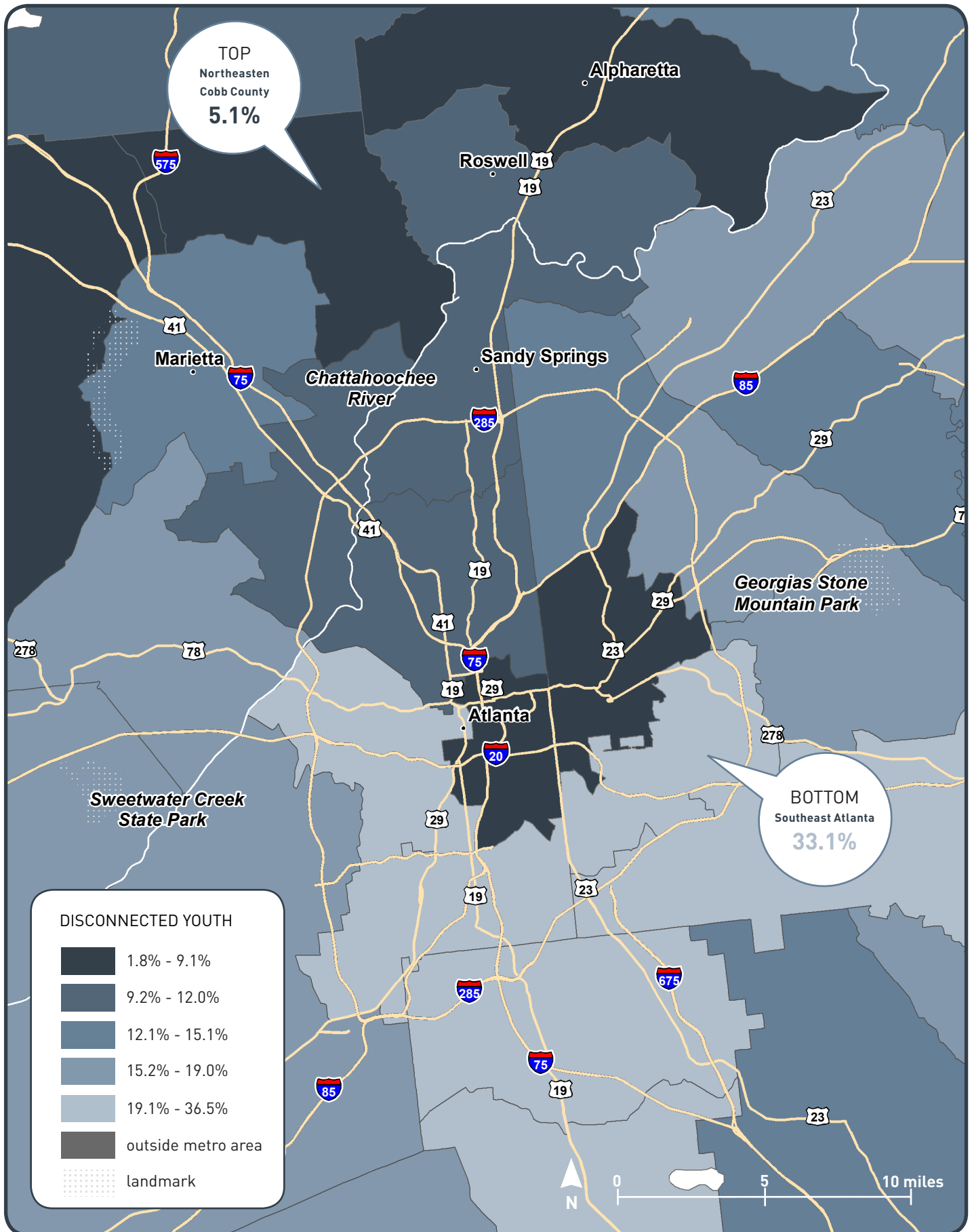
## ATLANTA METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

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## About the Atlanta 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 Atlanta 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:** 5.27 out of 10

**HD Index ranking:** 14th out of 24

**Total population:** 5,374,678

**Adult unemployment rate:** 10.3%

**Adults with at least bachelor's degree:** 34.5%

**Poverty rate:** 16.8%

**Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24):** 25.1%

**School enrollment rate (ages 16–24):** 61.4%

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

The **Atlanta metro area** is composed of twenty-nine Georgia counties: Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton. The rate of youth disconnection in Atlanta is 16.8 percent; the city falls between Portland (17 percent) and Miami (16 percent). This rate translates into over 126,000 young people ages 16 to 24 who are falling through the cracks—a group comparable to the entire population of the cities of New Haven, Connecticut or Cedar Rapids, Michigan.

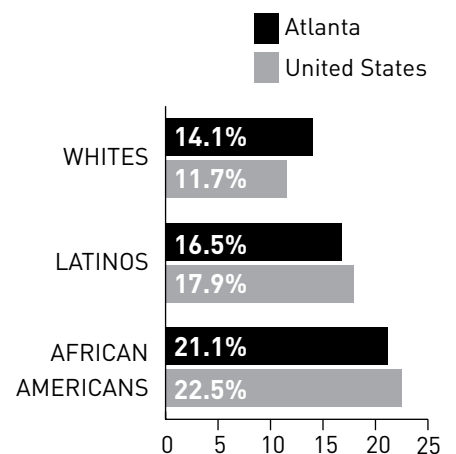
## Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Despite Atlanta's relatively high overall rate of youth disconnection, the rates among both African Americans (21.1 percent) and Latinos (16.5 percent) are slightly lower than the national average for these groups. Atlanta's white disconnection rate of 14.1 percent, on the other hand, is higher than the national average for whites. Seven percentage points separate the rates for whites and African Americans.

## Youth Disconnection by Gender

Following the national trend, males are more likely to be disconnected in Atlanta than females, 17.5 percent of young men and 16 percent of young

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

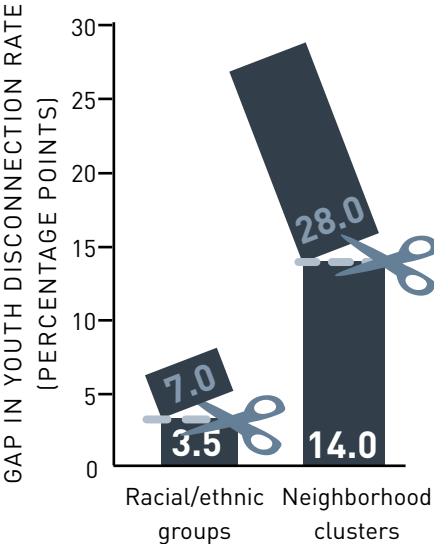


women. The Atlanta Metro area is home to roughly 58,000 young women and 68,000 young men disconnected from school and work.

### Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Atlanta metro area is made up of thirty-nine neighborhood clusters. The rate of youth neither in school nor employed ranges from 33.1 percent in Southeast Atlanta, to just 5.1 percent in Northeast Cobb County—more than a six-fold difference. This range is one of the widest among the twenty-five most populous US metro areas and speaks to stark geographic inequalities within the city. In addition, there is a notable gap of almost 7 percentage points between the neighborhood with the highest rate of youth disconnection and that with the second-highest rate—the Fulton County areas of Cascade Heights, West End, Bankhead, and Vine City.

Halve the Gap in Atlanta



### Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Northeast Cobb County, GA	5.1
Downtown Atlanta, GA	6.0
Alpharetta, GA	6.4

### Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Briargate and Sandy Creek, Clayton County, GA	25.2
Cascade Heights, West End, Bankhead, and Vine County, Fulton County, GA	26.2
Southeast Atlanta, GA	33.1