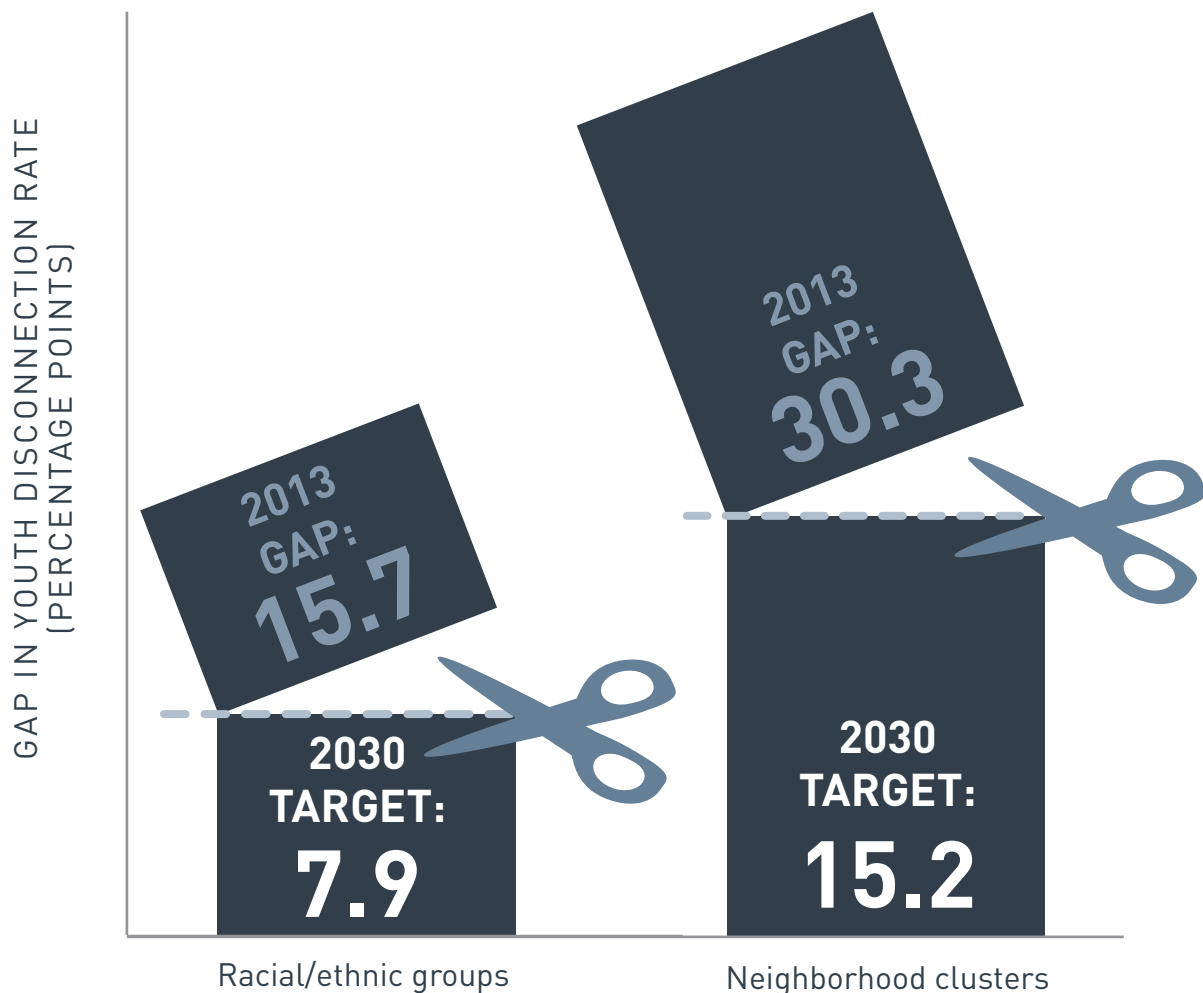


# HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION  
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

## DALLAS-FT. WORTH METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

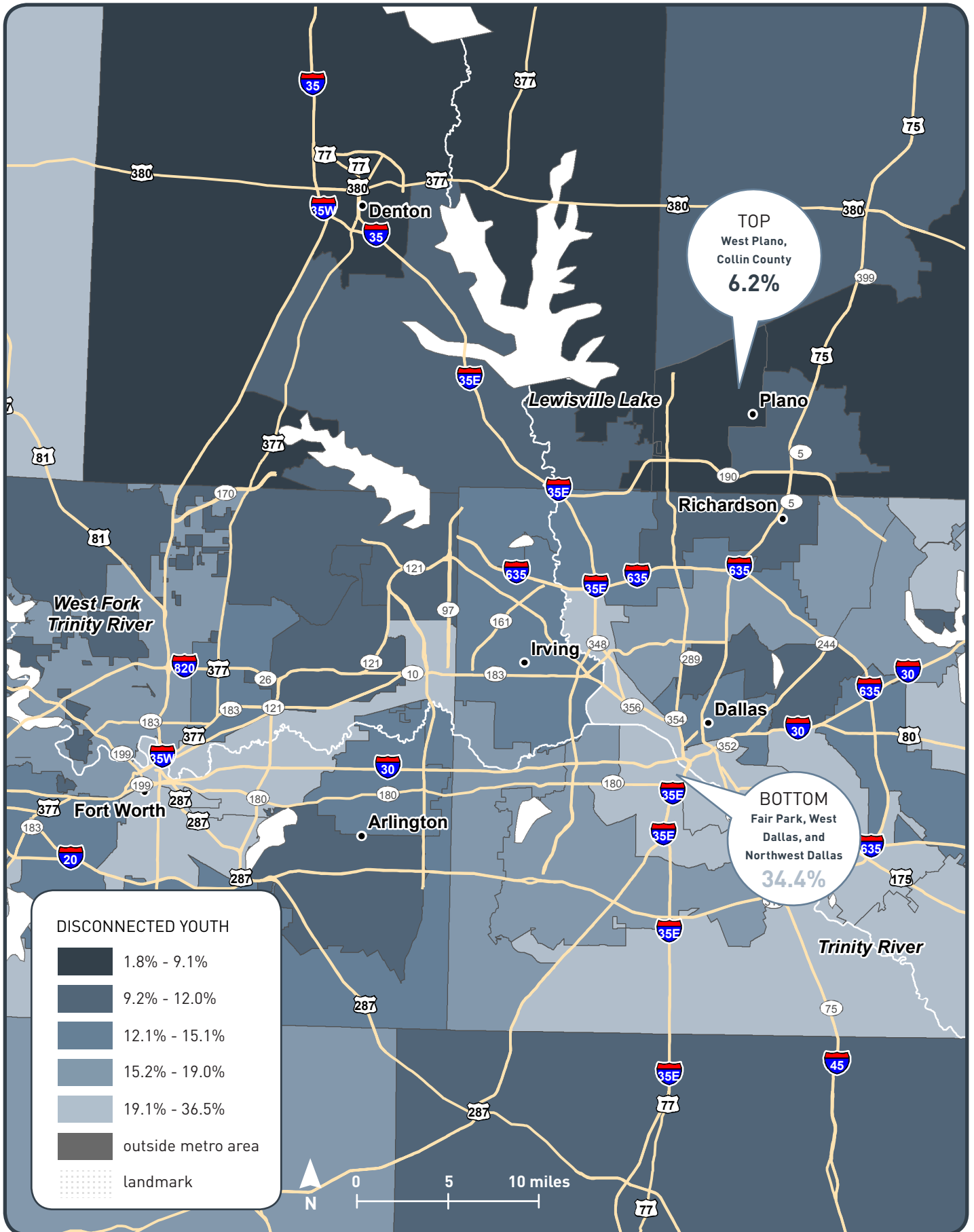
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# YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE DALLAS-FT. WORTH METRO AREA



## About the Dallas–Ft. Worth 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 Dallas–Ft. Worth 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:** 5.18 out of 10

**HD Index ranking:** 16th out of 24

**Total population:** 6,569,112

**Adult unemployment rate:** 7.0%

**Adults with at least bachelor's degree:** 31.4%

**Poverty rate:** 15.8%

**Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24):** 19.5%

**School enrollment rate (ages 16–24):** 59.8%

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

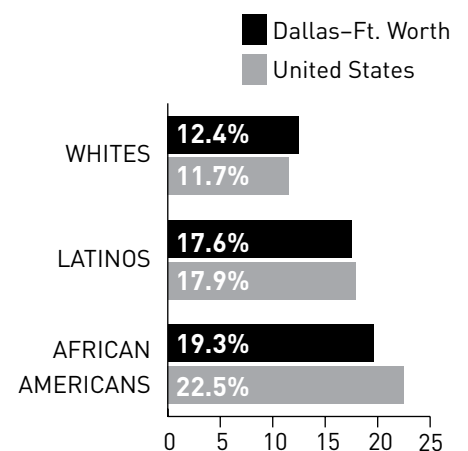
The **Dallas–Fort Worth metro area** is comprised of thirteen Texas counties—Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise. The youth disconnection rate in greater Dallas is 14.9 percent; approximately 128,000 teens and young adults there are not working or in school. Dallas trails Houston, but performs slightly better than San Antonio.

## Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

White youth experience the lowest rate of youth disconnection, 12.4 percent, followed by Latinos (17.6 percent), and then African Americans (19.3 percent). Latinos and African Americans in Dallas–Fort Worth experience youth disconnection rates below the national averages for those groups, but white young people in Dallas are slightly more likely to be disconnected than their counterparts elsewhere. The gap between the most and least connected racial and ethnic group is 6.9 percentage points.

Dallas is one of ten metro areas among the twenty-five most populous where whites do not make up the majority of residents. The proportion of Latinos in the city is almost double the national average. Dallas is home to too few Asian American young people to calculate a youth disconnection rate for that group.

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



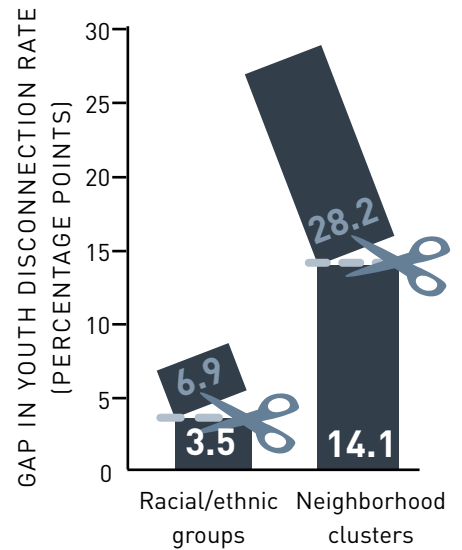
## Youth Disconnection by Gender

Like Houston, Dallas departs from the national pattern when it comes to youth disconnection by gender. Young women in these cities are more disengaged and disconnected than their male counterparts. In Dallas–Fort Worth, 16.1 percent of young women are disconnected, compared to 13.8 percent of young men. A noteworthy finding is that the three Texas metro areas in this study have the highest rates of teenage motherhood among the twenty-five most populous metro areas.

## Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The range of youth disconnection among Dallas–Fort Worth’s thirty-nine neighborhood clusters is among the largest of the most populous metro areas in the country. In West Plano and the surrounding communities in Collin County, 6.2 percent of young people are out of work and out of school, while in Fair Park, West and Northwest Dallas, the value is 34.4 percent. This neighborhood cluster is, in fact, the district with the third highest rate of youth disconnection of the nearly nine hundred neighborhood clusters that make up the major metro areas studied. The gap between the most and least connected neighborhoods in the metro area is an astonishing 28.2 percentage points.

## Halve the Gap in Dallas



### Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
West Plano, Collin County, TX	6.2
Greater Denton, The Colony and Sanger, Denton County, TX	7.9
Allen, Wylie and Princeton, Collin County, TX	9.0

### Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Oak Cliff and South Dallas, TX	25.0
Southeast Dallas, Buckner Terrace, Everglade Park, Pleasant Grove and Kleberg, Dallas, TX	25.1
Fair Park, West Dallas and Northwest Dallas, Dallas, TX	34.4