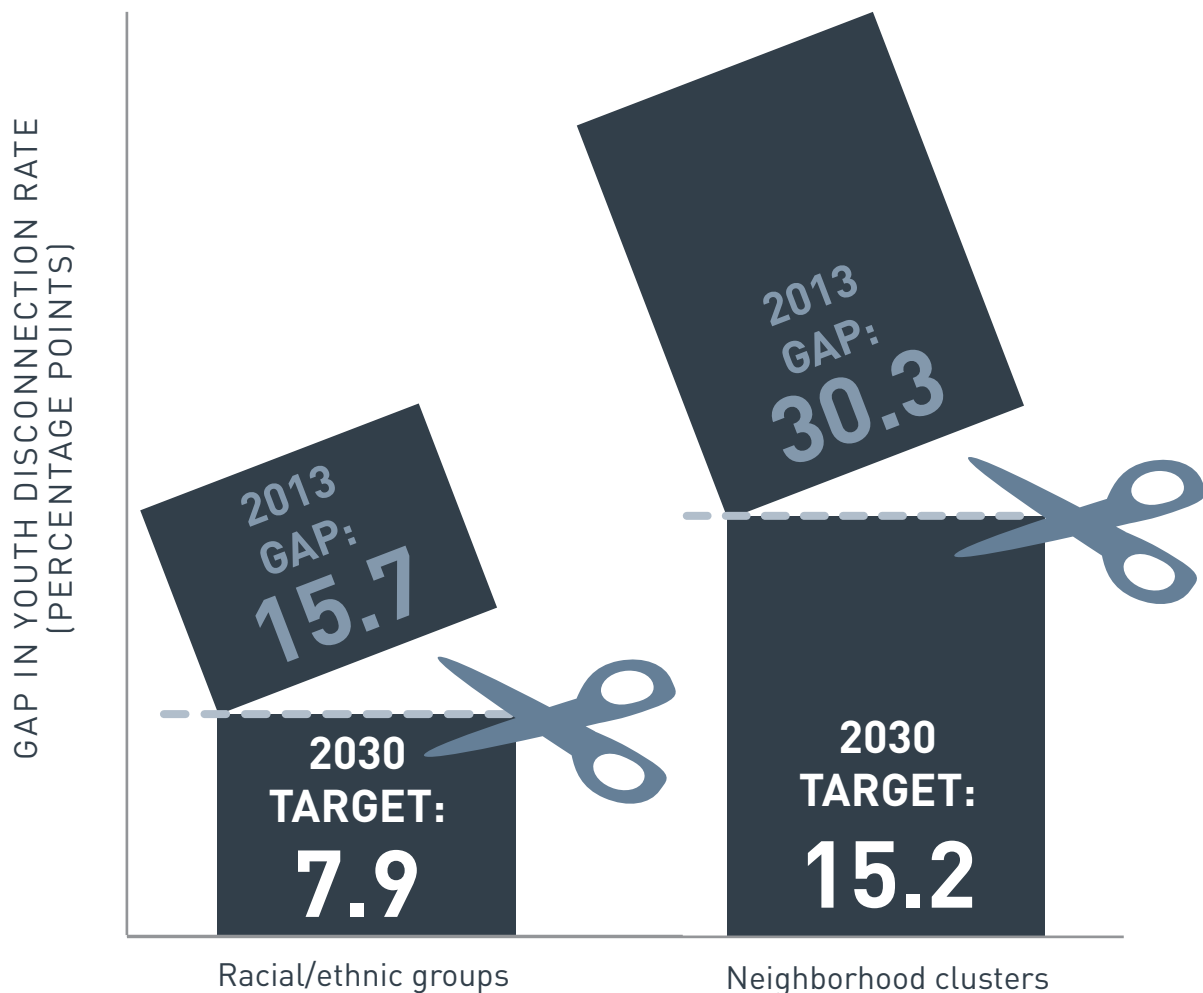


HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

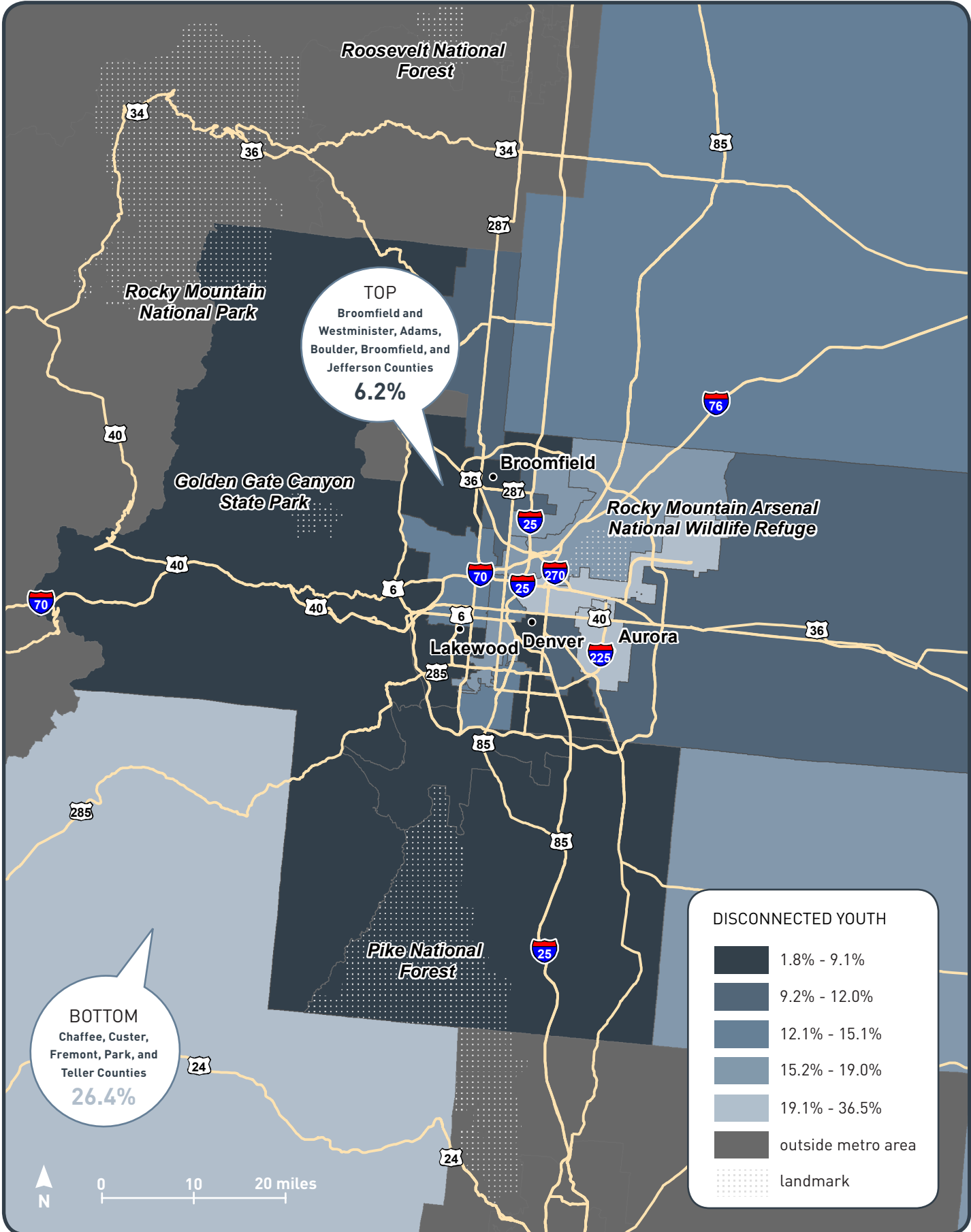
DENVER METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

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About the Denver 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 Denver 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: 5.69 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 8th out of 24

Total population: 2,598,496

Adult unemployment rate: 7.4%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 38.4%

Poverty rate: 12.8%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 18.8%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 57.6%

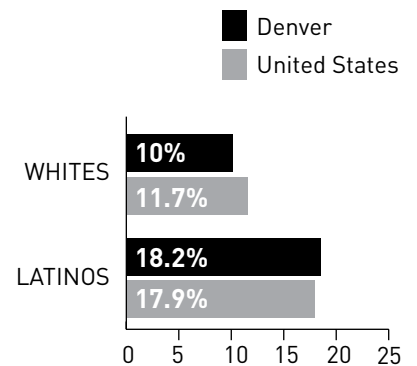
Sources: *Measure of America 2013-2014* and U.S. Census Bureau, 2011.

The youth disconnection rate in the **Denver metro area** is 13 percent, placing the Mile-High City between Seattle and Pittsburgh in terms of the proportion of youth ages 16 to 24 neither working nor in school. Composed of ten Colorado counties—Denver, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Adams, Douglas, Broomfield, Elbert, Park, Clear Creek, and Gilpin—the region is home to over 2.5 million people and over 360,000 young people. Almost 48,000 of these teens and young adults are detached from the key anchor institutions of work and school.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Latinos and white Americans are the only racial and ethnic groups in Denver with populations in this age group large enough to provide reliable calculations regarding youth participation in school and in the workforce. Denver's white youth experience a disconnection rate of 10 percent, just under the national average for whites and considerably better than the US average for all groups. Latinos, on the other hand, have a rate that is higher than the national average for Latinos, at 18.2 percent. While Denver has the seventh-best overall disconnection rate of the twenty-five metro areas, Latino outcomes are not as good, ranking in the middle of the pack of twenty metro areas with Latino populations large enough to be included in the analysis.

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



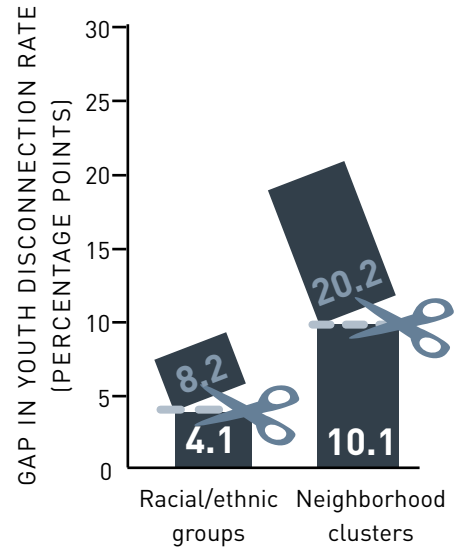
Youth Disconnection by Gender

In Denver, as across the country, young men are more likely to be disconnected than young women, but in the Mile-High City, the gender gap is wider. While 14.2 percent of young males are disconnected, the rate for their female counterparts is 11.7 percent. In Denver, roughly 21,000 females and 27,000 males are disengaged from work and school at the threshold of adulthood.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Denver metro area is made up of twenty-four neighborhood clusters. The range, distribution, and variation of youth disconnection among these districts is about average compared to other cities across the country. The youth disconnection rates in Denver range from 6.2 percent in communities around Broomfield and Westminster Cities in Adams, Boulder, Broomfield, and Jefferson Counties to 26.4 percent in Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, and Teller Counties, a difference of 20.2 percentage points. Notably, communities in Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, and Teller Counties significantly underperform the next most disconnected area, the communities of Aurora, Fitzsimmons, and Montbello, in Adams and Arapahoe Counties.

Halve the Gap in Denver



Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Broomfield and Westminster Cities Adams, Boulder, Broomfield, and Jefferson Counties, CO	6.2
Park Meadows, Lone Tree, Highlands Ranch, and Chatfield, Douglas and Jefferson Counties, CO	6.4
University of Denver, Cherry Creek, Washington Park, and Governors Park, Denver, CO	7.1

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Stapleton and Communities Near Denver International Airport, Denver, CO	19.7
Aurora, Fitzsimmons, and Montbello, Adams and Arapahoe Counties, CO	19.7
Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, and Teller Counties, CO	26.4