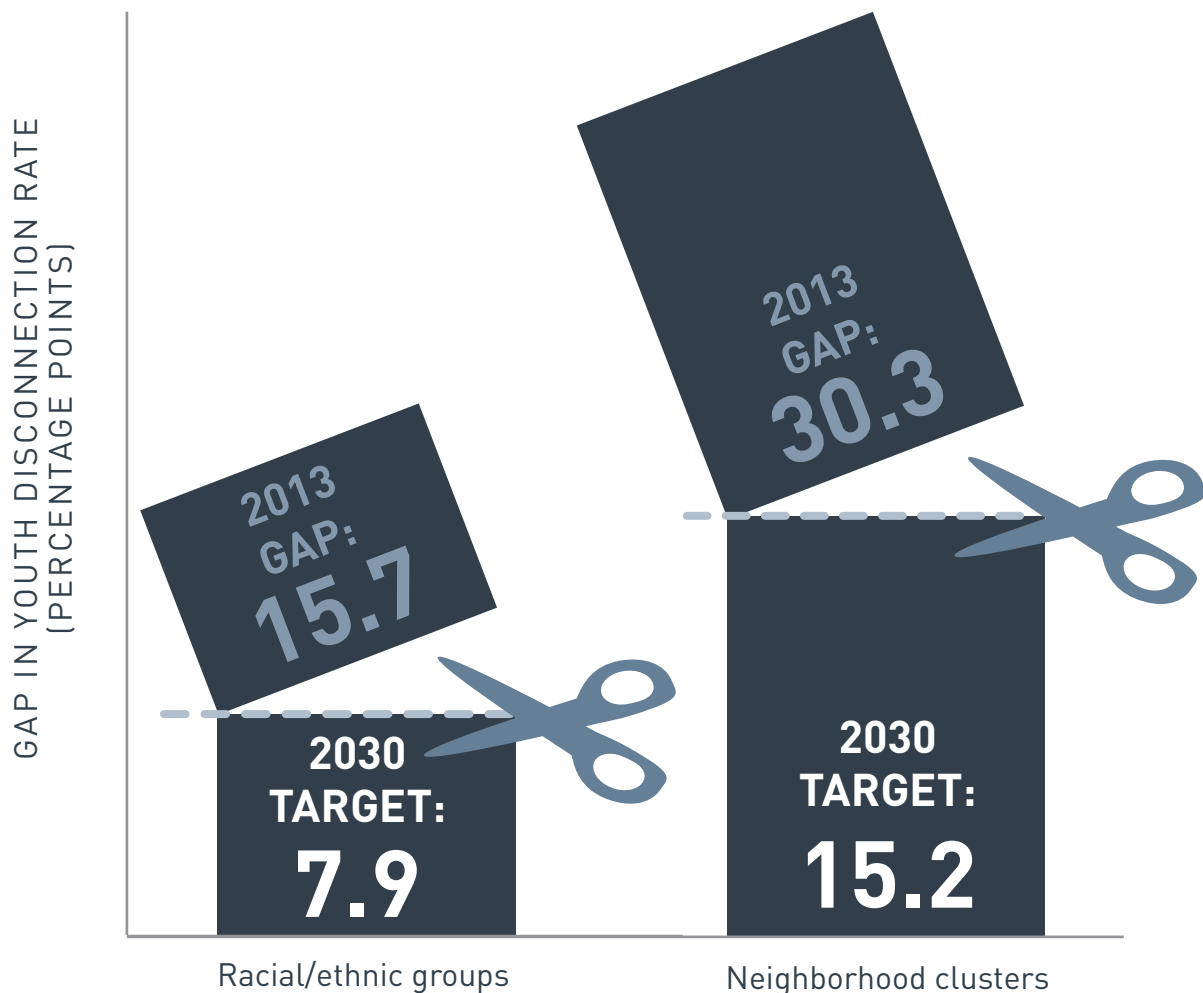


HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

KRISTEN LEWIS and SARAH BURD-SHARPS

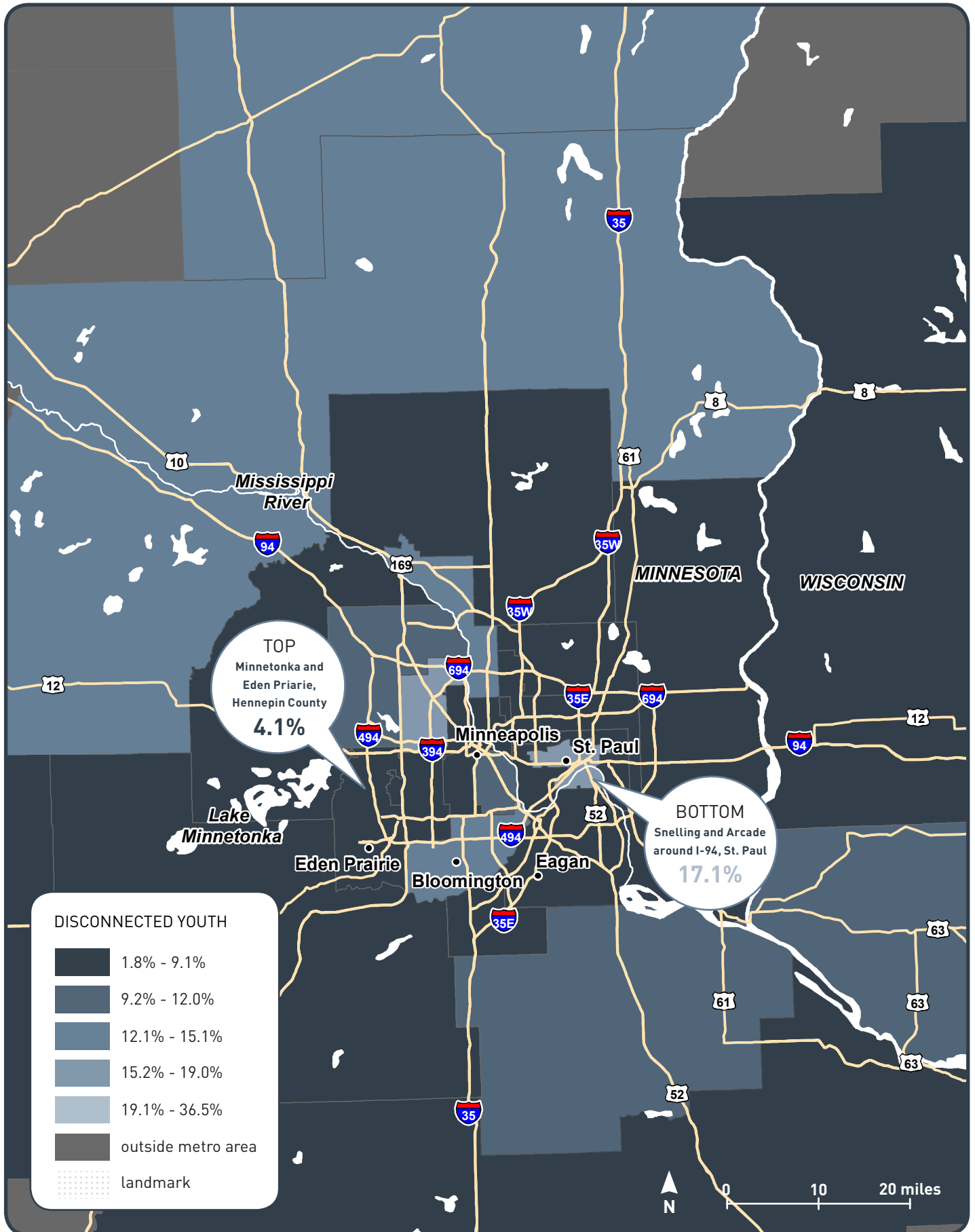


Patrick Nolan Guyer | CHIEF STATISTICIAN & CARTOGRAPHER
Diana Tung | REPORT DESIGN

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

2

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL METRO AREA



About the Minneapolis–St. Paul 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 Minneapolis–St. Paul 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 **Minneapolis–St. Paul–Bloomington metro area** is comprised of fourteen Minnesota counties (Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, and Wright) plus Pierce and St. Croix counties in Wisconsin. The youth disconnection rate in Minneapolis–St. Paul is 9.5 percent, the second-best rate among America’s twenty-five largest metro areas; only Boston performs better. The good news is that more than nine in ten young people ages 16 to 24 are connected to education or employment. But there remain roughly 45,000 Twin Cities teens and young adults who are unmoored from the critical anchors of work and school, and those youth are disproportionately African American.

One driver of connection for youth in this area is the high educational attainment of adults. Compared to the other big cities, adults in Minneapolis–St. Paul are the least likely to lack a high school diploma (only 7 percent do, half the US average) and among the most likely to have completed a bachelor’s degree or more (about 38 percent have done so, as compared with 29 percent nationally).

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

While the overall metro area disconnection rate is relatively low, this average obscures large gaps by race and ethnicity. African American young people in the Twin Cities are disconnected at nearly triple the rate of their white counterparts, about 20 percent as compared to 7 percent. One in five African American teens and young adults is disengaged from both work and school. Though both African Americans and whites have lower disconnection rates in the Minneapolis metro area than their national counterparts, the gap between them in the Twin Cities is larger. The populations of both Asian American and Latino young people are too small to reliably calculate their youth disconnection rates.

Youth Disconnection by Gender

Nationally, young men are slightly more likely than young women to be disconnected (15.1 percent versus 14.1 percent). This gender gap is significantly larger in Minneapolis–St. Paul than in the rest of the country. Of Minneapolis’ young men, 10.6 percent (roughly 26,000 male youth) are disconnected, whereas only 8.3 percent of their female counterparts (about 19,000 young women) similarly struggle—a gender gap over twice the national average. Racial and ethnic composition could be a contributing factor. This predominantly white city has less than a third of the national proportion of Latinos, a group whose young women are more likely to be disconnected than their male counterparts.

KEY WELL-BEING INDICATORS

HD Index: 6.19 out of 10

HD Index ranking:
4th out of 24

Total population: 3,389,049

Adult unemployment rate:
6.7%

Adults with at least bachelor’s degree: 38.5%

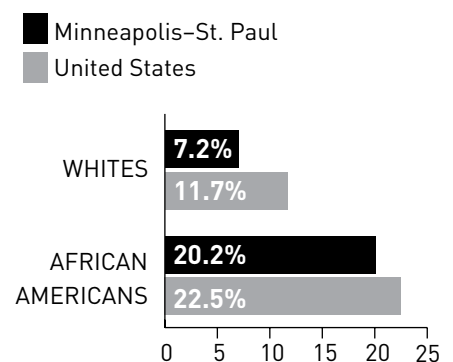
Poverty rate: 11.0%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 14.3%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 63.9%

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

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



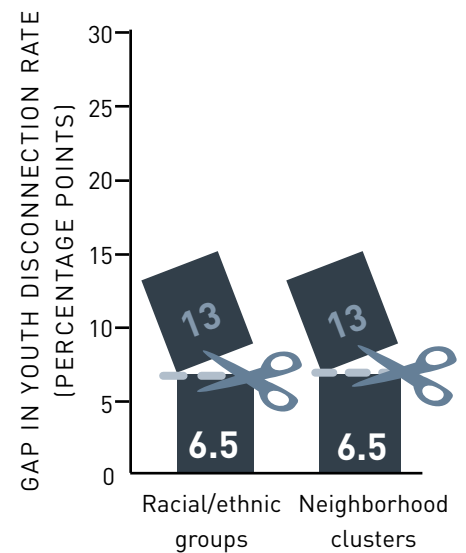
Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Minneapolis–St. Paul metro area is made up of twenty-six neighborhood clusters. Youth disconnection rates range from 4.1 percent in Minnetonka and Eden Prairie in Hennepin County to 17.1 percent in St. Paul around Snelling, Arcade, and I-94, a four-fold difference.

As in the nation overall, predominately white neighborhoods tend to have lower youth disconnection rates than neighborhoods with higher shares of Latino and African American residents. However, Minneapolis has a few exceptions.

- The Aitkin, Carlton, and Crow Wing cluster, which has the third-highest youth disconnection rate, is 93.1 percent white. This neighborhood cluster consists of Mille Lacs County and other areas on the northern fringe of Minneapolis–St. Paul. While 38 percent of adults in the metro area as a whole have at least a bachelor’s degree, only 18 percent of adults in this neighborhood have studied to this level.
- Snelling and Arcade around I-94 in St. Paul, which has the highest youth disconnection rate in the Twin Cities metro area, is 18.6 percent Asian American, and Asian Americans tend to have low disconnection rates. While the Asian American youth population in this age range is too small for reliable youth disconnection calculations, the reason for this anomalous finding is likely found in immigration patterns. Minneapolis–St. Paul is home to a large Hmong population—nearly one in three Asian Americans there is Hmong. Hmong people, fleeing persecution in Laos after the Vietnam War, began to arrive in the Twin Cities in 1975. With limited English, little formal education, no assets, and a recent history marked by trauma and displacement, these new Americans faced many barriers that are still reflected in their below-average well-being.

Halve the Gap in Minneapolis



Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Minnetonka and Eden Prairie, Hennepin County, MN	4.1
Rogers, Dayton, Corcoran, Medina, Wayzata, Orono, Shorewood, Minnetrista, and Lake Minnetonka, Hennepin County, MN	5.4
White Bear Lake, Vadnais Heights, North Oaks, and Blaine, Ramsey County, MN	5.4

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Aitkin, Carlton, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine Counties, MN	14.7
Brooklyn Center, New Hope, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Golden Valley, Hennepin County, MN	16.3
Snelling and Arcade around I-94, St. Paul, MN	17.1