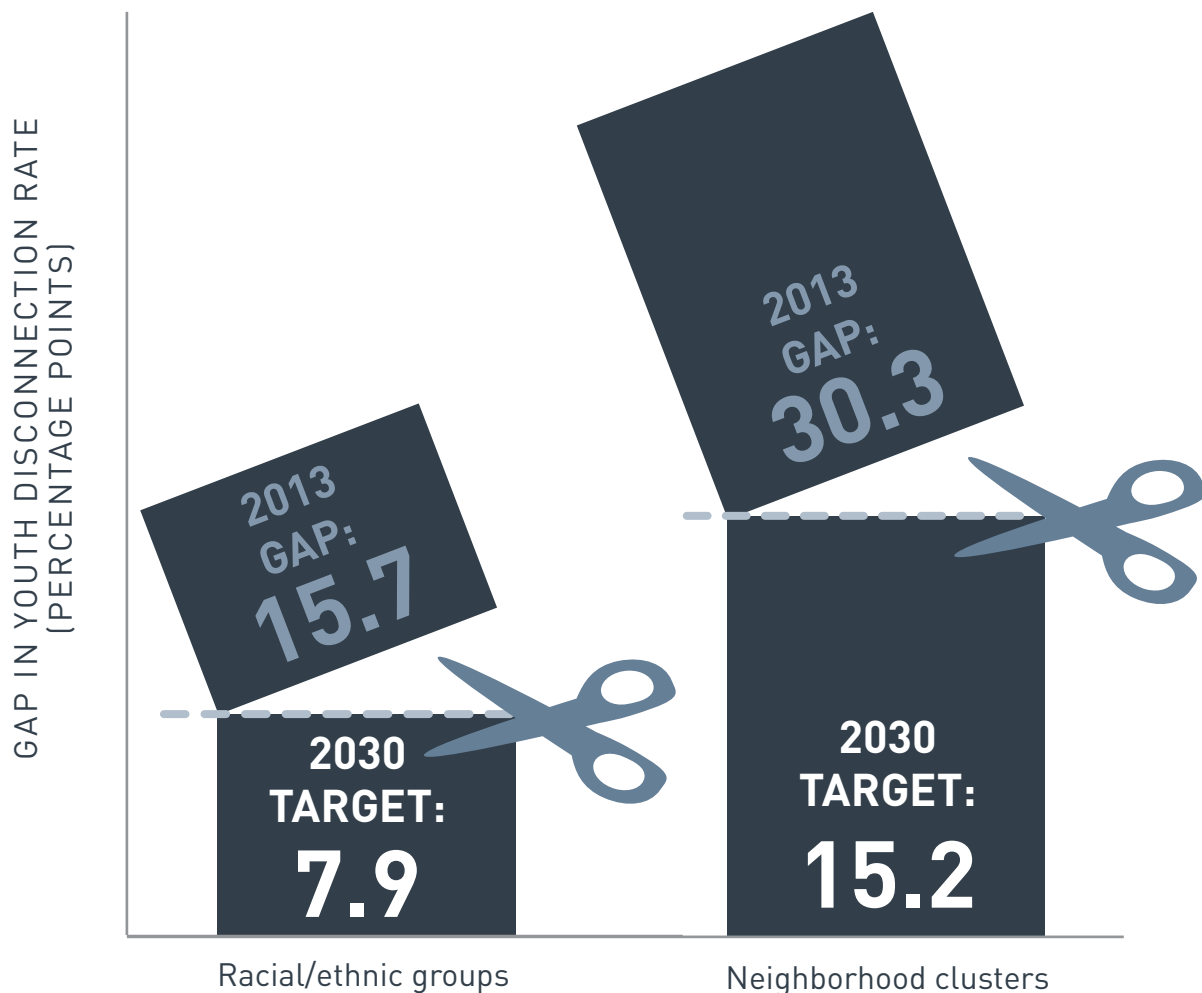


HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

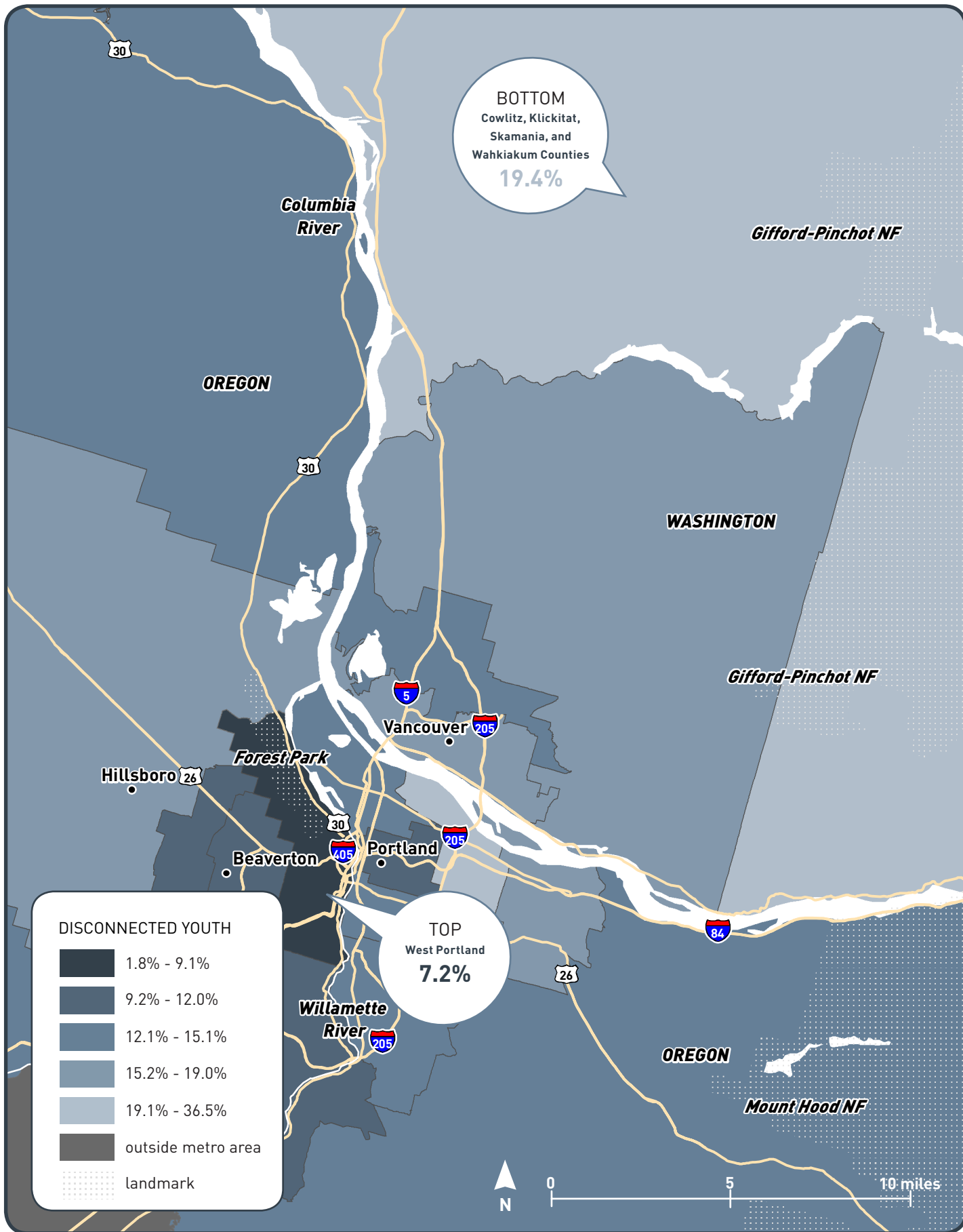
PORTLAND METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

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About the Portland 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 Portland 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: 5.46 out of 10

HD Index ranking: 12th out of 24

Total population: 2,260,928

Adult unemployment rate: 9.2%

Adults with at least bachelor's degree: 34.2%

Poverty rate: 15%

Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24): 20.8%

School enrollment rate (ages 16–24): 56.4%

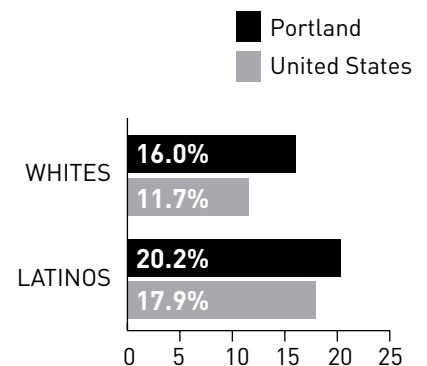
Sources: *Measure of America 2013-2014* and U.S. Census Bureau, 2011.

The **Portland metro area** is made up of Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill Counties in Oregon, and Clark and Skamania Counties in Washington. Seventeen percent of the city's youth ages 16 to 24 are neither in school nor in work, a rate that places Portland slightly ahead of Phoenix and slightly behind Atlanta. This figure translates into almost 49,000 young people who are detached from school and work, key sources of connection, meaning, and purpose at a pivotal time in their lives.

Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

For both whites and Latinos, the percentage of young people neither working nor in school in Portland is much higher than the national values. Among Latinos, the city is 2.3 percentage points higher than the national disconnection rate for Latinos; among whites, the difference is 4.3 percentage points. The racial and ethnic gap between the best rate (16 percent for whites) and worst rate (20.2 percent for Latinos) is 4.2 percentage points. Too few African American and Asian American young people live in the Portland metro area to allow for reliable calculations of their youth disconnection rates.

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



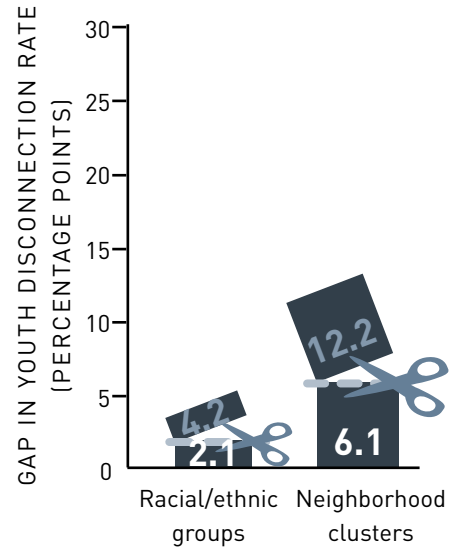
Youth Disconnection by Gender

The prevalence of youth disconnection among females tends to be lower than among males nationwide. But in Portland, 18.6 percent of young women are not in work and not in school, compared to 15.3 percent of their male counterparts. This is the second highest rate for females after Riverside–San Bernardino and is significantly above the national average for young women of 14.1 percent, signaling a particular area of concern. The rate of disconnection among Portland’s male youth, by contrast, falls near the national average of 15.1 percent. This translates into roughly 27,000 young women and 22,000 young men who are adrift from anchor institutions of school and work.

Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The Portland metro area is composed of nineteen neighborhood clusters. Among the twenty-five largest metro areas, Portland is tied with the Riverside-San Bernardino area for the smallest range between the rates of disconnected youth among different neighborhood, just 12.2 percentage points. This means that in areas with the highest rate of youth disconnection—Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties in Washington State—nearly one in five young people (19.4 percent) is disconnected, while the area with the lowest rate, West Portland—experiences a rate of 7.2 percent or about one in every fourteen young people.

Halve the Gap in Portland



Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
West Portland, OR	7.2
Aloha and Beaverton, Washington County, OR	10.2
West Clackamas County, OR	10.7

Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Gresham/East Multnomah County, OR	18.3
Outer East Portland, OR	19.3
Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties, WA	19.4