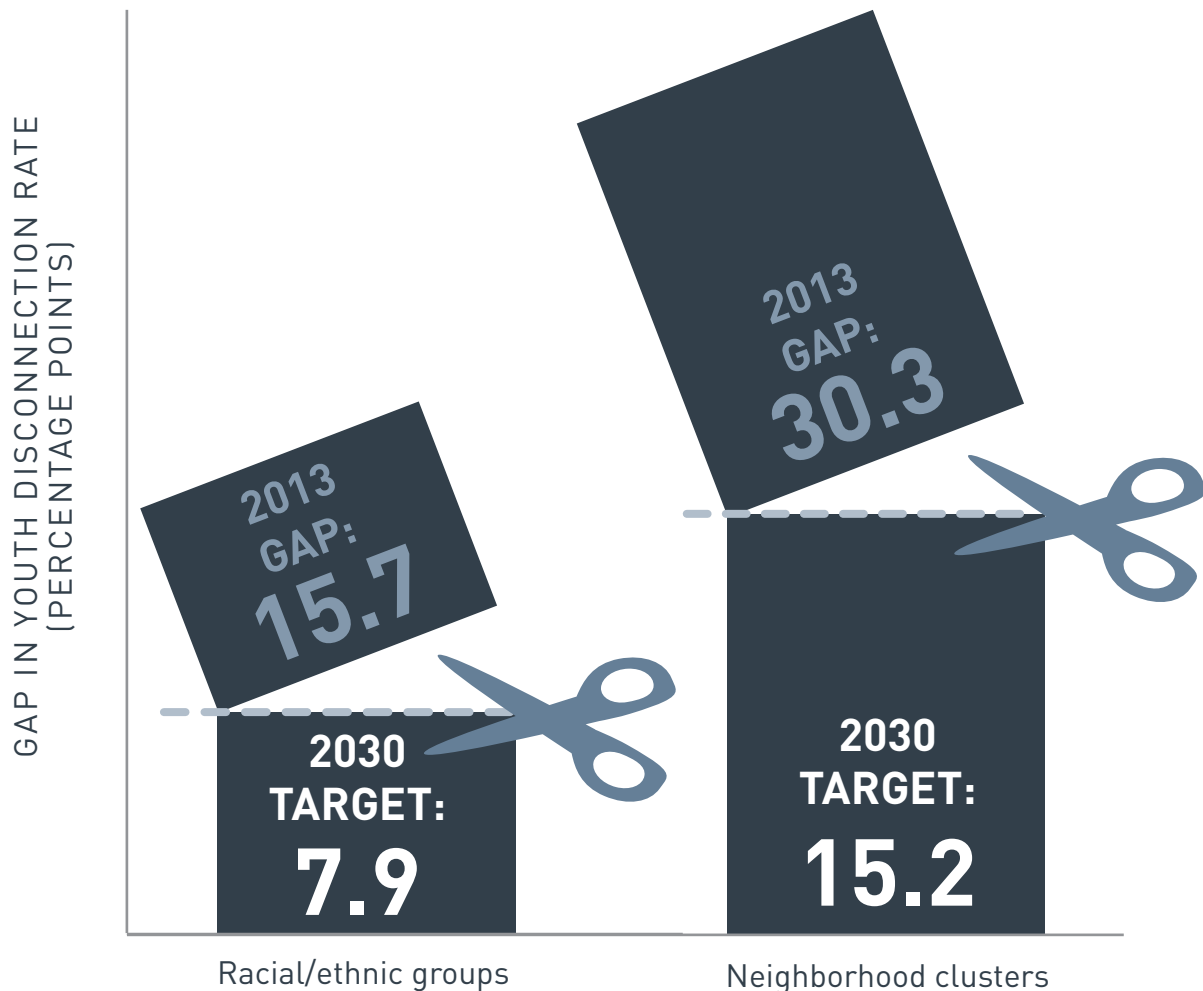


# HALVE THE GAP BY 2030

YOUTH DISCONNECTION  
IN AMERICA'S CITIES

## SAN FRANCISCO METRO AREA CLOSE-UP

KRISTEN LEWIS and SARAH BURD-SHARPS

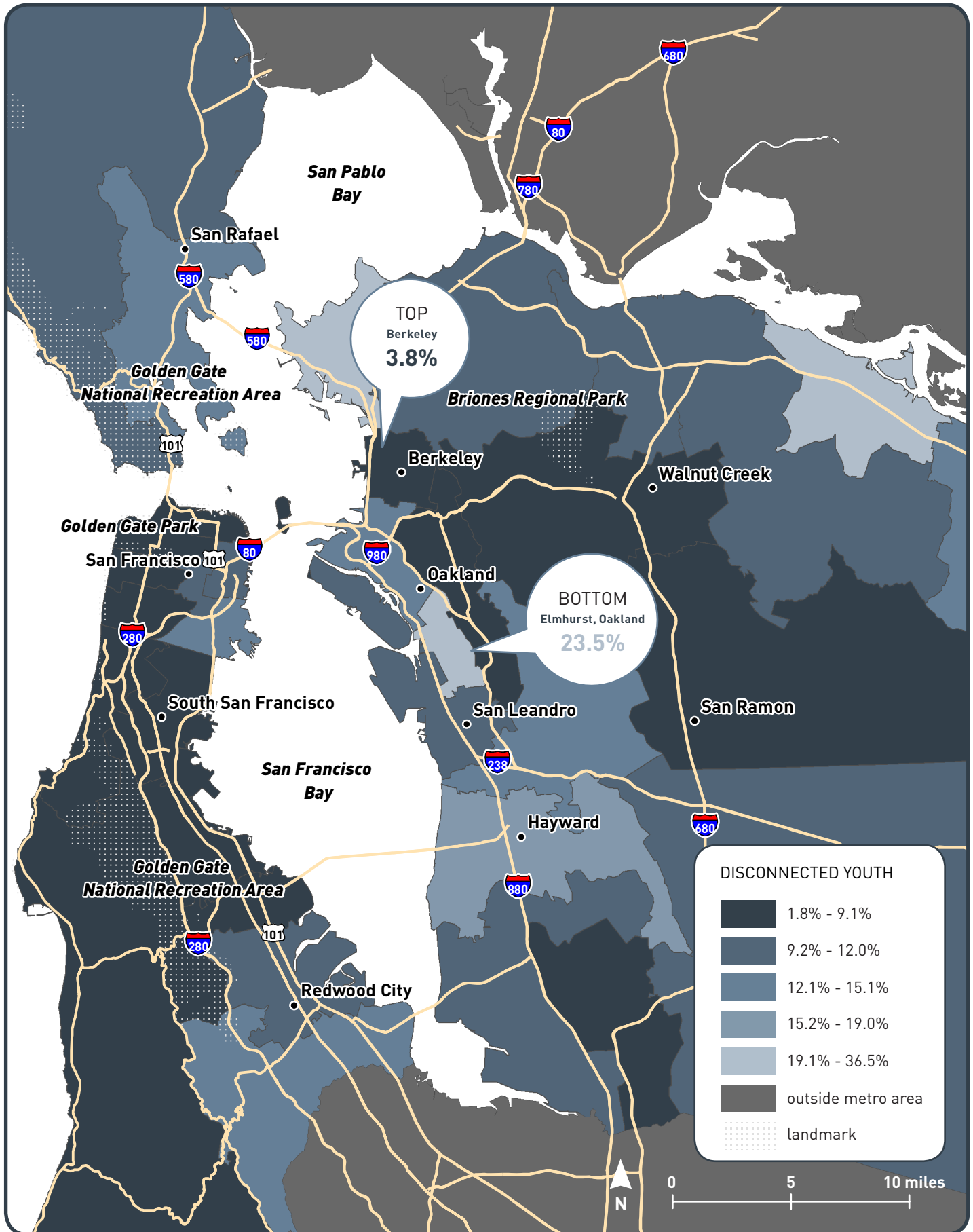


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# YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN THE SAN FRANCISCO METRO AREA



## About the San Francisco 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 San Francisco 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:** 6.69 out of 10

**HD Index ranking:** 2nd out of 24

**Total population:** 4,396,918

**Adult unemployment rate:** 8.5%

**Adults with at least bachelor's degree:** 43.9%

**Poverty rate:** 11.9%

**Youth unemployment rate (ages 16–24):** 21.1%

**School enrollment rate (ages 16–24):** 67.2%

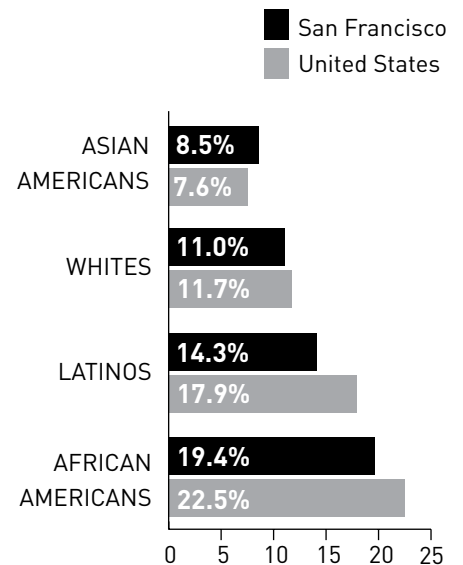
Sources: *Measure of America 2013-2014* and U.S. Census Bureau, 2011.

The **San Francisco metro area** is comprised of five counties, San Francisco, Alameda, Marin, Contra Costa, and San Mateo. Among the twenty-five most populous metro areas in the United States, San Francisco has the fifth-best ranking, with a disconnection rate of 12.3 percent, about two percentage points better than the national average. Nonetheless, this represents almost 60,000 young people adrift at society's margins, not attached to either school or work. While it bests Los Angeles and Riverside–San Bernardino, San Francisco struggles slightly more with youth disconnection than San Diego.

## Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity

Youth disconnection by race and ethnicity in the San Francisco metro area follows the national trend: Asian American youth have the lowest rates of disconnection (8.5 percent); African American youth have the highest, 19.4 percent; and whites and Latinos fall between the two extremes, with 11 percent and 14.3 percent respectively. Only San Francisco's African Americans have a higher youth disconnection rate than the national average for all youth; nearly one in every five African American youth in San Francisco is disconnected. The racial and ethnic gap in youth disconnection outcomes in San Francisco is 10.9 percentage points—nearly as big a gap as the overall rate for all white young people in the metro area.

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



## Youth Disconnection by Gender

The likelihood of San Francisco youth being not in the workforce and not in school is nearly equal for both genders: 12.4 percent for young men, and 12.1 percent for young women. San Francisco’s large Asian American population—nearly one in four, compared to just under one in twenty nationwide—may account for some measure of its gender parity, since Asian Americans are the most likely racial or ethnic group to close the gender gap in youth disconnection.

## Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood

The San Francisco metro area is made up of thirty-three neighborhood clusters. Among these districts, the youth disconnection rates range from 3.8 percent in Berkeley to 23.5 percent in Elmhurst, Oakland, a more than six-fold difference between communities that are only about ten miles apart. Youth disconnection by neighborhood in the San Francisco area demonstrates the strong correlation observed between adult educational attainment and youth disconnection. In the three areas with the highest youth disconnection, fewer than about one in five adults has completed a bachelor’s degree. In the three most connected areas, more than 60 percent or better than three in five adults has at least a bachelor’s degree.

### Most Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
Berkeley, CA	3.8
Moraga and Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County, CA	4.1
San Ramon, Contra Costa County, CA	6.5

### Least Connected Neighborhood Clusters

NEIGHBORHOOD	RATE OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
San Pablo and Richmond, Contra Costa County, CA	21.3
Pittsburg, Contra Costa County, CA	21.4
Elmhurst, Oakland, CA	23.5

## Halve the Gap in San Francisco

