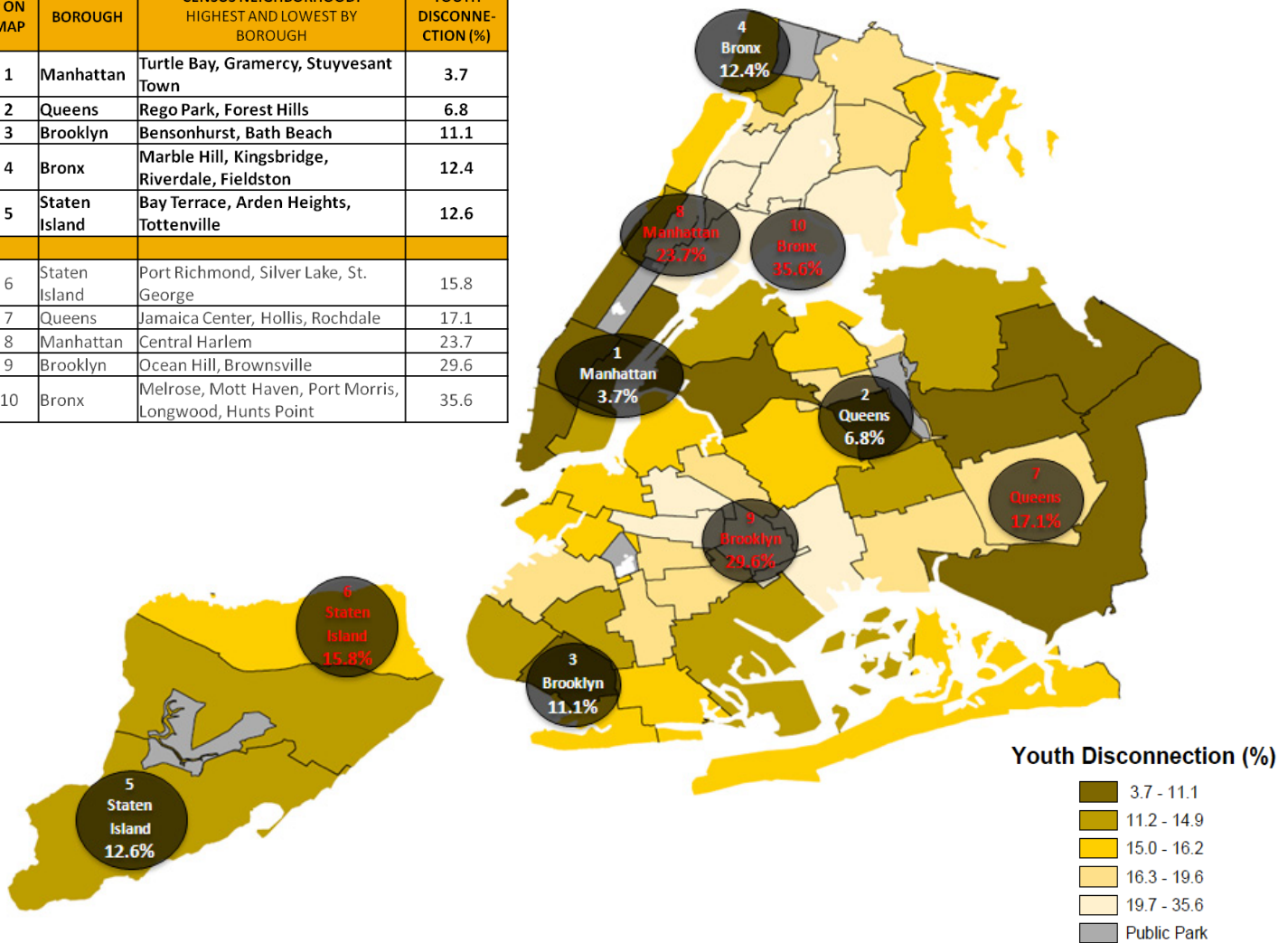


Youth Disconnection in New York City

# ON MAP	BOROUGH	CENSUS NEIGHBORHOOD: HIGHEST AND LOWEST BY BOROUGH	YOUTH DISCONNECTION (%)
1	Manhattan	Turtle Bay, Gramercy, Stuyvesant Town	3.7
2	Queens	Rego Park, Forest Hills	6.8
3	Brooklyn	Bensonhurst, Bath Beach	11.1
4	Bronx	Marble Hill, Kingsbridge, Riverdale, Fieldston	12.4
5	Staten Island	Bay Terrace, Arden Heights, Tottenville	12.6
6	Staten Island	Port Richmond, Silver Lake, St. George	15.8
7	Queens	Jamaica Center, Hollis, Rochdale	17.1
8	Manhattan	Central Harlem	23.7
9	Brooklyn	Ocean Hill, Brownsville	29.6
10	Bronx	Melrose, Mott Haven, Port Morris, Longwood, Hunts Point	35.6



A New York metro area closeup based on the report
“One in Seven: Ranking Youth Disconnection in the 25 Largest Metro Areas.”

To download this report, go to <http://www.measureofamerica.org/one-in-seven>.

(These thresholds are one standard deviation above and below the mean for all neighborhoods, respectively.) In each borough, the poverty rate is higher in the most disconnected neighborhoods than it is in the metro area as a whole (13.8 percent), particularly in the most disconnected parts of the Bronx (42.5 percent), Brooklyn (35.8 percent), and Manhattan (28.6 percent).

- **Adult educational attainment.** Another strong link exists between connectedness of young people to work or school and the educational status of adults in their communities. Towns and neighborhoods in which fewer adults have at least a four-year college degree have a far greater proportion of disconnected young people. In fact, the positive benefits for the community seem to accelerate in impact as the proportion of adults with bachelor's degrees in an area increases. In the three most disconnected New York City neighborhood clusters, two in Brooklyn and one in the Bronx, less than 13 percent of adult residents have bachelor's degrees; in three areas with the lowest rates of disconnection, all in Manhattan, about 75 percent of adults have bachelor's degrees.

For a more detailed discussion of the factors most closely associated with youth disconnection, see "One in Seven: Ranking Youth Disconnection in the 25 Largest Metro Areas," page 19 at: http://www.measureofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/MOA-One_in_Seven09-14.pdf.

What Can Be Done?

Today we are paying for societal failure; investing in success by preventing disconnection in the first place is cheaper by any measure and easier than reconnecting those who have fallen out of the mainstream. Evidence shows that two investments in our collective future merit particular attention.

RESET THE TRAJECTORY FOR AT RISK-KIDS WITH HIGH-QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION

Preschool seems distant from the teens and early twenties. But research consistently shows that the roots of high school completion are planted before a child even starts their first day of kindergarten. At-risk 3- and 4-year-olds who attend a high-quality preschool have lower dropout rates and enjoy greater labor market success decades later than their peers who did not go to preschool. High-quality, center-based preschool programs do more than enhance cognitive development; they also provide children with critical social and emotional skills that compound over time, resulting in less grade repetition and fewer behavioral problems, less crime, fewer teen births, and higher wages.

DEVELOP MEANINGFUL SCHOOL-TO-WORK OPTIONS FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

Every American young person needs some education after high school to succeed in today's globally competitive workforce. But the idea that this education must be a bachelor's degree sends the message that anything else is second best. Other affluent democracies in Western Europe and the Nordic countries have strong vocational and technical education systems that offer a host of meaningful alternatives for young people whose interests and aspirations are best met by a certificate program or two-year degree. And, as one result, many of these countries have far lower youth disconnection rates than the United States.

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Researchers have estimated that over the next five years nearly 30 million *new* jobs will require workers with an associate degree or occupational certificate. A robust career and technical education system that offers strong high school academic preparation alongside a range of on-site or classroom-based programs would offer an important option for young people who have the desire and aptitude to enter some of these "jobs of tomorrow," jobs that allow for economic security and job satisfaction and require some postsecondary education but not necessarily a bachelor's degree. These programs can include internships, apprenticeships, after-school programs, and more. In many successful models here and abroad, the participation of the private sector helps to defray costs and builds links between students and future job placements. In turn, industry benefits from a well-trained workforce.

Moving beyond the vague "college-for-all" mantra to provide meaningful guidance and concrete options both to young people aiming for a bachelor's degree and to those whose career aspirations would be better served by relevant, high-quality career and technical education programs is key to preventing youth disconnection.

Measure of America, a project of the Social Science Research Council, is a nonpartisan project to provide 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 to live a good 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.

Measure of America provides easy-to-use yet methodologically sound tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in America and stimulates fact-based dialogue about issues we all care about: health, education, and living standards.

Through hard copy and online reports, interactive “apps,” and custom-built dashboards, Measure of America breathes life into numbers, using data to identify areas of highest need, pinpoint levers for change, and track progress over time.

Businesses, philanthropists, and boards of directors increasingly want an answer to this question: are our efforts translating into social, economic, or environmental impacts on the ground? Several tools for measuring impact exist, but they tend to focus heavily on inputs (such as the number of loans approved or philanthropic dollars delivered) and direct, short-term results. Measure of America moves beyond inputs to help identify indicators that provide solid evidence of community-level changes and works with organizations to design performance metrics, monitor progress, and present the results.

PUBLICATIONS



Measure of America’s reports provide authoritative data-based analyses on well-being and access to opportunity at the national, state, and county levels.

Reports are frequently cited by journalists and researchers. Organizations such as Catholic Charities USA and United Way have used MOA’s work to evaluate programs, implement policy changes, and more.

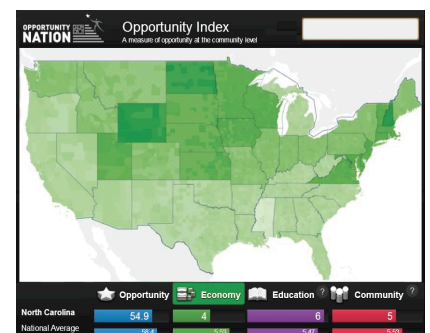
INTERACTIVE TOOLS



Measure of America develops online tools that are an innovative and engaging way to explore the latest data, in addition to being excellent for classroom use.

In *Mapping the Measure of America*, users can play with over 100 social indicators. They can calculate their personal well-being score on the *Well-O-Meter*. The *Common Good Forecaster* delves into the broader impact of education on communities.

SERVICES



Need help with data? MOA’s custom-services help clients to better understand their constituents, measure social impact, and present data in an engaging manner.

We can help you identify the right indicators; analyze, visualize, and communicate data; and write about your findings. Our clients hail from many sectors: service delivery, policy, media, private, philanthropic, nonprofit, and more.