YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN HAMPTON ROADS

Kristen Lewis, Director

MEASURE OF AMERICA
of the Social Science Research Council
• Provide tools for understanding well-being
• Breathe life into numbers
• Create metrics focused on how people are doing
• Informed by the human development approach
• Calculate the American Human Development Index
Human development is about the real freedom ordinary people have to decide who to be, what to do, and how to live.

Measured by the American Human Development Index—combines health, education, and earnings data.
WHY WE FOCUS ON YOUTH DISCONNECTION

“Emerging adulthood” – the teens and early twenties — is when people build many of the capabilities required for a good life.
DISCONNECTED, OR OPPORTUNITY, YOUTH ARE:

• Between 16 and 24

• Neither in school nor working
YOUTH DISCONNECTION NATIONALLY AND IN HAMPTON ROADS
US YOUTH DISCONNECTION HAS FALLEN SINCE 2010

**Figure 1** Sixth Consecutive Annual Decline in the Youth Disconnection Rate

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2016.
BUT RACIAL AND ETHNIC GAPS REMAIN

FIGURE 12 Youth Disconnection by Race and Ethnicity
# Native American Rate is More Than Triple Asian American Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Total</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
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</tbody>
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YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN HAMPTON ROADS

- Hampton Roads is faring better than Virginia and the United States as a whole
BUT MILITARY PRESENCE LOWERS RATE

SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS REGION

18% of youth are in the military

TOTAL YOUTH 161,693

Disconnected Youth [%]

All 10.4
Civilian Youth Only 12.4

Virginia Beach City (South)

31% of youth are in the military

TOTAL YOUTH 18,219

Disconnected Youth [%]

All 9.7
Civilian Youth Only 12.7
YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN HAMPTON ROADS
BY NEIGHBORHOOD

Note: data are for civilian youth only
YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN HAMPTON ROADS
RACE/ETHNICITY AND GENDER

Note: data are for civilian youth only
WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?
OPPORTUNITY YOUTH DIFFER FROM CONNECTED YOUTH IN IMPORTANT WAYS

- 65 percent more likely to be poor
- Four times as likely to have a child
- Three times as likely to have a disability
HIGH-DISCONNECTION NEIGHBORHOODS DIFFER FROM HIGH-CONNECTION NEIGHBORHOODS

- High rates of disconnection a decade ago
- Low levels of human development
- Adults who struggle with disconnection—high rates of adult unemployment, low levels of adult educational attainment
- A high degree of racial segregation

Tim Lahan for The New York Times
SEGREGATION MATTERS
POVERTY INCREASES RISK, AND RACE INTENSIFIES THAT RISK
STRUCTURAL ISSUES FUEL DISCONNECTION

- Racial discrimination
- Residential segregation by race and ethnicity
- Disinvestment in communities of color
- Human poverty over generations
- Income inequality
RURAL AREAS HAVE HIGHER DISCONNECTION RATES THAN URBAN AREAS AND SUBURBS

FIGURE 10 Rural Areas and Towns Face the Greatest Disconnection Challenges
REPERCUSSIONS ARE CUMULATIVE

Strikingly divergent paths after 15 years

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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td>Earn $31,000 more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOME OWNERSHIP</strong></td>
<td>Are 45% more likely to own a home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNEMPLOYMENT</strong></td>
<td>Are 42% more likely to be employed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SELF-REPORTED GOOD HEALTH</strong></td>
<td>Are 52% more likely to report excellent or good health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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# POTENTIAL TAX REVENUE GAIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISCONNECTED YOUTH (total # in metro)</th>
<th>POTENTIAL REVENUE GAIN</th>
<th>POTENTIAL REVENUE GAIN (per person)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Federal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>4,599,118</td>
<td>$54,728,607,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>78,808</td>
<td>$155,464,148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>104,047</td>
<td>$1,238,139,011</td>
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<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>72,663</td>
<td>$270,885,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>166,517</td>
<td>$610,173,896</td>
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</tbody>
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@MOA_org
RECOMMENDATIONS
RIGOROUS EVALUATIONS HAVE FOUND THAT:

• Successful programs address many challenges and needs.
• Short-term programs seldom bring long-term benefits.
• Paid work creates a virtuous circle.
• Young people need preparation for a career, not just a (low-wage, low-skill) job.
• Restorative discipline reduces dropout and disrupts the school-to-prison pipeline.
• For rural youth, opportunity is often far from home.
• Employers must be part of the solution.
DATA & GOAL-SETTING

MOA strategy

1. Determine baseline
2. Set common goal that is ambitious yet realistic
3. Track progress

Collective impact

• Coordination among stakeholders
• Backbone organization
• Collective data infrastructure

EXAMPLES

DISCONNECTED YOUTH
DATA & GOAL-SETTING

CASE STUDY: SAN DIEGO WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

GOAL 1 | Cut the rate

GOAL 2 | Halve the gap

Set goal

Track progress

SAN DIEGO YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE (2010–2020)

ADDRESSING NEIGHBORHOOD DISPARITIES

San Diego Area with Highest Disconnection Rate (Vista City)

Current trajectory will not hit 2020 goal of 7.3%
GET THE DATA!

Data by:
• Metropolitan Area
  • Racial/Ethnic disaggregations where available
• Congressional District
• State
• County

measureofamerica.org/disconnected-youth/