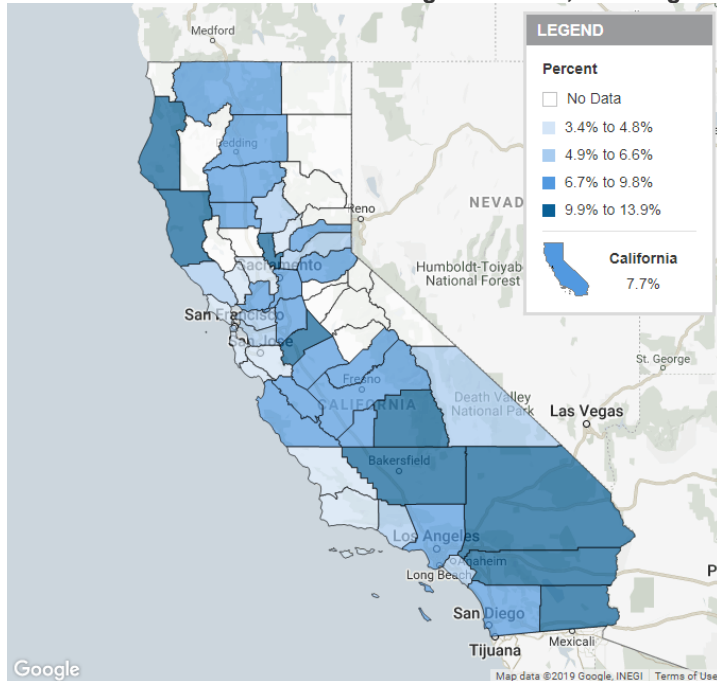


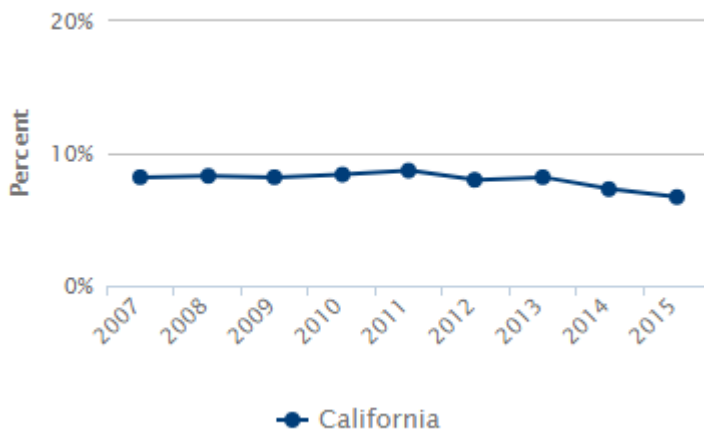
Disconnected Youth in California

Teens Not in School and Not Working: 2011-2015; Showing Counties



Definition: Estimated percentage of teens ages 16-19 who are not enrolled in school (full- or part-time) and not working (full- or part-time). E.g., in 2011-2015, 7.7% of California teens ages 16-19 were not in school or working.
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* (Dec. 2016).

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What It Is

Kidsdata.org reports the percentage of youth ages 16-19 who are not enrolled in school (full- or part-time) and not employed (full- or part-time). Data are available for:

- Counties with 65,000+ residents, as single-year estimates
- Cities, school districts, and counties with 10,000+ residents, as 5-year estimates
- Legislative districts, as 5-year estimates

Why This Topic Is Important

Sometimes referred to as “disconnected youth” or “opportunity youth,” older teens who are neither in school nor working for long periods are more likely to experience poor health, lower incomes, unemployment, and incarceration as adults (1, 2). Disconnected male youth are more likely than their female peers to engage in illegal activities, though disconnected female youth are more likely to become dependent on public aid (3). Because engagement in school or the workforce is critical to the transition from adolescence to adulthood, detachment from those settings—especially detachment that spans several years—can impede development of the knowledge and skills required to lead productive, self-sufficient adult lives (1, 2).

The effects also extend beyond the individual; one report estimates that in 2013 alone, disconnected youth cost U.S. taxpayers about \$27 billion in costs related to incarceration and public assistance, in addition to indirect costs related to lost tax revenues and lost earnings (1). Further, recognizing the need for more skilled workers to compete in today’s economy, the significant number of youth disconnected from school and work could have serious, long-term social and economic implications (1, 2, 4).

Several factors place teens at higher risk for becoming disengaged from education and work, such as growing up in poverty or in underserved communities, having care-giving responsibilities at home, and being in the foster care, criminal justice, or special education systems (2, 3, 4). Nationwide, African American, American Indian, and Latino youth are more likely than their white or Asian/Pacific Islander peers to be disconnected from school and employment, as are youth who are not U.S. citizens, when compared to U.S. born youth (1, 3, 5).

Teens Not in School and Not Working: 2015

| Locations | Percent |
|-----------------------|---------|
| California | 6.7% |
| Alameda County | 4.5% |
| Contra Costa County | 5.5% |
| Fresno County | 8.3% |
| Kern County | 10.7% |
| Los Angeles County | 6.9% |
| Orange County | 5.1% |
| Riverside County | 9.1% |
| Sacramento County | 9.2% |
| San Bernardino County | 10.6% |
| San Diego County | 5.5% |
| Santa Clara County | 4.2% |

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How Children Are Faring

In 2015, an estimated 6.7% of California youth ages 16 to 19 were neither in school nor working. Statewide, the percentage of youth disconnected from both school and work was 8% or higher between 2007 and 2013, compared to lower than 7.4% in recent years. Among counties with data, estimates of disconnected youth ranged from 3.4% (Yolo) to 13.9% (Mendocino) in 2011-15.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/87/disconnected-youth/summary>



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