

Important Facts On America's Disconnected Youth

- One-third of American students never graduate from high school!ⁱ
- Only half of all students of color graduate high school.ⁱⁱ There are between 900- 1,000 American high schools in which graduating is at best a 50/50 proposition.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The situation is especially dismal for students in our nation's largest high-poverty urban districts, where as few as a third of all students graduate.^{iv}
- Of those students who do graduate, roughly one-third are unprepared for college-level academics.^v At community colleges, where much of our next generation of technology workers receive their training and apprenticeships, that number jumps to 43 percent.^{vi}
- Those who have dropped out of school are at high risk of incarceration. 75% of state prison inmates and 59% of federal inmates did not finish high school.^{vii}
- Nearly 6 million youth (ages 16 – 24) are not in school and do not have a job.^{viii}
- Teens are finding it harder than ever to find a job. Only 26% of 16-19 year olds are working.^{ix} Less than 15% of black teens are working.^x This is the lowest employment rate for teens in 62 years since this data has been collected.^{xi}
- Work experiences in high school increases the likelihood of graduation from high school relative to those who do not work at all.^{xii}
- Researchers have identified the cohorts of youth who rarely make a successful transition to adulthood. They are the 14-17 year old adolescents that do not complete high school, or are deeply involved in the juvenile justice system, or are young, unmarried mothers, or in a foster placement.^{xiii}
- Opportunity for high school dropouts to resume education and training has diminished. The federal investment in programs recovery programs for disconnected youth has dropped from \$15 billion in the late 1970s, at a time when school completion was peaking, to \$3 billion in 2005.^{xiv}

ⁱ Educational Testing Service, <http://www.ets.org/Media/onethird.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Harvard Civil Rights Project, <http://www.civilrightsproject.harvard.edu/news/pressreleases/dropout05.php>

ⁱⁱⁱ Johns Hopkins University, <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/crespar/techReports/Report70.pdf>

^{iv} Johns Hopkins University, http://www.csos.jhu.edu/tdhs/rsch/Locating_Dropouts.pdf

^v Youth Transitions Funders Group, <http://www.ytfg.org/documents/ClosingtheGraduationGapFinal13October2008.pdf>

^{vi} National Review Online, <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=YmJjNDc1NGQ2OGY2NGRIYjBhMTdmZTg2NDk2ODgzODk=>

^{vii} American Youth Policy Forum, http://www.aypf.org/publications/WhateverItTakes/WIT_ninseconds.pdf

^{viii} Annie E Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

^{ix} United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved January 7, 2010.

<http://data.bls.gov:8080/PDO/servlet/SurveyOutputServlet;jsessionid=6230e883e7a155c5766>

^x United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved January 8, 2010.

<http://data.bls.gov:8080/PDO/servlet/SurveyOutputServlet;jsessionid=62303117ae4812257442>

^{xi} United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved January 7, 2010.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/youth.nr0.htm>

^{xii} William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, http://www.ytfg.org/documents/connectedby25_OOS.pdf

^{xiii} Urban Institute, http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411283_alternative_education.pdf

^{xiv} Educational Testing Service, <http://www.ets.org/Media/onethird.pdf>