

# Teens Not in School and Not Working

## DEFINITION

*Teens not in school and not working* is the percentage of teens ages 16 to 19 who are not enrolled in school, not in the Armed Forces, and not employed. This indicator includes recent high school graduates who are unemployed and teens who have dropped out of high school and are jobless.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Dropping out of school and not becoming part of the workforce places teens at a significant disadvantage as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. These adolescents have a difficult time connecting to the job market as young adults and have less stable employment histories than their peers who stayed in school or secured jobs.<sup>1</sup>

Quality parent-child relationships lessen the likelihood of problem behaviors, improve academic outcomes, and improve the mental, social and emotional well-being of adolescents and teens.<sup>2</sup> Mentoring can also have a beneficial impact on an adolescent's development. Mentored youth are likely to have better attitudes towards and fewer absences from school, less drug and alcohol use, and improved relationships with their parents.<sup>3</sup>

Youth living in low-income families are 6 times more likely to drop out of

high school than their more affluent peers.<sup>4</sup> Unemployed and undereducated youth are at risk for earning low wages, being imprisoned, living in under-resourced neighborhoods, and needing public assistance as adults.<sup>5,6</sup>

Improving educational and employment opportunities is especially important for disadvantaged and minority youth in urban settings.<sup>7</sup> In 2006 in the U.S., 11% of both Hispanic and Black youth were not in school and not working compared to 6% of White youth.<sup>8</sup>

In 2006, 4,677 (7%) of Rhode Island teens ages 16 to 19 were not in school or working. In 2006, females represented 49% of the youth not in school and not working, while males accounted for 51% of the population.<sup>9</sup>

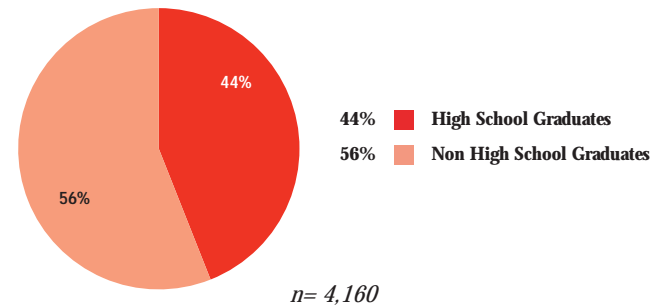
Teens Not in School and Not Working 2002 and 2006		
	2002	2006
RI	6%	7%
US	9%	8%
National Rank*	<b>18th</b>	
New England Rank**	<b>6th</b>	

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

\*\*1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center. (2007). Comparisons by topic: Teens not attending school and not working: Percent: 2006. Available from [www.kidscount.org](http://www.kidscount.org) U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2002, Supplementary Survey Summary Table PCT036.

Rhode Island Teens Ages 16-19 Not in School and Not Working by Education Level, 2004-2006 Average



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004-2006, Table B14005. May include some youth who are in the Armed Forces.

◆ **Between 2004 and 2006, there were an average of 4,160 youth ages 16-19 not in school and not working in Rhode Island each year. Forty-four percent of these youth were high school graduates and 56% percent of these youth had not graduated from high school.<sup>10</sup>**

◆ **Education has an impact on the likelihood of finding and maintaining employment. People with less than a high school diploma in the United States are one and a half times as likely to be unemployed as those who attain a high school degree or equivalent, and are three and a half times as likely to be unemployed as those who earn a bachelor's degree.<sup>11</sup>**

## Connecting Youth to College and Jobs

◆ **Between 2000 and 2015, about 85% of newly created jobs will require education or training beyond high school.<sup>12</sup> Low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school and go on to college than their peers. Similarly, Black young adults (18%) and Hispanic young adults (9%) are less likely to earn a bachelor's degree than their White peers (34%).<sup>13</sup>**

◆ **Programs and alternative schools that enable students to work towards both their high school degree and earn college credits at the same time can effectively improve high school graduation rates and prepare students for high-skill careers.<sup>14</sup>**

# Teens Not in School and Not Working

Table 46. Teens Not in School and Not Working, Ages 16-19, Rhode Island, 2000

CITY/TOWN	TOTAL NUMBER OF TEENS AGES 16-19	JOBLESS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES	JOBLESS HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF JOBLESS TEENS NOT IN SCHOOL	% OF TEENS WHO ARE JOBLESS & NOT IN SCHOOL
Barrington	816	7	11	18	2.2%
Bristol	1,701	0	23	23	1.4%
Burrillville	980	3	14	17	1.7%
Central Falls	1,082	66	112	178	16.5%
Charlestown	320	0	0	0	0.0%
Coventry	1,632	9	50	59	3.6%
Cranston	4,233	304	329	633	15.0%
Cumberland	1,449	67	28	95	6.6%
East Greenwich	636	0	0	0	0.0%
East Providence	2,068	75	55	130	6.3%
Exeter	251	5	0	5	2.0%
Foster	232	0	0	0	0.0%
Glocester	551	5	10	15	2.7%
Hopkinton	402	4	16	20	5.0%
Jamestown	267	0	5	5	1.9%
Johnston	1,080	33	17	50	4.6%
Lincoln	974	0	26	26	2.7%
Little Compton	175	0	16	16	9.1%
Middletown	713	37	18	55	7.7%
Narragansett	739	9	12	21	2.8%
New Shoreham	26	0	0	0	0.0%
Newport	1,740	31	100	131	7.5%
North Kingstown	1,159	13	0	13	1.1%
North Providence	1,262	22	38	60	4.8%
North Smithfield	494	0	0	0	0.0%
Pawtucket	3,684	203	292	495	13.4%
Portsmouth	736	0	12	12	1.6%
Providence	15,673	420	1,138	1,558	9.9%
Richmond	326	16	0	16	4.9%
Scituate	604	44	17	61	10.1%
Smithfield	1,904	11	11	22	1.2%
South Kingstown	3,532	8	11	19	0.5%
Tiverton	769	23	22	45	5.9%
Warren	507	33	33	66	13.0%
Warwick	3,843	60	130	190	4.9%
West Greenwich	300	0	0	0	0.0%
West Warwick	1,341	47	73	120	8.9%
Westerly	1,029	24	23	47	4.6%
Woonsocket	2,179	75	181	256	11.7%
<b>Core Cities</b>	<b>25,699</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>1,896</b>	<b>2,738</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
<b>Remainder of State</b>	<b>35,710</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>1,739</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>61,409</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>4,477</b>	<b>7.3%</b>

## Sources of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000.

Core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

The denominator is the number of teens ages 16 to 19 according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

## References

<sup>17</sup> Shore, R. (2005). *Reducing the number of disconnected youth*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> Moore, K. A., Guzman, L., Hair, E., Lippman, L. & Garrett, S. (2004). *Parent-teen relationships and interactions: Far more positive than not*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.

<sup>3</sup> Jekielek, M. A., Moore, K. A., Hair, E. C. & Scarupa, H. J. (2002). *Mentoring: A promising strategy for youth development*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.

<sup>4</sup> *The state of America's children*. (2004). Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund.

<sup>5</sup> *KIDS COUNT data book: State profiles of child well-being, 2004*. (2004). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>6</sup> Brown, B. (2001). *Teens, jobs, and welfare: Implications for social policy*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.

<sup>8</sup> Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2007). *America's Children: Key national indicators of well-being, 2007*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006, Table B14005.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006, Table S2301.

<sup>12</sup> *Are they really ready to work? Employers' perspectives on the basic knowledge and applied skills of new entrants to the 21st Century U.S. workforce*. (n.d.). Retrieved January 9, 2008 from [www.21stcenturyskills.org](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org)

<sup>13</sup> Pennington, H. (2004). *Fast track to college: Increasing postsecondary success for all students*. Washington, DC: Center for American Progress and Institute for America's Future.

<sup>14</sup> *Overview & FAQ: The basics: What are early college high schools?* (n.d.). Retrieved on January 2, 2007 from [www.earlycolleges.org](http://www.earlycolleges.org)