

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. Teens who are recent high school graduates and who are unemployed and teens who have dropped out of high school and are jobless are included.

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 lower earnings and less stable employment histories than their peers who stayed in school or secured jobs.¹ Unemployed and undereducated youth are also at risk for being imprisoned, living in under-resourced neighborhoods, earning low wages, and needing public assistance as adults.^{2,3}

Quality parent-child relationships improve academic outcomes, lessen the likelihood of problem behaviors, and improve the mental, social and emotional well-being of adolescents and teens.⁴ Mentoring can also improve attitudes toward school, reduce school absences, improve child-parent

relationships, and decrease drug and alcohol use.⁵

Youth living in low-income families are six times more likely to drop out of high school than their more affluent peers.⁶ Improving educational and employment opportunities is especially important for disadvantaged and minority youth in urban settings.⁷ In 2007 in the U.S., 11% of both Hispanic and Black youth were not in school and not working compared to 6% of White youth.⁸

In 2007, 3,972 (6%) of Rhode Island teens ages 16 to 19 were not in school or working. In 2007, females represented 49% of youth not in school and not working, while males accounted for 51% of these youth.⁹

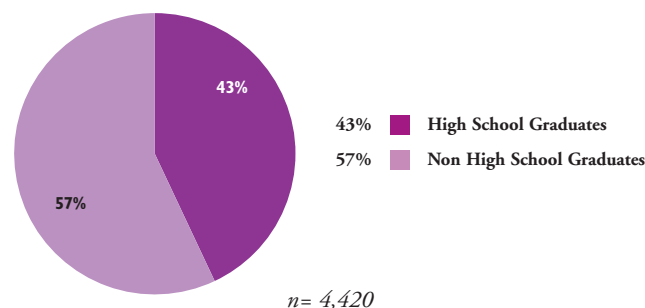
Teens Not in School and Not Working 2002 and 2007		
	2002	2007
RI	6%	6%
US	9%	8%
National Rank*	7th	
New England Rank**	3rd	

*1st is best; 50th is worst

**1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center (2008). *Comparisons by topic: Teens not attending school and not working: Percent: 2002 and 2007*. Retrieved December 15, 2008 from www.kidscount.org/datacenter

Rhode Island Teens Ages 16-19 Not in School and Not Working by Education Level, 2005-2007 Average



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2005-2007 3-Year Estimates, Table B14005. May include some youth who are in the Armed Forces.

- ◆ Annually between 2005 and 2007, an estimated 4,420 youth ages 16-19 were not in school and not working in Rhode Island. Forty-three percent of these youth were high school graduates and 57% percent had not graduated from high school.¹⁰
- ◆ Education has an impact on the likelihood of finding and maintaining employment, regardless of race or ethnicity. In 2007, people with less than a high school diploma in the United States were more than twice as likely to be unemployed as those who attained a high school degree or equivalent and were more than four times as likely to be unemployed as those who received a bachelor's degree.¹¹

Connecting Youth to College and Jobs

- ◆ Between 2000 and 2015, about 85% of newly-created jobs will require education or training beyond high school.¹² Low-income youth are far 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 much less likely to earn a bachelor's degree than their White peers (34%).¹³
- ◆ Programs and alternative schools that enable students to earn college credits while working towards their high school degree can improve high school graduation rates and better prepare students for high-skill careers.¹⁴

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%
Core Cities	25,699	842	1,896	2,738	10.7%
Remainder of State	35,710	812	927	1,739	4.9%
Rhode Island	61,409	1,654	2,823	4,477	7.3%

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

- ¹⁷ Shore, R. (2005). *Reducing the number of disconnected youth*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- ² *KIDS COUNT data book: State profiles of child well-being, 2004*. (2004). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- ³ Brown, B. (2001). *Teens, jobs, and welfare: Implications for social policy*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ Jekielek, S. M., Moore, K. A., Hair, E. C., & Scarupa, H. J. (2002). *Mentoring: A promising strategy for youth development*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.
- ⁶ *The state of America's children*. (2004). Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund.
- ⁸ Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2008). *America's children in brief: Key national indicators of well-being, 2008*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- ⁹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007, Table B14005.
- ¹⁰ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2005-2007, Table B14005.
- ¹¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007, Table S2301.
- ¹² Casner-Lotto, J. & Barrington, L. (2006). *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*. Retrieved January 9, 2008 from www.21stcenturyskills.org
- ¹³ 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.
- ¹⁴ *Overview & FAQ: The basics: What are early college high schools?* (n.d.). Retrieved on January 2, 2007 from www.earlycolleges.org/overview.html#basics1