

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

School and work help teens acquire the skills and knowledge they need to become productive adults.¹ Teens who drop out of school and do not become a part of the workforce are at risk of experiencing negative outcomes as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. Teens in low-income families, teens who drop out of school, teen parents, teens in foster care and teens involved in the juvenile justice system are most at risk of being disconnected from both school and work.²

Disconnected youth are more likely to live in poverty, suffer from mental health problems and substance abuse, have low educational attainment, become teen parents, engage in violent activity, live in under-resourced neighborhoods, experience difficulties maintaining employment and earn low wages.^{3,4,5}

Meaningful family support, mentoring, out-of-school programming,

job training, smaller schools, safer schools, high-quality alternative education programs and school-to-career programs lessen the likelihood of teens becoming disconnected from school and work.^{6,7,8} Research shows that youth who are consistently connected to work and school have similar annual earnings regardless of whether they are Hispanic, White or Black.⁹

Between 2006 and 2008, an estimated 4,323 (7%) youth ages 16 to 19 were not in school and not working in Rhode Island. Of the youth who were not in school and not working, 48% were females and 52% were males. Forty-five percent (45%) of these youth were high school graduates and 55% percent had not graduated from high school.¹⁰

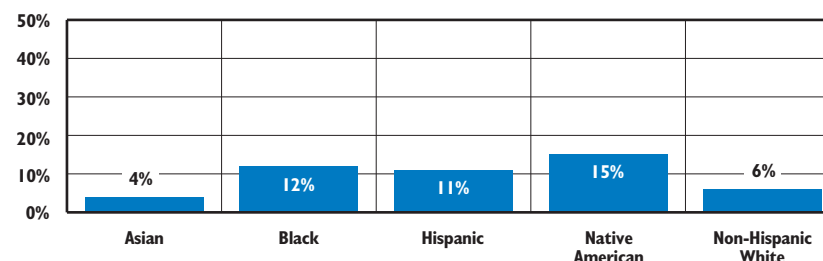
Teens Not in School and Not Working 2002 and 2007		
	2000	2007
RI	7%	6%
US	9%	8%
National Rank*	7th	
New England Rank**	3rd	

*1st is best; 50th is worst

**1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *KIDS COUNT data book: State profiles of child well-being*. 2009. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Percentage of U.S. Youth Ages 16 to 19, Not in School and Not Working, by Race and Ethnicity, 2008



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center (2010). *Rankings/Maps/Trends by Topic: Teens not attending school and not working by race (Percent) – 2008*. Retrieved January 6, 2010 from www.kidscount.org/datacenter

◆ **Nationally, minority youth are more likely to be disconnected from school and work.**¹¹ In 2008 in the U.S., 15% of Native American youth, 12% Black youth and 11% of Hispanic youth were not in school and not working, compared to 4% of Asian and 6% of non-Hispanic White youth.¹²

◆ **Education has an impact on the likelihood of finding and maintaining employment, regardless of race or ethnicity.** In 2008, people with less than a high school diploma in Rhode Island were nearly twice as likely to be unemployed as those who attained a high school degree or equivalent and were almost five times as likely to be unemployed as those who received a bachelor's degree.¹³

Connecting Youth to School and Work

◆ **Successful strategies to connect youth to work and school must be broad and include reform and redesign of community systems, community engagement in schools, early identification of youth at risk of dropping out of school, targeted workforce development programs, and multiple pathways to high school graduation and employment.**^{14,15,16}

◆ **High school completion is a key determinant of youth connectedness to school and work.** 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.¹⁷

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Table 52.

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

Sources of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, 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. & Shore, B. (2009). *KIDS COUNT indicator brief: Reducing the number of disconnected youth*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- ^{2,3,6} Hair, E. C., Moore, K. A., Ling, T. J., McPhee-Baker, C. & Brown, B. V. (2009). *Youth who are "disconnected" and those who then reconnect: Assessing the influence of family, programs, peers and communities*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.
- ⁴ Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2009). *America's children: Key national indicators of well-being, 2009*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- ^{5,11} Fernandes, A. L., & Gabe, T. (2009). *Disconnected youth: A look at 16-24 year olds who are not working or in school*. Congressional Research Service. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.
- ^{8,15} MDC, Inc. (2008). *Disconnected youth in the research triangle region: An ominous problem hidden in plain sight*. Raleigh, NC: GlaxoSmithKline Foundation.
- ⁹ Vericker, T., Pergamit, M., Macomber, J., & Kuehn, D. (2009). *Vulnerable youth and the transition to adulthood: Second-generation Latinos connecting to school and work*. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Office of Human Services Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, DC: Government Printing Offices.
- ¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008. Table B14005.
- ¹² Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center. (2010). *Rankings/Maps/Trends by Topic: Teens not attending school and not working by race (Percent) - 2008*. Retrieved January 6, 2010 from www.kidscount.org/datacenter

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