

Disconnected Youth in California

Teens Not in School and Not Working in California and Counties of 20,000 Residents or More: 2009-2011

Region	Percent
California	8.4%

Region	Percent
Alameda County	7.5%
Butte County	7.4%
Contra Costa County	8.1%
El Dorado County	4.6%
Fresno County	9.1%
Humboldt County	7.3%
Imperial County	7.1%
Kern County	13.2%
Kings County	12.0%
Los Angeles County	8.6%
Madera County	11.3%
Marin County	4.3%
Mendocino County	8.9%
Merced County	13.5%
Monterey County	11.7%
Napa County	6.5%
Orange County	6.4%
Placer County	5.0%
Riverside County	10.7%
Sacramento County	8.1%
San Bernardino County	10.9%
San Diego County	6.7%
San Francisco County	4.8%
San Joaquin County	11.2%
San Luis Obispo County	6.3%
San Mateo County	4.8%
Santa Barbara County	6.1%
Santa Clara County	5.8%
Santa Cruz County	3.8%
Shasta County	8.3%
Solano County	6.3%
Sonoma County	6.9%
Stanislaus County	11.9%
Sutter County	12.7%

WHAT IT IS

This indicator 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). Unemployed youth includes both those who are unemployed but looking for work and those who are unemployed but *not* looking for work.

This indicator is derived from the [American Community Survey](#) (ACS). However, the estimates presented here differ from the estimates of "idle" youth on the ACS website because ACS does not include youth who are unemployed but looking for work.

Data are available for: counties with [65,000+ residents](#), as single-year estimates; counties with [20,000+ residents](#), as 3-year estimates; school districts and counties with [10,000+ residents](#), as 5-year estimates; and [legislative districts](#), as 5-year estimates.

WHY THIS TOPIC IS IMPORTANT

Sometimes referred to as "disconnected youth," older teens who are neither in school nor working are more likely than other youth to struggle with mental illness or substance abuse, encounter violence, and become teen parents (1). Further, disconnected male youth are more likely to engage in illegal behavior, and female youth are more likely to become dependent on public aid (2). 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 toward productive, self-sufficient adult lives (3). Education and workforce detachment can have long-term negative effects on employability and earning potential (1, 3). The effects also can extend beyond the individual; one study estimates that in 2011, youth disconnection cost U.S. taxpayers \$93 billion in lost tax revenues and increased social service costs (5).

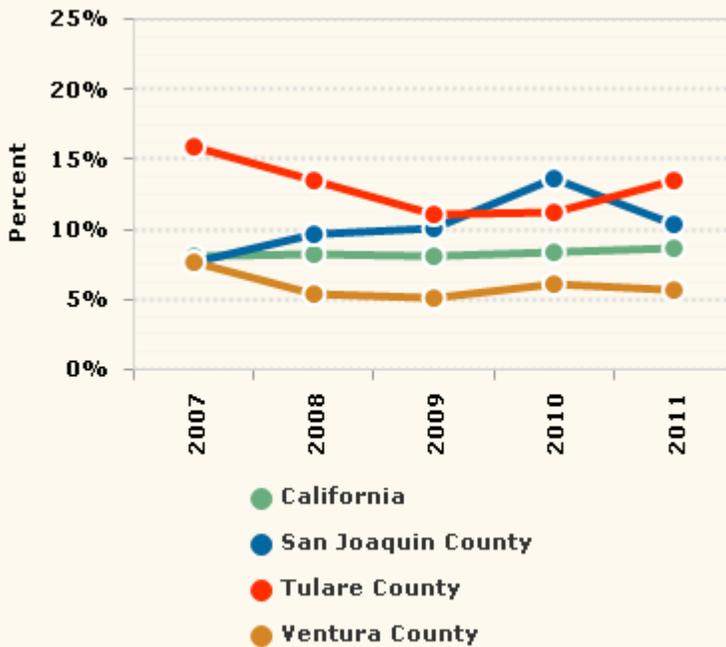
Family poverty and parental unemployment are among the key factors that place teens at higher risk for becoming disengaged from education and work (1). Nationwide, American Indian, African American/Black, and Latino youth are more likely than their white or Asian peers to be disconnected from school and employment (4). Other particularly vulnerable youth include those in the juvenile justice,

Tulare County	11.4%
Ventura County	5.9%
Yolo County	4.6%

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). Teens who are not working include those who are looking for work and those who are not in the labor force.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Accessed at <http://factfinder2.census.gov> (Dec. 2012).

Teens Not in School and Not Working in California & Selected 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). Teens who are not working include those who are looking for work and those who are not in the labor force.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Accessed at <http://factfinder2.census.gov> (Nov. 2012).

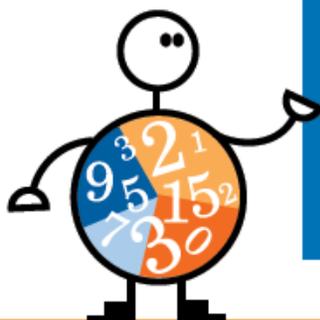
foster care, and special education systems (1).

HOW CHILDREN ARE FARING

According to 2011 estimates, 8.7% of youth ages 16 to 19 in California were neither in school nor working -- this equates to approximately 193,000 teens.* This percentage has increased slightly from 8.2% in 2007, and among counties with available data, more than half showed increases in the percentage of "disconnected youth" between 2005-07 and 2009-11. County-level percentages of teens not in school and not working ranged from 3.8% (Santa Cruz County) to 13.5% (Merced County), among counties with 20,000 residents or more in 2009-11.

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

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Kids Data Offers Data for Every City, County, and School District in California

Teens Not in School and Not Working

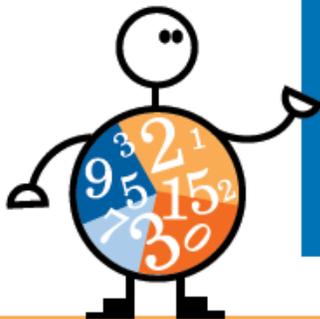
Region	Percent
United States	8.5%

Region	Percent
California	8.7%

Region	Percent
Fresno County	9.2%

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). Teens who are not working include those who are looking for work and those who are not in the labor force.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Accessed at <http://factfinder2.census.gov> (Nov. 2012).



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