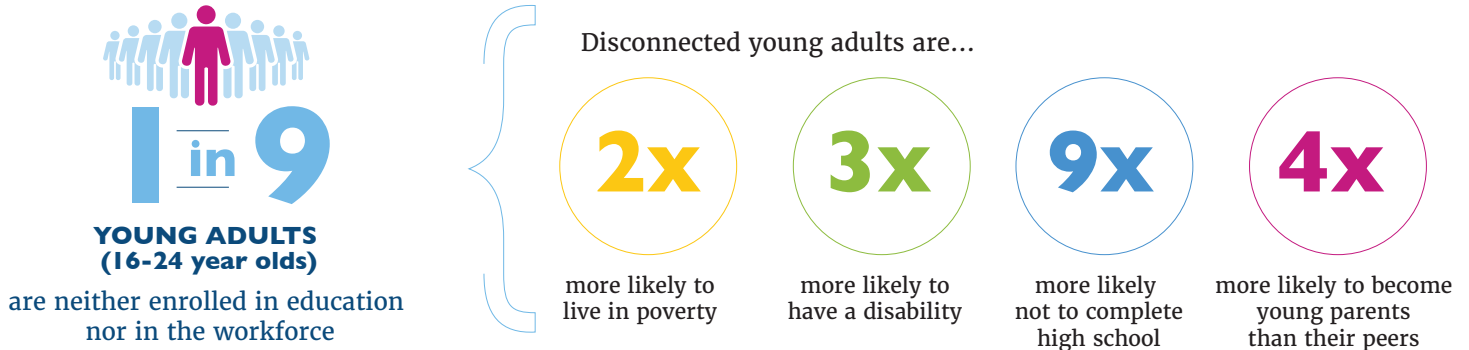


# Opportunity Youth

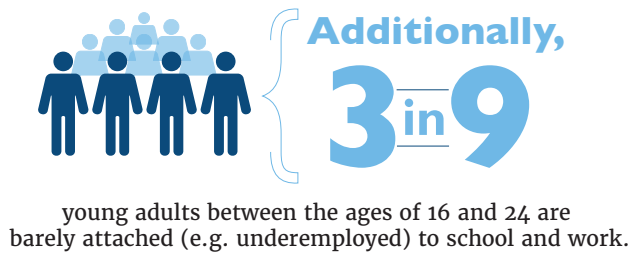
Opportunity Youth are 'disconnected' young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither enrolled in school nor participating in the labor market.

In 2020, the estimated number of opportunity youth in the United States was **6 Million**.

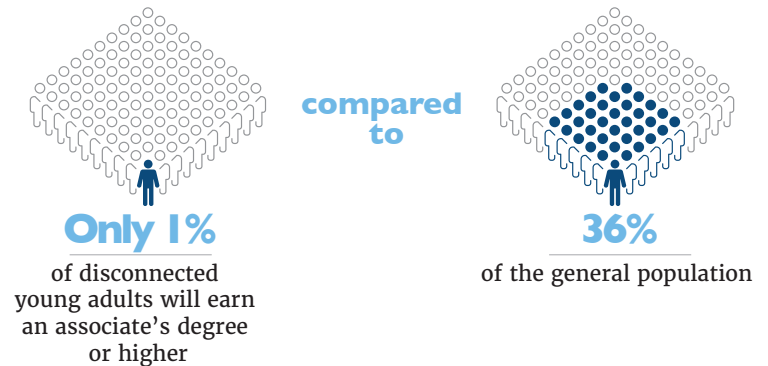
Disconnection has serious impacts on the lives of young people.



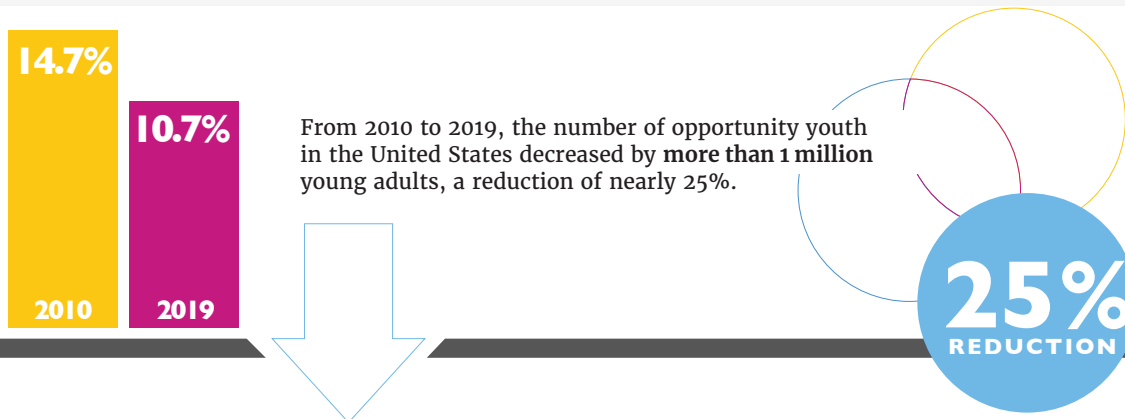
In addition, many more young adults are at risk of being disconnected from school or work.



This disconnection has significant consequences, both for young people and our society.



However, between the 2008 recession and the 2020 Covid recession, the number of opportunity youth decreased dramatically, due to increased investment in this group and the hard work of communities across the United States.

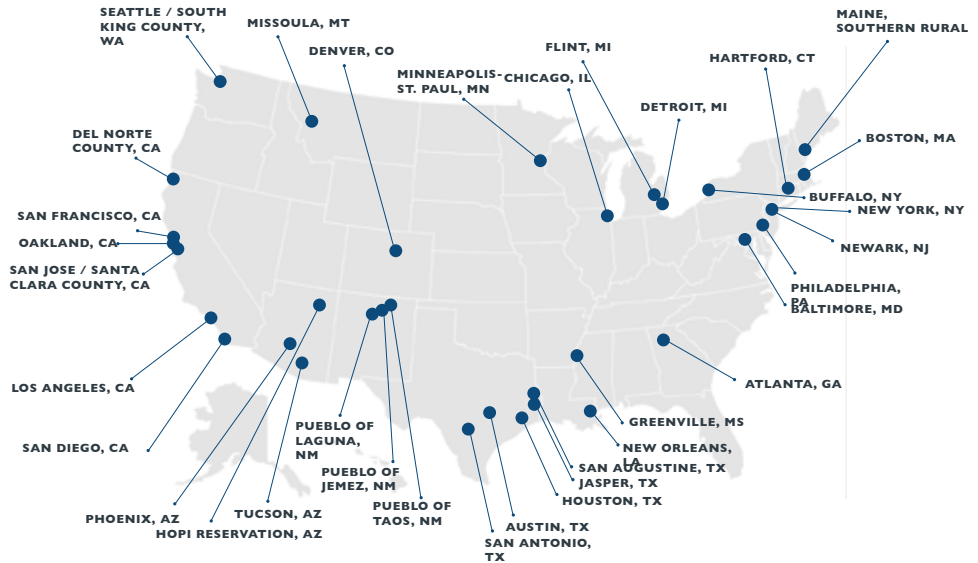




# Opportunity Youth Forum Impact

Part of this success story is the Opportunity Youth Forum (OYF), which has been working since 2012 to improve the success and well-being of youth through increased education and workforce attainment.

**660,000**  
OPPORTUNITY  
YOUTH IN  
**35**  
COMMUNITIES



OYF member communities are leading the way in helping young adults attain important life outcomes, with a specific focus since the start on supporting young adults of color.

**Racial equity**  
is at the core of OYF work  
and we emphasize supports  
for young adults of color

While **56%** of all OY in the U.S. are people of color...

**77%**  
of OY in OYF communities  
are people of color

**88%**  
of those in OYF  
partner direct services  
are people of color



The OYF's engagement of young adults results in big dividends for young people...

**44,000**

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH  
RECEIVED DIRECT SUPPORT  
FROM OYF PARTNERS

**4,475**

earned a  
high school diploma  
or equivalency

**3,284**

enrolled in  
postsecondary  
education

**3,896**

obtained  
employment

**7,255**

other  
significant  
outcomes

**19,000**

SIGNIFICANT  
OUTCOMES  
PER YEAR

Since almost **50%** of opportunity youth in direct services attain significant outcomes, we estimate

**\$2B**

in direct savings to taxpayers  
over the lifetimes of those young adults  
(and another \$4 billion in reduced social costs)

FORUM FOR  
COMMUNITY  
SOLUTIONS

aspen institute

The Forum for Community Solutions, as the facilitator of the OYF, provides funding opportunities, convenings and other learning opportunities, data, research and evaluation support to OYF member sites. For more information about OYF, visit [www.aspencommunitysolutions.org](http://www.aspencommunitysolutions.org)