

# YOUTH CONNECTION ACROSS THE OPPORTUNITY YOUTH FORUM IN 2022



The Opportunity Youth Forum (OYF) is a network of collaboratives in urban, rural, and tribal communities across the U. S. seeking to create reconnection pathways for better outcomes in education, employment, and well-being for opportunity youth. **Opportunity youth are young adults, 16-24 years of age, who are neither working nor engaged in education.**

## About opportunity youth in OYF communities

924,513 opportunity youth lived in 41 OYF communities in 2022

### Age

74% of opportunity youth were over 20 years old

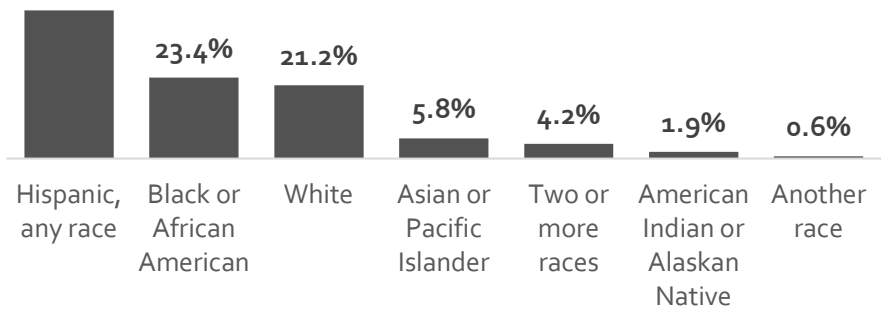


### Gender\*



### Race & Ethnicity

42.8% of opportunity youth in OYF communities are Hispanic



## Network-wide Disconnection

2022 disconnection rates across all OYF communities are beginning to return to pre-pandemic levels. Though the rate of young people experiencing disconnection increased from 2019 to 2021, 2022 rates were similar to 2017 rates.

	in 2017	in 2019	in 2021	in 2022	Change from 2017 to 2022
<b>Community Disconnection Rate</b> Number of opportunity youth	11.9%	11.1%	13.1%	11.4%	-0.5 ↓
<b>High School Disconnection Rate</b>	12.3%	11.3%	12.5%	11.5%	-0.8 ↓
<b>Postsecondary Disconnection Rate</b>	21.9%	21.0%	25.4%	23.2%	1.3 ↑
<b>Workforce Disconnection Rate</b>	12.7%	11.8%	15.5%	13.5%	0.8 ↑

## Equity Outcomes

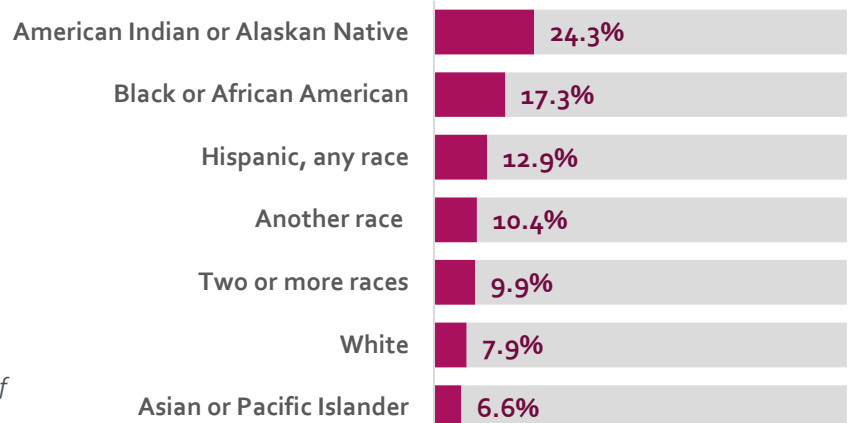
Equity outcomes look at the **proportion of disconnected youth within each racial or ethnic group**. Comparing these rates can reveal disproportionate levels of disconnection and help partners prioritize and customize their efforts.

Aligning with existing research about who educational and workforce systems are most likely to push out, in 2022, **American Indian or Black youth were most likely to experience disconnection**; almost a quarter of American Indian youth were disconnected.

\*Equal Measure acknowledges that people identify across a range of gender categories. Unfortunately, the 2022 American Community Survey only tracks male and female.

### Percent of youth of each race or ethnicity who are disconnected

24.3% of all American Indian or Alaskan Native young people in OYF communities are disconnected





## 2022 High School Disconnection Rate: 11.5%

207,435 young people without a high school diploma or GED and not working were disconnected from high school in OYF communities

- The disconnection rate decreased, and **29,547 fewer youth were disconnected** from high school in 2022 than in 2017.
- The high school disconnection rate for **American Indian or Alaskan Native youth decreased** by 2.3 percentage points between 2021 and 2022. However, they were still **most likely to be disconnected from high school** (20.9%).
- **Black and African American youth disconnection from high school decreased** by 2.0 percentage points between 2021 and 2022 (to 14.5%). The disparity in disconnection between White and Black or African American youth increased.



## 2022 Postsecondary Disconnection Rate: 23.2%

612,667 young people without a postsecondary credential and not working were disconnected from postsecondary education in OYF communities

- Though the disconnection rate increased slightly, **32,456 fewer youth were disconnected** from postsecondary education in 2022 than in 2017.
- **American Indian or Alaskan Native postsecondary disconnection decreased** by 5.5 percentage points. However, their postsecondary disconnection rate remained the highest of any racial or ethnic group (49.7%).
- Postsecondary disconnection rates **among men increased by 2.1 percentage points** between 2017 and 2022 (to 25.5%). The disparity in disconnection between women and men has been increasing since 2017.



## 2022 Workforce Disconnection Rate: 13.5%

104,411 young people with a postsecondary credential were disconnected from the workforce in OYF communities

- **21,515 more youth were disconnected** from the workforce in 2022 than in 2017.
- Workforce disconnection rates increased for most gender and racial/ethnic groups from 2017 to 2022, with **Black or African American and Asian or Pacific Islander youth experiencing the greatest increase in disconnection** and the highest overall disconnection rate (19% for both groups).
- Workforce disconnection among **youth of two or more races** decreased the most from 2021 to 2022, decreasing by 8.6 percentage points (to 10.6%).

## OYF Communities Reflected in this Analysis

Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boston, Bozeman, Buffalo, Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, Chicago, Del Norte County, Denver, Detroit, El Paso, Flint, Greenville, Hartford, Hawai'i, Hopi, Houston, Jasper, Los Angeles, Minneapolis / St. Paul, Missoula, Newark, New Orleans, New York City, northern New Mexico, Oakland, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pueblo of Jemez, Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of Taos, Roaring Fork Valley, San Antonio, San Augustine, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara County, Seattle / South King County, southern Maine, Tucson

**About the analyses:** Equal Measure combined the geographic areas of 41 collaboratives in the OYF network as of July 2023, then ran analyses using American Community Survey PUMS 1 year estimate data from 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2022. For more information about the Common Measures, see: <https://www.aspencommunitysolutions.org/oym-common-measures/>

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