

# Opportunity Rising

## Los Angeles Disconnected Young Adults

**THIS INFOGRAPHIC SUMMARY** provides key facts on disconnected youth (ages 18-24) and the education and labor market settings in the Los Angeles region. The information is pulled from a set of reports by Dr. Neeta Fogg and Dr. Paul Harrington at Drexel University's Center for Labor Markets and Policy.

**FULL REPORTS** can be found at: [wiblacity.org/index.php/about-the-wdb/wdb-reports](http://wiblacity.org/index.php/about-the-wdb/wdb-reports)

### POLICIES & STRATEGIES ARE WORKING

Disconnection rates have **dropped 4 points** over the past 10 years, from **20% to 16%** across the region.

# 207,774

YOUNG ADULTS IN L.A. METRO AREA  
ARE NOT IN SCHOOL  
& NOT EMPLOYED

### DISCONNECTED YOUNG ADULTS



**STOPPED SEARCHING**

# 59%

are not actively looking for work.

**LIMITED EXPERIENCE**

# 55%

have not worked within 5 years or have never been employed.



**CLOCKING IN FEWER HOURS**

# 23 VS. 39

WEEKS / YEAR

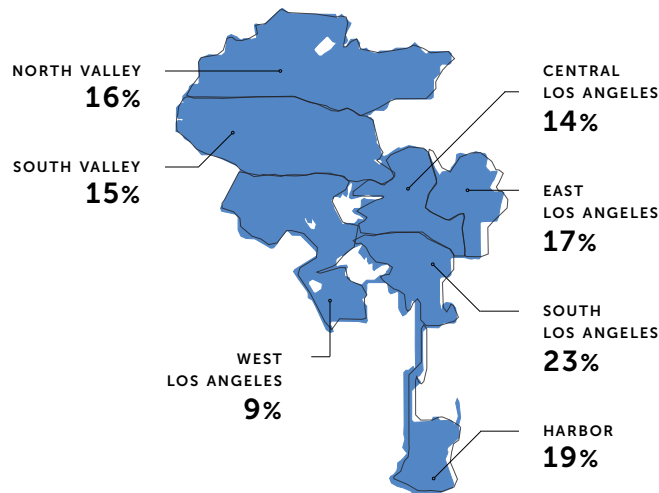
When work is found, disconnected young adults work much less than their connected peers.



**FEMALE YOUTH DISCONNECTED**

Young adult women are slightly more disconnected (~1% pt.) than their male peers.

### THE PROPORTION OF DISCONNECTED YOUTH THROUGHOUT CITY OF LOS ANGELES



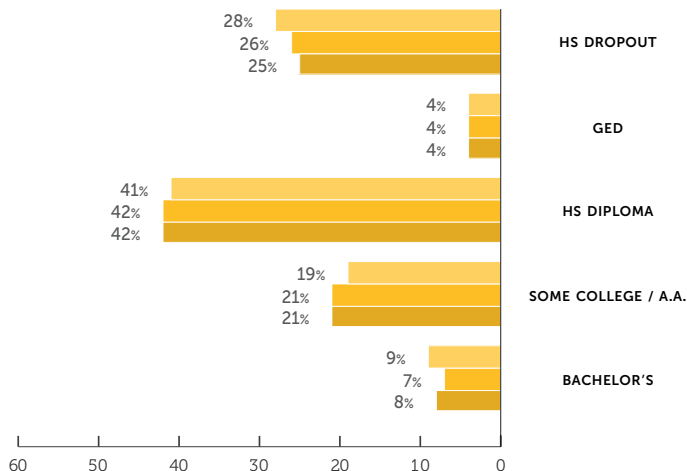
LOS ANGELES METRO **16%**  
CALIFORNIA **17%**

### HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS PLUNGE

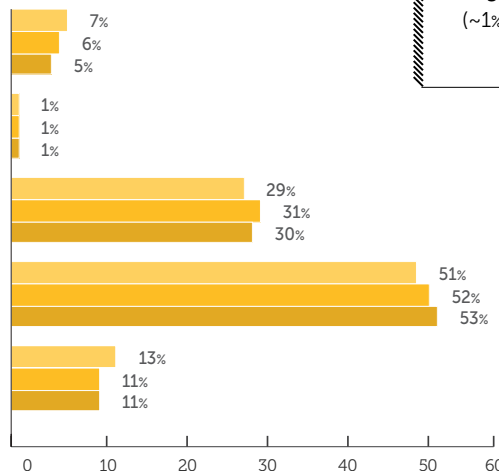
14-point decrease in L.A. City, declining from 23% of its 16-24 year olds dropping out to 9%.

### GAPS IN EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT ARE BIG

#### DISCONNECTED YOUTH



#### CONNECTED YOUTH



INCLUDES ENROLLED IN HS

INCLUDES ENROLLED IN PSE

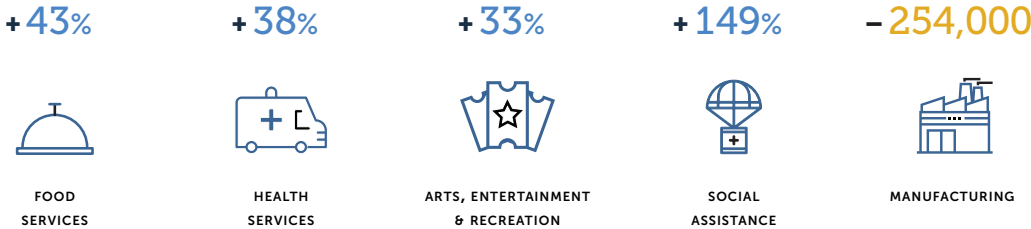
CITY  
COUNTY  
METRO

To decrease disconnection for young adults, the current context of the labor market and educational opportunities must be carefully considered.

# L.A. Labor Market & Educational Outcomes

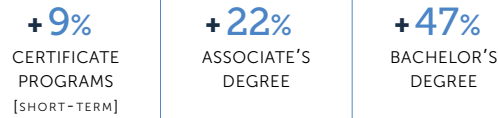
## SHIFTS FROM MANUFACTURING JOBS TO SERVICE PRODUCTION

Job growth is concentrated in high-wage labor market occupations that require postsecondary credentials and low wage skill service jobs.



**EMPLOYMENT STRONGLY LINKED TO EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AS RESIDENTS AGES 20–29 WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA SAW EMPLOYMENT DECREASE FROM 67 OUT OF 100 TO 57 OUT OF 100**

**MORE EDUCATION, MORE MONTHLY EARNINGS** \$\$\$  
INCREASE FROM COMPLETING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION



## LABOR MARKET IS STRENGTHENING

Unemployment dropping to 4.5%–5.5% range across the region.



## YOUNG ADULTS WANT TO WORK, BUT ARE NOT TAPPED INTO CURRENT MARKETS

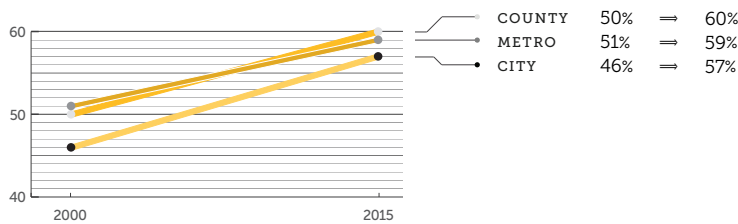


**TEEN & YOUNG ADULT MALES STAY IN SCHOOL**   
Male school enrollment increased 30%.

[2000–2015]

## SHARP GAINS IN SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR L.A. TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS

Enrollment increased from 2000 to 2015.



**THE FOCUS ON POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT IN THE AREA HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL, WITH A 50% NET INCREASE IN 10 YEARS.**



Community colleges are the largest source of college access.



## IN SUMMARY

**T**HE SUBSTANTIAL GAINS in school enrollment that occurred in L.A. at both the secondary and postsecondary levels have been essential to achieving the reduction of the region's disconnection rate. Continuing to expand educational opportunity through effective high school retention, and bolstering certificate programs that integrate into associate's degrees should continue with renewed vigor.

Recent gains in the L.A. regional labor market present an opportunity to reverse the decline in teen and young adult employment. Building stronger relationships with secondary and postsecondary institutions and regional employers in this improved labor can provide new and expanded job opportunities for the area's young people.