North Carolina’s Opportunity Youth

myFutureNC Opportunity Youth Network

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Rebecca Tippett, PhD
Director, Carolina Demography
Overview

1. About Carolina Demography
2. Changes to State Dashboard
3. Who are Opportunity Youth?
4. County-level estimates
About Carolina Demography: What we do

**Data Acquisition**
We know where to find relevant data and can translate complex information based on the questions you need to answer. (We can also help you determine what questions to answer.)

**Custom Population Estimates and Projections**
Using Stata, SAS and R, we can project populations or school enrollments that give insight into how your community will shift in the coming years.

**Data Analysis and Interpretation**
We can identify potential policy responses to demographic change and analyze the impact of current or proposed policies on specific populations.

**Workshops, Trainings and Presentations**
We convene and engage your stakeholders and decision-makers to facilitate understanding and dialogue and strengthen the capacity of your organization to communicate data-driven ideas.
About Carolina Demography: What we do

We help leaders throughout our state answer the question: Where is North Carolina heading?

Located within the Carolina Population Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, we use population-level data and other available research to provide context and perspective to people working to shape North Carolina’s future.
Changes to State Dashboard
Changes on state dashboard

- “Disconnected Youth” → “Opportunity Youth”
- 16-19 → 16-24

https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/workforce-alignment/opportunity-youth/
Measure of America has used this definition in its data calculations and analysis on youth disconnection since its first report on the topic, *One in Seven*, published in 2012.
NC opportunity youth rate higher with inclusion of ages 20-24

NC opportunity youth rate by age group, 2006-2019

Source: American Community Survey
Including 20-24 increased disconnection for women

NC opportunity youth rate by age group and sex, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-19</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-24</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey
Who are Opportunity Youth?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DISCONNECTED YOUTH (%)</th>
<th>CONNECTED YOUTH (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living in poverty</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with a disability</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in an institution</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not complete high school</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma/no further education</td>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women with children</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncitizen</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited English proficiency</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninsured</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receives Medicaid</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11% of NC 16-24-year-olds were not working and not in school in 2019

This includes individuals who are unemployed, incarcerated, or at home for family reasons.
141,000
NC 16-24-year-olds not working and not in school in 2019

Source: American Community Survey
NC youth disconnection down from 2011 peak

% of 16-24-year-olds not working and not in school, NC vs. US, 2006-2019

Source: American Community Survey
Higher rates of disconnection among BIPOC young adults

NC opportunity youth (16-24 years old) by race, 2019

Source: American Community Survey
NC patterns broadly similar to nation

Opportunity youth (16-24 years old) by race, NC vs. US, 2019

Source: American Community Survey
Except for Black and Multiracial, women have higher rates of disconnection than men

NC opportunity youth (16-24 years old) by race and gender, 2019

Source: American Community Survey
Opportunity deserts in NE, Sandhills, Charlotte, and Fayetteville

Source: Measure of America
County-level estimates
A word about PUMAs...
These shapes are called **PUMAs** – **Public Use Microdata Areas**

Source: Measure of America
In populous counties, there are multiple PUMAs
Smaller counties are clustered together within a PUMA

Source: Measure of America
Methodology

1. Used 2015-2019 American Community Survey microdata

2. Directly estimate from PUMA, where appropriate

3. For county clusters:
   - Calculate race-specific opportunity youth rates for parent PUMA
   - Apply to county population ages 16-24 by race (from population estimates)
   - Aggregate to obtain county totals, weighting for counties split across PUMAs
Shift to 16-24 increased disconnection for most counties

Change in opportunity youth rate (16-24 vs. 16-19), 2015-2019

Source: Carolina Demography calculations using 5-Year ACS microdata from IPUMS-USA, 5-Year ACS summary tables from the U.S. Census Bureau, and CDC SEER population estimates.

https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/E3fwr/1/
Youth disconnection rates >25% in Northeast NC

Percent of 16-24-year-olds not working and not in school for NC counties, 2015-2019

Source: Carolina Demography calculations using 5-Year ACS microdata from IPUMS-USA and CDC SEER population estimates.

https://www.datawrapper.de/_/kwcLe/
Largest number of opportunity youth in Mecklenburg

Number of 16-24-year-olds not working and not in school by NC county, 2015-2019

Circle is sized to represent size of opportunity youth population. Shading represents the share of 16-24-year-olds classified as opportunity youth.

Source: Carolina Demography calculations using 5-Year ACS microdata from IPUMS-USA and CDC SEER population estimates.

https://www.datawrapper.de/_/tqhS6/
COVID-19 impact

- Unemployment spiked
- Educational enrollments dropped
- Learning outcomes declined

Young workers hit hard by the COVID-19 economy
Workers ages 16–24 face high unemployment and an uncertain future

Finding the Lost Students of the Pandemic
Educators have gone above and beyond to locate missing students, and their work is not done.

Few Positives in Final Fall Enrollment Numbers
Community colleges saw the largest enrollment declines this fall. Matriculation by first-time freshmen also fell sharply.

Sobering test results confirm pandemic’s toll on state’s schoolchildren
Work With Us

What questions do you have about your community?

What data do you need to make better decisions?

Email: demography@unc.edu

Twitter: @ncdemography

Web: ncdemography.org