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#4 agenda  
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**WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL**

April 24, 2014

Good Afternoon. I am Jeanne Bennett, Executive Director of the SW Washington Workforce Development Council. Thank you for taking the time to learn about Career Readiness in Washington State.

This partnership between Workforce Development Councils and School Districts is an innovative way to encourage and support career competency for our young people. I brought with me a report by the Brookings Institute which shows alarmingly high numbers of unemployed people between the ages of 16 and 25. The recession hit this group hard, leaving them without the usual opportunities to build skills.

My concern is whether or not our students see hope for their future and whether that leads them to graduate high school. Once graduated, young people need continuing education of some sort whether that is apprenticeship, a short term certificate program, community college, or university. Certainly, the current employment environment for youth indicates that more attention to work based learning is critically important if we expect students to achieve living wages.

Career Readiness gives students real skills by introducing them to a wide variety of careers, connecting them with professionals, and making the future real and promising.

Career Readiness is not a one size fits all program. Each pilot area decided what would work best for them. We all considered that an urban area such as Vancouver is different than a rural area such as Yelm. What works in Vancouver might work in Yelm but it works best to allow local areas to design individual programs that achieve common outcomes. In other words, what matters is the result not how we got there.

I hope you will pay close attention to the outcomes of this program and expand this approach to more districts. Our costs have been about \$50,000 this year to serve 1 high school and 2 middle schools in the Evergreen School District. The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council supports additional funding to serve more students in SW Washington through the Career Readiness program but also through Jobs for America's Graduates, Opportunity Internship programs and summer employment.

We believe that the most significant thing we can do as workforce development professionals is invest in our young people to ensure that they develop the hard and soft skills necessary to become knowledgeable, competent, productive citizens of Washington State.

I stand ready to assist you in developing an expansion and funding plan. Thank you for your interest and support.

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# BROOKINGS

Interactive | March 14, 2014

## The Plummeting Labor Market Fortunes of Teens and Young Adults

By: Andrew Sum, Ishwar Khatiwada, Mykhaylo Trubskyy, Martha Ross, Walter McHugh and Sheila Palma

Employment prospects for teens and young adults in the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas plummeted between 2000 and 2011. On a number of measures—employment rates, labor force underutilization, unemployment, and year-round joblessness—teens and young adults fared poorly, and sometimes disastrously. This report provides a number of strategies to reduce youth joblessness and labor force underutilization.



Use the tool below to explore key youth workforce indicators for each of the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas and **download the report in PDF form.**

*Please note that the metropolitan rankings differ slightly in the report from the web-based interactive. The report rankings are based on pooled 2010-2011 data. The web-based rankings use 2012 data, and are meant to bring the analysis of the report (conducted over a longer period of time) more up-to-date.*

DATA FOR

### Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA

#### Employment Rate

The share of the non-institutionalized population that is employed, by age. A high employment rate shows that people can find jobs.

Ranks are out of the 100 largest metro areas by population; 1 indicates the strongest performance.

Year	Ages 16–19	Ages 20–24	Ages 25+
2000	44.4% (50th)	72.9% (28th)	66.8% (26th)
2012	26.0% (60th)	63.2% (62nd)	62.9% (48th)
2000–2012	-18.4 points (75th)	-9.7 points (88th)	-3.9 points (82nd)

#### Overall Unemployment Rate

The share of the labor force (ages 16 and up) that was unemployed in 2012.



### Disconnected Youth

Young people who are not working, not in school, and have less than an associate's degree. Such individuals are at increased risk for subsequent poverty and unemployment.

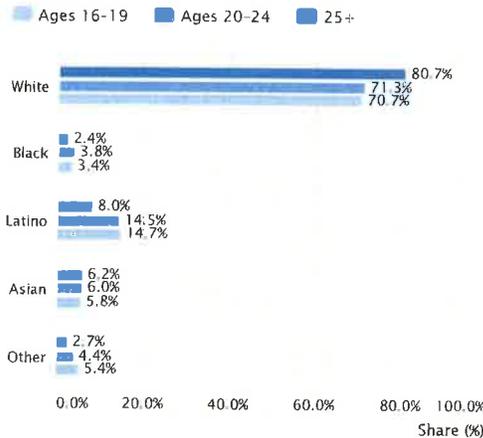
Rankings closer to 1 indicate smaller numbers of disconnected youth as a share of the total youth population.



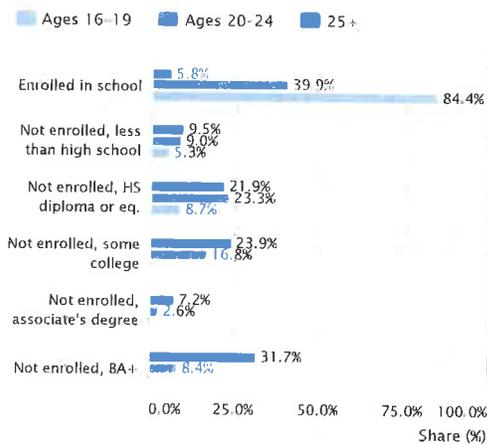
Of Portland's 18 to 19 year old disconnected youth, 41.5% had not obtained a high school diploma while 58.5% had a diploma or some college experience. Of the 20 to 24 year-olds, 24.3% had not completed high school compared with 75.7% who had.

*Note: The data below on race/ethnicity, poverty and educational attainment/school enrollment status refer to the entire population regardless of employment status. These data are provided for context to help understand a particular metro area's employment outcomes, since these factors are often correlated with employment.*

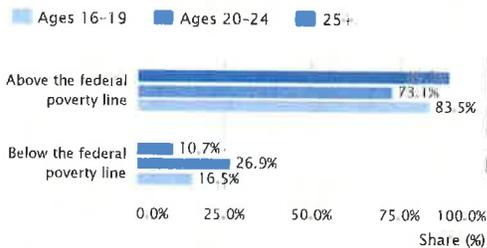
### Race/Ethnicity of the Population



### Educational Attainment of the Population



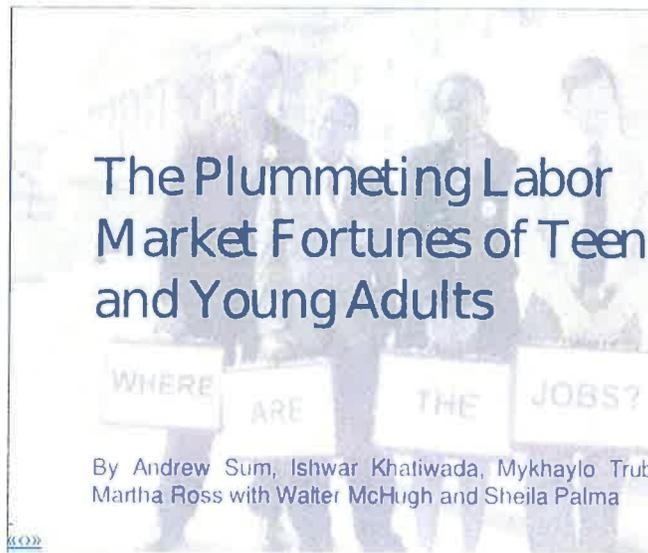
### Poverty status of the Population



### About the Report

The **Plummeting Labor Market Fortunes of Teens and Young Adults** takes a comprehensive look at the state of the job market for America's youth in the nation's largest metropolitan areas throughout the 2000s.

This report shows that America's youth have faced a much more difficult time finding jobs throughout the 2000's than official unemployment rates have indicated. In 2011, 43 percent of teens and 30 percent of young adults were struggling to find their place in the labor market, while the official unemployment rates were much lower at 25 percent and 15 percent respectively for these groups.



**Recommendations**

1. Integrate work-based learning opportunities into high school and college and expand apprenticeships.
2. Link high school to post-secondary educational credentials.
3. Provide more directed assistance to help young people find employment — especially non-college bound high school graduates — through strengthened career and technical education, career counseling, and job development/placement.
4. Expand opportunities for high school dropouts to earn a diploma or GED, coupled with access to post-secondary credentials/occupational skills training.
5. Orient career-focused education and training to the regional labor market.
6. To address weak demand for labor, create transitional subsidized jobs programs for young people to help them support themselves, develop work experience, and gain a foothold in the labor market.
7. Increase financial incentives for employment through an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit, specifically targeting younger workers without children.

**Quick Facts**

- Employment rates showed a 'Great Age Twist' between 2000 and 2011. Individuals under age 54 were less likely to be working in 2011 than in 2000, while those 55 and over were more likely to be working in 2011.
- Employment rates among teens declined dramatically, from 44 percent in 2000 to 24 percent in 2011, but showed variation by educational attainment and household income.
- 'Labor force underutilization' reveals a bigger problem among teens than reflected in the official unemployment rate, and varies by race/ethnicity and educational attainment.
- The share of teens with any paid employment throughout the year dropped from 55 percent in 2000 to 28 percent in 2011.
- Teens with more work experience in the previous year are much more likely to find employment in the current year.
- Teen employment rates vary widely among metropolitan areas.
- The employment rate among young adults ages 20-24, fell from 72 percent in 2000 to 60 percent in 2011.
- As with teens, labor force underutilization rates are much higher than the official unemployment rate, and vary by race/ethnicity and educational attainment.
- The share of young adults with any paid employment in a given year dropped from 82 percent in 2000 to 69 percent in 2011.
- Young adults with work experience in the previous year and higher levels of education are much more likely to find employment.
- Young adult employment rates vary widely among metropolitan areas, although not as much as teen employment rates.



 [Download the report](#)

 [Download the appendices](#)

 [Download the data](#)

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