

Youth and Opportunity in the Greater Tampa Bay Region

An Update On Youth Disconnection In Hillsborough And Pinellas Counties



The opportunity

27,305

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH
IN HILLSBOROUGH
AND PINELLAS COUNTIES

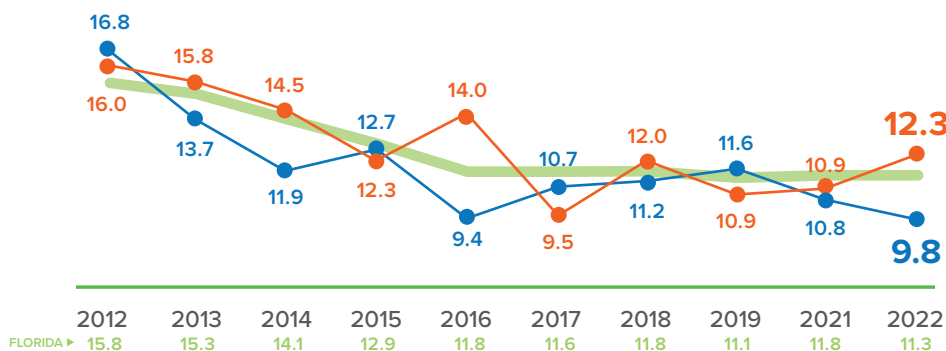
10.5%

OF ALL 16-24 YEAR OLDS
ARE NOT WORKING
AND NOT IN SCHOOL.

There are approximately **27,305 opportunity youth in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.** These 16-24 year-olds are neither in school or employed. This brief provides updated data on the region's progress supporting and reconnecting youth and young adults to work and school.

HILLSBOROUGH AND PINELLAS YOUTH DISCONNECTION RATE BY YEAR

(2012–2021 BY PERCENT) — Florida ● Hillsborough County ● Pinellas County



Hillsborough County's disconnection rate dropped in 2022, continuing to fall from its 2012 peak. In Pinellas County, 12.3% of youth were not working or in school in 2022, up from the prior year and higher than the 11.3% of Florida youth that are disconnected.

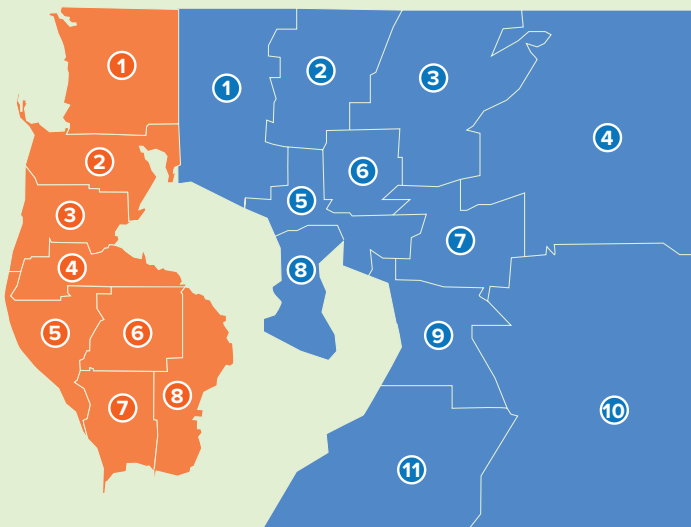
Source: ACS 2023

*2020 data was removed due to methodological concerns related to data collection during the Covid-19 pandemic

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IS NOT EVENLY DISTRIBUTED ACROSS THE TWO-COUNTY REGION

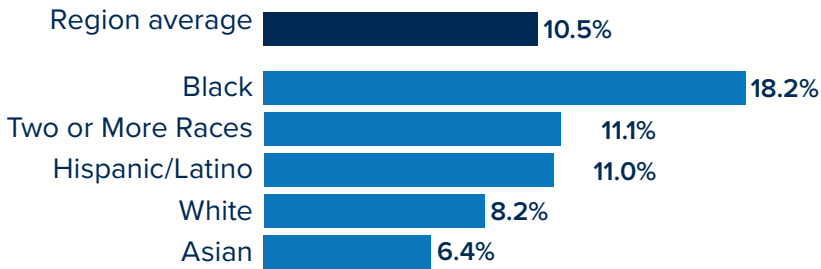
(BY NUMBER AND PERCENT) ● Pinellas County ● Hillsborough County

- 1 North **1,182 | 12%**
- 2 North Central **1,651 | 15%**
- 3 Clearwater City (South & Central) **930 | 9%**
- 4 Greater Largo City (Central) **1,095 | 12%**
- 5 Greater Seminole City (West Central) **684 | 11%**
- 6 Greater Pinellas Park City (Central) **993 | 14%**
- 7 St. Petersburg City (West) **1,219 | 13%**
- 8 St. Petersburg City (East) **1,798 | 12%**



- 1 Northwest **1,438 | 9%**
- 2 North Central **281 | 2%**
- 3 Tampa City North **1,537 | 4%**
- 4 Northeast **2,583 | 17%**
- 5 Tampa City (South Central) **806 | 7%**
- 6 Tampa City (Central) **3,241 | 20%**
- 7 Central **2,967 | 15%**
- 8 Tampa City (South) **914 | 5%**
- 9 Central (Progress Village, Gibsonton, Riverview) **1,749 | 13%**
- 10 Southeast **553 | 5%**
- 11 Southwest **1,684 | 18%**

Youth Disconnection Rates Vary by Race, Gender, and Other Factors in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties

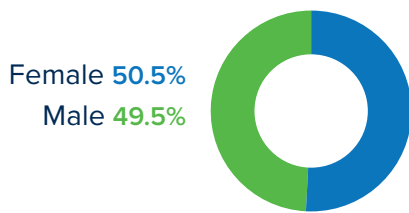


Disconnection rates vary by race and ethnicity.

Black 16-24-year-olds have significantly higher rates of disconnection rates than the region overall.

Of those that are disconnected, more are female than male with large numbers of parenting youth, youth learning English, and youth living below the poverty line.

*Native American youth had a much higher disconnection rate (18.3%) than the regional average. However, Native American youth represent less than 1% of all youth in the region. Due to the small sample size, these results should be interpreted with caution.

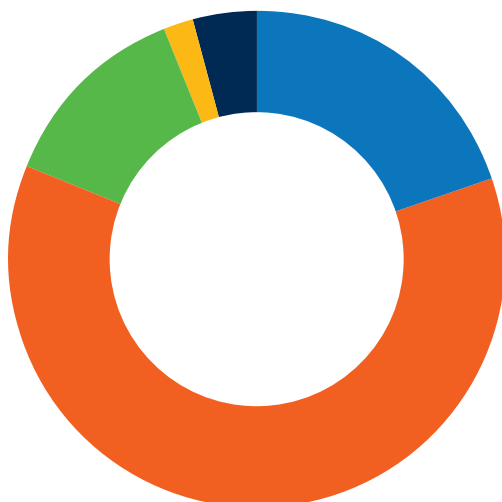


Females are slightly more likely to be disconnected from work and school than males.

Disconnected youth are more likely than all youth to...



Education Level of Opportunity Youth in the Region



- 20% Less than High School
- 62% High School or GED
- 13% Some College
- 2% Associate's Degree
- 4% Bachelors Degree

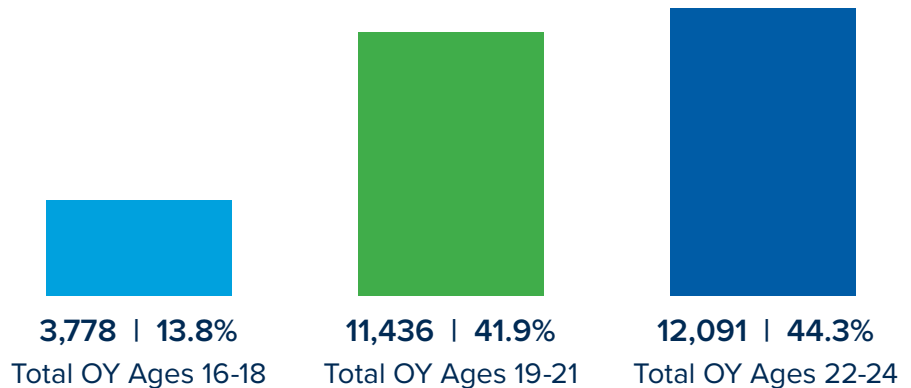
Over 60% of all disconnected youth have a High School diploma or GED. The disconnection rate rises sharply as youth leave high school and struggle to find work or to enroll in and/or afford higher education. Supporting youth in the post-high school transition can have a major impact on youth disconnection rates in the greater Tampa Bay region.

Source: ACS 2023

86% of disconnected youth are over 18.

Of the 27,305 opportunity youth living in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties, over 23,500 are 19-24. Investments and programs that can effectively reach and reengage older youth would have a significant impact on reducing the regional disconnection rate.

Source: ACS 2023



What Can Be Done About It?

- ▶ **Increase Awareness:** Launch a regional opportunity youth summit to gather key education, business, government, philanthropy, and youth leaders to share report findings and discuss solutions.
- ▶ **Amplify Youth Voice:** Center the event and any action plans on the voice and experience of the experts: the region's youth and young adults.
- ▶ **Expand Opportunity Youth Service Delivery System:** Raise and identify \$5M over the next five years to serve 1,000 additional youth through the Career Source Hillsborough Pinellas system, turning the Summer Hires program into a yearlong program.
- ▶ **Prioritize Place:** Focus funding and services in areas with highest youth disconnection (Central Tampa, Northeast, and Southwest Hillsborough County, North Central Pinellas County and Greater Pinellas Park City).
- ▶ **Focus on 5 Success Factors:** Require and/or incentivize publicly funded youth education and workforce programs to focus on the five youth success factors identified in the United Way Suncoast: Youth Success Project Phase I Report.

5 Youth Success Factors



Source: Youth Success Project Phase 1 Report, United Way Suncoast (2023). This research was funded by United Way Suncoast and conducted in partnership with CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas.