



# **Forgotten and Left Behind: Shifting Narratives and Exploring Policy Solutions for Vulnerable Youth and Young Adults**

# Introductions

## *Small Group Questions:*

- What formative experience(s) in your adolescence allowed you to realize that you were capable of becoming the person that you are today?
- What is a message that you would deliver to a younger version of yourself about the transition into young adulthood?

# Agenda Overview & Meeting Guidelines

## Habits of Happy Meetings

1. Seek to build a community of practice where everyone is a learner, resource, and guide.
2. Speak to the point
3. Be curious
4. Say what is not being said
5. Help ensure equitable participation (WAIT)
6. One Diva One Mic



"All in favor, look up from your cell phones."

*Kaamran Hafeez*

# Meeting Objectives

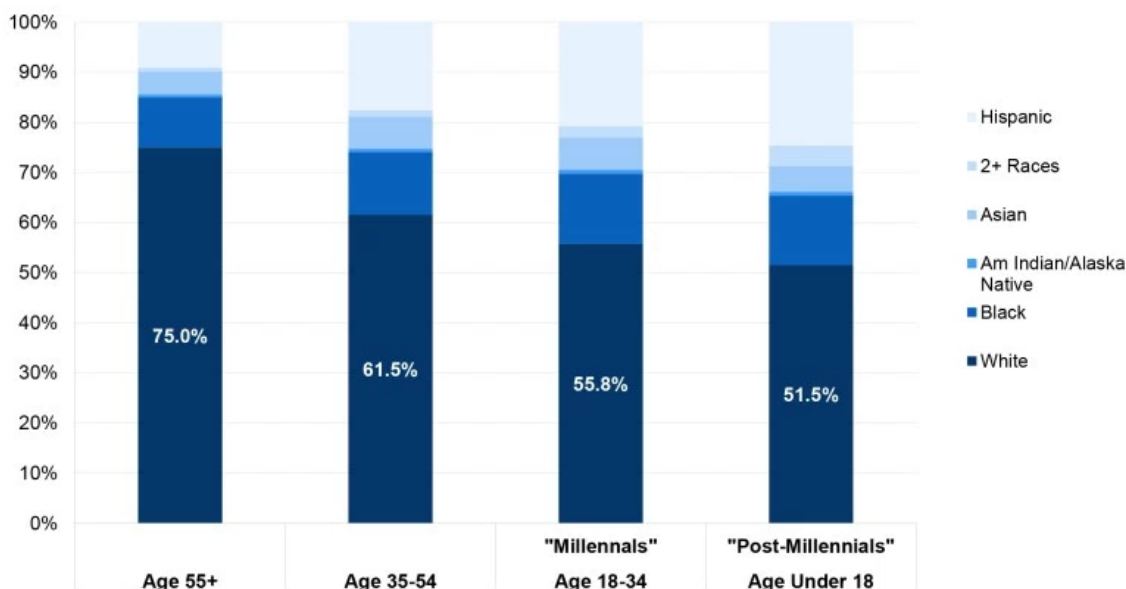
- *Develop shared understandings of who youth and young adults are, where they live, the opportunities they have access to, and the challenges they are confronting*
- *Identify mainstream and alternative narratives on “Millennials” and their implications of those narratives for policies that impact the economic mobility, health and wellbeing of the population*
- *Explore and identify strategies to more effectively center the needs of youth and the young adult population and in particular low-income youth and young adults and young people of color*

# Who Youth and Young Adults Are Today

## Millennials are between ages 18 and 34:

- 23 percent of the total population
- 30 percent of the voting age population
- 38 percent of the primary working age population

Figure 1: US Race-Ethnic Profiles for Age Groups, 2015

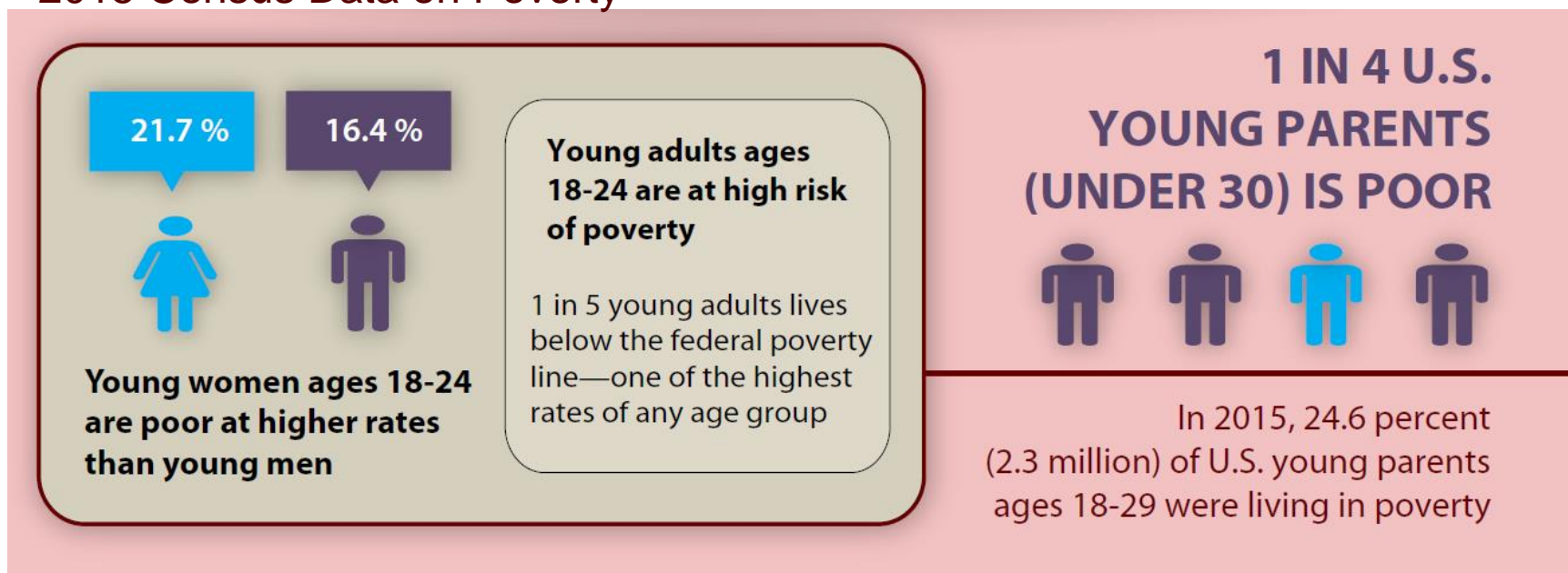


Source: William H Frey analysis of Census Bureau Estimates released June 23, 2016

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# Who Youth and Young Adults Are Today

## 2015 Census Data on Poverty



- \* The official measure defines poverty as \$20,090 for a single-parent family of three. The supplemental poverty measure (SPM) shows the effects of non-cash transfers and taxes as well as out-of-pocket medical costs.

# Who Youth and Young Adults Are Today

## Opportunity Youth

- 4.9 million young adults Ages of 16 and 24
- 12.3 percent of American youth, about one in eight
- 20.3 percent in rural counties, much higher than the rate for counties in urban centers 14.2 percent



PROMISING GAINS, PERSISTENT GAPS | Youth Disconnection in America

6

# What Does Data and Research Reveal about Young People in America Today

## *Questions to Consider:*

- Based on your work and experience, is there anything else that you would add?
- What did you learn from the evidence offered in the presentations?
- What was most interesting/ new/ surprising?



# Young Leaders Roundtable: New Challenges, New Voices, New Opportunities

## *Questions to Consider:*

- Did you have any aha moments, if so, what were they?
- After hearing the research evidence and the young people's narratives, where is there divergence?
- How has your picture of the “narrative” framework for thinking about young people and their lives shifted?

# From Framing to Action: What Does This Mean for Policy, Power, and Practice?

*How might we achieve justice with and for young people? How might we create social mobility with and for young people? How might we promote healing and wellness with and for young people?*

## ***Questions to Consider:***

- Given the current political context where are the opportunities to do this work? What audiences would you target, given where you sit?
- Are there messages we should be doubling-down on to push change and opportunity?
- What do you see as the potential next actions to take from where you sit based on the issues we discussed today?

# Closing Exercise: Thank You!

