

# Prospects for Young Americans: Education, Employment and Economic Mobility

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# Disconnected (“Opportunity”) Youth in US – Ages 16-24

- 4.9 M – 12.3% of population
- Likely undercounted
- By Race: W - .10
  - L - .14
  - B - .19

# Education, Earnings and Employment of Young Adults (Ages 25-34)

	<b>% of Pop.</b>	<b>Median Ann. Earnings (\$000s)</b>	<b>No Employment</b>
HS Dropout	9.5	\$20.7	.32
HS Grad	25.5	27.2	.24
Some College	18.5	29.9	.19
Associates	9.6	31.5	.15
BA or Higher+	36.1	40.9	.12

# Economic Mobility: Children in Low-Income Families (1=Lowest Quintile)

	Adult Quintile:	1	2	3	4	5
Children Growing Up In:						
Quintile 1		.43	.27	.17	.09	.04
2		.25	.24	.18	.20	.14
3		.14	.20	.23	.24	.19
4		.09	.20	.23	.24	.24
5		.08	.10	.19	.23	.40

# Determinants of Adult Outcomes: Early Experiences and Characteristics

- Educational Achievement and Attainment – Gaps decline by race but grow by family income
- Social/Geographic Isolation – Segregation declines by race but grows by family income
- Family Structure: Single Parenthood (W=.36, H=.53, B=.72) – Growing for all race/ethnic groups among the less-educated

# Attributes of Low-Income Adults

- Low Earnings due to: 1) Post-secondary education with labor market value; 2) Early work experience; 3) Changing Labor Demand: Shrinking middle-wage occupations/sectors; 4) Too few work supports
- Additional Barriers for Minority Workers: Labor market discrimination, social networks, geographic access, criminal records, non-custodial parenthood (arrears)
- Recent Growth in: Displaced worker populations, non-participation in labor force among prime-age men, SSDI/SSI dependence, residence in distressed communities/regions, opioid usage/rising mortality (“Deaths of Despair”)

# Policy Agenda

- Education: Access to hi-quality pre-K-12 schooling plus supports
- Labor Market Skills (besides BA) and Early Work Experience: Varied pathways to success - High-quality CTE, work-based learning, sector-based training, associates degrees in high-demand fields
- Distressed Communities: Access to Education/Jobs, Relocation Assistance v. Economic Development
- Addressing Specific Barriers: Criminal Records, Child Support, Opioids and Disability