

Labor Market Experiences among Not Working, Not-in-School Young Adults in Illinois

Who are they?

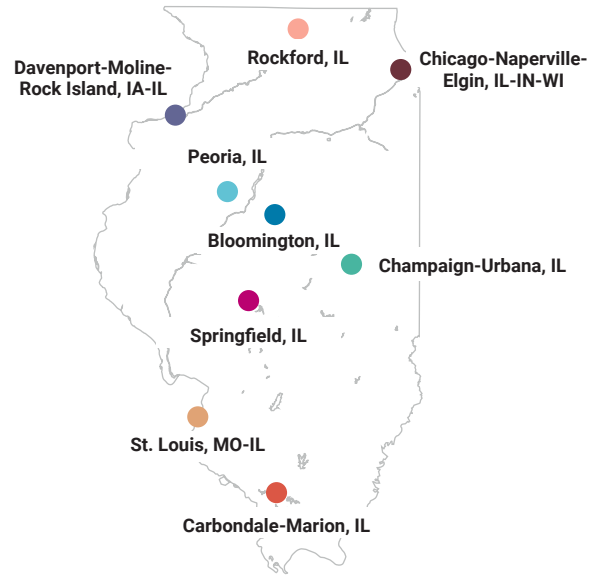
Young adults ages 18 to 24 who are neither working nor in school.

Why is this a problem?

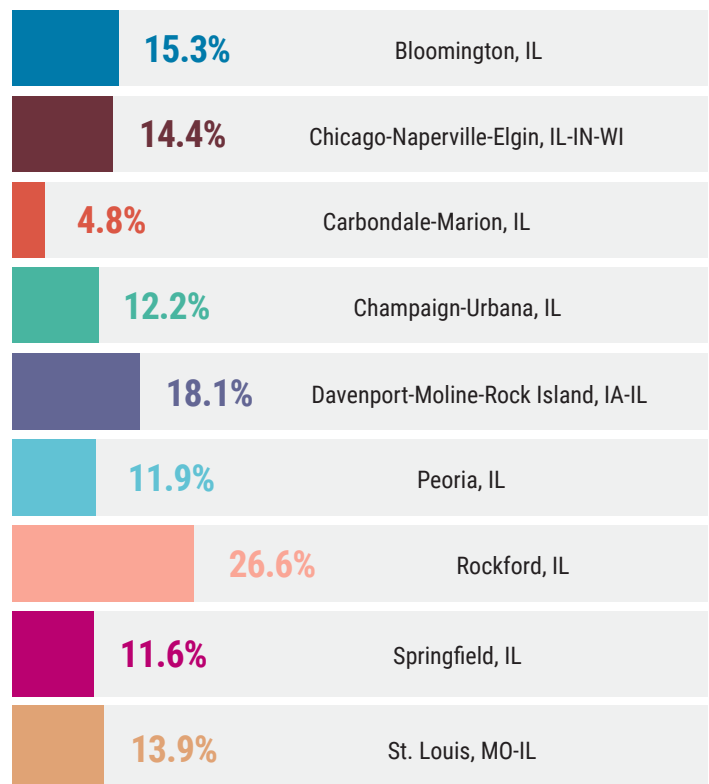
Economic disconnection can have negative effects for both the individual and the broader economy. For example, it makes it harder for young adults to reenter the labor force and more difficult for employers to fill open job positions.

How does it happen?

Barriers like a lack of access to affordable child care or transportation and difficulty getting or holding a job due to mental health challenges, disability or experience with the criminal justice system can impede young adults' participation in school or the labor force.



Metro Area Young Adult Disconnection Rates



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Young Adult Disconnection Rates by Selected Demographic Characteristics

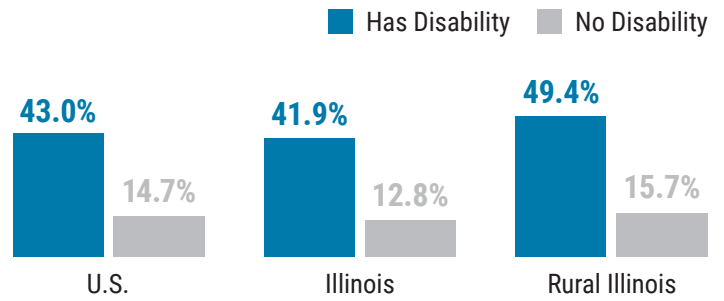


	U.S.	Illinois	Rural Illinois
Total	16.0%	13.9%	18.2%
Race/Ethnicity			
White	13.9%	11.6%	19.9%
Black	21.4%	22.8%	17.0%
Hispanic	17.9%	14.2%	7.8%
Other Race(s)	15.7%	13.5%	10.0%
Education			
Some High School	21.9%	21.2%	25.6%
High School Diploma	24.9%	22.5%	23.5%
Some College	8.7%	7.4%	8.4%
Bachelor's or More	10.8%	11.3%	14.4%
Family Income			
< \$25K	25.0%	21.0%	20.7%
\$25K to < 35K	21.1%	17.0%	21.5%
\$35K to < 50K	18.3%	17.6%	18.4%
\$50K to < 75K	15.4%	13.7%	9.7%
\$75K to < 100K	13.4%	12.9%	10.0%
\$100K to < 150K	11.5%	12.1%	26.7%
\$150K or More	10.0%	8.1%	21.8%

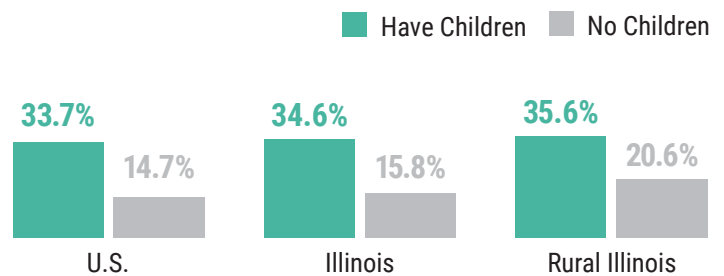
How to interpret: Out of all young adults in the U.S. with a high school diploma, for example, 24.9% of them are disconnected. Rural describes areas outside the state's metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas as identified in the Current Population Survey.

SOURCES: Current Population Survey microdata from January 2017 to June 2024 and Institute for Economic Equity calculations.

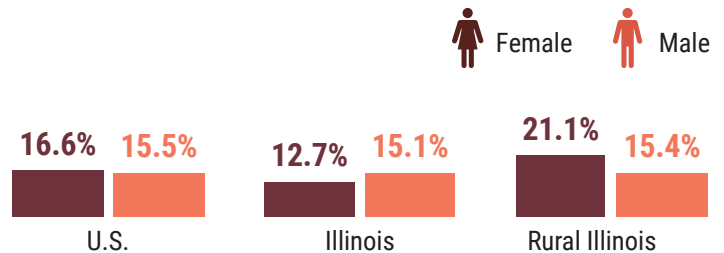
Disability



Children



Sex



Opportunities for Community Response

Review accommodations for physical disabilities and mental health needs

- Improve the child care ecosystem for families and providers
- Increase investment in and exposure to career pathways through experiential and project-based learning, internships, and career and technical education
- Promote a supportive environment for choosing employment directly out of high school

Create carpooling opportunities or offer shuttles to places of employment

- Assess whether there are local, entry-level job opportunities that do not require work experience or a college degree

Riverbend Family Ministries in Wood River addresses challenges faced by individuals and families in crisis through a holistic approach. By providing shared space for social service organizations, Riverbend Family Ministries fosters collaboration to develop a continuum of care that equips people with the tools they need to achieve stability. Many clients are justice-involved individuals and returning citizens receiving support that empowers them to rebuild their lives and prepare for future opportunities.

R3 Development in East St. Louis has a mission to empower, train and connect underserved students and young adults with good-paying jobs and to build up the local economy. Since 2015, R3 Development has employed about 150 young adults through its construction workforce training program. The organization is currently developing a \$2.5 million construction workforce training center as it works to combat generational poverty with generational solutions through hands-on training.