

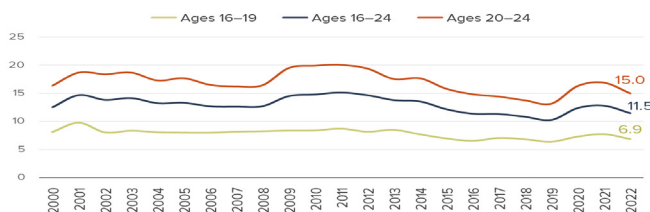
Without School or Work, Some California Youth Are Left Disconnected from the Economy

A widespread belief that California’s children will face a bleak economic future is supported by worrying numbers: the rising share of “disconnected youth” (also known as “opportunity youth”)—those not in school or not employed and not looking for a job—across all gender and race/ethnic groups. To thwart this grim trend, young Californians need avenues to economic opportunity through education and employment.

In 2022, close to 11.5% of the state’s youth, or nearly half a million Californians aged 16 to 24, were not in school nor participating in the labor market. This marked the highest number of individuals among all states and the 22nd highest rate nationwide. While the rate declined in 2022, it remains above pre-pandemic levels, given a sharp increase in 2019 and 2020. Enrollment declines in K–12 and higher education, in part driven by pandemic-related forces, contributed to this upswing.

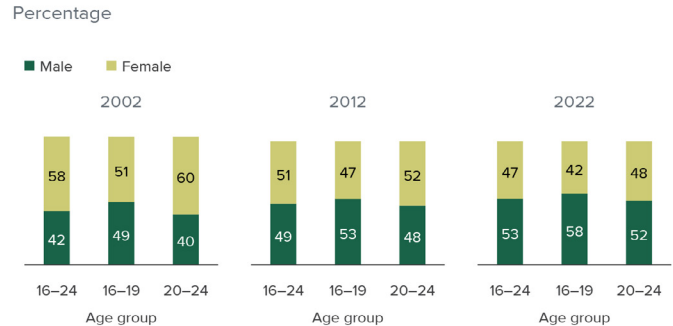
Californians aged 20 to 24 represent almost three-quarters of all youth disconnected from school and employment. By age group, 15% of those between 20 and 24 are disconnected, or double the share of those between 16 and 19 (7%). This higher share stems from unemployment rates among older youth that are almost triple that of younger youth and labor force nonparticipation rates that are double.

Disconnected youth rates in California are still above pre-pandemic levels
Percentage



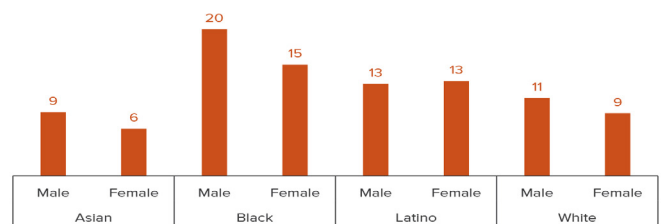
Over the last two decades, gender gaps have reversed among disconnected youth in California. In 2002, young women were almost six out of ten of those disconnected from school and employment—a decade later, they were just over 50%; in 2022, young men had become 53% of the disconnected. For those between 16 and 19, gender imbalances today are even more pronounced (42% for women vs 58% for men). The escalating gender gaps in educational attainment—in English and math test scores in grades 3–8, stronger high school records, or completion of college-preparatory courses—can emerge well before the college years and offer a plausible explanation for these shifts; they also suggest wider disparities to come.

Today, males constitute over 50% of disconnected youth across all age groups
Percentage



Disparities also extend across racial and ethnic groups. While in 2022 nearly one out of five young Black Californians aged 16 to 24 were disconnected from school and employment, only 8% of all Asians were. Disconnection is notable among Black males across all ages, with 20% disconnected (Latino: 13%; multiethnicity: 12%; white: 11%; Asian: 9%). Furthermore, Black and Latino youth are overrepresented in the disconnected demographic at 64% of the total, despite making up 55% of young adults in California.

Black and Latino youth face higher rates of disconnection
Percentage in 2022



Various factors contribute to youth disconnected rates. Some young adults may be unable to find educational opportunities or employment, while others choose to drop out of school or the workforce for personal, family, or financial reasons. Disconnected youth may come from communities that are also disconnected from opportunity—for instance by residential segregation or concentrated disadvantage—and mirror school or employment struggles faced by their parents and neighbors.

Article continues at link below

Region	April 2023	March 2024	April 2024	Percentage Point Change	
				1 month	12 months
San José–Sunnyvale MSA	2.9%	4.2%	3.9%	- 0.3	+ 1.0
San Francisco MD	2.6%	3.6%	3.4%	- 0.2	+ 0.8
California	4.1%	5.4%	4.8%	- 0.6	+ 0.7
United States	3.1%	3.9%	3.5%	- 0.4	+ 0.4

Sector — April 2024	San Jose MSA	San Francisco MD	Combined Region	Percentage Change (Combined Region)	
				1 month	12 months
Total Nonfarm	1,155,600	1,156,700	2,312,300	+ 0.1%	- 0.4%
Construction	51,400	38,900	90,300	- 1.8%	- 3.9%
Manufacturing	174,000	34,500	208,500	- 0.4%	- 2.8%
Retail Trade	73,000	64,200	137,200	+ 0.1%	+ 0.4%
Information	91,600	107,900	199,500	- 0.3%	- 8.2%
Professional & Business Services	246,400	291,600	538,000	+ 0.1%	- 1.7%
Educational Services	97,900	87,600	185,500	+ 0.4%	+ 2.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	154,100	130,800	284,900	+ 0.5%	+ 5.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	102,800	126,800	229,600	+ 1.2%	+ 2.6%
Government	100,400	143,000	243,400	- 0.4%	+ 1.9%

Note: San José MSA (San José–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara Metropolitan Statistical Area) = Santa Clara and San Benito Counties
 San Francisco MD (San Francisco–Redwood City–South San Francisco Metropolitan Division) = San Mateo and San Francisco Counties

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMID

9-County San Francisco Bay Area	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployment		
	April 2023	April 2024	Change	April 2023	April 2024	Change	April 2023	April 2024	Change
California	19,200,800	19,213,200	+ 0.1%	18,406,300	18,281,900	- 0.7%	4.1%	4.8%	+ 0.7
Alameda County	821,500	819,300	- 0.3%	794,300	783,700	- 1.3%	3.3%	4.4%	+ 1.1
Contra Costa County	547,800	546,700	- 0.2%	529,000	522,600	- 1.2%	3.4%	4.4%	+ 1.0
Marin County	131,300	131,300	0.0%	127,800	126,800	- 0.8%	2.7%	3.4%	+ 0.7
Napa County	70,600	72,000	+ 2.0%	68,400	69,300	+ 1.3%	3.1%	3.8%	+ 0.7
San Francisco County	562,400	552,700	- 1.7%	547,400	533,700	- 2.5%	207%	3.4%	+ 0.7
San Mateo County	444,800	437,500	- 1.6%	433,800	423,200	- 2.4%	2.5%	3.3%	+ 0.8
Santa Clara County	1,033,900	1,025,800	- 0.8%	1,004,300	986,600	- 1.8%	2.9%	3.8%	+ 0.9
Solano County	200,500	203,400	+ 1.4%	192,400	193,400	+ 0.5%	4.1%	4.9%	+ 0.8
Sonoma County	245,700	248,700	+ 1.2%	238,100	239,100	+ 0.4%	3.1%	3.8%	+ 0.7
SF Bay Area (sum)	4,058,500	4,037,400	- 0.5%	3,935,500	3,935,500	- 1.5%	3.0%	3.9%	+ 0.9

Note: Totals may not add correctly due to rounding

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMID

April 2024 Layoff Events	Company	Location	# Affected
	Balfour Beatty US Civils	San Mateo	222
Brookfield Properties	Mountain View	1	
Cisco Systems	Multiple cities	731	
Janssen Research & Development	Brisbane	55	
Pure Storage	Santa Clara	81	
Rivian Automotive	Multiple cities	401	
Trove Recommerce	Brisbane	62	
Total		1,553	

WARN SUMMARY

Events YTD †:	88
Individuals Affected YTD :	5,794
Individuals Previous YTD ‡:	7,653

* **WARN: Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification**
 (notice of mass layoff or closure)
 † **YTD: Year to Date**
 (Calendar year: January 1–Present)
 ‡ **Previous YTD:**
 (Same date range as YTD, one year prior)

Note: Layoff data are preliminary and should be considered an estimate of monthly regional activity

Source: California EDD, CalJOBS: WARN data