

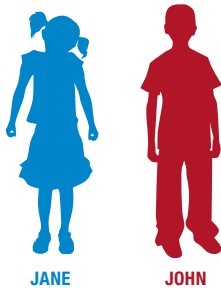
WHERE IS OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA?

2014–2015

- 02 / **PATHS OF OPPORTUNITY**
- 04 / **STATE RANKINGS**
- 06 / **NATIONAL TRENDS**
- 07 / **OPPORTUNITY INDICATORS**

YOUR ZIP CODE SHOULDN'T DETERMINE WHERE YOU END UP IN LIFE

Meet Jane and John.



Fayette County,
Georgia



\$77,146



6.7%



BIRTHPLACE

MEDIAN INCOME

Annual, per household

POVERTY

Americans below
the poverty line



Cecil County,
Maryland

\$62,696

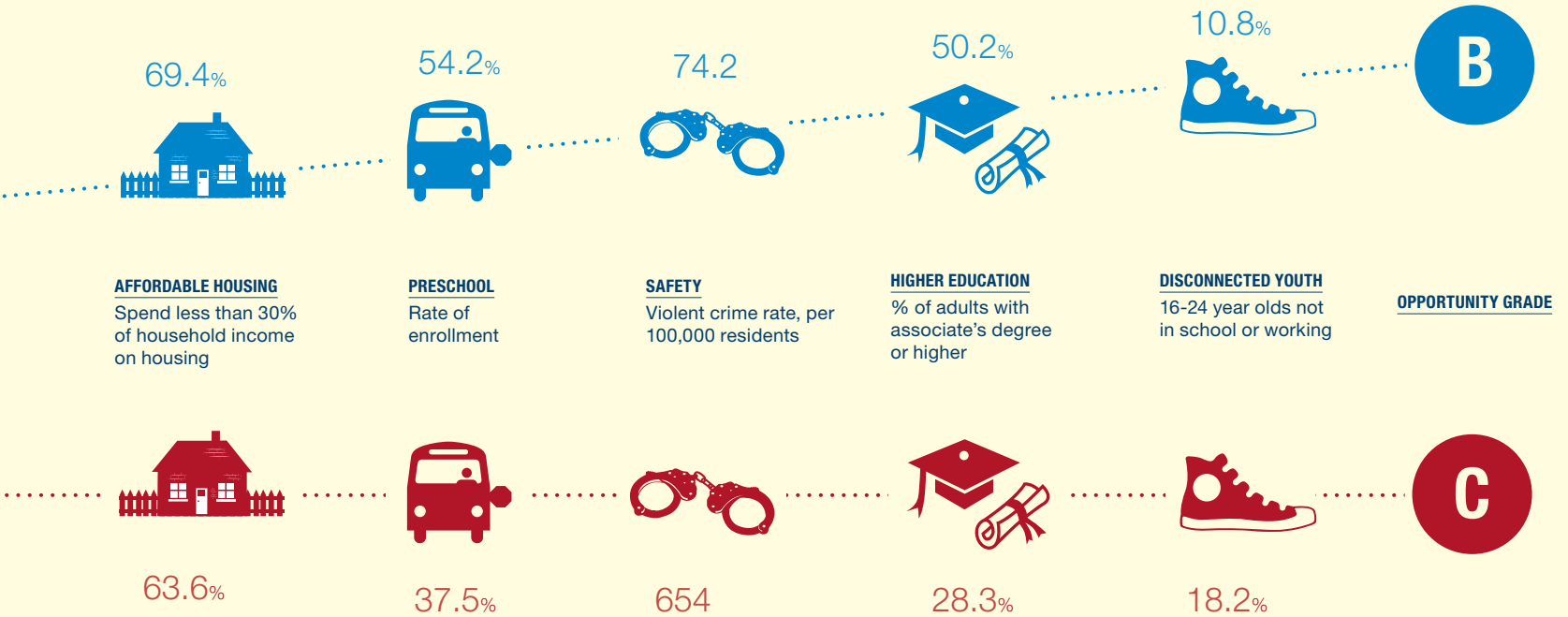


9.6%



What access to opportunity really looks like

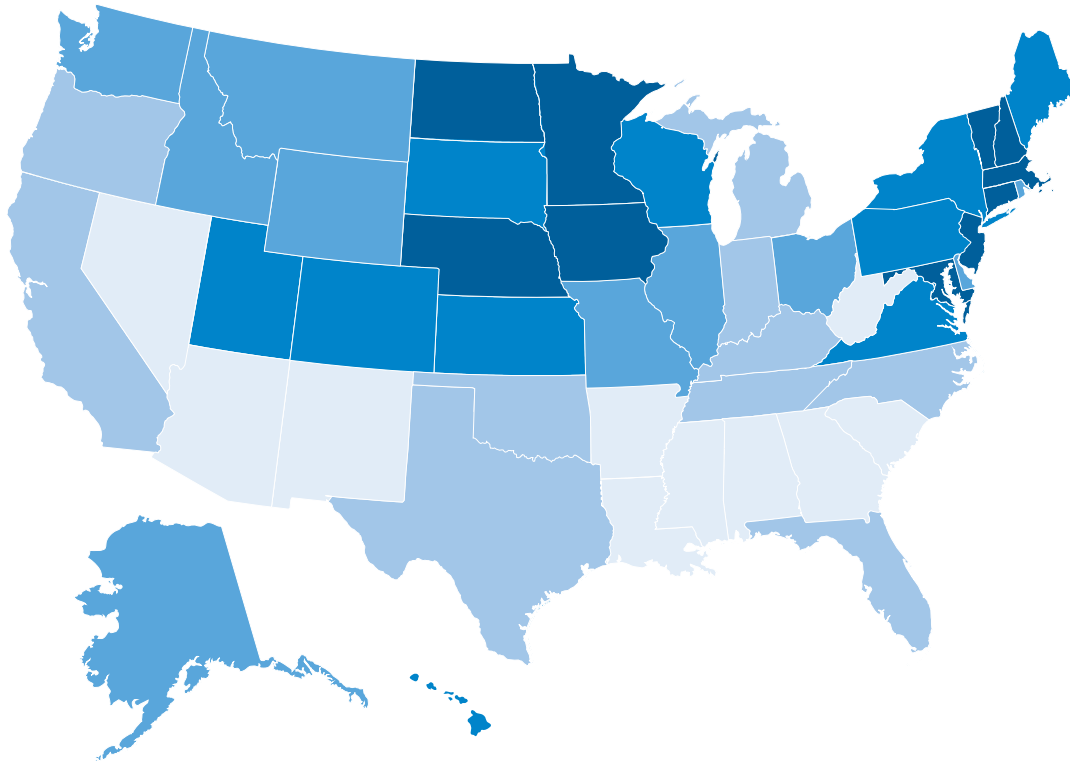
Jane and John were born in two towns of similar size with the same unemployment rate. But that's where the similarities stop.



We can't change all the circumstances of Jane and John's lives, and their talents and ambitions also play a role in how far they will go in life. But shouldn't all children have access to the same conditions of opportunity that Jane enjoys simply because of where she grows up?

We can't pick our ethnicity, the family we are born into, or our IQ. But if you work hard and play by the rules, your zip code shouldn't condemn you to an inescapable economic fate. In a free society, some inequality is unavoidable. But inequality without the chance for mobility is economically inefficient and unjust.

OPPORTUNITY INDEX STATE RANKINGS



The Opportunity Index is a composite measure of 16 key indicators in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and 2,670 counties.



STATE	2014	2013	2012	2011
Vermont	1	1	1	1
Nebraska	2	5	6	7
Massachusetts	3	3	2	3
North Dakota	4	6	4	9
Connecticut	5	10	9	2
Minnesota	6	4	5	6

STATE	2014	2013	2012	2011
New Hampshire	7	2	3	4
New Jersey	8	7	7	5
Maryland	9	9	10	10
Iowa	10	8	8	8
DC	11	18	19	26
Kansas	12	13	13	15
Wisconsin	13	12	11	12
Maine	14	16	12	14
South Dakota	15	11	14	11
Virginia	16	15	15	13
Utah	17	14	16	20
Colorado	18	17	18	21
New York	19	19	17	16
Pennsylvania	20	20	20	17
Hawaii	21	24	25	19

STATE	2014	2013	2012	2011
Washington	22	22	26	27
Delaware	23	26	27	28
Wyoming	24	21	24	18
Montana	25	27	21	23
Illinois	26	25	22	22
Alaska	27	23	23	24
Missouri	28	29	30	31
Rhode Island	29	28	28	25
Idaho	30	32	32	32
Ohio	31	30	29	30
Oregon	32	31	31	29
California	33	33	37	37
Indiana	34	35	34	33
North Carolina	35	36	36	35
Michigan	36	34	33	34

STATE	2014	2013	2012	2011
Texas	37	38	38	42
Tennessee	38	41	40	41
Oklahoma	39	37	35	36
Florida	40	39	39	38
Kentucky	41	40	41	39
South Carolina	42	43	42	48
West Virginia	43	45	44	40
Arizona	44	44	47	47
Georgia	45	42	43	43
Louisiana	46	48	45	44
Alabama	47	47	48	49
Arkansas	48	46	46	45
New Mexico	49	49	49	46
Mississippi	50	50	50	50
Nevada	51	51	51	51

01

+6.3%



Overall Opportunity in America has improved by 6.3% since 2011.

2011	2012	2013	2014
49.6	50.1	51.0	52.7

2014 OPPORTUNITY INDEX TRENDS

02



Community



Economy



Education

Most of this improvement is due to gains on specific indicators in the economic and educational dimensions. Progress was sluggish for community dimensions.

03

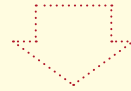
The indicators that correlate most strongly with the state Opportunity Score are:



Poverty Rate



Rate of Youth Disconnection



04



2014
14.1%

5.6
MILLION



2013
14.6%

5.8
MILLION

Youth disconnection has fallen below its level in 2013.

05

But in spite of gains, too many people are being left behind in today's post-recession economy.

Lower median household income now than in 2011

-4.4%



2014
\$48,781



2011
\$51,050

Higher poverty rate now than in 2011

+11.2%



2014
15.9%



2011
14.3%

Higher income inequality now than in 2011

+2.7%



2014
4.9



2011
4.79

Youth unemployment is still twice the national average

TWICE



OPPORTUNITY INDEX INDICATORS

ECONOMY

Jobs
Wages
Poverty
Inequality
Assets
Affordable
Housing
Internet
Access

EDUCATION

Preschool
Enrollment
On-time
High School
Graduation
Postsecondary
Completion

COMMUNITY

Group
Membership
Volunteerism
Disconnected
Youth
Community
Safety
Access to
Health Care
Access to
Healthy Food



ECONOMY



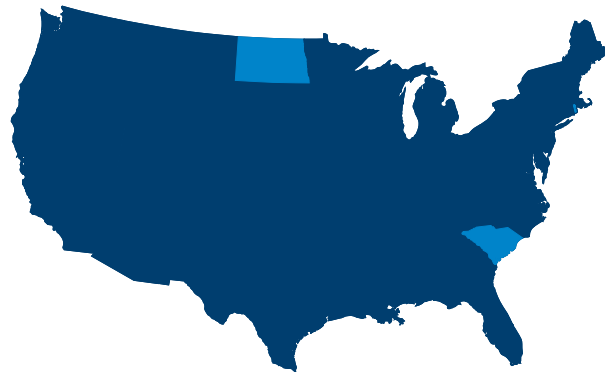
EDUCATION



COMMUNITY

JOBS

The unemployment rate




BEST:
North Dakota
2.6%

WORST:
Rhode Island
7.8%

MOST IMPROVED:
South Carolina
5%
(7.4% in April 2013)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics tables and news releases. Unemployment rates in the 2014 Opportunity Index are for April 2014.

 Economy

6.3%

NATIONAL AVERAGE



Youth unemployment drains state and federal resources of \$8.9 billion a year.*



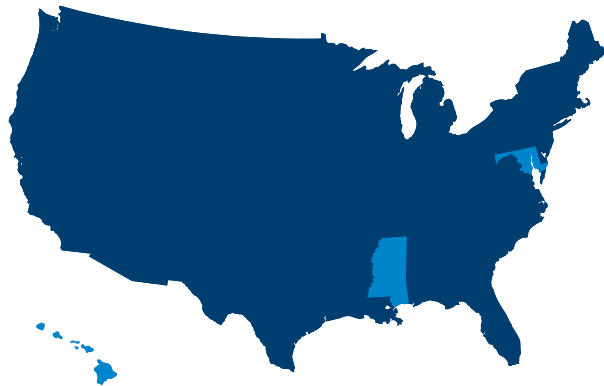
youth

adult

The youth unemployment rate is consistently double the national average.

WAGES

Median household income




BEST:
Maryland
\$67,536

WORST:
Mississippi
\$35,225

MOST IMPROVED:
Hawaii
\$62,918
(\$59,931 in 2013)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

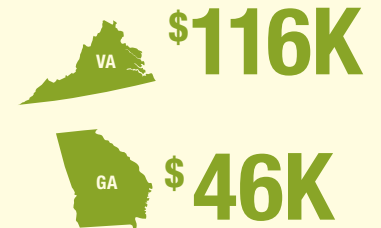
 Economy

\$ 48,781

NATIONAL AVERAGE



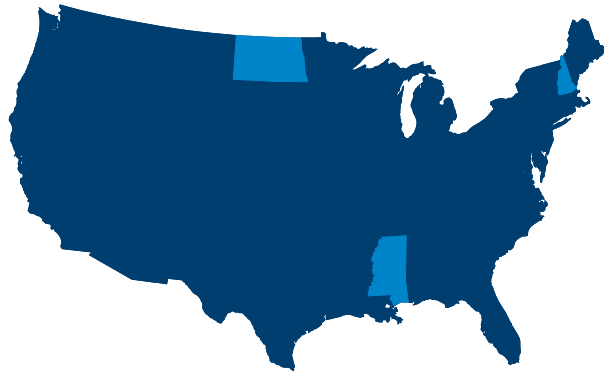
Median household income has declined from \$51,050 in 2011.



Falls Church, VA and Chattahoochee County, GA both have the same population (13,200), but Falls Church has a median household income of \$116,651 while Chattahoochee's is \$46,230.

POVERTY

Percentage of population below the poverty line



BEST:
New Hampshire
10%

WORST:
Mississippi
24.2%

MOST IMPROVED:
North Dakota
11.2%
(12.2% in 2013)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

 Economy

15.9%

NATIONAL AVERAGE



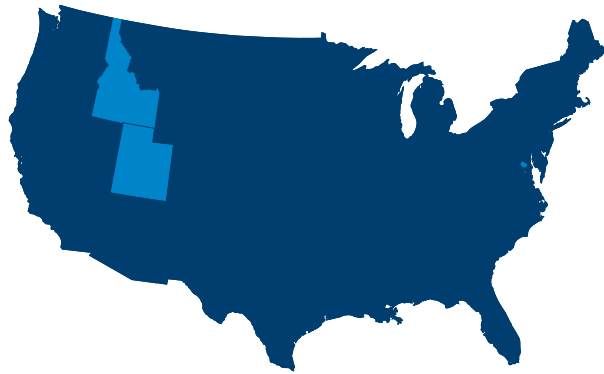
New Hampshire had the lowest poverty rate, but also saw the greatest increase in poverty.



The poverty rate is one of the most strongly correlated indicators in state Opportunity Scores and county Opportunity Grades.

INEQUALITY

Ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to that of the 20th percentile



BEST:

Utah
3.9


WORST:

Washington, D.C.
6.9

MOST IMPROVED:

Idaho
4.0
(4.27 in 2013)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. The 80/20 ratio describes the disparity in the size of the income of the household at the 80th percentile relative to that of the income of the household at the 20th percentile.

 Economy

4.9

NATIONAL AVERAGE



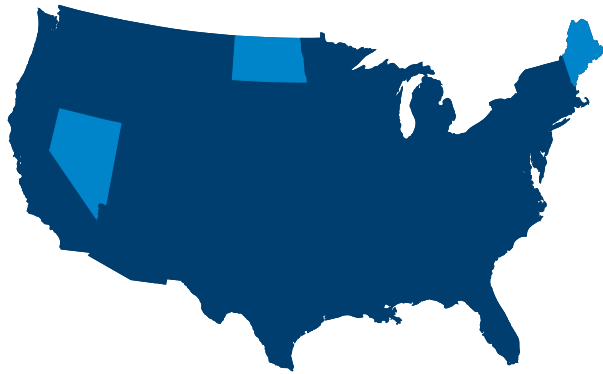
New York County, NY has the highest level of income inequality (8.6).



Wyoming saw the greatest increase in income inequality from 2013-2014, an increase of 8.77%.

ASSETS

Banking institutions (commercial banks, savings institutions and credit unions per 10,000 residents)




BEST:
North Dakota
7.9

WORST:
Nevada
2.8

MOST IMPROVED:
Maine
5.8
(5.49 in 2013)

Source: Measure of America analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns and Population Estimates Program.

 Economy

4.0

NATIONAL AVERAGE



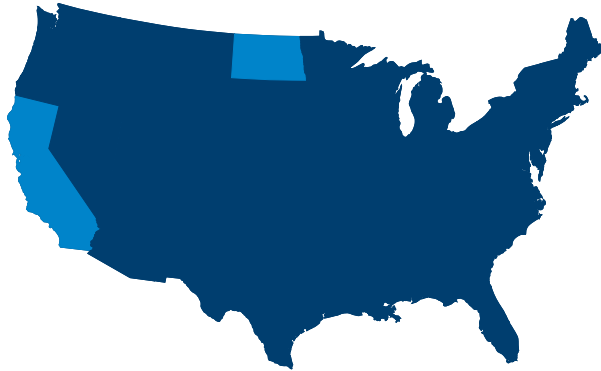
Access to banks are critically important for low income families – they are the best way to avoid exorbitant fees charged by check cashing storefronts and payday lenders.*



Traditional banking can help American families save for college. College savings accounts for low-income children have been shown to increase the likelihood of those children enrolling in college by a factor of six.*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Households spending less than 30% of income on housing



BEST:
North Dakota
79.5%

WORST:
California
53.2%

MOST IMPROVED:
North Dakota
79.5%
(75.7% in 2013)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

 Economy

64.1%

NATIONAL AVERAGE



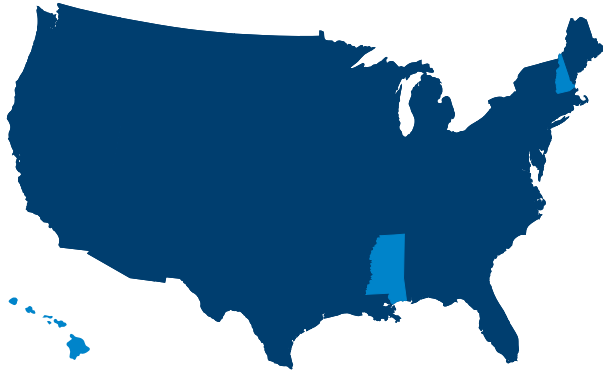
Affordable housing provides stability – children change schools less frequently and perform better in school.*



Only two states saw a decline in households spending less than 30% of income on housing – Alaska and Wyoming.

INTERNET ACCESS

Percentage of households with high-speed Internet for state overall; 5-level categories for counties




BEST:
New Hampshire
83.9%

WORST:
Mississippi
51.3%

MOST IMPROVED:
Hawaii
82.4%
(70% in 2013)

Source: Federal Communications Commission, Internet Access Services.

 Economy

71.6%

NATIONAL AVERAGE



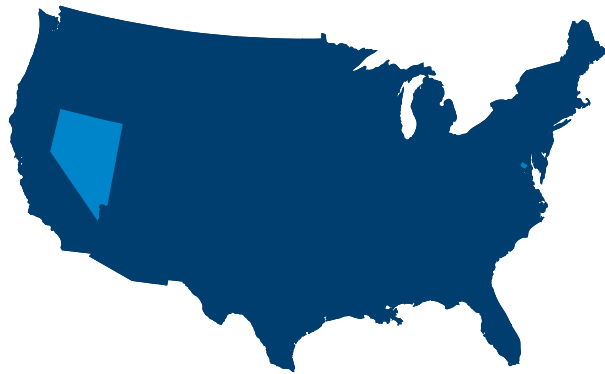
264 counties received the highest level (5) for Internet access.



Every state but Alaska saw an increase in high-speed Internet.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds in school

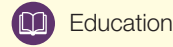


BEST:
Washington, D.C.
75.9%

WORST:
Nevada
32%

MOST IMPROVED:
Washington, D.C.
75.9%
(69.1% in 2013)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

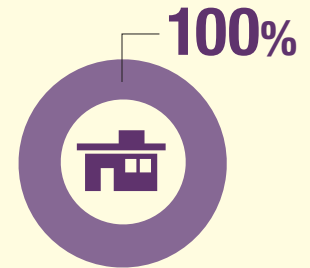


47.6%

NATIONAL AVERAGE



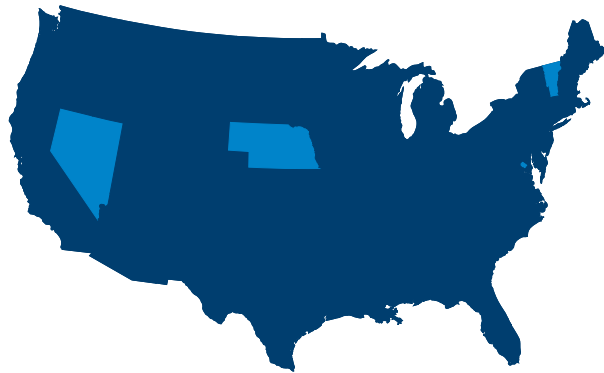
Children who receive high-quality early childhood education are less likely to repeat a grade, require special education, drop out of school or commit a crime.*



Perquimans County, NC has a 100% preschool enrollment rate, making it the only county to reach this goal (population 13,526).

ON-TIME HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Percentage of freshmen who graduate in four years

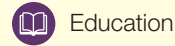


BEST:
Vermont & Nebraska (tie)
93%

WORST:
Nevada
60%

MOST IMPROVED:
Washington, D.C.
71%
(59.9% in 2013)

Source: State data are from the U.S. Department of Education, Nation Center for Education Statistics, Public High School Four-Year On- Time Graduation Rates and Event Dropout Rates: School Years 2010–11 and 2011–12, Table 4. County data are County Health Rankings analysis of data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Departments of Education of various states. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. County Health Rankings.



Education

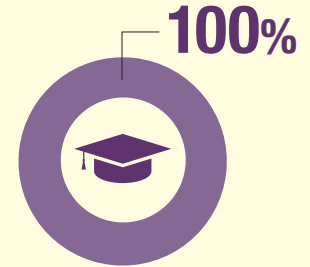
81%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

first time over 80%



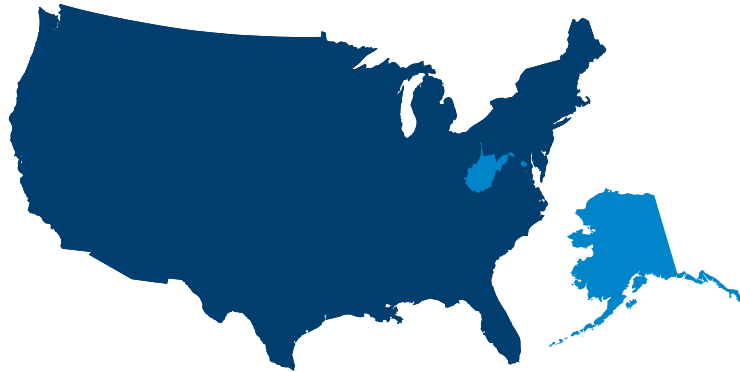
Five states saw a slight decline (<1%) in on-time high school graduation.



Four counties reported a 100% graduation rate – Oklahoma has three of them.

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Percentage of adults 25 and older with an associate's degree or higher



BEST:

Washington, D.C.

56.2%

WORST:

West Virginia

24.9%

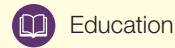
MOST IMPROVED:

Alaska

36.2%

(33.8% in 2013)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.



Education

37.1%

NATIONAL AVERAGE



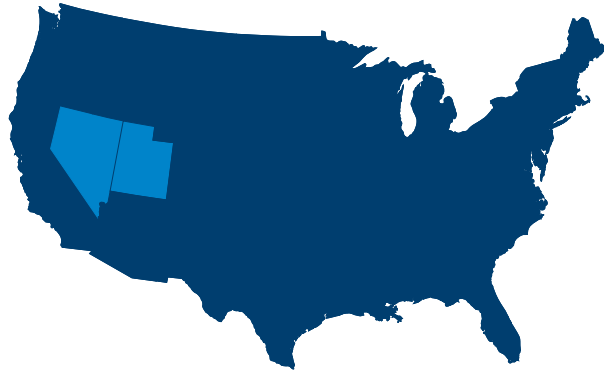
Unless the United States rapidly increases the number of adults with postsecondary degrees, the country is on track to fall short by 5 million skilled workers.*



By 2020, two-thirds of all U.S. jobs will require some form of postsecondary degree or credential.*

GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Percentage of adults 18 and older involved in social, civic, sports and religious groups



BEST:

Utah
48.5%

WORST:

Nevada
28.1%

Source: Measure of America analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Data- Ferrett, Current Population Survey, Civic Engagement Supplement. Due to limitations of the survey data, this indicator is only calculated at the state level. As a result of the discontinuation of the Civic Engagement Supplement of the Current Population Survey, data for this indicator in the 2014 Opportunity Index are from 2010 and 2011, the same as the 2013 Opportunity Index.



Community

35.6%

NATIONAL AVERAGE



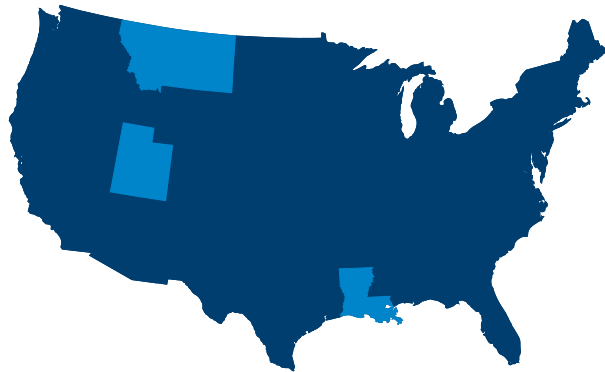
Civic engagement may help youth, particularly low-income teens and young adults, build social capital and valuable skills that can help them find meaningful education and career pathways.*



Participation in civic or service organizations has a greater correlation with Opportunity Scores than participation in other types of groups.*

VOLUNTEERISM

Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who volunteer



BEST:

Utah
45.4%

WORST:

Louisiana
16.7%

MOST IMPROVED:

Montana
33.1%
(29.6% in 2013)

Source: Measure of America analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, DataFerrett, Current Population Survey, Volunteering Supplement. Due to limitations of the survey data, this indicator is only calculated at the state level.



Community

25.5%

NATIONAL AVERAGE



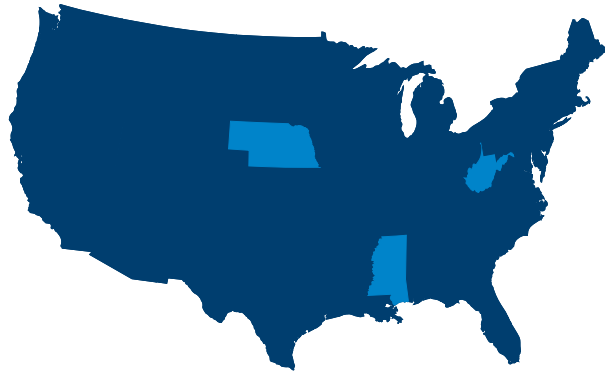
The likelihood that a young person is disconnected from school and work drops nearly in half if he or she volunteers.*



Volunteerism has an inverse relationship with income inequality. In places with higher rates of volunteerism, income inequality tends to be lower.*

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

Percentage of young adults ages 16-24 neither in school nor working



BEST:
Nebraska
7.9%

WORST:
Mississippi
19.4%

MOST IMPROVED:
West Virginia
13.7%
(19.6% in 2013)

Source: Measure of America analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS Microdata.



Community

14.1%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

\$93 BILLION

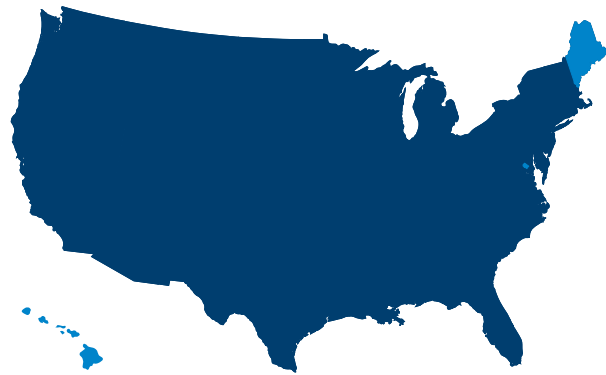
Young adults who are not in school or working cost taxpayers \$93 billion annually and \$1.6 trillion over their lifetimes in lost revenues and increased social services.*



The number of disconnected youth is one of the strongest predictors of a state Opportunity Score or a county Opportunity Grade.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Violent crime rate per 100,000 population



BEST:
Maine
122.7

WORST:
Washington, D.C.
1,243.7

MOST IMPROVED:
Hawaii
239.2
(287.2 in 2013)

Source: State data from the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics (www.ucrdataatool.gov); county data from the County Health Rankings analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services. County Health Rankings are from the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. County Health Rankings.



386.9

NATIONAL AVERAGE



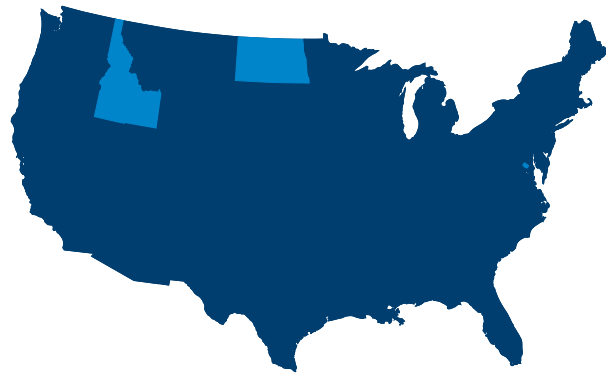
South Dakota saw a 26.6% increase in violent crime.



Fear of crime limits individuals' mobility, physical activity and social interactions in violent neighborhoods.*

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Medical doctors per 100,000 population



BEST:
Washington, D.C.
769.6

WORST:
Idaho
160.8

MOST IMPROVED:
North Dakota
240.5
(231.5 in 2013)

Source: Measure of America calculations using medical workforce data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Area Health Resources Files and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program.



270.2

NATIONAL AVERAGE



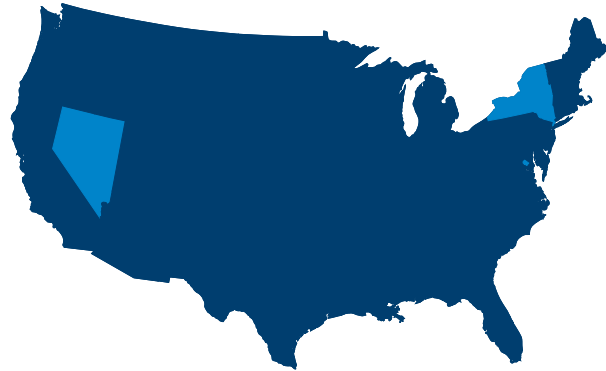
Statistically, 178 counties did not have a doctor in their community.



Montour County, PA (pop. 18,490) has the highest number of doctors per 100,000 residents – 3,353.2.

ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

Grocery stores and produce vendors per 10,000 population



BEST:

New York
5.4

WORST:

Nevada
1.2

MOST IMPROVED:

Washington, D.C.
3.2
(2.9 in 2013)

Source: Measure of America analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns and Population Estimates Program.



Community

2.2

NATIONAL AVERAGE



Nevada saw the biggest decrease in grocery stores and produce vendors.



23.5 million Americans live in “food deserts” – neighborhoods that are located more than one mile from a supermarket in urban areas and more than 10 miles in rural areas.*



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For more information, and to learn how much opportunity is in YOUR community, please visit www.opportunityindex.org

*For additional sources, visit www.opportunityindex.org/briefingbook



The Opportunity Index was jointly developed by Opportunity Nation and Measure of America.