

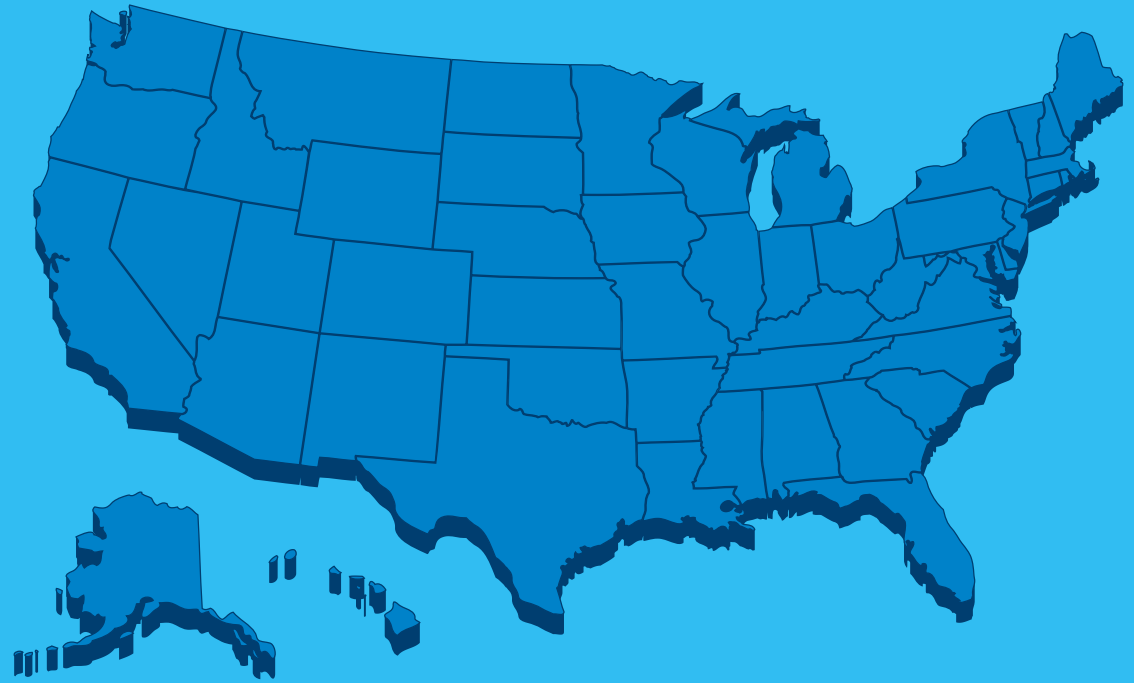
WHERE IS OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA?

02 / **PATHS OF OPPORTUNITY**

04 / **STATE RANKINGS**

06 / **NATIONAL TRENDS**

07 / **OPPORTUNITY INDICATORS**

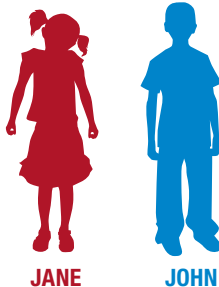


2016

**OPPORTUNITY
INDEX** 

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

Meet Jane and John.



Nassau County,
New York



3.7%



JOBS
Unemployment rate

\$90,634



WAGES
Median household
income



Tarrant County,
Texas



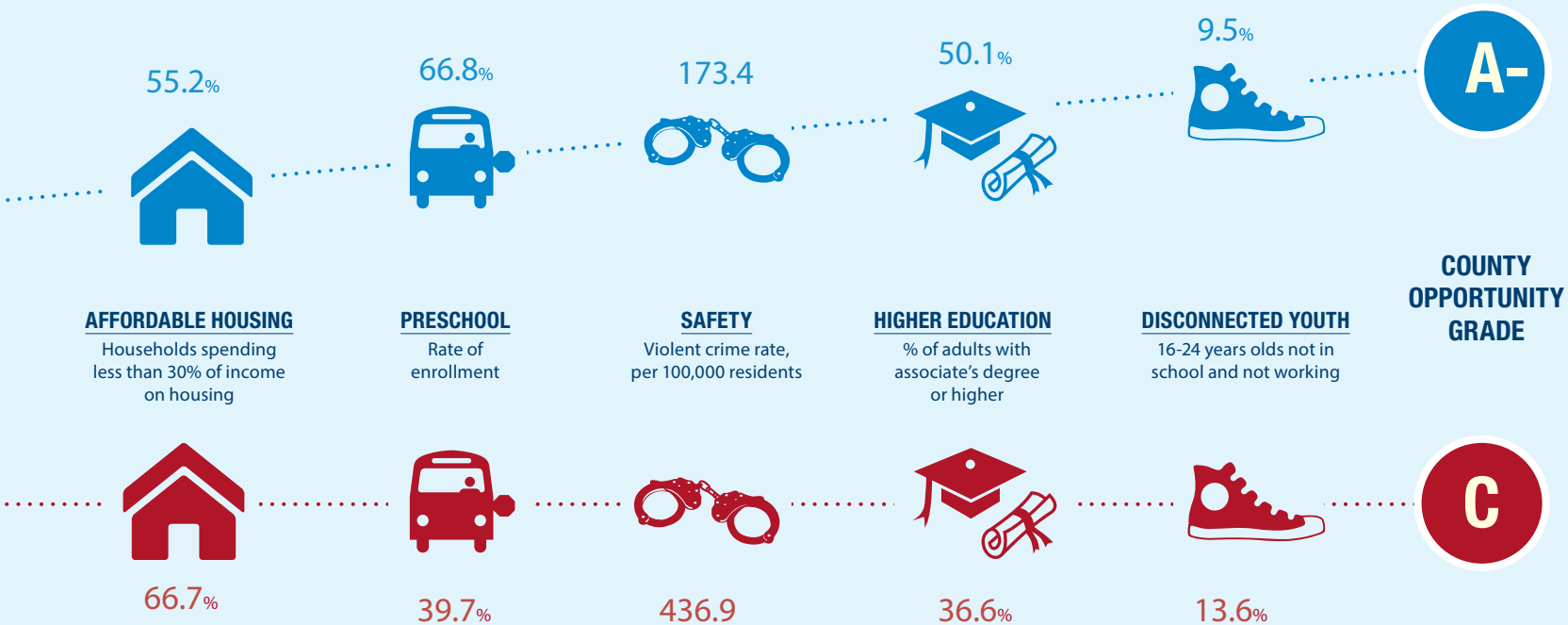
3.7%



\$53,170

What access to opportunity really looks like



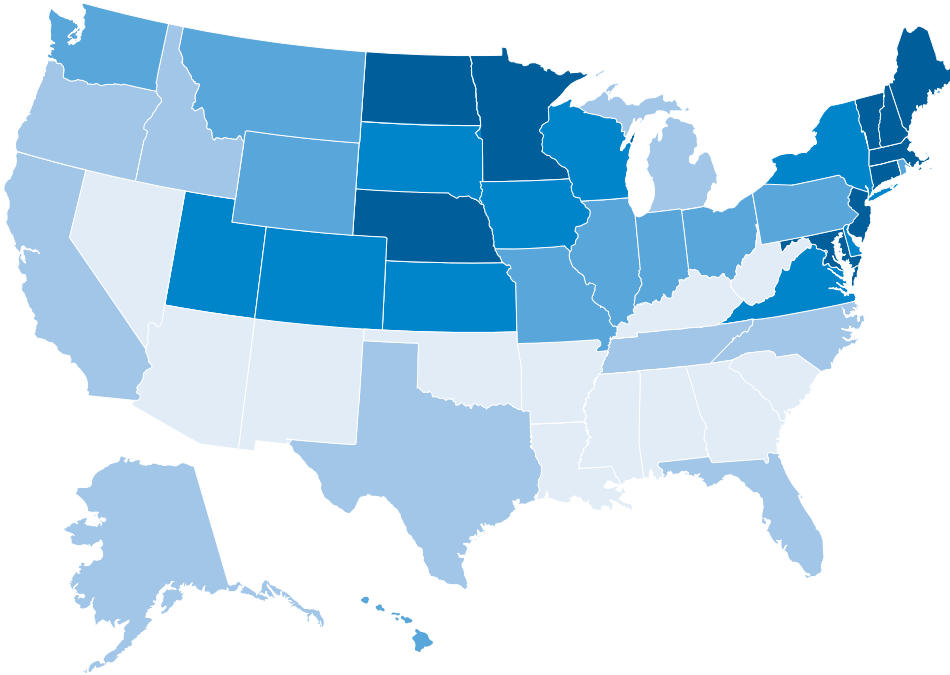


Jane and John were born on the same day, and their families held similar hopes for them. Jane was born in Tarrant County, Texas, near Fort Worth, while John was born in Nassau County, a suburban county on Long Island in New York. Jane's family has a household income near the \$53,170 Tarrant County average, while John's family's income is closer to the Nassau County median household income of \$90,634. Jane, like nearly two-thirds of her peers, did not go to preschool, while John, like

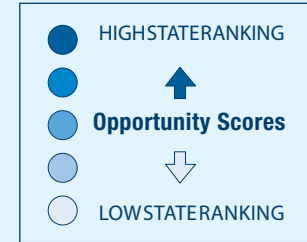
the majority of his peers did. More people live in poverty where Jane lives and her town is much less safe than John's, with 436.9 violent crimes per 100,000 residents compared to 173.4 per 100,000 residents.

John's chances in life are significantly better than Jane's due to chance circumstances—where he was born and currently resides. His county earned an A- on the Opportunity Index, while Jane's earned a C.

OPPORTUNITY INDEX STATE RANKINGS



The 2016 Opportunity Index is a composite measure of 16 key indicators in all 50 states, Washington, DC, and 2,763 counties, which contain 99% of the U.S. population.



STATE	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Vermont	1	1	1	1	1	1
Massachusetts	2	2	3	3	2	3
New Hampshire	3	5	7	2	3	4
Connecticut	4	3	5	10	9	2
New Jersey	5	6	8	7	7	5
Maryland	6	9	9	9	10	10

STATE	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
North Dakota	7	4	4	6	4	9
Nebraska	8	7	2	5	6	7
Maine	9	16	14	16	12	14
Minnesota	10	12	6	4	5	6
Iowa	11	8	10	8	8	8
District of Columbia	12	19	11	18	19	26
Utah	13	14	17	14	16	20
South Dakota	14	20	15	11	14	11
Wisconsin	15	18	13	12	11	12
Delaware	16	24	23	26	27	28
Virginia	17	10	16	15	15	13
New York	18	15	19	19	17	16
Kansas	19	11	12	13	13	15
Colorado	20	21	18	17	18	21
Hawaii	21	13	21	24	25	19

STATE	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Pennsylvania	22	17	20	20	20	17
Illinois	23	22	26	25	22	22
Washington	24	29	22	22	26	27
Montana	25	26	25	27	21	23
Rhode Island	26	25	29	28	28	25
Missouri	27	27	28	29	30	31
Wyoming	28	23	24	21	24	18
Indiana	29	31	34	35	34	33
Ohio	30	28	31	30	29	30
North Carolina	31	35	35	36	36	35
California	32	37	33	33	37	37
Oregon	33	39	32	31	31	29
Michigan	34	34	36	34	33	34
Alaska	35	30	27	23	23	24
Texas	36	36	37	38	38	42

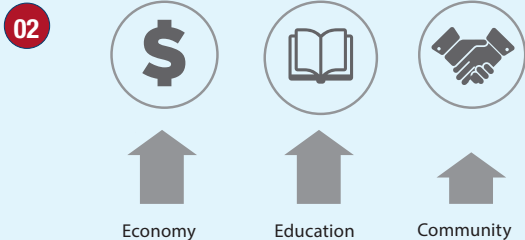
STATE	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Idaho	37	33	30	32	32	32
South Carolina	38	42	42	43	42	48
Tennessee	39	40	38	41	40	41
Florida	40	38	40	39	39	38
Oklahoma	41	41	39	37	35	36
Kentucky	42	32	41	40	41	39
Arkansas	43	45	48	46	46	45
West Virginia	44	43	43	45	44	40
Georgia	45	47	45	42	43	43
Alabama	46	46	47	47	48	49
Arizona	47	44	44	44	47	47
Louisiana	48	48	46	48	45	44
Mississippi	49	49	50	50	50	50
Nevada	50	50	51	51	51	51
New Mexico	51	51	49	49	49	46

OPPORTUNITY INDEX TRENDS



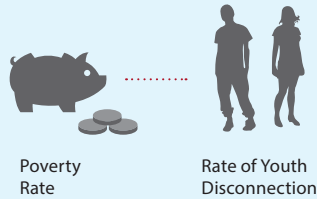
Overall Opportunity in America has increased by 8.9% since 2011.

2016 OPPORTUNITY SCORE	2015 OPPORTUNITY SCORE	2011 OPPORTUNITY SCORE
54	54	49.6

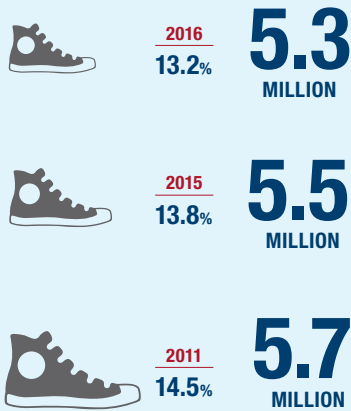


Most of this improvement is due to gains on specific indicators in the economic and educational dimensions. Progress was sluggish for community dimensions.

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



04 The rate of youth disconnection has fallen 4.5% since 2015.

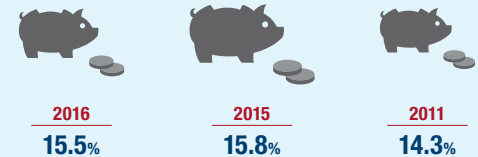


05 But in spite of gains, too many people are being left behind in today's post-recession economy.

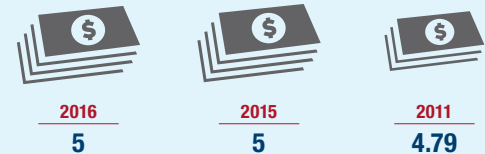
Lower median household income now than in 2011 but higher than in 2015



Higher poverty rate now than in 2011



Higher income inequality now than in 2011, and the same as 2015



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



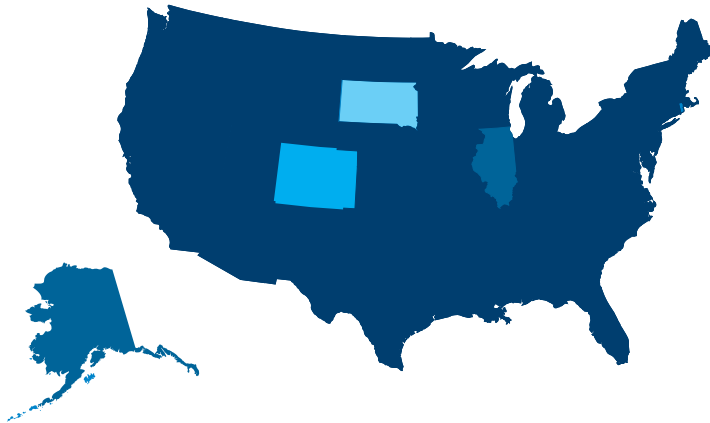
EDUCATION



COMMUNITY

JOBS

The unemployment rate



BEST South Dakota 2.5%	WORST Illinois, Alaska (tie) 6.6%	MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX Colorado 3.10% (8.6% in 2011)
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Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics tables and news releases. Unemployment rates in the 2016 Opportunity Index are for April 2016. Data are provisional and not seasonally adjusted.

\$ ECONOMY

5%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
-45.1%

CHANGE 2015-2016
-2.0%



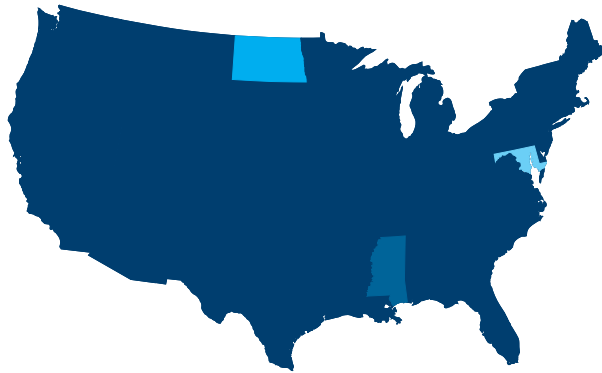
Youth unemployment drains state and federal resources of \$8.9 billion a year.*



Wyoming is the only state that had an increase in unemployment since 2011.

WAGES

Median household income



BEST Maryland \$68,132	WORST Mississippi \$36,548	MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX North Dakota \$54,370 (\$48,617 in 2011)
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

\$ ECONOMY

\$ 49,422

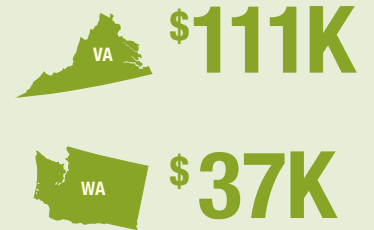
NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
-3.19%

CHANGE 2015-2016
+1.05%



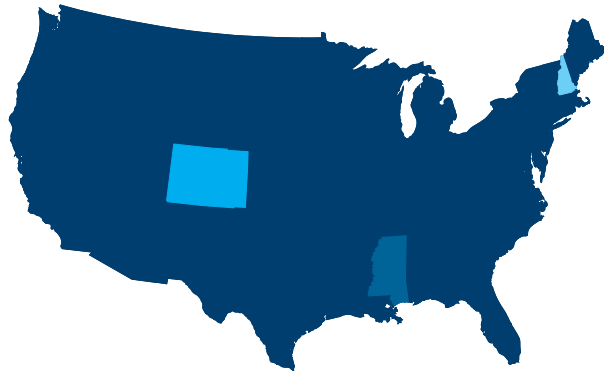
71.3% of counties are below the poverty line.



Falls Church City, VA and Pend Oreille County, WA both have similar populations (~13,000), but Falls Church has a median household income of \$110,988 while Pend Oreille's is \$36,907.

POVERTY

Percentage of population below the poverty line



BEST New Hampshire 9.2%	WORST Mississippi 21.5%	MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX Colorado 12.00% (12.9 in 2011)
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

\$ ECONOMY

15.5%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
+8.39%

CHANGE 2015-2016
-1.9%



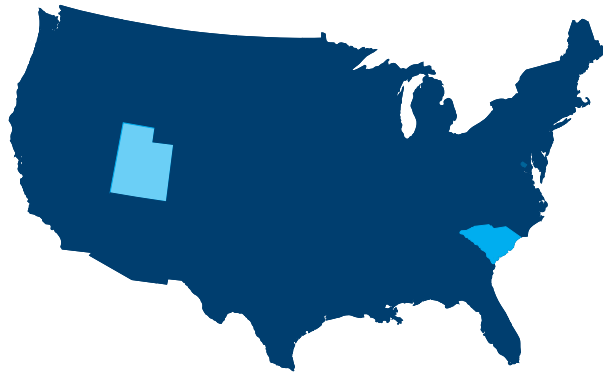
Borden County, TX
(pop. 641) has the
lowest poverty rate
of any county.



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 3.8	WORST Washington, DC 7.4	MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX South Carolina 4.8 (4.9 in 2011)
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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

5.0

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
+4.01%

CHANGE 2015-2016
+0.61%



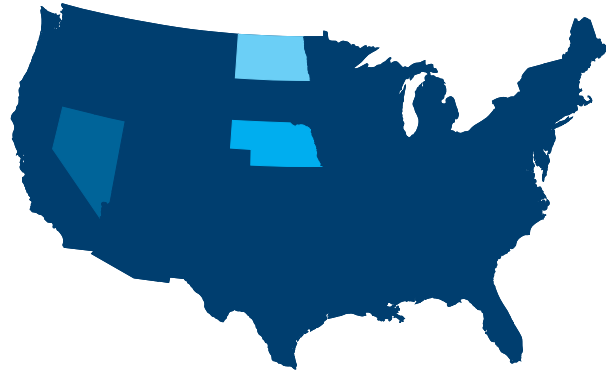
45 states had greater income inequality in 2016 than they did in 2011.



New York County, NY (Manhattan) has the highest level of income inequality (8.7%).

ACCESS TO BANKING

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



BEST
North Dakota
7.4

WORST
Nevada
2.5

MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX
Nebraska
6.5 (6.4 in 2011)

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

*Our Opportunity Nation: A Plan to Fulfill America's Dream as an Opportunity Nation.

\$ ECONOMY

3.8

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
-9.72%

CHANGE 2015-2016
-3.21%



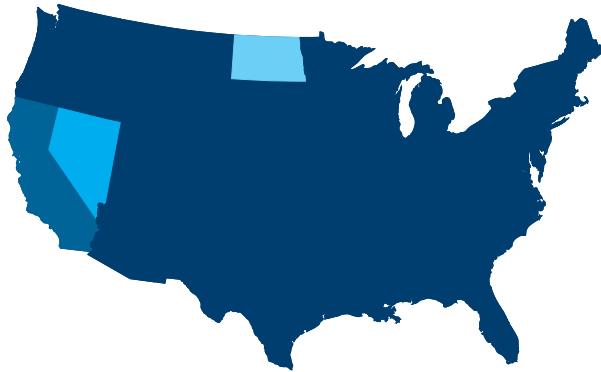
No states experienced an increase in access to banking from 2015-2016.



Children from lower income families who have a college savings account in their name are at least three times as likely to attend college.*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Households spending less than 30% of income on housing



BEST North Dakota 78%	WORST California 56%	MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX Nevada 63.5% (54.9 in 2011)
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

\$ ECONOMY

65.6%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
+4.74%

CHANGE 2015-2016
+0.26%



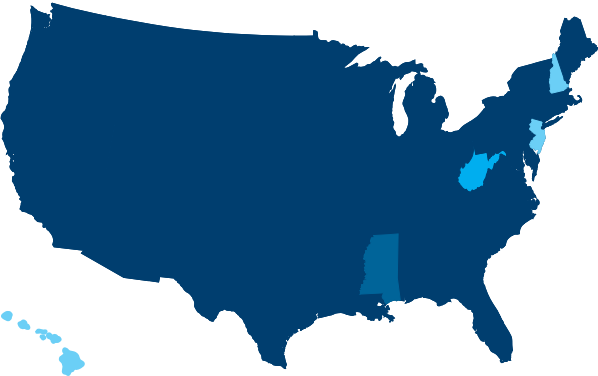
Affordable housing provides stability – children change schools less frequently and perform better in school.



North Dakota has seen a decline in rent prices. Housing affordability may attract service workers who are in high demand.

INTERNET ACCESS*

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



<p>BEST Hawaii, New Jersey, New Hampshire 84%</p>	<p>WORST Mississippi 51%</p>	<p>MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX West Virginia 64% (no change)</p>
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Source: Federal Communications Commission, Internet Access Services.
*The FCC is no longer collecting this data at the state level, but will continue to collect the data at the county level until further notice.

\$ ECONOMY

72.7%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
+13.72%

CHANGE 2015-2016
This data is not calculated



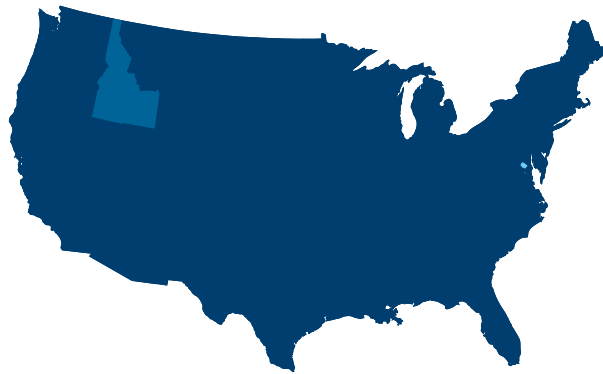
311 counties received the highest level (5) for Internet access.



Four counties, all in Georgia, have seen the highest increase in high-speed Internet access.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

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



BEST Washington, DC 86.4%	WORST Idaho 30.3%	MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX Washington, DC 86.4% (65.9% in 2011)
--	--------------------------------	--

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

EDUCATION

47.1%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
-2.28%

CHANGE 2015-2016
0.00%



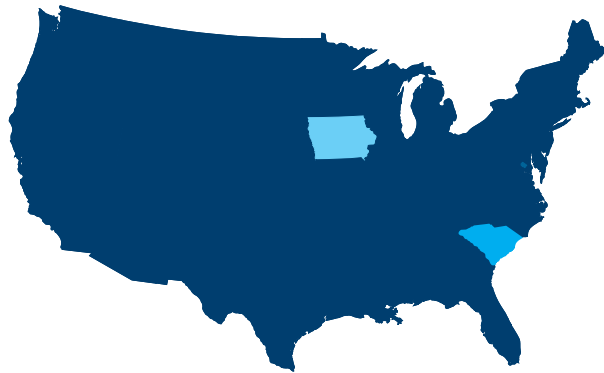
Children who receive high-quality early childhood education are less likely to repeat a grade, require special education, drop out of school or commit a crime.*



Washington, DC has the highest rate of preschool enrollment. They also have universal preschool.

ON-TIME HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Percentage of freshmen who graduate in four years



BEST
Iowa
90.5%

WORST
Washington, DC
61.4%

MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX
South Carolina
80% (62.2% in 2011)

Source: State and school district data are from the U.S. Department of Education: EDFacts Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR) for the 2013-2014 school year.

EDUCATION

82.3%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
+10.2%

CHANGE 2015-2016
+1.1%



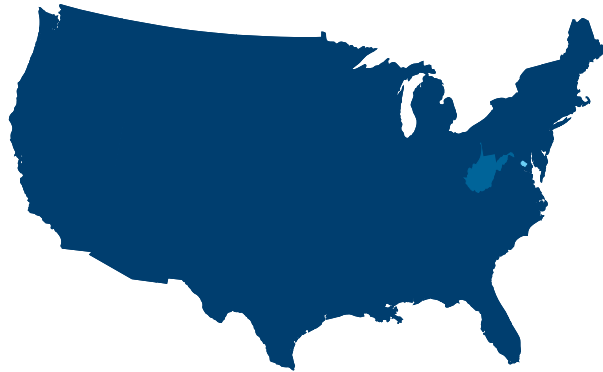
Since the 2011 Index, zero states have reported on-time high school graduation rates at 90% or above.



Individuals who received a high school diploma make \$500K more in lifetime earnings than their peers who fail to graduate.

POST-SECONDARY COMPLETION

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



BEST
Washington, DC
58.4%

WORST
West Virginia
25.7%

MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX
Washington, DC
58.4% (51.1% in 2011)

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

EDUCATION

38.2%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
+8.0%

CHANGE 2015-2016
+2.0%



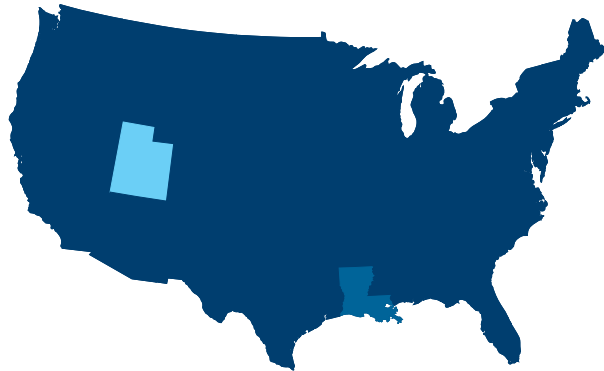
Unless the United States rapidly increases the number of adults with post-secondary degrees, the country will fall short by 5 million skilled workers by 2020.



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

GROUP MEMBERSHIP

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



BEST Utah 55.6%	WORST Louisiana 28.2%	MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX Utah 55.6% (42.6% in 2011)
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Source: Measure of America analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, DataFerrett, Current Population Survey, Civic Engagement Supplement. Due to limitations of the survey data, this indicator is only calculated at the state level.

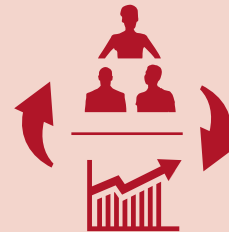
COMMUNITY

36.2%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
+3.21%

CHANGE 2015-2016
-8.98%



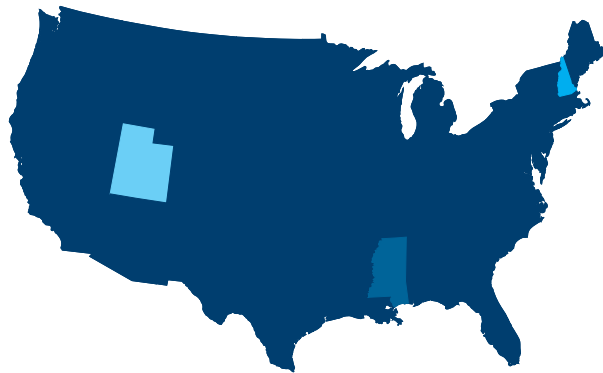
Group membership contributes to the accrual of social capital and is closely linked to levels of trust in a community.



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

VOLUNTEERISM

Percentage of adults aged 18 and older who volunteer



BEST Utah 38.1%	WORST Mississippi 16.4%	MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX New Hampshire 29.1% (27.6% in 2011)
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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

25.4%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
-4.10%

CHANGE 2015-2016
-0.06%



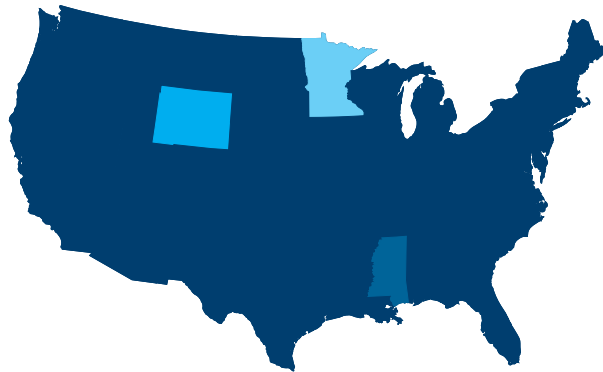
The likelihood that a young person is disconnected from school and work drops nearly in half if he or she volunteers.



Volunteerism is one of the two community indicators that has seen no improvement since 2011.

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

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



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

COMMUNITY

13.2%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
-9.11%

CHANGE 2015-2016
-4.5%

5.3 MILLION

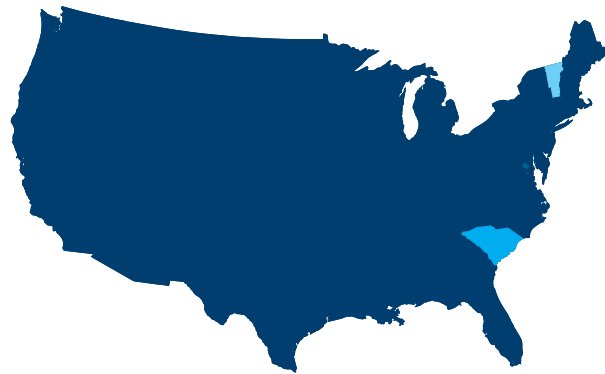
Young adults are not in school or working.

25%

Delaware's rate of youth disconnection dropped roughly 25% since 2015. This translates into 3,700 young adults finding their path to careers and education.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Violent crime rate per 100,000 population



BEST Vermont 99.3	WORST Washington, DC 1,244.4	MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX South Carolina 497.7 (675.2 in 2011)
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Source: State data from the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics (www.ucrdatatool.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.

COMMUNITY

365.5

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
-15.37%

CHANGE 2015-2016
-5.75%



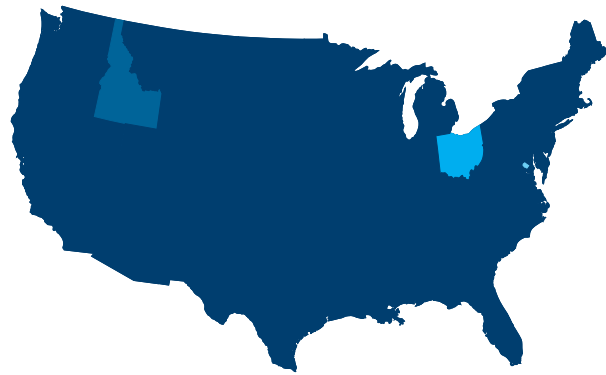
41 states saw a decline in violent crime rates since 2011.



Since the 2011 Index, Alaska, New York, North Dakota and Utah have seen no change in the rate of violent crime.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Medical doctors per 100,000 population



BEST Washington, DC 736.5	WORST Idaho 161.4	MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX Ohio 283 (260 in 2011)
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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.

COMMUNITY

270.5

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
+4.0%

CHANGE 2015-2016
-5.59%



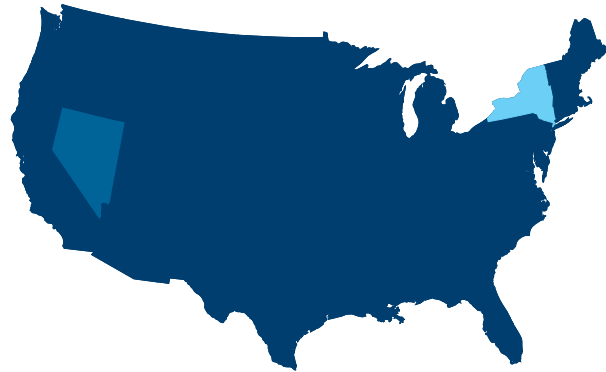
Statistically, 175 counties did not have a doctor in their community in 2016.



Montour County, PA (pop. 18,267) has the highest number of doctors per 100,000 residents.

ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

Grocery stores and produce vendors per 10,000 population



BEST
New York
5.5

WORST
Nevada
1.2

MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2011 INDEX
New York
5.5 (4.9 in 2011)



COMMUNITY

2.2

NATIONAL AVERAGE

CHANGE 2011-2016
-0.65%

CHANGE 2015-2016
-1.96%



Missouri 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.

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

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



Opportunity Nation is a bipartisan, national campaign comprised of more than 350 cross-sector organizations working together to expand economic mobility and close the opportunity gap in America. Our mission is to restore the promise of the American Dream by ensuring that all Americans—regardless of where they were born—have the opportunity to thrive. Opportunity Nation:

- Measures access to opportunity via our Opportunity Index, which measures economic, educational, and civic factors that foster economic mobility at both the county and state levels;
- Advances bipartisan legislation by promoting common-sense, bipartisan approaches to increase access to education, tackle the skills gap and expand opportunity for young adults;
- Convenes cross-sector groups through our Coalition, National Opportunity Summits, the Opportunity Index briefings and other events across the country that lead to innovative collaborations and partnerships.

We believe that expanding economic mobility is the defining issue of our time. Closing the opportunity gap will take innovative, bipartisan, cross-sector solutions grounded in data and collaboration. For more information, visit www.opportunitynation.org.



The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) is an independent, not-for-profit research organization founded in 1923. Based in Brooklyn, New York, it mobilizes researchers, policy makers, professionals, activists, and other experts from the private and public sectors to develop innovative approaches to issues of critical social importance.

Measure of America is a nonpartisan program whose mission is to stimulate fact-based public debate about and political attention to issues of well-being and access to opportunity in the United States. The hallmark of this work is the American Human Development Index, a composite measure that reflects what most people believe are the basic ingredients of a fulfilling life of choice and dignity: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living. Recent MOA projects include DATA2GO.NYC and a series of reports on disconnected youth that anchor the national dialogue on the issue. Measure of America breathes life into numbers, working with partners to create reports, online apps, and advocacy campaigns that tell the story of well-being and opportunity in America's communities.



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Email: info@opportunitynation.org

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