CT’s Unspoken Crisis: A Look at the Data and a Call to Action!

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Connecticut’s Unspoken Crisis: A Look at the Data and a Call to Action

The 21st Annual Training Institute
Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness
June 12, 2024
THE REPORT

Authored by Boston Consulting Group

Leveraged Connecticut’s P20WIN data request process

Received data from:

• Connecticut State Department of Education
• CT Department of Labor
• CT Department of Children and Families
• CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
• CT Coalition to End Homelessness
• CT Department of Correction
• CT Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division
• American Community Survey

Interviewed over 100 Connecticut stakeholders, including leaders from the state’s municipalities, school districts, justice system, and community organizations.
ADVISORY GROUP

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DEFINITIONS

On Track
Young adults aged 14-26 who are engaged in prosocial institutions and on-track for gainful employment

At-Risk
High school students who are at risk of not graduating and, therefore, also at risk for eventual disconnection. Category has three sub-populations:
- **Off-track**: Students who do not meet state credit attainment requirements
- **At-risk due to other factors**: Students who exhibit concerning rates of absenteeism and/or behavioral issues
- **Severely off-track**: Students who are both off-track and at-risk due to other factors

Disconnected
Young adults aged 14-26 who are not engaged in prosocial institutions and/or not on-track for gainful employment. Category has two sub-populations:
- **Moderately disconnected**: (1) High school diploma holders who are neither employed nor in postsecondary and (2) high school non-graduates who are employed
- **Severely disconnected**: Young adults who are not employed, have not attained a high school diploma/equivalent and/or are incarcerated
THE NUMBERS

Approximately 1 in 5 CT young people were disconnected or at risk in 2021–2022

63K
Disconnected

12K
Severely
disconnected

56K
At risk

28K
Off-track

= 119K
of CT young people disconnected or at risk in 2021–2022
GRADUATION CONCERNS

High school students at-risk of not graduating (% at-risk by town)
1 IN 3 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Connecticut High School Students At Risk of Not Graduating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School year</th>
<th># of high school students ('000s)</th>
<th>% of HS students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'17–'18</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'18–'19</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'19–'20</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'20–'21</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'21–'22</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- At-risk only due to other factors
- Offtrack (at-risk only due to credits)
- Severely off-track (at-risk due to credits and other factors)
WIDESPREAD DISCONNECTION

Young people experiencing disconnection (% at-risk by town, age 14 - 26)
### CT’s Eight Largest Cities

*Represents 40% of CT’s at-risk students and 36% of disconnected young people*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># at-risk</th>
<th>% at-risk</th>
<th># newly disconnected</th>
<th>% disconnected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>3,050</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartford</td>
<td>3,618</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Haven</td>
<td>2,748</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterbury</td>
<td>2,567</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>1,793</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danbury</td>
<td>1,328</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwalk</td>
<td>1,114</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Britain</td>
<td>1,775</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-town average</td>
<td></td>
<td>42%</td>
<td></td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of CT average</td>
<td></td>
<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LACK OF PROGRESS

The number of disconnected young people has remained consistently, concerningly high since 2015.

Upwards of 10,000 young people newly experience disconnection each year.

The vast majority of young people who disconnect remain disconnected three years out.
# Rates of Disconnection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Percentage of young people exiting high school in this demographic</th>
<th>Percentage of demographic who ended up disconnected</th>
<th>Likelihood of disconnection compared to a White person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race/Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>1.0x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino of any race</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>2.0x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>1.8x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>0.7x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>1.4x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>1.7x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1.3x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>1.5x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1.0x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compared to a White person.

Compared to a Female person.
# ASSOCIATED FACTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>% of young people who exited high school that experienced this factor</th>
<th>% of those experiencing this factor who ended up disconnected</th>
<th>Likelihood of disconnection vs. not experiencing this factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has received select services from Department of Children and Families*</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>2.3x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has received any services from Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services since age 18</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>2.3x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has received any services from Connecticut’s Homeless Response System since age 14</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>2.7x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has ever attended a high-poverty school in high school</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>2.2x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has ever been involved in special Education in high school</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>2.4x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transient—has moved high schools two or more times</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>2.4x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has ever been involved in alternative Education in high school</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>3.0x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Has received Child Protective Services, or >=1 Contracted Service, from Department of Children and Families since age 14

Source: P30 Win (2014-2022), BCG analysis
## ASSOCIATED FACTORS

Having multiple out-of-school factors further heightens the risk of disconnection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of factors</th>
<th>Percentage of population experiencing X factors</th>
<th>Percentage that end up disconnected</th>
<th>Likelihood of disconnection vs. experiencing no factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>1.0x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>2.2x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>3.6x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>4.7x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>5.7x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1+</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>2.9x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE ECONOMIC IMPACT

Educational attainment and years of work experience are both critical to wage growth.
IMPACT ON WAGES

Annual wages at age 24 for young people who became disconnected in the first year after high school.
IMPACT ON WAGES

Annual wages at age 24 for young people who became disconnected in the first year after high school
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- 94% Attained High School Diploma or Equivalent
- 68% Enrolled in Postsecondary
- 75% Overall Population
- 29% CT Homeless Response System
- 46% Attained Postsecondary Degree
- 3% Overall Population

CT Homeless Response System
WAGES AT 22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Overall Population</th>
<th>CT Homeless Response System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Non-Graduates</td>
<td>$11,930</td>
<td>$6,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduates</td>
<td>$22,690</td>
<td>$10,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postsecondary Graduates</td>
<td>$32,590</td>
<td>$17,925</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE ECONOMIC IMPACT

Getting young people back on track would:

• boost Connecticut’s fiscal performance by $650M - $750M annually

• could help fill 56,000 of the Connecticut labor market’s 90K unfilled jobs

• boost Connecticut’s Gross State Product by $5BB
THE RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Improve school district data systems and practices to identify and support at-risk students

2) Publish annual reports about at-risk and disconnected young people

3) Establish coalitions and partnerships focused on supporting at-risk and disconnected young people

4) Designate an entity in every municipality or region responsible for supporting disconnected young people

5) Significantly strengthen the capacity of organizations that serve at-risk and disconnected young people

6) Invest in expanding supports and services for at-risk and disconnected young people

7) Invest in high-touch case management for at-risk and disconnected young people

8) Invest in tackling chronic absenteeism

9) Invest in strengthening pathways from disconnection to employment
PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- Multi-disciplinary, bi-partisan coalition of likely and unlikely partners: including unions, business community, advocacy community, nonprofit leaders
- Digital advertisements on local / state media outlet websites
- Social media campaign engaging and elevating other voices
- Identifying and engaging champions to help carry the message
- 72 earned media placements (print, online, television) to date on the report findings
- Dozens of presentations and roundtable discussions of findings
HB 5213

- HB 5213, An Act Concerning Disconnected Youth
- 14-page proposal introduced in February with more than 90 submitted testimonies for its public hearing
- Key components rolled into HB 5437
HB 5437

- HB 5437: An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief, School Discipline, and Disconnected Youth

- Key components include:
  - Definitions of the terms “at-risk” and “disconnected” that closely align with the definitions from the report
  - Requires P20WIN to develop a plan to establish a statewide data intermediary
  - Requires P20WIN to annually report on disconnected youth to the legislature using specified data
119K COMMISSION

• Statewide commission on at-risk and disconnected youth launched by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities in March 2024 in response to their five regional forums in the fall

• Their mission is to develop and publish a strategy by October that, when fully implemented, will reconnect 60,000 young people to viable education and career pathways

• Through a series of eight public meetings, the commission will secure expert input and public comment and testimony on key subjects to inform the strategy

• The first two public meetings, held in March and April, have inspired dozens of public testimony submissions and received more than 200,000 views online
CTOP’S STRATEGIC GOALS

- **Increase the number of active slots** from 0 to 1,000+ (by 2024) and to 2,500 within 10 years (by 2029)

- **Engender meaningful improvements** in young people’s lives and prospects – leading to sustained participation in gainful employment

- **Contribute to advancing ethnic and racial equity** by working to address systemic racism and structural dynamics that intensify challenges for youth
SOCIAL VALUE CREATION

Number of CTOP Target Population Youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrolled in active slots in core programming</th>
<th>Graduated from core programming</th>
<th>Maintained education or employment for six months post-graduation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020-21</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-22</td>
<td>754</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-23</td>
<td>925</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you from the CTOP team!

Please reach out to connect with us and learn more.

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