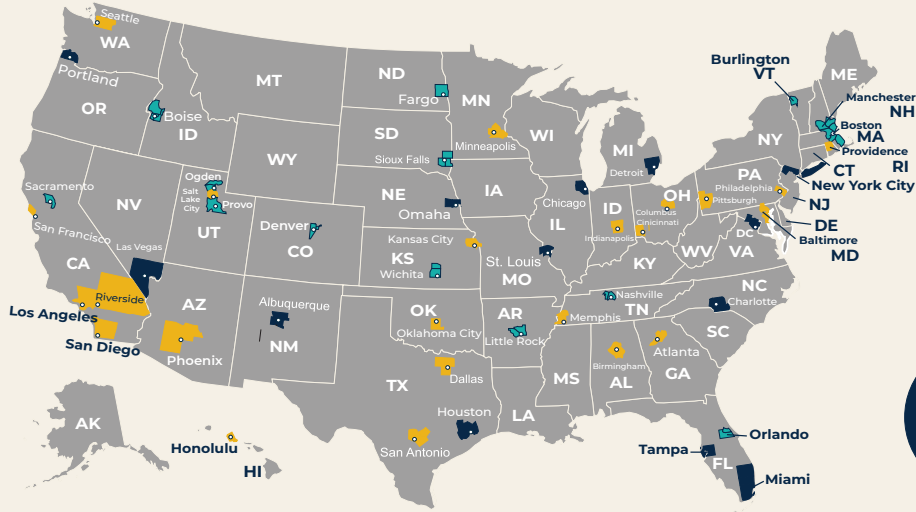


COVID-19 and Youth Unemployment in Selected Metro Areas, January 2019–June 2020

Unemployment rate among youth ages 16-24, 2019



In 2019, when the youth unemployment rate was at its lowest level in 20 years, it ranged from 2.5 percent to 12.4 percent in the 50 large metro areas where data are available.

The 10 metro areas with the lowest youth unemployment rates, ranked from lowest to highest, were Burlington; Boise City; Orlando; Wichita; Ogden; Nashville; Sacramento; Provo; Sioux Falls; and Denver; all with a rate at or below 5.2 percent.

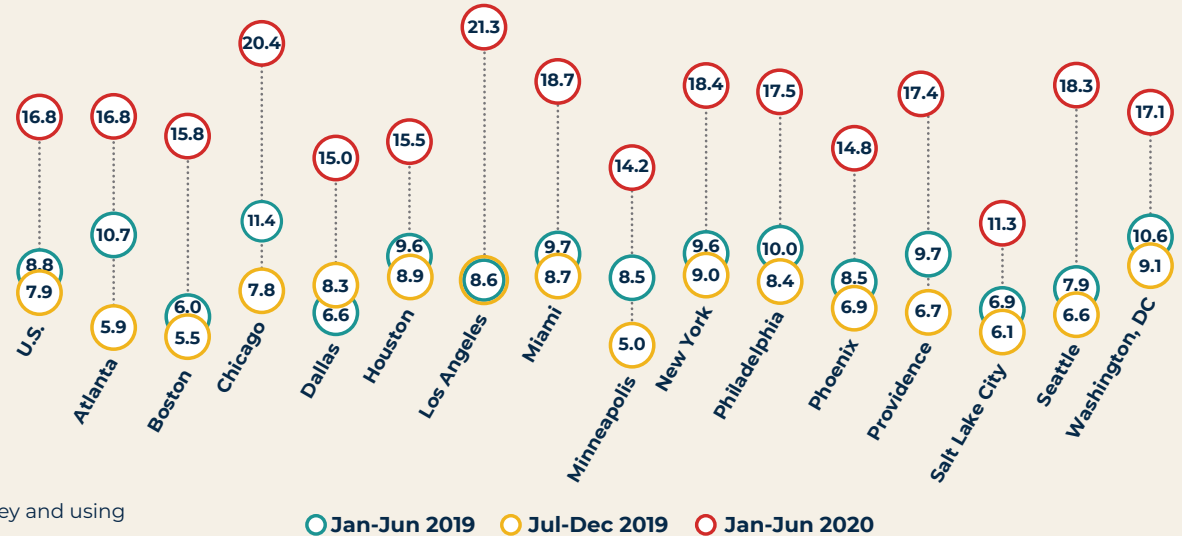
The 10 metro areas with the highest youth unemployment rates, ranked from highest to lowest, were Tampa; Las Vegas; St. Louis; Detroit; Washington, DC; Chicago; Albuquerque; Portland; Houston; and New York City; all with a rate of 9.3 percent or higher.

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a stark rise in youth unemployment across the nation. In the first half of 2020, youth unemployment was twice as high as it was in the first half of 2019.

Of the 15 metro areas where data are available, those with the steepest increase in the youth unemployment rate were Atlanta; Boston; Minneapolis; and Seattle; where youth unemployment almost tripled between the second half of 2019 and the first half of 2020.

The metro areas where the increase in the unemployment rate was not as steep in the same time period were Dallas; Houston; Salt Lake City; and Washington, DC.

Youth unemployment rate before and after the COVID-19 outbreak



Source: Mathematica estimates based on the monthly Current Population Survey and using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' definition of unemployed and civil labor force.

Notes: Estimates do not account for any seasonal patterns. Metro areas where youth unemployment estimates have a margin of error of 3 percentage points or more are excluded.

Read more on our work on COVID-19 and youth unemployment [here](#).

August 12, 2020