



Opportunity Youth in Philadelphia: Demographic Trends

November 2020

Data and Labor Market Information Team

Opportunity Youth are

- Between the ages of **16 and 24**
- Out of school **and** unemployed

“When opportunity youth go back to school or get a job, they increase their lifetime earnings and can help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty for their descendants.” Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

- **American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Microdata Sample, 2014 to 2018:**

This survey data from the U.S. Census Bureau allows Philadelphia Works to create customized estimates for Opportunity Youth. As survey data, margins of error do exist around each estimate.

- **A Note on Poverty:**

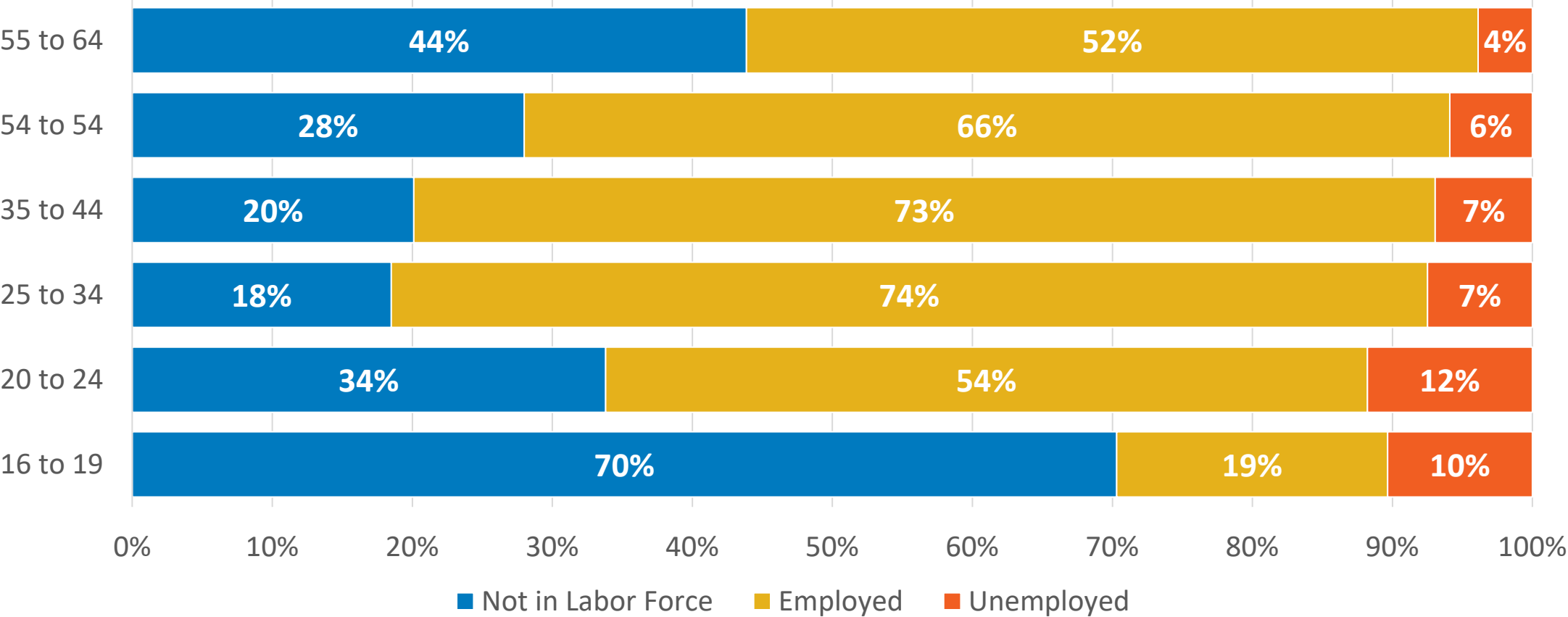
Poverty rates are established by the U.S. Census Bureau and vary annually depending on the size of each household. **In 2020, the poverty threshold for a family of four is \$26,200.** Here, we are using thresholds for the 2014-2018 time-period, depending on which year households responded to the ACS. Additionally, the U.S. Census Bureau **does not** provide poverty estimates for individuals living in group quarters (including student housing). For this reason, many of the enrolled students are not reporting a poverty status.

- **What Else isn't Included:**

Program or Administrative Data on Incarcerated Youth; **Current data exploring the effects of COVID-19**

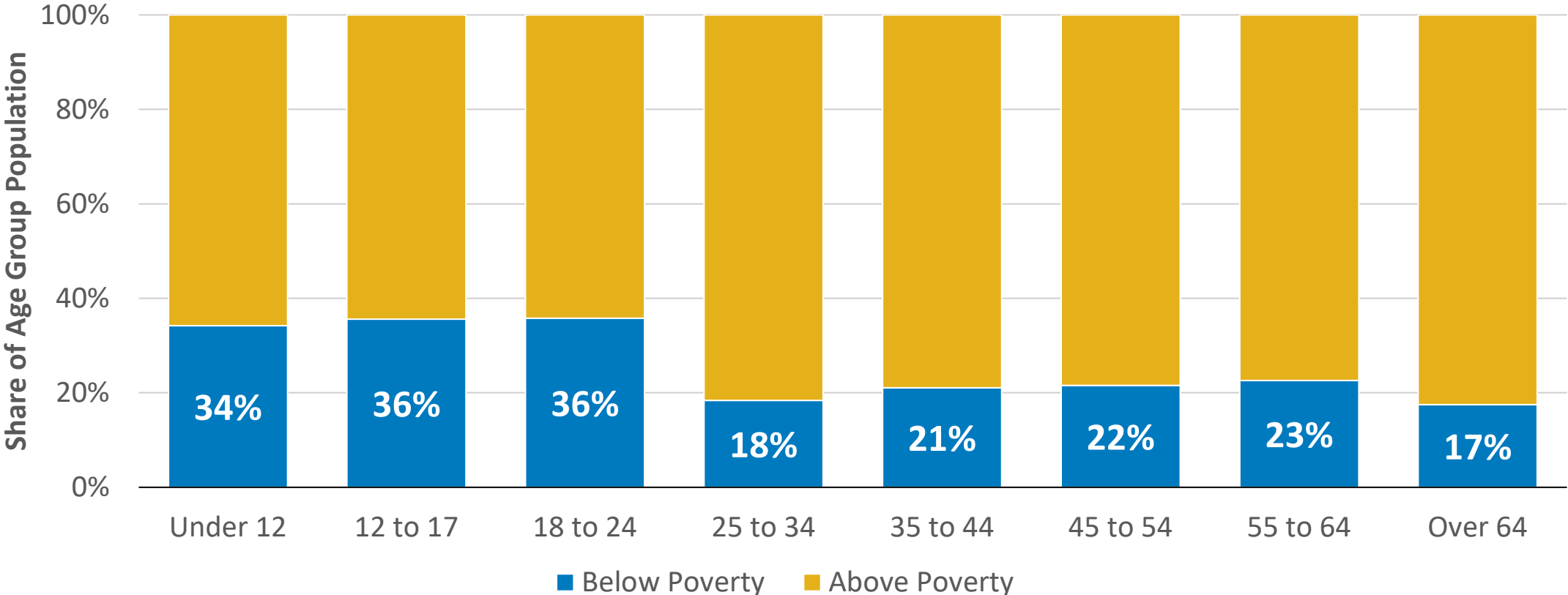
In 2018, Philadelphia's young adults were more likely to be unemployed or out of the labor force...

Employment Status by Age Group in Philadelphia, 2018



...and they were much more likely to live in poverty

Poverty Status by Age Group in Philadelphia, 2018



While young people overall experience negative economic outcomes, **Opportunity Youth in Philadelphia are even further marginalized.**

201,000

Young Adults between 16 and 24

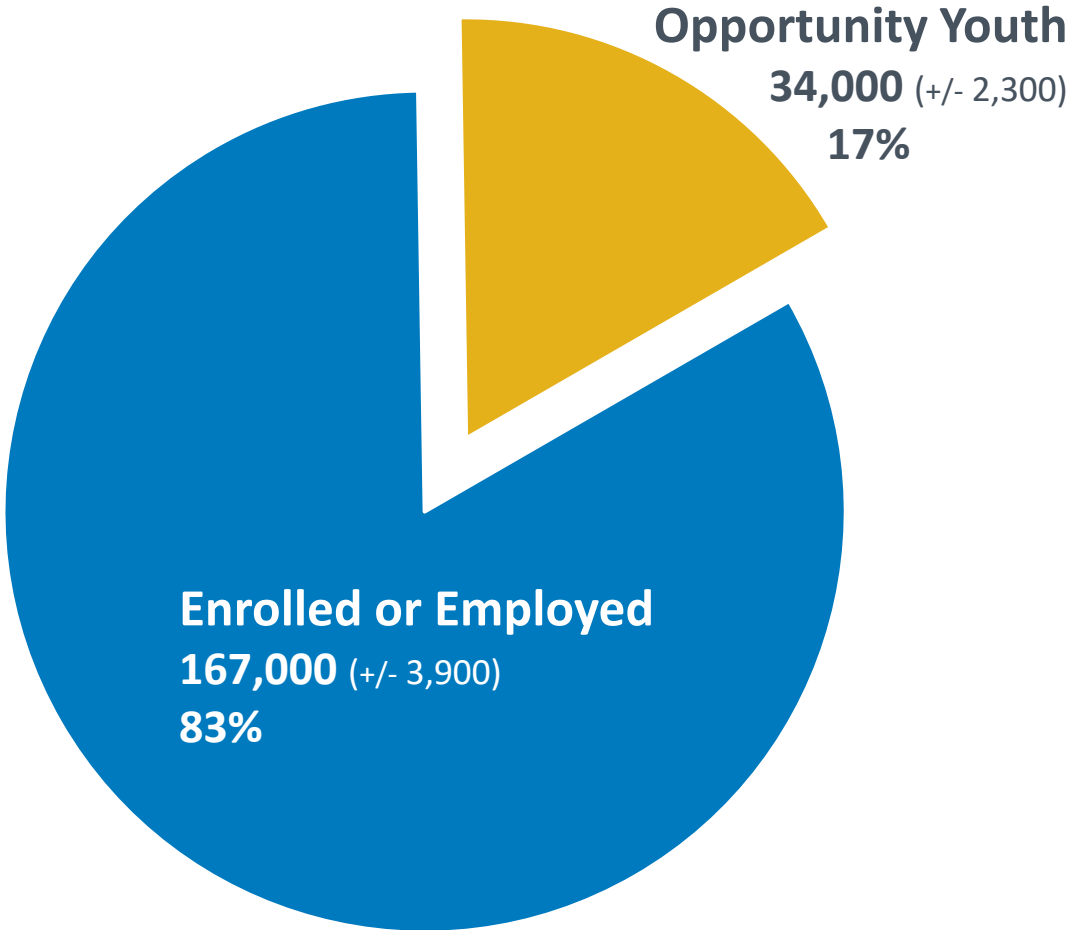
62,000 or 31%

Young Adults that Live in Poverty

34,000 or 17%

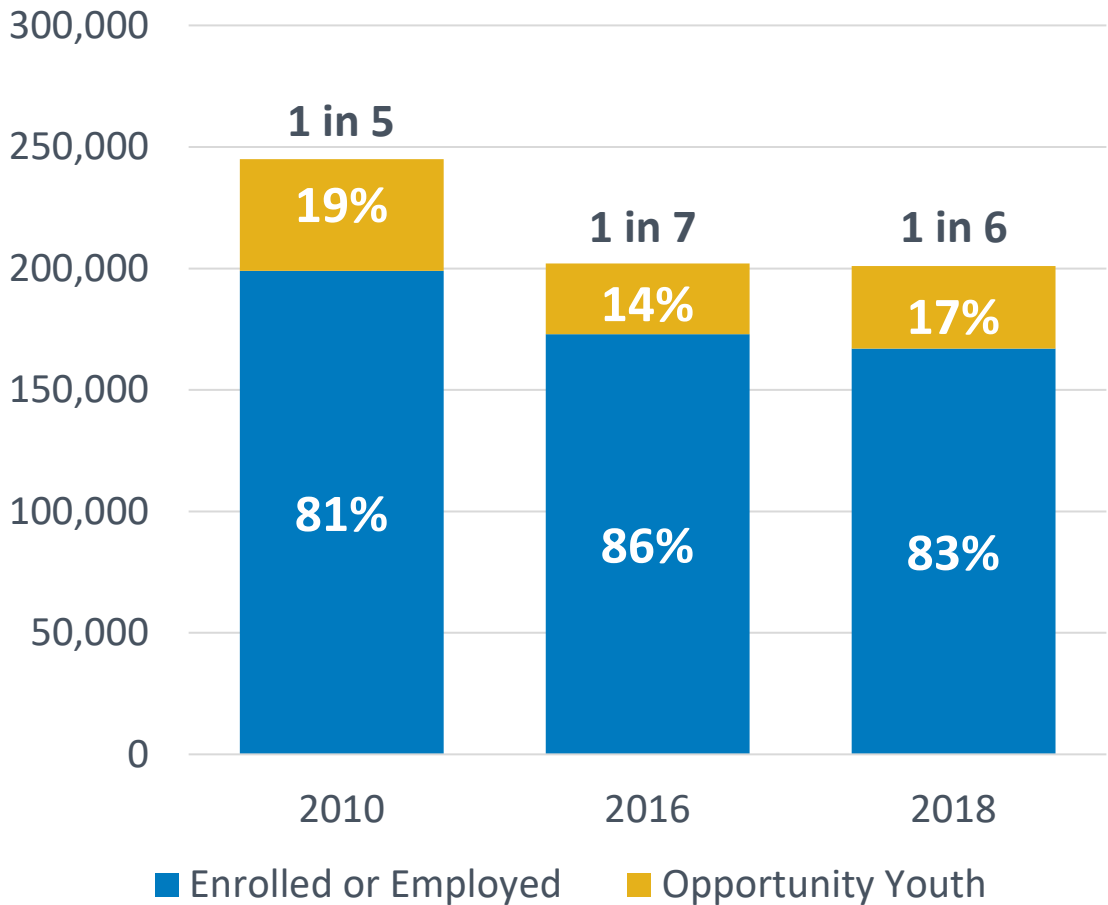
Young Adults that are Opportunity Youth

Philadelphia's Opportunity Youth in 2018

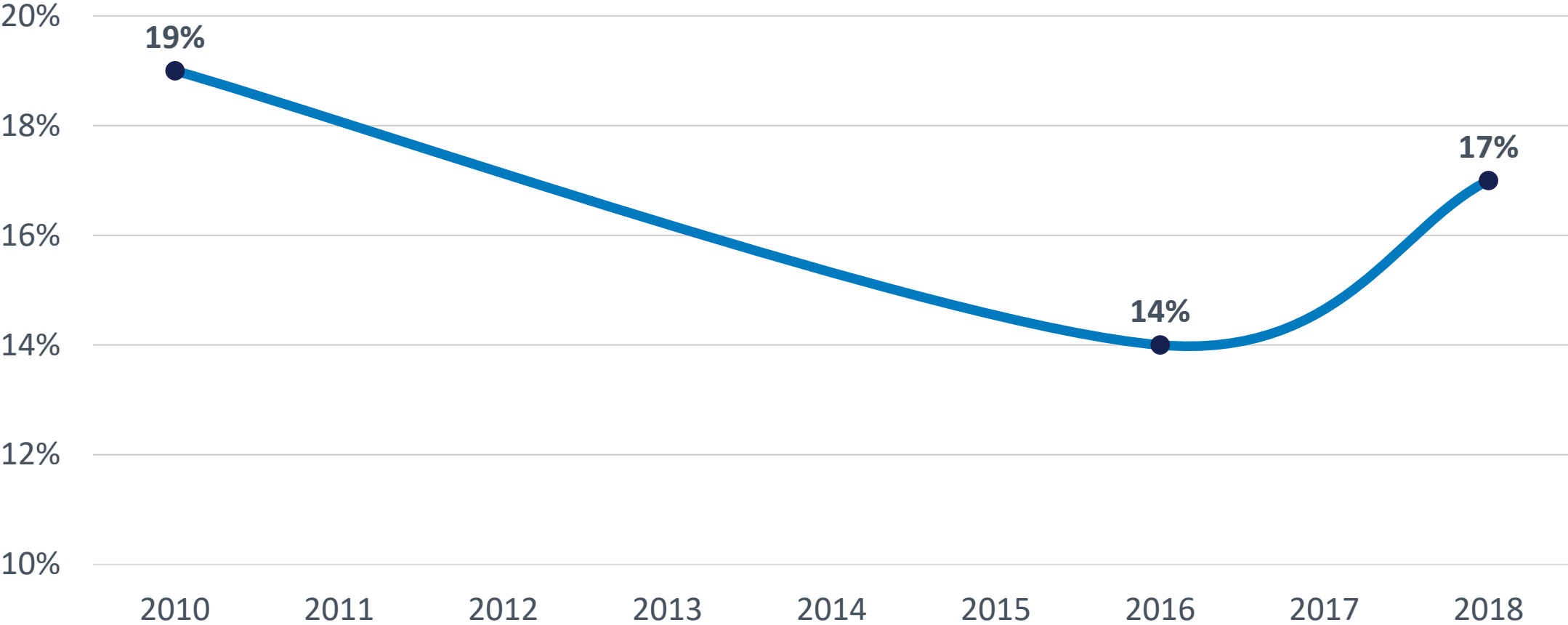


While the number of Opportunity Youth in Philadelphia decreased from 2010 to 2018, so too did the total number of young people.

Philadelphia's Opportunity Youth since 2010

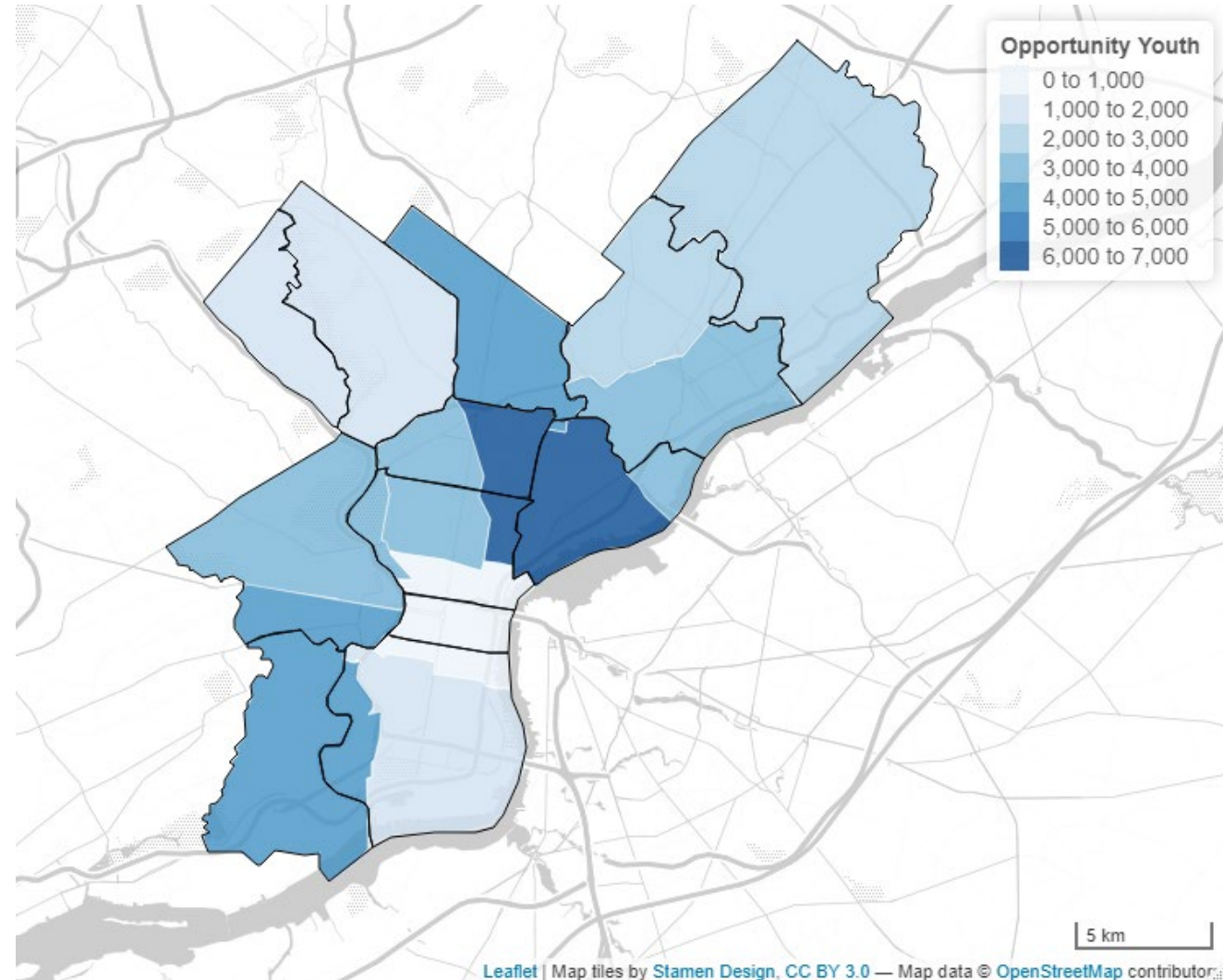


Philadelphia's Opportunity Youth as a Share of the Total 16- to 24-Year-Old Population, 2010 to 2018



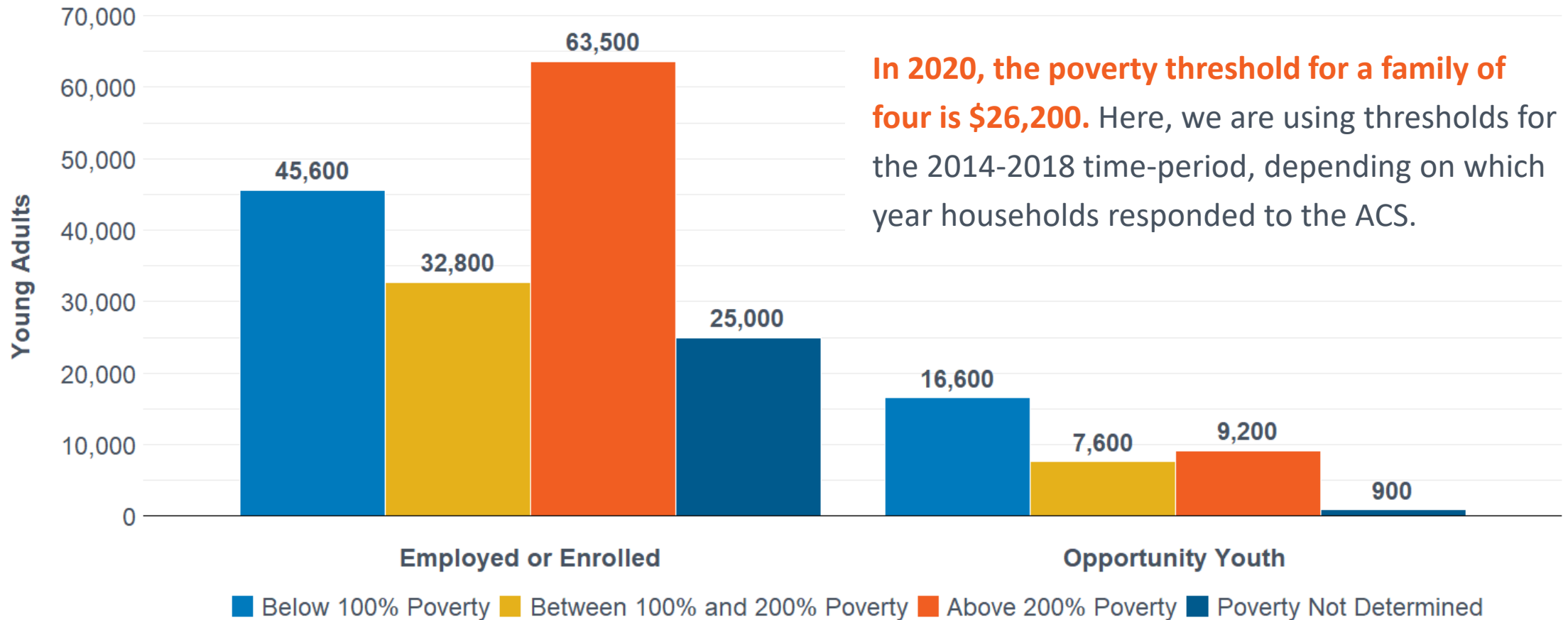
Spatial Distribution of Opportunity Youth, 2018

- In 2018, Opportunity Youth were concentrated in North, Northeast, West, and Southwest Philadelphia.
- Historically, these same areas have been disproportionately impacted by unemployment and poverty.



In 2018, more than 60,000 young Philadelphians lived in Poverty, one-quarter of which were Opportunity Youth

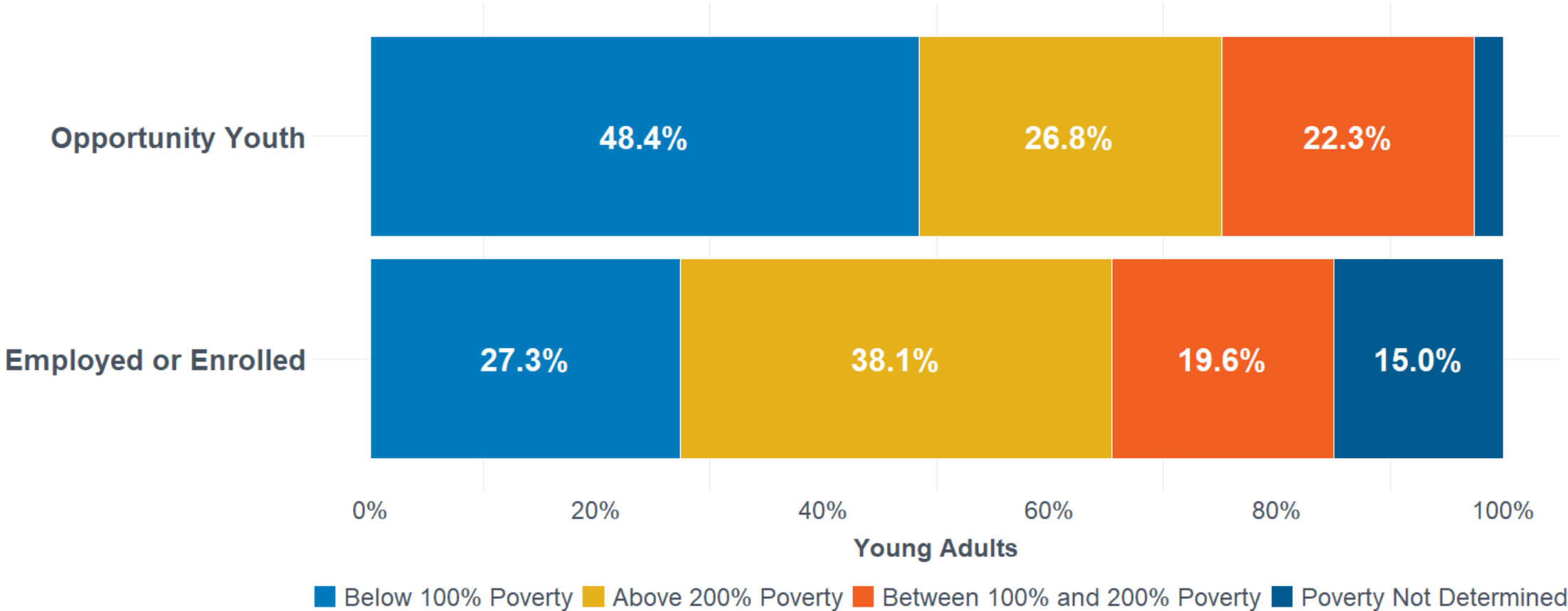
Poverty Status of Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status, 2018



In 2020, the poverty threshold for a family of four is \$26,200. Here, we are using thresholds for the 2014-2018 time-period, depending on which year households responded to the ACS.

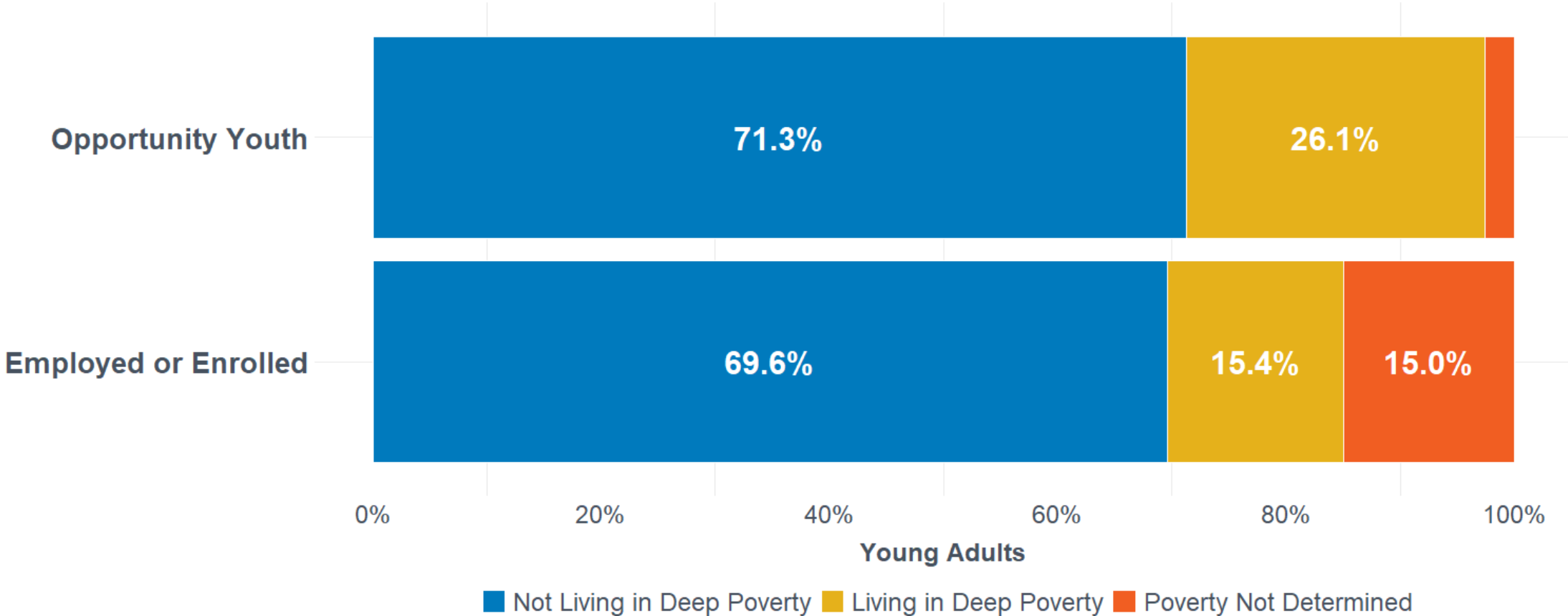
Relative to their Employed and Enrolled Peers, Opportunity Youth were twice as likely to live in Poverty

Poverty Status of Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status, 2018



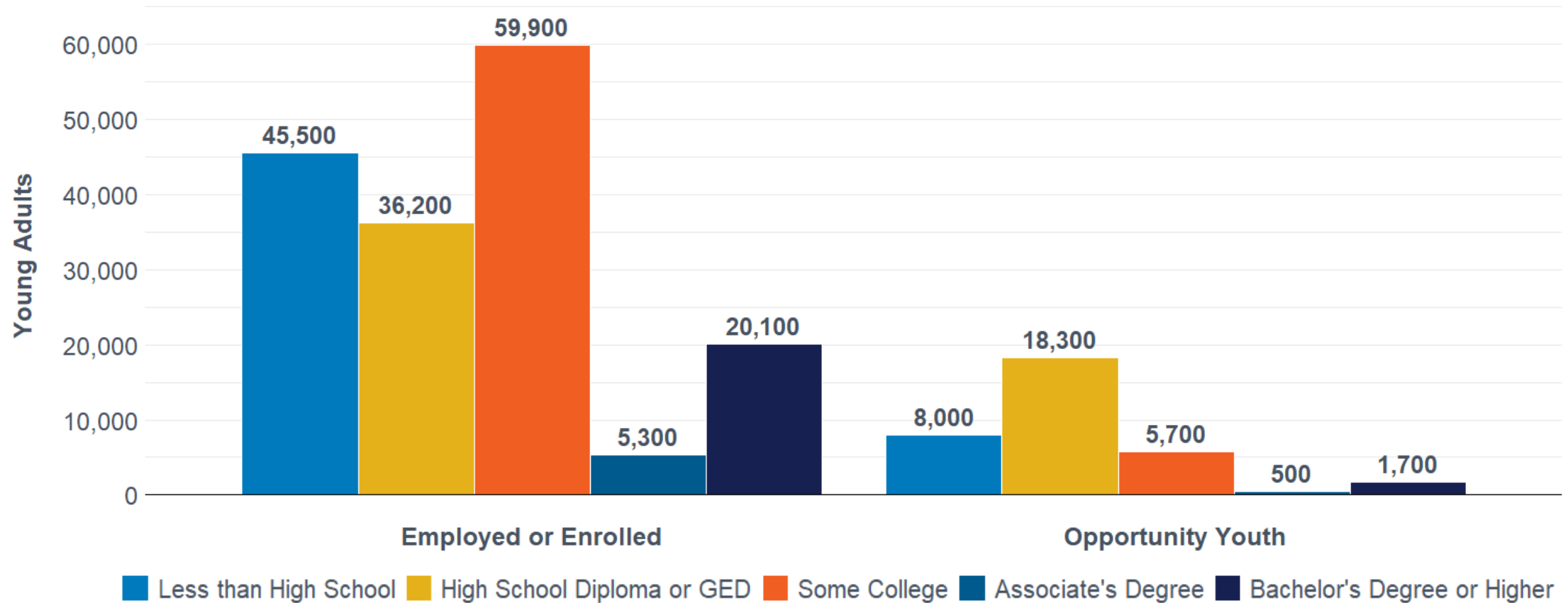
Opportunity Youth were more likely to live in Deep Poverty than their employed or enrolled peers

Deep Poverty Status of Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status, 2018



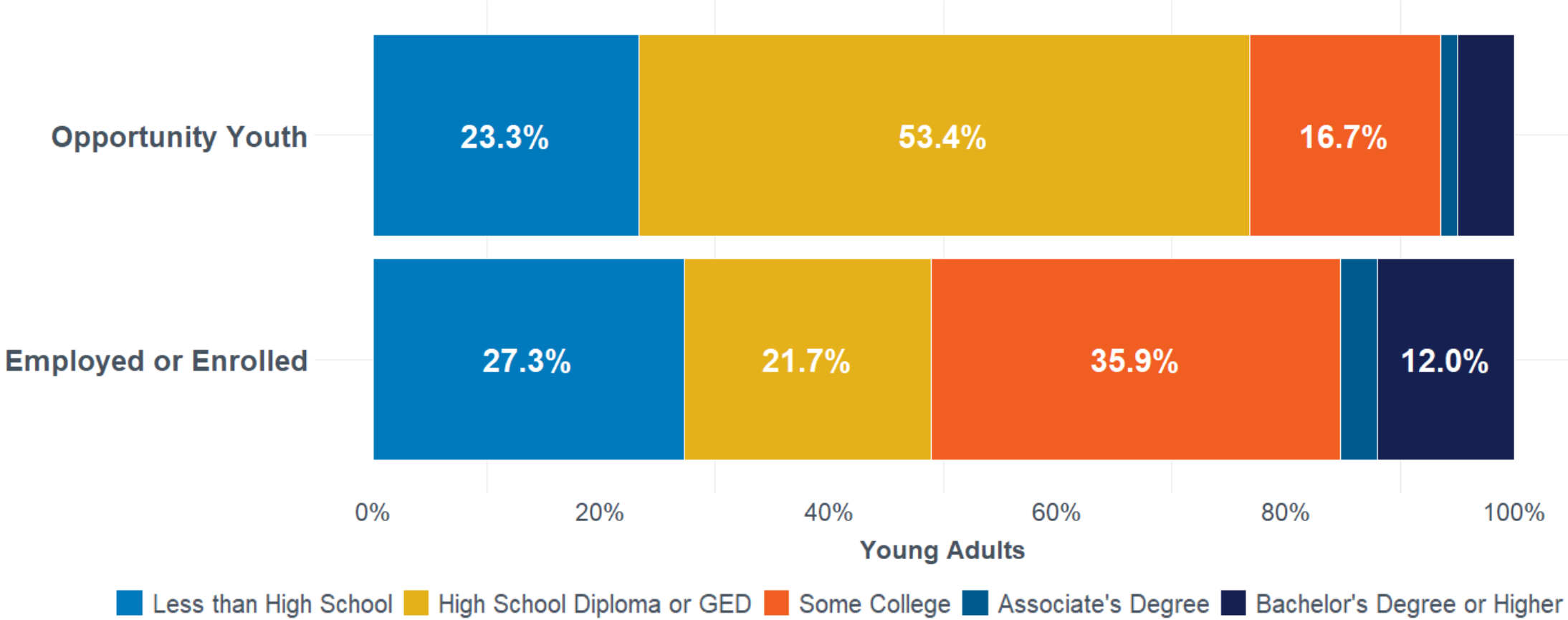
In 2018, more than 147,000 young Philadelphians had completed at least a high school education

Educational Attainment of Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status, 2018



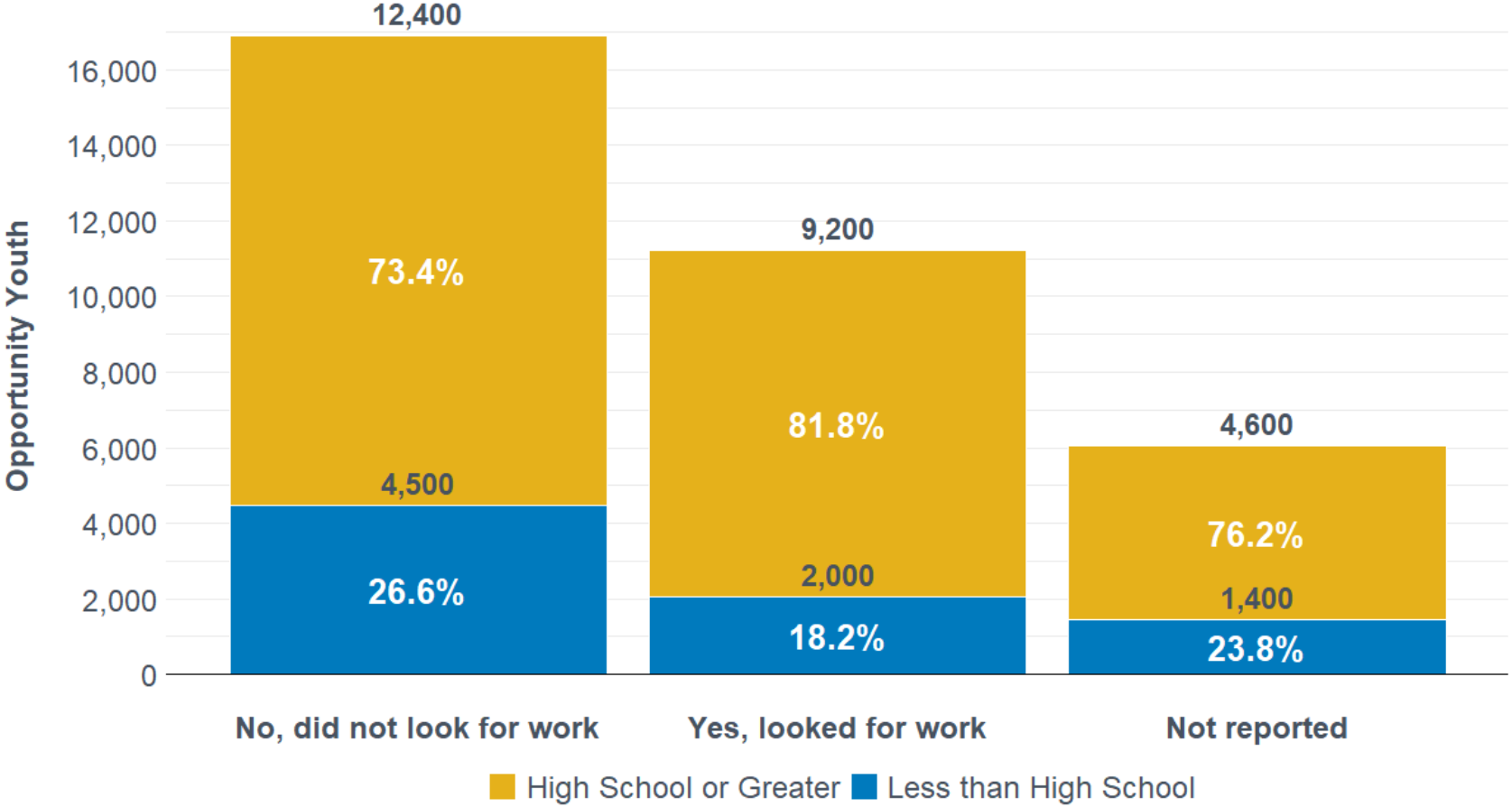
One-Quarter of Opportunity Youth had dropped out of high school, while 17% had completed only “some college”

Educational Attainment of Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status, 2018



At least one-third of Opportunity Youth looked for work in 2018: 82% of these had a high school diploma or greater

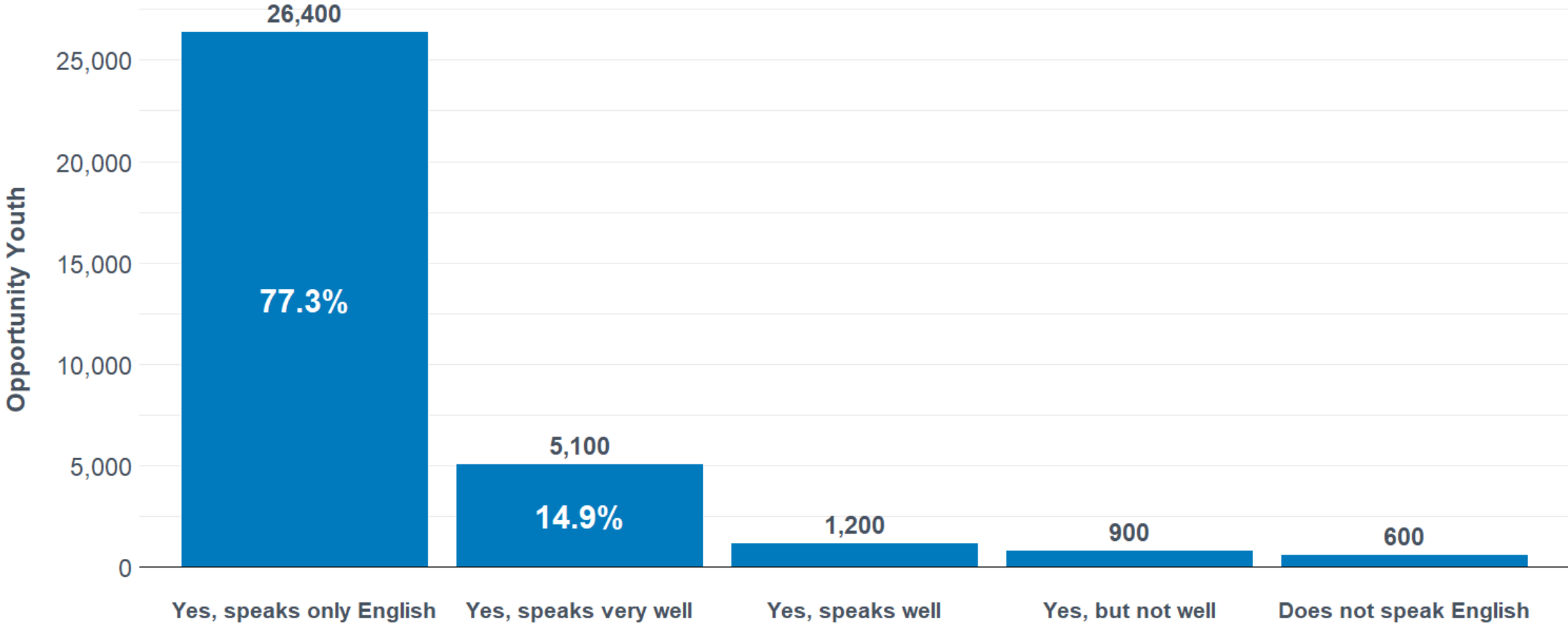
Opportunity Youth Looking for Work by Educational Attainment, 2018



The ACS specifically asks if unemployed individuals have actively looked for work or pursued opening their own business in the previous **four weeks**.

In 2018, more than 90% of Opportunity Youth were native or fluent English speakers

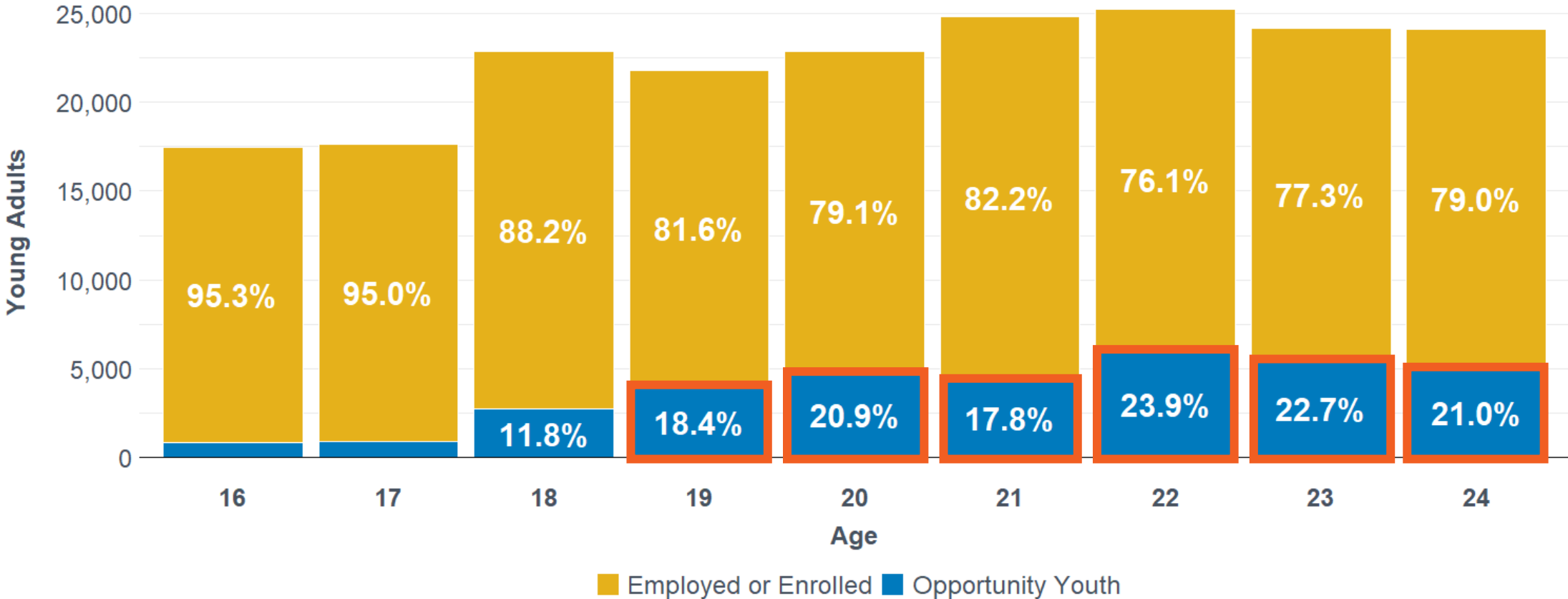
Opportunity Youth and English Proficiency, 2018



Many Opportunity Youth fall on the older end of the age spectrum

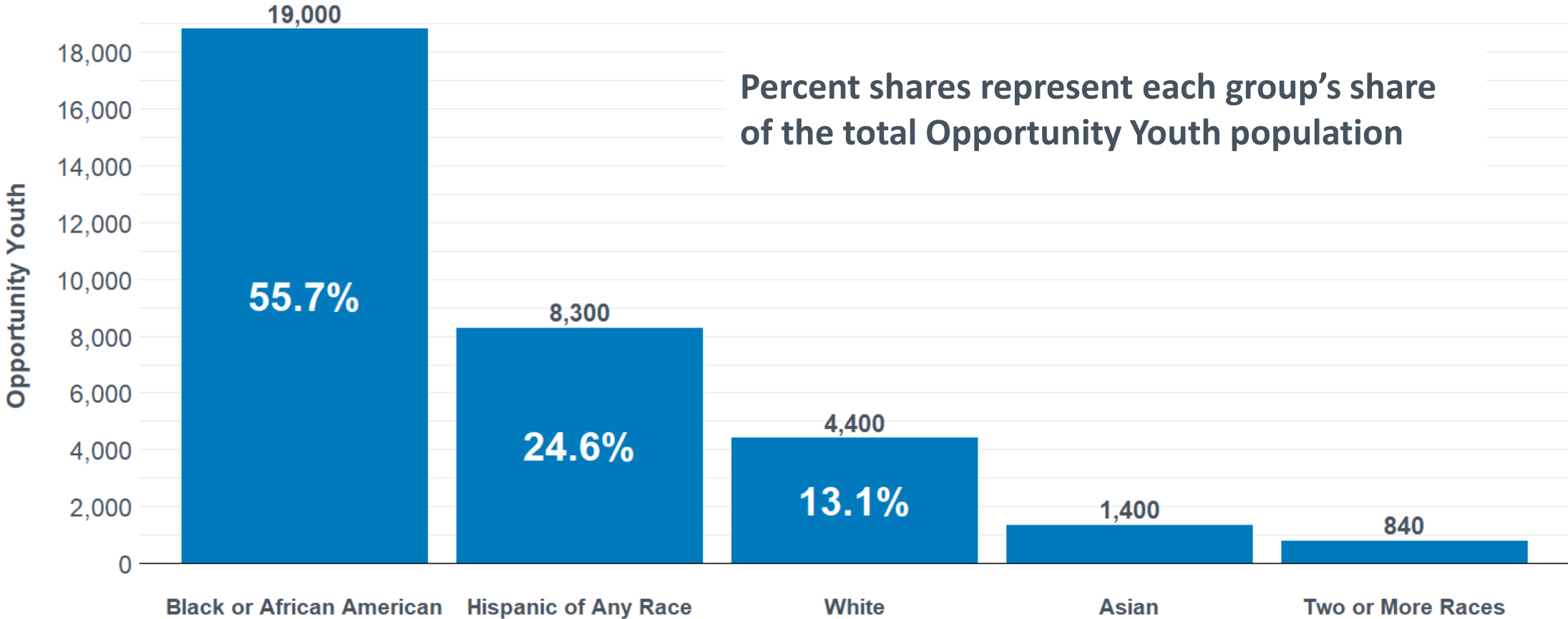
In 2018, nearly one-quarter of 22-year-olds were disconnected

Age Distribution of Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status, 2018



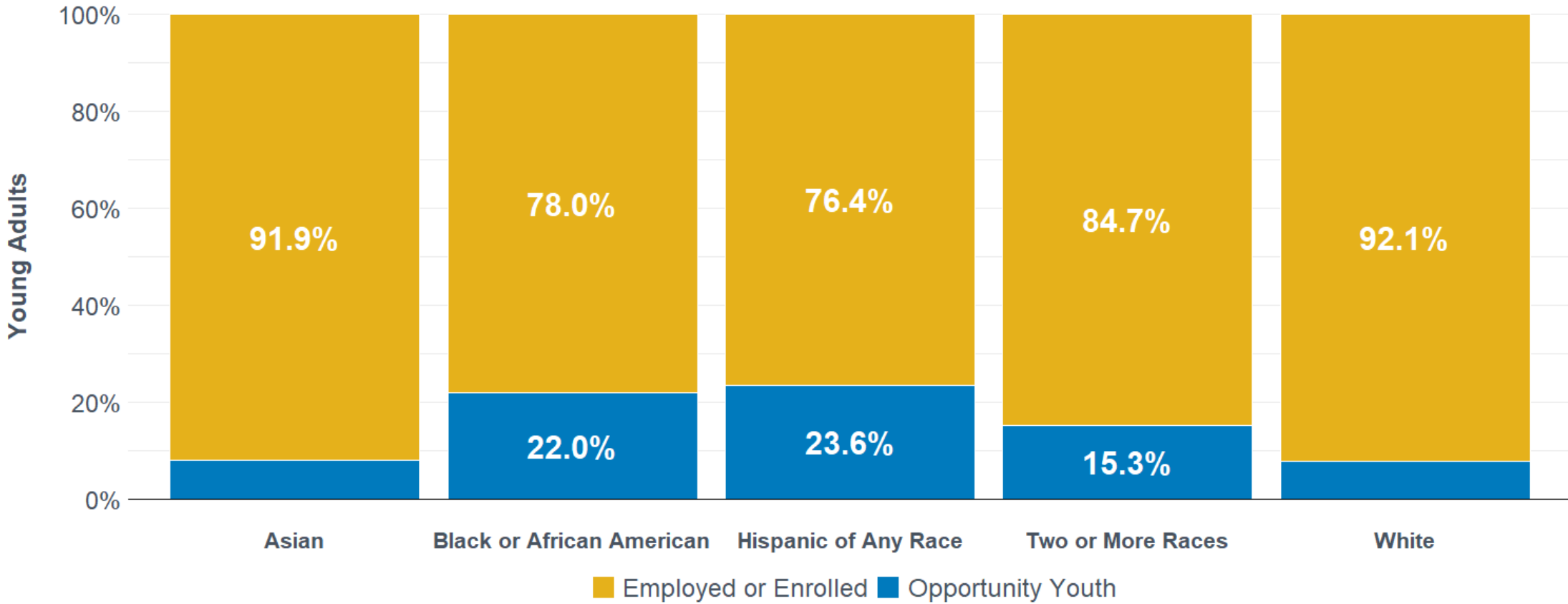
More than half of all Opportunity Youth were Black or African American, while one-quarter were Hispanic

Racial and Ethnic Composition of Opportunity Youth, 2018



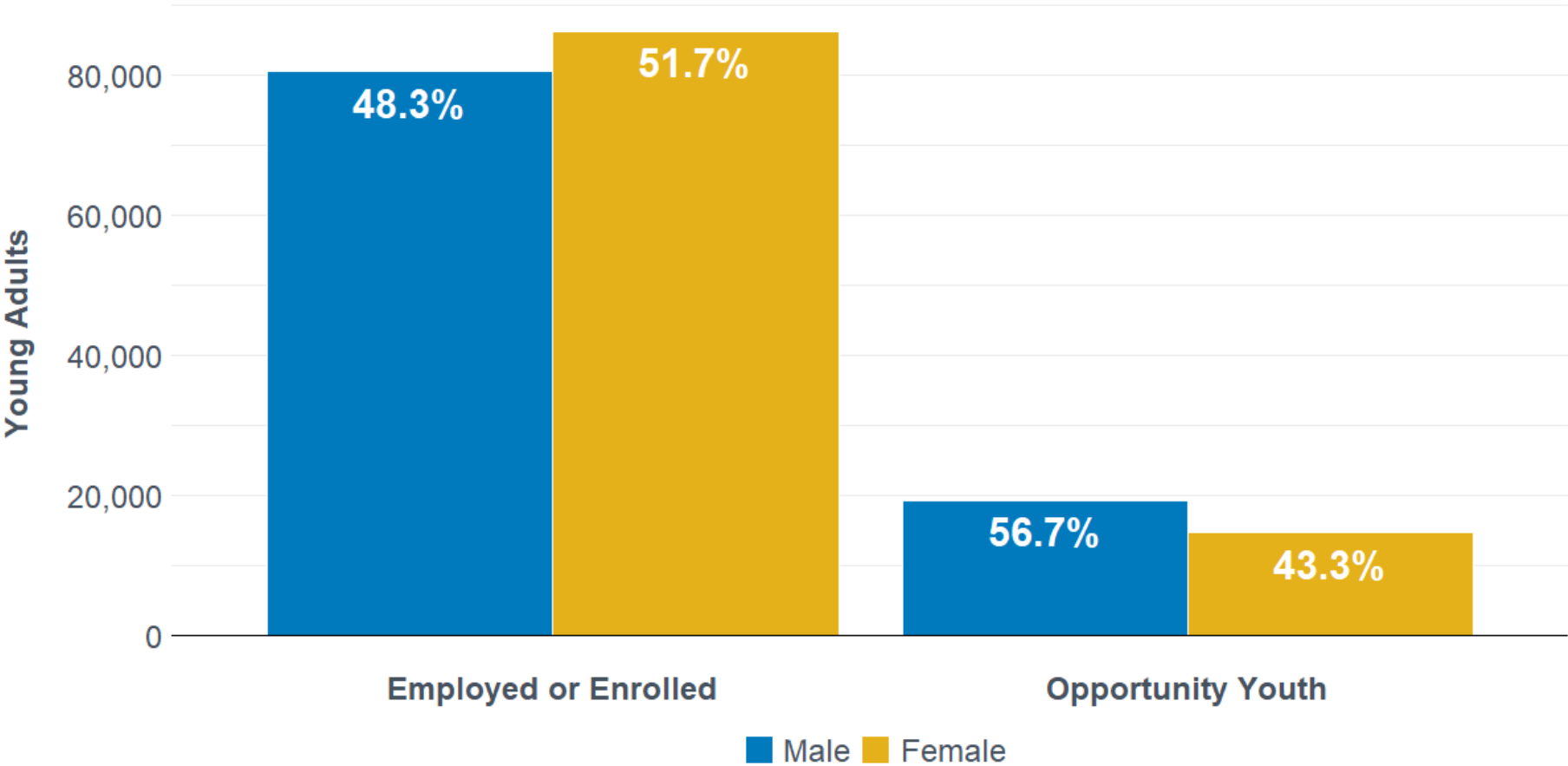
Among Black and Hispanic young adults, one-quarter were neither employed nor enrolled.

Share of Opportunity Youth Among Young Adults by Race and Ethnicity, 2018



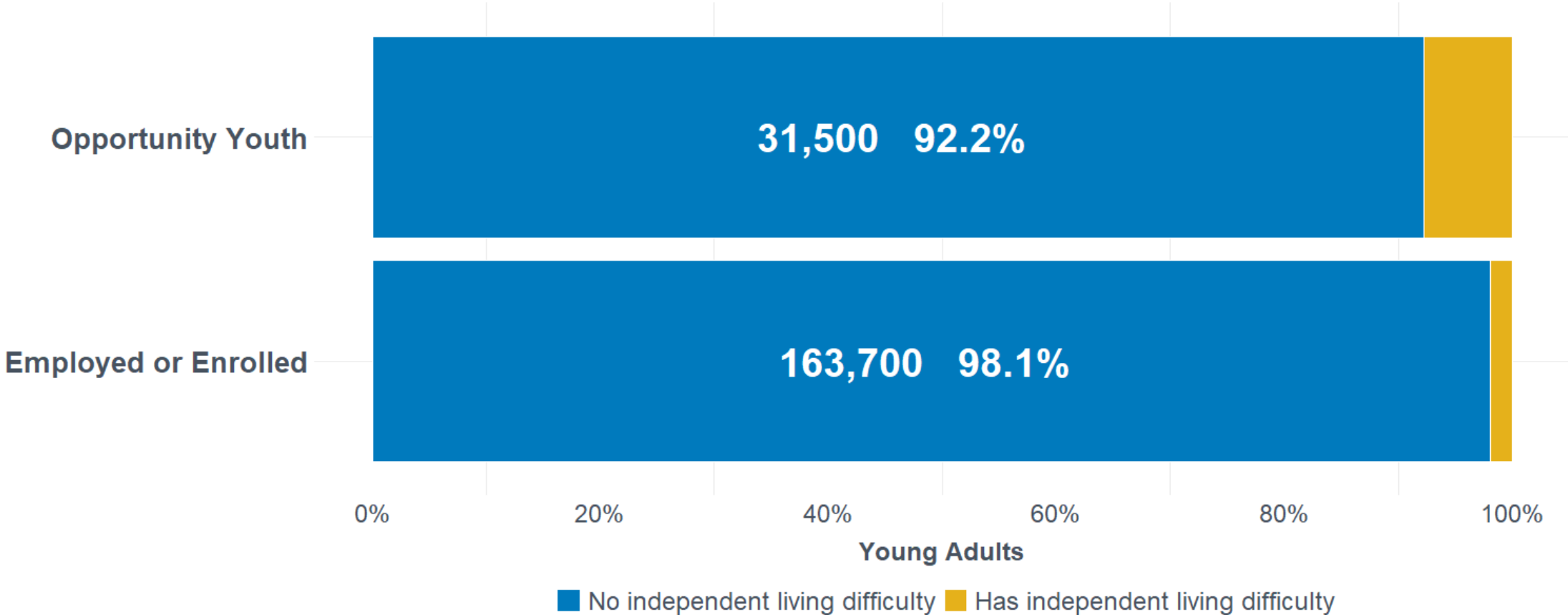
Male-identifying young adults were more likely to be disconnected, making up 57% of Opportunity Youth

Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status and Binary Sex, 2018



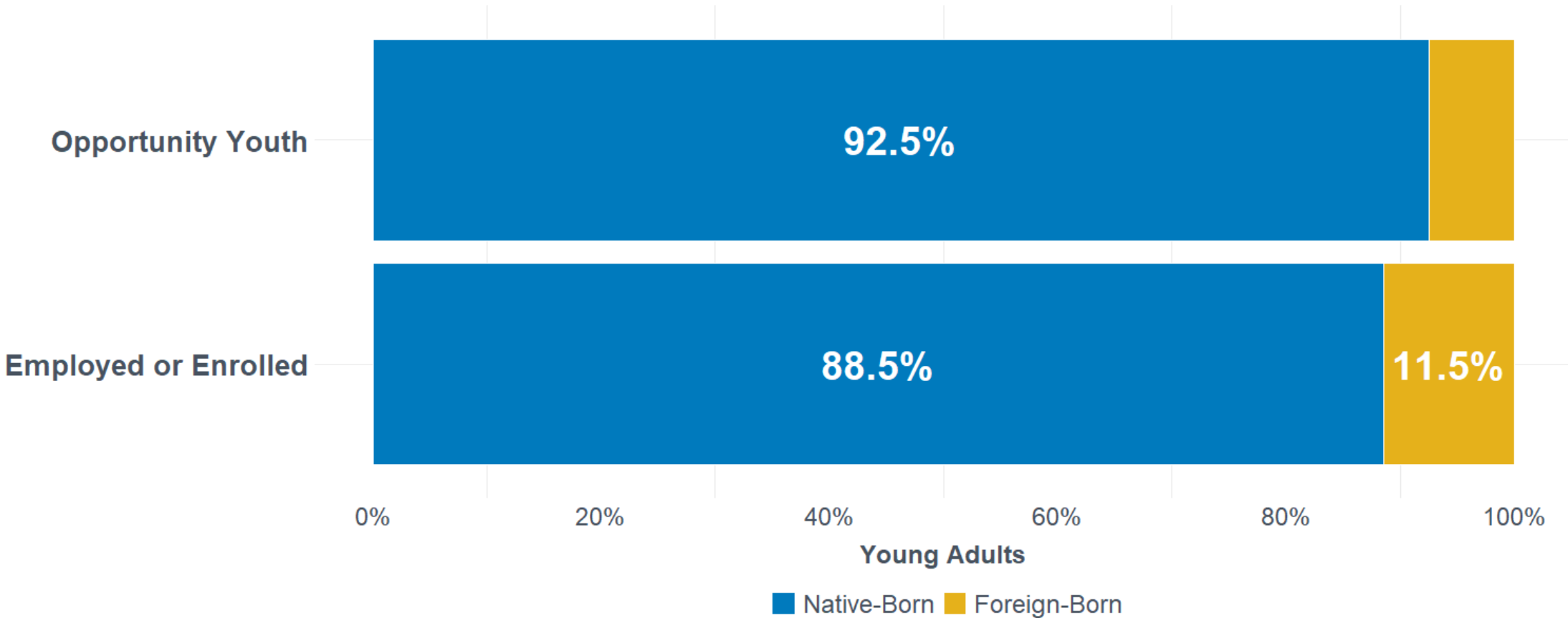
Relative to their peers, Opportunity Youth were more likely to have some mental or physical difficulty

Disability Status of Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status, 2018



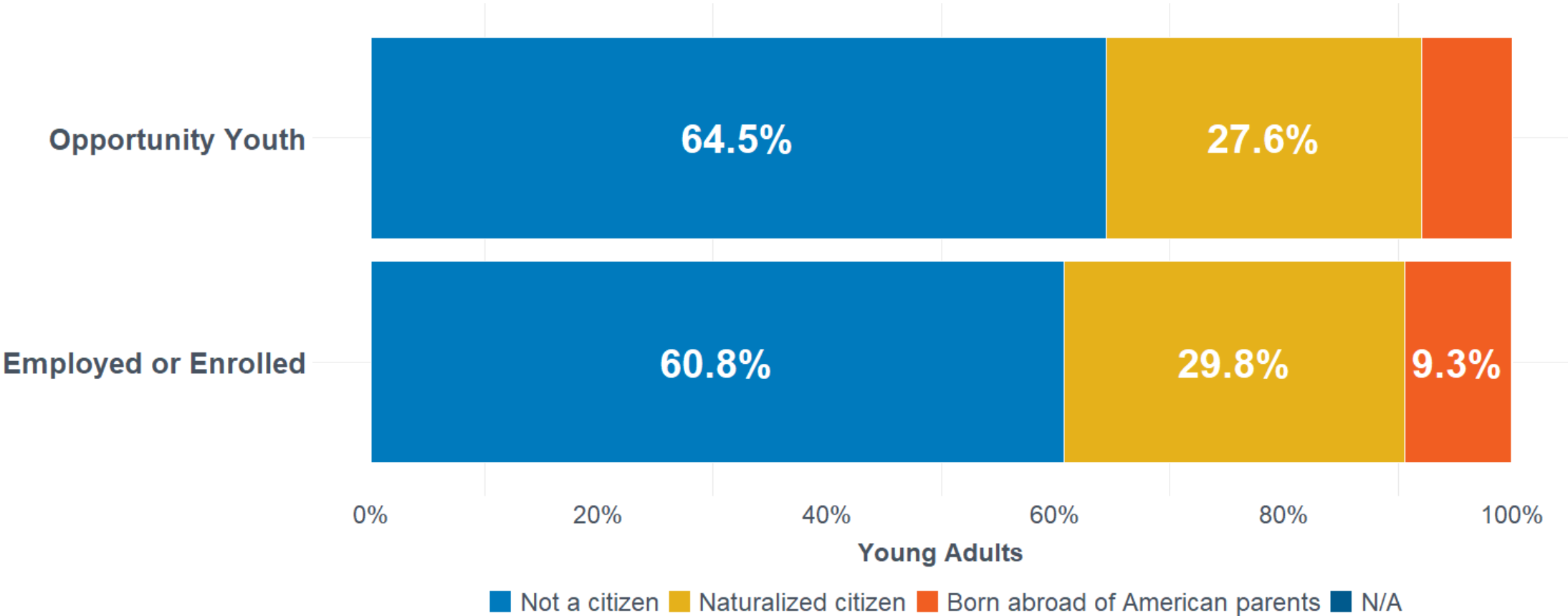
7.5% (2,600) of Opportunity Youth reported being foreign-born, a smaller share than their employed or enrolled peers

Nativity of Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status, 2018



For Foreign-Born Opportunity Youth, 65% reported not being US Citizens *This cannot be construed to draw conclusions about documentation or legal status.*

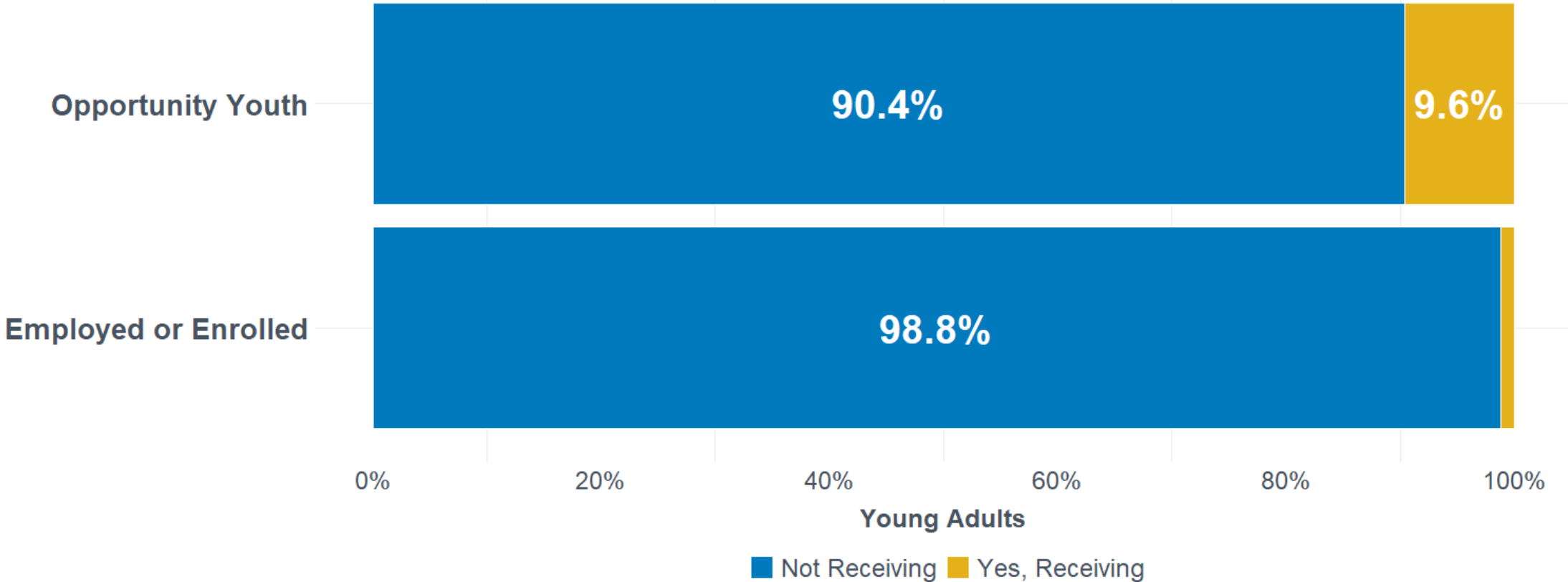
Citizenship Status of Foreign-Born Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status, 2018



10% of Opportunity Youth (3,300) reported receiving some form of state or local public assistance

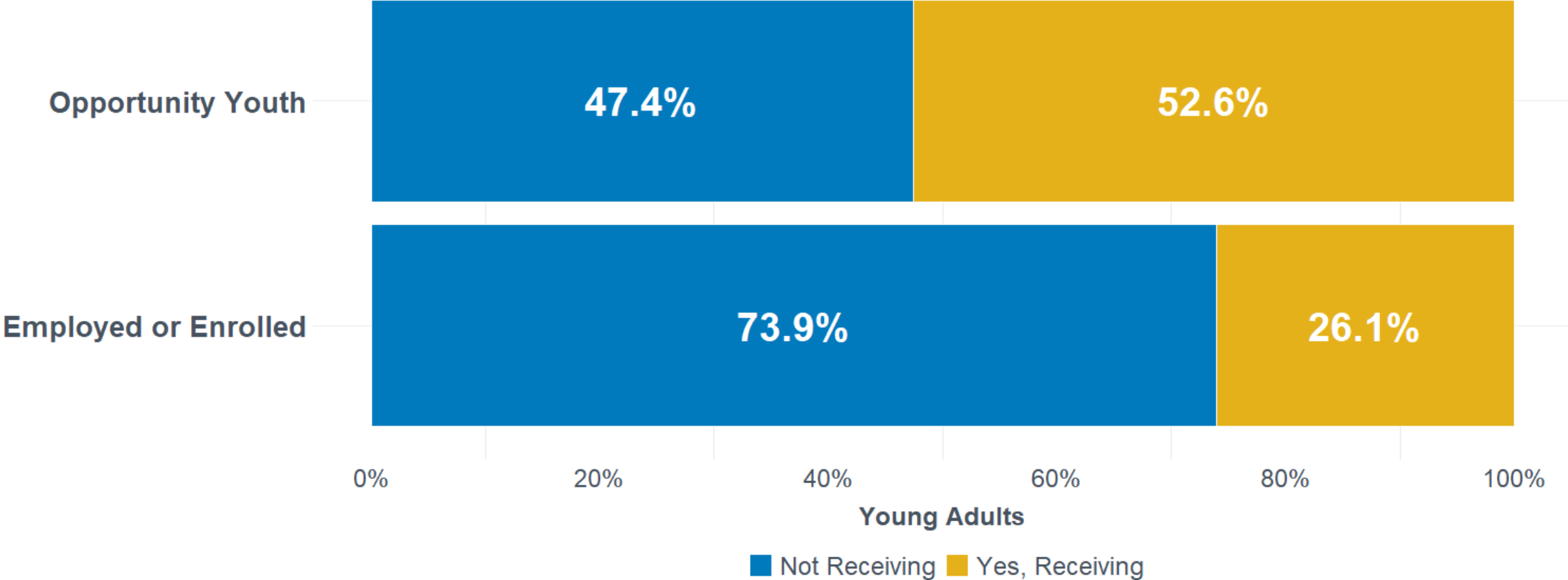
Not including Social Security Disability, Supplemental Security Income, or SNAP Benefits

Public Assistance to Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status, 2018



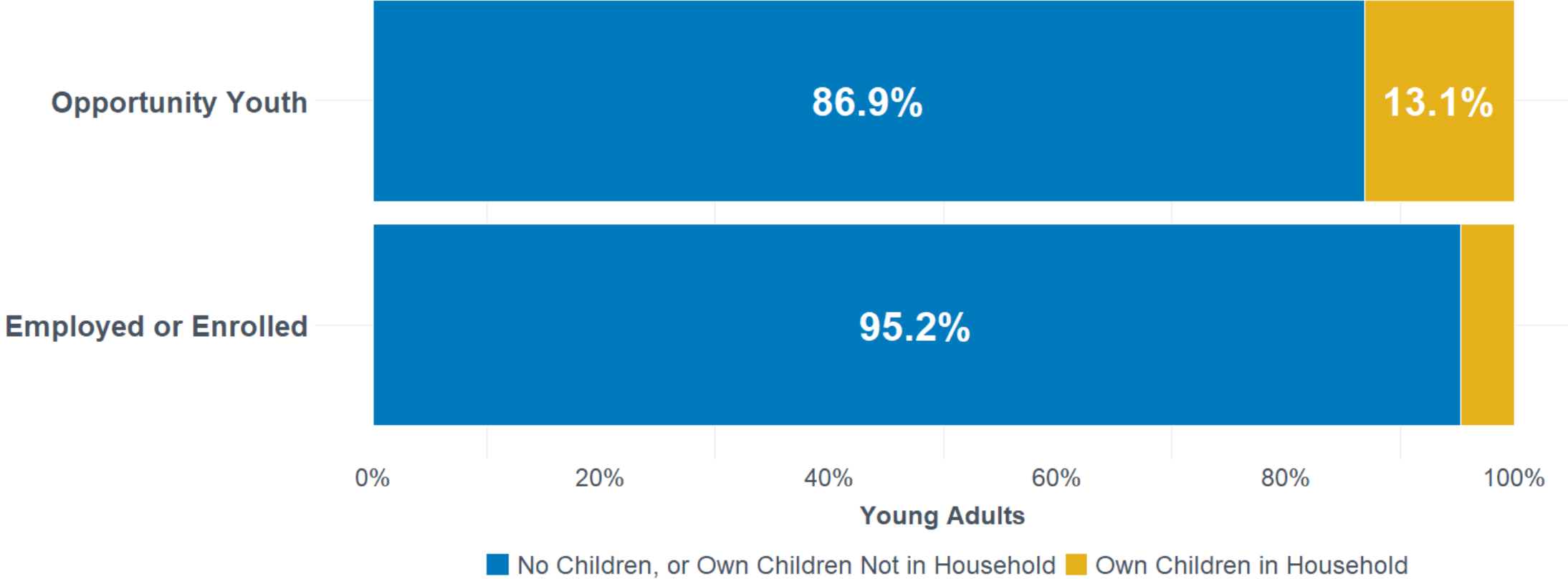
53% of Opportunity Youth (18,000) reported receiving SNAP benefits, twice the rate of those employed or enrolled

SNAP Benefits to Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status, 2018

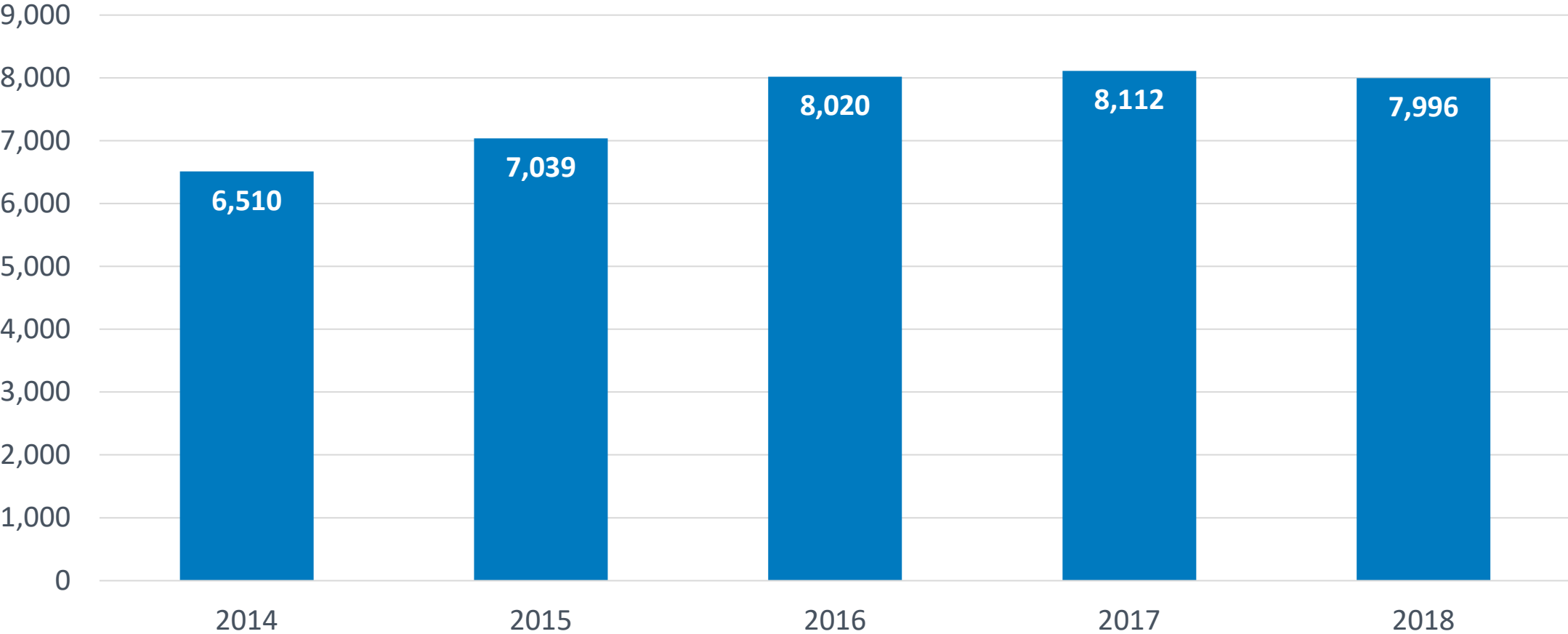


13% of Opportunity Youth (4,400) reported having children of their own that lived in the same household

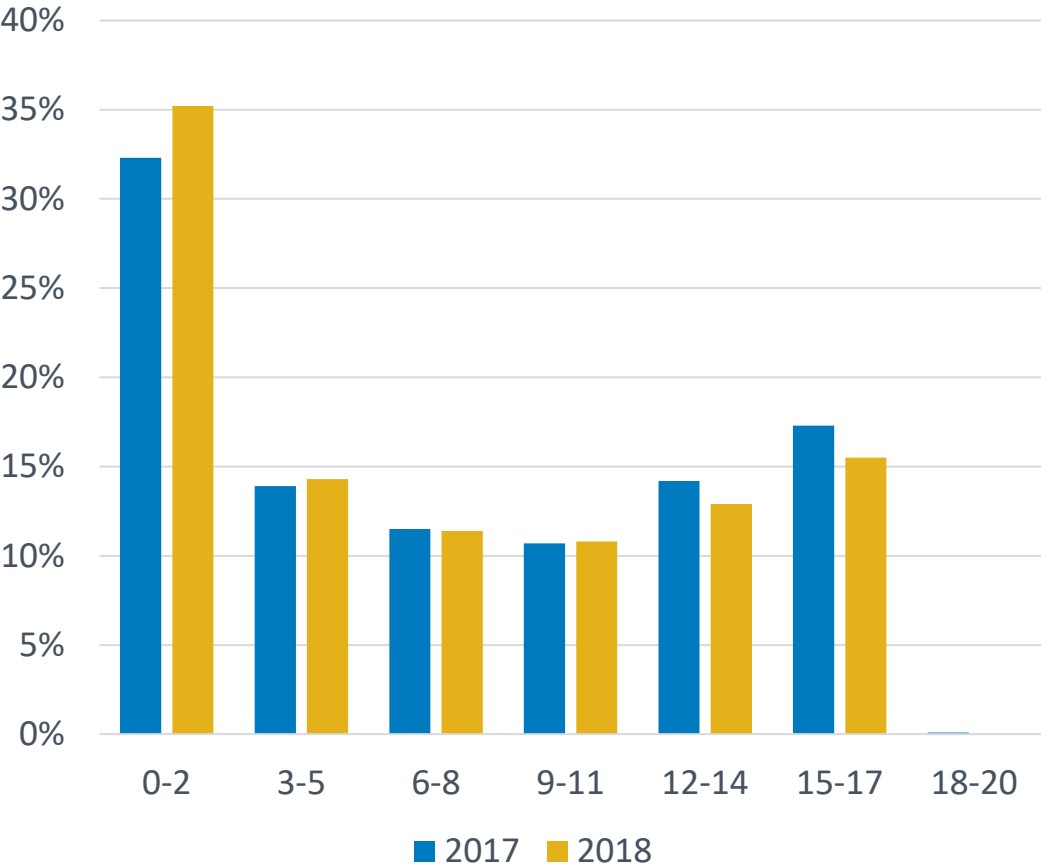
Children of Young Philadelphians by Enrollment/Employment Status, 2018



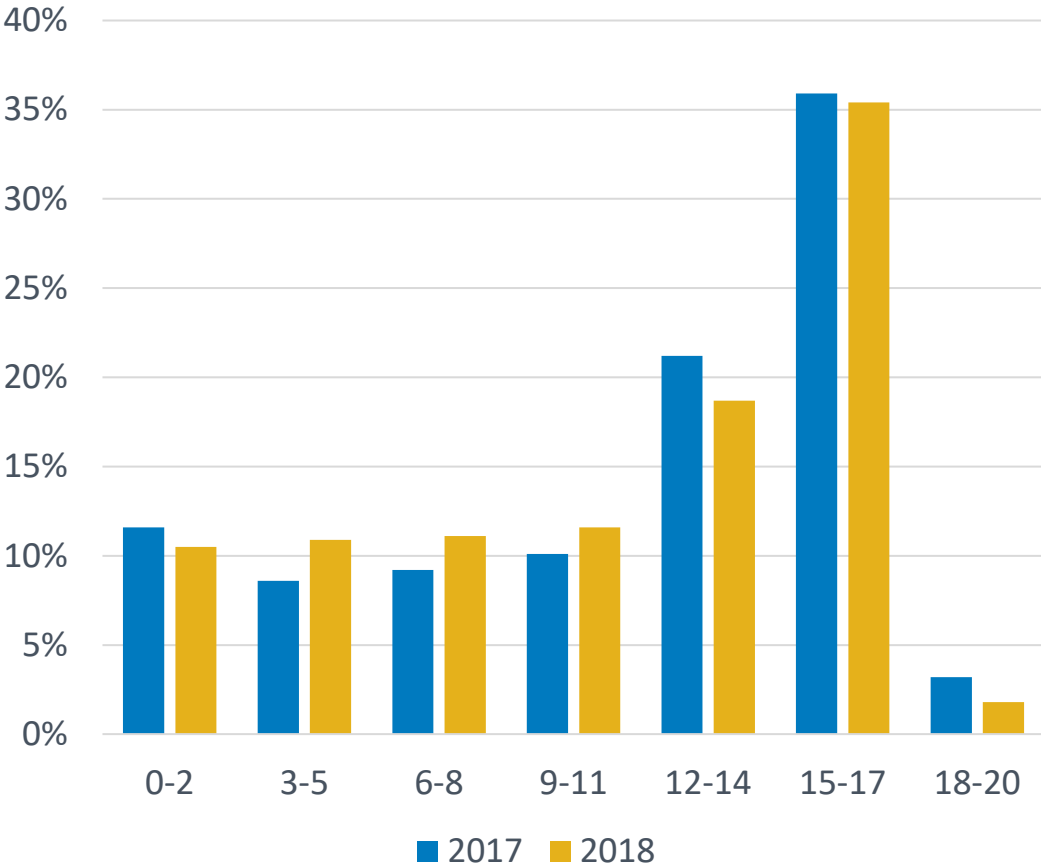
Unduplicated Number of Foster Children Served in Philadelphia, 2014 to 2018



First-Time Entries into Foster Care by Age Group and Year of Entry, Philadelphia



Re-Entries into Foster Care by Age Group and Year of Re-Entry, Philadelphia



Key Takeaways

- Despite a recent decline in the overall number of Opportunity Youth in Philadelphia, as of 2018, **relative rates of disconnection have remained consistent**.
- While Poverty disproportionately affects Philadelphia's young adults, Opportunity Youth were **nearly twice as likely to live in poverty** as their enrolled or employed peers.
- **Black or African American and Hispanic young people** were more likely to be disconnected in 2018. Combined, these two groups represented three-quarters of all Opportunity Youth in Philadelphia.
- **Many of Philadelphia's Opportunity Youth want to work:** In 2018, at least one-third were actively looking for work, and more than 80% of these had at least a high school diploma or GED.

Thank you!

Philadelphia Works is headquartered in Philadelphia's historic One Penn Center at Suburban Station, 1617 JFK Boulevard, 13th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103. The office is wheelchair accessible and reachable by all major thoroughfares and public forms of transportation.

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Appendix

Opportunity Youth in 2018: 17% of all young adults were disconnected from the labor market and education

Status	Count of Young Adults	Margin of Error	Share of Young Adults
Employed or Enrolled	167,000	+/- 3,900	83%
Opportunity Youth	34,000	+/- 2,300	17%
Total:	201,000	-	100%

By 2018, little progress had been made. While the count of Opportunity Youth had fallen, so too had the total number of young adults

Year	Total Young Adults	Opportunity Youth	Share	Odds
2010	245,000	46,000	19%	1 in 5
2016	202,000	29,000	14%	1 in 7
2018	201,000	34,000	17%	1 in 6

PUMA	Estimated Opportunity Youth	Margin of Error
3201	2,100	+/- 510
3202	2,760	+/- 790
3203	3,280	+/- 940
3204	4,640	+/- 870
3205	6,180	+/- 1,310
3206	1,610	+/- 545
3207	3,780	+/- 790
3208	3,330	+/- 765
3209	800	+/- 310
3210	4,350	+/- 1,080
3211	1,360	+/- 485
Total:	34,000	+/- 3,400

Total may not add due to rounding

Spatial Distribution of Opportunity Youth, 2018

