

THE Dropout Crisis 2014

Navigating Rough Waters

Despite a growing graduation rate, U.S. high schools still have too many students leaving without a diploma. Here are some of the disturbing reasons teens drop out of school, the devastating possible consequences and hope for the way ahead.

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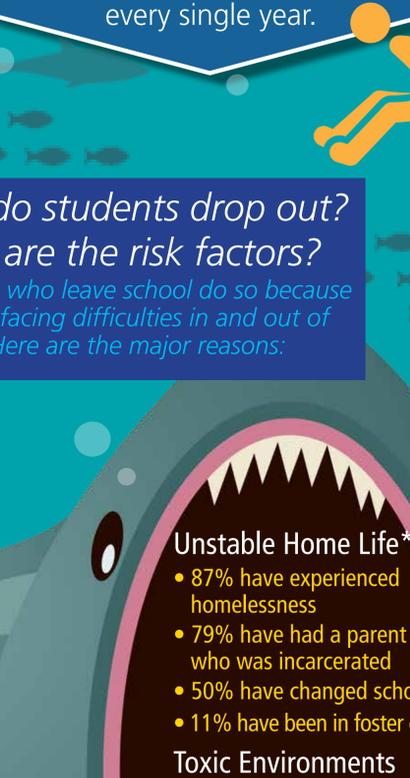
Every **26 seconds** of the school day a student drops out ...



U.S. High School Non-Completion Rates 2013



That's **7,000** students every single day ...



... and over **1 million** students every single year.

Why do students drop out? What are the risk factors?

Students who leave school do so because they are facing difficulties in and out of school. Here are the major reasons:

- Unstable Home Life***
 - 87% have experienced homelessness
 - 79% have had a parent who was incarcerated
 - 50% have changed schools
 - 11% have been in foster care

Toxic Environments

- Students who drop out are far more likely to experience **unsupportive, unsafe & violent neighborhoods & schools**

Lack of Connections

- No parent, relative or educator to count on**

*Percentage of students citing factor as a contributor to their decision to leave school, based on a 2014 report

In their own words ...

"It was just me growing up watching over my little brothers while [my mom] was out in the street doing her thing. So me and my other brothers grew up too quick, took responsibility ... it was too late to go back to school. There was nothing much else for us to do."
—Thomas

"People would be outside of the school waiting for us with guns, so I was forced to bring my gun to school."
—Lance

"My mom has a hernia and needed an operation ... I asked if I could get a month off school to help out with my mom ... I was told that if I left ... I would have to stay for two more years in school and I was already on my last year so I just dropped out."
—Amy

Harsh Consequences ...

Dropouts aren't qualified or eligible for 90% of all jobs.

Dropouts face unemployment rates almost double that of high school graduates (15% vs. 9%).

High school graduates, on average, earn **\$9,245** more per year than high school dropouts.

Dropouts earn **65%** less per year compared to college grads with bachelor's degrees (\$20,241 to \$56,665).

67% of state prison populations, **56%** of federal inmates and **69%** of inmates in local jails did not complete high school.

Dropouts will cost the U.S. economy **\$154 billion** in lost wages, taxes & productivity over their lifetimes (class of 2011).

Dropouts are more likely to live in poverty, have poor health and depend on government assistance.

Over a 45-year career, the earnings difference between a dropout & someone with a HS degree can exceed \$700,000.

Dropouts have a life expectancy 9.2 years shorter than HS graduates.

Dropouts cost the U.S. \$8 billion per year in public assistance programs like food stamps.

Help & Hope

There is help. Some programs and interventions have proven successful in getting dropouts back in school and on solid paths. The National Guard Youth Challenge Program is one that has an exceptional track record. It provides the support needed for at-risk youth to re-engage in their education.

The **National Guard Youth Challenge Program (NGYCP)** began in the early 1990s to equip at-risk youth with the skills, training and education to have successful adult lives.

The 17-month program consists of a two-week Pre-Challenge phase, a 20-week Residential phase & a one-year Post-Residential phase with mentoring.

Graduation from ChalleNGe increases college attendance by **86%**

As of December 2013, ChalleNGe has graduated

120,000 students

For every dollar spent, ChalleNGe returns in benefits to society

\$2.66

In 2012, ChalleNGe graduates received college scholarships from the NGYF totaling

\$491,000

Better Outcomes...

"I was ... heading towards a path of self-destruction. Now, however, I've graduated high school, I'm a member of the Young Senators program, I have two jobs and I'm attending college."
—Humberto 2012 ChalleNGe Graduate

"What resonated with me was knowing there was a group of people who pour their lives into making others' lives better. ..."
—Wesley 2009 ChalleNGe Graduate

"ChalleNGe has been the only place that has opened the doors for me and has given me a second chance."
—Rubiel 2012 ChalleNGe Graduate

There is **HOPE!**

What can you do? Stay involved and promote programs like ChalleNGe.

Sources: National Guard Youth Challenge Program (2014), jointsservicesupport.org/ngycp • National Guard Youth Foundation (2014), ngyf.org • Education Week, Children Trends Database (2014), Statisticbrain.com • CBS News (2014), cbsnews.com/news/high-school-dropouts-costly-for-american-economy • The Consequences of Dropping Out of High School (2009), northeastern.edu/cims/wp-content/uploads/The_Consequences_of_Dropping_Out_of_High_School.pdf • Employment Policy Foundation, 2002 (as reported by National Dropout Prevention Center) • Bureau of Justice Statistics (as reported by Alliance for Excellent Education) • "Helping High School Dropouts Improve Their Prospects" The Future of Children, Princeton-Brookings • "Partnering for Education Reform," U.S. Department of Education. Accessed February 26, 2014, https://www.ed.gov/news/speeches/partnering-education-reform.



jointsservicesupport.org/ngycp and ngyf.org