

NYEC YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT KEY TERMS TO KNOW

This page describes key terms, definitions, and concepts for individuals and stakeholders interested in youth workforce development to know.

A

American Community Survey

- [The American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) is an ongoing survey taken by the Census Bureau that provides vital yearly information about our nation and its people. Information from the survey generates data that helps inform how trillions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year.

B

Bureau of Labor and Statistics

- [The Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) is the principal fact-finding agency for the Federal Government in the broad field of labor economics and statistics.

C

Case Management System

- A Case Management System (CMS) is a specialized software system or platform designed to support the management, tracking, and resolution of cases, typically in professional settings like legal, health, social services, or customer service environments. The primary goal of a CMS is to organize and streamline information related to individual cases or issues, enabling professionals to handle them more efficiently.

Census Bureau

- The [Census Bureau](#)'s mission is to serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy.

Child welfare system

- [Child welfare systems](#) typically receive and investigate reports of possible child abuse and neglect; provide services to families that need assistance in the safety and care of their children; arrange for children to live with relatives or with foster families when they are not safe at home; and arrange for reunification, adoption, or other permanent family connections for children and youth leaving foster care. A flowchart illustrates how cases typically move through the child welfare system.

Chronic Absenteeism

- Defined as missing 10% or more of the school year. One of the leading indicators of risk for dropping out of high school.

Community Based Organization (CBOs)

- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are grassroots organizations that operate at the local level to serve and represent their members. CBOs are typically not-for-profit entities that are established to address specific concerns or needs within a particular community or group of people. They play a vital role in social service delivery, advocacy, and community development in various parts of the world.

Completion Rate

- Percentage of students graduating from a given school. Ordinarily expressed as the percentage of students who successfully graduate within six years.

Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

- A [Customer relationship management \(CRM\)](#) is a technology for managing all your company's relationships and interactions with customers and potential customers. The goal is simple: Improve business relationships to grow your business. A CRM system helps companies stay connected to customers, streamline processes, and improve profitability.

Continuum of Care (COC)

- The [Continuum of Care \(CoC\)](#) Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Community of Practice (COP)

- A community of practice is a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. It is an organizational methodology that allows for a more effective approach to solving tough problems.

D

Data Quality

- Data quality refers to the condition of a set of values of qualitative or quantitative variables. It speaks to how accurate, consistent, reliable, and complete the data is, in the context of the purposes for which it will be used. High-quality data can lead to more accurate analyses and better decision-making, while poor-quality data can be a major hindrance to effective data utilization.

Data Investment

- Data investment refers to the resources and capital dedicated to acquiring, maintaining, analyzing, and improving data assets within an organization. As the importance of data-driven decision-making has grown in the modern business environment, companies have increasingly recognized the value of investing in high-quality data and the infrastructure needed to support it.

Department of Labor (DOL)

- The DOL's mission is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

Disconnected Youth

- Includes [young people](#) between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in school and not working.
- See also: youth disconnected

Dislocated worker

- A dislocated worker is an individual who has lost their job due to reasons beyond their control. The term typically refers to people who have been laid off or whose jobs have been eliminated because of company closures, downsizing, or a decrease in demand for a particular skill or profession. Dislocated workers may also lose their jobs due to natural disasters, automation, or shifts in the economy that render certain industries or job functions obsolete.

- In the U.S., the term "dislocated worker" has specific implications related to employment services and federal support.
- The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) defines a dislocated worker as someone who:
 - Has been terminated or laid off or has received notice of termination or layoff from employment.
 - Is eligible for or has exhausted unemployment benefits.
 - Is unlikely to return to their previous occupation due to various reasons, such as shifts in the industry or lack of demand for certain skills.
 - Has been self-employed but is now unemployed due to general economic conditions or a natural disaster.
- Is a displaced homemaker. A displaced homemaker is someone who has primarily cared for the home and family but has lost their main source of income because of divorce, death, or other reasons.

Dropout Rate

- Percentage of students dropping out of a given high school.

E

Efforts to Outcome (ETO)

- "Efforts to outcome" is a concept often found in the fields of social services, non-profit management, and public administration. It refers to the process of examining and assessing how the efforts put into a program or service translate into meaningful outcomes or results. In other words, it's a way to measure the effectiveness and impact of a particular initiative, program, or intervention.
- Here's a breakdown of the concept:
 - Efforts: These are the inputs or activities that an organization or program undertakes to achieve its goals. Efforts can include financial resources, staff time, program activities, training sessions, outreach efforts, and more.
 - Outcomes: These are the changes, benefits, or other effects that occur as a result of the efforts. Outcomes can be immediate, intermediate, or long-term. They can include changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviors, or conditions for individuals or communities served by a program.

Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS)

- System of indicators which track how likely it is for a young person to drop out of school. Common Indicators include chronic absenteeism and course failure.

F

G

H

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- A [Homeless Management Information System \(HMIS\)](#) is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. Each Continuum of Care (CoC) is responsible for selecting an HMIS software solution that complies with HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards.

Household Pulse Survey

- The [Household Pulse Survey](#), which is led by the U.S. Census Bureau, “collects data on the social and economic effects of coronavirus on American households.” The Household Pulse Survey is deployed more quickly than other federal surveys and is meant to collect information about emergent social and economic issues facing households. Data is disseminated “in near real-time.”

I

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

- [The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System](#) (IPEDS) gathers data annually from every college, university, and technical and vocational institution that participates in the federal student financial aid programs. IPEDS gathers data on areas such as the finances of institutions of higher education, the services they offer, and outcome measures of enrolled students.

J

Justice Impacted and/or Involved Youth

- "Justice-impacted and/or involved youth" refers to young individuals, often under the age of 18, who have had interactions with or have been affected by the criminal or juvenile justice system. This can range from arrest, detention, adjudication, probation, to confinement in a juvenile correctional facility. The term seeks to acknowledge and humanize these young individuals, emphasizing their potential for growth and positive change rather than defining them solely by their involvement with the justice system.

L

Labor Exchange System

- A "Labor Exchange System" typically refers to a mechanism or platform where employers can match with potential employees based on skill sets, experience, and job requirements. Such systems have existed in various forms over the centuries, ranging from ancient marketplaces where laborers would gather, to sophisticated online platforms and apps in modern times.

Labor Force Participation Rate

- The [labor force participation rate](#) represents the number of people in the labor force as a percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population. In other words, the participation rate is the percentage of the population that is either working or actively looking for work.

Literature Review

OJJDP Literature Reviews

- [Model Programs Guide Literature Reviews](#) provide practitioners and policymakers with relevant research and evaluations for several youth-related topics and programs.

M

Memorandum of understanding (MOU)

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a formal agreement between two or more parties. While MOUs are not legally binding like contracts, they are considered serious documents that indicate an intention to work together toward a common goal.

Meta-analysis

- Meta-analysis is the statistical combination of results from two or more separate studies. Potential advantages of meta-analyses include an improvement in precision, the ability to answer questions not posed by individual studies, and the opportunity to settle controversies arising from conflicting claims.

N

National Clearinghouse

- [The Clearinghouse](#) maintains a comprehensive electronic registry of student records that provides a single, automated point-of-contact for organizations and individuals requiring timely, accurate verification of student enrollment, degree, and loan data.

National Longitudinal Survey of Youth

- [The National Longitudinal Surveys \(NLS\)](#) are a set of surveys designed to gather information at multiple points in time on the labor market activities and other significant life events of several



groups of men and women. NLS data have served as an important tool for economists, sociologists, and other researchers for more than 50 years. Learn about the different NLS cohorts.

O

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

- [OJJDP](#) sponsors programs to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization and improve juvenile justice systems.

OJJDP Model Programs Guide

- [OJJDP](#) curates a model programs guide to assist with program development and implementation scoping in the justice involved youth space.

Older Youth

- The term "older youth" typically refers to individuals older than 18 and younger than 25, 27, or 30 depending on the context. This age group, which might also be described as young adults, confronts a unique set of challenges and opportunities distinct from younger adolescents or more mature adults.

Opportunity Youth

- [Disconnected youth](#) are characterized by their disconnection from education, the workforce, and social support networks are off-track to reach a future that includes self-sufficiency, economic stability, and overall well-being.

P

Point in Time Count

- [The Point-in-Time \(PIT\)](#) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.

Q

R

Reentry Employment Opportunities

- The Reentry Employment Opportunities program (REO) is a long-standing federal funding stream operated by the Department of Labor focused on increasing employment for justice-impacted individuals.

S

Stop-out Rate

- Percentage of students dropping out of college.

T

U

Unemployment System

- *The unemployment system, also known as the unemployment insurance (UI) system in many countries, is designed to provide financial assistance to workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. The specifics of how this system operates can vary from one country to another, but there are some general principles and components that tend to be consistent.*

Unemployment Rate

- [The unemployment rate](#) represents the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labor force (the labor force is the sum of the employed and unemployed). The unemployment rate is calculated as: $(\text{Unemployed} \div \text{Labor Force}) \times 100$.

V

Vocational Education

- Vocational education is a different learning option from the path of college or universities. It offers a path that imparts the skills and knowledge needed to work in a given occupation. It is coordinated with the requirements of the labor market and is an integral part of the education system.

W

Workforce Development

- Workforce development is a transitional program. While job training helps workers understand their new job duties, workforce development helps them transition into different roles. These

training programs help skilled workers gain the certifications and experience they need to advance their careers in the workplace.

Workforce Programming

- Workforce programming typically refers to initiatives, programs, and efforts designed to improve the employability, skill sets, and economic potential of individuals in the labor market. These programs can be sponsored by government entities, nonprofits, educational institutions, or private enterprises. The main goal is to connect job seekers, especially those with barriers to employment, with the skills and opportunities they need to attain sustainable and meaningful employment.

Workforce Development Board

- Workforce development boards were previously known as workforce investment boards (WIBs). Before WIBs, private industry councils (PICs) were similar entities, and even earlier “prime sponsors” played a similar role.

Workforce System

- *A workforce system refers to the broad range of elements that contribute to organizing, managing, and developing a group of people in an employment setting. This system is typically multi-faceted and addresses different aspects of the employee lifecycle, from recruitment to retirement or exit.*

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- [WIOA](#) is the main piece of federal legislation that authorizes job training programs. WIOA programs are designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and help get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers and help employers hire and retain skilled workers. Link:

X

Y

Young Adult and/or Young People

- A person age 18 through 24. This age group can vary.

Youth Employment

- Youth employment is a critical aspect of economic development and social progress. Young people often face unique challenges when entering the job market, which can have lasting effects on their long-term employment prospects and earnings potential.
- In July 2023, 55.0 percent of young people (persons ages 16 to 24) were employed, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This measure was little changed from 55.3 percent in July 2022.

Youth Homelessness

- [Youth homelessness](#) is a pressing social issue in many countries, and it refers to young individuals, often up to the age of 24, who lack parental, foster, or institutional care and are without a stable place to live. This can encompass a range of living situations, including sleeping on the streets, staying in shelters, sofa surfing, or living in precarious accommodations.
- Each year, an estimated 4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness in the United States, 700,000 of which are unaccompanied minors—meaning they are not part of a family or accompanied by a parent or guardian. These estimates indicate that approximately one in 10 adults ages 18 to 25, and one in 30 youth ages 13 to 17 will experience homelessness each year.

Youth Disconnection

- [Disconnected youth](#) are young people between 16 and 24 not in school and not working.
- See also: disconnected youth

Youth Unemployment Rate

- [The youth unemployment rate](#) is the number of unemployed 15-24 year-olds expressed as a percentage of the youth labour force. Unemployed people are those who report that they are without work, that they are available for work and that they have taken active steps to find work in the last four weeks.
- See also: youth unemployment

Z