

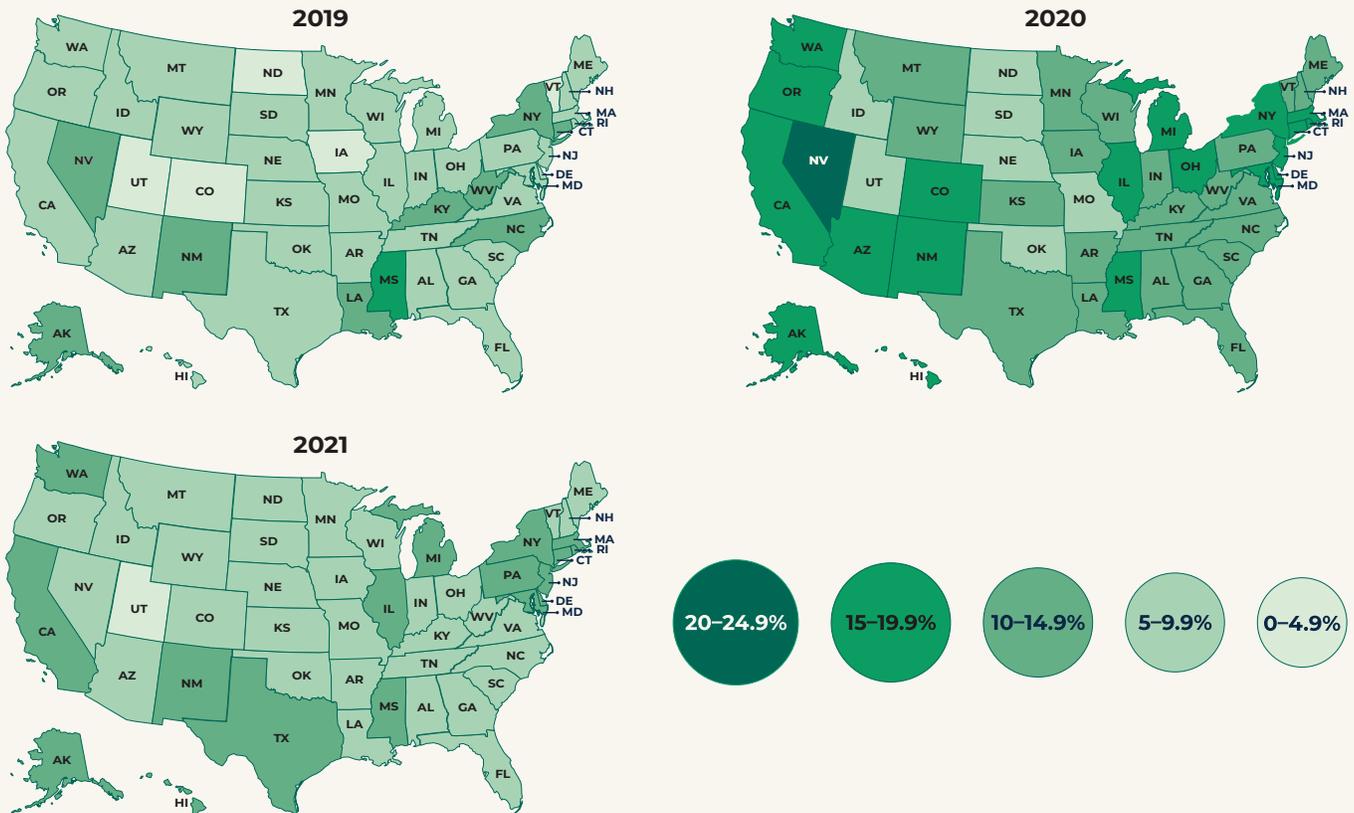
State-level youth unemployment rates from 2019 to 2021

Compared to 2020, in which youth unemployment rates spiked due to the COVID-19 pandemic, youth unemployment rates in 2021 decreased in every state, as indicated with lighter green shades in the figure. The rate of economic recovery for youth has differed from state to state.

In 14 states, most of them rural, youth unemployment rates dropped below their 2019 levels. These states were Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Youth unemployment rates in Florida, Indiana, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, and Utah returned to nearly pre-pandemic levels of 2019.

However, in other states, youth unemployment rates in 2021 remained well above the pre-pandemic levels. For example, the 2021 youth unemployment rate in Massachusetts was 5.8 percentage points higher than it was in 2019. The 2021 rate was 5.1 percentage points higher in Maryland, 4.7 percentage points higher in Colorado, and 4.2 percentage points higher in Hawaii compared to 2019 rates in those states.



Source: Mathematica compilation based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey (<https://www.bls.gov/cps/data.htm>).

Note: Estimates do not account for seasonal patterns.



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March 10, 2022