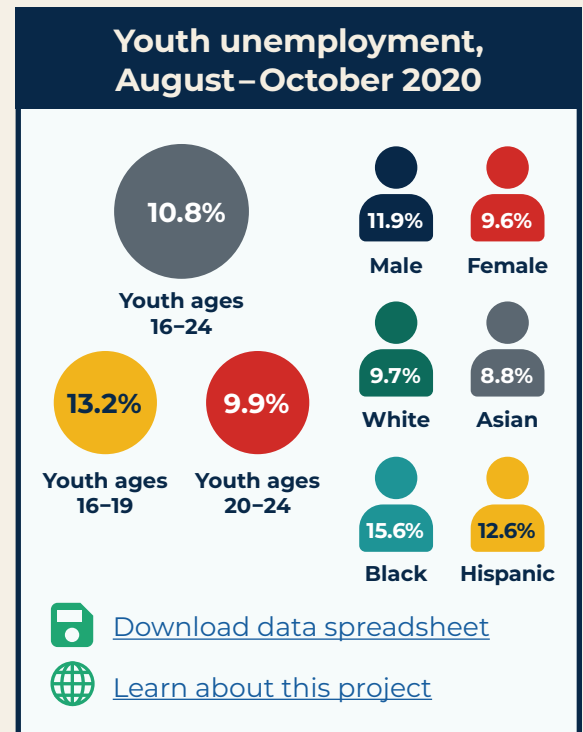
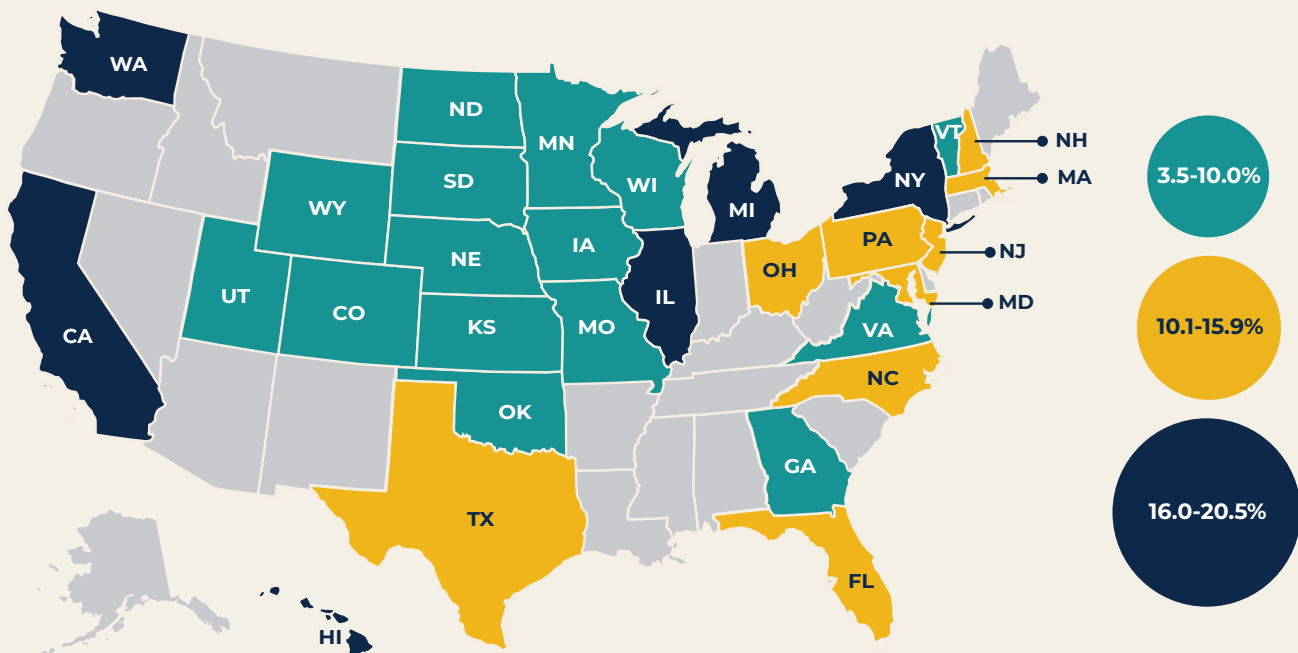


COVID-19 and State-Level Youth Unemployment Rates, August–October 2020

- Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, youth unemployment rates increased across states, exceeding rates seen during the Great Recession. The COVID-19 pandemic caused states to implement stay-at-home orders and forced nonessential businesses to close. Economic consequences of the pandemic varied by state, due to a number of factors such as the state's primary industry, number of essential jobs, varying state policies in response to the pandemic, and exacerbated demographic inequalities.
- According to the most recent data available for the period from August to October 2020, youth unemployment rates varied considerably across selected states, ranging from 3.5 percent to 20.5 percent. Hawaii had the highest youth unemployment rate, 20.5 percent, followed by Washington and Michigan, at 19.6 percent each. Nebraska had the lowest rate, 3.5 percent, followed by North Dakota (5.7 percent) and Utah (6.1 percent). Of the 30 states with youth unemployment rates available, 20 states' unemployment rates were lower than the national average in the same period, while 10 states' unemployment rates were above the national average.
- Although states moved toward reopening over the fall, the pandemic's ongoing effects persist. The current situation in the United States has shown an alarming number of COVID-19 cases increasing as the winter season and holidays approach. This may, in turn, lead to another surge in unemployment among youth followed by additional restrictions.



Youth unemployment rates in selected states, August–October 2020



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

Note: Estimates do not account for potential seasonal patterns.