

ABOUT THIS SERIES

As young people face myriad challenges, we explore how youth philanthropy can best engage young people of all socioeconomic backgrounds in grantmaking.

Why Youth Philanthropy Matters

The Sillerman Center's research on youth philanthropy outlines best practices and explores the ways these programs benefit young people, their communities, and the philanthropic sector.

Youth grantmaking programs help make the field of philanthropy more **inclusive** and **equitable**. They are an often overlooked, but extremely instructive model of participatory grantmaking and civic engagement in which **young people are given power** to make key decisions in support of their communities. Our research shows that **young philanthropists develop leadership skills** and a stronger sense of **belonging and purpose in their communities**.



Nearly 80% of youth philanthropy programs serve 13-18 year olds

Today's GenZ youth philanthropists, born between 1996 and 2014, report that they want to make decisions about where their donated dollars go and see the impact of that money. GenZers tend to give small and spontaneous donations and are the most likely of any generation to give via social media.

In 2020, 44% of Gen Zers donated to charity – most frequently to children, animals, health, religion, and social services.



26% of Gen Zers volunteered in 2020, the highest percent of any age group.

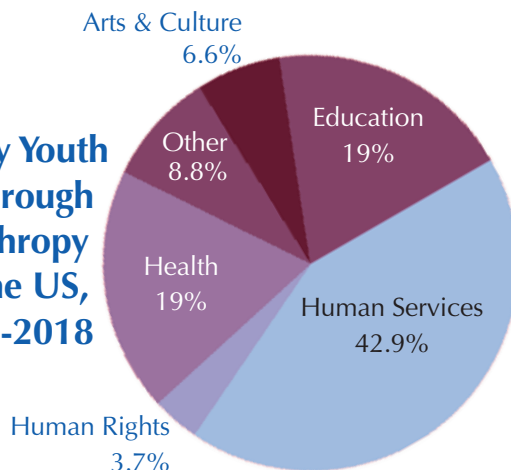


Participation in youth philanthropy programs is declining

Our research indicates that participation in youth philanthropy programs is declining. In 2018, there were an estimated 513 such programs in the United States. In 2021 there were an estimated 475 programs.

Where and how much do youth philanthropy programs give?

All Grants Made by Youth Philanthropists, through youth philanthropy programs in the US, from 2015-2018



FROM 2015-2018, YOUTH PHILANTHROPISTS MADE GRANTS TOTALING \$6.3 MILLION THROUGH YOUTH PHILANTHROPY PROGRAMS IN THE US

Other infographics in this series explore youth mental health, youth employment, and access to technology. We aim to inform funders about the challenges young people face and how youth philanthropy can best engage young people of all socioeconomic backgrounds in grantmaking.

Please visit <http://sillermancenter.brandeis.edu> for more information. See sources on the back.

Why Youth Philanthropy Matters — Sources

- * The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy, Youth Philanthropy Project.
- * Youth ages 14-17 with at least one adult mentor in the community who provides advice or guidance in the United States. Kids Count Data Center, *Annie E. Casey Foundation*. July 2021.
- * YouthTruth, Student Survey. (2021). *Students Weigh In, Part III: Learning and Well-being During COVID-19.*
- * Youth ages 14-17 who participated in community service or volunteer work at school, church, or in the community during the past year in the United States. Kids Count Data Center, *Annie E. Casey Foundation*. July 2021.
- * Seller, S. and Ponce, K. (2021). *The State of Youth Philanthropy: 2020-2021.* *The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy*.
- * Labetti, C. and Wanger, K. (2021). *Engaging the Next Generation of Philanthropists.* *Giving USA*.
- * Giving USA 2021: In a year of unprecedented events and challenges, charitable giving reached a record \$471.44 billion in 2020. Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia via *The Lilly Family School of Philanthropy*. June 2021.
- * "Foundation Maps." YouthGiving.org. Search by Youth-Driven, U.S.-based grantmaking programs, and year range. Accessed August 2022.

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Youth and Mental Health Challenges

1 in 4 children and teens experience mental illness



In 2020, 1 in 6 young people ages 12-17 had a major depressive episode



In 2020, 1 in 5 young people had declining mental health due to COVID-19



17M Children Face Mental Health Challenges



- ✿ Children tend to suffer more harm from disruption and family stress than adults
- ✿ Children who experience food and financial insecurity, in addition to social isolation, reported the poorest mental health outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic
- ✿ Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the share of students who say there is an adult at school with whom they can discuss anxiety, stress, or depression, dropped from 46% before the pandemic to 39% in 2021

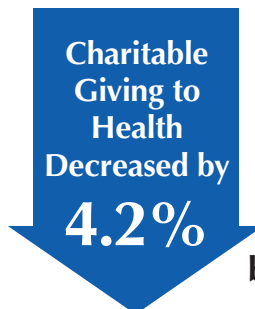
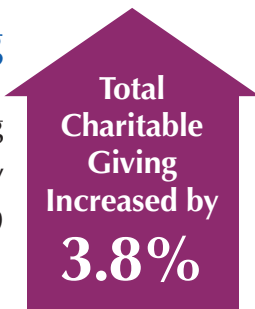


In Spring 2021, **49% of students** reported **feeling depressed, anxious, or stressed**, which made it hard to do their best in school.

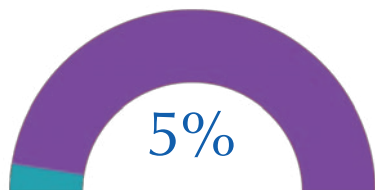


Insufficient Funding

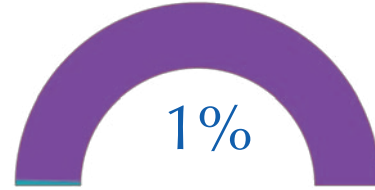
In 2020, total US giving **INCREASED** slightly from 2019



But giving to healthcare organizations **DECLINED** by over 4%.



Only 5% of foundation healthcare grants go to mental health



Less than 1% of US government spending goes to mental health

To engage young people in youth philanthropy programs, we must be aware of and ready to assist young people as they face mental health challenges. Robust support systems and mentors are vital to young people's participation in these programs. Programs should also consider funding youth mental health organizations in order to create a holistic approach to positive youth mental health outcomes.

Youth and Mental Health Challenges — References

- ✿ Giving USA 2021: In a year of unprecedented events and challenges, charitable giving reached a record \$471.44 billion in 2020. Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia via *The Lilly Family School of Philanthropy*. June 2021.
- Ricci, B. (2021). Philanthropy Must Invest in BIPOC Mental Health for a More Equitable Society. *Inside Philanthropy*.
- State of American Philanthropy: Giving for Mental Health. *Inside Philanthropy*. 2020.
- Steinberg, J. (2020). It's Time to Fund Children's Mental Health. Philanthropy New York.
- NAMI. (2020). 2020 Mental Health by the Numbers: Youth and Young Adults.
- Morgan Stanley Alliance for Children's Mental Health. (2021). Assessing the Mental Health Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic and paving the way for targeted individual and communitywide interventions.
- YouthTruth, Student Survey. (2021). Students Weigh In, Part III: Learning and Well-being During COVID-19.
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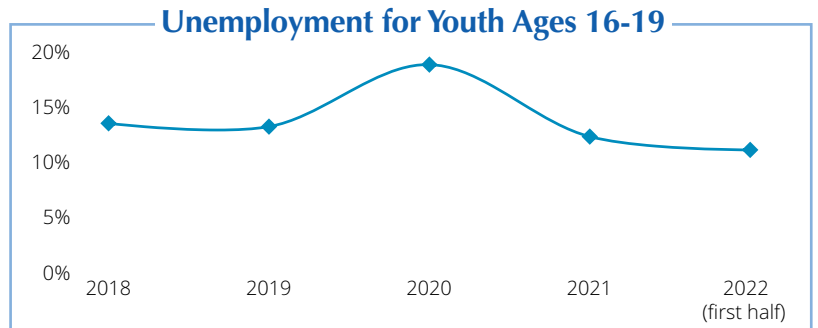
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Philanthropy Can Counteract the Harms of Youth Unemployment

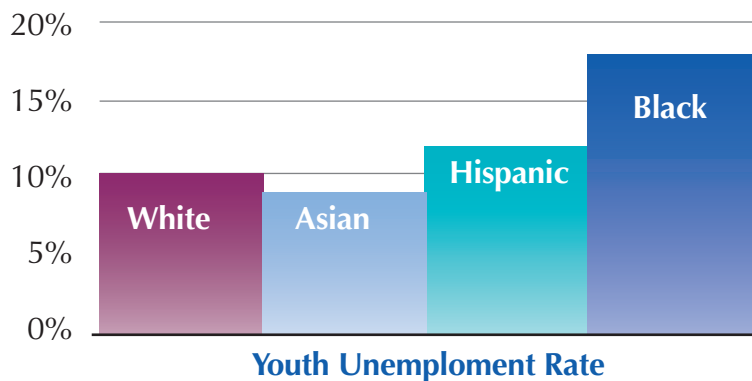
Youth employment rates are improving, but the harms of high youth unemployment during the COVID-19 pandemic linger.

Young people, many of whom are struggling to find jobs, should be compensated for their involvement in youth philanthropy programs.



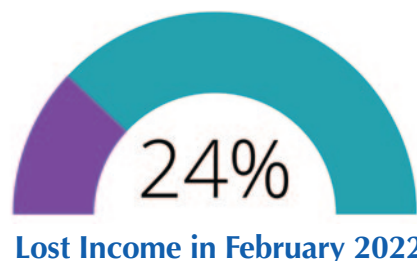
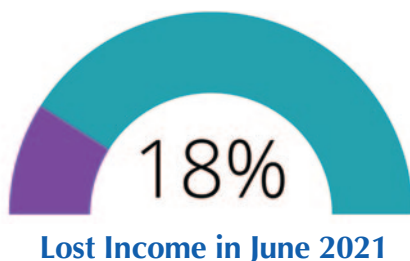
From April 2021 to July 2021, the youth labor force grew by **2.4 million**. There was also increased demand for jobs in 2021, with **75% of youth ages 16-24 seeking employment**.

Coupled with an increased demand for jobs in 2021, 75% of youth ages 16-24 sought employment, up from **67% in 2020**.



In the second quarter of 2022, rates of unemployment for youth ages 16-19 were **nearly 8 percentage points higher for Black youth** than for white youth.

A growing share of 18-24 year olds lost income throughout the COVID-19 pandemic



Compensating young people for their involvement in youth philanthropy enables them to **build leadership** and **collaboration skills** as they make decisions about how to spend money to **support their communities**.

Compensation may be an **hourly payment rate**, **transportation subsidies**, or a **stipend**. Provision of on-site child or sibling care also removes another impediment to participation for some young people.



Philanthropy Can Counteract the Harms of Youth Unemployment — Sources

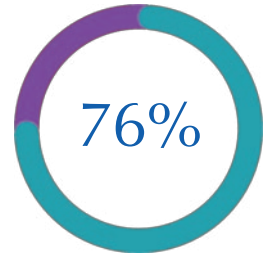
- * U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2021). "*Employment and Unemployment Among Youth Summary.*"
- * U.S. Chamber of Commerce. (2022). "*Understanding America's Labor Shortage: The Most Impacted Industries.*"
- * *Adults ages 18-24 who lost employment income in the United States.* Kids Count Data Center, *Annie E. Casey Foundation*. June 2022.
- * U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2022). "*Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey; Unemployment rates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.*"
- * FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. (2022). "*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rate - 16-24 Yrs.*"

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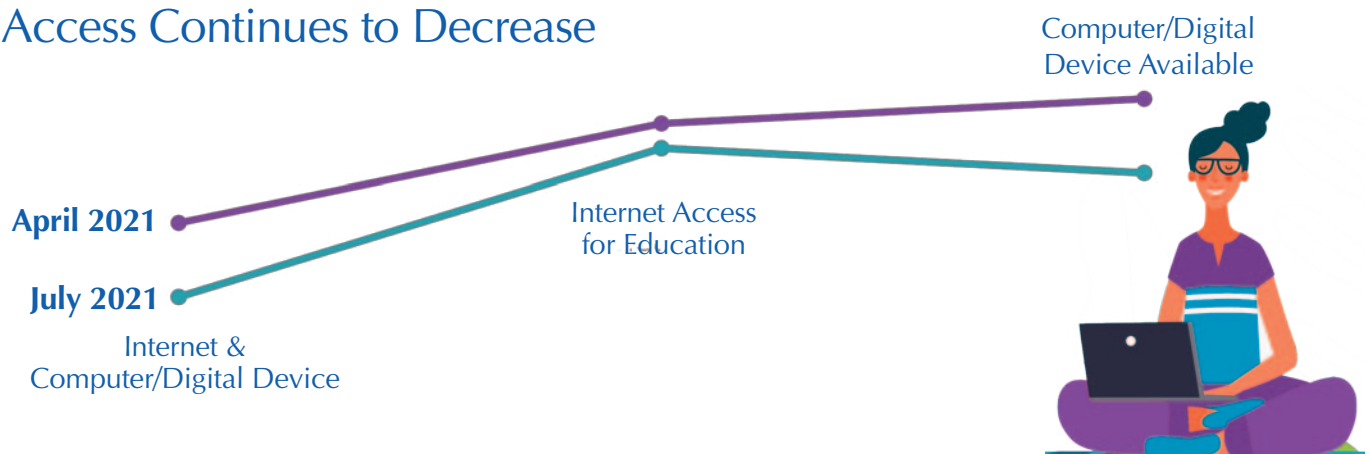
The Link Between Technology Access and Engaged Youth Philanthropists

76% of youth philanthropy programs want to continue with hybrid programming



Yet, in 2021, more than 10 percent of youth philanthropy program organizers reported that access to technology was a barrier for youth participation in programming.

Access Continues to Decrease



Youth without technology access face barriers to education

YouthTruth's student survey showed that **lack of access to technology prevented students from "doing their best in school."**



A household may or may not have broadband or internet due to:



High Cost



Weak or no connectivity



No service available



To ensure equity and access to youth philanthropy, program organizers should **provide students access to necessary technology**. This might include paying for **internet service** and **video conferencing platforms**, **grant application software**, and **file sharing**

The Link Between Technology Access and Engaged Youth Philanthropists — Sources

- ✿ Seller, S. and Ponce, K. (2021). The State of Youth Philanthropy: 2020-2021. *The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy*.
- ✿ "Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet." *Pew Research Center*. April 2021.
- ✿ Households in which internet and a computer or digital device are usually or always available to children for educational purposes in the United States. Kids Count Data Center, *Annie E. Casey Foundation*. July 2021.
- ✿ Households in which internet is usually or always available to children for educational purposes in the United States. Kids Count Data Center, *Annie E. Casey Foundation*. July 2021.
- ✿ Households in which a computer to digital device is usually or always available to children for educational purposes in the United States. Kids Count Data Center, *Annie E. Casey Foundation*. July 2021.
- ✿ YouthTruth, Student Survey. (2021). Students Weigh In, Part III: Learning and Well-being During COVID-19.