

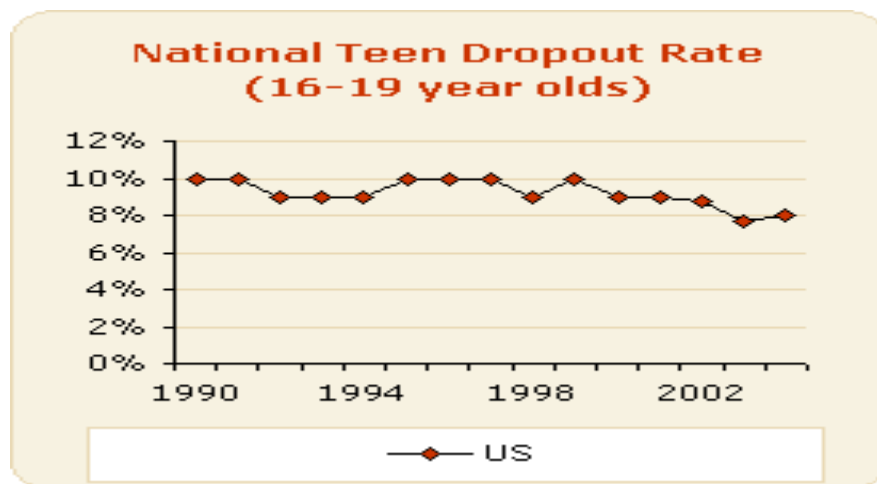
The National Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk (NDTAC)

<http://www.neglected-delinquent.org/nd/resources/library/atrisk.asp>

AT-RISK—The term 'at-risk,' when used with respect to a child, youth, or student, means a school aged individual who is at-risk of academic failure, has a drug or alcohol problem, is pregnant or is a parent, has come into contact with the juvenile justice system in the past, is at least 1 year behind the expected grade level for the age of the individual, has limited English proficiency, is a gang member, has dropped out of school in the past, or has a high absenteeism rate at school.

Dropping out of high school is related to a number of negative outcomes. For example, the median income of high school dropouts age 18 and over was \$12,184 in 2003 (U.S. Census Bureau 2005a). By comparison, the median income of those age 18 and over who completed their education with a high school credential (including a General Educational Development certificate, or GED) was \$20,431. Dropouts are also less likely to be in the labor force than those with a high school credential or higher, and are more likely to be unemployed if they are in the labor force (U.S. Department of Labor 2005). In terms of health, dropouts over the age of 24 tend to report being in worse health than adults who are not dropouts, regardless of income (U.S. Department of Education 2004). Dropouts also make up disproportionately higher percentages of the nation's prison and death row inmates.¹

One study found that 95 percent of adjudicated youth dropped out when reentering a public or alternative school setting¹. Compare that to national data on dropouts as a whole below.



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation based upon data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

¹ Estimates indicate that approximately 30 percent of federal inmates, 40 percent of state prison inmates, and 50 percent of persons on death row are high school dropouts (U.S. Department of Justice 2000, 2002).