



# 1 in 4 Young Adults in New York City Were Out of School and Out of Work in 2020

Highlights of Recently Released Data

*August 2021*



# About this Brief

JobsFirstNYC commissioned and co-created this brief with economists at Chmura, a labor market consulting and data analytics firm, to assess how the pandemic affected young adult New Yorkers in 2020. Chmura is the data source unless otherwise specified.

# About JobsFirstNYC

JobsFirstNYC creates and advances solutions that break down barriers and transform the systems supporting young adults and their communities in the pursuit of economic opportunities.



**Data in this brief is sourced mainly from the April 2021 Current Population Survey and is among the first data sets available to measure the economic impact of the pandemic in 2020.**

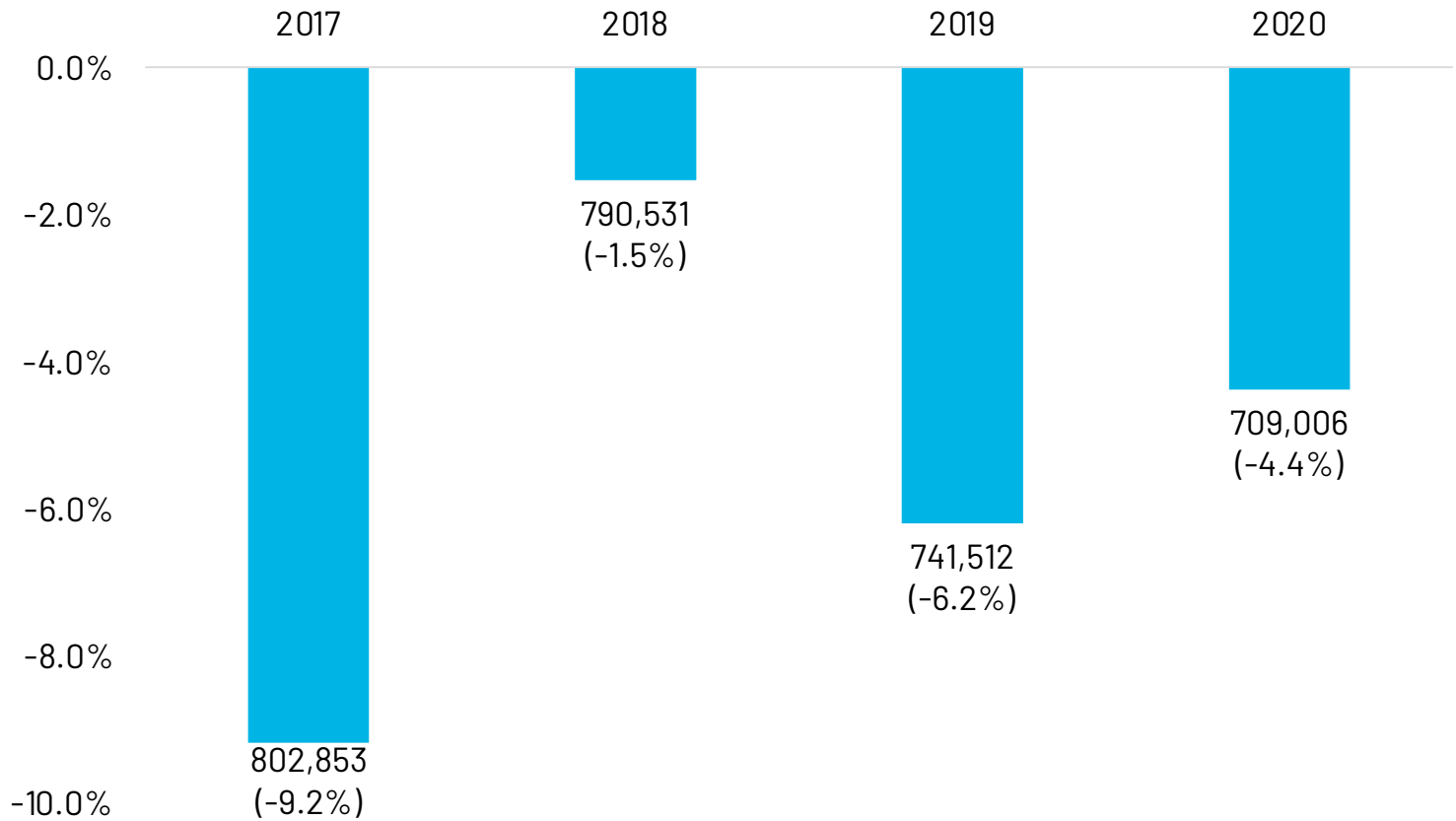


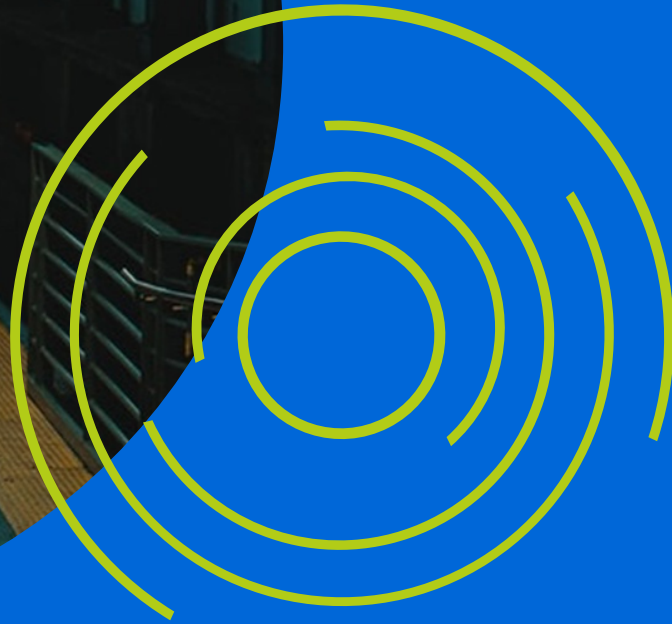
**This brief provides estimates of 18- to 24-year-old New Yorkers who were out of school and out of work (OSOW) in 2020.**

Unless stated otherwise all data refer to New York City.

**From 2016 to 2019  
New York City's 18- to  
24-year-old population  
dropped an average of  
5.6% per year. In 2020  
the decline was 4.4%.**

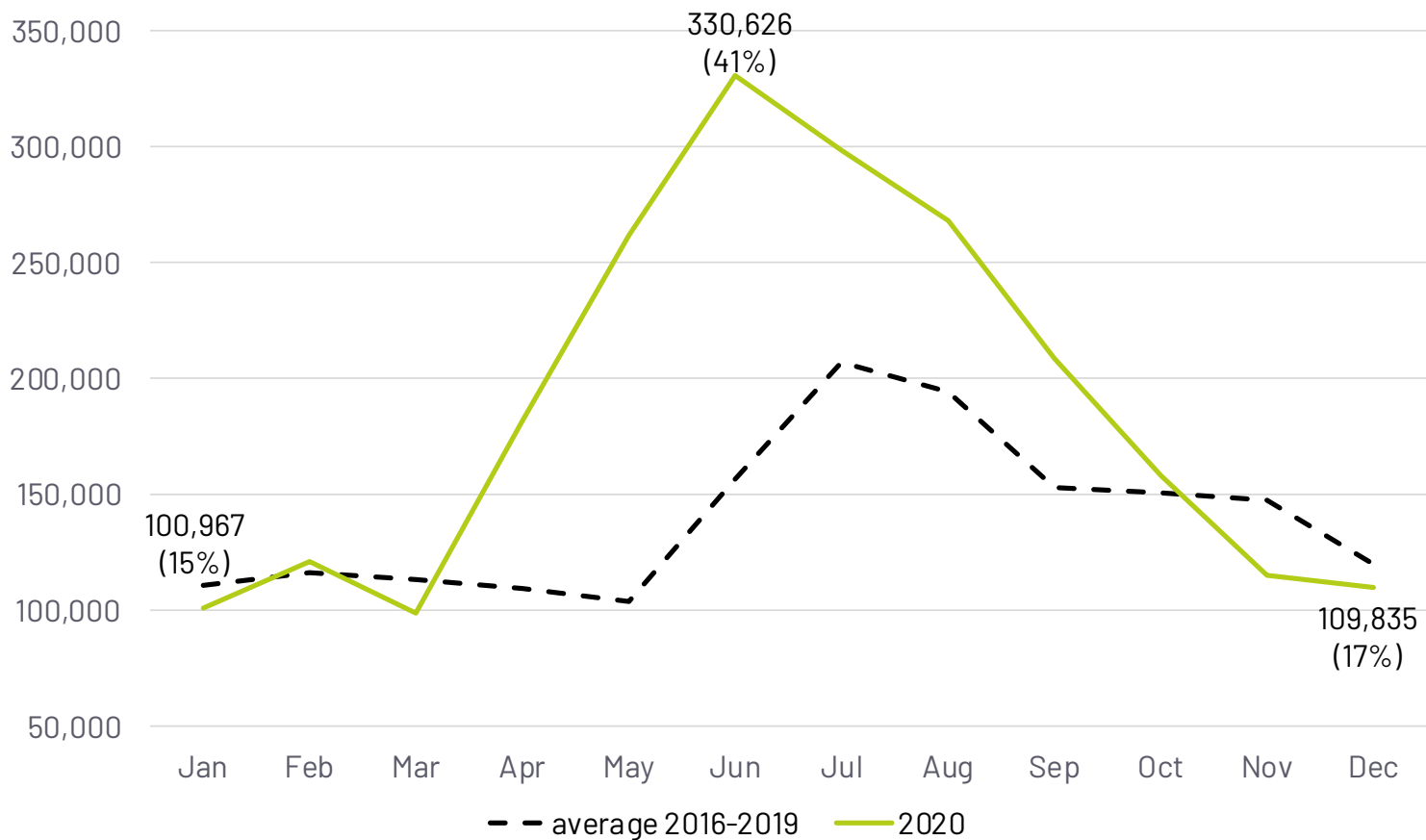
## Total population ages 18–24 change year over year





**In June 2020, while NYC confronted the COVID-19 pandemic and widespread closures, the number of 18- to 24-year-olds OSOW peaked at 330,626 or 41%, 24 percentage points above the 2016–2019 average.**

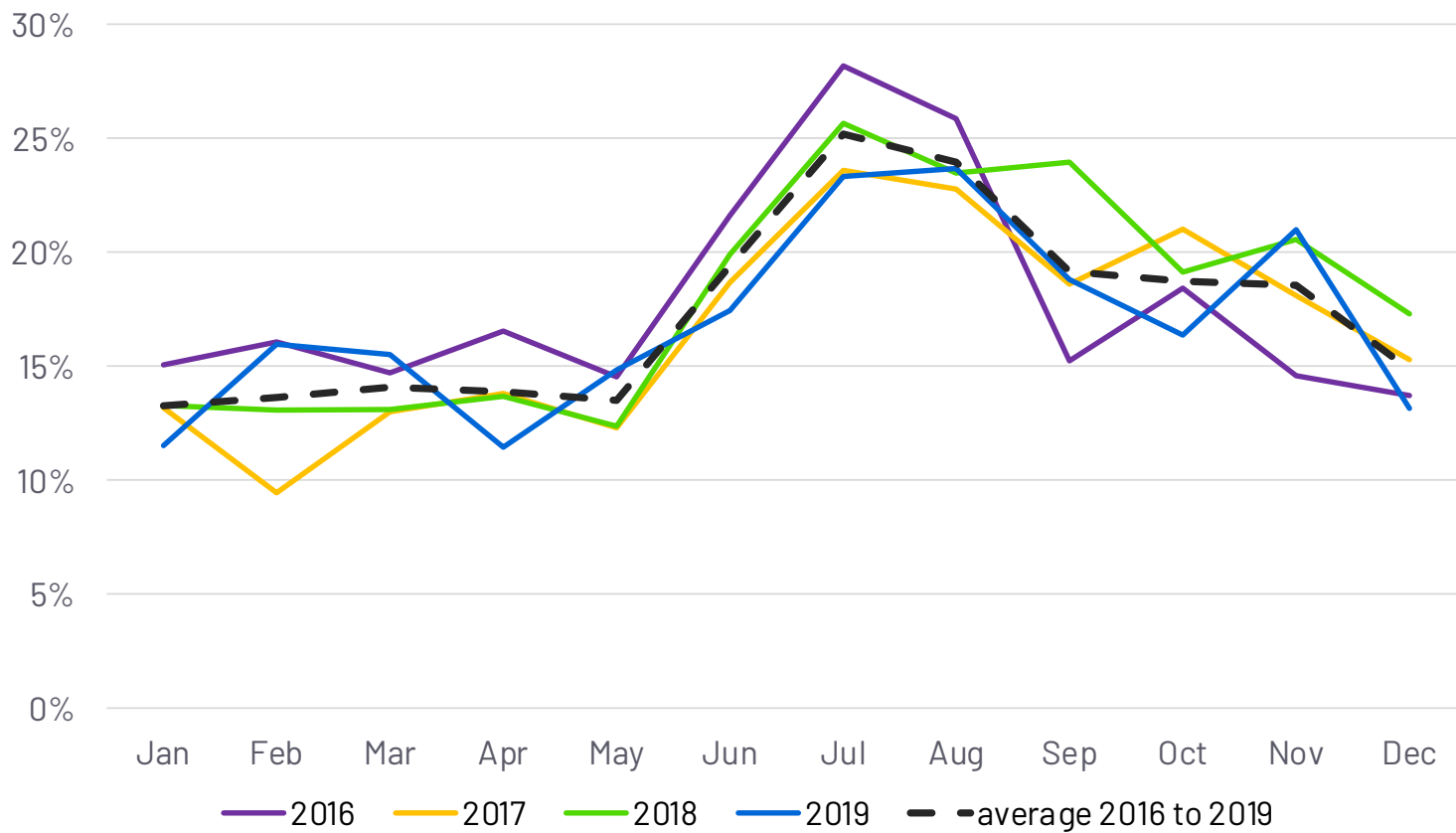
## 18- to 24-year-olds OSOW January–December, 2020 compared to the 2016–2019 average





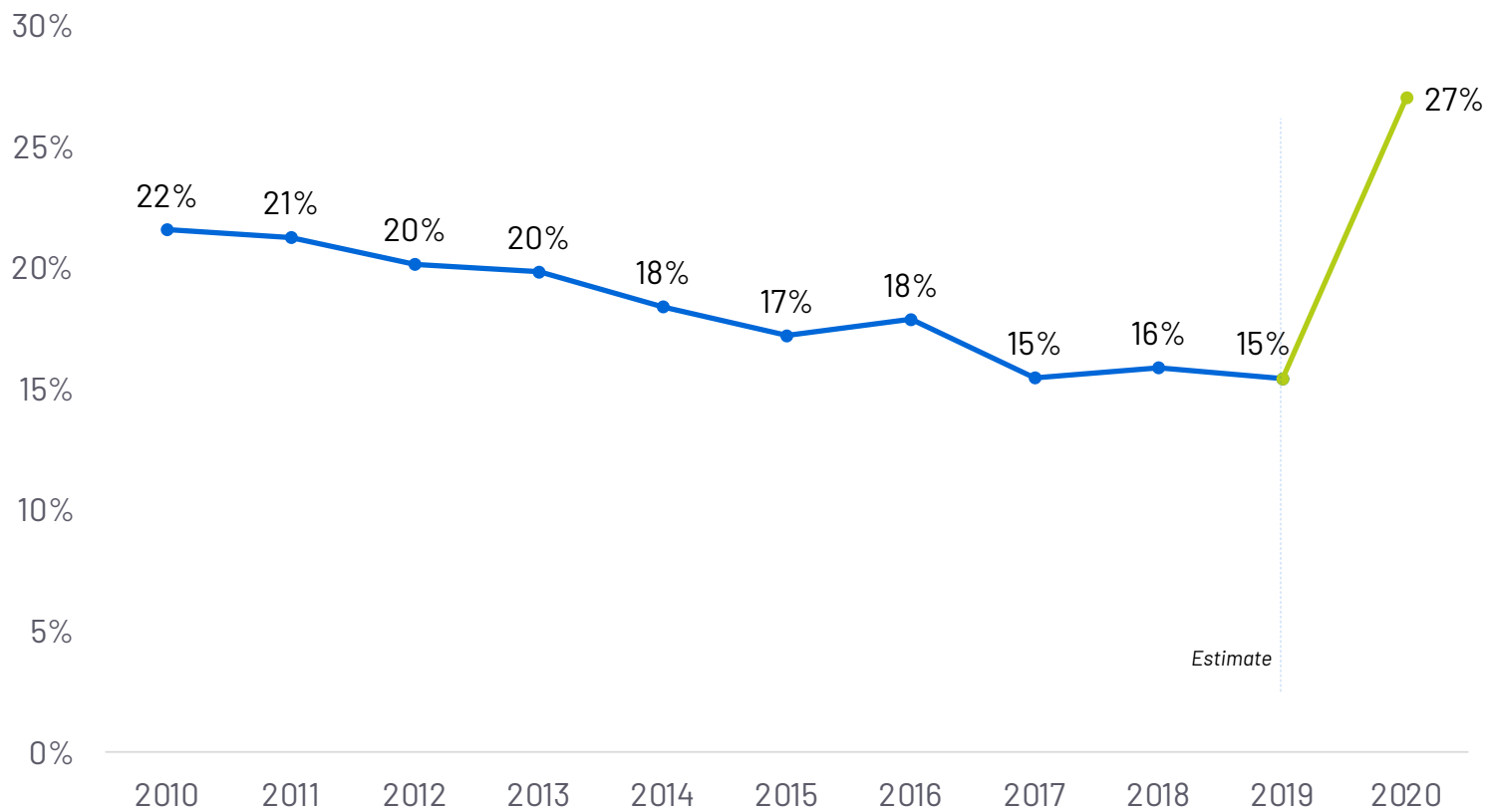
**Typical OSOW patterns follow trends: up in summer when students are out of school, down in winter when businesses hire seasonal workers.**

## Historical patterns for 18- to 24-year-olds OSOW 2016-2019



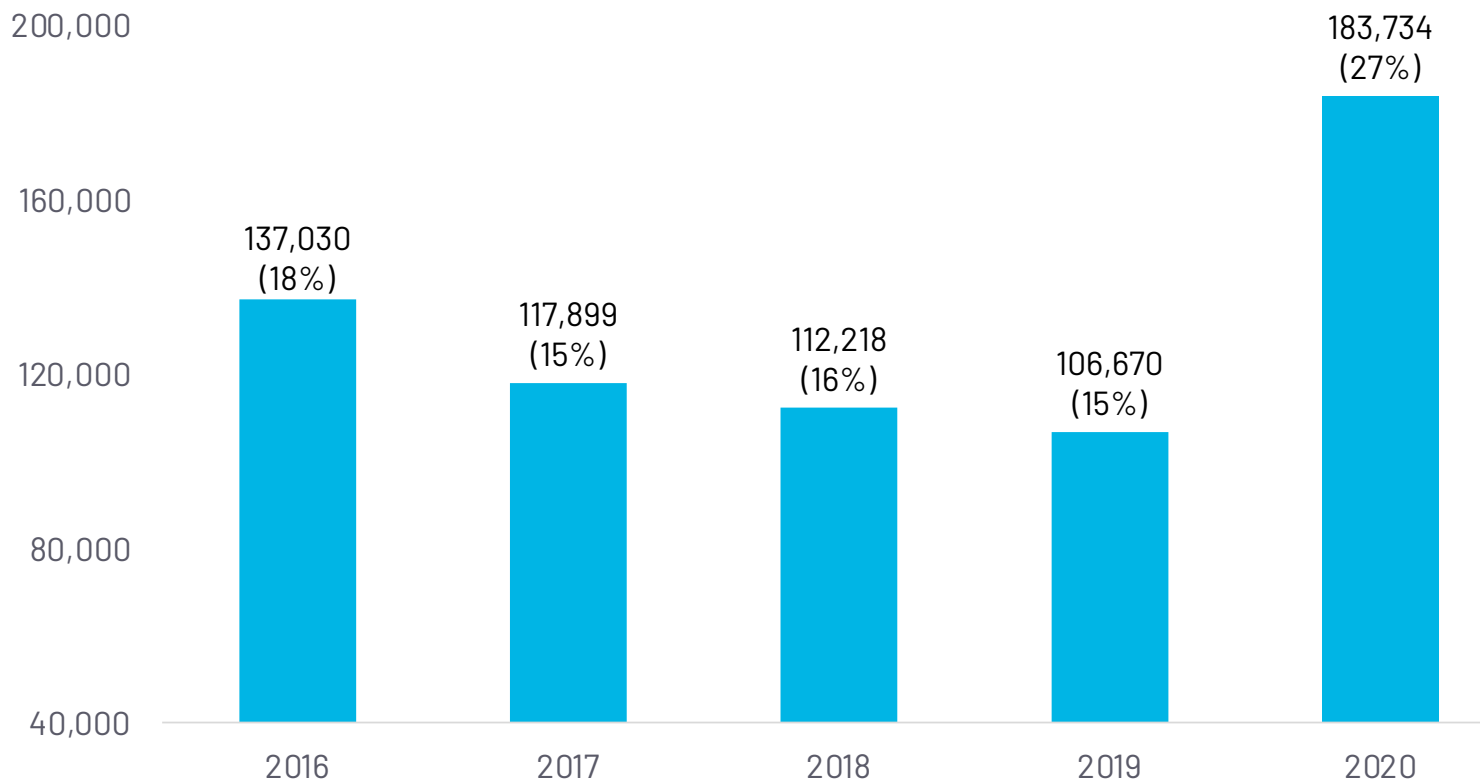
**In 2020, 27% of 18- to 24-year-olds were OSOW – an 80% increase over 2019. That increase wiped out the decade's gains.**

## 18- to 24-year-olds OSOW 2010-2020



**One in four 18- to 24-year-olds were OSOW in 2020 – 183,734. After dropping year over year to a low of 106,670 in 2019.**

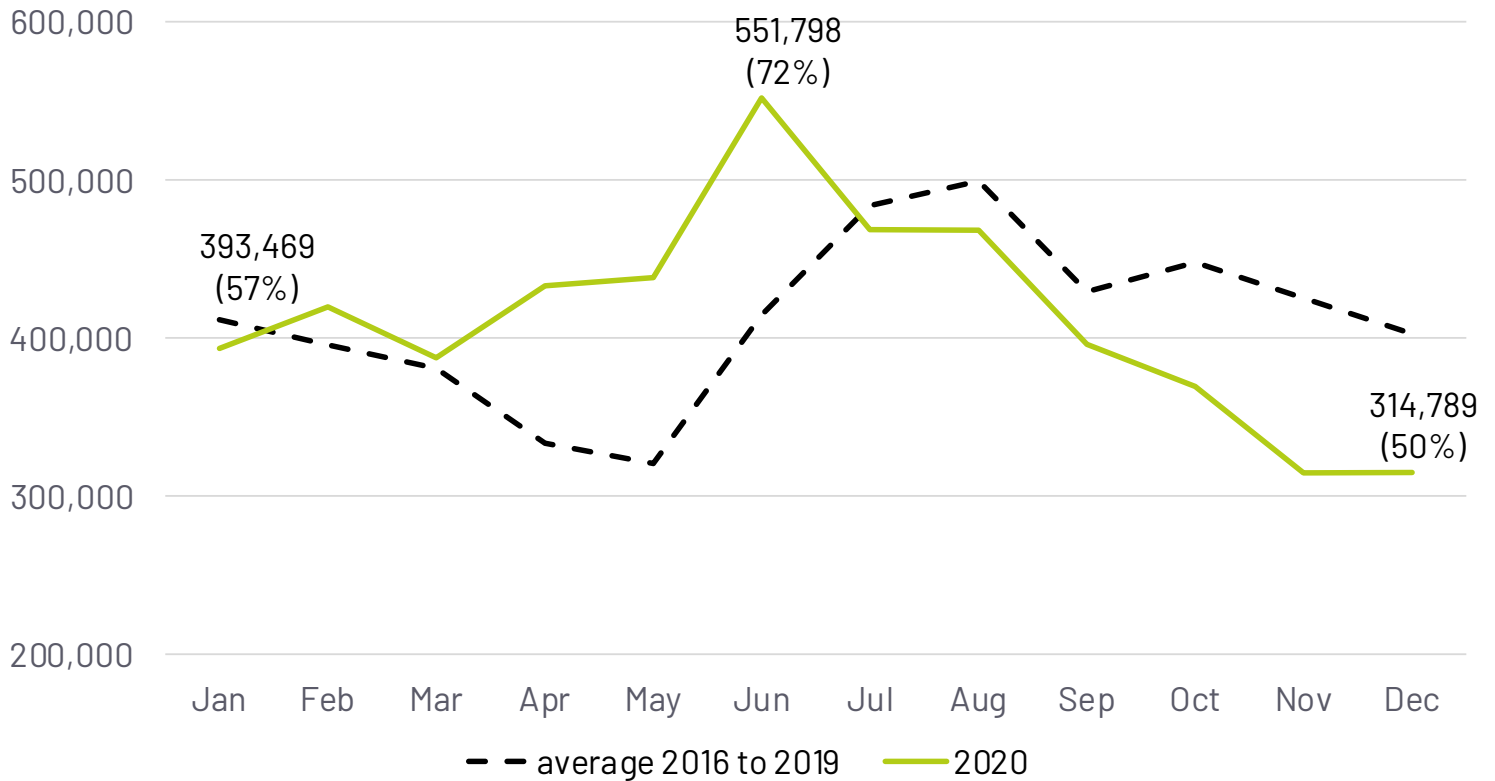
## 18- to 24-year-olds OSOW by year, 2016–2020



18- to 24-year-olds were less likely to be in school in 2020 and more likely to postpone or interrupt college. The average out of school rate for 2020 was 59% vs. 47% in 2019.



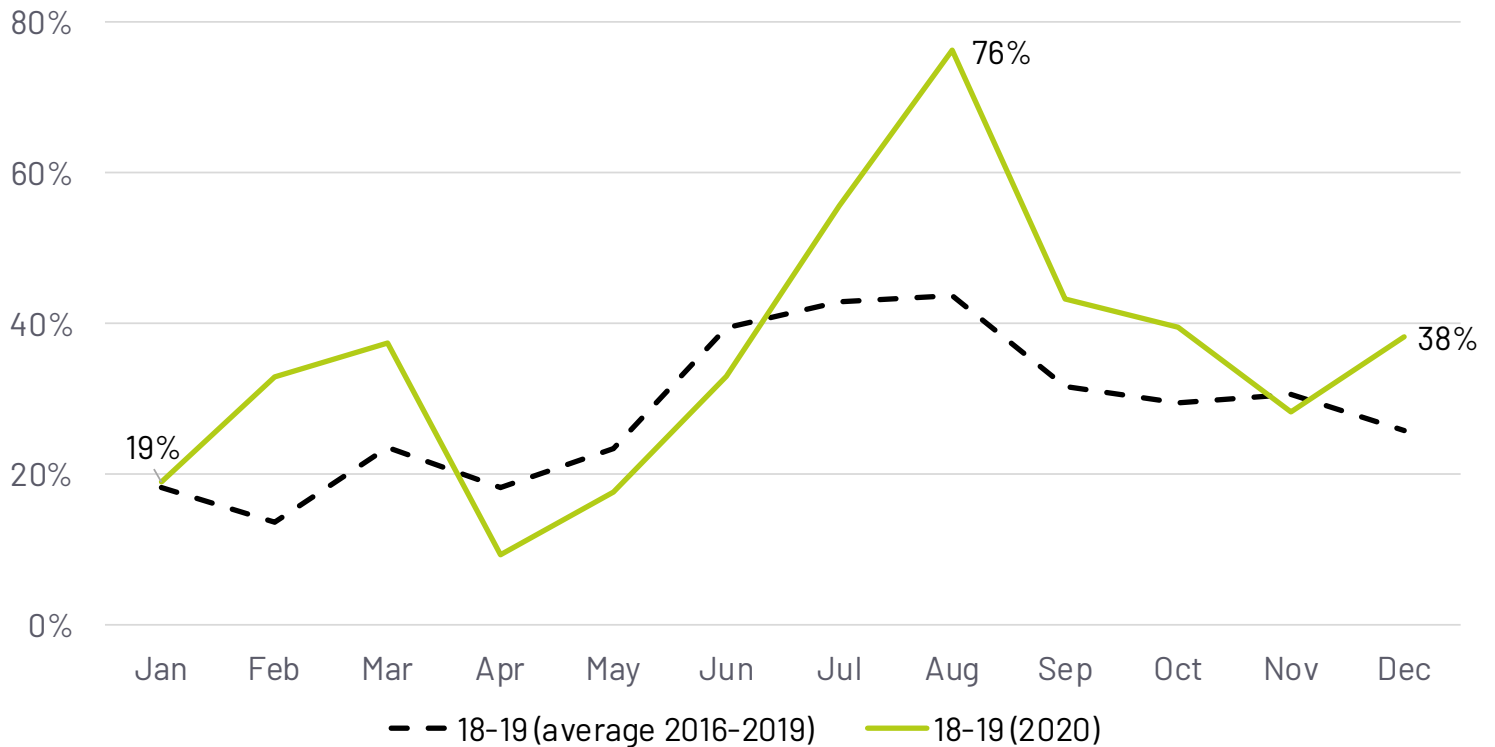
## 18- to 24-year-olds out of school January–December, 2020 compared to the 2016–2019 average





**Many more 18- to 19-year-olds were OSOW in August 2020 than usual, suggesting they were not starting college.**

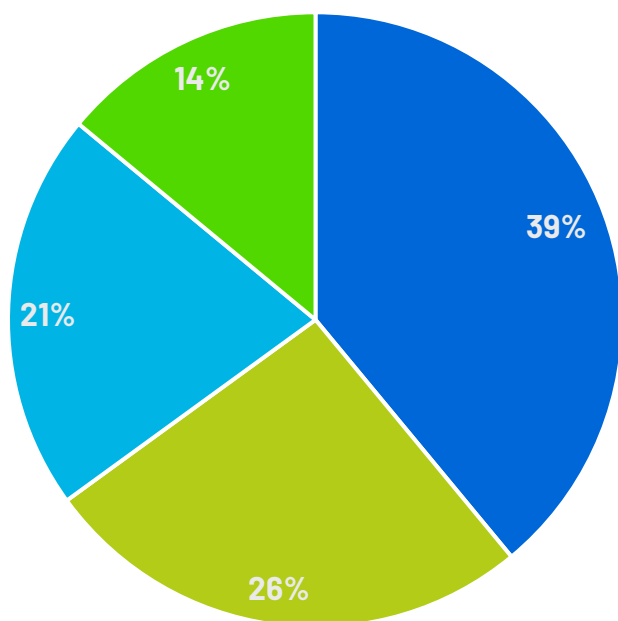
## 18- to 19 year-olds out of school in 2020 compared to the 2016-2019 average



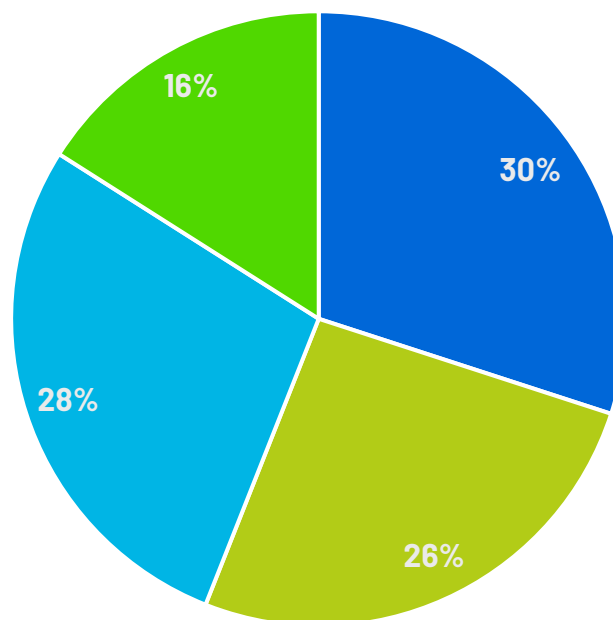
**In 2020, Latinx  
18- to 24-year-olds  
were overrepresented  
among New York's  
OSOW population.  
White 18- to 24-year-olds  
were underrepresented.**

## OSOW compared to all 18- to 24-year-olds in 2020

Young Adults OSOW



Total Young Adults



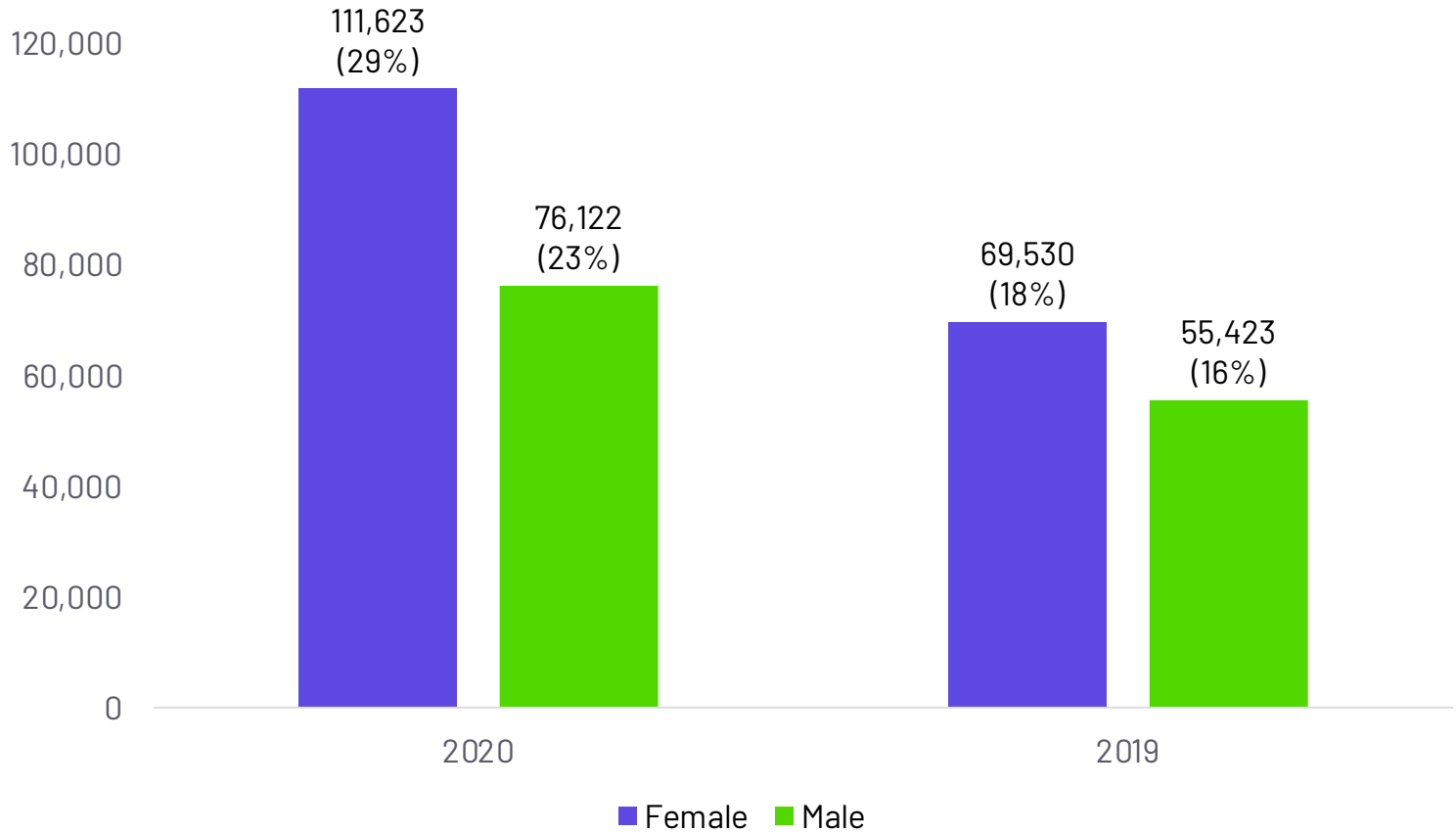
■ Latinx ■ Black ■ White ■ Asian Plus Other

Other race includes Native American or Pacific Islander, and two or more races.

The number of 18- to 24-year-old women OSOW rose 60% from 2019 to 2020, men OSOW rose 37%, and the total OSOW rose 50%.



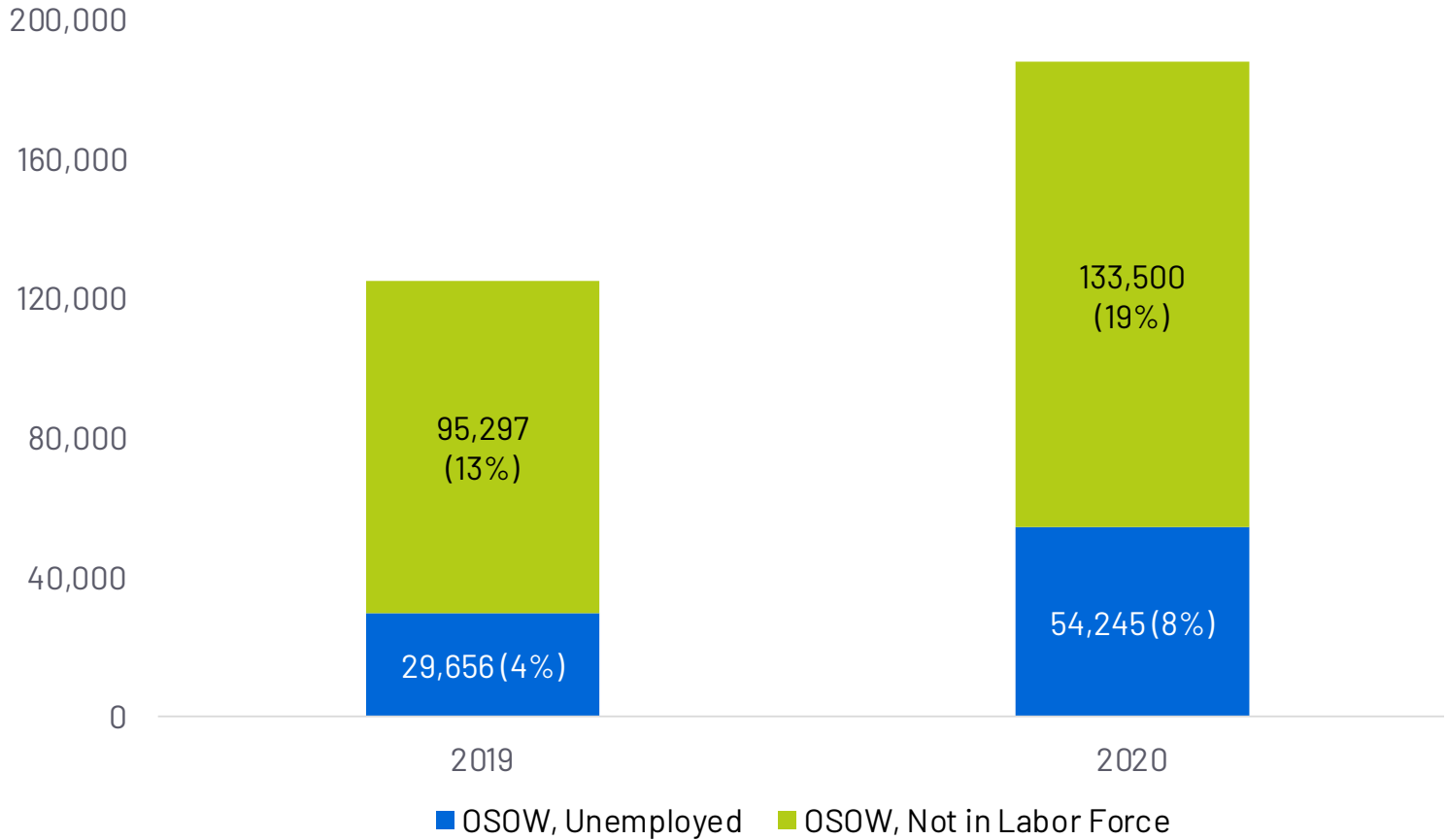
## 18- to 24-year-olds OSOW in 2019 and 2020 by sex



In 2020, the 18- to 24-year-old unemployment rate doubled.

People who are neither working nor seeking work are not counted as unemployed and are considered *not in the labor force*. In 2020 the number not in the labor force increased 6 percentage points.

## 18- to 24-year-olds OSOW unemployed, not in the labor force

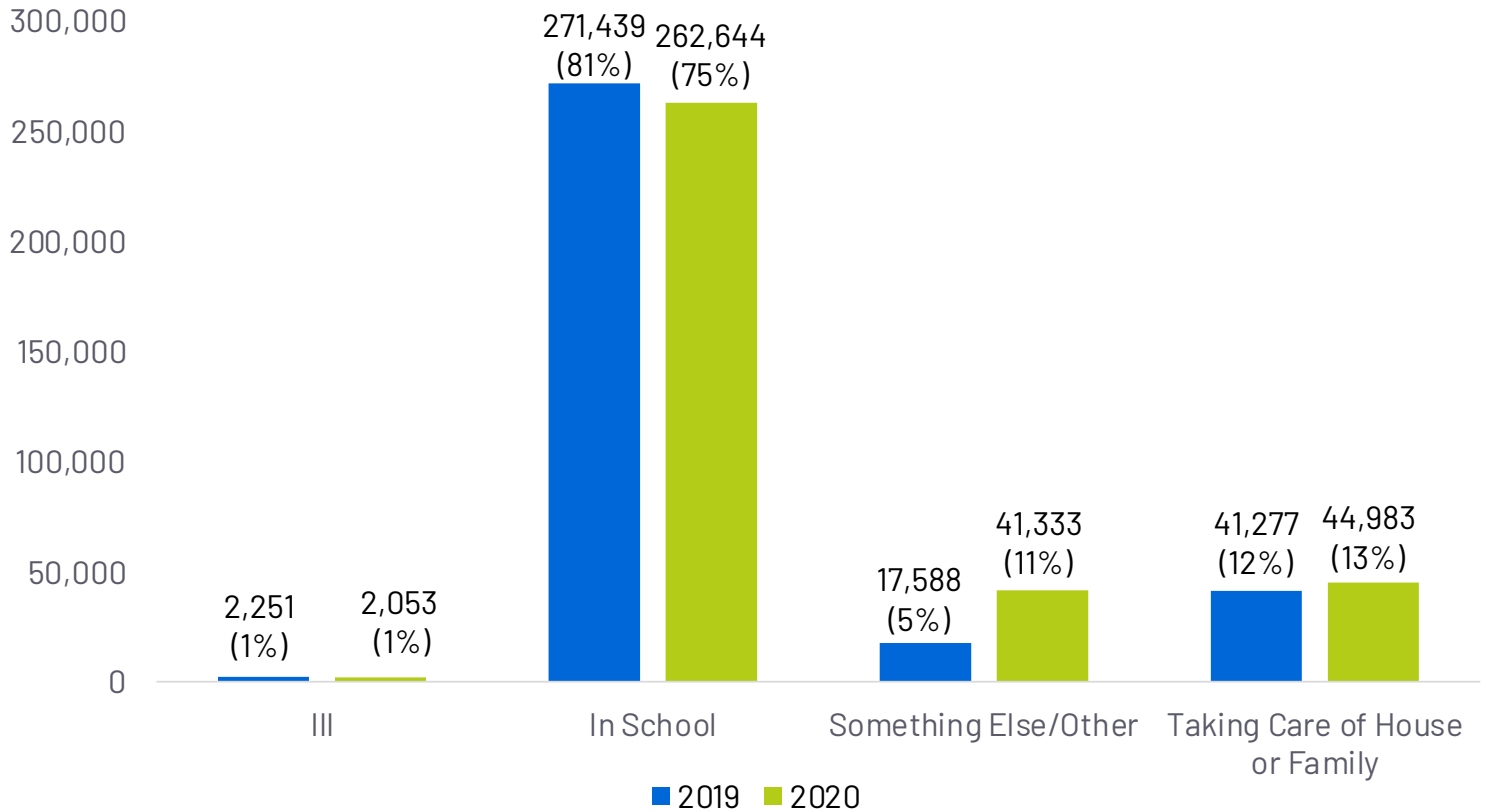




**Why did 18- to 24-year-olds not participate in the labor force?**

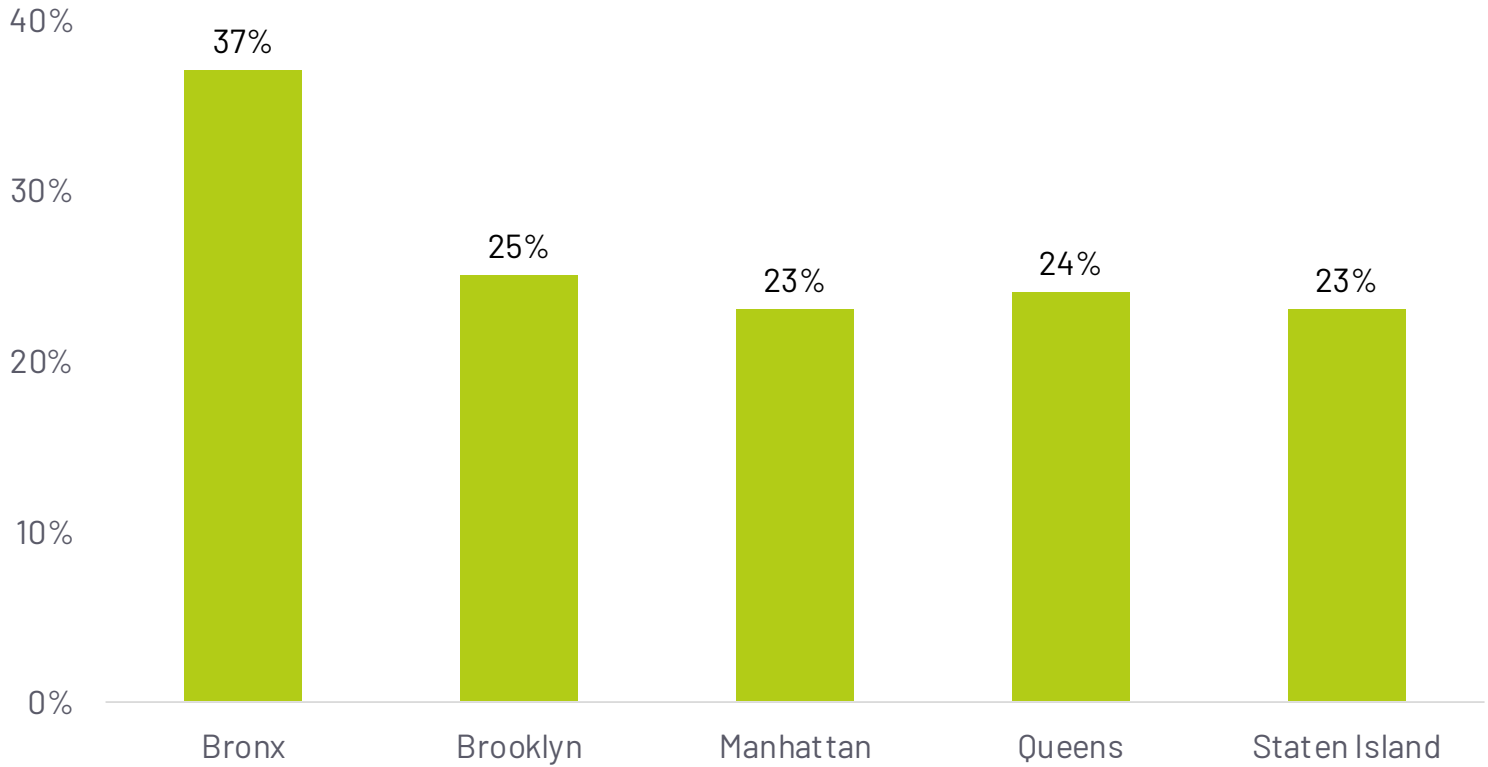
**As reasons, illness remained unchanged, while being in school decreased six percentage points and "other" increased six percentage points.**

## Reasons not in the labor force



**In the Bronx 37% of  
18- to 24-year-olds were  
OSOW, far higher than  
in each of the other  
boroughs, at about 23%.**

## 18- to 24-year-olds OSOW in 2020 by borough



# A community-level look at OSOW numbers

Note that the CPS data from which this brief is sourced lacks neighborhood-level data, thus this section summarizes data from earlier in the decade. Neighborhood-level data for 2020 should be released late 2021.



**South Bronx and East  
New York neighborhoods  
have the highest rates of  
OSOW 18- to 24-year-olds  
in New York City.**

## New York City neighborhoods with highest rates of 18- to 24-year-olds who are out of school and out of work (2017–2019)

Neighborhoods	Share of OSOW	Number of OSOW
Mott Haven / Hunts Point (Bronx)	31.5%	15,976
University Heights / Fordham (Bronx)	28.4%	13,849
Soundview / Parkchester (Bronx)	26.8%	15,124
East New York / Starrett City (Brooklyn)	26.3%	13,861
Brownsville / Ocean Hill (Brooklyn)	25.6%	8,506
Coney Island (Brooklyn)	25.2%	5,671
Rockaways (Queens)	24.9%	8,286
Morrisania / East Tremont (Bronx)	23.0%	15,838
Kingsbridge Heights / Mosholu (Bronx)	21.4%	9,022
North Shore (Staten Island)	20.3%	10,155
Highbridge / S. Concourse (Bronx)	19.7%	8,219
North Crown Heights / Prospect Heights (Brooklyn)	19.4%	6,696
Bedford Stuyvesant (Brooklyn)	18.8%	7,728
East Flatbush (Brooklyn)	18.5%	6,993
Pelham Parkway (Bronx)	18.3%	5,469
Sheepshead Bay / Gravesend (Brooklyn)	17.6%	6,238
Bellerose / Rosedale (Queens)	17.2%	7,902
Borough Park (Brooklyn)	16.9%	6,525
Morningside Heights / Hamilton Heights (Manhattan)	16.8%	5,865
Middle Village / Ridgewood (Queens)	16.6%	7,214

Although there are some changes over time in the neighborhoods with the highest percent of 18- to 24-year-olds who are not in school and not working, Mott Haven/Hunts Point in the Bronx remains at the top of the list.



## New York City neighborhoods with the highest percentages of 18- to 24-year-olds who are out of school and out of work

Neighborhood	2013-2015	Neighborhood	2017-2019
Mott Haven / Hunts Point (Bronx)	37% (23,061)	Mott Haven / Hunts Point (Bronx)	31% (15,976)
Bedford Stuyvesant (Brooklyn)	29% (13,765)	University Heights / Fordham (Bronx)	28% (13,849)
Brownsville / Ocean Hill (Brooklyn)	29% (11,735)	Soundview / Parkchester (Bronx)	27% (15,124)
East Flatbush (Brooklyn)	29% (11,559)	East New York / Starrett City (Brooklyn)	26% (13,861)
Soundview / Parkchester (Bronx)	29% (18,112)	Brownsville / Ocean Hill (Brooklyn)	26% (8,506)