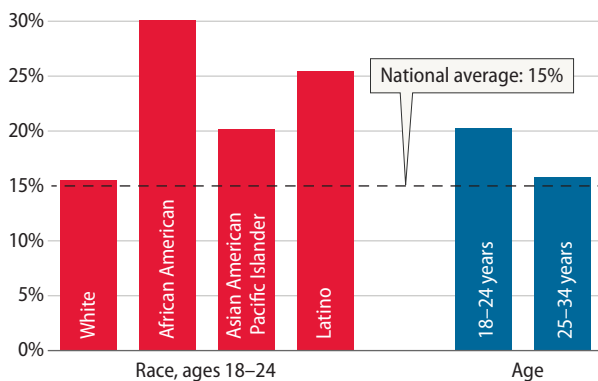


# Millennials

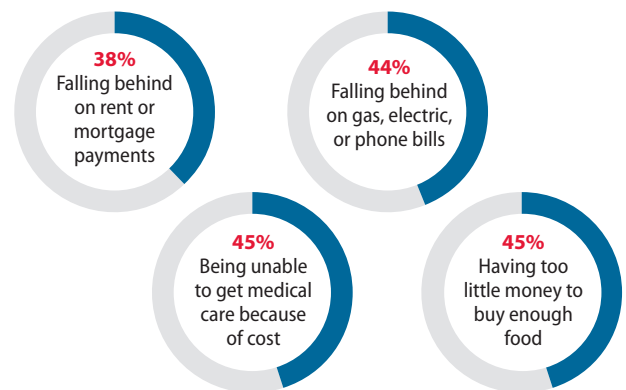
The Millennial generation—or the 95 million people born between 1978 and 2000—is the largest, most diverse group in our country. Young people are our economic future, yet 22 percent of people ages 18 to 24 are struggling in poverty, with disproportionately high rates of African American and Latino youth living below the poverty line. Millennials are buried under student debt, while also facing a slowly recovering economy. Millennials have an unemployment rate of 13.5 percent—higher than the national average—and the jobs that are available often pay low wages and lack adequate benefits, such as paid family leave. The Affordable Care Act, however, has enabled millions of young people to gain access to quality health insurance either through their parents’ plan or through private coverage, relieving a huge source of financial stress. We must continue working to ensure that young Americans have the resources and opportunities necessary for broadly shared economic prosperity.

**a** *Millennials and poverty*  
Young African Americans and Latinos have disproportionately high poverty rates



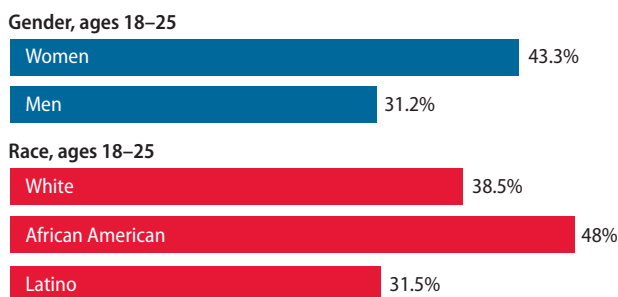
Source: Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Survey: 2012* (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2013), Table POV01.

**b** *Fundamental economic challenges*  
Percentage affected by economic hardships personally or member of immediate family, ages 18-34



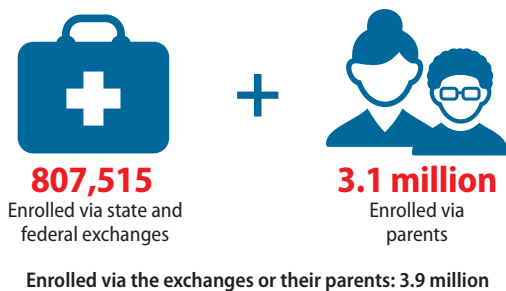
Source: CAP/Half in Ten poll on the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty, January 2014.

**c** *Family and Medical Leave Act ineligibility*  
Family and medical leave excludes many young parents who have held their jobs less than one year



Source: Heather Boushey and John Schmitt, "Job Tenure and Firm Size Provisions Exclude Many Young Parents from Family and Medical Leave" (Washington: Center for Economic Policy Research, 2007).

**d** *Affordable Care Act enrollment*  
Young people (18-34) are gaining health insurance through the exchanges and their parents

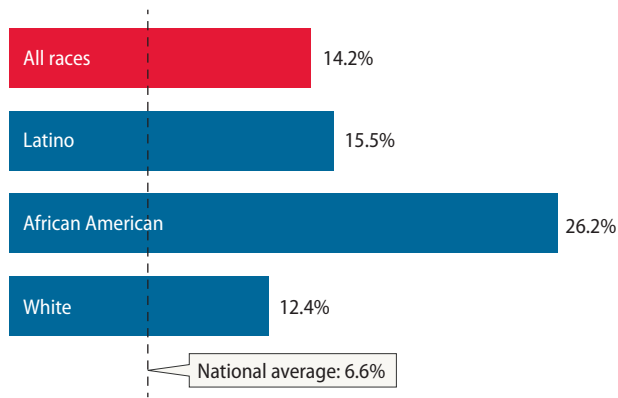


Source: Calculations from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Health Insurance Marketplace: February Enrollment Report 2014"; Benjamin D. Sommers, *Number of Young Adults Gaining Insurance Due to the Affordable Care Act Now Tops 3 Million* (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2012).

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### High unemployment

Unemployment rate, ages 16-24 by race, January 2014

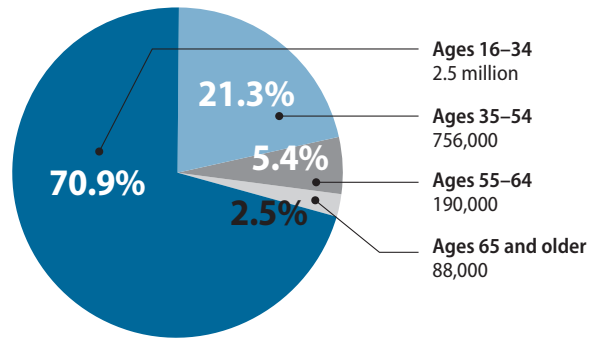


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, "The Employment Situation - January 2014," Press release, February 7, 2014.

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### Minimum-wage jobs

Number and percentages of workers at or below minimum wage by age, 2012 annual averages

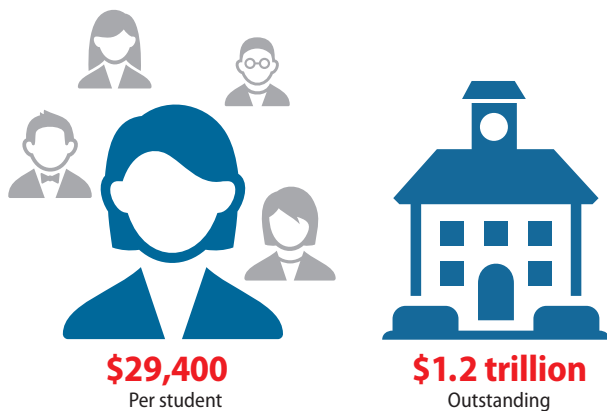


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers: 2012* (U.S. Department of Labor, 2013).

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### Buried in student-loan debt

Average amount of student-loan debt for a 2012 graduate, outstanding student-loan debt as of May 2013

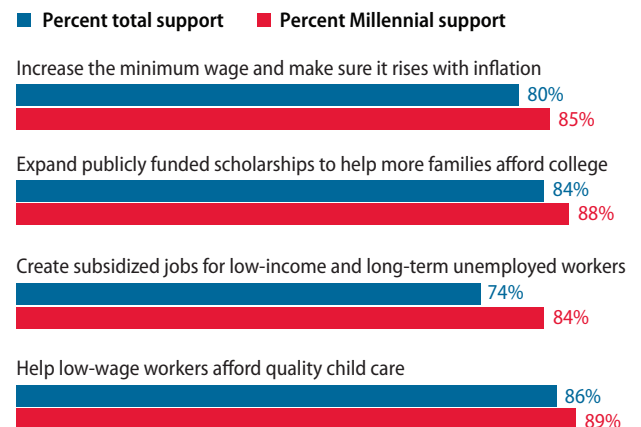


Source: The Institute for College Access and Success, "Student Debt and the Class of 2012" (2013); Rohit Chopra, "Student Debt Swells, Federal Loans Now Top a Trillion," Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, July 17, 2013.

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### Millennials support reducing poverty

More than 80 percent of Millennials support the following policy solutions



Source: CAP/Half in Ten poll on the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty, January 2014.

In many ways, young people have the most at stake economically, and poverty today will affect both Millennials and generations to come. Millennials' unique challenges and the weak economy's disproportionate impact on young people must be considered in crucial policy decisions. The Millennial generation needs high-quality jobs, support for the long-term unemployed, improved college affordability, and aid for those with high student debt. Policy solutions—such as increased workers' wages, benefits for younger employees, paid sick leave, and more programs to address youth unemployment and job training—not only will improve young people's economic security but also will lead to gains for all workers and our economy as a whole.

Despite some economic challenges, young Americans still remain extremely optimistic about the future and want to be actively involved in decisions that affect the country; roughly 80 percent of Millennials support the goal of cutting poverty in half over the next 10 years. We cannot afford to leave them behind.