

An Untapped Opportunity: Californians without a College Degree

WHAT IS CALIFORNIA'S UNTAPPED OPPORTUNITY?

College access efforts typically focus on the young adult population. However, 6.8 million adults aged 25-54 graduated high school but have not completed a postsecondary degree. Creating pathways into higher education presents an *untapped opportunity* to accelerate California's stability and resilience. **But who makes up this untapped opportunity?**

Many Californians of color aged 25-54 do not have a college degree, including seventy-one percent of Latinx Californians and sixty-one percent of Black Californians.



57% of Californians aged 25-54 without a degree have dependent children.



These Californians are more likely to be men (53%) compared to women (47%).



50% of Californians aged 25-54 do not have a college degree

These adults without a degree face hardship at high rates. Though they make up 50% of Californians aged 25-54, they are:

 **74%** of those receiving public assistance (almost 4x the state average)

 **72%** of those without health insurance (7x the state average)

 **68%** of those in households earning less than a living wage (2.5x the state average)

 **63%** of those without high speed internet access (5x the state average)



43% work in sales, transportation, construction, and food preparation

WHERE ARE THEY?

Most of these Californians without degrees live in urban regions. However, rural regions like Central Sierra, Northern California, and the Upper Sacramento Valley have much higher concentrations of these adults without degrees and far fewer educational facilities.

Concentration of Untapped Opportunity Varies by Region

