



January 26, 2016

Nearly Half Of Chicago's Young Black Men Are Unemployed, Out Of School

By **Mae Rice**

Chicago is one of the worst major cities in the country for young black men, according to a new study that the Alternative Schools Network commissioned from the the University of Illinois Chicago Great Cities Institute. Almost half of black men in Chicago ages 20 to 24 were both unemployed and out of school in 2014, [according to the study](#).

The exact percent of black men in this age group who weren't in school or working (46.7 percent) was more than twice the nationwide rate for the same demographic in 2014 (18.2 percent). It was also at least 10 percentage points higher than it is for the same demographic in New York City and Los Angeles circa 2014.

Not only were young black men in Chicago less likely to find work or educational opportunities than young black men elsewhere—they were also less likely than young black people generally. Black people ages 20-24 have a 40.67 percent rate of unemployment.

These statistics suggest a starkly tilted professional playing field in Chicago, especially when compared with the percentages for Hispanic and white Chicagoans in the same age range—6.7 percent and 24.8 percent, respectively.

The dearth of opportunities for young black people has ramifications on their later years, too, the study argues, often correlating with unemployment and low wages later in life, as well as general unhappiness.



In this April 22, 2015, file photo, a job seeker fills out an application during a National Career Fairs job fair in Chicago. The Labor Department said Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016, applications for jobless aid rose 4,000 to a seasonally adjusted 284,000. (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green, File)

The data for this study came from the 2014 American Community Survey—a component of the US census—and other public use files.

Contact the author of this article or email tips@chicagoist.com with further questions, comments or tips.