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## New report details huge unemployment among young Blacks, Latinos in Chicago

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By Greg Hinz



A lot of us know in our gut, but kind of forget, that much of Chicago's wave of violence is not just bad guys being bad guys but idle young men without much prospects or hope ending up in trouble. A new report out next week ought to remind us of the stark truth.

The report, prepared for the Alternative Schools Network by the Great Cities Institute of the University of Illinois at Chicago, won't be officially released until Monday. But I've been given permission to cite a few things out of it, and the picture is really sad.

Essentially, the report using U.S. Census and other data, finds that the share of African-American and Latino teenager and young adults here who are neither in school nor employed is much higher than nationally, and markedly higher than in Los Angeles and New York.

For instance, the share of 16-to-24-year-old non-Hispanic blacks here who were out of school and out of work is a whopping 30.7 percent, compared to 22.2 percent in LA and 20.3 percent in New York. Among teens who have left school, the numbers are even worse, with 88 percent of black teens jobless, and 85 percent of Hispanics.

It's getting worse, with a bit of recovery since the depths of the recession but employment levels well below what they were a decade ago.

If you lay a map of high youth unemployment levels over a map of high-crime areas—something the report didn't do, but I did—they're very, very similar. Draw your own conclusions.

The report is set to be released just after the weekend at a Chicago Urban League hearing. I'll put up a link when I have one, because it's worth reading.