

# OUT OF SCHOOL AND JOBLESS: A CONTINUING CRISIS FOR YOUTH IN CHICAGO AND BEYOND

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## ***A REPORT BY THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS NETWORK***

**Y**oung people nationwide, ages 16-24, still lag far behind the overall economy in levels of employment. This continues to be a crisis of major proportions, hitting black and Latinx youths especially hard. And Chicago is among the hardest hit.

Historically, the black unemployment rate stays close to double that of whites. And nationally, that is true for youth. Using the 2017 data supplied by the University of Illinois, Great Cities Institute, we found that for 16-24 year olds, the percentage out of school, out of work whites was 9.4%, while that of blacks was 17.9%. But zero in on Chicago and 5.4% of white 16-24 year olds were out of school and out of work, while the rate for blacks was 25.6% -- nearly five times higher.

These figures, and others in this report, should inform policy makers as they search for answers to the high cost of incarceration, the high levels of violence and the lack of an adequately trained and experienced workforce.

## **Ongoing report series paints grim picture for teens & young adults of color**

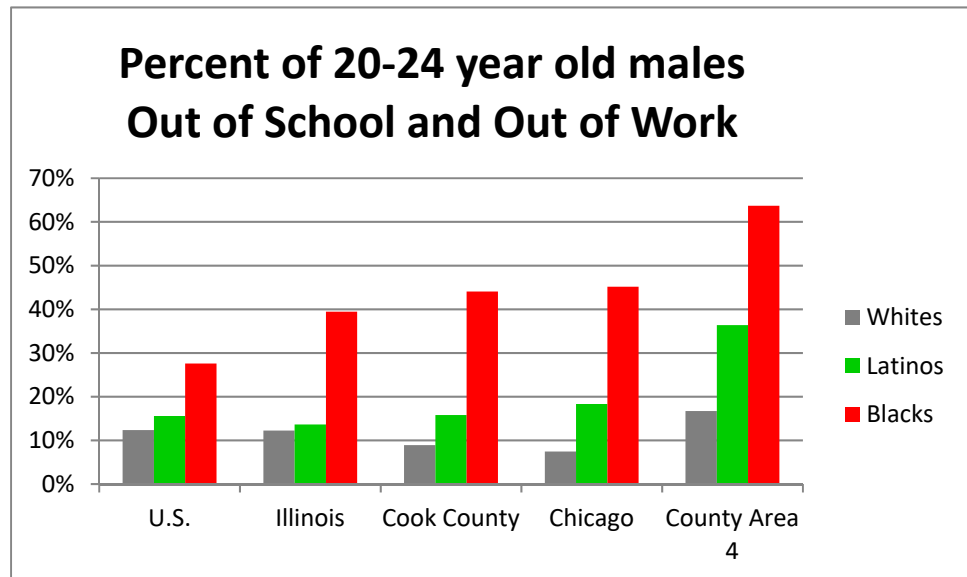
**T**he crisis of youth unemployment has been dramatically brought to the attention of Chicago's public, as well as to local, state and federal policy makers, through a series of reports commissioned by the Alternative Schools Network. These reports have shown that:

- For the summers of 2013-2014, the national average of the percent of all teens 16-19 who were employed for the summers of 2013-2014 was 31.7%, while Illinois' statewide rate was 35.7%. But for those teens with family income at \$20,000 or below the average dropped to 12.8% for Black teens and 18.1% of Hispanic teens. By comparison, 41.7% of white teens whose family income was more than \$100,000 were employed.
- Across all employment indicators, for 20-24 year olds, using 2014 data, whites in Cook County fared better than all other groups in Illinois, the U.S. and counties containing New York City, Los Angeles and Houston. Conversely, blacks in Cook County in comparison to all groups across all geographies have the highest rates of joblessness as

well as the highest rates of those out of school and out of work. Nearly 41% of Chicago’s black youths in that age range were out of school and out of work.

- The employment crisis, especially for Black and Latino youths, is tied to long range trends in the overall loss of manufacturing jobs; and most notably, that joblessness among young people is tied to the emptying out of jobs from neighborhoods. Using 2015 data, of Chicago 20-24 year-olds, 43% of black men, 18% of Latino and 9% of white young men were jobless and out of school. And there was clear evidence showing a correlation between neighborhoods with high levels of violent crime and high levels of youth joblessness.
- Using 2016 data, some improvement was seen for Chicago’s black men 20-24 years old. Still, nearly 37% were out of school and out of work. But the numbers for Chicago Latinos in that age group had gone up, to almost 20%. Whites in that group were at 5.3%.

**Now a new data set, using 2017 numbers, is in. For black males 20-24 in Chicago, almost half, 45.2% are Out of School and Out of Work in a supposedly booming economy, a big jump from 36.6% in 2016. And Latinos in that age range are at 18.3%. Compare that to white males, 20-24, whose out of school, out of work numbers are 7.4%.**



## Most recent data shows teens & young adults still being left behind

The data for this year’s report was assembled by the University of Illinois at Chicago Great Cities Institute. The data covers percent and number of **Out of School, Out of Work (OSOW)** youths in the United States as a whole, Illinois, four groupings of downstate counties, Cook

County and Chicago, broken down by gender, race and ethnicity and three age ranges, 16-19, 20-24 and 16-24. Our data source was Great Cities Institute tabulation of 2017 American Community Survey public use data, and for the rural counties, Great Cities Institute tabulation of 2013-2017 American Community Survey public use data. The underlying tables can be found in the appendix.

## **OSOW for Young People Nationwide by Race/Ethnicity & Sex**

- While 6.8% of 16-19 year olds were OSOW across the nation, black males were the worst off at 12.2%, while white females were at the low end at 4.7%.
- For 20-24 year olds, 12.5% of whites were OSOW, while the number for blacks was nearly double at 23.7%. Just over 17% of Latinx youth were OSOW.
- Broken down by sex for 20-24 year-olds, white men, 12.3% OSOW were slightly better off than white women, 12.6%, and the same was true for Latinx, where 15.6% of men were OSOW, compared to 18.8% of the women. For Blacks, however the opposite was true, with 19.7% of women OSOW, compared to 27.6% of the men.

## **OSOW for Young People in Illinois by Race/Ethnicity & Sex**

- Across the board, 16-19 year olds in Illinois were better off than the average for their counterparts nationwide. Some 6.2% were OSOW statewide, compared to 6.8% in the U.S. overall. Black males were the worst off, at 11.5%, but still better than the nationwide average of 12.2%. And all but 3.3% of white females were either in school and/or working.
- For 20-24 year olds, 11 percent of whites were OSOW, but for blacks it was triple that number at 33.8%. Just over 14% of Latinx young adults were OSOW, significantly better than the national average.
- The huge bulge in black 20-24 year olds brought Illinois' total for OSOW to 15.3%, slightly above the national average of 15.1%.
- Broken down by sex, 16.7% of male Illinois 20-24 year olds were OSOW, compared to 13.9% of young women.
- White young women were better off than their 20-24 counterparts, 9.7% to 12.2%. The same was true for black young adults, where 28.1% of women and 39.4% of men were OSOW. But Latinas at 15% OSOW were worse off than their male counterparts, who were at 13.6%.

## **OSOW for Young People in Cook County by Race/Ethnicity & Sex**

- Cook County's 16-19 year olds were near the national average for OSOW at 6.6%, compared to 6.8% nationwide. Countywide, black males were better than the national average, at 10.8% versus 12.2% nationwide.
- One of the largest disparities for age 16-19 youths was between white females, 2% OSOW and black females that age, 9.8%. Latinas were at 6.4%.
- Overall in the county, those 20-24 were slightly worse off than the national average with 15.3% OSOW, compared to 15.1% nationwide. But, again, black males were the worst off, at 27.6% OSOW, followed by black young women at 19.7% and Latinas at 18.8%.
- White young men, 20-24, in the county were the best off, but still at 12.3% OSOW.

### **OSOW for Young People in Chicago by Race/Ethnicity & Sex**

- Chicago's 16-19 year olds are slightly better off than the national average, with 6.6% OSOW, compared to 6.8% nationwide. But the disparities are glaring, with white females that age at 3.3% OSOW while black males are at 8.7%, black females 7.5%, Latinas 6.6% and Latino youths at 5.6%. White males are 5.8%.
- The disparities for 20-24 year olds are even more dramatic. 5.7% of whites in Chicago are OSOW, while the numbers are 37.4% for blacks and 18.2% for Latinx. The national 20-24 OSOW averages are 12.5% for whites, 23.7% for blacks and 17.1 for Latinx.
- As noted above, almost half, 45.2%, of black males 20-24 are OSOW, compared to 7.4% of white males and 18.3% of Latinos.

### **OSOW for Young People in 4 Groups of Illinois Counties by Race/Ethnicity**

- We also created four groups of rural, downstate counties, getting average 2013-2017 OSOW numbers and percentages for each group.
- For 16-19 year olds, the average OSOW figures ranged from 7.2% to 8.9%.
- For 20-24 year olds, the average OSOW figures ranged from 16.6% to 26%.
- The highest OSOW result was 63.7% for black young men 20-24 years old in Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, Marion, Montgomery, Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Effingham Clark, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, and Wayne Counties.
- For 20-24 year old whites the highest OSOW rate was 22.5% in Alexander, Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Wabash, White, Jackson, Williamson, Franklin, and Perry Counties.
- Latinx 20-24 year olds were worse off in Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, Marion, Montgomery, Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Effingham Clark, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, and Wayne Counties, at 36.4%.



## Conclusions

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The economy may be looking good to some, but for many young people across the United States, and particularly in Chicago and much of Illinois, it really isn't good at all.

From previous studies we know that this is costly, not only to those young people, many of who, when they are out of school and jobless get sucked into the vortex of drugs, crime and violence, but also to taxpayers. A teenager or young adult who ends up in prison will eventually cost taxpayers nearly \$300,000 in lost tax revenues, lost productivity, providing welfare and the costs of incarceration.

Clearly the rising tide is not floating all boats. And yet we know what works to prevent this downward spiral: getting out of school and jobless youth back into best practices small schools; making sure they have mentors; funding programs that train them for and place them in entry-level jobs so they learn how to show up every day on time and follow instructions from their supervisors; providing needed social services; emphasizing conflict resolution and restorative justice; and incentivizing reinvestment in neighborhoods that have been gutted and left behind.

When we look at this data, we can no longer pretend that the growing economy will solve all the problems for these young people. It will take investing in them. They deserve to grow old, not die young.

# Appendix

## United States 2017

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity					
Race/Ethnicity			16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		5.3%	12.5%	9.4%
	(n)		485,649	1,476,082	1,961,731
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		10.4%	23.7%	17.9%
	(n)		252,269	747,417	999,686
Hispanic or Latino	%		8.3%	17.1%	13.2%
	(n)		330,442	826,862	1,157,304
Total	%		6.8%	15.1%	11.5%
	(n)		1,170,657	3,331,158	4,501,815

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity and Sex in the U.S., 2017						
Sex	Race/Ethnicity			16-19	20-24	16-24
Male	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		5.9%	12.3%	9.6%
		(n)		277,435	753,720	1,031,155
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		12.2%	27.6%	20.8%
		(n)		153,047	438,595	591,642
	Hispanic or Latino	%		8.6%	15.6%	12.4%
		(n)		174,673	387,940	562,613
Total	%		7.5%	15.2%	11.8%	
	(n)		660,632	1,721,820	2,382,452	
Female	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		4.7%	12.6%	9.1%
		(n)		208,214	722,362	930,576
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		8.4%	19.7%	14.8%
		(n)		99,222	308,822	408,044
	Hispanic or Latino	%		8.1%	18.8%	13.9%
		(n)		155,769	438,922	594,691
Total	%		6.1%	15.0%	11.1%	
	(n)		510,025	1,609,338	2,119,363	

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute





## Illinois 2017

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity					
Race/Ethnicity			16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		4.6%	11.0%	8.2%
	(n)		16,311	51,020	67,331
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		10.6%	33.8%	23.8%
	(n)		11,426	47,970	59,396
Hispanic or Latino	%		7.4%	14.3%	11.1%
	(n)		11,698	25,957	37,655
Total	%		6.2%	15.3%	11.3%
	(n)		42,220	132,369	174,589

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity and Sex in Illinois, 2017						
Sex	Race/Ethnicity			16-19	20-24	16-24
Male	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		5.8%	12.2%	9.4%
		(n)		10,696	28,998	39,694
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		11.5%	39.4%	27.0%
		(n)		6,507	27,869	34,376
	Hispanic or Latino	%		7.9%	13.6%	10.9%
		(n)		6,333	12,281	18,614
Total	%		7.2%	16.7%	12.5%	
	(n)		25,223	72,874	98,097	
Female	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		3.3%	9.7%	6.9%
		(n)		5,615	22,022	27,637
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		9.7%	28.1%	20.5%
		(n)		4,919	20,101	25,020
	Hispanic or Latino	%		6.8%	15.0%	11.2%
		(n)		5,365	13,676	19,041
Total	%		5.2%	13.9%	10.1%	
	(n)		16,997	59,495	76,492	

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

## Cook County 2017

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity					
Race/Ethnicity			16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		4.1%	8.5%	6.7%
	(n)		3,196	9,697	12,893
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		10.3%	37.5%	25.8%
	(n)		6,925	33,272	40,197
Hispanic or Latino	%		6.4%	17.2%	12.4%
	(n)		5,490	18,582	24,072
Total	%		6.6%	18.9%	13.7%
	(n)		16,669	65,588	82,257

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity and Sex in Cook County, 2017						
Sex	Race/Ethnicity			16-19	20-24	16-24
Male	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		6.1%	8.9%	7.8%
		(n)		2,448	5,189	7,637
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		10.8%	44.1%	29.2%
		(n)		3,761	18,925	22,686
	Hispanic or Latino	%		6.3%	15.8%	11.7%
		(n)		2,611	8,510	11,121
Total	%		7.4%	19.8%	14.5%	
	(n)		9,500	34,266	43,766	
Female	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		2.0%	8.0%	5.6%
		(n)		748	4,508	5,256
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		9.8%	31.3%	22.4%
		(n)		3,164	14,347	17,511
	Hispanic or Latino	%		6.4%	18.7%	13.1%
		(n)		2,879	10,072	12,951
Total	%		5.7%	18.0%	12.9%	
	(n)		7,169	31,322	38,491	

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

## Chicago 2017

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity					
Race/Ethnicity			16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		4.6%	5.7%	5.4%
	(n)		1,066	3,419	4,485
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		8.1%	37.4%	25.6%
	(n)		3,225	22,120	25,345
Hispanic or Latino	%		6.1%	18.2%	12.9%
	(n)		3,001	11,468	14,469
Total	%		6.6%	19.4%	14.6%
	(n)		8,176	39,302	47,478

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity and Sex in Chicago, 2017						
Sex	Race/Ethnicity			16-19	20-24	16-24
Male	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		5.8%	7.4%	7.0%
		(n)		686	2,184	2,870
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		8.7%	45.2%	30.0%
		(n)		1,760	12,805	14,565
	Hispanic or Latino	%		5.6%	18.3%	12.8%
		(n)		1,324	5,680	7,004
Total	%		7.1%	22.2%	16.4%	
	(n)		4,355	21,920	26,275	
Female	White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		3.3%	4.1%	3.9%
		(n)		380	1,235	1,615
	Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%		7.5%	30.2%	21.4%
		(n)		1,465	9,315	10,780
	Hispanic or Latino	%		6.6%	18.2%	13.0%
		(n)		1,677	5,788	7,465
Total	%		6.1%	16.8%	12.8%	
	(n)		3,821	17,382	21,203	

Data Source: 2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity in Alexander, Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Wabash, White, Jackson, Williamson, Franklin, and Perry Counties, 2013-2017				
Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	7.7%	22.5%	16.6%
	(n)	1,002	4,401	5,403
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	11.2%	46.6%	34.9%
	(n)	191	1,620	1,811
Hispanic or Latino	%	12.5%	24.1%	18.0%
	(n)	132	233	365
Total	%	8.4%	26.0%	19.0%
	(n)	1,382	6,440	7,822

Data Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity in Adams, Pike, Brown, Schuyler, Mason, Cass, Morgan, Scott, Greene, Macoupin, Jersey, Calhoun, Henry, Mercer, Henderson, Warren, Hancock, McDonough and Fulton Counties, 2013-2017				
Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	8.4%	14.6%	11.8%
	(n)	1,725	3,601	5,326
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	9.2%	36.7%	27.0%
	(n)	107	780	887
Hispanic or Latino	%	8.6%	26.0%	17.7%
	(n)	95	316	411
Total	%	8.5%	16.6%	12.9%
	(n)	1,989	4,720	6,709

Data Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity in Kankakee, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties, 2013-2017				
Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	8.1%	20.0%	14.6%
	(n)	836	2,552	3,388
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	12.7%	42.5%	29.3%
	(n)	247	1,030	1,277
Hispanic or Latino	%	10.5%	24.8%	18.3%
	(n)	143	400	543
Total	%	8.9%	24.2%	17.2%
	(n)	1,263	4,165	5,428

Data Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Percent and Number of Out of School and Out of Work 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity in Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, Marion, Montgomery, Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Effingham Clark, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, and Wayne Counties, 2013-2017				
Race/Ethnicity		16-19	20-24	16-24
White (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	6.4%	16.7%	12.1%
	(n)	1,055	3,463	4,518
Black (non-Hispanic or Latino)	%	16.9%	63.7%	53.1%
	(n)	92	1,187	1,279
Hispanic or Latino	%	18.9%	36.4%	29.6%
	(n)	100	304	404
Total	%	7.2%	21.3%	15.2%
	(n)	1,305	5,114	6,419

Data Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey, public use files. Tabulations by Great Cities Institute