



FACT SHEET

Abandoned in their Neighborhoods: Youth Joblessness amidst the Flight of Industry and Opportunity Prepared for the Alternative Schools Network by the University of Illinois Chicago's Great Cities Institute January 2017

The Alternative Schools Network (ASN) in Chicago commissioned the University of Illinois at Chicago Great Cities Institute to prepare a report — highlighting the continuing and unprecedented depth of joblessness for Chicago's teens and young adults with comparisons to U.S., the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago, with comparisons to New York City and Los Angeles. The report documents the chronic and concentrated conditions of joblessness in areas of Chicago where Black and Latinos live, made worse by the Great Recession, and ties the painfully slow or nonexistent economic recovery in those areas to long-range trends in the overall loss of manufacturing jobs and the emptying out of jobs from the neighborhoods on the city's West, Northwest, Southwest and South Sides.

JOBS LEFT, CONTRIBUTING TO THE EMPLOYMENT CRISIS FOR BLACK AND LATINO YOUTH

GCI researchers dug into data that shows a connection between the joblessness of young people in Chicago's majority Black and Latino neighborhoods and the emptying out of jobs from those neighborhoods. Manufacturing jobs left the city in droves while retail and professional and related service jobs moved Downtown and to North Side areas where mostly whites are employed in professional and related services.

- In 1970 most retail jobs were in zip codes on the West Side, South Side, the Loop and north of the Loop. The four zip codes with the most retail jobs in Chicago in 2015 were all located north of the Loop, though retail clusters existed on the North, Northwest, and Southwest Sides of the City.
- In 1970, Zip codes making up the center portion of Chicago, had a cluster of manufacturing jobs. Those with the highest number of manufacturing jobs included 60639 (33,000) and 60607 (20,896) on the West Side of Chicago, 60609 (22,335) and 60632 (22,051) on Chicago's Southwest Side, 60611 (22,334) near the Loop, 60642+60622 (21,076) on the Far North Side, and 60618 (21,033) on Chicago's North Side. By 2015 the three zip codes with the most manufacturing jobs included 60614 (8,180), 60609 (6,373), and 60633 (5,414). No other zip code areas had more than 5,000 manufacturing jobs.
- Private-sector jobs as a whole had become concentrated in the present day Loop, while the number of jobs on the Southwest Side and West Side decreased. By 2015 Zip codes around Englewood and West Englewood and other South Side areas have comparatively very few jobs to other zip codes. Most of the jobs are located the central portion of the city in the Loop and in the River North, New East Side and Magnificent Mile neighborhoods.

HARD HIT BY A WEAK ECONOMY, CHICAGO'S ABANDONED YOUTH HAVE CONTINUED TO STRUGGLE

Then the Great Recession hit. That was disastrous for Chicago's Black and Latino youth. And if jobs are coming back at all, they are doing so more slowly than in other places. In 2015, employment conditions in Chicago's most segregated neighborhoods were worse than in Illinois and the U.S. for 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 year olds.

- While employment has improved marginally for Chicago's Black teens (16-19), still only 15 percent are working in 2015 from 9.6 percent in 2010. In Illinois, 19 percent had jobs in 2015, and nationwide 22 percent were working.
- The rate for Latino teens continues to drop, with only 18.5 percent working in 2015, down from nearly 23 percent in 2010. By comparison, in 2015, 28.5 percent had jobs in Illinois and 27 percent nationwide.
- Black young adults (20-24) in Chicago are still struggling with 43 percent out of school and out of work in 2015, compared to 33 percent in Illinois and 25 percent nationwide.

- **For Latino young adults, 21 percent were out of school and jobless in Chicago, compared to 16.5 percent in Illinois and 19 percent nationwide.**

JOBLESSNESS CONCENTRATED IN PREDOMINANTLY BLACK AND LATINO NEIGHBORHOODS

Young people who live in relatively low-income, racially concentrated neighborhoods have the hardest time finding jobs. Youth on the predominately Black West, South, Far South Sides and predominately Latino Northwest and Southwest Sides have notably higher jobless rates. For teens (16-19), the lowest rates are in Community Areas with the highest concentrations of White population, those bordering Lake Michigan near the Loop and North Side and those on the Far North Side. For young adults (20-24), the lowest jobless rates in the city are in the predominantly white Community Areas on the North and Far North Sides where rates are less than half of those on the South and West Sides.

- **Jobless rates for 16 to 19 year-olds in Community Areas that have a predominantly Black population range from 96 percent in Pullman on the South Side to 91 percent in West Side Austin.**
- **Predominantly Latino Community Areas on the Southwest and Northwest Sides, teens had jobless rates between 80 and 90 percent.**
- **Most areas where rates were lower than 80 percent were on the North and Far Northwest Sides.**
- **For 20 to 24 year-olds, jobless rates on the South and West Sides ranged from 72 percent in East Garfield Park and 70 percent in West Englewood to 58 percent in West Garfield Park.**
- **Community Areas on the North and Northwest Sides ranged from 17 percent in Lakeview to 27 percent in Lincoln Square.**

MORE JOBS, LESS VIOLENCE

The connection between this joblessness and the city's spate of violence is dramatically illustrated by combining data from the new GCI report with data in another recent study, this one from the University of Chicago Crime Lab

- **Five Chicago neighborhoods with only 9 percent of the city's population – Austin, Englewood, New City, West Englewood and Greater Grand Crossing – accounted for 32 percent of homicides in 2016.**
- **In those neighborhoods jobless rates for teens (16-19), based on 2011-2015 ACS Data, stood at Austin, 91 percent; Englewood, 89 percent; New City, 79 percent; West Englewood, 88 percent; and Greater Grand Crossing, 91.8 percent.**
- **Statewide in Illinois, joblessness for teens in 2015 was 70 percent.**
- **For young adults (20-24) joblessness was at 59 percent in Austin, 67 percent in Englewood, 49 percent in New City, 70 percent in West Englewood and 66 percent in Greater Grand Crossing.**
- **Statewide in Illinois, joblessness for young adults in 2015 was 34 percent**

For a complete copy of the report: <http://www.asnchicago.org/youth-employment-hearing-2017>.

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