



AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE UNEMPLOYMENT REPORT

City of New Orleans
Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu
August 2014



Dear Friends:

Since taking office in 2010 we have tackled the tough issues facing New Orleans. Everywhere you look progress is being made, we now have more jobs, less blight, and last year murder hit a near 30 year low. Together we are moving forward. Forward towards 2018- forward to our city's 300th Anniversary.

But for New Orleans to reach her full potential we can't leave anyone behind. All New Orleans residents must be able to take part in the prosperity. In this regard we have a long way to go.

According to a report by the Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy, 52% of African-American men are not working. That is unacceptable. This must and can change, but it is going to take a lot of hard work from all the key stakeholders from government to business leaders, educators and social services providers, families and faith leaders, friends and neighbors.

We each have to play our part and work together to connect those looking for a job to businesses that need good people. Only when we have everyone on board, moving in the same direction can we hope to succeed and create a pathway to prosperity for all residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mitchell J. Landrieu
Mayor, City of New Orleans

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The Process

In order for New Orleans to reach her full potential, all New Orleanians must participate in the city's economic growth. Our work together must focus on disadvantaged job seekers and businesses but must engage employers, workforce and small business training providers, job seekers, nonprofits and faith leaders to make the difference.

HERE ARE THE STEPS WE FOLLOWED TO BUILD A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY:



Investigate the Problem

- Lindy Boggs Center at Loyola University and The Data Center release staggering data showing that **52%** of working age African American males are not working
- Focus groups of disadvantaged job seekers, social service providers, educators, job training providers and employers helped clarify employment barriers
- Detailed analysis of a citywide survey of unemployed, working age African American males confirmed our findings
- Interviews with local anchor institutions helped identify new opportunities for disadvantaged job seekers and businesses



Generate New Ideas

- National experts at PolicyLink and the Democracy Collaborative identified best practices implemented in other cities and helped us to assess their suitability locally.
- Collaborative design sessions brought together disadvantaged job seekers, social service providers, educators, job training providers and employers to design new solutions that work for New Orleans.



Prepare to Deliver

- In partnership with committed employers and implementation partners, the Mayor prioritized initiatives, evaluating feasibility and impact.
- Together, a diverse set of public and private partners have crafted a radical approach meshing together new and tested strategies that connect disadvantaged job seekers and businesses with opportunities available through local anchor institutions and major infrastructure projects.



Deliver and Adapt

- Starting in the Fall of 2014, public and private implementation partners will establish and implement initiatives
- Implementation partners will participate in frequent check-ins
- Initiatives will be monitored and midcourse adjustments will be made

From job seekers to employers, training providers to social service agencies, key partners have identified

5 essential strategies

to connecting disadvantaged job seekers and businesses to economic opportunities.

- 1 Establish a collaborative of local anchor institutions committed to expanding economic opportunity to disadvantaged job seekers and businesses. Anchor institutions include the region's largest employers that are so well established, it is unlikely they will ever move. In New Orleans, we include hospitals, universities, Louis Armstrong International Airport and the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans.
- 2 Create a workforce intermediary that connects disadvantaged job seekers to employment opportunities through anchor institutions, providing case management, foundational skills training, and supportive services
- 3 Create a procurement intermediary that connects qualified disadvantaged businesses to contracting opportunities through anchor institutions
- 4 Create a worker-owned cooperative that connects job seekers to employment by leveraging procurement and purchasing opportunities through anchor institutions
- 5 Establish and align customized job training based on employer needs that prepares disadvantaged job seekers for in-demand jobs through anchor institutions and major infrastructure projects

African American Male Unemployment Survey

Background

Numerous economic disparities exist among the citizens of New Orleans that currently serve as roadblocks on New Orleans' pathway to prosperity.

If New Orleans is going to truly progress, all citizens must have equal opportunities. The City of New Orleans has chosen to focus on providing opportunities for its most economically disadvantaged citizens – preparing African-American males with the skills, training, education, and supports (e.g. transportation, housing) needed to fully participate in our economy, prosper, and reach their full potential. While there are an adequate number of jobs available, the goal must be to more effectively link these individuals to those jobs that match their skill level. Statistics show that 52% of working-age African-American men in New Orleans are not working¹. Addressing this staggering rate will not only dramatically enhance the quality of life of New Orleans residents and families, but will also position the city as a national economic center. The mission to correct this problem will enable the City of New Orleans to capitalize on unprecedented economic and workforce development opportunities.

Survey Objective

After several months of research into the challenges of employability among unemployed African-American men, the City of New Orleans determined that there was a lack of information about this population. A significant percentage of these men are disconnected from the systems or service providers that could provide detailed information to effectively identify the problems that they are facing. As a result, the City of New Orleans developed and conducted a survey to provide a more detailed illustration of the assets and challenges of this population. The Innovation Delivery Team, in partnership with the Office of Workforce Development and The Network for Economic Opportunity, created a survey to gather specific details about workforce participation, education level, criminal history, transportation, housing, and family life.

¹Sams-Abiodun, P. and Rattler, Jr., G. (2013). Recognizing the underutilized economic potential of black men in New Orleans. Retrieved on September 2, 2014, from <http://www.loyno.edu/boggsliteracy/sites/loyno.edu.boggsliteracy/files/RecognizingPotential.pdf>.

Methodology

A stratified sampling method was chosen with the goal of gathering the most accurate picture of unemployed African-American men in New Orleans. Subgroups were designated within the population according to zip code. According to 2012 American Community Survey census data, there are 67,995 African-American males between the ages of 15 and 65 (working age) in New Orleans. Once the number of working age African-American males was determined in each of New Orleans' 19 zip codes, this number was used to quantify the percentage of the working age African-American male population per zip code. This percentage was then used to determine the number of surveys that would be needed per zip code to get the most accurate representation of unemployed African-American men in New Orleans.

A minimum of 380 surveys were needed to obtain a statistically significant sample. The Office of Workforce Development employed a total of 12 job-seeking African-American men (10 surveyors and 2 supervisors) to disseminate the 43 question survey in 13 different zip codes. Six zip codes (70163, 70139, 70130, 70129, 70124 and 70112) were excluded from the data gathering process because each represented 2% or less of the total working age African-American male population. The survey period lasted 10 days, with surveyors working four hours per day.

Major Findings

On the following four pages you will find some of the key results from the 43 question survey. The results for each question can be found in the appendix of this report. Major findings about unemployed African American men in New Orleans include:

- While **51.2%** of respondents report high school as their highest level of education, just over a quarter received further education in the form of vocational training, college, and/or graduate or doctoral work
- **20.8%** of respondents report a lack of proper education or experience as their main obstacle in securing employment while **10.9%** report that their main disincentive to work is the lack of available, quality jobs.
- **39.4%** of respondents report that they have registered with an employment agency, while **26.4%** report participating in informal work, jobs that provide inconsistent and undocumented wages.

Profiles

Profile One:

Ready to work

Representative of **5%** of the working-age African American males that aren't working.



- 30 years old
- Four-years of college is his highest level of education
- Never been arrested
- No children
- Does not use marijuana recreationally
- Owns or has regular access to a vehicle
- Has registered as a job seeker with an employment agency
- Was laid off from his last job and has been searching for three months
- Has applied to four different jobs during his search, with two interviews

Profile Two:

Minimal Barriers to Employment

Representative of **25%** of the working-age African American males that aren't working.



- 32 years old
- High school is his highest level of education
- Has served several years in parish or state prison
- Has two children
- Does not use marijuana recreationally
- Uses public transit daily
- Has not registered as a job seeker with an employment agency
- Was laid off from his last job and has been searching for three months
- Has applied to six different jobs during his search, with one interview

Profile Three:

Significant Barriers to Employment

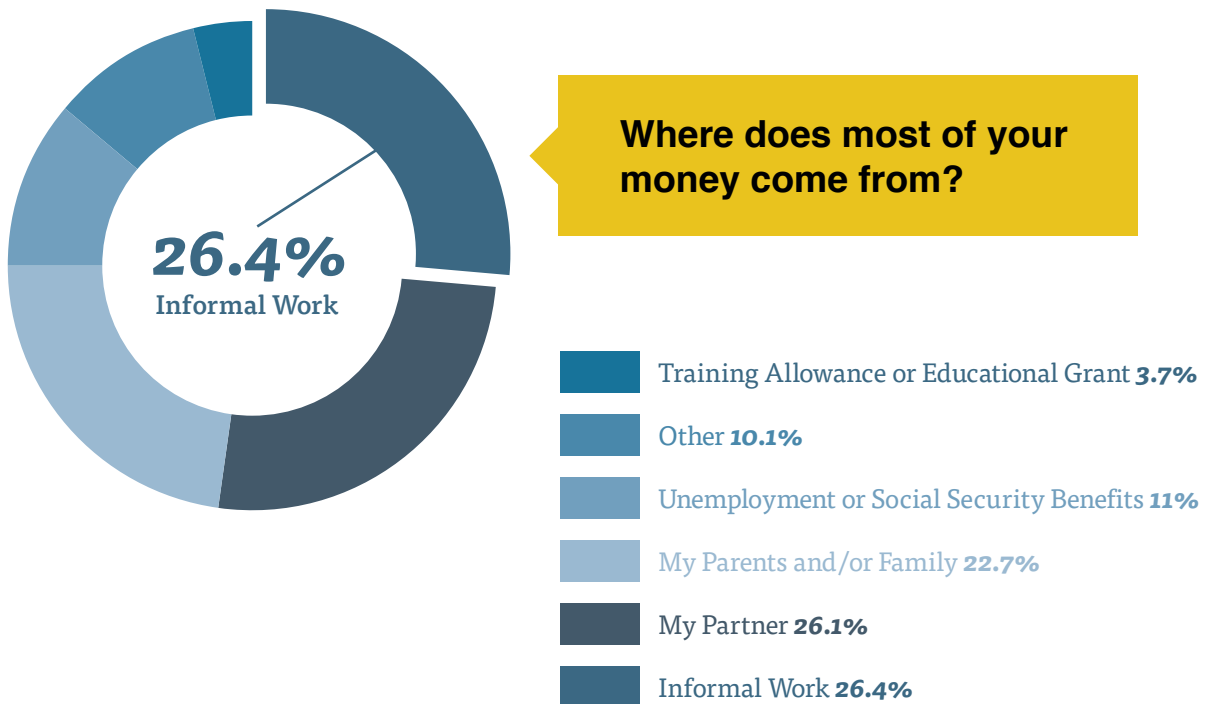
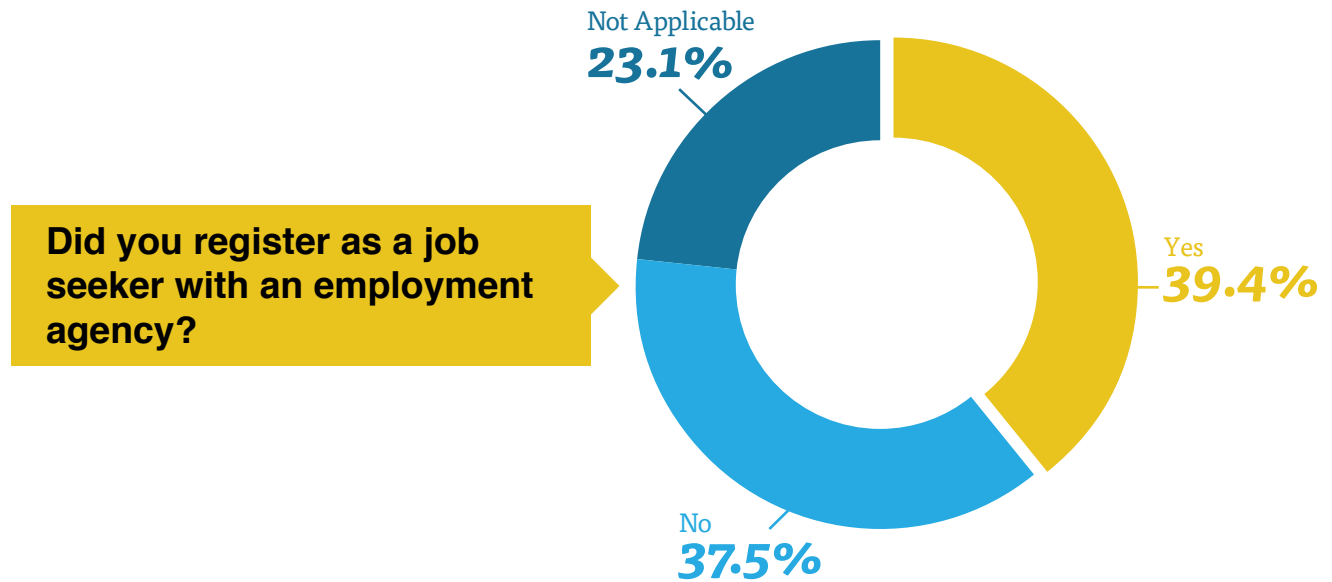
Representative of **1%** of the working-age African American males that aren't working.



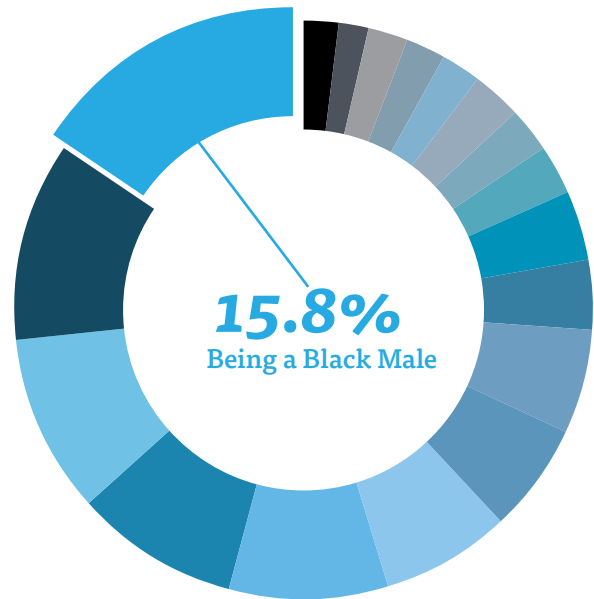
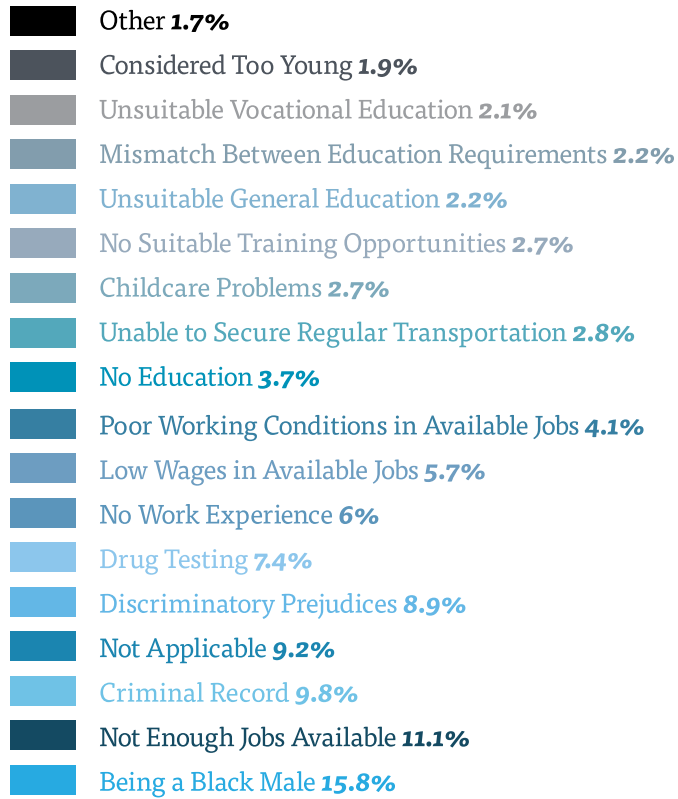
- 28 years old
- Middle school is his highest level of education
- Served nine years in prison
- Has two children, one living with him, and pays \$475 in child support monthly
- Uses marijuana recreationally
- Does not have regular access to a vehicle
- Has not registered as a job seeker with an employment agency
- Was laid off from his last job and has been searching for one year
- Has applied to eight different jobs during his search, with no interviews

Workforce Participation

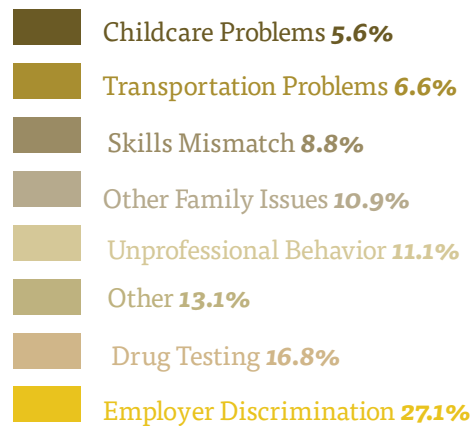
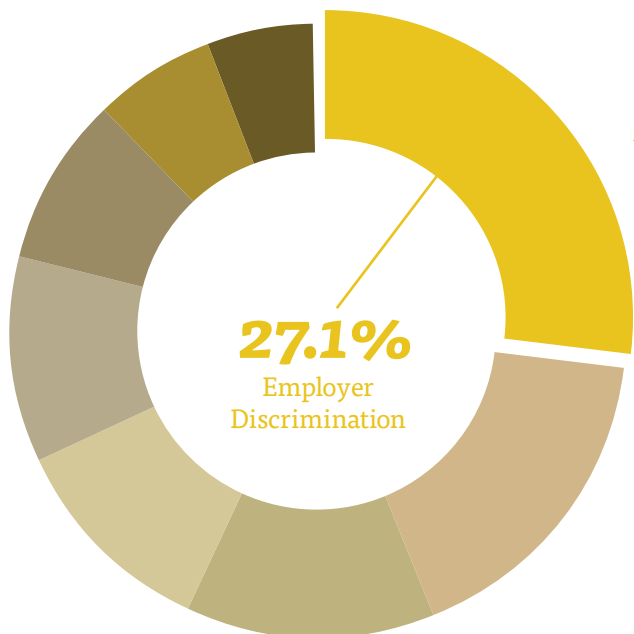
26.4% report receiving money from informal work. While a number of obstacles were reported as barriers to finding and keeping a job, employer discrimination is often seen as a significant factor. Additionally, **14.2%** of respondents report that they are not actively looking for employment.

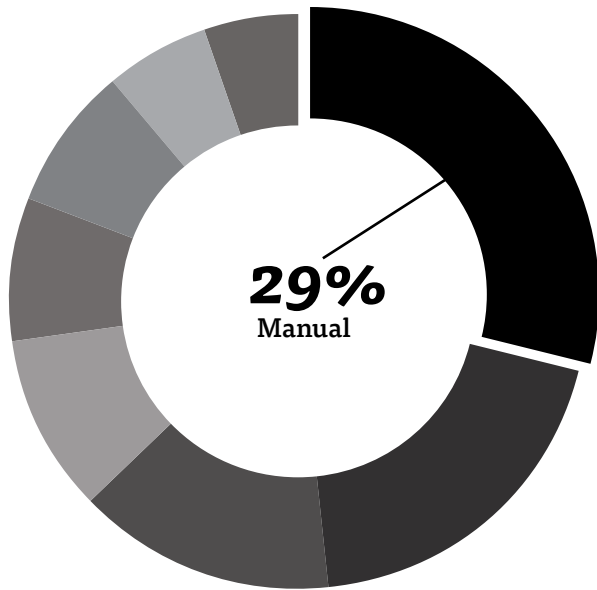


What have been your main obstacles in finding a job?



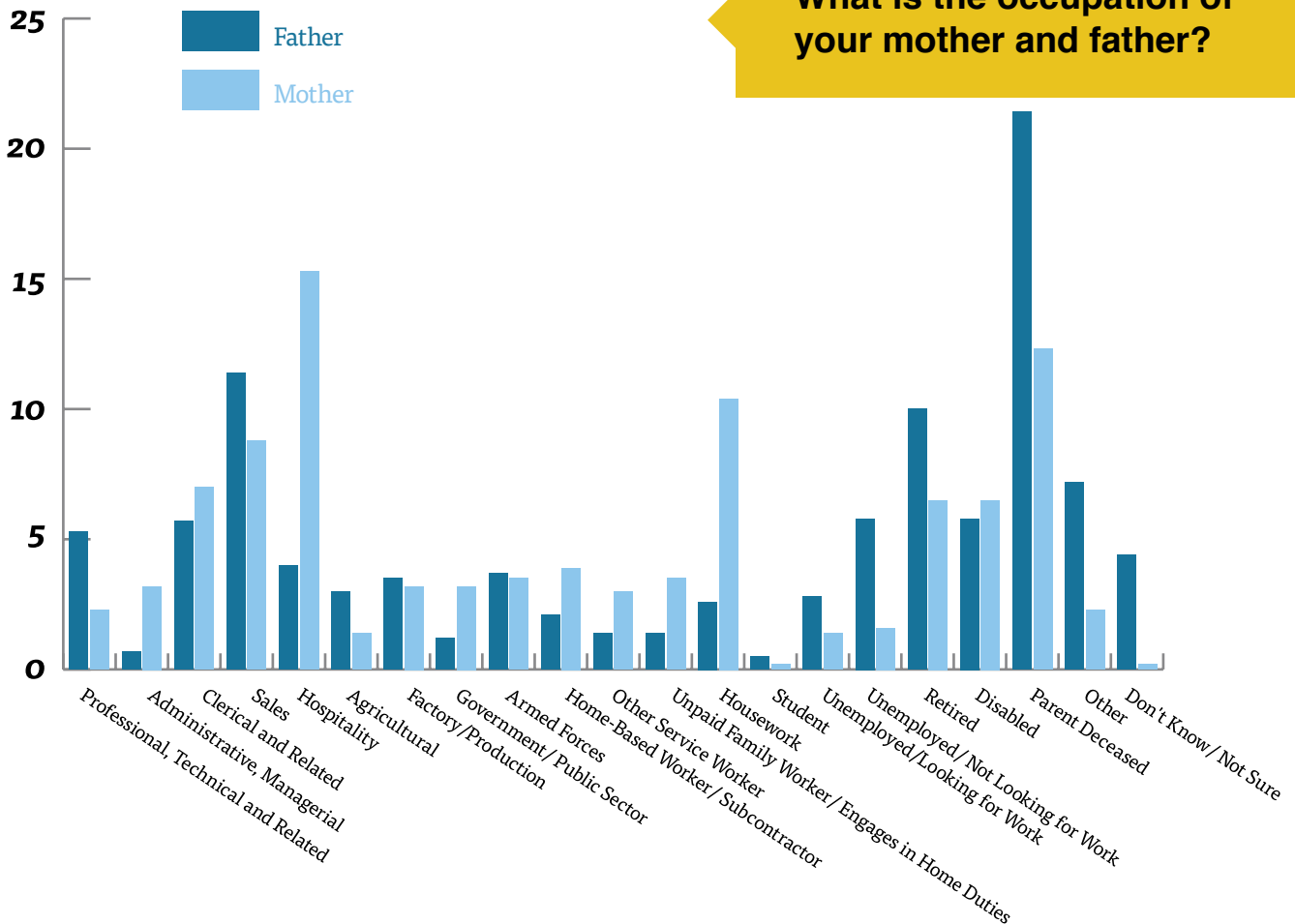
What have been your main obstacles in keeping a job?





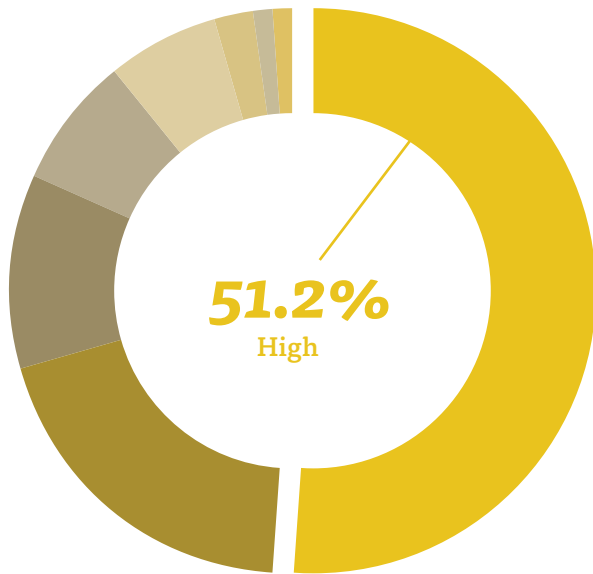
What type of job are you looking for?

- Managerial 5.2%
- Administrative 5.8%
- Clerical 7.9%
- Other 8.2%
- Technical 10%
- Not Applicable (Not Searching for Employment) 14.2%
- Professional 19.5%
- Manual 29%



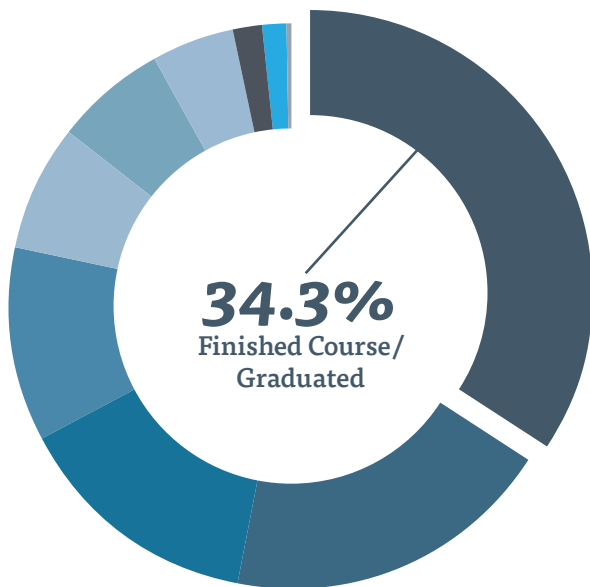
Education

Over half of those surveyed report high school as their highest level of education and just over a quarter went beyond high school to complete a 2 or 4 year college degree, vocational training, and in some cases graduate/doctoral work.



What is your highest level of education?

- Graduate/ Doctoral **0.9%**
- Elementary **1.2%**
- Other **2.3%**
- Vocational **6.3%**
- 4 Year College **7.4%**
- 2 Year College **11.1%**
- Middle **19.7%**
- High **51.2%**

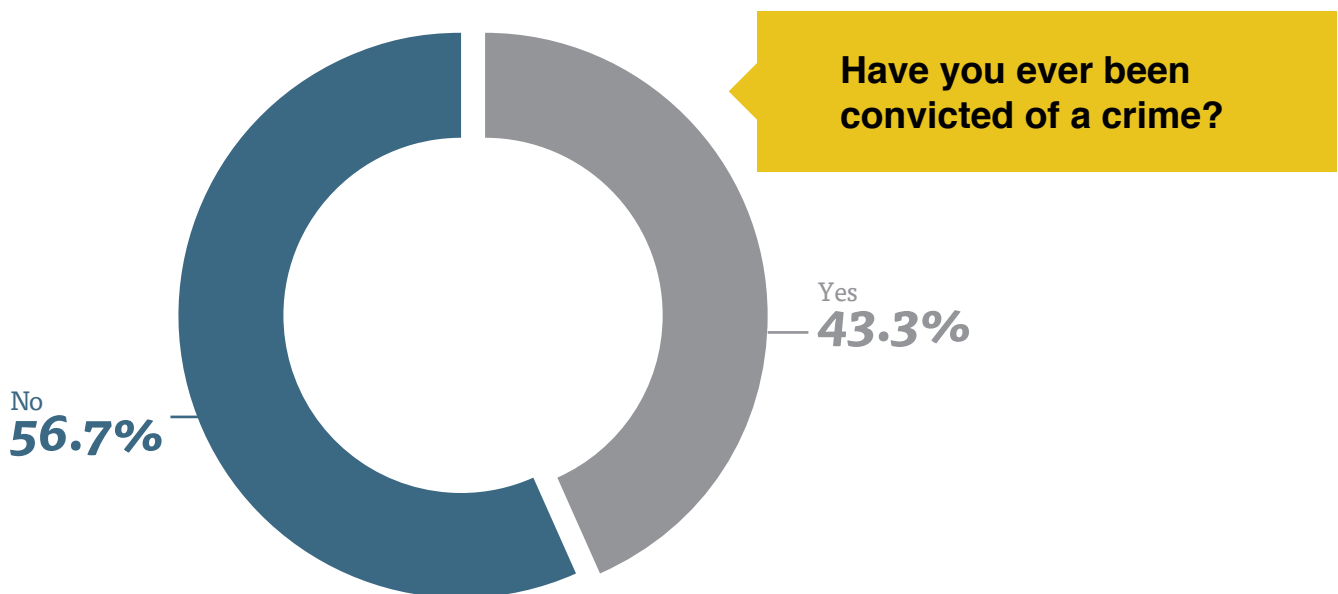
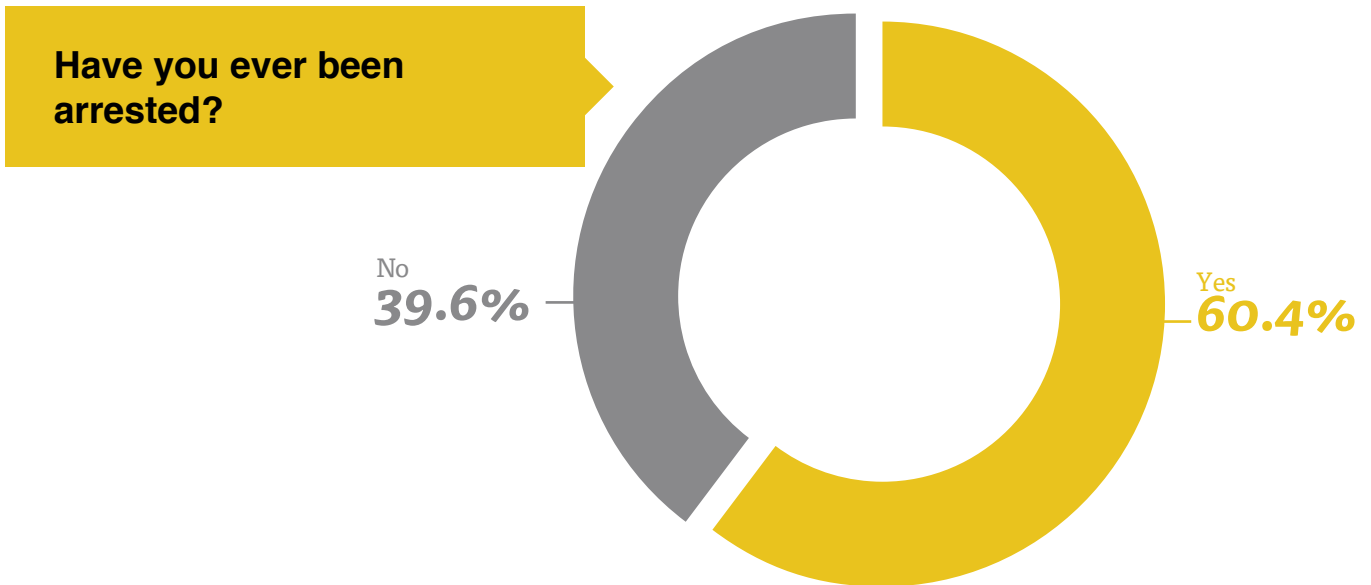


What is the main reason for stopping your education?

- Parents Did Not Want Me to Continue School **0.2%**
- Health Reasons **1.3%**
- To Get Married **1.7%**
- Economic Reasons **4.8%**
- Other **6.3%**
- Failed Examinations **7.3%**
- Pushed out of School by Disciplinary Actions **11%**
- Did Not Enjoy Schooling **14.3%**
- Wanted to Start Working **18.8%**
- Finished Course/Graduated **34.3%**

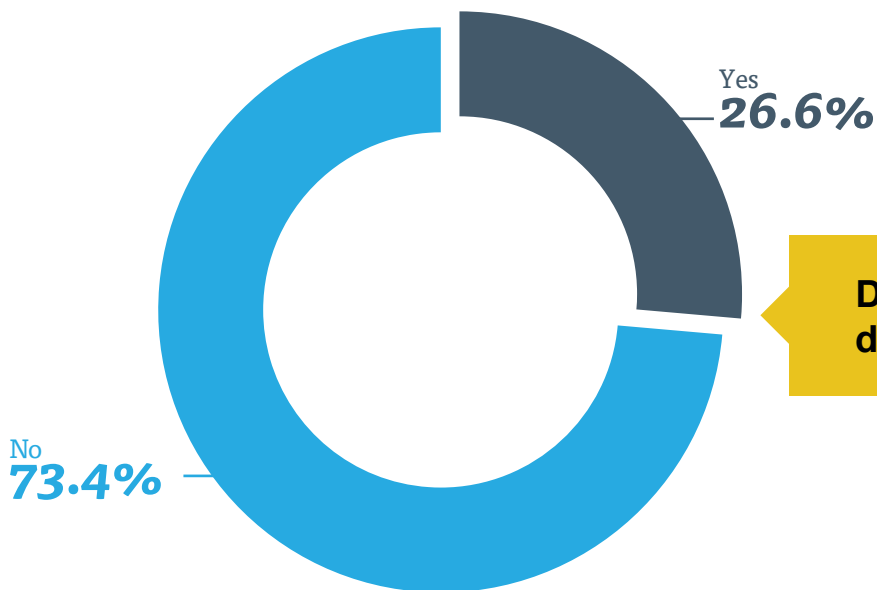
Criminal History

While over half of those surveyed have been arrested, under half have been convicted of a crime. Nearly half of respondents have served time in a parish or state prison. An overwhelming **73.4%** of survey respondents report not using drugs recreationally.



¹ The 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug. Daily or almost daily use of marijuana (used on 20 or more days in the past month) increased from 5.1 million persons in 2007 to 7.6 million persons in 2012. NSDUH estimates, as well as most use prevalence estimates, are based on self-reporting. A study cosponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) examined the validity of NSDUH self-report data on drug use among persons aged 12 to 25. The study found most - with some reporting differences in both directions- youths and young adults reported their recent drug use accurately in self-reports (Harrison, Martin, Enev, & Harrington, 2007). (<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2012SummNatFindDetTables/NationalFindings/NSDUHresults2012.htm#ch1.1>)

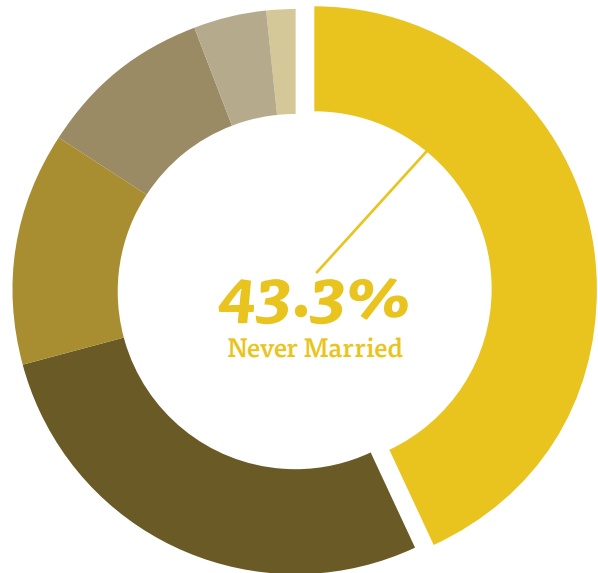
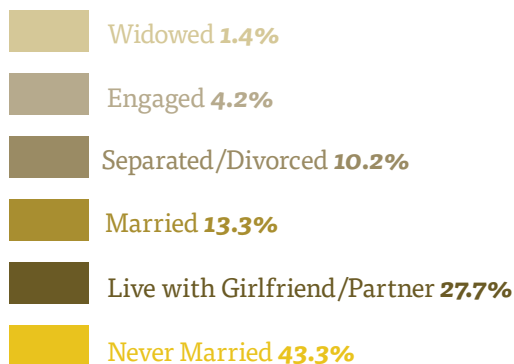
Have you ever served time in parish or state prison?



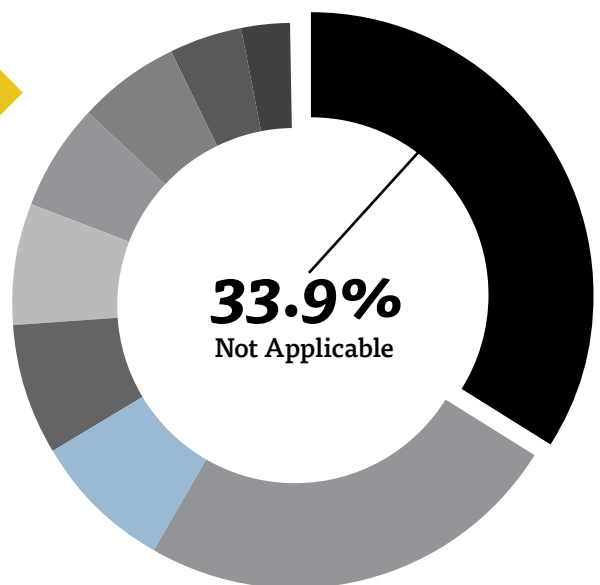
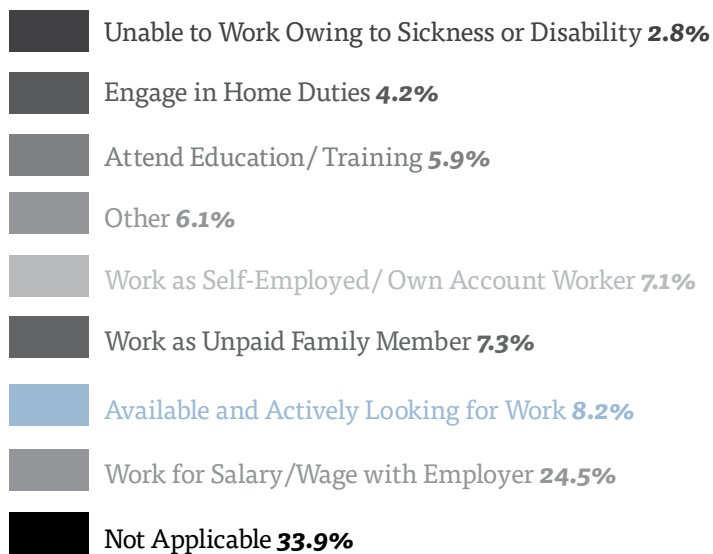
Home/ Family Life

50.3% of those surveyed do not have children and the majority are not required to pay child support. Over half of respondents are not now or never have been married. Roughly half of those polled have regular access to a car and nearly a quarter use public transportation everyday. **26%** report dependency on public transportation has affected their ability to get to work on time.

What is your current marital status?



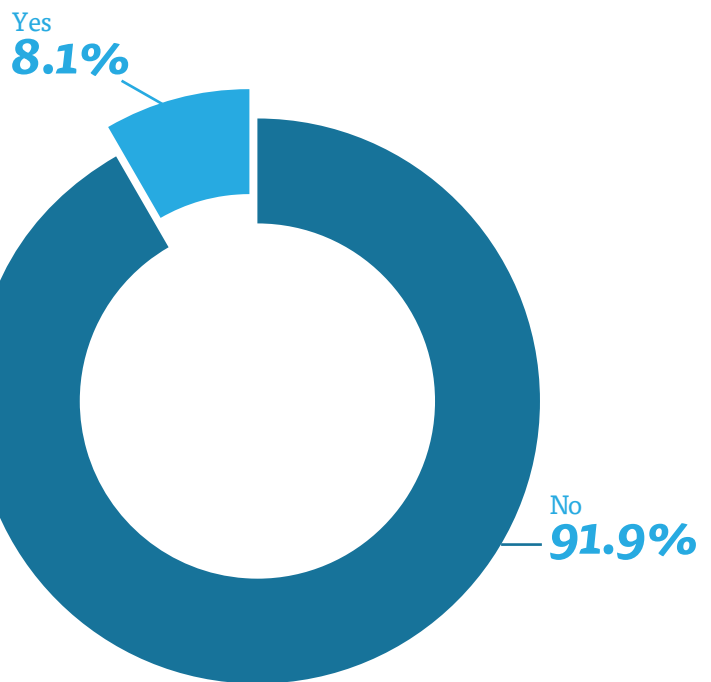
What does your spouse/partner currently do?



Do you have children?



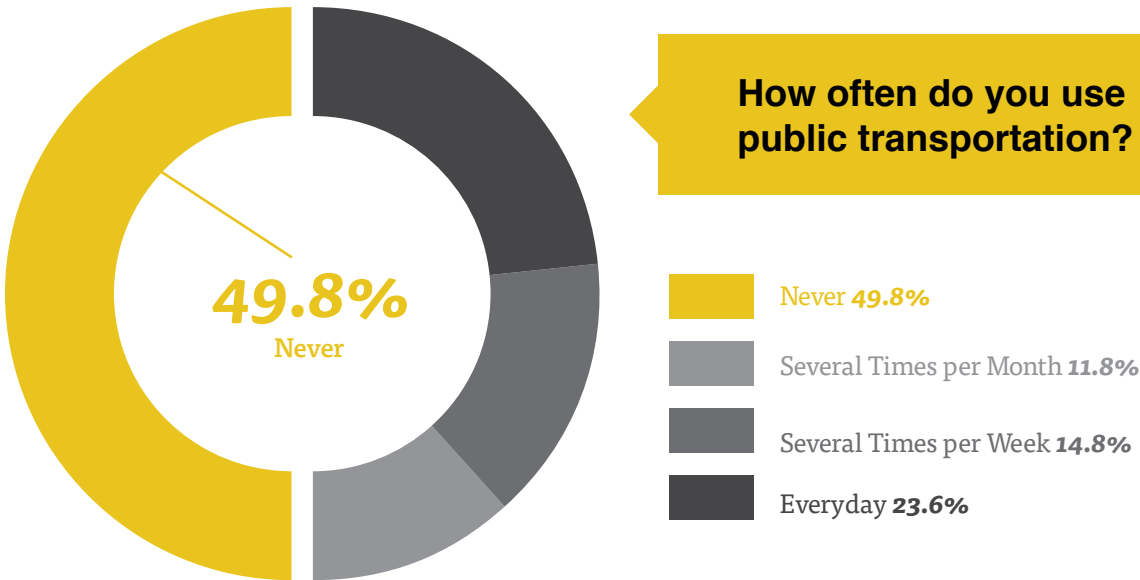
Are you required to pay child support?



Do you own or have regular access to a car?



How often do you use public transportation?



Appendix

Survey Responses

There were a total of 432 respondents and on some questions, denoted by an asterisk, respondents were able to select multiple answers.

Q1 Please identify your highest level of education.

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Elementary	5	1.2%
2	Middle	85	19.7%
3	High	221	51.2%
4	Vocational	27	6.3%
5	2 yr College	48	11.1%
6	4 yr College	32	7.4%
7	Grad/PhD	4	0.9%
8	Other	10	2.3%

Total 432

Q2 What was the main reason for stopping your education?*

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Finished course/Graduated	159	34.3%
2	Failed examinations	34	7.3%
3	Did not enjoy schooling	66	14.3%
4	Wanted to start working	87	18.8%
5	To get married	8	1.7%
6	Parents did not want you to continue school	1	0.2%
7	Economic reasons	22	4.8%
8	Health reasons	6	1.3%
9	Pushed out by disciplinary actions of school	51	11.0%
10	Other	29	6.3%

Total 463

Q3 Do you currently have any physical disabilities?

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	53	12.3%
2	No	379	87.7%

Total 432

Q4 Have you ever been arrested?

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	261	60.4%
2	No	171	39.6%
Total 432			

Q5 Have you ever been convicted of a crime?

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	187	43.3%
2	No	245	56.7%
Total 432			

Q6 Have you ever served time in a parish or state prison?

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	203	47.0%
2	No	229	53.0%
Total 432			

Q7 What is your current marital status?

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Never married	186	43.3%
2	Engaged to be married	18	4.2%
3	Married	57	13.3%
4	Separated/divorced	44	10.2%
5	Widowed	6	1.4%
6	Live with girlfriend/partner	119	27.7%
Total 430			

Q8 What does your spouse/partner currently do?

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Attend education/training	25	5.9%
2	Available and actively looking for work	35	8.2%
3	Work for salary/wage with employer	104	24.5%
4	Work as unpaid family member	31	7.3%
5	Work as self-employed/own account worker	30	7.1%
6	Engage in home duties	18	4.2%
7	Unable to work owing to sickness or disability	12	2.8%
8	Not applicable	144	33.9%
9	Other	26	6.1%

Total 425

Q9 Do you have any children?

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	214	49.7%
2	No	217	50.3%

Total 431

Q10 Are you required to pay child support?

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	35	8.1%
2	No	395	91.9%

Total 430

Q11 *What is the highest level of education of your father?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
No schooling	27	6.3%
Elementary school	8	1.9%
Middle school	35	8.1%
High school	193	44.8%
Vocational school	18	4.2%
College	99	23.0%
Graduate studies	4	0.9%
Other	17	3.9%
I don't know/I'm not sure	30	7.0%

Total 431

Q12 *What is the highest level of education of your mother?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
No schooling	18	4.2%
Elementary school	18	4.2%
Middle school	16	3.7%
High school	216	50.5%
Vocational school	13	3.0%
College	131	30.6%
Graduate studies	6	1.4%
Other	10	2.3%
I don't know/I'm not sure	0	0.0%

Total 428

Q13 *What is the occupation of your father?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Professional, technical and related worker	23	5.3%
Administrative, managerial	3	0.7%
Clerical and related worker	8	5.7%
Sales	49	11.4%
Hospitality	17	4.0%
Agricultural worker	13	3.0%
Factory/production worker	15	3.5%
Government/public sector worker	5	1.2%
Armed forces	16	3.7%
Home-based worker/subcontractor	9	2.1%
Other service worker	6	1.4%
Unpaid family worker/engage in home duties	6	1.4%
Housework	11	2.6%
Student	2	0.5%
Unemployed/looking for work	12	2.8%
Unemployed/not looking for work	25	5.8%
Retired	43	10.0%
Disabled	25	5.8%
Parent deceased	92	21.4%
Other	31	7.2%
I don't know/I'm not sure	19	4.4%

Total 430

Q14 *What is the occupation of your mother?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Professional, technical and related worker	10	2.3%
Administrative, managerial	14	3.2%
Clerical and related worker	30	7.0%
Sales	38	8.8%
Hospitality	66	15.3%
Agricultural worker	6	1.4%
Factory/production worker	14	3.2%
Government/public sector worker	14	3.2%
Armed forces	15	3.5%
Home-based worker/subcontractor	17	3.9%
Other service worker	13	3.0%
Unpaid family worker/engage in home duties	15	3.5%
Housework	45	10.4%
Student	1	0.2%
Unemployed/looking for work	6	1.4%
Unemployed/not looking for work	7	1.6%
Retired	28	6.5%
Disabled	28	6.5%
Parent deceased	53	12.3%
Other	10	2.3%
I don't know/I'm not sure	1	0.2%

Total 431**Q15** *Do you currently live in public housing or other..?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Yes	96	22.3%
No	335	77.7%

Total 431**Q16** *Have you ever lived in public housing?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Yes	151	35.0%
No	281	65.0%

Total 432

Q17 What is the number of persons in the household you live? (including yourself)

Mean **Mode**

3.4 3

Min **Max**

0 13

Q18 How long have you lived in your current household? (Months)

Mean **Mode**

48.1 12

Min **Max**

0 312

Q19 How many persons in the household work for a salary/wage?

Mean **Mode**

1.3 1

Min **Max**

0 7

Q20 How many persons in the household are without work and actively looking for work?

Mean **Mode**

1.4 1

Min **Max**

0 6

Q21 Do you own or have regular access to a car?

Value **Frequency** **Percent**

Yes 212 49.3%

No 218 50.7%

Total 432

Q22 *How often do you use public transportation?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Everyday	102	23.6%
Several times per week	64	14.8%
Several times per month	51	11.8%
Never	215	49.8%
Total 432		

Q23 *Has your usage of public transportation ever affected your ability to get to work on time?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Yes	112	26.0%
No	171	39.8%
Not applicable	147	34.2%
Total 430		

Q24 *Do you currently use any drugs recreationally?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Yes	115	26.6%
No	317	73.4%
Total 432		

Q25 *If you were drug tested within the next 7 days, would you pass the test?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Yes	299	71.4%
No	120	28.6%
Total 419		

Q26 *Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental illness?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Yes	25	5.8%
No	404	94.2%

Total 429

Q27 *Why did you leave your last job?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Fired	107	25.1%
Quit	135	31.7%
Other	184	43.2%

Total 426

Q28 *Which of the following qualities do you think is most useful in finding a job?**

Value	Frequency	Percent
Information technology skills	70	6.3%
Scientific or technical qualifications	24	2.2%
Command of languages	38	3.4%
Knowledge of the business world	93	8.3%
Communication skills	169	15.2%
Teamwork skills	151	13.6%
Good general education	165	14.8%
Good appearance	180	16.2%
Ambition	146	13.1%
Having completed an apprenticeship or training courses	62	5.6%
Other	16	1.4%

Total 1114

Q29 *Are you currently searching for work?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Yes	293	68.1%
No	137	31.9%

Total 430

Q30 What type of job are you looking for (occupation)?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Manual job	194	29.0%
Clerical job	53	7.9%
Technical job	67	10.0%
Administrative job	39	5.8%
Managerial job	35	5.2%
Professional job	130	19.5%
Other	55	8.2%
Not applicable (not searching for employment)	95	14.2%

Total 668

Q31 What steps did you take to seek work during the past 4 weeks?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Through education/training institution	97	9.2%
Attending job fairs	167	15.8%
Registration at a public employment office	91	8.6%
Registration at a private employment office	54	5.1%
Direct application(s) to employers, participation in a competition	102	9.7%
Checking at worksites, farms, factor gates, markets or other assembly places	88	8.3%
Placing newspaper or online advertisements	47	4.5%
Answering advertisements (newspaper, internet, etc.)	56	5.3%
Seeking assistance of friends, relatives, colleagues, etc.	92	8.7%
Looking for land, building, machinery, equipment to establish own enterprise	47	4.5%
Arranging for financial resources to establish own enterprise	31	2.9%
Applying for permits to establish own enterprise	40	3.8%
Nothing	27	2.6%
Other	12	1.1%
Not applicable (as I am not searching for employment)	103	9.8%

Total 1054

Q32 *Did you register as a job seeker with an employment agency?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Yes	169	39.4%
No	161	37.5%
Not applicable	99	23.1%

Total 429

Q33 *Have you ever received any advice/help/assistance from employment service agencies?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Yes	138	32.0%
No	293	68.0%

Total 431

Q34 *How useful were the services offered to you by an employment agencies?*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Helpful	70	16.4%
Not helpful	186	43.6%
Other	11	2.6%
Not applicable (as I have never received assistance)	160	37.5%

Total 427

Q35 What have been your main activities while looking for a job? (check as many that apply)*

Value	Frequency	Percent
Staying home and only looking for a job	193	24.0%
Staying home and also responsible for house chores	107	13.3%
Staying home and participating in “informal” work	95	11.8%
Helping in family business	70	8.7%
Taking additional education/training courses	69	8.6%
Spending time with friends	41	5.1%
Doing volunteer work (Without pay)	48	6.0%
Planning to start a business	41	5.1%
Other	20	2.5%
Not applicable (not searching for employment)	120	14.9%
Total 804		

Q36 Since you started looking for work, how many jobs have you applied for? (estimate will suffice, if you don't know exact number)

Mean	Mode
6.1	0
Min	Max
0	100

Q37 Since you started looking for work, how many interviews have you been to? (estimate will suffice, if you don't know exact number)

Mean	Mode
1.3	0
Min	Max
0	12

Q38 What have been the main obstacles in finding a job?*

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	No education	40	3.7%
2	Unsuitable general education	24	2.2%
3	Unsuitable vocational education	23	2.1%
4	No suitable training opportunities	29	2.7%
5	Mismatch between education requirements and that received	24	2.2%
6	No work experience	65	6.0%
7	Not enough jobs available	119	11.1%
8	Criminal record	105	9.8%
9	Drug testing	80	7.4%
10	Childcare problems	29	2.7%
11	Unable to secure regular transportation to employment	30	2.8%
12	Considered too young	20	1.9%
13	Being a black male	170	15.8%
14	Discriminatory prejudices	96	8.9%
15	Low wages in available jobs	61	5.7%
16	Poor working conditions in available jobs	44	4.1%
17	Other	18	1.7%
18	Not applicable	99	9.2%
Total 1076			

Q39 What have been the main obstacles in keeping a job?*

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Skills mismatch	52	8.8%
2	Transportation problems	39	6.6%
3	Childcare problems	33	5.6%
4	Other family issues	65	10.9%
5	Drug testing	100	16.8%
6	Employer discrimination	161	27.1%
7	Unprofessional behavior	66	11.1%
8	Other	78	13.1%
Total 594			

Q40 *Where do you get most of your money from?**

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Unemployment or social security benefits	59	11.0%
2	Training allowance or educational grant	20	3.7%
3	My parents and/or family	122	22.7%
4	My partner	140	26.1%
5	Informal work	142	26.4%
6	Other	54	10.1%

Total 537

Q41 *Have you ever refused a job that was offered to you?*

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	28	6.6%
2	No	396	93.4%

Total 424

Q42 *Do you feel the ed/training you received is useful to getting a job?*

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	249	59.3%
2	No	171	40.7%

Total 420

Q43 What kind of training do you think would be most helpful in finding a job?
(check at least one, but no more than three)*

Code	Value	Frequency	Percent
1	Completion of vocational training	125	12.6%
2	Completion of secondary education	70	7.0%
3	Completion of college/university	80	8.0%
4	Apprenticeship with any employer	96	9.7%
5	Entrepreneurship training to start own business	102	10.3%
6	Computer and IT training	86	8.7%
7	Foreign language	56	5.6%
8	Professional training	137	13.8%
9	Job related mentor	118	11.9%
10	Job related support group	100	10.1%
11	Other	24	2.4%
Total		994	

This report was made possible by a collaboration between the Innovation Delivery Team, the Office of Workforce Development, and The Network for Economic Opportunity

Innovation Delivery Team

The City of New Orleans Innovation Delivery Team is designed to help Mayor Landrieu develop and deliver powerful solutions to major urban challenges. Situated in the Mayor's Office, the team brings rigorous focus and best-in-class practice to identifying powerful solutions, developing implementation plans and then managing for results. New Orleans is one of the initial five cities to receive an Innovation Delivery Team grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies. Part of Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayors Project, Innovation Delivery Team grants were also awarded to Atlanta, Chicago, Louisville and Memphis.

Office of Workforce Development

The Office of Workforce Development identifies and aligns the supply of workers in our city with the needs of growing businesses. Through a combination of monitoring the needs of a knowledge-based economy, to providing career counseling and training, the Office of Workforce Development leverages the capabilities of our citizens to fill necessary positions while working with local businesses to customize training, screen applicants and help forecast future demand.

The Network for Economic Opportunity

The Network for Economic Opportunity is an initiative of the City of New Orleans, founded to establish productive partnerships among local industries, small businesses, residents, non-profits, philanthropy, and city agencies and achieve common goals within six priority areas: Economic Opportunity, Housing Affordability, Cultural Preservation, Transportation Access, Sustainable Environment, and Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods. The Network manages the connections. Local industries and Claiborne Corridor residents activate the goals. Cross-sector partners enable the work. The Claiborne Corridor hosts the pilot programs and projects that emerge. New Orleanians gain a robust and enduring urban core.