

Lit Scan

Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

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Poorly Educated Workers More Likely To Become Unemployed

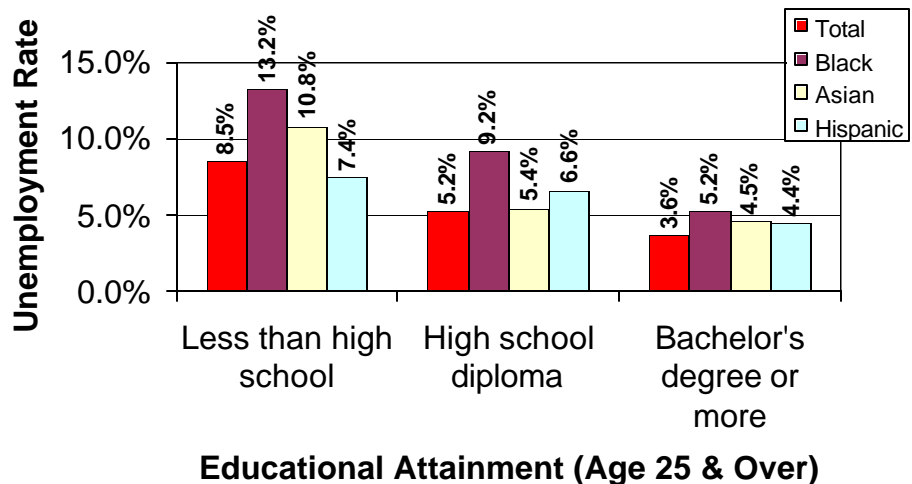
In August 2003—the latest month for which detailed data are available—the unemployment rate differed dramatically for adults with different levels of educational attainment as well as different racial and ethnic backgrounds. Notably, however, while inequalities between racial and ethnic groups persist, they are generally much smaller than the differences that can be attributed to educational attainment.

A person without a high school diploma was more than twice as likely as a person with a college degree to become unemployed (8.5 v. 3.6 percent).

Differences in unemployment risk associated with race/ethnicity, controlling for educational attainment, were greatest for Blacks or African-Americans, followed by Asians and Hispanics, respectively. An African-American or Asian without a high school diploma was more than twice as likely to be unemployed than an African-American with a bachelor's degree or more (13.2 v. 5.2 percent for Blacks, 10.8 v. 4.5 percent for Asians).



Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment & Race/Ethnicity: United States, August 2003



An Hispanic worker without a high school diploma was almost twice as likely to become unemployed as an Hispanic with a college degree (7.4 v. 4.4 percent).

Clearly, increasing the educational attainment levels of adult Americans is a powerful way to combat unemployment and to close the racial/ethnic gaps associated with the risk of unemployment.

This is why CDE's Center for At-Risk Education (CARE) is involved in a partnership with other state government agencies to reduce the risk that poorly educated workers will become unemployed. Established through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, this partnership provides continuity of services to Colorado's workforce. Local Workplace Centers provide one-stop access to a variety of services that assist Coloradans in improving their employment-related skills. The Center for At-Risk Education assists Adult Education and Family Literacy programs to develop and provide workplace education programs to Colorado Workforce Center clients. For additional information about workforce and workplace education services, contact CARE's Workforce/Workplace Consultant Douglas Glynn at (303)866-6607 or e-mail glynn_d@cde.state.co.us.

SOURCE

- Table A-17. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 25 years and over by educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Available at: <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/supp/EMPSIT.CPSEEA17.TXT>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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