

June 10, 2020

Disparities in Disruption: COVID-19's Disproportionate Impact on Work and Education for People of Color

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Key Findings

Work Impact from COVID-19

Black Americans and Latinos are more likely than white Americans to have been laid off, to be worried about losing their jobs, or to have started new jobs. These communities are experiencing greater volatility in their employment.

Education Disruption from COVID-19

Black Americans and Latinos are more likely than white Americans to have changed or canceled their education plans. These individuals are the most likely to have delayed enrolling or reduced their coursework.

Future Education Plans

Black Americans and Latinos are more likely than white Americans to enroll in education and training programs in the coming months across learning providers. Compared to white Americans, a larger share of black Americans and Latinos plan to enroll in online programs, work-based learning programs, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities.

Valued Sources of Advice

Compared to other racial and ethnic groups, black Americans rank advice about education and training from colleges and universities as less valuable than advice from other sources. While Latinos and white Americans rank colleges and universities as the most or second-most valuable source of advice about education and training, black Americans rank them fourth, behind internet search.

June 24, 2020

COVID19 Work and Education Survey - Reskilling and Changing Careers in the Midst of COVID-19

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Key Findings

1. **One out of three workers say they would change their field of work if they lost their job.** Interest in changing fields is especially high for workers with a bachelor's degree or higher (39%) but also robust for workers with a high school degree or less (33%).
2. **Workers interested in changing job fields say they are most likely to transition into information technology, finance, or business fields such as human resources, consulting, and communication.** Among workers interested in changing fields, 18 percent say they are interested in a career in business; 14 percent want to work in information technology; and 9 percent want to work in finance.
3. **Workers' motivations for wanting to change fields are split evenly between those wanting to earn more money or climb a career ladder and nonfinancial motivations such as more autonomy, better fit, or more meaningful work.** Half of workers looking to change fields said earning more money (34%), having a more stable paycheck (8%), or having more opportunities to advance (9%) were their primary motivations, while 30 percent of these workers wanted a better fit or more purposeful work and 18 percent wanted more control over their work lives.
4. **While many workers who are looking to make a career transition need to reskill, less than half of Americans say they have access to the education and training they want.** Americans with a bachelor's degree are more likely to say they have access to the education and training they want (55%), compared to those with a high school education or less (38%).
5. **Americans strongly prefer nondegree programs, skills training, and online learning over the alternatives.** Sixty-two percent prefer nondegree and skills training options over degree programs. Forty-six percent prefer online learning programs, compared to 30 percent who prefer in-person programs and 23 percent who prefer employer-based programs.