Public Viewpoint

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

June 10, 2020
Public Viewpoint

• A weekly survey of 1,000 American adults that is representative of the population on the basis of:
  • Age
  • Sex
  • Race/ethnicity
  • Education
  • Nine geographic census regions
• Weekly surveys, March 25-May 28
• Biweekly surveys, June-October
• Current database: 10,045 individuals
Key Questions by Race/Ethnicity

1. How has work been affected?

2. To what extent have education plans been disrupted?

3. What are Americans’ short- and long-term plans to enroll in education and training programs?

4. Where do people plan to pursue education and training?

5. Which sources of advice about education and training are most valued?
Work Impact
Black Americans and Latinos are the most likely to have been laid off

Which of the following has happened to you in the past month? I have been laid off.

- All: 18%
- White: 15%
- Asian: 13%
- Black: 23%
- Latino: 24%

Weekly online surveys March 25-May 28. Base: Americans ages 18+ in the workforce (employed or unemployed and looking for work), n=5,681.
Americans of color are more worried about losing their jobs

How worried are you that you may lose your job as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) events, or are you not at all worried? (Extremely, very, or somewhat worried)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Latino</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worried</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Black Americans and Latinos are more likely to have started new jobs in the past month

Which of the following has happened to you in the past month?

- Started new full-time job
- Started new part-time job

Weekly online surveys March 25-May 28. Base: Americans ages 18+ in the workforce (employed or unemployed and looking for work), n=5,046.
Education Impact
People of color are more likely than white Americans to have changed or canceled their education plans.

1 in 3 Latinos and 1 in 4 black Americans have canceled education plans or delayed enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Canceled</th>
<th>Delayed enrollment</th>
<th>Reduced courses</th>
<th>Changed school/provider</th>
<th>Changed field of study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weekly online surveys March 25-May 28. Base: Americans ages 18-65, n=2,128. Respondents may choose more than one answer or none.
Plans to Enroll in Education and Training Programs
Black Americans and Latinos intend to enroll in education and training programs at higher rates than white Americans

Thinking about the future, please indicate if and when you are likely to enroll in courses or training.

Online surveys May 6-May 21. Base: Americans ages 18-65 not currently enrolled, n=1,548.
Black Americans and Latinos are more likely to believe that pursuing education would put their health at risk

Pursuing education or training would put me at risk to contract coronavirus

- White: 32%
- Black: 39%
- Latino: 38%

Provider Preference
Across providers, black Americans and Latinos are more likely to pursue education in the next five years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Latino</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online education/training program</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer/work-based training program</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-person community college/trade school</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-person four-year college/university</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Share of adults planning to enroll

Online surveys May 6-May 28. Base: Americans ages 18-65 not currently enrolled, n=3,236. Respondents may choose more than one answer or none. Percentages do not sum to 100.
Among those without degrees, black Americans and Latinos are more interested in degrees while white Americans look to nondegree options.

If you were to enroll in additional education or training sometime within the next 6 months, what would be your goal?

- **White**
  - Degree: 28%
  - Certificate, certification, or license: 30%
  - One or more courses for skills or personal interest: 42%

- **Black**
  - Degree: 39%
  - Certificate, certification, or license: 29%
  - One or more courses for skills or personal interest: 32%

- **Latino**
  - Degree: 34%
  - Certificate, certification, or license: 24%
  - One or more courses for skills or personal interest: 38%

Online surveys May 6-May 28. Base: Americans age 18+ with no postsecondary degree or credential, n=1,542.
Valued Sources of Advice
Compared to other races/ethnicities, black Americans find less value in advice from colleges and universities.

When it comes to getting more education or training, please rank how valuable advice from each of the following would be for you personally, where a rank of 1 is “most valuable” and a rank of 7 is “least valuable.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of advice</th>
<th>Rank by Race/Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleges/universities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State/local government</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community organizations</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church/Faith Community</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Online surveys May 6-May 21. Base: Americans ages 18-65 not currently enrolled n=1,619.
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.
Learn more at
StradaEducation.org/PublicViewpoint
or email
consumervoice@stradaeducation.org
Methodology

• Weekly tracking of education consumers’ perceptions of COVID-19’s impact on postsecondary education and work in the United States, completed by Heart+Mind Strategies on behalf of Strada Education Network’s Center for Consumer Insights.

• Online survey of Americans ages 18 and above.

• Representative of the general population in age, gender, geographic region, educational attainment, and race/ethnicity.

• Total from March 25-May 28, n=10,045.

• A theoretical margin of error based on a probability would be +/- 3.1% at 95% confidence for a sample of size 1,000 and +/- 0.98% for a sample size of 10,000. This is not a probability-based sample, and a margin of error cannot be estimated. Based on experience, we believe the sampling error would be at least this number.

• Please contact Strada Center for Consumer Insights with questions or information requests at consumervoice@stradaeducation.org or learn more at StradaEducation.org/PublicViewpoint