ISCI Conference 2011 Submission

**Title:**

Education and employment of youth in Chicago: Using linked administrative data to assess indicators and outcomes of educational achievement and economic well-being

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**Abstract:**

Chicago, like many cities across the United States, has faced high levels of unemployment during the recent economic downtown. The recession has hit youth especially hard, with 48% unemployment among Chicago youth ages 16 to 19 in the labor force[[1]](#footnote-1). Policymakers are seeking information about the experiences of youth and how the public education and workforce development systems can better prepare youth with marketable skills and credentials to promote employment and economic well-being.

Current research from a workforce data and research initiative at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago has brought together administrative data from several sources to begin to assess youth experiences in these systems and identify indicators of successful educational and employment outcomes. Specifically, individual-level data of a cohort of students from the Chicago Public Schools is linked with data on employment and wages, post-secondary education, and participation in workforce development training programs. This data linkage, using data from multiple administrative systems, allowed researchers to establish a longitudinal trajectory of education and employment experiences and outcomes during adolescence and into young adulthood. This data is used to study how education experiences in high school, such as enrollment in career and technical education, as well as employment experiences, such as participation in youth workforce development programs or engagement in the labor market, relate to achievement of successful educational and employment outcomes. Key findings and implications for policy and research will be discussed, including how linked administrative data across systems is a valuable way to assess youth education and employment indicators and study well-being as youth transition to young adulthood.

1. Estimates based on weighted frequencies from the American Community Survey 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)