Wisconsin has Highest Black Unemployment Rate in the Nation


Wisconsin’s black unemployment rate is significantly higher than the national black unemployment rate of 11 percent. Despite projections that the black unemployment rate will drop significantly by the end of 2015, African Americans in Wisconsin are still further from a full recovery than whites or Hispanics.

“Wisconsin’s African American unemployment rate is a crisis, and a call to action,” said Laura Dresser, Associate Director for COWS. “As a state, we need to do more to extend opportunity, ensure that African Americans can connect to jobs, and close this ruinous racial gap.”

In 2014, the annual black unemployment rate was highest in Wisconsin, followed by Nevada (16.1 percent), Michigan (15.8 percent), and the District of Columbia (15.7 percent), out of 30 states for which data was available. Though black unemployment significantly declined in 15 states and the employment-to-population ratio increased in six states, African Americans have returned to pre-recession unemployment rates in just two states—Connecticut and South Carolina.


For a more complete picture of Wisconsin’s extreme racial disparity and joblessness, see also:

- Wisconsin’s Extreme Racial Disparity: http://www.cows.org/wisconsins-extreme-racial-disparity

####

The Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan “think-and-do tank” dedicated to improving economic performance and living standards in the state of Wisconsin and nationally. Based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, COWS works to promote “high road” strategies that support living wages, environmental sustainability, strong communities, and public accountability. For more information, visit www.cows.org.