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Exploring Differential Opportunity among Inner City Black Men

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Poster Presentation P38

**EXPLORING DIFFERENTIAL OPPORTUNITY AMONG
INNER CITY BLACK MEN**

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Segregation has played an important role in unequal access to quality education, which leads to limited opportunities in the job market. This study considers the role of human capital, delinquency, familial influence, and other key factors that may lead to the disadvantages faced by young African American men that live in metropolitan Chicago. Drawing upon interview data, this analysis explores connections between inequalities within the workforce and the negative misconceptions of this group in society at large. Overall, the men in this study displayed a positive correlation between low human capital and deviance and a negative correlation between parent involvement/ encouragement with school and non-deviant behavior. All participants also either implied or admitted to utilizing the informal labor market as an alternative means to securing income, and although some did perceive inequality with regards to education, the majority did not. Notably, most are employed within legitimate workforce. I conclude by exploring existing models of fair community-based education that have been proven to counter these disparities.