

Changes over Time in the Job Search Methods of Young Men

Joshua C. Pinkston
University of Louisville

Abstract: This paper uses data from the Current Population Survey to investigate changes in the methods used by young men to search for jobs since the late 1970s. I examine changes in both the prevalence of various job search methods and their effectiveness at improving the outcomes of job search. I then consider whether the prevalence and effectiveness of search methods varies with characteristics of the workers or with local labor market conditions. I find that the proportion of young unemployed men who report using social and family connections in their job search has increased steadily over time, while the proportion reporting direct employer contact has decreased. Furthermore, I have found that neither trend is explained by changes in worker characteristics, industry and occupation mix, or local labor market conditions.

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