



# Washington, DC Youth Fact Sheet

## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

- ◆ Only 33% of DC's youth can find viable employment according to the Bureau for Labor Statistics - Kids Count places the number even lower at 17%.<sup>1,4</sup>
- ◆ Youth employment is at a 50 year low for the entire nation.<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ White youth are twice as likely to be employed than their minority counterparts.<sup>2</sup>

*All Urban Alliance students are employed at meaningful, paid, year-long internships.*

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- ◆ Only 43% of Washington, DC public school youth graduate from high school in five years.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ DC public schools have the 4th highest drop-out rate in the nation.<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ In 2003, 29% of DC's youth (ages 18-24) were not in school, not working, and had not attained a high school diploma.<sup>5</sup>

*In the past 4 years, 96% of UA students have graduated high school.*

## POVERTY IN WASHINGTON, DC

- ◆ 36% of DC's youth are living in poverty - 23% in extreme poverty (defined as an annual income of \$8,731 or lower for a family of four).<sup>5</sup>
- ◆ Over half of youth in DC are in households earning below the living standard (200% of the federal poverty line).<sup>5</sup>
- ◆ Only 29% of DC high school graduates enroll in post-secondary education within 18 months of graduation.<sup>3</sup>

*88% of UA students go on to college, significantly increasing their earning capacity.*

## YOUTH VIOLENCE IN THE DISTRICT

- ◆ The number of youth murdered in the District doubled between 2003 and 2004.<sup>6</sup>
- ◆ Youth arrested for violent crimes also increased in this time period, after a decade of declining arrest rates.<sup>6</sup>

*At a recent Citizens Summit, DC residents demanded "the District to offer more support for teenagers as they make the transition to adulthood.....top three suggestions were more mentoring, vocational training, and life skills programs."*

*UA is the only year-round employment program for youth in DC.*

<sup>1</sup> www.bls.org

<sup>2</sup> US Department of Labor. "Report on Youth Labor Force." 2000.

<sup>3</sup> "Double the Numbers Report" www.doublethenumbersdc.org

<sup>4</sup> Swanson, Christopher B. "Projections of 2003-04 High School Graduates." Washington, DC: The Urban Institute. 2003

<sup>5</sup> "2005 Kids Count Databook: The District of Columbia." [http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/profile\\_results.jsp?r=10&d=1](http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/profile_results.jsp?r=10&d=1)

<sup>6</sup> Office of the Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth, Families, and Elders. "Effective Youth Development: A Strategy to Prevent Juvenile Homicides and Youth Violence." March 2005.