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AMERICA'S YOUTH AT 21: SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT TRANSITIONS BETWEEN AGES 20 AND 21

At age 21, women are more likely to be enrolled in college than men, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Among 21-year-olds not enrolled in college, men are more likely than women to be employed in a civilian job or serving in the military.

These findings are from the first 10 annual rounds of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, which is a nationally representative survey of about 9,000 young men and women who were born during the years 1980 to 1984. These respondents were ages 12 to 17 when first interviewed in 1997, and ages 21 to 27 when interviewed for the tenth time in 2006-07. This release focuses on the school enrollment and employment experiences of these individuals from the October when they were age 20 to the October when they were age 21. Respondents were age 20 in October during the years 2000 to 2005 and age 21 in October from 2001 to 2006.

Highlights from the longitudinal survey include:

- Among 21-year-olds, 36 percent of men were enrolled in college compared with 46 percent of women.
- Of the 20-year-olds enrolled in college, 82 percent were still enrolled when age 21. Non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanics were less likely than whites to continue their college enrollment between ages 20 and 21.
- Ten percent of male high school graduates who had never enrolled in college were in the Armed Forces during the October when they were age 21, as were 6 percent of the 21-year-old men who had attended college but were no longer enrolled.
- Thirty-seven percent of high school dropouts and 19 percent of high school graduates not enrolled in college were neither employed nor in training during the October when they were age 21.
- Among high school dropouts, 39 percent of non-Hispanic blacks were not employed in either the October when they were age 20 or the October when they were age 21 compared with 24 percent of Hispanics and 19 percent of non-Hispanic whites.

- High school graduates not enrolled in college were employed an average of 77 percent of the weeks between the October when they were age 20 and the following October. By comparison, those who had dropped out of high school were employed 57 percent of those weeks.
- By age 21, about 1 in 4 young adults who had never gone to college had been employed by the same employer for 2 or more years since they left school. Five percent had never held a job since they left school.

Educational Attainment at Age 21

Forty-one percent of young adults were enrolled in college during the October when they were age 21 compared with 43 percent of 20-year-olds and 45 percent of 19-year-olds. Forty-three percent of 21-year-olds had graduated from high school and were not enrolled in college and 2 percent had earned a General Educational Development (GED) credential and were not enrolled in college. Thirteen percent were high school dropouts during the October when they were age 21. (See table 1.)

Women were more likely than men to be enrolled in college. During the October when they were age 21, nearly half (46 percent) of women were attending college compared with 36 percent of men. This difference in college-enrollment rates stems from three factors: (1) Women were more likely to have graduated from high school; (2) among high school graduates, women were more likely to attend college; and (3) once enrolled in college, women were less likely than men to leave college between school years.

Blacks and Hispanics were less likely than whites to be enrolled in college during the October when they were age 21. Forty-four percent of whites were enrolled in college compared with 30 percent of blacks and 29 percent of Hispanics.

Schooling and Training between Ages 20 and 21

The level of educational attainment when a person first left school does not always indicate his or her final level of educational attainment. Eight percent of individuals who were high school dropouts in the October they were age 20 had graduated from high school or earned a GED by the following October. (See table 2.)

Some people delay their college enrollment for a year or more after high school, and others enroll in college and then leave before earning a degree. Twelve percent of high school graduates not enrolled in college during the October when they were age 20 were enrolled in college the following October. Eighty-two percent of individuals attending college during the October when they were age 20 were still attending college by the following October, while 1 percent were enrolled in a training program and 17 percent were not enrolled in college or in a training program.

Instead of attending school, some young adults enroll in training to further their skills. Four percent of those who were high school dropouts in the October when age 20 and 6 percent of high school graduates not enrolled in college at that age were attending some kind of training or apprenticeship program the October when they were age 21.

Employment and Training at Age 21 of Young Adults Not Enrolled in School

At age 21, labor force status differed substantially between high school dropouts, high school graduates who had never attended college, and individuals who had left college. Those with more education were more likely to be employed in civilian jobs or in the military. In the October they were age 21, about 6 of 10 high school dropouts were employed in civilian jobs or in the military. At this same time, 72 percent of high school graduates who had never enrolled in college were employed in civilian jobs, and another 6 percent were serving in the Armed Forces, including 10 percent of all men. Among high school graduates who had some college experience but were not enrolled in college during the October when they were age 21, nearly 8 of 10 were employed in civilian jobs, and 4 percent were serving in the Armed Forces. (See table 3.)

Within each of these educational groups, men were more likely to be working or serving in the Armed Forces in the October when age 21 than women. Sixty-nine percent of male high school dropouts were employed in the civilian labor force or serving in the Armed Forces compared to 50 percent of female dropouts. Among high school graduates, 82 percent of men and 72 percent of women who had never enrolled in college were employed or in the military, as were 85 percent of men and 79 percent of women who had attended some college but were no longer enrolled.

Enrollment in training also varies by educational level. Four percent of high school dropouts and 6 percent of high school graduates who were not enrolled in college were receiving training in the October when they were age 21. High school graduates obtained more of their training while employed. Five percent of high school graduates were both employed and receiving training in the October when they were age 21, while only 1 percent were receiving training while not employed. Among high school dropouts, 2 percent of 21-year-olds were receiving training while employed and 2 percent were receiving training while not employed. (See table 4.)

Employment Attachment of Young Adults Not Enrolled in School

Among individuals who were not enrolled in school during the Octobers when they were ages 20 or 21, employment status varied considerably by level of educational attainment. Twenty-four percent of high school dropouts were not employed in either October, and 43 percent were employed in both Octobers. Among high school graduates ages 20 or 21 who were not enrolled in college, 10 percent were not employed in either October, and 68 percent were employed in both Octobers. (See table 5.)

High school graduates not enrolled in college during the Octobers when they were ages 20 or 21 were employed an average of 77 percent of the weeks between the October when they were age 20 and the following October. By comparison, high school dropouts were employed 57 percent of the weeks between the October when they were age 20 and the following October. Regardless of the level of educational attainment, men were employed a larger percentage of weeks than women, and whites were employed a larger percentage of weeks than blacks or Hispanics. Men were more likely than women to work 40 hours or more per week. Male high school dropouts worked 40 hours or more 47 percent of the weeks between the October when they were 20 and the following October compared with 28 percent of weeks for female dropouts. (See table 6.)

Duration of Longest Job Held

Five percent of young adults who had never enrolled in college by age 21 also had not held a job since dropping out of or graduating from high school. Forty-one percent had held a job for 1 year or less since they first left school. In this report, a job is defined as an uninterrupted period of work with a particular employer. (See the Technical Note for additional information on the definition of a job.) Thirty-three percent had held a job for more than 1 year but less than 2 years, and 22 percent had held a job for 2 years or longer. Similar proportions of high school dropouts and high school graduates had never held a job since leaving school. High school dropouts were more likely than high school graduates to have held a job for 1 year or less. Dropouts were less likely than graduates to have held a job for 2 years or longer. (See table 7.)

Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained using data from the first 10 rounds of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97). The NLSY97 collects extensive information on labor market behavior and educational experiences. Information about respondents' families and communities also is obtained in the survey.

This survey is conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and the Center for Human Resource Research at The Ohio State University, under the direction and sponsorship of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Partial funding support for the survey has been provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Office of Vocational and Adult Education of the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Defense, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Science Foundation.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

Sample

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 is a nationally representative sample of 8,984 young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. This sample is composed of the following groups:

- A cross-sectional sample designed to represent the noninstitutionalized, civilian segment of young people living in the U.S. in 1997 and born between January 1, 1980, and December 31, 1984.
- Supplemental samples of Hispanic or Latino and black youths living in the U.S. in 1997 and born between January 1, 1980, and December 31, 1984.

The tenth round of annual interviews took place between October 2006 and June 2007. This release examines the period from the October when respondents were age 20 until the following October when respondents were age 21. All results except the first three age categories of table 1 are weighted using the survey weights from the round in which the respondents were age 21. The estimates of school enrollment status at ages 18, 19, and 20 use the survey weights from the round in which the respondents were those ages. The survey weights correct for oversampling of some demographic groups and nonresponse. When weighted, the data represent all people who were born in the years 1980 to 1984 and living in the U.S. in 1997. Not represented by the survey are U.S. immigrants who were born from 1980 to 1984 and moved to the U.S. after 1997. NLSY97 sample members remain eligible to be interviewed during military service or if they become incarcerated or institutionalized.

Interaction between time and age in a longitudinal survey

Because the NLSY97 is a longitudinal survey, meaning the same people are surveyed over time, the ages of the respondents change with each survey round. It is important to keep in mind this inherent link between the calendar years and the ages of the respondents. The youngest respondents in the sample (birth year 1984) turned 20 during calendar year 2004, whereas the oldest respondents (birth year 1980) turned 20 during calendar year 2000. Some respondents may not be used in all tables if information about their work history is incomplete.

Definitions

School enrollment status. If a respondent was enrolled in high school or college at any point during the month of October, he or she is counted as enrolled. If a respondent reported no school enrollment during October and also had not earned a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) credential, he or she is counted as a high school dropout.

Training. The NLSY97 obtains information on formal training experiences outside of regular schooling. The training questions explore what kinds of training respondents obtain, where and when they are trained, how the training is paid for, and what skills are acquired. Training programs include: Business or secretarial training; vocational, technical, or trade training; vocational rehabilitation centers; licensed practical nursing or registered nursing programs; apprenticeship programs; adult basic education and GED programs; correspondence courses; formal company training or seminars; and government training.

Employed. The NLSY97 collects employment histories for civilian jobs and military service. Respondents are classified as employed if they did any work during the specified time period as paid employees, as self-employed proprietors of their own businesses, or as unpaid workers in a business owned by a member of their family, or if they were serving in the Armed Forces.

Unemployed. Respondents are classified as unemployed if they did not work during the specified time period but reported that they looked for work or were on layoff from a job. No probing for intensity of job search is done.

Not in the labor force. Respondents are classified as not in the labor force if they did not work or look for work during the specified time period.

Job. A job is defined as an uninterrupted period of work with a particular employer. Jobs are therefore employer-based, not position-based. If a respondent indicates

that he or she left a job but in a subsequent survey returned to the same job, it would be counted as a new job. For example, if an individual worked in a retail establishment, quit, and then resumed working for the same employer at a later date, this sequence would count as two jobs, rather than one. For self-employed workers, each “new” job is defined by the individuals themselves.

Race and ethnic groups. In this release, the findings are reported for non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, and Hispanics or Latinos. These groups are mutually exclusive

but not exhaustive. Other groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates. In other BLS publications, estimates usually are published for whites, blacks, and Hispanics or Latinos, but these groups are not mutually exclusive. “Hispanic or Latino” is considered to be an ethnic group, and people in that group can be of any race. Most other BLS publications include estimates for Hispanics or Latinos in the white and black race groups in addition to the Hispanic or Latino ethnic group.

Table 1. School enrollment status of young adults during the October when ages 18 to 21 in 1998-2006 by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

(Percent distribution)

Characteristic	School enrollment status					
	Total	High school dropouts	Enrolled in high school	High school graduates, not enrolled in college	General Educational Development (GED) recipients, not enrolled in college	Enrolled in college
Total, October when age 18	100.0	15.3	28.2	21.4	0.6	34.5
Men	100.0	16.7	32.5	21.5	.6	28.7
Women	100.0	13.8	23.8	21.3	.6	40.5
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	13.8	26.9	20.3	.6	38.5
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	20.3	33.3	20.4	.8	25.2
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	18.9	31.0	28.3	.7	21.1
Total, October when age 19.....	100.0	16.7	4.1	32.9	1.6	44.7
Men	100.0	19.2	4.7	35.3	1.5	39.3
Women	100.0	14.1	3.5	30.2	1.7	50.5
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	14.7	2.7	32.0	1.6	49.0
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	23.3	7.7	34.9	1.7	32.5
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	21.4	7.4	37.8	1.5	31.8
Total, October when age 20	100.0	15.4	1.2	38.9	2.1	42.5
Men	100.0	17.7	1.3	41.3	2.0	37.7
Women	100.0	13.1	1.0	36.2	2.2	47.5
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	13.1	.8	38.0	2.0	46.1
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	23.3	2.1	41.5	2.4	30.7
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	20.2	1.7	44.5	2.2	31.3
Total, October when age 21	100.0	13.1	.5	43.3	2.3	40.8
Men	100.0	14.9	.5	46.3	2.4	35.9
Women	100.0	11.3	.4	40.3	2.2	45.8
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	11.2	.2	41.9	2.2	44.4
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	19.8	1.0	46.5	2.9	29.7
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	17.3	1.2	49.9	2.2	29.3

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.

Table 2. School or training enrollment status during the October when age 21 in 2001-2006 by school enrollment status during the October when age 20, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

(Percent distribution)

School enrollment status during the October when age 20	School enrollment status during the October when age 21						
	Total	Have not graduated from high school			Have graduated from high school ¹		
		Not enrolled in high school or training program	Enrolled in high school ²	Enrolled in training program ³	Not enrolled in college or training program	Enrolled in college ²	Enrolled in training program ³
High school dropouts	100.0	86.9	1.4	3.5	6.1	1.8	0.1
Men	100.0	86.0	1.5	3.7	6.5	2.1	.2
Women	100.0	88.2	1.4	3.4	5.6	1.4	.1
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	88.4	1.0	3.1	5.7	1.8	(⁴)
Men	100.0	88.5	1.3	2.3	5.5	2.4	(⁴)
Women	100.0	88.3	.6	4.1	5.9	1.1	(⁴)
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	83.7	2.2	4.1	8.0	1.5	.5
Men	100.0	79.2	2.1	5.2	10.7	2.0	.7
Women	100.0	91.9	2.4	2.1	3.0	.6	(⁴)
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	87.3	2.0	3.4	5.4	1.6	.2
Men	100.0	90.2	1.1	3.8	3.0	1.8	(⁴)
Women	100.0	83.0	3.3	2.8	8.9	1.4	.6
High school graduates, not enrolled in college	100.0	-	-	-	82.8	11.6	5.6
Men	100.0	-	-	-	83.7	10.5	5.8
Women	100.0	-	-	-	81.7	12.9	5.4
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	-	-	-	82.4	11.4	6.2
Men	100.0	-	-	-	82.3	10.8	6.9
Women	100.0	-	-	-	82.7	12.1	5.2
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	-	-	-	83.7	11.0	5.3
Men	100.0	-	-	-	89.1	6.6	4.3
Women	100.0	-	-	-	78.0	15.6	6.4
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	-	-	-	84.5	11.6	3.9
Men	100.0	-	-	-	85.4	11.5	3.0
Women	100.0	-	-	-	83.3	11.7	5.0

Table 2. School or training enrollment status during the October when age 21 in 2001-2006 by school enrollment status during the October when age 20, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity—Continued

(Percent distribution)

School enrollment status during the October when age 20	School enrollment status during the October when age 21						
	Total	Have not graduated from high school			Have graduated from high school ¹		
		Not enrolled in high school or training program	Enrolled in high school ²	Enrolled in training program ³	Not enrolled in college or training program	Enrolled in college ²	Enrolled in training program ³
Enrolled in college	100.0	-	-	-	16.9	82.1	1.0
Men	100.0	-	-	-	18.5	80.4	1.1
Women	100.0	-	-	-	15.6	83.5	1.0
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	-	-	-	14.7	84.4	.9
Men	100.0	-	-	-	16.2	82.8	.9
Women	100.0	-	-	-	13.4	85.7	.9
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	-	-	-	23.1	76.2	.8
Men	100.0	-	-	-	25.1	74.6	.3
Women	100.0	-	-	-	21.7	77.2	1.1
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	-	-	-	25.0	73.4	1.6
Men	100.0	-	-	-	25.6	72.3	2.1
Women	100.0	-	-	-	24.5	74.4	1.1

¹ Respondents who have received a General Educational Development (GED) credential are counted as high school graduates.

² A small percent of respondents were enrolled in both formal schooling (that is, high school or college) and training. They are counted in the formal schooling categories only.

³ Training includes any courses, training programs, or apprenticeships designed to help people find a job, improve their job skills, or learn a new job. Training also may include a GED preparation course.

⁴ Less than .05 percent.

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.

Table 3. Employment status of young adults not enrolled in school during the October when age 21 in 2001-2006 by high school graduation status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

(Percent distribution)

High school graduation status during the October when age 21	Employment status during the October when age 21				
	Total	Employed civilian	Serving in Armed Forces	Unemployed	Not in the labor force
High school dropouts	100.0	60.6	0.3	8.6	30.5
Men	100.0	68.4	.4	8.6	22.6
Women	100.0	49.8	.1	8.7	41.4
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	66.7	.2	7.1	25.9
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	45.9	.5	10.3	43.4
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	59.2	.4	11.2	29.3
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	100.0	71.5	6.4	6.0	16.0
Men	100.0	72.0	10.0	6.2	11.8
Women	100.0	70.8	1.4	5.7	22.0
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	76.6	5.6	4.7	13.0
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	57.7	7.4	11.3	23.6
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	68.4	7.7	4.9	18.9
Some college, no longer enrolled	100.0	77.9	3.8	4.7	13.6
Men	100.0	78.7	5.9	5.0	10.4
Women	100.0	77.1	1.8	4.4	16.7
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	80.1	4.3	3.1	12.5
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	72.9	2.8	9.5	14.7
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	74.4	3.8	4.7	17.1

¹ Respondents who have received a General Educational Development (GED) credential are counted as high school graduates.

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.

Table 4. Employment and training status of young adults not enrolled in school during the October when age 21 in 2001-2006 by high school graduation status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

(Percent distribution)

High school graduation status during the October when age 21	Employment and training status during the October when age 21 ¹				
	Total	Employed ²		Not employed	
		Enrolled in training ³	Not enrolled in training	Enrolled in training ³	Not enrolled in training
High school dropouts	100.0	2.0	59.2	1.9	36.8
Men	100.0	2.3	66.3	1.9	29.6
Women	100.0	1.7	49.6	2.0	46.7
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	1.7	65.4	1.7	31.3
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	1.8	45.8	3.1	49.4
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	2.2	57.4	1.7	38.7
High school graduates, not enrolled in college ⁴	100.0	4.8	75.3	1.3	18.6
Men	100.0	5.1	78.5	1.1	15.3
Women	100.0	4.4	71.6	1.6	22.4
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	5.6	78.1	1.0	15.3
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	2.7	67.3	2.7	27.3
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	3.4	74.2	1.2	21.2

¹ Training enrollment status was unknown for a small number of survey participants, who were therefore excluded from the estimates in this table.

² The employed category includes both civilian employment and service in the Armed Forces.

³ Training includes any courses, training programs, or apprenticeships designed to help people find a job, improve their job skills, or learn a new job. Training also may include a General Educational Development (GED) preparation course.

⁴ Respondents who have received a GED credential are counted as high school graduates.

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.

Table 5. Employment status during the October when ages 20 and 21 in 2001-2006 of young adults not enrolled in school at age 20 or 21 by high school graduation status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

(Percent distribution)

High school graduation status during the October when age 21	Percent of youths ¹				
	Total	Not employed in either October	Employed at age 20, but not age 21	Employed at age 21, but not age 20	Employed both Octobers
High school dropouts	100.0	24.3	14.8	18.3	42.6
Men	100.0	20.2	11.5	19.4	49.0
Women	100.0	29.7	19.2	16.9	34.2
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	18.5	14.4	18.2	48.9
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	39.2	13.6	19.3	28.0
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	24.0	17.5	18.8	39.7
High school graduates, not enrolled in college ²	100.0	9.5	9.8	12.7	68.0
Men	100.0	7.4	8.4	11.6	72.7
Women	100.0	12.0	11.6	14.1	62.3
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	7.4	8.3	11.4	72.9
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	16.3	14.7	17.1	51.9
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	11.2	11.1	13.7	64.0

¹ The employed category includes both civilian employment and service in the Armed Forces.

² Respondents who have received a General Educational Development (GED) credential are counted as high school graduates.

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.

Table 6. Percent of weeks employed or not employed between the October when ages 20 and 21 for young adults not enrolled in school during October at ages 20 and 21 by high school graduation status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

(Percent distribution)

High school graduation status during the October when age 21	Percent of weeks between October when ages 20 and 21					
	Total	Employed ¹				Not employed
		Total	1 to 29 hours	30 to 39 hours	40 hours or more	
High school dropouts	100.0	57.1	5.2	11.7	38.9	42.3
Men	100.0	63.5	4.7	10.0	46.8	36.3
Women	100.0	48.8	5.9	13.9	28.4	50.2
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	64.4	6.0	13.5	43.5	35.0
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	38.9	5.6	9.0	22.6	60.3
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	56.8	2.1	10.3	43.9	42.8
High school graduates, not enrolled in college ²	100.0	76.6	6.2	12.4	56.5	22.7
Men	100.0	81.4	4.8	10.0	65.1	18.2
Women	100.0	70.7	7.9	15.3	46.0	28.3
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	80.0	6.3	13.1	59.1	19.3
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	66.2	6.4	11.3	46.4	33.3
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	73.5	4.9	10.1	57.0	26.1

¹ The employed category includes both civilian employment and service in the Armed Forces. All weeks when serving in the Armed Forces are included in the "40 hours or more" category.

² Respondents who have received a General Educational Development (GED) credential are counted as high school graduates.

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates. Some categories do not sum to the totals because employment status or work hours could not be determined for some respondents during some weeks.

Table 7. Duration of longest job held with a single employer from the time a person left high school to age 21 by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

(Percent distribution)

Characteristic	Duration of longest job held			
	No job	1 year or less	More than 1 year but less than 2 years	2 years or more
Total, never enrolled in college	6.3	45.1	32.6	16.0
Less than a high school diploma	7.7	51.4	29.3	11.6
High school graduates, no college	5.7	42.1	34.1	18.1
Men	5.6	44.8	33.4	16.1
Less than a high school diploma	6.2	51.2	30.1	12.4
High school graduates, no college	5.3	41.9	34.9	17.8
Women	7.3	45.5	31.3	15.8
Less than a high school diploma	9.6	51.7	28.1	10.5
High school graduates, no college	6.2	42.5	32.9	18.4
White non-Hispanic	3.6	42.2	35.5	18.7
Less than a high school diploma	3.2	49.8	33.8	13.1
High school graduates, no college	3.8	39.0	36.2	21.0
Black non-Hispanic.....	14.0	53.4	23.9	8.7
Less than a high school diploma	20.6	53.7	18.8	7.0
High school graduates, no college	9.9	53.2	27.2	9.7
Hispanic or Latino	7.5	45.8	33.3	13.4
Less than a high school diploma	6.0	54.2	28.1	11.7
High school graduates, no college	8.2	41.4	36.1	14.3

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.