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AMERICA'S YOUTH AT 22: SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT TRANSITIONS BETWEEN AGES 21 AND 22

At age 22, women are more likely to be enrolled in college than men and are also more likely to have completed a bachelor's degree, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Among 22-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 11 annual rounds of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97), 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 22 to 28 when interviewed for the eleventh time in 2007-08. Most NLSY97 respondents completed their 2007-08 interview before December 2007, when the nation officially entered a recession. The survey provides information on work and nonwork experiences, training, schooling, income, assets, and other characteristics. The information provided by respondents can be considered representative of all men and women born in the early 1980s and living in the United States when the survey began in 1997.

This release focuses on the school enrollment and employment experiences of these individuals from the October when they were age 21 to the October when they were age 22. Respondents were age 21 in October during the years 2001 to 2006 and age 22 in October from 2002 to 2007. Highlights from the longitudinal survey include:

- During the October when they were 22 years old, 25 percent of men were enrolled in college, compared with 29 percent of women. Seven percent of men had received a bachelor's degree by the October they were age 22, compared with 13 percent of women.
- Among those who were enrolled in college when they were 21 years old, 60 percent were still enrolled in college when age 22, and 24 percent had received a bachelor's degree. Non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanics were less likely than whites to have received a bachelor's degree between ages 21 and 22.
- 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 22, as were 7 percent of the 22-year-old men who had attended college but had not earned a bachelor's degree and were no longer enrolled. Three percent of 22-year-old men with a bachelor's degree were serving in the Armed Forces.

- Individuals born from 1980 to 1984 held an average of 4.4 jobs from age 18 to age 22. Those with more education held more jobs than those with less education.
- High school graduates who had never enrolled in college were employed an average of 72 percent of the weeks from age 18 to age 22. By comparison, those who had dropped out of high school were employed 54 percent of those weeks.
- By their 22nd birthday, 24 percent of young adults who had never gone to college had been employed by the same employer for 2 years or more since the time they left high school. Seven percent had never held a job since they left high school.

Educational Attainment at Age 22

Twenty-seven percent of young adults were enrolled in college during the October when they were age 22, and 10 percent had received a bachelor's degree. Forty-four percent of 22-year-olds had graduated from high school and were not enrolled in college, and 7 percent had earned a General Educational Development (GED) credential and were not enrolled in college. Eleven percent of individuals were high school dropouts during the October when they were age 22. (See table 1.)

Women were more likely than men to be enrolled in college and were more likely to have received a bachelor's degree. Twenty-nine percent of women were attending college during the October when they were age 22, compared with 25 percent of men. Moreover, 13 percent of women had earned a bachelor's degree, compared with 7 percent of men. The difference between women and men 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 without graduating.

Non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanics were less likely than non-Hispanic whites to be enrolled in college during the October when they were age 22. Twenty-nine percent of whites were enrolled in college, compared with 20 percent of blacks and 23 percent of Hispanics.

Schooling and Training between Ages 21 and 22

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. Nine percent of high school graduates who were not enrolled in college during the October when they were age 21 were enrolled in college during the following October, and an additional 2 percent had received a bachelor's degree. Sixty percent of individuals attending college during the October when they were age 21 were still attending college by the following October, and 24 percent had received a bachelor's degree. Women were more likely than men to have received a bachelor's degree and also were more likely to be enrolled in a graduate or professional program. (See table 2.)

Instead of attending school, some young adults enroll in training to further their skills. Five percent of high school graduates who were not enrolled in college at age 21 were in a training program during the October when age 22, while 1 percent of those previously enrolled in college at age 21 were enrolled in a training program at age 22.

Employment at Age 22 of Young Adults Not Enrolled in School

At age 22, 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. Fifty-eight percent of high school dropouts were employed in civilian jobs in the October they were age 22. At the same age, 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. Among 22-year-old high school graduates who had some college experience but had not earned a bachelor's degree and were not enrolled in college during October, 77 percent were employed in civilian jobs, and 5 percent were serving in the Armed Forces. Eighty-eight percent of 22-year-olds who had earned a bachelor's degree and were no longer enrolled were employed in civilian jobs, while 2 percent were serving in the Armed Forces. (See table 3.)

Sixty-five percent of male high school dropouts were employed in the civilian labor force during the October when they were age 22, compared with 49 percent of female dropouts. Among high school graduates who had never enrolled in college, 74 percent of men and 70 percent of women were employed in civilian jobs; 10 percent of men in this educational-attainment group were serving in the military, compared with 1 percent of women. Seventy-seven percent of both men and women who had attended some college but had not earned a bachelor's degree and were no longer enrolled were employed in civilian jobs in the October when they were age 22; 7 percent of men in this educational-attainment group were serving in the military, compared with over 2 percent of women. Among those who had earned a bachelor's degree and were no longer enrolled, 90 percent of women and 85 percent of men were employed in civilian jobs during the October when they were age 22.

Employment Attachment of Young Adults

Individuals had an average of 4.4 jobs from the ages of 18 to 22 in 1998-2007. On average, men held 4.2 jobs and women held 4.5. (See table 4.) 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.)

On average, young adults were employed during 69 percent of all the weeks occurring from age 18 to age 22. They were unemployed—that is, without jobs but seeking work—6 percent of the weeks. They were not in the labor force—that is, neither working nor seeking work—25 percent of the weeks.

The amount of time employed differs substantially between educational-attainment groups, especially among blacks and Hispanics or Latinos. Blacks with less than a high school diploma spent 38 percent of weeks employed and 44 percent of weeks out of the labor force from age 18 to age 22. By comparison, black high school graduates who had never enrolled in college spent 58 percent of weeks employed and 29 percent of weeks out of the labor force. Blacks with a bachelor's degree or more education were employed 63 percent of weeks from age 18 to age 22. Hispanic or Latino high school dropouts spent 57 percent of weeks employed, compared with 70 percent of weeks for Hispanic or Latino high school graduates and 67 percent of those with a bachelor's degree or more.

The amount of time spent in the labor force also differs by sex. Men with less than a high school diploma spent 61 percent of weeks employed from age 18 to age 22. These men also spent 13 percent of weeks unemployed. By comparison, women with less than a high school diploma spent 45 percent of weeks employed and 10 percent of weeks unemployed from age 18 to age 22. Women without a high school diploma spent as much time out of the labor force as they did employed. Women with a

bachelor's degree or more spent a larger proportion of weeks employed than did men (69 versus 58 percent).

The number of jobs held by these young adults is very similar to the number of jobs held by baby boomers who were ages 18 to 22 from 1978 to 1986. Women ages 18 to 22 in 1998-2007 spent a larger percentage of weeks employed than did women ages 18 to 22 in 1978-86 (68 versus 60 percent). Hispanics and blacks ages 18 to 22 in 1998-2007 also spent more time employed and less time unemployed or not in the labor market than baby boomers who were the same ages in 1978-86. (See tables 1 and 4 of "Number of Jobs Held, Labor Market Activity, and Earnings Growth Among the Youngest Baby Boomers: Results from a Longitudinal Survey," June 27, 2008, available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/nls/nlspressreleases.htm#anchy79).

Duration of Employment Relationships

By age 22, nearly all young adults had held at least one job since leaving high school, although high school dropouts were less likely ever to have held a job than were young adults with more education. Of the jobs held by 18- to 22-year-old workers, 58 percent ended in 1 year or less, and another 13 percent ended in less than 2 years. Eight percent of jobs lasted 2 years or more. Another 22 percent of jobs were ongoing at the time of the 2007-08 survey, and their ultimate duration is therefore not yet known. Jobs held by high school dropouts were more likely to end in 1 year or less than were jobs held by workers with more education. (See table 5.)

Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained using data from the first 11 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.

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 eleventh round of annual interviews took place between October 2007 and June 2008. Most NLSY97 respondents completed their 2007-08 interview before December 2007, when the nation officially entered a recession. This release examines the period from the October when respondents were age 21 until the month before respondents were age 23. All results except the first two age categories of table 1 are weighted using the survey weights from the round in which the respondents were age 22. The estimates of school enrollment status at ages 20 and 21 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.

Work history data

The total number of jobs that people hold during their work life is an easy concept to understand but a difficult one to measure. Reliable estimates require a survey that interviews the same people over the course of their entire work life and also keeps track of all the jobs they ever held. The NLSY97 tracks the number of jobs that people have held, but the respondents in this survey are still young, and have many years of schooling and work life ahead of them. As the cohort continues to age, however, more complete information will become available.

A unique feature of the NLSY97 is that it collects the beginning and ending dates of all jobs held by a respondent so that a longitudinal history can be constructed of each respondent's work experiences. The NLSY97 work history data provide a week-by-week work record of each respondent from January 1, 1994, through the most recent survey date. These data contain information on the respondent's labor force status each week, the usual hours worked per week at all jobs, and earnings for all jobs. If a respondent worked at more than one job in any week, hours and earnings are obtained for additional jobs. When a respondent who missed one or more consecutive survey rounds is interviewed again, he or she is asked to provide information about all time since the last interview.

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 21 during calendar year 2005, whereas the oldest respondents (birth year 1980) turned 21 during calendar year 2001. 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, 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.

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

Table 1. School enrollment status of young adults during the October when ages 20 to 22 in 2000-07 by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

(Percent distribution)

Characteristic	School enrollment status					
	Total	High school dropouts	High school graduates, not enrolled in college	General Educational Development (GED) recipients, not enrolled in college	Enrolled in college	Bachelor's degree or more ¹
Total, October when age 20	100.0	13.1	39.7	5.4	40.5	0.2
Men	100.0	14.6	42.2	6.3	35.3	0.3
Women	100.0	11.3	36.9	4.4	46.2	0.1
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	10.4	38.8	5.6	44.3	0.2
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	20.6	42.0	6.5	28.7	0.1
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	19.2	45.2	4.2	29.6	(²)
Total, October when age 21	100.0	12.2	42.7	6.5	37.2	1.0
Men	100.0	13.5	45.4	7.6	32.3	0.7
Women	100.0	10.8	39.7	5.2	42.5	1.4
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	9.7	41.4	6.4	41.2	1.0
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	19.0	44.9	8.5	25.8	0.8
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	18.1	48.8	5.4	26.0	0.7
Total, October when age 22	100.0	11.3	44.3	7.3	27.0	9.7
Men	100.0	12.4	46.6	8.5	25.2	6.9
Women	100.0	10.2	41.9	5.9	29.1	12.8
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	9.0	43.3	7.1	29.0	11.5
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	17.3	47.3	10.3	20.3	4.2
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	17.2	49.5	5.9	22.9	3.8

¹ Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees or professional degrees such as law or medical degrees.

² Less than 0.05 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 2. School or training enrollment status during the October when age 22 in 2002-07 by school enrollment status during the October when age 21, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

(Percent distribution)

School enrollment status during the October when age 21	Total	School enrollment status during the October when age 22			Received bachelor's degree	
		Not enrolled in school or training program	Enrolled in college ²	Enrolled in training program ³	Not enrolled in graduate or professional program	Enrolled in graduate or professional program
High school graduates, not enrolled in college ¹	100.0	84.1	9.2	5.2	1.2	0.3
Men	100.0	85.3	9.0	4.8	0.7	0.1
Women	100.0	82.5	9.4	5.7	1.8	0.6
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	84.4	8.9	5.2	1.2	0.3
Men	100.0	85.0	8.9	5.1	0.8	0.2
Women	100.0	83.7	8.8	5.2	1.8	0.5
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	85.2	8.7	5.1	0.7	0.2
Men	100.0	88.8	6.9	4.3	(⁴)	(⁴)
Women	100.0	80.7	11.0	6.2	1.6	0.6
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	83.2	9.9	6.1	0.7	0.2
Men	100.0	83.6	9.8	5.8	0.7	0.1
Women	100.0	82.7	10.0	6.4	0.7	0.2
Enrolled in college	100.0	15.7	59.7	0.8	18.4	5.4
Men	100.0	17.7	62.3	0.5	15.5	4.1
Women	100.0	14.0	57.6	1.1	20.9	6.4
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	14.2	59.3	0.6	20.4	5.6
Men	100.0	17.0	60.9	0.1	17.4	4.5
Women	100.0	11.8	57.9	0.9	22.9	6.5
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	24.4	59.6	2.0	9.7	4.3
Men	100.0	23.8	65.5	1.6	7.9	1.1
Women	100.0	24.8	55.7	2.3	10.8	6.3
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	18.9	66.6	1.8	9.6	3.0
Men	100.0	19.1	69.2	2.0	7.4	2.3
Women	100.0	18.8	64.2	1.5	11.7	3.7

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 college and training. They are counted in the college category 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.

⁴ Less than 0.05 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 22 in 2002-07 by high school graduation status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

(Percent distribution)

High school graduation status during the October when age 22	Employment status during the October when age 22				
	Total	Employed civilian	Serving in Armed Forces	Unemployed	Not in the labor force
Total	100.0	71.9	3.3	5.0	19.8
Men	100.0	70.9	5.2	5.7	18.1
Women	100.0	72.9	1.3	4.2	21.6
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	74.6	3.1	4.0	18.3
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	62.3	3.5	8.5	25.8
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	71.0	4.0	5.6	19.4
High school dropouts	100.0	57.7	(¹)	9.2	33.1
Men	100.0	64.6	(¹)	9.7	25.7
Women	100.0	48.6	(¹)	8.5	42.9
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	62.4	(¹)	8.4	29.2
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	41.7	(¹)	12.2	46.1
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	65.9	(¹)	6.4	27.7
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ²	100.0	72.4	6.1	5.9	15.5
Men	100.0	74.0	9.6	6.5	9.9
Women	100.0	70.1	1.2	5.1	23.7
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	75.7	5.7	4.5	14.1
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	62.9	6.4	10.0	20.7
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	68.1	7.7	6.7	17.4
Some college, no longer enrolled	100.0	77.4	4.8	4.2	13.6
Men	100.0	77.1	7.1	5.2	10.7
Women	100.0	77.8	2.5	3.2	16.6
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	79.2	4.8	3.4	12.6
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	72.0	4.7	5.7	17.5
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	76.4	4.6	5.4	13.7
Bachelor's degree or more, no longer enrolled ³	100.0	88.0	1.5	3.2	7.3
Men	100.0	84.7	3.3	3.3	8.7
Women	100.0	90.1	0.3	3.2	6.4
White, non-Hispanic	100.0	87.9	1.7	3.4	7.0
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0	87.2	1.5	2.5	8.8
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)

¹ Less than 0.05 percent.

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

³ Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees or professional degrees such as law or medical degrees.

⁴ Sample sizes are not large enough for statistically reliable estimates.

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. Percent of weeks individuals were employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force from age 18 to age 22 in 1998-2007 by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Characteristic	Average number of jobs	Percent of total weeks while ages 18 to 22 in 1998-2007		
		Employed	Unemployed	Not in labor force
Total, ages 18 to 22 in 1998-2007	4.4	69.2	5.8	24.6
Less than a high school diploma	3.9	53.7	11.8	34.0
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	4.3	71.6	7.5	20.5
Some college or associate degree	4.4	72.7	4.4	22.7
Bachelor's degree or more ²	4.6	64.9	3.2	31.6
Men	4.2	69.9	6.4	23.4
Less than a high school diploma	4.2	60.8	13.0	25.5
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	4.3	75.1	7.7	16.8
Some college or associate degree	4.2	71.4	4.4	23.9
Bachelors degree or more ²	4.2	58.3	3.7	37.7
Women	4.5	68.4	5.3	26.0
Less than a high school diploma	3.6	44.5	10.2	44.8
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	4.2	66.5	7.2	26.0
Some college or associate degree	4.6	73.9	4.3	21.4
Bachelor's degree or more ²	4.9	69.0	2.9	27.9
White non-Hispanic	4.6	72.3	4.7	22.7
Less than a high school diploma	4.4	59.2	10.7	29.5
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	4.5	76.0	6.1	17.5
Some college or associate degree	4.6	75.3	3.4	21.0
Bachelor's degree or more ²	4.7	65.5	3.0	31.2
Black non-Hispanic	4.0	57.9	10.6	31.1
Less than a high school diploma	3.0	38.2	17.0	44.4
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	3.9	57.8	12.4	29.3
Some college or associate degree	4.3	64.7	7.9	27.2
Bachelor's degree or more ²	4.7	63.1	4.1	32.7
Hispanic or Latino	3.9	68.4	6.5	24.8
Less than a high school diploma	3.6	57.4	9.5	32.8
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	3.7	69.6	7.2	22.9
Some college or associate degree	4.0	71.7	5.3	22.7
Bachelor's degree or more ²	4.4	67.2	3.5	29.0

¹ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

² Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees or professional degrees, such as law or medical degrees.

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 23 when interviewed in 2007-08.

Totals do not add to 100 percent due to a small number of respondents whose employment status cannot be determined for all weeks.

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. Educational attainment is set as of age 22.

Table 5. Duration of employment relationship with a single employer for all jobs from the time a person left high school to age 22 by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

(Percent)

Characteristic	Percent ever held a job	Percent distribution of duration of employment relationships			
		1 year or less	More than 1 year but less than 2 years	2 years or more	Ongoing at the 2007-08 survey
Total, ages 18 to 22 in 1998-2007	96.9	57.5	12.6	7.6	22.3
Less than a high school diploma	91.2	66.4	11.6	4.9	17.1
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	96.6	56.7	11.8	7.6	23.9
Some college or associate degree	97.7	56.2	13.3	7.8	22.7
Bachelor's degree or more ²	99.1	57.5	12.4	8.9	21.2
Men	96.5	57.0	12.5	7.0	23.4
Less than a high school diploma	92.7	63.7	12.6	5.0	18.8
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	96.5	55.1	12.3	7.5	25.1
Some college or associate degree	97.1	56.0	13.0	7.3	23.8
Bachelor's degree or more ²	98.1	60.1	11.5	7.0	21.4
Women	97.3	58.1	12.6	8.2	21.1
Less than a high school diploma	89.2	70.2	10.2	4.7	14.9
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	96.7	59.1	10.9	7.8	22.1
Some college or associate degree	98.2	56.4	13.7	8.3	21.6
Bachelor's degree or more ²	99.7	55.9	12.9	10.1	21.1
White non-Hispanic	98.0	57.3	12.3	8.1	22.2
Less than a high school diploma	93.7	68.9	10.6	4.8	15.7
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	97.4	55.7	11.9	8.4	24.0
Some college or associate degree	98.6	56.4	12.9	8.2	22.6
Bachelor's degree or more ²	99.1	57.3	12.5	9.0	21.3
Black non-Hispanic	93.7	62.5	11.9	5.3	20.2
Less than a high school diploma	83.5	71.4	12.2	2.8	13.6
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	94.2	64.0	11.1	4.5	20.4
Some college or associate degree	96.0	59.1	12.6	5.9	22.4
Bachelor's degree or more ²	(³)	58.9	11.8	9.7	19.6
Hispanic or Latino	93.7	62.5	11.9	5.3	20.2
Less than a high school diploma	83.5	71.4	12.2	2.8	13.6
High school graduates, never enrolled in college ¹	94.2	64.0	11.1	4.5	20.4
Some college or associate degree	96.0	59.1	12.6	5.9	22.4
Bachelor's degree or more ²	(³)	58.9	11.8	9.7	19.6

¹ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

² Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees or professional degrees such as law or medical degrees.

³ Number rounds to 100 percent.

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 23 when interviewed in 2007-08.

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. Educational attainment is set as of age 22.