

Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 40 in 1978-2004 by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic ethnicity

Characteristic	Percent distribution of persons by number of unemployment spells												Mean number of spells held
	Mean # of spells	0 spells	1 spell	2 spells	3 spells	4 spells	5 spells	6 spells	7 spells	8 spells	9 spells	10 spells or more	
Total	100.0	10.1	12.4	11.9	12.6	9.9	8.1	6.3	6.3	4.8	3.4	14.2	4.9
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	6.4	6.8	6.7	9.9	6.6	7.8	7.5	7.9	8.8	4.6	27.0	6.9
High school graduates, no college ¹	100.0	10.6	11.8	11.4	11.1	9.1	7.9	6.0	6.5	4.5	4.1	17.1	5.3
Some college or associate degree	100.0	11.7	12.6	11.6	11.0	11.6	8.4	5.7	6.0	4.0	3.2	14.1	4.8
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	100.0	9.3	15.4	15.2	17.5	11.2	8.5	6.8	5.6	4.5	1.8	4.0	3.7
Men	100.0	10.9	13.2	11.4	12.4	9.0	7.8	5.6	5.2	5.0	3.7	15.7	5.1
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	3.7	4.3	4.9	10.3	7.0	6.9	8.5	7.9	8.4	5.0	33.1	7.8
High school graduates, no college ¹	100.0	11.5	12.1	11.9	11.3	8.1	7.1	6.0	4.9	4.5	4.5	18.2	5.4
Some college or associate degree	100.0	14.0	15.2	10.6	10.6	12.9	7.3	3.8	3.7	4.6	3.2	13.9	4.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	100.0	11.1	17.7	14.3	16.7	8.6	10.0	5.0	5.7	4.3	2.0	4.5	3.6
Women	100.0	9.2	11.5	12.5	12.8	10.8	8.5	7.0	7.4	4.7	3.0	12.6	4.8
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	10.2	10.1	9.2	9.3	6.0	9.0	6.3	7.9	9.3	4.0	18.8	5.7
High school graduates, no college ¹	100.0	9.6	11.4	10.8	10.9	10.2	8.8	6.0	8.3	4.4	3.5	16.0	5.1
Some college or associate degree	100.0	9.9	10.5	12.4	11.3	10.5	9.2	7.3	7.9	3.5	3.3	14.3	5.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	100.0	7.4	13.2	16.2	18.4	13.9	7.0	8.7	5.4	4.8	1.6	3.5	3.8
White non-Hispanic.....	100.0	11.1	13.6	12.8	13.1	10.0	8.3	5.9	6.0	4.5	2.9	11.8	4.6
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	7.2	6.5	5.8	12.2	6.5	9.2	6.3	8.0	9.0	4.1	25.3	6.6
High school graduates, no college ¹	100.0	12.1	13.1	12.2	11.4	9.4	8.0	5.4	6.1	4.0	3.7	14.5	4.9
Some college or associate degree	100.0	13.3	14.1	12.8	10.5	11.3	8.8	5.2	5.7	3.2	2.6	12.5	4.5
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	100.0	9.2	16.1	15.8	17.6	11.1	8.1	7.0	5.3	4.7	1.6	3.5	3.6
White non-Hispanic men.....	100.0	12.3	14.7	12.2	12.9	8.9	8.1	4.9	4.8	4.5	3.4	13.2	4.7
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	4.8	3.5	3.6	12.9	7.0	8.1	6.9	9.0	8.1	4.3	31.7	7.5
High school graduates, no college ¹	100.0	13.2	13.6	12.6	12.3	8.0	7.0	5.3	4.1	4.2	4.4	15.3	5.0
Some college or associate degree	100.0	16.3	17.2	12.1	9.1	12.6	8.0	3.0	2.9	3.7	3.0	12.1	4.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	100.0	11.1	18.5	14.7	16.3	8.4	9.9	4.9	5.7	4.2	1.9	4.3	3.5
White non-Hispanic women.....	100.0	9.8	12.5	13.4	13.3	11.2	8.5	6.9	7.1	4.5	2.4		4.5
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	10.4	10.5	8.7	11.3	5.8	10.6	5.4	6.7	10.1	3.8	16.8	5.4
High school graduates, no college ¹	100.0	11.0	12.6	11.8	10.4	10.9	9.0	5.5	8.4	3.9	3.0	13.5	4.7
Some college or associate degree	100.0	10.9	11.6	13.3	11.7	10.3	9.4	7.0	8.0	2.8	2.2	12.9	4.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	100.0	7.3	13.6	17.0	18.9	13.8	6.4	9.1	4.8	5.1	1.3	2.8	3.7
Black non-Hispanic.....	100.0	5.3	6.1	7.8	10.7	8.7	7.2	8.5	7.9	6.2	5.1	26.4	6.7
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	2.8	6.1	6.6	6.3	4.2	4.4	12.6	7.7	8.5	3.9	36.9	8.2
High school graduates, no college ¹	100.0	4.1	5.1	7.4	10.2	8.1	6.7	8.2	7.8	6.1	5.4	31.0	7.2
Some college or associate degree	100.0	6.3	6.4	7.8	10.9	11.0	8.4	8.4	7.6	6.2	6.1	20.9	6.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	100.0	10.3	9.0	10.7	17.8	11.1	10.0	4.6	9.2	3.7	3.1	10.5	4.6

Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 40 in 1978-2004 by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity continued

Characteristic	Percent distribution of persons by number of unemployment spells												Mean number of spells held
	Mean # of spells	0 spells	1 spell	2 spells	3 spells	4 spells	5 spells	6 spells	7 spells	8 spells	9 spells	10 spells or more	
Black non-Hispanic men.....	100.0	4.8	6.0	8.8	10.1	9.2	6.2	9.0	6.7	6.0	4.2	28.9	6.9
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	1.2	4.7	8.2	6.2	5.1	3.6	14.9	4.8	7.1	2.1	42.1	8.7
High school graduates, no college ¹	100.0	4.2	5.5	9.5	7.5	9.1	7.0	7.4	6.9	5.7	5.1	32.0	7.2
Some college or associate degree	100.0	5.5	5.8	6.0	15.4	12.7	6.6	8.0	7.8	6.4	4.9	21.0	6.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	100.0	12.3	10.7	12.3	17.9	9.5	6.4	8.1	7.3	4.4	2.3	8.6	4.1
Black non-Hispanic women.....	100.0	5.9	6.3	6.8	11.4	8.1	8.3	7.9	9.1	6.4	6.0	23.7	6.4
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	5.2	8.2	4.0	6.4	2.9	5.7	8.9	12.3	10.8	6.7	28.8	7.5
High school graduates, no college ¹	100.0	4.1	4.5	4.6	13.9	6.6	6.2	9.4	8.9	6.6	5.8	29.5	7.1
Some college or associate degree	100.0	6.9	6.9	9.1	7.8	9.9	9.6	8.7	7.5	6.0	6.8	20.8	6.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	100.0	8.7	7.6	9.5	17.7	12.4	12.9	1.9	10.7	3.0	3.7	11.9	4.9
Hispanic or Latino	100.0	7.8	12.0	11.3	10.8	10.3	7.4	6.9	6.3	6.2	5.7	15.3	5.4
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	4.9	9.6	11.4	4.8	8.0	6.8	6.6	8.4	8.9	8.5	22.2	6.7
High school graduates, no college ¹	100.0	6.7	12.1	12.0	9.7	9.0	8.5	8.3	6.5	6.4	5.2	15.8	5.5
Some college or associate degree	100.0	10.4	14.0	10.0	17.6	13.1	5.4	5.4	3.8	4.3	3.1	12.8	4.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	100.0	12.8	11.6	11.8	11.5	13.6	9.9	5.4	7.3	4.2	7.6	4.3	4.1
Hispanic or Latino men.....	100.0	8.1	12.4	8.1	10.8	8.8	6.6	7.2	5.7	7.4	6.4	18.6	5.9
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	2.8	7.7	5.5	5.0	5.2	6.9	6.0	8.2	12.3	13.5	26.8	7.8
High school graduates, no college ¹	100.0	7.4	11.8	10.5	9.5	7.6	8.2	11.2	5.8	5.7	5.0	17.2	5.8
Some college or associate degree	100.0	12.1	18.0	6.7	16.8	10.6	3.6	4.0	3.6	5.1	1.2	18.5	5.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	100.0	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Hispanic or Latino women.....	100.0	7.6	11.4	14.9	10.8	12.0	8.4	6.5	7.0	4.8	4.8	11.7	4.9
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	7.6	12.1	19.4	4.4	11.7	6.7	7.3	8.7	4.3	1.9	16.0	5.3
High school graduates, no college ¹	100.0	5.9	12.3	13.4	10.0	10.4	8.7	5.3	7.3	7.1	5.4	14.2	5.2
Some college or associate degree	100.0	8.8	10.2	13.2	18.3	15.6	7.3	6.8	4.0	3.5	5.0	7.2	4.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	100.0	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)

¹ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

² Includes persons with a bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

³ Data not shown where cell size is less than 50.

Source: U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79)

Note This table excludes individuals who turned age 18 before Jan. 1, 1978, or who had not yet turned age 41 when interviewed in 2004-05.

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 consists of men and women who were born in the years 1957-64 and were ages 14 to 22 when first interviewed in 1979. These individuals were ages 39 to 48 in 2004-05. Educational attainment is defined as of the 2004 survey. 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.