

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

| Characteristic  | Percent distribution of persons by number of unemployment spells |          |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |                   | Mean number of spells held |
|---|--|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|
|   | Total  | 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, ages 18 to 40 in 1978-2004 <sup>1</sup> .....                  | 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                        |
| Ages 18 to 21 in 1978-1986 <sup>2</sup> .....                         | 100.0  | 26.6     | 22.7    | 17.3     | 12.9     | 9.5      | 5.0      | 3.5      | 1.4      | 0.6      | 0.3      | 0.1               | 2.0                        |
| Ages 22 to 25 in 1980-1990 .....                                      | 100.0  | 44.9     | 24.2    | 14.0     | 7.8      | 4.8      | 2.5      | 1.1      | 0.2      | 0.2      | 0.1      | 0.0               | 1.2                        |
| Ages 26 to 30 in 1984-1995 .....                                      | 100.0  | 57.6     | 20.0    | 10.7     | 4.9      | 3.0      | 2.0      | 0.9      | 0.5      | 0.2      | 0.1      | 0.1               | 0.9                        |
| Ages 31 to 35 in 1989-2000 .....                                      | 100.0  | 68.0     | 16.7    | 7.5      | 3.8      | 2.0      | 1.0      | 0.4      | 0.2      | 0.2      | 0.1      | 0.0               | 0.6                        |
| Ages 36 to 40 in 1994-2004 <sup>3</sup> .....                         | 100.0  | 74.7     | 15.4    | 6.8      | 2.0      | 0.8      | 0.1      | 0.0      | 0.1      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.4                        |
| Men, ages 18 to 40 in 1978-2004 <sup>1</sup> .....                    | 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                        |
| Ages 18 to 21 in 1978-1986 <sup>2</sup> .....                         | 100.0  | 27.6     | 22.1    | 16.0     | 11.8     | 9.9      | 4.9      | 4.3      | 1.9      | 0.9      | 0.5      | 0.1               | 2.1                        |
| Ages 22 to 25 in 1980-1990 .....                                      | 100.0  | 45.0     | 22.4    | 14.3     | 7.9      | 4.9      | 3.0      | 1.5      | 0.4      | 0.5      | 0.1      | 0.0               | 1.3                        |
| Ages 26 to 30 in 1984-1995 .....                                      | 100.0  | 58.7     | 18.9    | 9.6      | 4.1      | 3.6      | 2.7      | 1.4      | 0.5      | 0.3      | 0.2      | 0.1               | 1.0                        |
| Ages 31 to 35 in 1989-2000 .....                                      | 100.0  | 69.5     | 15.7    | 6.4      | 4.5      | 2.0      | 1.0      | 0.4      | 0.3      | 0.3      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.6                        |
| Ages 36 to 40 in 1994-2004 <sup>3</sup> .....                         | 100.0  | 76.0     | 14.3    | 7.0      | 1.5      | 1.0      | 0.1      | 0.0      | 0.1      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.4                        |
| Women, ages 18 to 40 in 1978-2004 <sup>1</sup> .....                  | 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                        |
| Ages 18 to 21 in 1978-1986 <sup>2</sup> .....                         | 100.0  | 25.6     | 23.3    | 18.7     | 14.1     | 9.1      | 5.2      | 2.6      | 0.9      | 0.4      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 1.9                        |
| Ages 22 to 25 in 1980-1990 .....                                      | 100.0  | 44.8     | 26.1    | 13.7     | 7.8      | 4.6      | 2.0      | 0.8      | 0.1      | 0.0      | 0.2      | 0.0               | 1.1                        |
| Ages 26 to 30 in 1984-1995 .....                                      | 100.0  | 56.5     | 21.2    | 11.8     | 5.8      | 2.3      | 1.3      | 0.4      | 0.5      | 0.1      | 0.1      | 0.0               | 0.9                        |
| Ages 31 to 35 in 1989-2000 .....                                      | 100.0  | 66.5     | 17.9    | 8.7      | 3.1      | 2.0      | 1.1      | 0.4      | 0.2      | 0.1      | 0.1      | 0.0               | 0.6                        |
| Ages 36 to 40 in 1994-2004 <sup>3</sup> .....                         | 100.0  | 73.4     | 16.5    | 6.6      | 2.5      | 0.6      | 0.2      | 0.1      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.1      | 0.0               | 0.4                        |
| White non-Hispanic, ages 18 to 40 in 1978-2004 <sup>1</sup> .....     | 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                        |
| Ages 18 to 21 in 1978-1986 <sup>2</sup> .....                         | 100.0  | 28.6     | 23.3    | 17.1     | 11.5     | 9.1      | 4.9      | 3.4      | 1.3      | 0.5      | 0.3      | 0.1               | 1.9                        |
| Ages 22 to 25 in 1980-1990 .....                                      | 100.0  | 47.2     | 25.0    | 12.9     | 6.9      | 4.2      | 2.2      | 1.1      | 0.2      | 0.2      | 0.2      | 0.0               | 1.1                        |
| Ages 26 to 30 in 1984-1995 .....                                      | 100.0  | 61.2     | 19.3    | 9.7      | 4.1      | 2.5      | 1.7      | 0.7      | 0.5      | 0.2      | 0.2      | 0.0               | 0.8                        |
| Ages 31 to 35 in 1989-2000 .....                                      | 100.0  | 70.9     | 15.7    | 6.7      | 3.2      | 1.4      | 1.0      | 0.4      | 0.2      | 0.3      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.6                        |
| Ages 36 to 40 in 1994-2004 <sup>3</sup> .....                         | 100.0  | 77.5     | 14.0    | 6.0      | 1.4      | 0.8      | 0.1      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.3                        |
| White non-Hispanic men, ages 18 to 40 in 1978-2004 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 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                        |
| Ages 18 to 21 in 1978-1986 <sup>2</sup> .....                         | 100.0  | 29.8     | 22.9    | 16.0     | 9.8      | 9.5      | 4.5      | 4.4      | 1.7      | 0.8      | 0.6      | 0.1               | 2.0                        |
| Ages 22 to 25 in 1980-1990 .....                                      | 100.0  | 47.7     | 22.8    | 13.2     | 7.1      | 4.3      | 2.5      | 1.5      | 0.3      | 0.5      | 0.2      | 0.0               | 1.2                        |
| Ages 26 to 30 in 1984-1995 .....                                      | 100.0  | 62.5     | 18.2    | 8.4      | 3.2      | 3.0      | 2.4      | 1.3      | 0.5      | 0.3      | 0.2      | 0.1               | 0.8                        |
| Ages 31 to 35 in 1989-2000 .....                                      | 100.0  | 72.6     | 15.0    | 5.2      | 4.0      | 1.2      | 1.0      | 0.4      | 0.2      | 0.4      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.5                        |
| Ages 36 to 40 in 1994-2004 <sup>3</sup> .....                         | 100.0  | 79.4     | 12.8    | 6.0      | 0.8      | 1.0      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.1      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.3                        |

Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 36 in 1978-2000 by age, sex, race, and Hispanic ethnicity

continued

| Characteristic  | Percent distribution of persons by number of unemployment spells |          |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |                   | Mean number of spells held |
|---|--|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|
|   | Total  | 0 spells | 1 spell | 2 spells | 3 spells | 4 spells | 5 spells | 6 spells | 7 spells | 8 spells | 9 spells | 10 spells or more |                            |
| White non-Hispanic women, ages 18 to 40 in 1978-2004 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 100.0  | 9.8      | 12.5    | 13.4     | 13.3     | 11.2     | 8.5      | 6.9      | 7.1      | 4.5      | 2.4      | 10.5              | 4.5                        |
| Ages 18 to 21 in 1978-1986 <sup>2</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 27.3     | 23.7    | 18.3     | 13.2     | 8.6      | 5.3      | 2.4      | 0.9      | 0.3      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 1.8                        |
| Ages 22 to 25 in 1980-1990 .....  | 100.0  | 46.7     | 27.3    | 12.6     | 6.6      | 4.1      | 1.9      | 0.6      | 0.1      | 0.0      | 0.2      | 0.0               | 1.0                        |
| Ages 26 to 30 in 1984-1995 .....  | 100.0  | 59.9     | 20.4    | 11.1     | 5.0      | 2.0      | 0.9      | 0.1      | 0.5      | 0.1      | 0.1      | 0.0               | 0.8                        |
| Ages 31 to 35 in 1989-2000 .....  | 100.0  | 69.2     | 16.4    | 8.4      | 2.5      | 1.6      | 1.1      | 0.4      | 0.2      | 0.1      | 0.1      | 0.0               | 0.6                        |
| Ages 36 to 40 in 1994-2004 <sup>3</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 75.6     | 15.3    | 6.1      | 2.1      | 0.6      | 0.1      | 0.1      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.1      | 0.0               | 0.4                        |
| Black non-Hispanic, ages 18 to 40 in 1978-2004 <sup>1</sup> .....       | 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                        |
| Ages 18 to 21 in 1978-1986 <sup>2</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 16.3     | 19.7    | 18.9     | 19.7     | 12.7     | 5.7      | 3.9      | 2.0      | 0.9      | 0.2      | 0.0               | 2.4                        |
| Ages 22 to 25 in 1980-1990 .....  | 100.0  | 33.2     | 20.6    | 19.2     | 12.7     | 7.9      | 4.5      | 1.5      | 0.2      | 0.3      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 1.6                        |
| Ages 26 to 30 in 1984-1995 .....  | 100.0  | 41.5     | 22.0    | 15.9     | 8.2      | 5.6      | 3.6      | 2.2      | 0.6      | 0.3      | 0.1      | 0.0               | 1.4                        |
| Ages 31 to 35 in 1989-2000 .....  | 100.0  | 54.4     | 20.9    | 11.3     | 6.0      | 4.8      | 1.2      | 0.6      | 0.3      | 0.1      | 0.2      | 0.0               | 1.0                        |
| Ages 36 to 40 in 1994-2004 <sup>3</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 62.0     | 21.6    | 10.1     | 4.4      | 1.2      | 0.5      | 0.1      | 0.1      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.6                        |
| Black non-Hispanic men, ages 18 to 40 in 1978-2004 <sup>1</sup> .....   | 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                        |
| Ages 18 to 21 in 1978-1986 <sup>2</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 16.9     | 20.1    | 15.7     | 18.7     | 13.6     | 5.9      | 4.6      | 3.0      | 1.5      | 0.2      | 0.0               | 2.5                        |
| Ages 22 to 25 in 1980-1990 .....  | 100.0  | 33.7     | 19.5    | 18.7     | 12.8     | 7.5      | 5.4      | 1.4      | 0.4      | 0.6      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 1.7                        |
| Ages 26 to 30 in 1984-1995 .....  | 100.0  | 42.5     | 20.1    | 16.5     | 6.8      | 6.8      | 3.6      | 2.4      | 0.8      | 0.6      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 1.4                        |
| Ages 31 to 35 in 1989-2000 .....  | 100.0  | 54.7     | 19.4    | 12.0     | 6.4      | 5.4      | 0.9      | 0.6      | 0.5      | 0.1      | 0.1      | 0.0               | 1.0                        |
| Ages 36 to 40 in 1994-2004 <sup>3</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 59.7     | 21.4    | 11.9     | 4.8      | 1.6      | 0.4      | 0.2      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.7                        |
| Black non-Hispanic women, ages 18 to 40 in 1978-2004 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 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                        |
| Ages 18 to 21 in 1978-1986 <sup>2</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 15.7     | 19.2    | 22.4     | 20.9     | 11.8     | 5.6      | 3.1      | 0.9      | 0.2      | 0.2      | 0.0               | 2.3                        |
| Ages 22 to 25 in 1980-1990 .....  | 100.0  | 32.6     | 21.8    | 19.6     | 12.7     | 8.2      | 3.6      | 1.5      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 1.6                        |
| Ages 26 to 30 in 1984-1995 .....  | 100.0  | 40.4     | 24.1    | 15.2     | 9.7      | 4.3      | 3.7      | 2.1      | 0.4      | 0.0      | 0.2      | 0.0               | 1.4                        |
| Ages 31 to 35 in 1989-2000 .....  | 100.0  | 54.2     | 22.6    | 10.7     | 5.5      | 4.2      | 1.6      | 0.7      | 0.2      | 0.1      | 0.3      | 0.0               | 0.9                        |
| Ages 36 to 40 in 1994-2004 <sup>3</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 64.5     | 21.8    | 8.3      | 4.1      | 0.7      | 0.5      | 0.0      | 0.2      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.6                        |
| Hispanic or Latino, ages 18 to 40 in 1978-2004 <sup>1</sup> .....       | 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                        |
| Ages 18 to 21 in 1978-1986 <sup>2</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 24.9     | 22.3    | 17.6     | 15.1     | 8.2      | 6.2      | 3.1      | 1.3      | 0.8      | 0.1      | 0.4               | 2.1                        |
| Ages 22 to 25 in 1980-1990 .....  | 100.0  | 42.2     | 22.7    | 15.8     | 8.5      | 6.1      | 2.5      | 1.2      | 0.6      | 0.2      | 0.3      | 0.0               | 1.3                        |
| Ages 26 to 30 in 1984-1995 .....  | 100.0  | 53.4     | 20.7    | 12.0     | 6.5      | 3.3      | 2.6      | 0.2      | 0.3      | 0.5      | 0.1      | 0.3               | 1.0                        |
| Ages 31 to 35 in 1989-2000 .....  | 100.0  | 62.9     | 19.2    | 9.5      | 4.7      | 2.6      | 0.8      | 0.0      | 0.2      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.7                        |
| Ages 36 to 40 in 1994-2004 <sup>3</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 69.6     | 17.7    | 7.5      | 3.6      | 0.9      | 0.6      | 0.0      | 0.1      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.5                        |
| Hispanic or Latino men, ages 18 to 40 in 1978-2004 <sup>1</sup> .....   | 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                        |
| Ages 18 to 21 in 1978-1986 <sup>2</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 23.5     | 18.2    | 17.3     | 18.6     | 7.4      | 8.0      | 3.6      | 1.5      | 0.8      | 0.3      | 0.8               | 2.3                        |
| Ages 22 to 25 in 1980-1990 .....  | 100.0  | 37.8     | 24.4    | 16.2     | 7.9      | 7.7      | 3.7      | 1.1      | 0.8      | 0.4      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 1.5                        |
| Ages 26 to 30 in 1984-1995 .....  | 100.0  | 52.9     | 20.1    | 9.9      | 6.4      | 4.2      | 4.3      | 0.3      | 0.4      | 0.8      | 0.2      | 0.6               | 1.2                        |
| Ages 31 to 35 in 1989-2000 .....  | 100.0  | 64.3     | 16.4    | 9.5      | 5.1      | 3.0      | 1.4      | 0.0      | 0.3      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.7                        |
| Ages 36 to 40 in 1994-2004 <sup>3</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 69.4     | 18.5    | 7.1      | 2.7      | 0.8      | 1.2      | 0.0      | 0.2      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.5                        |

Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 36 in 1978-2000 by age, sex, race, and Hispanic ethnicity

continued

| Characteristic  | Percent distribution of persons by number of unemployment spells |          |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |                   | Mean number of spells held |
|---|--|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|
|   | Total  | 0 spells | 1 spell | 2 spells | 3 spells | 4 spells | 5 spells | 6 spells | 7 spells | 8 spells | 9 spells | 10 spells or more |                            |
| Hispanic or Latino women, ages 18 to 40 in 1978-2004 <sup>1</sup> ..... | 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                        |
| Ages 18 to 21 in 1978-1986 <sup>2</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 26.5     | 26.8    | 18.1     | 11.2     | 9.0      | 4.3      | 2.5      | 1.0      | 0.7      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 1.8                        |
| Ages 22 to 25 in 1980-1990 .....  | 100.0  | 47.1     | 20.8    | 15.3     | 9.3      | 4.2      | 1.2      | 1.3      | 0.2      | 0.0      | 0.6      | 0.0               | 1.2                        |
| Ages 26 to 30 in 1984-1995 .....  | 100.0  | 53.9     | 21.3    | 14.3     | 6.7      | 2.4      | 0.8      | 0.2      | 0.3      | 0.2      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.9                        |
| Ages 31 to 35 in 1989-2000 .....  | 100.0  | 61.4     | 22.5    | 9.4      | 4.1      | 2.2      | 0.2      | 0.0      | 0.2      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.7                        |
| Ages 36 to 40 in 1994-2004 <sup>3</sup> .....                           | 100.0  | 69.7     | 16.8    | 7.9      | 4.6      | 0.9      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0      | 0.0               | 0.5                        |

<sup>1</sup> This category excludes individuals who turned age 18 before Jan. 1, 1978, or who had not yet turned age 41 when interviewed in 2004-05.

<sup>2</sup> This category excludes individuals who turned age 18 before Jan. 1, 1978.

<sup>3</sup> This category excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 41 when interviewed in 2004-05.

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

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.