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LABOR MARKET EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, PARTNER STATUS, AND HEALTH FOR THOSE BORN 1980-1984

Americans born in the early 1980s held an average of 8.6 jobs from age 18 through age 34, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. These adults held more jobs at younger ages: they held an average of 5.1 jobs from ages 18 to 23, compared with 2.1 jobs from ages 30 to 34. While ages 18 to 34, women with more education held more jobs than women with less education. Regardless of education, men held a similar number of jobs.

These findings are from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, a nationally representative survey of about 9,000 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 34 to 40 when interviewed for the 19th time in 2019-20. The survey provides information on work and non-work experiences, training, schooling, income, assets, health, and other characteristics. The information provided by respondents is representative of all men and women born in the early 1980s and living in the United States when the survey began in 1997.

This news release focuses on the employment experiences, educational attainment, partner status, and health of these individuals from their 18th birthday until they turned 35. Highlights from the longitudinal survey among this group include:

- Individuals held an average of 8.6 jobs from ages 18 through 34, with over half of these jobs being held between the ages of 18 and 23. (See table 1.)
- Among individuals who started jobs while ages 18 to 24, the average individual had 61 percent of their jobs end in less than a year, compared with an average of 35 percent among those who started jobs while ages 25 to 35. In this older age range, job duration is significantly longer for those with more education. Among individuals with less than a high school education who started jobs while ages 25 to 35, the average individual had 49 percent of their jobs end in less than a year, compared with 28 percent among those with a bachelor's degree and higher. (See table 2.)
- Women with less than a high school diploma were employed an average of 39 percent of weeks from ages 18 to 34, while men with less than a high school diploma were employed 64 percent of weeks. Among individuals with a bachelor's degree and higher, women were employed an average of 81 percent of weeks and men were employed an average of 82 percent of weeks. (See table 3.)

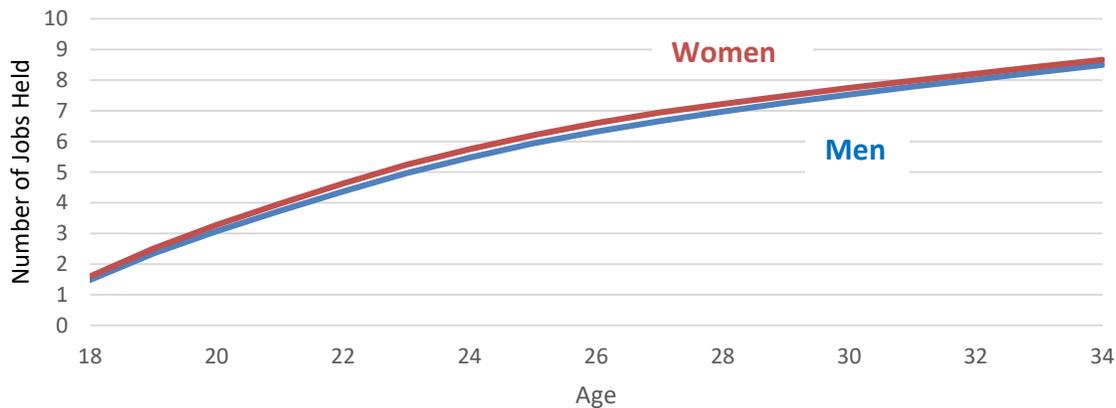
- Individuals were employed for an average of 75 percent of weeks from ages 18 to 34. This varied across age brackets: from ages 18 to 23 individuals were employed 70 percent of weeks, from ages 24 to 29 individuals were employed 78 percent of weeks, and from ages 30 to 34 individuals were employed 79 percent of weeks. (See table 4.)
- At their 25th birthday, 29 percent of women had received a bachelor's degree and higher, compared with 21 percent of men. By their 35th birthday, 39 percent of women held a bachelor's degree and higher, compared with 29 percent of men. Seventy-six percent of women had at least attended some college by age 35, compared with 66 percent of men. (See table 5.)
- At the time of their 35th birthday, 53 percent of individuals were married, 17 percent were cohabiting, and 31 percent were single. The percent of individuals who were married varied by education; those with higher levels of education were more likely to be married and less likely to be cohabiting than those with lower levels of education. (See table 6.)
- Men who were single at age 35 were employed 71 percent of the weeks from ages 18 to 34, compared with 84 percent of weeks for those who were married at age 35 and 77 percent for those who were cohabiting. The percentage of weeks employed varied less by partner status for women; women who were single at age 35 were employed 70 percent of the weeks from ages 18 to 34, compared with 73 percent of weeks for those who were married and 72 percent for those who were cohabiting. (See table 7.)
- The percent of individuals reporting that their health limits the kind or amount of work they can do increased as they aged. At 25 years of age, 6 percent of individuals reported that their health limits the kind or amount of work they can do, while at 35 years of age, 9 percent were limited. (See table 8.)

Employment Experiences from Age 18 through Age 34

Americans born in 1980-84 held an average of 8.6 jobs from ages 18 through 34, with over half of these jobs held from ages 18 to 23. Men held an average of 8.5 jobs and women held an average of 8.7 jobs. Women at higher levels of educational attainment held more jobs than women at lower levels. Women with a bachelor's degree and higher held 9.1 jobs from ages 18 through 34, compared with 6.8 jobs for female high school dropouts. Men held a similar number of jobs regardless of their level of educational attainment. (See table 1.) A job is defined as a period of work, including gaps, with a particular employer. (See the Technical Note for additional information on the definition of a job.)

Examining employment experiences by smaller age brackets shows individuals held fewer jobs in each subsequent age bracket. Individuals held an average of 5.1 jobs in the 6-year period from ages 18 to 23. The number of jobs individuals held dropped to 3.3 jobs in the 6-year period from ages 24 to 29, and then dropped further to 2.1 jobs in the 5-year period from ages 30 to 34. The pattern of individuals holding fewer jobs as they aged was similar across groupings by sex, race and ethnicity, and level of educational attainment. The diminishing slope in Chart 1 shows the decline in rate at which workers change jobs as they age.

Chart 1. Cumulative number of jobs held from age 18 through age 34 in 1998-2019, by sex and age



Duration of Employment Relationships

The length of time a worker remains with an employer increased with the age at which the worker began the job. Of the jobs begun between ages 18 to 24, the average worker had 61 percent of jobs end in less than a year and 95 percent of jobs end in less than 6 years. Among jobs begun when 25 to 34 years old, the average worker had 35 percent of jobs end in less than a year and 71 percent end in less than 6 years.

Job duration is also related to education. Seventy percent of the jobs started by those with less than a high school diploma while ages 18 to 24 ended within a year, compared with 60 percent of jobs started at those ages by the average individual with a bachelor's degree and higher. (See table 2.)

Among individuals with less than a high school diploma who started jobs when they were 25 to 34 years of age, the average individual had 49 percent of these jobs end in less than a year and 81 percent end in less than 6 years. In comparison, for the average individual with a bachelor's degree and higher who started jobs at those ages, 28 percent of the jobs ended in under 1 year and only 65 percent ended in less than 6 years.

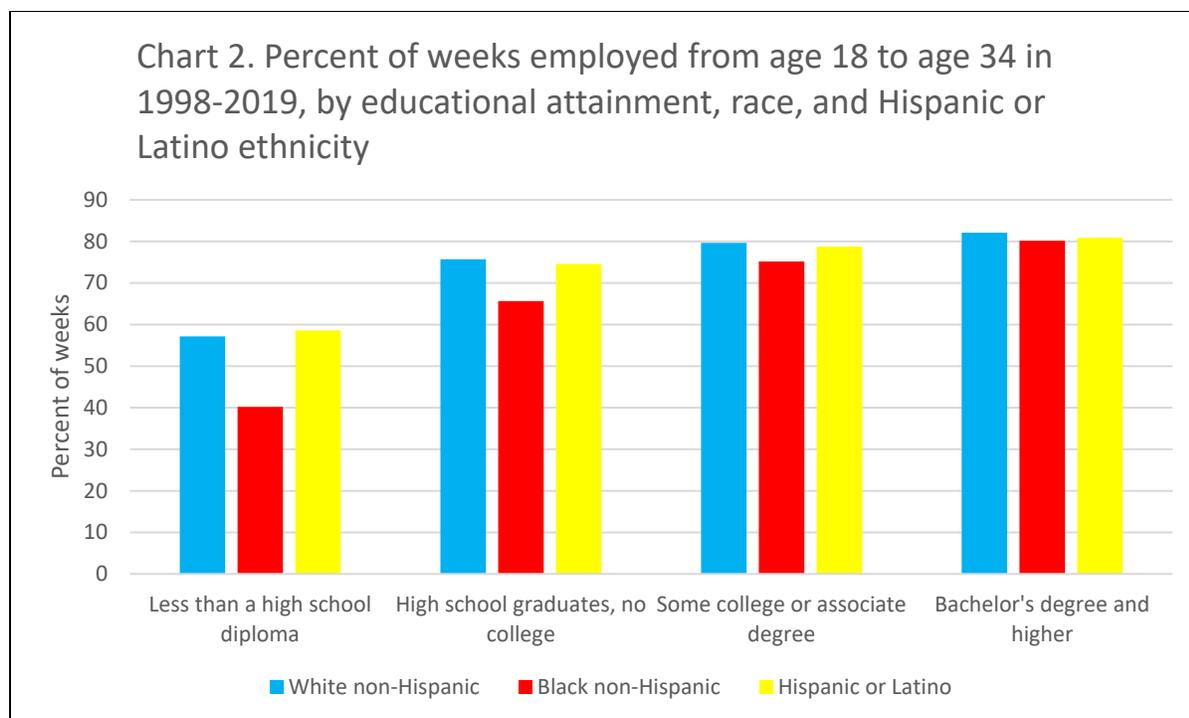
Percent of Weeks Employed, Unemployed, and Not in the Labor Force

On average, individuals born in 1980-84 were employed during 75 percent of all the weeks from age 18 through age 34, unemployed—that is, without a job but seeking work—6 percent of the weeks, and not in the labor force—that is, neither working nor seeking work—19 percent of the weeks. (See table 3.)

As a group, individuals with higher levels of educational attainment were employed for a higher percentage of weeks and unemployed for a lower percentage of weeks than individuals with lower levels of education. The percentage of weeks not in the labor force decreased with increases in educational attainment.

Men were more active in the labor market than women from ages 18 to 34. As a group, they spent less time not in the labor force than women (15 percent compared with 23 percent) and more time employed (79 percent compared with 72 percent). This pattern is also seen at each level of educational attainment except among those with a bachelor's degree and higher. Women with a bachelor's degree and higher spent almost the same proportion of weeks employed as similarly educated men (81 percent and 82 percent, respectively).

Employment gaps existed between racial and ethnic groups. On average, White individuals were employed during 78 percent of the weeks that occurred from age 18 through age 34, Hispanic or Latino individuals were employed during 75 percent of the weeks, and Black individuals were employed during 67 percent of the weeks.

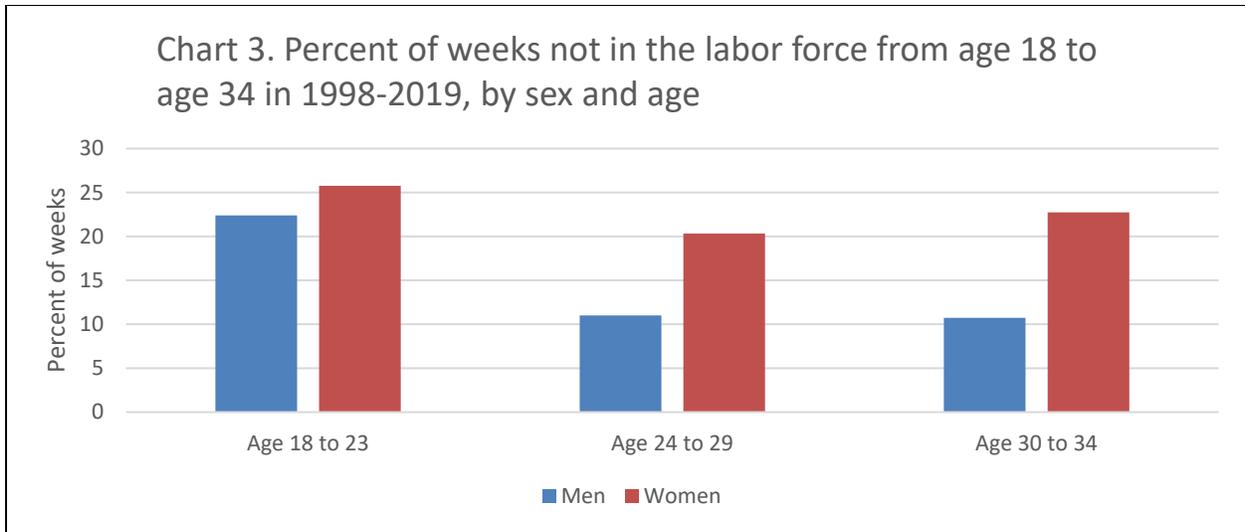


The employment gap between White and Black individuals is more pronounced at lower levels of educational attainment. White high school dropouts spent 57 percent of weeks employed from ages 18 through 34, while Black dropouts spent 39 percent of weeks employed during these ages. The gap is smaller among those who held a bachelor's degree and higher. White college graduates spent 82 percent of weeks employed, while Black college graduates spent 80 percent of weeks employed. (See chart 2.)

The employment gap between Hispanic or Latino and Black individuals is also more pronounced at lower levels of educational attainment. Hispanic or Latino dropouts spent 60 percent of weeks employed from ages 18 through 34, while Black dropouts spent 39 percent of weeks employed during these ages. Hispanic or Latino and Black college graduates spent a similar percentage of weeks employed (81 percent compared with 80 percent). (See chart 2.)

Individuals spent 70 percent of weeks employed from ages 18 to 23, 78 percent of weeks employed from ages 24 to 29, and 79 percent of weeks employed from ages 30 to 34. Men spent 71 percent of weeks employed from ages 18 to 23; this increased to 82 percent of weeks from ages 24 to 29 and then increased slightly to 84 percent from ages 30 to 34. Women spent 69 percent of weeks employed from ages 18 to 23; this increased to 74 percent of weeks from ages 24 to 29 and remained elevated, at 73 percent, from ages 30 to 34. Men were employed a higher percentage of weeks than women within all age brackets. (See table 4.)

As these individuals aged, they generally spent less time out of the labor force. Men spent 22 percent of weeks not in the labor force from 18 to 23 years of age, and 11 percent of weeks out of the labor force from ages 24 to 29 and ages 30 to 34. Women spent 26 percent of weeks out of the labor force from ages 18 to 23, and 20 percent and 23 percent of weeks out of the labor force at ages 24 to 29 and ages 30 to 34, respectively. At ages 30 to 34, women were about twice as



likely as men to not be in the labor force. (See chart 3.)

Employment gaps between racial and ethnic groups also existed within each age bracket analyzed. Within each age bracket, White workers were employed a higher percentage of weeks than both Black and Hispanic or Latino workers, and Hispanic or Latino workers were employed a higher percentage of weeks than Black workers.

Educational Attainment at Age 35

At 35 years of age, 34 percent of individuals had received a bachelor's degree and higher while 37 percent had attended some college or received an associate degree without earning a bachelor's degree and higher. Twenty-three percent had a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) credential and no further schooling. (See table 5.)

Women were more likely than men to have received a bachelor's degree and higher by age 25, and this gap continued to be seen at age 35. Twenty-one percent of men had earned a bachelor's degree and higher by age 25, compared with 29 percent of women. By 35 years of age, 29 percent of men had earned a bachelor's degree and higher compared to 39 percent of women. In this age group, 66 percent of men had either attended some college or received a bachelor's degree, compared with 76 percent of women. In addition to being more likely to attend college, women were more likely to have finished their college degree. Of the 76 percent of women who started college, 51 percent had received a bachelor's degree and higher by age 35. In comparison, of the 66 percent of men who started college, 44 percent had received a bachelor's degree and higher.

At age 35, there were large differences in educational attainment among racial and ethnic groups. Black and Hispanic or Latino individuals were more likely than White individuals to have dropped out of high school. In comparison, White individuals were more likely to have ever attended college (73 percent of White individuals, compared to 64 percent of Black individuals and 62 percent of Hispanic or Latino individuals) and nearly twice as likely to have received a bachelor's degree and higher by this age. Thirty-eight percent of White individuals had received a

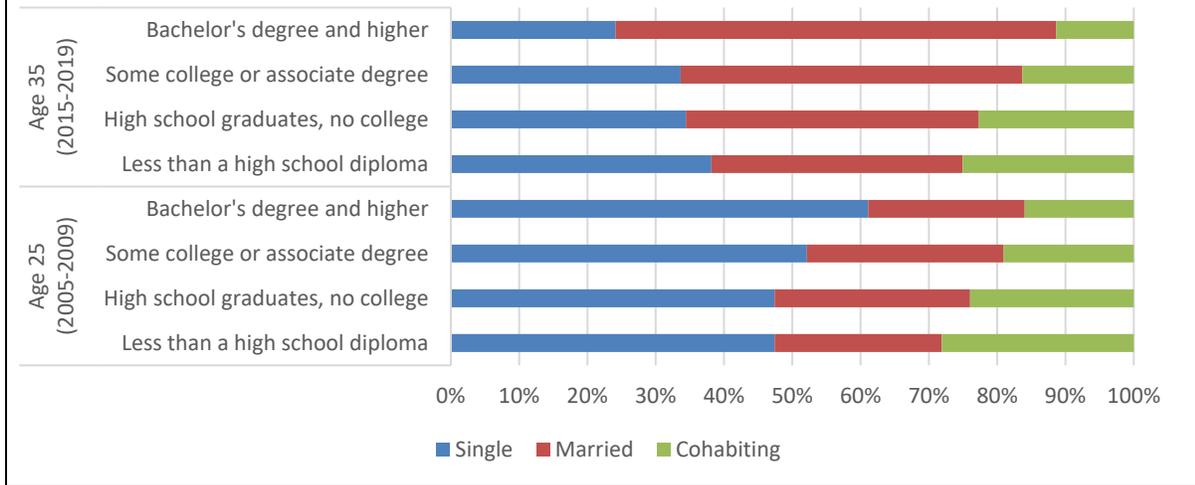
bachelor's degree and higher at age 35, compared with 21 percent of both Black and Hispanic or Latino individuals.

Within each racial and ethnic group examined at age 35, women were more likely to have a bachelor's degree and higher than men. White women were more likely than White men to have received a bachelor's degree and higher (43 percent compared with 34 percent), Black women were more likely than Black men (27 percent compared with 16 percent), and Hispanic or Latino women were more likely than Hispanic or Latino men (24 percent compared with 18 percent) to have received a bachelor's degree and higher.

Partner Status and Employment Experiences

At 25 years of age, 27 percent of Americans born during 1980-84 were married, 20 percent were cohabiting (unmarried and living with a partner), and 53 percent were single (not married and not living with a partner). Comparatively, at 35 years of age, 53 percent were married, 17 percent were cohabiting, and 31 percent were single. (See table 6.)

Chart 4. Marital status at age 25 and age 35 by educational attainment



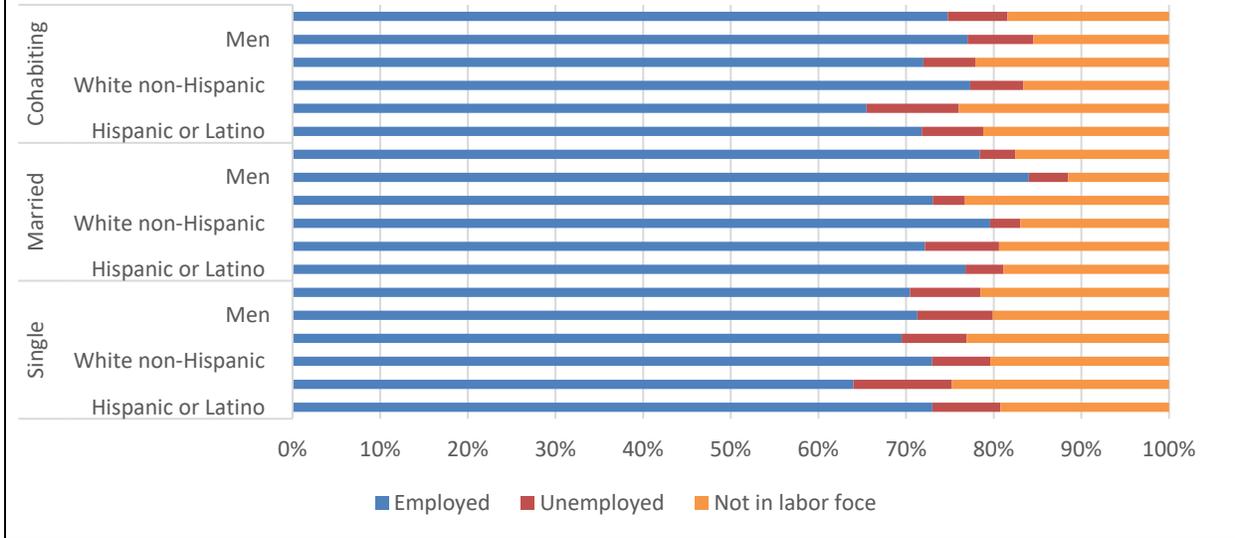
At age 35, those with higher levels of education were more likely to be married and less likely to be cohabiting than those with lower levels of education. At the time of their 35th birthday, 37 percent of high school dropouts, 43 percent of high school graduates with no college, 50 percent of individuals with some college or an associate degree, and 65 percent of college graduates were married. Twenty-five percent of those with less than a high school diploma were cohabiting, compared with only 11 percent of those with a bachelor's degree and higher. (See chart 4.)

Partner status varied greatly by race and ethnicity. Black individuals were more likely to be single than either White or Hispanic or Latino individuals. At 35 years of age, 53 percent of Black individuals were single, compared with 25 percent of White individuals and 33 percent of Hispanic or Latino individuals. Black individuals were significantly less likely to be married than either White individuals or Hispanic or Latino individuals (33 percent compared with 59 percent and 47 percent, respectively).

At both ages 25 and 35, women were more likely to be married and less likely to be single than men. By their 35th birthday, 55 percent of women were married, 30 percent were single, and 15 percent were cohabiting, while 50 percent of men were married, 32 percent were single, and 18 percent were cohabiting.

Compared with individuals who were single at age 35, those who were married worked more weeks from ages 18 to 34, spent fewer weeks unemployed, and spent fewer weeks not in the labor force. From ages 18 to 34, single individuals spent 71 percent of weeks employed, 8 percent of weeks unemployed, and 22 percent of weeks not in the labor force, while those who were married spent 78 percent of weeks employed, 4 percent of weeks unemployed, and 18 percent of weeks not in the labor force. Cohabiting individuals spent 75 percent of weeks employed, 7 percent of weeks unemployed, and 18 percent of weeks not in the labor force. (See table 7.)

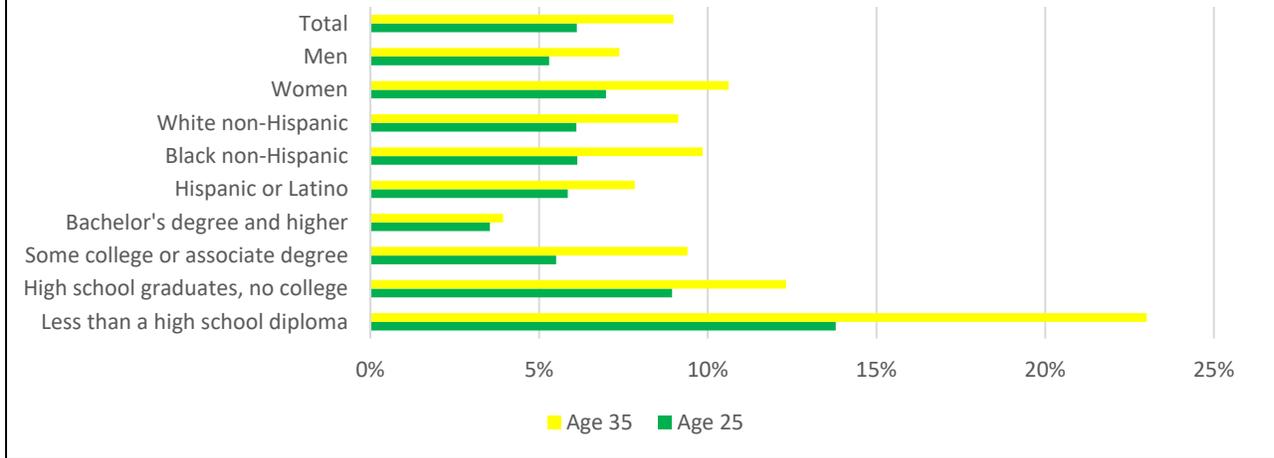
Chart 5. Percent of total weeks individuals were employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force from age 18 through age 34 in 1998-2019



Men accounted for most of the variation in employment experiences by partner status. Men married at age 35 worked more weeks, were unemployed fewer weeks, and were less likely to be not in the labor force than either single or cohabiting men during ages 18-34. Men married at 35 spent 84 percent of weeks employed, compared with 71 percent for single men and 77 percent for cohabiting men. They spent 5 percent of weeks unemployed, compared with 9 percent for single men and 8 percent for cohabiting men. Married men spent 12 percent of weeks out of the labor force, compared with 20 percent for single men and 16 percent for cohabiting men. In contrast, there were limited differences in the employment experiences of women by partner status. Women who were married at age 35 were employed a slightly higher percentage of weeks than non-married women (73 percent compared with 70 percent for single women and 72 percent for cohabiting women) during ages 18-34 and were unemployed a lower percentage of weeks than either single or cohabiting women (4 percent compared with 7 percent and 6 percent, respectively). (See table 7 and chart 5.)

Married individuals also spent a higher percentage of weeks employed than single individuals within racial and ethnic groups. The differences were 80 percent compared with 73 percent among the White population, 72 percent compared with 64 percent among the Black population, and 77 percent compared with 73 percent among the Hispanic or Latino population.

Chart 6. Percent of individuals whose health limited the kind or amount of work they performed by age and educational attainment



Health Limits and Work

Individuals in this cohort report whether their health limits the kind or amount of work they can do; the percent of individuals reporting such limitations increased as they aged. At 25 years of age, 6 percent of Americans born during 1980-84 were limited in the kind or amount of work they can do; at 35 years of age, 9 percent were limited. (See table 8.)

At ages 25 and 35, those with lower levels of education were generally more likely to be limited in the kind or amount of work they can do than those with higher levels of education. By their 35th birthday, 23 percent of high school dropouts, 12 percent of high school graduates with no college, 9 percent of individuals with some college or an associate degree, and 4 percent of college graduates were limited in the kind or amount of work they can do. (See chart 6.)

Women were more likely than men to report that health limits the kind or amount of work they can do. At 25 years of age, 7 percent of women and 5 percent of men were limited in the kind or amount of work they can do; at 35 years of age, 11 percent of women and 7 percent of men were limited in the kind or amount of work they can do.

Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained using data from the first 19 rounds of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97). This survey is conducted by the Center for Human Resource Research at The Ohio State University and the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago under the direction and sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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.

This sample size is not adjusted for sample members who have died.

Individuals were surveyed annually from 1997–2011 and biennially since 2011. In the 2019-20 survey round, high response rates were maintained despite the potential adverse impacts that may have affected the behavior of respondents in the last several months of collection after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. 6,947 individuals responded to the survey, for a retention rate of 77 percent (representing a 79 percent response rate among those sample members who are still living). Only these individuals are included in the estimates in this release. This release examines the period from respondents' 18th birthday until their 35th birthday. All results are weighted using the 2019-20 survey weights that correct for the oversampling, interview nonresponse, and permanent attrition from the survey. Prior NLSY97 news releases used weights based on the survey round a respondent turned a particular age. 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 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 have many years of 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 35 during calendar year 2019, whereas the oldest respondents (birth year 1980) turned 35 during calendar year 2015. Some respondents may not be used in all tables if information about their work history is incomplete.

As with age, the education attainment of individuals may change from year to year. Educational attainment is taken at the time of the respondents' 35th birthday. If a respondent had not earned a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) credential, he or she is counted as a high school dropout. Individuals with an associate degree or any

enrollment in college after high school are counted as having some college.

Definitions

Job. A job is defined as a 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 not be counted as a new job. For self-employed workers, each “new” job is defined by the individuals themselves.

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.

Partner Status. Partner status is determined during the month the individual turned 35. Respondents who are married but not living with their spouses are counted as married. To be marked as cohabitating, the respondent must be living with an individual of either gender for at least one month in a sexual relationship. Living with roommates or parents would not affect partner status. Respondents who are not married and not cohabitating are counted as single.

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 White individuals, Black individuals, and Hispanic or Latino individuals, but these groups are not mutually exclusive. The term Hispanic or Latino is considered to be an ethnicity group, and Hispanic or Latino individuals can be of any race. Most other BLS publications include estimates for Hispanic or Latino individuals in the White and Black race groups in addition to the Hispanic or Latino ethnicity group.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Table 1. Number of jobs held by individuals from age 18 through age 34 in 1998-2019 by educational attainment, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and age

Characteristic	Average number of jobs for persons ages 18 to 34 in 1998-2019 ¹			
	Total ²	Ages 18 to 23	Ages 24 to 29	Ages 30 to 34
Total, ages 18 to 34 in 1998-2019.....	8.6	5.1	3.3	2.1
Less than a high school diploma	7.8	4.4	2.9	1.8
High school graduates, no college ³	7.9	4.7	3.0	1.9
Some college or associate degree	9.0	5.3	3.3	2.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	8.8	5.2	3.4	2.2
Men	8.5	5.0	3.3	2.2
Less than a high school diploma	8.5	5.0	3.2	2.0
High school graduates, no college ³	8.2	4.9	3.2	2.0
Some college or associate degree	8.9	5.2	3.3	2.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	8.3	4.8	3.3	2.2
Women	8.7	5.2	3.2	2.1
Less than a high school diploma	6.8	3.7	2.6	1.5
High school graduates, no college ³	7.3	4.5	2.8	1.7
Some college or associate degree	9.1	5.5	3.3	2.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	9.1	5.6	3.5	2.2
White, non-Hispanic.....	8.8	5.3	3.3	2.1
Less than a high school diploma	8.7	5.1	3.1	2.0
High school graduates, no college ³	7.9	4.9	3.0	1.9
Some college or associate degree	9.2	5.5	3.3	2.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	8.9	5.4	3.5	2.2
Black, non-Hispanic	8.4	4.7	3.2	2.2
Less than a high school diploma	5.8	3.2	2.3	1.4
High school graduates, no college ³	7.8	4.5	3.0	1.8
Some college or associate degree	9.2	5.1	3.5	2.4
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	8.7	4.9	3.4	2.4
Hispanic or Latino.....	7.9	4.6	3.1	2.0
Less than a high school diploma	7.7	4.2	3.0	1.9
High school graduates, no college ³	7.6	4.4	3.0	1.9
Some college or associate degree	8.0	4.8	3.0	2.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	8.2	4.7	3.3	2.2

¹ Time span includes up to the month before the respondent's 35th birthday.

² Jobs that were held in more than one of the age categories were counted in each appropriate column, but only once in the total column.

³ Includes individuals with a high school diploma or equivalent (General Education Development (GED)) credential.

⁴ Includes individuals with bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and professional degrees.

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 35 when interviewed in 2019-20. 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 determined during the month of the respondent's 35th birthday.

Table 2. Duration of employment relationship with a single employer for individuals who started jobs from age 18 through age 34 in 1998-2019 by age at start of job, educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Characteristic	Cumulative percent distribution of duration of completed employment relationships					Percent of jobs ongoing in 2019 survey
	Less than 1 year	Less than 2 years	Less than 3 years	Less than 6 years	Less than 13 years	
Total, ages 18 to 24 in 1998-2009.....	61.1	78.9	86.7	94.5	96.0	4.0
Men	60.8	78.1	86.0	93.7	95.2	4.8
Women	61.4	79.6	87.5	95.4	96.8	3.2
White, non-Hispanic	60.3	78.0	86.1	94.2	95.9	4.1
Black, non-Hispanic	67.0	83.6	89.9	96.1	96.9	3.1
Hispanic or Latino	58.6	77.3	85.5	94.0	95.3	4.7
Less than a high school diploma	69.8	84.1	89.4	94.7	97.0	3.0
High school graduates, no college ¹	59.7	76.3	83.9	92.8	95.4	4.6
Some college or associate degree	62.1	79.6	87.1	95.1	96.0	4.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	59.5	79.0	87.9	95.0	96.1	3.9
Total, ages 25 to 34 in 2005-2019.....	35.1	51.5	60.3	70.7	75.0	25.0
Men	33.8	49.7	58.6	69.4	73.5	26.5
Women	36.3	53.3	62.0	72.0	76.6	23.4
White, non-Hispanic	34.0	50.3	59.0	69.4	74.0	26.0
Black, non-Hispanic	38.9	55.6	65.1	75.2	78.1	21.9
Hispanic or Latino	35.3	51.8	61.2	72.0	76.6	23.4
Less than a high school diploma	48.9	65.8	73.3	80.6	83.9	16.1
High school graduates, no college ¹	37.5	53.5	62.2	72.1	76.5	23.5
Some college or associate degree	37.8	55.2	63.8	73.5	77.2	22.8
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	28.1	43.6	52.9	65.0	70.3	29.7

¹ Includes individuals with a high school diploma or equivalent (General Education Development (GED)) credential.

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

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 35 when interviewed in 2019-20. 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 determined during the month of the respondent's 35th birthday.

Table 3. Percent of weeks individuals were employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force from age 18 through age 34 in 1998-2019 by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Characteristic	Percent of total weeks while ages 18 to 34 in 1998-2019		
	Employed	Unemployed	Not in labor force
Total, ages 18 to 34 in 1998-2019	75.3	5.8	18.9
Less than a high school diploma	53.1	11.3	35.6
High school graduates, no college ¹	70.8	7.9	21.3
Some college or associate degree	76.2	6.1	17.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	81.5	2.9	15.6
Men	78.7	6.4	15.0
Less than a high school diploma	64.3	12.4	23.2
High school graduates, no college ¹	75.9	8.6	15.5
Some college or associate degree	80.5	6.2	13.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	82.2	3.0	14.7
Women	71.8	5.1	23.0
Less than a high school diploma	39.4	9.9	50.7
High school graduates, no college ¹	63.0	6.8	30.2
Some college or associate degree	71.8	6.0	22.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	80.9	2.8	16.3
White, non-Hispanic	77.6	4.7	17.7
Less than a high school diploma	56.7	10.5	32.8
High school graduates, no college ¹	74.1	6.8	19.1
Some college or associate degree	77.7	5.0	17.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	82.1	2.5	15.4
Black, non-Hispanic	66.9	10.2	22.9
Less than a high school diploma	38.9	14.8	46.3
High school graduates, no college ¹	60.8	12.2	26.9
Some college or associate degree	70.1	10.4	19.5
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	80.2	5.3	14.5
Hispanic or Latino	74.5	6.0	19.5
Less than a high school diploma	59.6	9.6	30.8
High school graduates, no college ¹	70.5	7.5	22.0
Some college or associate degree	77.8	5.3	16.9
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	80.9	3.6	15.5

¹ Includes individuals with a high school diploma or equivalent (General Education Development (GED)) credential.

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

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 35 when interviewed in 2019-20. 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 determined during the month of the respondent's 35th birthday.

Table 4. Percent of weeks individuals were employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force from age 18 through age 34 in 1998-2019 by age, educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Age and characteristic	Percent of total weeks		
	Employed	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Total, ages 18 to 34 in 1998-2019.....	75.3	5.8	18.9
Ages 18 to 23 in 1998-2008	69.8	6.1	24.0
Ages 24 to 29 in 2004-2014	78.1	6.3	15.6
Ages 30 to 34 in 2010-2019	78.6	4.8	16.6
Men, ages 18 to 34 in 1998-20179.....	78.7	6.4	15.0
Ages 18 to 23 in 1998-2008	70.9	6.7	22.4
Ages 24 to 29 in 2004-2014	82.0	7.0	11.0
Ages 30 to 34 in 2010-2019	84.0	5.3	10.7
Women, ages 18 to 34 in 1998-2019.....	71.8	5.1	23.0
Ages 18 to 23 in 1998-2008	68.7	5.5	25.8
Ages 24 to 29 in 2004-2014	74.1	5.6	20.3
Ages 30 to 34 in 2010-2019	72.9	4.4	22.7
White, non-Hispanic, ages 18 to 34 in 1998-2019	77.6	4.7	17.7
Ages 18 to 23 in 1998-2008	73.0	4.9	22.1
Ages 24 to 29 in 2004-2014	80.2	5.2	14.6
Ages 30 to 34 in 2010-2019	79.9	3.9	16.2
Black, non-Hispanic, ages 18 to 34 in 1998-2019.....	66.9	10.2	22.9
Ages 18 to 23 in 1998-2008	58.7	10.9	30.4
Ages 24 to 29 in 2004-2014	69.8	11.0	19.2
Ages 30 to 34 in 2010-2019	73.2	8.7	18.1
Hispanic or Latino, ages 18 to 34 in 1998-2019	74.5	6.0	19.5
Ages 18 to 23 in 1998-2008	69.1	6.7	24.2
Ages 24 to 29 in 2004-2014	77.5	6.5	16.0
Ages 30 to 34 in 2010-2019	77.6	4.8	17.6

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 35 when interviewed in 2019-20. 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. Educational attainment of individuals at ages 25 and 35 in 2005-2019 by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Characteristic	Highest Grade Completed						
	High school dropouts	High School Graduates			College		
		Total	High school diploma	General Educational Development (GED) recipients	Total	Some college	Bachelor's degree and higher ¹
Total, age 25 in 2005-2009	8.9	27.5	20.1	7.5	63.6	38.7	24.9
White, non-Hispanic	7.0	26.6	19.8	6.8	66.4	36.9	29.5
Black, non-Hispanic	13.9	31.5	20.3	11.2	54.6	42.1	12.5
Hispanic or Latino	13.4	31.6	23.9	7.6	55.1	43.3	11.7
Men	9.5	31.5	22.6	8.9	59.0	38.1	20.9
White, non-Hispanic	7.5	30.1	22.5	7.6	62.4	36.9	25.6
Black, non-Hispanic	15.7	38.0	23.0	15.0	46.3	38.0	8.3
Hispanic or Latino	13.6	35.1	25.9	9.2	51.4	41.9	9.5
Women	8.2	23.4	17.4	6.0	68.4	39.2	29.2
White, non-Hispanic	6.5	23.0	17.1	5.9	70.5	36.9	33.6
Black, non-Hispanic	11.9	24.7	17.4	7.3	63.4	46.5	16.9
Hispanic or Latino	13.2	27.5	21.7	5.8	59.3	45.0	14.3
Total, age 35 in 2015-2019	6.1	23.4	15.7	7.7	70.6	36.8	33.8
White, non-Hispanic	5.0	22.1	15.8	6.3	72.9	34.6	38.3
Black, non-Hispanic	9.1	27.3	15.5	11.9	63.7	42.7	21.0
Hispanic or Latino	9.9	28.5	19.0	9.4	61.6	40.9	20.8
Men	6.1	27.8	18.0	9.7	65.8	36.6	29.2
White, non-Hispanic	5.4	26.0	18.3	7.6	68.6	35.1	33.6
Black, non-Hispanic	10.2	35.0	18.3	16.7	54.9	39.4	15.6
Hispanic or Latino	9.8	31.9	20.3	11.6	58.4	40.5	17.9
Women	5.6	18.7	13.2	5.5	75.7	37.0	38.7
White, non-Hispanic	4.5	18.1	13.1	5.0	77.3	34.0	43.3
Black, non-Hispanic	7.9	19.4	12.5	6.9	72.7	46.1	26.6
Hispanic or Latino	10.1	24.5	17.6	7.0	65.4	41.3	24.1

¹ Includes individuals with bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and professional degrees.

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. Educational attainment is determined during the month of the respondent's 25th or 35th birthday.

Table 6. Partner status at age 25 and age 35 by educational attainment, sex, race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Characteristic	Percent of individuals					
	Age 25 in 2005-2009			Age 35 in 2015-2019		
	Single	Married	Cohabiting	Single	Married	Cohabiting
Total	52.7	26.9	20.4	30.9	52.5	16.7
Less than a high school diploma	47.4	24.5	28.1	38.2	36.8	25.1
High school graduates, no college ¹	47.4	28.6	24.0	34.4	42.9	22.7
Some college or associate degree	52.1	28.8	19.0	33.7	50.0	16.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	61.1	22.9	16.0	24.1	64.5	11.3
Men	59.7	21.9	18.4	32.0	50.0	18.0
Less than a high school diploma	54.1	19.9	25.9	39.7	39.2	21.2
High school graduates, no college ¹	54.2	23.1	22.6	35.9	39.2	24.9
Some college or associate degree	60.1	23.3	16.6	34.5	48.0	17.5
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	69.6	18.4	12.1	23.5	65.3	11.2
Women	45.3	32.2	22.5	29.7	55.0	15.3
Less than a high school diploma	39.2	30.0	30.8	36.3	33.9	29.8
High school graduates, no college ¹	37.8	36.4	25.9	32.1	48.6	19.3
Some college or associate degree	44.0	34.5	21.5	32.8	52.2	15.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	54.7	26.4	18.9	24.6	64.0	11.5
White, non-Hispanic	49.0	30.2	20.8	24.7	58.5	16.8
Less than a high school diploma	39.9	33.0	27.2	34.1	39.1	26.8
High school graduates, no college ¹	42.4	32.6	25.1	27.2	49.0	23.8
Some college or associate degree	47.9	32.3	19.8	27.8	55.5	16.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	58.5	24.8	16.7	19.3	69.2	11.5
Black, non-Hispanic	68.2	13.5	18.3	53.4	32.6	14.1
Less than a high school diploma	71.0	6.8	22.2	54.2	27.5	18.3
High school graduates, no college ¹	66.9	11.9	21.2	57.3	24.9	17.8
Some college or associate degree	66.7	16.3	17.0	52.6	34.3	13.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	73.1	15.5	11.4	49.4	41.2	9.4
Hispanic or Latino	49.3	29.4	21.3	33.2	47.2	19.6
Less than a high school diploma	37.4	24.6	38.0	31.3	41.0	27.6
High school graduates, no college ¹	46.1	32.9	21.1	35.2	43.0	21.8
Some college or associate degree	51.7	29.6	18.7	34.4	46.3	19.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	62.8	24.9	12.3	28.9	57.7	13.4

¹ Includes individuals with a high school diploma or equivalent (General Education Development (GED)) credential.

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

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 35 when interviewed in 2019-20. 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 and partner status are determined during the month of the respondent's 25th or 35th birthday.

Table 7. Percent of weeks individuals were employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force from age 18 through age 34 in 1998-2019 by partner status, educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Characteristic	Percent of total weeks while ages 18 to 34 in 1998-2019								
	Single			Married			Cohabiting		
	Employed	Unemployed	Not in labor force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in labor force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in labor force
Total, ages 18 to 34 in 1998-2019.....	70.5	8.1	21.5	78.4	4.1	17.5	74.8	6.8	18.4
Less than a high school diploma	46.5	12.9	40.6	60.0	9.9	30.1	52.9	10.9	36.2
High school graduates, no college ¹	65.5	10.1	24.4	74.4	6.1	19.5	72.2	8.1	19.7
Some college or associate degree	71.9	8.3	19.8	78.6	4.5	16.9	77.6	6.5	15.9
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	80.0	4.3	15.7	81.9	2.2	15.9	82.5	3.9	13.6
Men	71.3	8.6	20.1	84.0	4.5	11.5	77.0	7.5	15.5
Less than a high school diploma	56.6	14.4	29.1	72.8	11.2	16.0	63.1	11.2	25.7
High school graduates, no college ¹	67.4	10.6	22.0	83.8	6.9	9.3	75.7	8.5	15.8
Some college or associate degree	73.7	8.1	18.2	85.6	4.5	9.9	79.6	7.1	13.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	78.0	4.5	17.5	84.1	2.2	13.7	80.4	4.8	14.8
Women	69.5	7.4	23.1	73.1	3.7	23.3	72.0	5.9	22.1
Less than a high school diploma	33.1	10.9	56.0	42.0	8.0	50.0	44.1	10.7	45.2
High school graduates, no college ¹	62.1	9.2	28.7	62.7	5.1	32.3	65.2	7.2	27.6
Some college or associate degree	69.8	8.5	21.6	72.0	4.5	23.6	75.2	5.8	19.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	81.5	4.2	14.3	80.1	2.2	17.7	84.1	3.2	12.7
White, non-Hispanic	73.0	6.6	20.4	79.6	3.5	17.0	77.3	6.1	16.6
Less than a high school diploma	50.7	11.4	37.9	63.1	9.2	27.7	54.9	11.3	33.7
High school graduates, no college ¹	70.3	8.6	21.2	75.6	5.4	19.0	75.4	7.5	17.1
Some college or associate degree	72.3	6.9	20.8	79.9	3.8	16.3	79.6	5.7	14.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	81.2	3.6	15.2	82.2	2.0	15.8	83.3	3.3	13.5
Black, non-Hispanic	64.0	11.3	24.8	72.2	8.4	19.4	65.5	10.5	24.0
Less than a high school diploma	35.7	15.1	49.2	43.7	14.7	41.5	40.9	14.2	44.9
High school graduates, no college ¹	56.2	13.1	30.7	68.7	11.3	20.0	64.6	10.8	24.6
Some college or associate degree	69.3	11.3	19.5	72.1	9.0	19.0	68.4	10.7	20.9
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	77.6	6.6	15.8	83.2	3.5	13.2	80.2	6.2	13.6
Hispanic or Latino	73.0	7.8	19.2	76.8	4.3	18.9	71.8	7.0	21.2
Less than a high school diploma	56.5	13.3	30.2	62.9	8.4	28.7	58.1	7.4	34.5
High school graduates, no college ¹	67.4	9.3	23.3	73.2	5.8	21.0	70.2	8.0	21.8
Some college or associate degree	77.5	6.6	15.9	79.0	3.9	17.2	75.4	6.5	18.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	80.3	5.2	14.5	81.7	2.3	16.1	78.7	5.8	15.5

¹ Includes individuals with a high school diploma or equivalent (General Education Development (GED)) credential.

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

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 35 when interviewed in 2019-20. 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 and partner status are determined during the month of the respondent's 35th birthday.

Table 8. Percent of individuals whose health limits the kind or amount of work they can do by age, educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Characteristic	Percent of individuals	
	Age 25 (in 2007-2010) ³	Age 35 (in 2014-2020)
Total.....	6.1	9.0
Less than a high school diploma	13.8	23.0
High school graduates, no college ¹	8.9	12.3
Some college or associate degree	5.5	9.4
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	3.5	3.9
Men	5.3	7.4
Less than a high school diploma	7.2	14.9
High school graduates, no college ¹	7.4	10.8
Some college or associate degree	4.8	7.5
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	3.5	2.7
Women	7.0	10.6
Less than a high school diploma	21.4	32.5
High school graduates, no college ¹	11.4	14.6
Some college or associate degree	6.2	11.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	3.6	4.9
White non-Hispanic	6.1	9.1
Less than a high school diploma	14.3	24.2
High school graduates, no college ¹	8.4	12.7
Some college or associate degree	6.2	10.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	3.6	4.4
Black non-Hispanic	6.1	9.9
Less than a high school diploma	17.4	24.2
High school graduates, no college ¹	8.6	11.8
Some college or associate degree	4.1	9.4
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	2.8	2.4
Hispanic or Latino	5.9	7.8
Less than a high school diploma	9.1	17.7
High school graduates, no college ¹	11.3	11.4
Some college or associate degree	3.1	6.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	2.2	2.3

¹ Includes individuals with a high school diploma or equivalent (General Education Development (GED)) credential.

² Includes individuals with bachelor's, master's, professional, or doctoral degrees.

³ In 2007, the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 began asking respondents whether health limits the kind or amount of work they can do.

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 35 when interviewed in 2019-20. 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 determined during the month of the respondent's 35th birthday. Health limit is determined for the interview date in which the respondent first turned age 25 or age 35. If not interviewed at that age, then health limit is determined using data from the prior age.