

# the condition of education 2004



## INDICATOR 13

# Youth Neither Enrolled nor Working

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2004*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2004* visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004077>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Social and Cultural Outcomes

## Youth Neither Enrolled nor Working

*In 2003, 13 percent of all persons ages 16–24 were neither enrolled in school nor working, a decrease from 1986. The gap between the percentage of poor youth and others neither enrolled nor working decreased over this period.*

This indicator provides information on the transitions of youth when most are finishing their education and joining the workforce. This is a critical period for young people as they are achieving their educational goals and choosing their career paths. In 2003, 13 percent of persons ages 16–24 were neither enrolled in school nor working, a decrease from 16 percent in 1986 (see supplemental table 13-1). A person may be not enrolled in school or working for many reasons, including the fact that they are looking for but are unable to find work or that they have left the workforce temporarily or permanently to start a family.

In 2003, the percentages of White and Asian/Pacific Islander youth not enrolled in school or working were lower than the percentages of Hispanic, Black, and American Indian youth. The percentage of Hispanic youth was lower than the percentages of Black and American Indian youth. Between 1986 and 2003, the percentages of Black, White, and Hispanic youth ages 16–24 who were not enrolled in school or working decreased, while the percentages of American Indian and Asian/Pacific Islander youth showed no clear trend between 1988 and 2003.

The percentage of youth neither enrolled nor working in 2003 was positively related to their poverty status. From 1986 to 2003, however, the rate among poor youth decreased more than the rate among “near poor”<sup>1</sup> while the rate for “nonpoor” youth showed no measurable change, thus narrowing the gap between poor youth and others. Education was also related to youth being neither enrolled nor working: in 2003, 44 percent of youth not currently in high school with less than a high school diploma were not enrolled or working, compared with 9 percent of those with a bachelor’s or higher degree. The percentage of youth neither enrolled nor working decreased from 1986 to 2003 among those not currently in high school who were not high school completers.

Females ages 16–24 were more likely than males to be neither enrolled in school nor working in 2003 (15 and 11 percent, respectively). The rate for females decreased from 1986 to 2003, while no change was detected for males. Age was also related to the rate at which youth were neither enrolled nor working: 3 percent of those ages 16–17 were neither enrolled nor working in 2003, compared with 18 percent of those ages 23–24.

<sup>1</sup>“Near-poor” is defined as having an income 100–199 percent of the poverty level, and “nonpoor” is defined as having an income twice the poverty level or more. See *supplemental note 1* for more information on poverty.

<sup>2</sup>American Indian includes Alaska Native, Black includes African American, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic includes Latino. Racial categories exclude Hispanic origin. Other race/ethnicities are included in the total but are not shown separately.

NOTE: In 1994, the survey methodology for the Current Population Survey (CPS) was changed and weights were adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for more information and for an explanation of the category “neither enrolled in school nor working.”

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), March Supplement, selected years 1986–2003, previously unpublished tabulation (December 2003).



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Supplemental Notes 1, 2  
Supplemental Table 13-1

**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: Percentage of persons ages 16–24 who were neither enrolled in school nor working, by race/ethnicity: Selected years 1986–2003**



## Youth Neither Enrolled nor Working

**Table 13-1. Percentage of persons ages 16–24 who were neither enrolled in school nor working, by selected characteristics: Selected years 1986–2003**

Characteristic	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2003
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>13.0</b>
<b>Sex</b>										
Male	11.4	10.3	9.8	12.3	11.2	10.5	9.9	8.7	11.5	11.1
Female	20.3	18.8	17.7	17.8	17.6	16.3	14.0	14.3	15.3	14.9
<b>Age</b>										
16–17	5.1	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.5	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.5
18–19	14.9	15.2	13.3	15.2	14.6	14.2	11.6	11.3	13.7	13.9
20–22	20.6	18.3	16.9	18.1	18.7	17.3	15.4	14.9	18.3	16.6
23–24	20.2	18.8	18.0	20.1	17.2	16.6	16.6	15.2	17.8	18.4
<b>Education</b>										
Less than high school, not enrolled in high school	49.5	51.1	47.8	53.1	51.5	49.7	43.3	39.1	46.2	44.3
High school diploma or equivalent	26.5	24.5	23.5	24.9	24.4	21.8	21.1	20.6	24.0	25.1
Some college, including vocational/technical	6.8	5.3	5.2	6.0	6.5	5.9	5.5	4.8	6.6	6.3
Bachelor's degree or higher	6.0	7.1	4.8	6.8	4.7	6.8	5.1	9.2	6.6	9.0
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>1</sup></b>										
American Indian	—	32.1	27.5	25.0	20.5	22.5	20.8	19.5	24.1	27.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	8.9	7.6	8.7	8.3	7.7	7.4	7.8	8.5	9.2
Black	26.2	25.2	22.2	25.7	22.0	20.4	17.4	19.2	21.1	20.3
White	13.0	11.3	11.1	11.8	11.3	10.2	9.1	8.3	10.3	10.0
Hispanic	22.7	23.8	21.5	21.7	22.8	22.4	19.2	18.1	19.1	17.6
<b>Citizenship</b>										
U.S.-born	—	—	—	—	13.6	12.8	11.1	10.8	13.0	12.5
Naturalized U.S. citizen	—	—	—	—	12.9	8.7	10.6	10.0	9.5	10.7
Non-U.S. citizen	—	—	—	—	23.2	20.4	20.8	18.6	17.9	18.5
<b>Poverty status<sup>2</sup></b>										
Poor	35.8	36.5	33.1	35.8	32.5	29.9	26.0	23.9	29.0	28.2
Near-poor	20.2	19.7	18.3	18.9	16.9	16.3	16.3	15.5	17.1	16.7
Nonpoor	8.8	8.2	8.0	8.1	7.7	7.3	6.5	6.9	8.5	8.1

—Not available.

<sup>1</sup>American Indian includes Alaska Native, Black includes African American, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic includes Latino. Racial categories exclude Hispanic origin. Other race/ethnicities are included in the total but are not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>"Near-poor" is defined as having an income 100–199 percent of the poverty level, and "nonpoor" is defined as having an income twice the poverty level or more. See *supplemental note 1* for more information on poverty.

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for more information and for an explanation of the category "neither enrolled in school nor working."

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), March Supplement, selected years 1986–2003, previously unpublished tabulation (December 2003).

## Youth Neither Enrolled nor Working

**Table S13.** Standard errors for the percentage of persons ages 16–24 who were neither enrolled in school nor working, by race/ethnicity: Selected years 1986–2003

Race/ethnicity	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2003
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.27</b>
American Indian	†	4.38	4.31	3.96	3.89	3.71	3.90	3.37	2.91	3.75
Asian/Pacific Islander	†	1.26	1.13	1.38	1.35	1.17	1.18	1.18	1.01	1.17
Black	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.05	1.07	1.06	1.03	1.05	0.91	0.88
White	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.33	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.32	0.30	0.29
Hispanic	1.16	1.16	1.06	1.08	1.14	1.10	1.04	0.93	0.84	0.76

†Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), March Supplement, selected years 1986–2003, previously unpublished tabulation (December 2003).

## Youth Neither Enrolled nor Working

**Table S13-1. Standard errors for the percentage of persons ages 16–24 who were neither enrolled in school nor working, by selected characteristics: Selected years 1986–2003**

Characteristic	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2003
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.27</b>
Sex										
Male	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.41	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.38	0.38	0.36
Female	0.44	0.44	0.45	0.47	0.50	0.49	0.47	0.46	0.41	0.40
Age										
16–17	0.36	0.34	0.37	0.40	0.43	0.40	0.34	0.35	0.28	0.28
18–19	0.61	0.63	0.59	0.68	0.71	0.71	0.65	0.63	0.59	0.58
20–22	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.57	0.64	0.65	0.62	0.59	0.57	0.53
23–24	0.64	0.65	0.68	0.73	0.71	0.75	0.80	0.74	0.70	0.69
Education										
Less than high school, not enrolled in high school	1.09	1.15	1.16	1.26	1.34	1.36	1.43	1.32	1.14	1.16
High school diploma or equivalent	0.67	0.69	0.74	0.76	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.79	0.73	0.74
Some college, including vocational/technical	0.36	0.33	0.33	0.36	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.37	0.40	0.36
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.75	0.88	0.64	0.92	0.76	0.97	0.84	1.11	0.79	0.98
Race/ethnicity										
American Indian	†	4.38	4.31	3.96	3.89	3.71	3.90	3.37	2.91	3.75
Asian/Pacific Islander	†	1.26	1.13	1.38	1.35	1.17	1.18	1.18	1.01	1.17
Black	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.05	1.07	1.06	1.03	1.05	0.91	0.88
White	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.33	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.32	0.30	0.29
Hispanic	1.16	1.16	1.06	1.08	1.14	1.10	1.04	0.93	0.84	0.76
Citizenship										
U.S.-born	†	†	†	†	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.31	0.29	0.28
Naturalized U.S. citizen	†	†	†	†	2.94	2.23	2.20	2.26	1.86	1.77
Non-U.S. citizen	†	†	†	†	1.42	1.31	1.39	1.19	1.02	1.03
Poverty status										
Poor	0.90	1.00	1.02	1.01	1.02	1.02	1.03	0.98	0.93	0.90
Near-poor	0.71	0.75	0.74	0.76	0.74	0.76	0.80	0.77	0.68	0.67
Nonpoor	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.30	0.31	0.32	0.30	0.30	0.29	0.27

†Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), March Supplement, selected years 1986–2003, previously unpublished tabulation (December 2003).