

Youth Neither Enrolled in School Nor Working

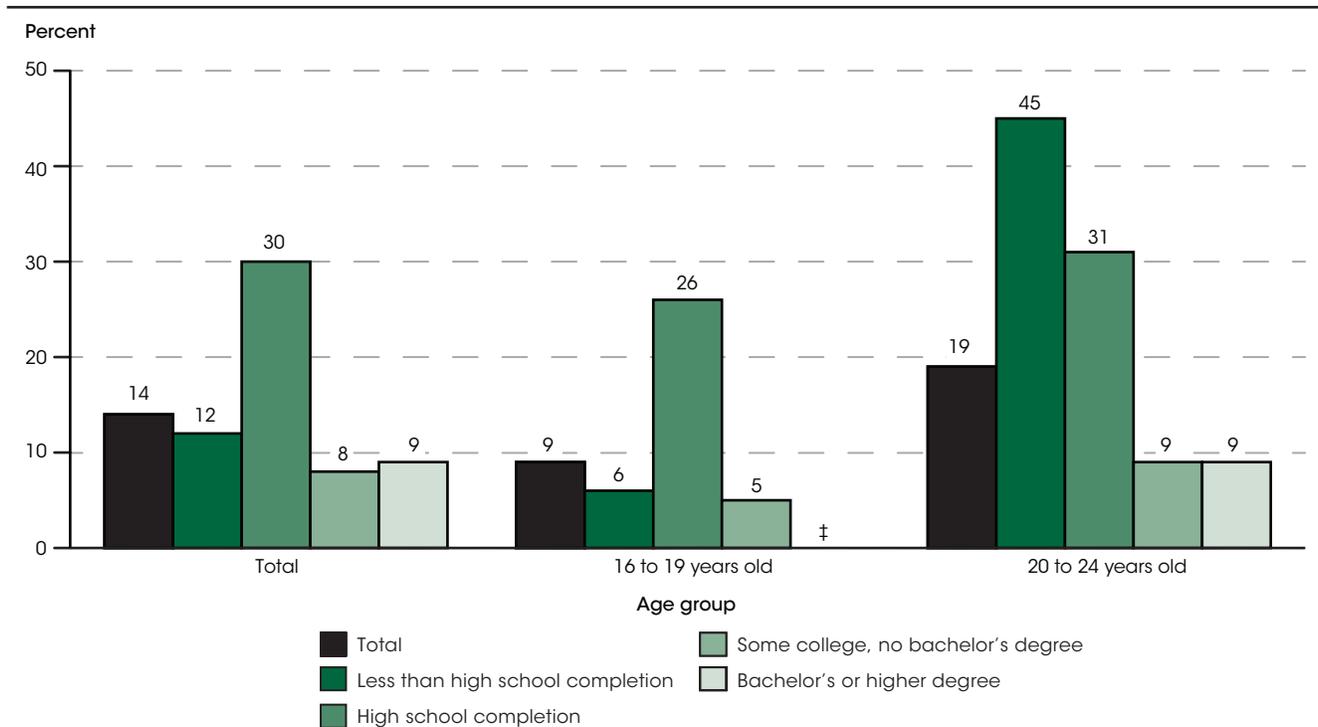
In 2013, about 14 percent of youth ages 16 to 24 were neither enrolled in school nor working. For youth overall and for those ages 16 to 19, the percentage neither enrolled in school nor working was highest among those who had completed high school only (30 percent and 26 percent, respectively); for youth ages 20 to 24, the percentage was highest among those who had not completed high school (45 percent).

Youth who are neither enrolled in school nor working may face limited future prospects because they are detached from these core activities for this age group.¹ There are many reasons why youth between the ages of 16 and 24

may be neither enrolled in school nor working. For example, they may be seeking but unable to find work or they may have left the workforce or school, either temporarily or permanently, for personal or financial reasons. This indicator provides information on youth at an age when most are transitioning into postsecondary education or the workforce. This is a critical period for young people as they pursue educational and other goals.

¹Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2013*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Figure 1. Percentage of persons 16 to 24 years old who were neither enrolled in school nor working, by age group and educational attainment: 2013



‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases for a reliable estimate).

NOTE: High school completion includes equivalency credentials, such as the General Educational Development (GED) credential. Some college, no bachelor's degree includes persons with no college degree as well as those with an associate's degree.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), March 2013. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2013*, table 501.30.

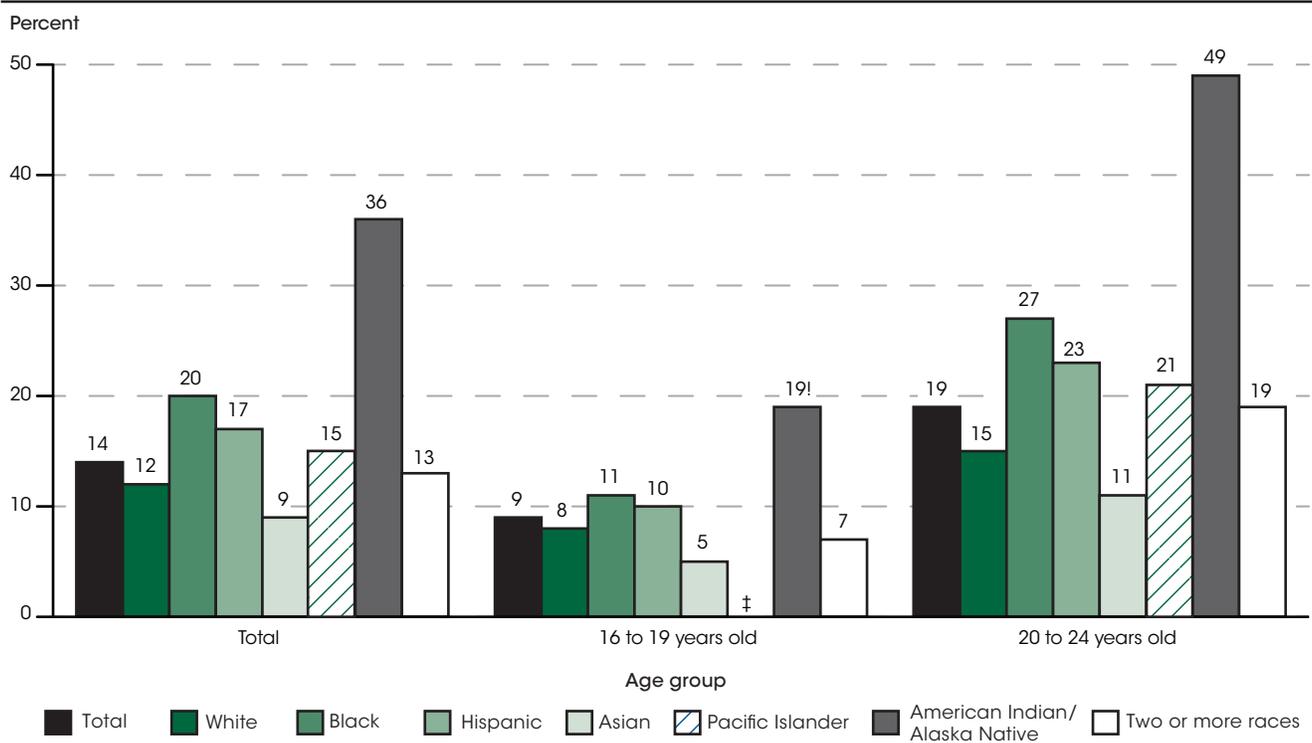
In 2013, about 14 percent of youth ages 16 to 24 were neither enrolled in school nor working. This percentage varied by level of educational attainment and was generally higher for those with lower levels of education. In 2013, the percentage of youth ages 16 to 24 who were neither enrolled in school nor working was highest for

those who had completed high school only (30 percent), followed by those who had not completed high school (12 percent). The percentage neither enrolled in school nor working for those who had completed some college was not measurably different from the percentage for those who had attained a bachelor's or higher degree.

Among youth ages 16 to 19, the percentage neither enrolled in school nor working was higher for those who had completed high school only (26 percent) than for those who had not completed high school (6 percent) and those who had completed some college (5 percent).

In contrast, among youth ages 20 to 24, the percentage was highest for those who had not completed high school (45 percent), followed by those who had completed high school only (31 percent).

Figure 2. Percentage of persons 16 to 24 years old who were neither enrolled in school nor working, by age group and race/ethnicity: 2013



! Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for this estimate is between 30 and 50 percent.

† Reporting standards not met (too few cases for a reliable estimate).

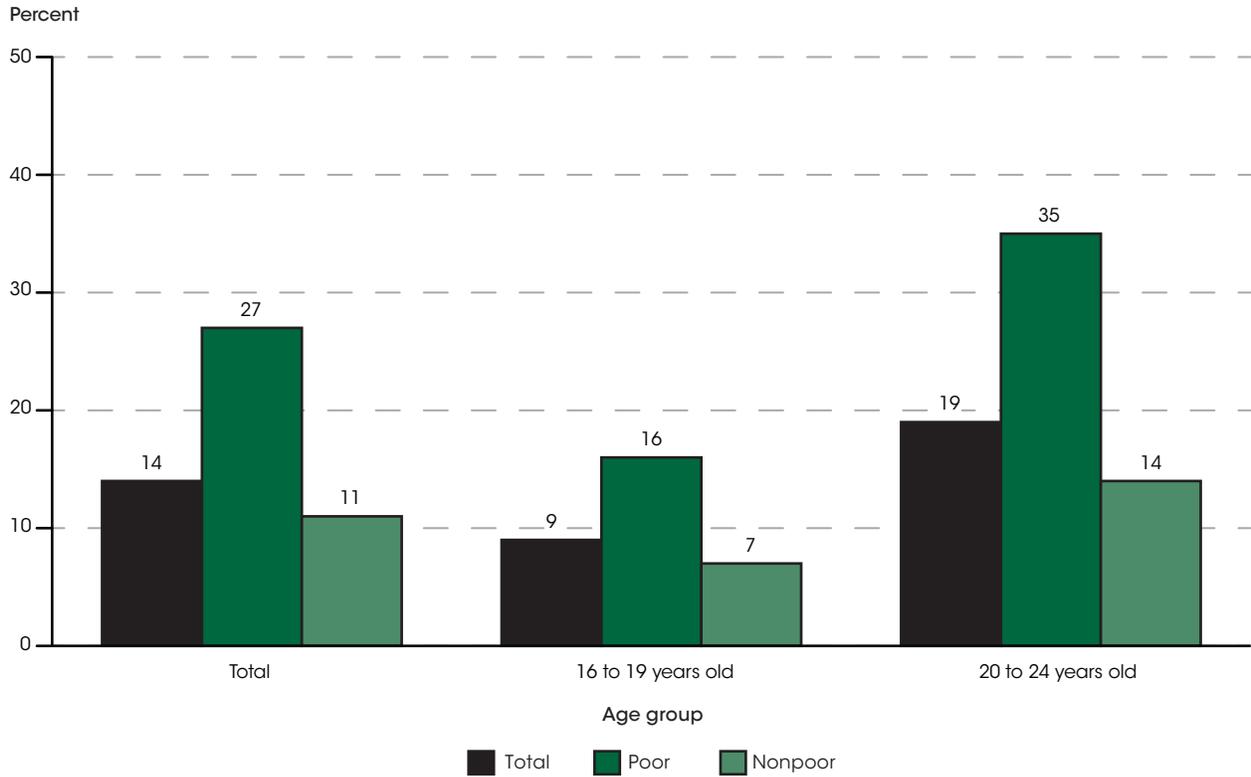
NOTE: Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), March 2013. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2013*, table 501.30.

In 2013, the percentage of youth who were neither enrolled in school nor working was higher for youth ages 20 to 24 than for youth ages 16 to 19, both overall (19 vs. 9 percent) and across all racial/ethnic groups. The percentage of youth ages 16 to 24 who were neither enrolled in school nor working was higher for American Indian/Alaska Native youth (36 percent) than for youth of any other racial/ethnic group. In addition, the percentage was higher for Blacks (20 percent) and Hispanics (17 percent) than for youth of Two or more races (13 percent), Whites (12 percent), and Asians (9 percent).

Among youth ages 16 to 19, the percentage neither enrolled in school nor working was higher for Blacks (11 percent) and Hispanics (10 percent) than for Whites (8 percent) and Asians (5 percent). The percentage was also higher for Blacks than for youth of Two or more races (7 percent). Among youth ages 20 to 24, the percentage neither enrolled in school nor working was higher for American Indians/Alaska Natives (49 percent) than for any other racial/ethnic group, and it was higher for Blacks (27 percent) and Hispanics (23 percent) than for Whites (15 percent) and Asians (11 percent). In addition, the percentage was higher for Blacks than for Hispanics and youth of Two or more races (19 percent).

Figure 3. Percentage of persons 16 to 24 years old who were neither enrolled in school nor working, by age group and family poverty status: 2013



NOTE: *Poor* is defined to include families below the poverty threshold, and *nonpoor* is defined to include families at or above the poverty threshold. For information about how the Census Bureau determines who is in poverty, see <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html>. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), March 2013. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2013*, table 501.30.

In 2013, the percentage of youth ages 16 to 24 who were neither enrolled in school nor working was higher for those from poor families (27 percent) than for their peers from nonpoor families (11 percent). The same pattern was observed among youth ages 16 to 19 and youth ages 20 to 24.

Similar to the pattern discussed above overall and for each racial/ethnic group, the percentage of youth who

were neither enrolled in school nor working was higher for youth ages 20 to 24 than for youth ages 16 to 19 for those from both poor and nonpoor families. Among youth from poor families, the percentage neither enrolled in school nor working was 35 percent for those ages 20 to 24, compared with 16 percent for those ages 16 to 19. Among youth from nonpoor families, the percentage was 14 percent for those ages 20 to 24 versus 7 percent for those ages 16 to 19.

Reference tables: *Digest of Education Statistics 2013*, table 501.30

Glossary: Bachelor's degree, Racial/ethnic group