

The Condition of Education 2009

Indicator 20 *Status Dropout Rates*

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2009*. 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 2009*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009081>) or contact ED PUBS at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

Suggested Citation:

Planty, M., Hussar, W., Snyder, T., Kena, G., KewalRamani, A., Kemp, J., Bianco, K., Dinkes, R. (2009). *The Condition of Education 2009* (NCES 2009-081). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.

Status Dropout Rates

In general, the status dropout rates for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics declined between 1980 and 2007. In 2007, foreign-born Hispanics dropped out at a higher rate than native-born Hispanics, while the opposite trend by nativity held for Whites and Blacks.

The *status dropout rate* represents the percentage of 16- through 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not earned a high school credential (either a diploma or equivalency credential, such as a General Educational Development [GED] certificate). In this indicator, status dropout rates are estimated using both the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Current Population Survey (CPS). The 2007 ACS allows for more detailed comparisons of status dropout rates by race/ethnicity, nativity, and sex than does the CPS. And unlike the CPS, the ACS includes persons living in military barracks in the United States and institutionalized persons. The CPS, however, provides several decades of historical trends on status dropouts that are not available from the ACS. For more information on these surveys, see *supplemental notes 2 and 3*.

In 2007, the status dropout rate of 16- through 24-year-olds was 9 percent (see table A-20-1). Differences in status dropout rates were found by sex and race/ethnicity. A higher percentage of males than females were status dropouts (11 vs. 8 percent). This pattern was evident across certain racial/ethnic groups, namely Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics.

The status dropout rate includes all 16- through 24-year-old dropouts, regardless of when they last attended school, as well as individuals without a high school credential who may never have attended school in the United States and who may never have earned a high school credential. Therefore, examining status dropout rates for the native-born population may provide a more accurate measure of those who have attended U.S. schools. In 2007, the status dropout rate was higher for native-born Hispanics than for native-born Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Whites. No measurable differences, however, were found between native-born Hispanics and native-born Blacks.

Overall, the status dropout rate for native-born 16- through 24-year-olds was lower than that for their

foreign-born peers (8 vs. 21 percent). Native-born Hispanics, Asians, and Pacific Islanders had lower status dropout rates than their foreign-born counterparts, whereas native-born Whites and Blacks had higher status dropout rates than their foreign-born counterparts. Higher dropout rates among foreign-born Hispanics partially account for the high dropout rates for all Hispanic young adults. Among Hispanic 16- through 24-year-olds who were born outside the United States, the 2007 status dropout rate was 34 percent—higher than the rate for native-born Hispanics (11 percent).

The CPS allows for an examination of changes in status dropout rates over time. Based on the CPS, the status dropout rate declined from 14 percent in 1980 to 9 percent in 2007 (see table A-20-2). A decline was also seen between 2000 and 2007, the more recent years of this time span (from 11 percent to 9 percent).

Status dropout rates and changes in these rates over time differ by race/ethnicity. In general, the status dropout rates for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics declined between 1980 and 2007. However, for each year during that period, the status dropout rate was lower for Whites and Blacks than for Hispanics. The rate for Asians/Pacific Islanders was also lower than those for Hispanics and Blacks between 1989 and 2007. Although the gaps between the rates of Blacks and Whites and Hispanics and Whites have decreased, the decreases occurred in different time periods. The Black-White gap narrowed during the 1980s, with no measurable change between 1990 and 2007. In contrast, the Hispanic-White gap narrowed between 1990 and 2007, with no measurable change in the gap during the 1980s.



For more information: *Tables A-20-1 and A-20-2; Indicators 19, 21, and 23*

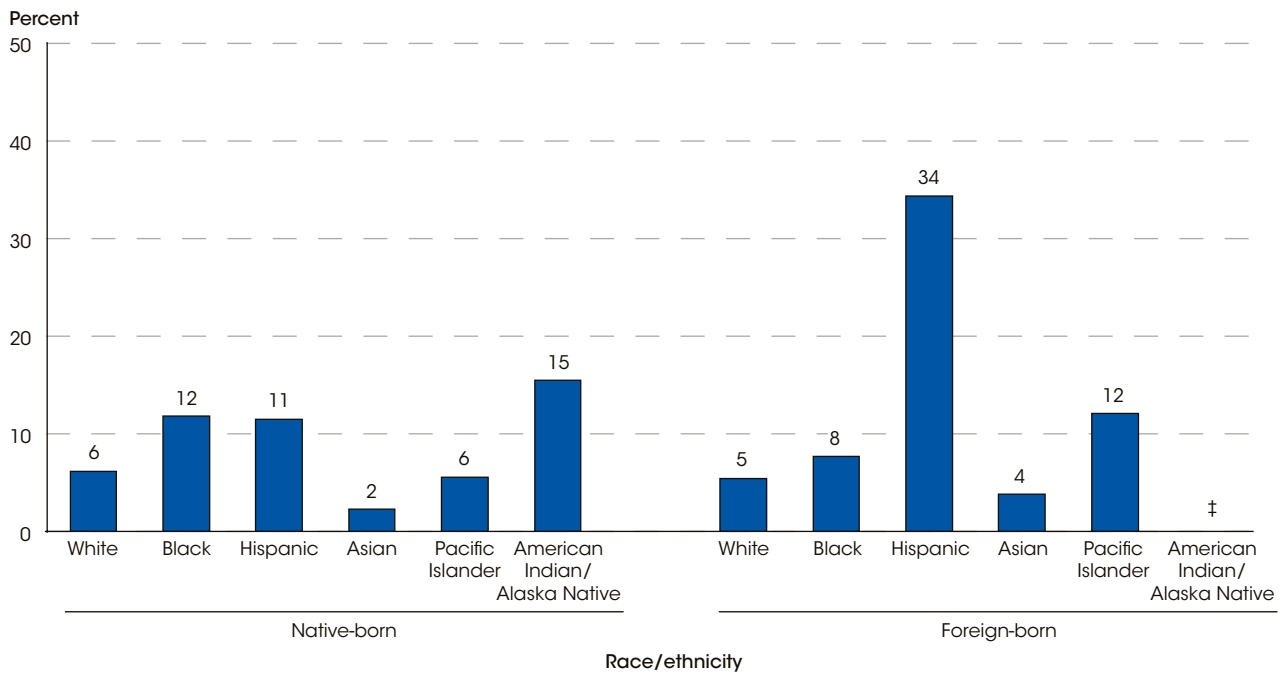
Glossary: *GED certificate, High school equivalency certificate, Status dropout rate*

Technical Notes

The United States refers to the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. For more information on race/ethnicity, see *supplemental note 1*. Estimates of the status dropout rate using the CPS include civilian, noninstitutionalized 16- through 24-year-olds. Young adults in the military or those who are incarcerated, for instance, are not included in this measure. However, the 2007 ACS includes noninstitutionalized and institutionalized group

quarters. Therefore, due to this and other methodological differences between the CPS and ACS, status dropout estimates from the two surveys are not directly comparable. For more information on these surveys, see *supplemental notes 2 and 3*. The status dropout rate reported in this indicator is one of a number of rates measuring high school dropout and completion behavior in the United States. For more information about the status dropout rate reported here, see *supplemental note 6*.

Figure 20-1. Status dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds, by race/ethnicity and nativity: American Community Survey 2007

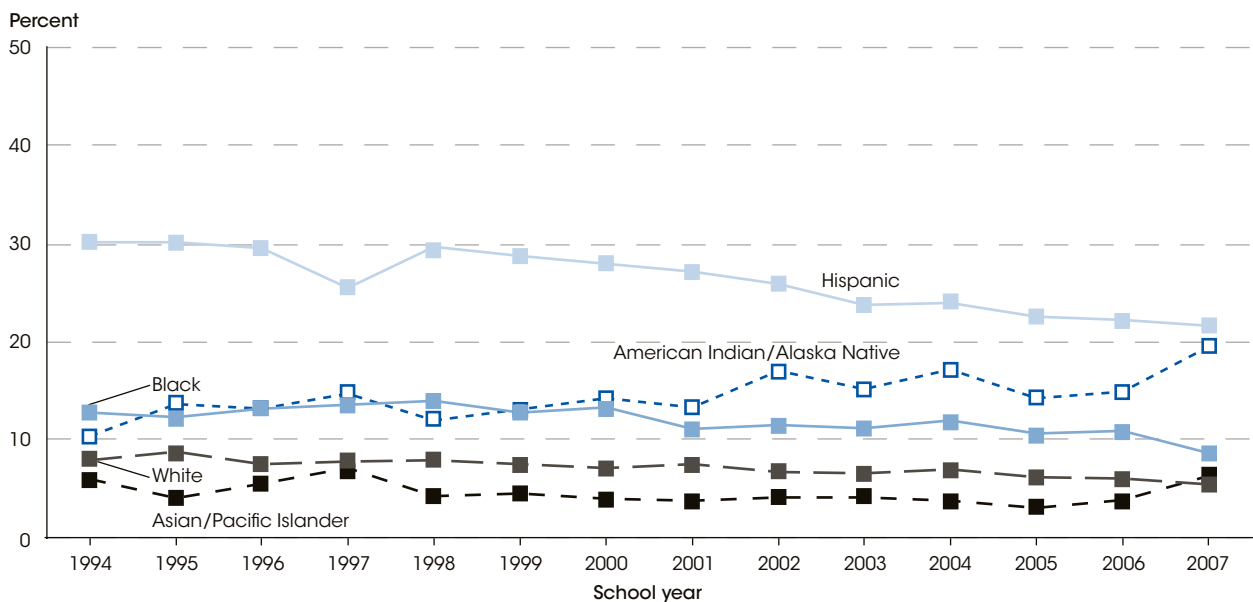


‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

NOTE: The *status dropout rate* is the percentage of 16- through 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in high school and who have not earned a high school credential (either a diploma or equivalency credential such as a General Educational Development [GED] certificate). The status dropout rate includes all dropouts regardless of when they last attended school. This figure uses a different data source than figure 20-2, and therefore, estimates are not directly comparable to the 2007 estimates in figure 20-2. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. For more information on race/ethnicity and the American Community Survey (ACS), see *supplemental notes 1* and *3*. For more information on measures of student persistence and progress, see *supplemental note 6*.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2007.

Figure 20-2. Status dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds in the civilian, noninstitutionalized population, by race/ethnicity: October Current Population Survey 1994-2007



NOTE: The *status dropout rate* is the percentage of 16- through 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in high school and who have not earned a high school credential (either a diploma or equivalency credential such as a General Educational Development [GED] certificate). The status dropout rate includes all dropouts regardless of when they last attended school. Data for American Indians/Alaska Natives in 1999 have been suppressed due to unstable estimates. This figure uses a different data source than figure 20-1, and therefore, estimates are not directly comparable to the 2007 estimates in figure 20-1. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. For more information on race/ethnicity and the Current Population Survey (CPS), see *supplemental notes 1* and *2*. For more information on measures of student persistence and progress, see *supplemental note 6*.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 1994-2007.

Supplemental Tables to Indicator 20

Status Dropout Rates

Table A-20-1. Number of status dropouts and status dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds, by nativity and selected characteristics: American Community Survey 2007

Characteristic	Number of status dropouts (in thousands)	Status dropout rate (percent)	Native-born dropout rate (percent)	Foreign-born dropout rate (percent)	Percent of all status dropouts
Total¹	3,583	9.3	7.7	21.2	100.0
Sex					
Male	2,160	10.9	8.8	25.0	60.3
Female	1,422	7.6	6.5	16.6	39.7
Race/ethnicity ²					
White	1,426	6.1	6.1	5.4	39.8
Black	635	11.5	11.8	7.6	17.7
Hispanic	1,349	19.9	11.5	34.3	37.7
Asian	47	3.0	2.2	3.7	1.3
Pacific Islander	5	7.6	5.5	12.0	0.2
American Indian/ Alaska Native	49	15.3	15.4	‡	1.4
More than one race	58	7.6	7.8	3.8	1.6
Race/ethnicity ² by sex					
Male					
White	821	6.8	6.8	6.3	38.0
Black	392	13.9	14.3	8.7	18.1
Hispanic	851	23.7	13.3	38.9	39.4
Asian	24	3.0	2.6	3.5	1.1
Pacific Islander	4	9.5	8.0!	13.5!	0.2
American Indian/ Alaska Native	27	16.2	16.3	‡	1.3
More than one race	33	8.4	8.8	3.5	1.5
Female					
White	604	5.3	5.4	4.4	42.5
Black	243	8.9	9.1	6.6	17.1
Hispanic	499	15.7	9.6	28.0	35.1
Asian	22	2.9	1.8	4.0	1.6
Pacific Islander	2	5.6	2.5!	10.8	0.1
American Indian/ Alaska Native	21	14.3	14.4	‡	1.5
More than one race	26	6.7	6.9	4.2	1.8
Age					
16	141	3.2	2.9	6.9	3.9
17	232	5.3	4.7	12.1	6.5
18	388	8.4	7.5	16.7	10.8
19	424	9.9	8.8	19.4	11.8
20-24	2,397	11.5	9.2	25.0	66.9
Living arrangement					
Households	3,280	9.3	7.6	21.8	91.6
Institutionalized group quarters ³	247	45.9	44.9	56.1	6.9
Noninstitutionalized group quarters ⁴	55	2.1	1.8	4.2	1.5
Region					
Northeast	487	7.1	5.9	14.7	13.6
Midwest	637	7.6	6.8	18.4	17.8
South	1,533	11.0	9.4	23.5	42.8
West	926	10.1	7.3	23.7	25.8

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

¹ Total includes other race/ethnicity categories not separately shown.

² Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

³ Institutionalized group quarters include adult and juvenile correctional facilities, nursing facilities, and other health care facilities.

⁴ Noninstitutionalized group quarters include college and university housing, military barracks, and other noninstitutional facilities such as workers and religious group quarters and temporary shelters for the homeless. Among those counted in noninstitutionalized group quarters in the ACS, only the residents of military barracks are not included in the civilian noninstitutionalized population in the CPS.

NOTE: The *status dropout rate* is the percentage of 16- through 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in high school and who have not earned a high school credential (either a diploma or equivalency credential, such as a General Educational Development [GED] certificate). This table uses a different data source than table A-20-2, and therefore, estimates are not directly comparable to the 2007 estimates in table A-20-2. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. For more information on race/ethnicity and region, see *supplemental note 1*.

For more information on the ACS, see *supplemental note 3*. For more information on measures of student persistence and progress, see *supplemental note 6*.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2007.

Table A-20-2. Status dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds in the civilian, noninstitutionalized population, by race/ethnicity and nativity: October Current Population Survey 1980-2007

Year	Total ¹	Race/ethnicity ²									
		White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Pacific Islander		American Indian/ Alaska Native	
		Total	Native-born	Total	Native-born	Total	Native-born	Total	Native-born	Total	Native-born
1980	14.1	11.4	—	19.1	—	35.2	—	—	—	—	—
1981	13.9	11.4	—	18.4	—	33.2	—	—	—	—	—
1982	13.9	11.4	—	18.4	—	31.7	—	—	—	—	—
1983	13.7	11.2	—	18.0	—	31.6	—	—	—	—	—
1984	13.1	11.0	—	15.5	—	29.8	—	—	—	—	—
1985	12.6	10.4	—	15.2	—	27.6	—	—	—	—	—
1986	12.2	9.7	—	14.2	—	30.1	—	—	—	—	—
1987	12.7	10.4	—	14.1	—	28.6	—	—	—	—	—
1988	12.9	9.6	—	14.5	—	35.8	—	—	—	—	—
1989	12.6	9.4	—	13.9	—	33.0	—	7.5	—	21.6!	—
1990	12.1	9.0	—	13.2	—	32.4	—	4.9!	—	16.4!	—
1991	12.5	8.9	—	13.6	—	35.3	—	3.5!	—	18.7!	—
1992	11.0	7.7	—	13.7	—	29.4	—	5.7	—	17.5!	—
1993	11.0	7.9	—	13.6	—	27.5	—	5.8!	—	14.6!	—
1994	11.5	7.7	7.7	12.6	11.7	30.0	17.0	5.8!	4.3!	10.2!	10.1!
1995	12.0	8.6	8.6	12.1	12.2!	30.0	17.9	3.9	1.8!	13.4!	13.2!
1996	11.1	7.3	7.4	13.0	13.2!	29.4	18.9	5.3	3.8!	13.0	12.5
1997	11.0	7.6	7.7	13.4	13.7	25.3	16.3	6.9	3.2!	14.5	15.1
1998	11.8	7.7	7.8	13.8	13.9	29.5	18.3	4.1	2.7!	11.8	12.2
1999	11.2	7.3	7.3	12.6	12.5	28.6	16.1	4.3	4.4	‡	‡
2000	10.9	6.9	6.9	13.1	13.1	27.8	15.2	3.8	3.1!	14.0	14.6
2001	10.7	7.3	7.3	10.9	11.1	27.0	15.0	3.6	2.8!	13.1	13.5
2002	10.5	6.5	6.5	11.3	11.9	25.7	13.1	3.9	2.0!	16.8	17.8
2003	9.9	6.3	6.4	10.9	11.4!	23.5	12.2	3.9	3.2!	15.0	16.2
2004	10.3	6.8	6.8	11.8	12.0	23.8	14.3	3.6	2.2!	17.0	17.3
2005	9.4	6.0	6.0	10.4	10.9!	22.4	12.9	2.9	3.0!	14.0	13.9
2006	9.3	5.8	5.8	10.7	10.8	22.1	12.2	3.6	3.6	14.7	15.1
2007	8.7	5.3	5.2	8.4	8.2	21.4	11.2	6.1	2.8	19.3	19.4

—Not available.

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

¹ Total includes other race/ethnicity categories not separately shown.² Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

NOTE: The *status dropout rate* is the percentage of 16- through 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in high school and who have not earned a high school credential (either a diploma or equivalency credential such as a General Educational Development [GED] certificate). Estimates beginning in 1987 reflect new editing procedures for cases with missing data on school enrollment items. This table uses a different data source than table A-20-1, and therefore, estimates are not directly comparable to the 2007 estimates in table A-20-1. For more information on race/ethnicity and the CPS, see *supplemental notes 1* and *2*. For more information on measures of student persistence and progress, see *supplemental note 6*.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1980-2007.

Status Dropout Rates

Table S-20-1. Standard errors for the number of status dropouts and status dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds, by nativity and selected characteristics: American Community Survey 2007

Characteristic	Number of status dropouts (in thousands)	Status dropout rate (percent)	Native-born dropout rate (percent)	Foreign-born dropout rate (percent)	Percent of all status dropouts
Total	25.9	0.06	0.05	0.25	†
Sex					
Male	20.1	0.09	0.08	0.38	0.29
Female	13.5	0.07	0.07	0.33	0.29
Race/ethnicity					
White	15.8	0.06	0.07	0.33	0.32
Black	10.4	0.18	0.17	0.65	0.28
Hispanic	15.9	0.21	0.21	0.39	0.33
Asian	2.9	0.19	0.21	0.29	0.08
Pacific Islander	0.9	1.23	1.47	2.54	0.03
American Indian/Alaska Native	3.2	0.94	0.95	†	0.09
More than one race	3.3	0.41	0.44	0.93	0.09
Race/ethnicity by sex					
Male					
White	12.1	0.09	0.10	0.52	0.41
Black	8.7	0.29	0.29	1.04	0.38
Hispanic	12.1	0.30	0.32	0.53	0.43
Asian	2.1	0.26	0.31	0.38	0.10
Pacific Islander	0.8	2.14	2.56	4.30	0.04
American Indian/Alaska Native	2.1	1.18	1.20	†	0.09
More than one race	2.7	0.63	0.66	1.12	0.12
Female					
White	9.9	0.09	0.09	0.45	0.57
Black	7.0	0.25	0.25	0.73	0.48
Hispanic	8.3	0.25	0.26	0.55	0.48
Asian	1.7	0.22	0.26	0.38	0.12
Pacific Islander	0.5	1.42	1.08	2.99	0.04
American Indian/Alaska Native	2.1	1.27	1.28	†	0.15
More than one race	2.4	0.66	0.70	1.53	0.17
Age					
16	5.1	0.11	0.12	0.56	0.14
17	6.8	0.15	0.14	0.75	0.18
18	8.6	0.18	0.18	0.86	0.23
19	8.8	0.19	0.18	0.87	0.23
20-24	20.5	0.09	0.09	0.31	0.34
Living arrangement					
Households	24.5	0.06	0.06	0.27	0.16
Institutionalized group quarters	4.9	0.65	0.72	2.57	0.13
Noninstitutionalized group quarters	3.5	0.13	0.12	0.61	0.09
Region					
Northeast	10.2	0.15	0.14	0.54	0.27
Midwest	13.2	0.15	0.14	0.80	0.33
South	16.5	0.11	0.11	0.53	0.36
West	12.8	0.14	0.12	0.50	0.32

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007.

Table S-20-2. Standard errors for the status dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds in the civilian, noninstitutionalized population, by race/ethnicity and nativity: October Current Population Survey 1980-2007

Year	Race/ethnicity										
	Total	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Pacific Islander		American Indian/Alaska Native	
		Total	Native-born	Total	Native-born	Total	Native-born	Total	Native-born	Total	Native-born
1980	0.26	0.27	†	0.97	†	1.89	†	†	†	†	†
1981	0.26	0.27	†	0.93	†	1.80	†	†	†	†	†
1982	0.27	0.29	†	0.98	†	1.93	†	†	†	†	†
1983	0.27	0.29	†	0.97	†	1.93	†	†	†	†	†
1984	0.27	0.29	†	0.92	†	1.91	†	†	†	†	†
1985	0.27	0.29	†	0.92	†	1.93	†	†	†	†	†
1986	0.27	0.28	†	0.90	†	1.88	†	†	†	†	†
1987	0.28	0.30	†	0.91	†	1.84	†	†	†	†	†
1988	0.30	0.32	†	1.00	†	2.30	†	†	†	†	†
1989	0.31	0.32	†	0.98	†	2.19	†	2.16	†	6.14	†
1990	0.29	0.30	†	0.94	†	1.91	†	1.66	†	5.50	†
1991	0.30	0.31	†	0.95	†	1.93	†	1.29	†	6.06	†
1992	0.28	0.29	†	0.95	†	1.86	†	1.67	†	6.18	†
1993	0.28	0.29	†	0.94	†	1.79	†	1.70	†	5.58	†
1994	0.26	0.27	0.29	0.75	0.89	1.16	1.87	1.73	2.46	4.76	4.81
1995	0.27	0.28	0.29	0.74	0.77	1.15	1.27	1.06	1.18	4.06	4.09
1996	0.27	0.26	0.28	0.75	0.83	1.13	1.33	0.97	1.30	3.30	3.29
1997	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.80	0.84	1.11	1.22	1.14	1.25	3.16	3.28
1998	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.81	0.84	1.12	1.26	0.88	1.11	3.39	3.51
1999	0.26	0.27	0.27	0.77	0.79	1.11	1.21	0.85	1.24	†	†
2000	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.78	0.81	1.08	1.15	0.83	1.11	3.39	3.51
2001	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.71	0.71	1.06	1.06	0.75	0.98	2.83	2.89
2002	0.24	0.24	0.25	0.70	0.74	0.93	0.96	0.74	0.80	3.00	3.16
2003	0.23	0.24	0.24	0.69	0.73	0.90	0.91	0.78	1.00	3.58	3.84
2004	0.23	0.24	0.25	0.70	0.74	0.89	0.94	0.72	0.81	3.46	3.52
2005	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.66	0.70	0.87	0.90	0.66	0.95	3.31	3.45
2006	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.66	0.68	0.86	0.88	0.74	0.99	3.62	3.70
2007	0.21	0.22	0.22	0.59	0.61	0.83	0.82	0.95	0.88	3.65	3.66

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1980-2007.