

More Evidence that Higher Education Matters

By Don Sutherland

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997](#), revealed that people aged 23 to 26 with a Bachelor's Degree or higher had lower unemployment rates than their peers who had not earned a college degree. In general, those aged 23 to 26 during the 2003-11 period with at least a college degree had an average unemployment rate that were just 41% of the average for those who had only a high school diplomat and 55% of that for those who had some college or an associate degree.

Characteristic	Unemployment Rate	% of Unemployment Rate for High School/ No College	% of Unemployment Rate for Some College/ Associate Degree
Men	3.3%	42%	58%
Women	2.9%	42%	54%
White, non-Hispanic	2.8%	44%	61%
Black, non-Hispanic	4.6%	40%	47%
Hispanic or Latino	3.6%	50%	73%
All persons	3.1%	41%	55%

This data argues that completion of a college degree within 4-6 years markedly improves one's prospects of employment. This data can be used by a range of offices from Admissions to Advising to build a stronger framework for encouraging persistence and degree attainment in a timely fashion.