

Table 4.
Median Length of Poverty Spells by Selected Characteristics: 2004–2006
(In months, excluding spells underway in January 2004)

Characteristic	Median spell length (months)	90 percent C.I. ¹ (+/-)
All people	4.5	0.2
Race and Hispanic Origin		
White alone ²	4.3	0.2
White alone, non-Hispanic ³	4.0	0.2
Black alone ²	5.9	0.5
Hispanic ³	6.2	0.5
Non-Hispanic	4.2	0.2
Age		
Under 18 years	5.2	0.3
18 to 64 years	4.2	0.2
65 years and over	6.7	0.8
Sex		
Male	4.4	0.3
Female	4.7	0.3
Educational attainment (people 18 years and over)		
Less than 4 years of high school	6.5	0.6
High school graduate, no college	4.9	0.4
One or more years of college	3.8	0.3
Disability status (people 15 to 69 years)		
With a Work Disability	5.6	0.5
With no Work Disability	4.0	0.2
Residence		
Metropolitan	4.1	0.2
Nonmetropolitan	6.2	0.4
Region		
Northeast	3.9	0.4
Midwest	5.3	0.4
South	4.7	0.3
West	4.4	0.4
Family status		
In families	4.5	0.2
With related children under 18 years ..	4.8	0.2
In married-couple families	3.9	0.2
With related children under 18 years ..	4.0	0.3
In families with a female householder, No husband present	6.4	0.4
With related children under 18 years ..	6.8	0.4
In families with a male householder,		
No wife present	4.9	0.8
With related children under 18 years ..	4.9	0.9
Unrelated individuals	4.7	0.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4.
Median Length of Poverty Spells by Selected Characteristics: 2004–2006—Con.
(In months, excluding spells underway in January 2004)

Characteristic	Median spell length (months)	90 percent C.I. ¹ (+/-)
Employment and labor force status (people 18 years and over)		
Employed absent from work	3.2	0.6
Employed full-time	3.8	0.4
Employed part-time	4.7	0.4
Unemployed.	4.0	0.5
Not in labor force	5.6	0.3
Marital status (people 18 years and over)		
Married	3.9	0.3
Separated, divorced, or widowed	5.6	0.5
Never married	4.3	0.3
Family size		
1 Person (unrelated individual)	4.7	0.4
2 People.	3.9	0.4
3 People.	4.0	0.4
4 People.	4.0	0.4
5 People.	5.0	0.5
6 or more people	6.6	0.5

¹ A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

² Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

³ Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <<http://www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>>.