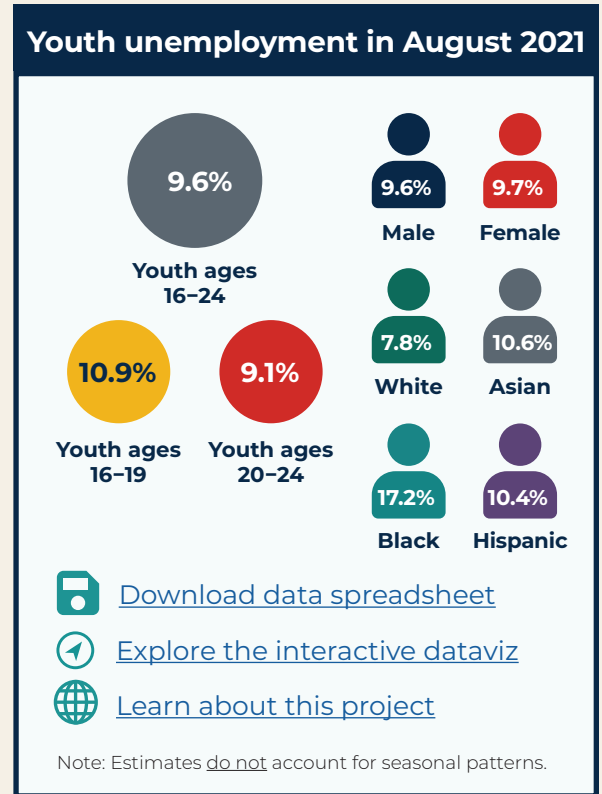
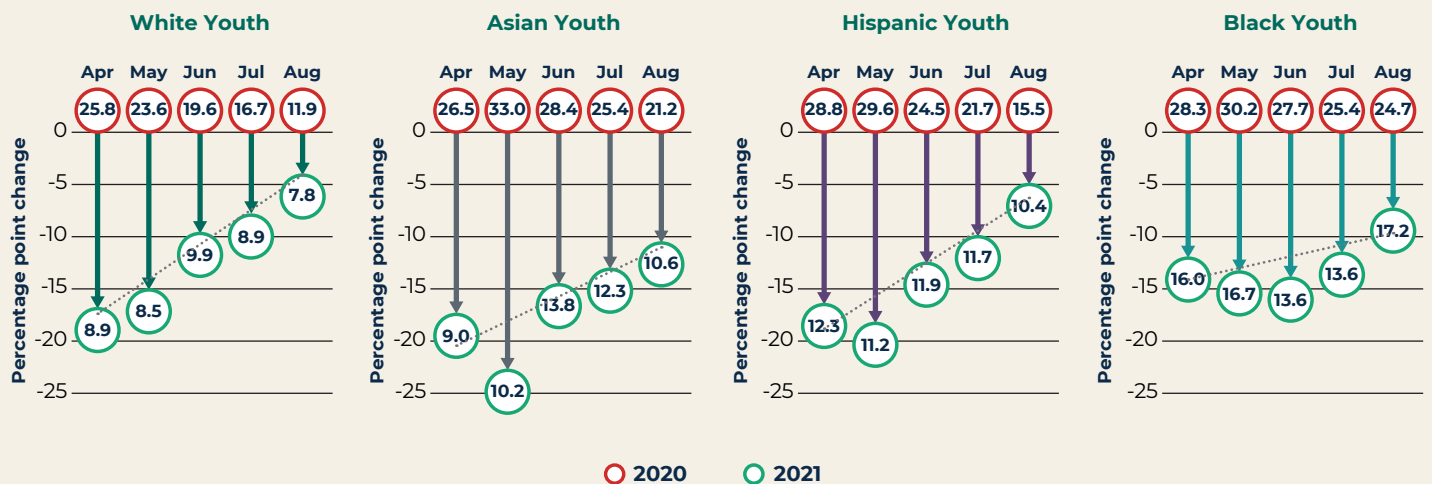


Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Youth Unemployment Rates, by Race and Ethnicity

- As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, a comparison of data from April–August 2021 and data from the same period a year earlier show that youth unemployment rates continue to decrease from the peak experienced in April 2020. However, the speed of economic recovery varies across youth from different racial and ethnic groups.
- Compared to the same time last year, the unemployment rate among White youth decreased by 16.9 percentage points in April, from 25.8 percent in 2020 to 8.9 percent in 2021, and continued to show a speedy recovery toward pre-pandemic unemployment levels through August. In August 2021, the unemployment rate among White youth was 7.8 percent, a decrease of 4.1 percentage points from the same period the year before.
- For Asian youth, the unemployment rate in April 2021 was 17.5 percentage points lower than in April 2020, at 9 percent. In August 2021, the rate was 10.6 percent, down from 21.2 percent the same month a year ago.
- Similarly, the unemployment rate for Hispanic youth was 16.5 percentage points lower in April 2021 than in April 2020 and continues to show a speedy economic recovery. In August 2021, the unemployment rate among Hispanic youth was 10.4 percent, 5.1 percentage points lower than a year ago.
- For Black youth, not only did the unemployment rate through 2021 remain higher than it did for other groups, but the year-on-year differences in monthly unemployment rates were larger for Black youth as well, suggesting a slower pace of recovery. In August 2021, the unemployment rate among Black youth was 17.2 percent, a decrease of 7.5 percentage points from the same period one year ago.



Change in unemployment rate percentage points by race and ethnicity, 2020 to 2021



Source: Mathematica compilation based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey (<https://www.bls.gov/cps/data.htm>).

Note: Estimates do not account for potential seasonal patterns. People who define their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.