Black workers are far more likely to be unemployed than white workers at every level of education

Unemployment rates by race and education, 2019

Notes: White refers to non-Hispanic whites, black refers to blacks alone. Educational categories are mutually exclusive and represent the highest education level attained for all individuals ages 16 and older.

Source: Economic Policy Institute, State of Working America Data Library, [Unemployment by race and education], 2019.
Black-white wage gaps are wider now than 40 years ago and largely unexplained by factors associated with individual productivity

Average and regression-adjusted black-white wage gaps, 1979-2019

The intersection of race and gender imposes dual wage penalties on Black women

Regression-adjusted hourly wage gaps relative to white men, by race and gender, 1979-2019

There has been insufficient vigilance in fighting unemployment since the late 1970s

Estimate of the natural rate of unemployment and actual unemployment, 1949–2018

Note: NAIRU refers to the nonaccelerating inflation rate of unemployment (another term for the natural rate of unemployment).

Source: Data on the natural rate of unemployment from the Congressional Budget Office (2018); data on actual unemployment rate from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2018). Shaded areas represent recessions.

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