NLS News

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics

Release of the Round 4 NLSY97 Geocode and Event History Data Sets

Event history and geocode data from round 4 of the NLSY97 now are available. The newest survey in the National Longitudinal Surveys program, the NLSY97 is designed to be representative of the U.S. population born during 1980-84. Round 1 interviews were conducted with 8,984 young adults aged 12 to 16 as of December 31, 1996; of these, 8,081 respondents (89.9 percent) were interviewed in round 4. Surveyed respondents included 6,055 (89.7 percent) of the cross-sectional sample and 2,026 (90.6 percent) of the supplemental sample of black and Hispanic youths.

This article describes the data available on the newly released event history and geocode data sets. It also provides information about the data and documentation available to researchers.

Event history data

In addition to all variables on the main data file, including interview data, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) scores, and transcript survey data, the event history data file contains created variables covering four major topics:

- employment status
- marital status
- program participation
- schooling experiences

Each topic is documented through a series of arrays that report the respondent's status or activities during each week, month, or year within a specific period.

Employment status. Employment status of each respondent (that is, working for a specific employer, unemployed, out of the labor force, and so forth) is included for each week from the respondent's 14th birthday to the most recent interview date. This section also provides data on total hours worked at all civilian jobs each week and data on additional jobs held in the same week, where applicable. Finally, the section includes beginning and ending dates, by weeks and years, for each job and for gaps within jobs, allowing these dates to be easily linked to the employment arrays.

Three types of job-specific variables, not in arrays, were added for round 4. Some respondents report during the current interview a new job with a start date prior to the date of the last interview that was not reported during that interview. If these jobs had been reported at the previous interview, the weeks and hours worked would have been represented in the arrays at that time. When they are instead reported in the current interview, the event history arrays created at the previous interview date are not changed to include information about these new jobs. The three new variables alert users to changes that would have resulted if the jobs had been correctly reported during the previous interview.

The first variable, EMP_BK_WKS, tells how many weeks before the previous interview date the job started. The second and third variables show how the status and hours arrays would have been affected had the job beginning before the date of last interview been reported at the prior interview and included in the original array construction. One variable, EMP_BK_STATUS, indicates the number of weeks from the job's start date to the date of last interview for which a nonworking status would have changed to an employer ID, had the job been reported during the previous interview round. The other variable, EMP_BK_HOURS, informs users about the additional number of hours per week worked on this job for the weeks from the job's start date to the date of the previous interview.

For example, assume a respondent named Mary was interviewed on January 15, 1999 (round 3), and January 15, 2000 (round 4). In round 3, Mary reported no employers. In round 4, she reported working 30 hours a week on a job that began on January 1, 1999. Because the job began 2 weeks before the round 3 interview, EMP_BK_WKS would have a value of 2. EMP_BK_STATUS also would have a value of 2, indicating that 2 weeks in the round 3 arrays would have changed from nonworking to working status. EMP_BK_HOURS would have a value of 30, indicating that 30 additional hours would have been worked in each of those weeks.

Similarly, assume a respondent named John was interviewed on the same dates as Mary in rounds 3 and 4. In round 3, John reported a job that he had worked at for 10 hours per week since the round 2 interview. In round 4, he reported a second, 20-hours-per-week job that began on January 1, 1999, 2 weeks before his round 3 interview. Like Mary, John would have a value of 2 for the EMP_BK_WKS variable. However, the weeks between January 1 and January 15, 1999, would already indicate that John was working (at the original employer). Therefore, EMP_BK_STATUS would have a value of 0, because no weeks would have changed from nonworking to working status if John had reported the new job in round 3. EMP_BK_HOURS would have a value of 20, indicating the number of hours per week that John worked at the new job. In John's case, the hours-worked array variables created in round 3 would have a value of

10, reflecting the job he reported in round 3. Researchers can add the value of EMP_BK_HOURS to the value in the original round 3 arrays for the 2 weeks before January 15, 1999, to determine that John worked 30 hours per week in those weeks.

Finally, a variable created for rounds 3 and 4 indicates whether the respondent denied ever working for an employer reported in the previous interview. For information about how previous-to-last-interview jobs and denied jobs are treated in the various created employment variables, interested users should consult the NLSY97 codebook supplement.

The employment status variables can be found by searching for question names in the database that begin with "EMP_."

Marital status. The second section contains the marital status variables. These variables cover the respondent's marital or cohabitation status during each month from his or her 14th birthday to the month of the most recent interview. Possible status labels include the following: Never married and not cohabiting, never married and cohabiting, married, legally separated, divorced, or widowed. A second marital status variable combines the status with the total number of spouses/partners; in this case, a code of 100 indicates that the person living in the household that month is a partner, while 200 denotes a spouse. The last digit of this variable corresponds to the total number of partners or spouses. For example, 102 would be 2 total partners and 202 would denote the second spouse. This allows the user to distinguish between people who are separated and living with their former spouse or with a new partner.

Another set of marital status variables (MAR PARTNER LINK) provides an identification number for the respondent's spouse or partner that can be used to link the spells of marriage or cohabitation with information about that person collected during the youth interviews. The first two of four digits indicate the survey year in which the person was first reported and the last two digits correspond to the loop number. For example, 9902 denotes the second partner reported in round 3 (survey year 1999).

A separate variable indicates if there was a period of overlap in partners since the last interview. New variables for rounds 3 and 4 flag respondents who deny a relationship reported in a previous survey round. Marital status variables are found in the database under question names beginning with "MAR_."

Program participation status. Program participation status is included in the third section. For each month since the respondent's 14th birthday, these variables report the respondent's receipt of economic assistance. Program participation arrays are constructed individually for three need-based programs: Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Food Stamps, and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. The AFDC array includes all Federal and State programs created under Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or any government program for needy families that replaces AFDC. All other need-based programs, such as Social Security Income (SSI), are combined into a fourth program participation array entitled "Other." In addition, arrays are available for two employment-based programs. Unemployment insurance is included in all rounds and workers' compensation is included in rounds 1 through 3.

For each type of assistance, the data include status variables indicating receipt or nonreceipt of that type of assistance, variables providing the amount of assistance received each month, and variables showing which people in the respondent's household received the assistance (respondent only, spouse or partner only, respondent and child, other, and so forth). For unemployment insurance and workers' compensation, data are presented for the respondent only. Finally, this section provides the dates on which the respondent began and stopped receiving assistance and includes new variables for rounds 3 and 4 to flag respondents who deny previously reported receipt of assistance. These variables can be located by searching for question names beginning with "WKCOMP_," "UNEMP_," "AFDC_," "FDST_," "WIC_," or "OTHER_."

Schooling experiences. The fourth section in the event history data contains information on the respondent's schooling experiences. Unlike the other sections, this one presents some of the information on a yearly basis, beginning with each youth's date of birth. For each year, the schooling variables provide data regarding:

- The respondent's grade in school
- The number of times that the respondent changed schools in each school year
- The number of months during which the respondent did not attend school
- Summer classes that the respondent attended
- Whether the respondent repeated or skipped a grade
- The number of times for which the respondent was suspended during the year

Monthly schooling event history variables, which provide information about the respondent's educational status for each month from the round 2 interview to the current interview date, also are available. The three monthly arrays report the respondent's enrollment status, the type of school attended that month, and the identification (ID) code of the school. Because the same ID codes are used in the monthly arrays and on the NEWSCHOOL roster, users can link the monthly arrays with information collected in the schooling section of the interview. Finally, a "dual school" variable flags the small number of respondents who attended more than one school during the same month. There is only one dual school variable for the period between each interview; the specific month of the overlap is not reported.

As with the other topical areas, the schooling arrays include a denial variable that identifies respondents who deny ever attending a school reported in a previous interview round.

Geocode data

The majority of the geographic data collected about NLSY97 respondents are found in the geocode data. These variables provide detailed statistics for each respondent's county of residence that are not available in the main/event history database. Due to their confidential nature, completion of a thorough application process and confidentiality agreement is required for access to these data. (See the end of this article for more information.) All of the variables described in this section have question names that begin with "GEO_."

In addition to all main file and event history data, the geocode data set provides a list of the counties in which respondents

lived between interviews, as well as a variety of county-level statistics for the places in which respondents lived when they were interviewed during the first four survey rounds. Basic demographic information about these counties makes up the first group of variables. These data include the county's land area in square miles; population by race, age, and gender; and birth and death rates.

Factors that might influence the respondent's education and employment outcomes are the focus of several other variables. For the respondent's county of residence, these variables provide the numbers of serious crimes, households with children, female householders with no spouse present, persons with high school or college degrees, and families below the poverty level. A pair of variables summarizes availability of medical care in the county, reporting the number of active nonfederal physicians and community hospital beds.

Economic and labor force characteristics are represented by geocode variables for the size of the county's civilian labor force, the percent employed in various industries, and the percent of workers aged 16 and older with jobs outside their county of residence. Income variables include per capita money income for the respondent's county, per capita personal income, and median family money income. The unemployment rate for the respondent's metropolitan area or State also is reported.

The final group of variables on the geocode CD focuses on colleges attended by the respondents. Survey staff use information from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) to provide users with the identification code (UNITID) and State of each college attended by the respondent. The codes can be used to associate the NLSY97 respondent's college with various characteristics of the institution contained in the IPEDS database.

Most county-level variables in the geocode data are based on the 1994 *County and City Data Book (CCDB)* prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau. The *CCDB* data file includes information from the 1990 Census of Population and Housing and from the Current Population Surveys, as well as other supplemental data obtained from a variety of Federal Gov-

ernment and private agencies. The unemployment rate is computed using Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) State and metropolitan area labor force data from March of the survey year.

Obtaining the event history and geocode data

NLSY97 event history data are available for free as a download by clicking on the "Order Data" link on the **www.bls.gov/nls** Web site. Users also have the option of purchasing the public data on CD-ROM for $20. The data set contains the data record for each youth, including all information in the main file and the event history variables described above. The data file also includes Windows-based search and extraction software and complete codebook documentation on each variable. A downloaded data file contains exactly the same data as the CD.

To aid researchers in using the data, each data set is accompanied by the *NLSY97 User's Guide*, which examines the data set in detailed topical sections, the codebook supplement, and an electronic copy of the round 4 questionnaire. Other supplemental documentation items, such as additional questionnaires, are available for purchase. Researchers can obtain NLSY97 event history CDs and documentation from NLS User Services. Some documentation items also are available for download from **www.bls.gov/nls**.

Because the NLSY97 geocode data set contains confidential data, researchers interested in obtaining the CD must complete the accessing agreement procedure required by BLS. This process includes filling out an application and signing a confidentiality agreement. For more information or to receive an application, see the NLSY97 section of the NLS Web site or contact NLS User Services or Rita Jain at BLS. (See the back cover for contact numbers.) Like the event history CD, this disc is accompanied by the *NLSY97 User's Guide* and an electronic copy of the round 4 questionnaire. Other available documentation includes a geocode codebook supplement containing the codes for the various geographic areas. Geocode data files are not available for download, although the geocode codebook supplement will be available on the order page so that researchers can evaluate the potential uses of the data set. □

Original Cohort Geocode Variables Available for Research Use

Geographic information collected during interviews with the four original cohorts of the National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS), the Older Men, Young Men, Mature Women, and Young Women, is now available for research use at the U.S. Census Bureau's Research Data Centers (RDCs). Access to these data, which are protected under Title 13, United States Code, section 9 confidentiality provisions, offers new and exciting opportunities for research. The information is available on subfiles, with a separate file for each cohort. The subfiles contain a special respondent identification number, survey year, and State code. Researchers may match the subfiles to the NLS data sets.

Variables available at the Research Data Centers

Currently the RDCs have available the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) State codes by survey year, which represent the State of residence for each interviewed respondent. Having the State variables allows researchers to also identify the Census Bureau's regions and divisions.

Plans to add geographic variables for the four cohorts are in the works. Over the next year or two, we will add variables for:

- County
- Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA)
- Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA)
- Zip code
- Census tract
- Latitude of residence
- Longitude of residence

We also hope to make available selected environmental variables at the county and Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) level. These data are obtained from the Census Bureau's *County and City Data Books*, and include:

- Size—land area, population, number of households
- Racial and ethnic composition—percent of population in each racial category,

percent of population Hispanic

- Gender composition—percent of population male/female
- Age distribution of population—percent of population by age group
- Measure of geographic mobility—persons now in the county living in a different house but in the same county and State in which they lived 5 years earlier; persons living in the same State but in a different county; and persons living in a different State
- Vital statistics—birth rate, death rate, marriage rate, divorce rate, number of births to mothers under the age of 20, death rate per 1,000 infants
- Health care availability—physicians per population, hospital beds per population
- Crime rate
- Educational composition—percent of population with high school degree, with 4 years of college
- Labor force
  1. Size of labor force
  2. Unemployment rate
  3. Percent female
  4. Composition by industry
  5. Other significant industries-code and size of industry
  6. Percent working outside county of residence
- Income—per capita personal income, median family income, families below the poverty line, persons below the poverty line, children below the poverty line, families with female heads below the poverty line

We also hope to add school information, including a code that allows matching of administrative data to college attended, as well as information on the State of college attended.

Background on the Research Data Centers

The Census Bureau developed the Research Data Center concept to give researchers access to valuable, yet protected, non-public-use data in a setting designed to safeguard the data confidentiality. Under U.S. law, these confidential data may be used for statistical purposes only at secure sites by Census Bureau employees or by individuals who obtain Special Sworn Status (SSS) from the Census Bureau.

Regulations and procedures for RDC research

In order to conduct research at the RDCs using confidential microdata, researchers must first e-mail a description of their proposed project to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) at *NLS_Info@bls.gov*. The application should describe the research hypotheses and methodology, the non-public-use or confidential information needed for the project, and how that information will be used. The BLS staff will review and comment on the proposal and possibly ask follow-up questions.

If BLS staff approve the project, they will notify the researcher and the Census Bureau. The researcher then can submit a proposal to the Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies (CES), which oversees the RDCs.

It is important that researchers contact the administrator of the RDC at which they plan to conduct their research and work closely with that person throughout the entire proposal development process.

The first step in this process is the submission of a preliminary research proposal to the CES. This summary should include a brief project description, the estimated length of the project, a curriculum vitae or resume, and information on the proposed benefits to the Census Bureau, proposed research output, data required, and funding source. The summary is reviewed by the CES and other Census Bureau staff. In reviewing proposals, the Census Bureau looks at three main factors:

- The project's potential to benefit Census Bureau programs
- The project's scientific integrity
- The project's proposed schedule and proposed data outputs

Once a preliminary proposal is accepted, researchers must submit a more thorough final proposal giving detail about the project purpose, methodology, and data required. Final proposals should include a proposal abstract addressing the proposed benefits to the Census Bureau and the research topic; a detailed project description including methodology, a list of data sources, and statistical output; and a detailed description of proposed benefits to the Census Bureau. Proposals must clearly show the need for non-public-use data.

Researchers interested in reviewing more-detailed information on the proposal process, including a list of ways to ensure that a project meets the requirement of benefiting Census Bureau programs, should visit the CES Web site at **www.ces.census.gov**.

After a proposal is accepted

The Census Bureau is legally required to protect the confidentiality of all data collected under Title 13. In addition to avoiding disclosure of a respondent's identity, the bureau also considers it important to avoid the perception of disclosure. In order to meet these goals, the bureau requires researchers to obtain Special Sworn Status (SSS) before beginning any work at an RDC. Under this status, researchers take an oath not to disclose any confidential information, and are subject to stiff legal penalties should they violate that oath. Researchers also may be asked to sign nondisclosure documents for survey sponsors or others providing data for their projects.

Working with data at an RDC is more restrictive than working in normal research environments. No research output may leave an RDC without going through a disclosure analysis. Further, research projects must emphasize statistical output rather than tabular output. Researchers should be prepared to spend a considerable amount of time at the RDC analyzing their output and reducing its volume before asking for a disclosure analysis.

Because of the restriction on output leaving the RDC, projects with multiple researchers or those being conducted with the assistance of a student may pose some challenges. In these situations, all involved researchers should expect to spend some time at an RDC reviewing preliminary and intermediate output. However, all of the researchers on a project or a faculty member with a student assistant need not be working at the *same* RDC facility.

Locating a Research Data Center

Researchers should first contact Michelle Danis at the Triangle RDC. She is the Census Bureau's coordinator of all NLS RDC research projects. (Contact information is included in the table below.) Working with Ms. Danis and the RDC administrator at your chosen research site is the key to moving smoothly and efficiently through the process from proposal to final output.

Ms. Danis and the administrators are available to answer questions at every stage of a project, and can provide guidance on using the data. Having RDC staff who are familiar with the details of your project will increase the speed of your disclosure analysis.

Currently, there are six RDCs across the country. Their locations and the contact information for their administrators are included in the box to the right.

The Census Bureau's Research Data Centers offer new opportunities to scholars who are interested in conducting research utilizing geographic and other non-public-use variables from the original cohorts. The addition of more geographic and environmental variables at these sites in the future will serve to open even more new and exciting avenues for inquiry. Users are encouraged to contact Michelle Danis or an RDC administrator with questions about the rules and regulations outlined in this article. NLS User Services can answer questions on the progress being made in the work required to add the variables outlined above. (See the back cover for contact numbers.) □

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NLSY97 validation reinterviews offer research opportunities

Each round of the NLSY97 includes validation interviews conducted with a randomly selected 10 percent of each interviewer's completed cases. Beginning with round 2, the validation interview has included a reinterview component.

The purpose of the validation interview is to confirm that the interview was administered as reported by the field interviewer and to solicit feedback on interviewer conduct. The supplemental reinterview data offer opportunities for studying response variance, item reliability, and other methodological issues. This article describes the reinterviews for round 4. To date, this is the only round for which reinterview data have been released for public use.

Details of the round 4 reinterviews
Validations for round 4 of the NLSY97 occurred between November 2000 and July 2001. A total of 989 respondents completed the 17-question validation, for an overall project validation rate of 12.2 percent of completed interviews. Most validations were conducted via the telephone by the phone center at the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago; a small number were conducted by mail or in person.

The validation component of the short questionnaire asked for details about the respondent's original round 4 interview. Respondents were asked to report on the duration of their interview and the interview mode, either by phone or in person. They indicated whether the interviewer recorded their answers on a laptop computer. They also revealed how many times the interviewer contacted or met with them in order to finish the interview.

Four questions during the validation interview focused on the monetary incentive offered to the respondent to complete the initial interview. Respondents reported whether they were paid for their participation in the survey and, if so, how much. A separate question asked if the respondent thought the monetary incentive was too little, just right, or too much. Finally, respondents reported the extent to which their decision to participate in the survey was affected by the amount of money they received. These data are part of the design of the incentive experiment that was conducted during the round 4 fielding; two experimental status variables are available for each respondent in the round 4 fielding.

The reinterview component of the validation involved re-asking questions drawn directly from the youth interview. These reinterview questions were chosen to represent a variety of question types with different response variance characteristics. Respondents answered questions on their type of residence, the length of time they have lived at that residence, and their highest grade attended. Several expectations questions repeated from the original interview asked respondents to report the likelihood of schooling and pregnancy outcomes over 1-year and 5-year periods. A question on family activities and two questions on income also were asked. Finally, respondents stated whether the interviewer they had in round 4 was the same one who had conducted their interview in round 3.

Of the 241 interviewers in round 4, all

but 7 had their completed cases validated at the goal of 10 percent or higher. Of those seven, five were validated at 9 percent, one at 8 percent, and one at 6 percent. These lower numbers do not reflect cases that were not validated. Instead, they reflect situations in which some interviewers had fewer than 10 percent of their particular cases randomly selected for validation.

Round 4 validation variables may be found in the most recent NLSY97 data set by searching for question names starting with "VALIDR4" or by perusing the "Validation" area of interest. □

Religion in the National Longitudinal Surveys

Several cohorts of the National Longitudinal Surveys are asked questions on religion. The data from these questions, combined with other data from the surveys, provide researchers with the opportunity to study religion in people's lives. This article looks at some of the questions pertaining to religion and spirituality that are asked in the NLS.

NLSY97

NLSY97 interviews have gathered information from both youth respondents and their parents describing the religion of both the respondent and other family members.

NLSY97 youth respondents answered questions about religious affiliation, attendance, and attitudes in each round of the survey, although not every question was asked in every round. In round 1, the youths gave their current religious preference, if any. In all rounds, youth respondents answered religious preference and attendance questions about their partners. In addition, in rounds 3 and 4, the respondent reported the current religious preference of each household member.

In round 1, respondents answered a question about what percentage of kids in their grade went to church or religious services on a regular basis. In rounds 1 through 4, those respondents aged 12 to 14 years as of December 31, 1996, reported how many days in a typical week they did something religious as a family such as go to church, pray, or read the scriptures together.

In round 1 of the NLSY97, the field interviewer administered a Parent Question-

naire to one parent or parent-type figure of each interviewed respondent whenever possible. The choice of the responding parent was based on a preordered list, with the biological mother being the first choice and the biological father the second choice. The complete list of parent figures may be found in the *NLSY97 User's Guide.* Responding parents answered questions on the religion in which they were raised as well as on their current religious preferences. These parents were then asked about the frequency with which they had attended worship services in the past 12 months.

The round 1 Parent Questionnaire also included questions about religious and spiritual attitudes. These questions were asked in the self-administered section. The responding parent was asked some true and false questions about the way some people may feel about religion and religious practices. These questions asked if the parents felt they needed religion to have good values, and if writings pertaining to their self-identified religion (such as the Bible, Koran, or Torah) should be obeyed exactly as written in every situation. Parents then answered questions about their reliance on God in making decisions, and their belief about whether God has anything to do with occurrences in their lives. Finally, parents reported whether they prayed more than once a day.

Questions in the NLSY97 on religion can be found by doing an "any word" search for *religion*, *religiosity*, or *religious*.

NLSY79

In the 1979 surveys of the NLSY79, respondents reported on the religion in which they were raised. In 1979, 1982, and 2000, respondents were asked about their present religion, if any. They then reported how often they had attended religious services in the past year.

The same set of questions was asked in 1982 about the respondent's current or most recent spouse and, in 2000, about the respondent's current or most recent spouse or partner. Female respondents with children have regularly been asked how often they argue with their spouse about religion.

These questions may be reviewed by doing an "any word in context" search in the database for *religion* or *religious*.

NLSY79 Young Adults and Children

Each questionnaire of the NLSY79 Young Adult cohort, which began in 1994, includes questions on religion. As in the other cohorts, these respondents give information on their current religious affiliation. Affiliation data are collected both for the respondent and for each spouse or partner they report. Young adults also answer a question about how frequently they and their partner or spouse argue about religion. The respondents then note how often they have attended religious services in the past year. Finally, they rate how important religion is to them on a four-point scale from very important to not important at all.

The NLSY79 Child Self-Administered Supplement, completed by the 10- to 14-year-old children of NLSY79 female respondents, has contained religion questions since 1988. The young respondents give their present religion and report on how often in the past year they have attended religious services. Next, they are asked if they usually attend religious services with a parent and if they would attend religious services even if their parent did not. This group of respondents also is asked who makes the decisions regarding their religious training. Finally, they answer two religion-related questions about their friends: Do many of their friends go to religious services and do some of their friends go to the same church or synagogue that they do.

Variables on religion for the young adults and children can be found through "an any word in context" search for *religion* or *religious*.

Past research using religion questions from the NLS

Several researchers have already taken advantage of the religion questions present in the National Longitudinal Surveys as a springboard to published articles on a myriad of topics. Articles incorporating religiosity questions have looked at premarital sex, pregnancy wantedness, abortion, fertility, adult criminal involvement, substance use, alcohol use, desired occupation, and socioeconomic performance. Researchers wanting to review the current body of literature can find a listing of articles on the NLS Bibliography Web site at **http://www.nlsbibliography.org**. A keyword

search may be done on this site for *religion* and *religious influences.* □

Frequently Asked Questions

NLS User Services encourages researchers to contact them with questions and problems they have encountered while accessing and using NLS data or documentation. Every effort is made to answer these inquiries. Some recently asked questions that may be of general interest to NLS users are listed below with their answers.

Q1: In the NLSY79, were mothers ever asked if they had to pay for well-baby care visits?

A1: Respondents were not asked specifically about payment methods for well-baby visits. However, questions about current health insurance coverage have been asked and may help in determining whether these visits were covered. To review the health insurance coverage data, do a search using the words *insurance* and *hospitalization.*

Q2: The NLSY79 survey asks a question about area of residence. The answers to this question are categorized into four areas: Northeast, North Central, South, and West. How does the survey define these four categories?

A2: The States that make up the four regions are defined in Attachment 100 of the codebook supplement. To obtain a copy of the codebook supplement, contact NLS User Services or visit the NLS Product Availability Center on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site at **http://www.bls.gov/nls.**

Q3: On the geocode data, I am looking at the NLSY79 State of residence variables for 1996 (R51764.) and 1998 (R64896.), and I noticed that some of them have a value of zero. The geocode manual says that missing observations have a value of –4 or –5. If a value of zero does not represent a missing observation, what does it represent?

A3: If the county code for the variable in question is zero, then the State code variable represents residence in a U.S. territory or other outlying area. For example, if the county code is zero but the State code is 72, then the residence is in Puerto Rico (State code 72). If the State code is zero, then the county code variable represents residence in another country.

Q4: How can I find the date on which a survey was administered to the Children of the NLSY79 cohort?

A4: The dates on which the child supplement was administered are available for 1994-2000 in the area of interest entitled CHDSUPXX. For dates prior to 1994, users should rely on the dates of interview from the main NLSY79 file. In most instances, the child survey was administered on the same day or nearly the same day as the administration of the main file instrument to the mother. You can find the month and day of interview for a particular main youth wave in the "INTRMK" area of interest. Users should note that, because the child age variables are computed in months, they also may be used to determine a reasonably precise approximation of the child interview date.

Q5: I am wondering about the questions that ask about receipt of financial assistance in the last year by members of the NLS Young Men cohort. These questions were asked from 1966 to 1971 and again from 1976 to 1981. Why were they not asked in 1973 and 1975?

A5: The 1973 and 1975 surveys for the Young Men cohort were telephone interviews. The main purpose of these initial telephone interviews was to maintain contact with the respondent. Because the interview had to be an average of 20 minutes or less, only the most essential questions were asked. In later phone interviews in 1978 and 1980, survey administrators were better able to anticipate interview length and thus added more questions. □

Completed NLS Research

The following is a listing of recent research based on data from the NLS cohorts that has not appeared in its current form in a previous issue of the *NLS News*. See the *NLS Annotated Bibliography* at **http://ww.nlsbibliography.org** for a comprehensive listing of NLS-related research.

Anderson, Deborah J.; Binder, Melissa; and Krause, Kate. "The Motherhood Wage Penalty: Which Mothers Pay It and Why?" *American Economic Review* 92,2 (May 2002): 354-358. [Young Women]

Bhaskar, V.; Manning, Alan; and To, Ted. "Oligopsony and Monopsonistic Competition in Labor Markets." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 16,2 (Spring 2002): 155-174. [NLSY79]

Brady-Smith, Christy; Brooks-Gunn, Jeanne; Waldfogel, Jane; and Fauth, Rebecca. "Work or Welfare? Assessing the Impacts of Recent Employment and Policy Changes on Very Young Children." *Evaluation and Program Planning* 24,4 (November 2001): 409-425. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Caputo, Richard K. "Adult Daughters as Parental Caregivers: Rational Actors versus Rational Agents." *Journal of Family and Economic Issues* 23,1 (Spring 2002): 27-50. [Young Women]

Francesconi, Marco. "A Joint Dynamic Model of Fertility and Work of Married Women." *Journal of Labor Economics* 20,2, part 1 (April 2002): 336-380. [Young Women]

Harford, Thomas C. and Muthen, Bengt O. "Alcohol Use among College Students: The Effects of Prior Problem Behaviors and Change of Residence." *Journal of Studies on Alcohol* 62,3 (May 2001): 306-312. [NLSY79]

Light, Audrey L. and Strayer, Wayne Earle. "From Bakke to Hopwood: Does Race Affect Attendance and Completion?" *Review of Economics and Statistics* 84,1 (February 2002): 34-44. [NLSY79]

Sweeney, Megan M. "Two Decades of Family Change: The Shifting Economic Foundations of Marriage." *American Sociological Review* 67,1 (February 2002): 132-147. [NLSY79, Young Men, Young Women]

Willson, Andrea E. and Hardy, Melissa A. "Racial Disparities in Income Security for a Cohort of Aging American Women." *Social Forces* 80,4 (June 2002): 1283-1306. [Mature Women] □

NLS News

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