NLS New



No.06-126

National Longitudinal Surveys

U.S. Department of Labor U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

NLSY97 Round 8 Data Release

Researchers can now access and order main-file data through round 8 from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97). The NLSY97 cohort includes 8,984 respondents born between 1980 and 1984. In round 8, which took place from October 2004 to July 2005, 7,503 persons (83.5 percent) were interviewed. Respondents included 5,601 (83.0 percent) of the original cross-sectional sample and 1,902 (85.1 percent) of the original supplemental sample of black or African American and Hispanic youths. As of the round 8 interview date, respondents ranged in age from 19 to 25.

Round 8 questionnaire content

NLSY97 variables cover a wide range of topics, including job characteristics, labor market status, education, training, health, marital and family characteristics, and income and assets. The round 8 questionnaire is similar to the one used in round 7, but with some changes and additions that may be of interest to researchers. (See below.) Several changes made in the survey round were due to the maturation of the respondents, while other changes reflect interest in new research topics.

Additions to round 8

A short section on political participation was added to round 8. The questions asked about the respondent's level of interest in government and public affairs (YPOL-105) and whether the respondent voted in the 2004 presidency election (YPOL-110).

In the fertility section, questions were added about children with special needs. The respondents were asked whether any of their children had a physical, emotional, or mental condition that demanded a lot of the respondents' attention and made it hard for respondents to work or go to school. Respondents replying in the affirmative were asked how old the afflicted child was when the condition was first noticed and if the condition limited the child's ability to attend school, do regular schoolwork, or do usual childhood activities. (See YFER-1895B.01 as an example.) The fertility section also featured a new question about adoption. For each child the respondent reported adopting, he or she was asked: "How did you come to adopt this child?" (See YFER-5854.)

The fertility section also contained a series of questions about the other parent(s) of the respondent's children. (See YFER-8400.) The questions elicited information on the other parent's age, income, race, religion, highest educational degree obtained, and amount of closeness and amount of conflict between other parent and respondent.

Minor changes were made to the schooling section in round 8. These included adding the response category "graduate school, law school, or medical school" to questions on the type of school attended; adding the name of the school, to help students with multiple school enrollments; and adding a category for military service as a reason for leaving school. Prepaid or deferred tuition plans were added to the list of types of financial assistance (YSCH-23900). Other changes were made in this section to make it easier to count credits for work done by respondents before college.

In the training section, new response categories were added to the question on types of training certificates. Questions on the number of weeks and number of hours per week for training programs were added to replace the question on hours per day for training programs. Survey round 8 included a series of questions on mental health also featured in rounds 4 and 6. The mental health questions (YSAQ-282C through YSAQ-282G) asked respondents how often in the month before the interview they felt very nervous, calm and peaceful, downhearted and blue, happy, or depressed. Respondents were asked again whom they turn to—parent, sibling, friend, mental health professional, or other—with personal problems, a question they were asked in every round but round 7.

A "best friends" section, first asked in round 6, was included in round 8. This section asked the respondent to identify his or her best friend, to rate the closeness of the relationship, and to indicate how often various topics were discussed within the friendship.

In each survey round, questions were asked about the respondent's own and his or her partner's or spouse's participation in government assistance programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/ Aid to Families with Dependent Children. In round 8, the questions were rewritten to include children of the respondent who might be receiving assistance.

In the income section, questions about receiving gifts of money were broadened to include as givers all family and friends, rather than just parents.

To better capture a respondent's financial position at age 20, several created variables related to assets were added to round 8. These variables include:

- Total net worth
- (CV_HH_NET_WORTH_20)
- The value of owned housing (CV_HOUSE_VALUE_20)
- The value of housing debt (CV_HOUSE_DEBT_20)
- The type of housing owned (CV_HOUSE_TYPE_20)

- The value of financial assets (CV_ASSETS_FINANCE_20)
- The value of nonfinancial assets excluding housing
- (CV_ASSETS_NONFINANCE_20)
 The amount of debt excluding housing (CV_ASSETS_DEBT_20)

In round 8, the assets section was administered only to those answering the age 20 module.

Round 7 questions removed from round 8

Because all respondents in round 8 were over the age of 18, questions about allowance, such as whether the respondent received an allowance and the total allowance received, were no longer asked. Questions about the income of individual household members were replaced with one question about the income of all family members in the household. As a result, the created variable CV_INCOME_GROSS_YR (income of all household members) is no longer available, having been replaced by the created variable CV_INCOME_FAMILY, the income of family members living in the household.

If respondents were more than 25 years old, they were not asked questions about their parents' income.

In the self-administered questionnaire section, several questions about parental relationships and parental knowledge were asked in rounds 5 and 7, but were not asked in round 8. The respondents also were not asked in round 8 how supportive they considered their parental figures (the question was asked in all previous rounds).

In round 7 a series of questions on "domains of influence" was asked regarding whom respondents would turn to for advice on relationships; school, employment, and/or training; and finances. These questions were not asked in round 8 (but will be asked in round 9).

In the household information section, the questions on "living on your own" were modified based on the respondent's answers in the previous round, and immigration questions were dropped except for respondents who had never answered the questions before.

Continuing variables for round 8

Information about the respondent's formal high school and college education—similar

to that collected in previous rounds—was recorded. A college choice section, introduced in round 7, recorded each college that respondents applied to, along with the term in which they applied to enroll. Respondents also were queried about any transferable financial aid they might have received. Other questions recorded whether each college to which the respondent replied accepted him or her for admission, along with the type of financial aid offered by each college. The identities of colleges referred to in responses to this section will be available only on the next geocode release, due in late October 2006.

The employment sections of the questionnaire asked about all jobs, including self-employment, the respondent had held since the last interview. Data collected include dates of employment, industry, occupation, class of worker, rate of pay, hours worked, and reason the job ended. The questions in the employment section were largely identical to those in round 7.

Only minor changes were made to the training section of the questionnaire. This section collected information about any job training programs attended by the respondent since the last interview.

Also remaining largely the same were the income, assets, and program participation sections of the interview. As in previous rounds, these sections questioned respondents about their income sources and assets.

The health section included questions about health insurance coverage and use, in addition to questions on the respondent's general health.

As in previous rounds, respondents answered a number of questions on marriage and family formation. These questions collected information on all marriages and marriage-like relationships, as well as on children born to or adopted by respondents. Family questions were complemented by the collection of basic information on all residents of the respondent's household, including their gender, age, enrollment status, labor force status, and relationship to the respondent.

The round 8 survey continued to include an extensive series of questions on the attitudes and behaviors of the respondent. These self-administered questions asked about family relationships, friendships, dating, sexual experiences, substance abuse, criminal activity and arrests.

Obtaining NLSY97 data

NLSY97 main-file data and supporting documentation, along with data and documentation from the other NLS cohorts, are available to researchers free of charge on the Web at **www.bls.gov/nls.** In addition, data can be purchased on CD for \$20 by contacting NLS User Services. (Contact information appears on the back page of this newsletter.)

Child and Young Adult 2004 Release

The 1986-2004 NLSY79 Child and Young Adult data set, collected biennially from NLSY79 mothers and their children, has been released. This cohort includes children aged 14 and under (as of December 31 of the survey's calendar year), known as the NLSY79 child group, and those aged 15 and older, designated as young adults. The 2004 survey year gathered information on 2,514 children and 5,024 young adults. Additional information about these children and young adults may be found through the mother's record in the NLSY79 main file.

Asthma questions added to survey

New to the 2004 survey are detailed questions about asthma, a growing health concern that now affects nearly 5 million children and adolescents, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Children aged 10 to 14 were asked whether they had any asthma-related symptoms-coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and so on-not related to a cold or flu in the last month and how often they had those symptoms. Of 1,318 surveyed, 584 children reported symptoms. These children were also asked how much asthma limited their participation in physical education classes, schoolwork, or specific outdoor activities. In addition, within the main NLSY79 youth data set, mothers answered questions about diagnosis, persistence, and severity of asthma for themselves and for each of their children under age 15.

Young adult respondents were asked if they ever were diagnosed with asthma, at what age they were diagnosed, whether they still had the disease, when they last had symptoms, if there had been any episodes in the past 12 months, whether they had received any unscheduled medical care in the past 12 months due to the asthma, how often they used a "quick relief" medicine for asthma attacks, and whether they used a daily medication to prevent attacks. They also were asked how much the asthma limited their activities and whether their sleep was disrupted because of the illness. Of 5,024 young adults in the survey, 882 reported being diagnosed with asthma.

General content of the survey

The child survey uses the mother's report, direct assessment, and the child's self-report to gauge children's health, abilities, problems, activities, attitudes, school progress, and home environment. As of 1994, NLSY79 children aged 15 and older are no longer given cognitive and other assessments like those given to their younger counterparts. Instead, the young adults participate in a computer-assisted personal or telephone interview covering work experience, military experience, schooling, training, family background, health, fertility, income and assets, dating and relationships, attitudes, and drug and alcohol use.

How to obtain child and young adult data

Researchers interested in accessing the child and young adult data set should visit www.bls.gov/nls and choose the NLS public-use link under "Obtaining NLS Data." By following the link to the NLS Product Availability Center, researchers can either download the data release (after filling out requestor information) or access the data through NLS Web Investigator, also available at this site. (Access is granted after the user creates an account.) In addition, data can be purchased on CD for \$20 by contacting NLS User Services. Supporting documentation on the NLSY79 child and young adult surveys can be found through Web Investigator.

Revised Norms for NLSY79 AFQT Scores

Revised Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) percentile scores are now available on the most recent NLSY79 data release, on the Web at **www.bls.gov/nls.** The revision uses the same general method used to norm the NLSY97 AFQT scores. As a reminder, the scores produced for the NLSY can differ from the official AFQT norms produced for the Department of Defense. For more information, see Profiles of American Youth (Attachment 106) and its addendum, also on the Web site.

Users who perform comparison analyses between the NLSY79 and NLSY97 will want to use these newly revised norms to ensure that percentiles were established in the same manner, reducing the risk of spurious differences. Note that data resources are unavailable to determine whether a youth who scored at the 50th percentile of the AFQT in the NLSY79 would have scored at or near the 50th percentile in NLSY97. The revised norms are highly correlated with the updated AFQT score released in 1989. These high correlations suggest that users' regression results will be little affected, although this cannot be guaranteed.

Details about the revision

Previous AFQT percentiles were problematic because they confused older age (and, likely, more education) with higher ability. On average, the original AFQT norms assigned younger cohorts of respondents below-average ability, and older cohorts above-average ability. Because there is no reason to believe that these measures of ability (or trainability) should systematically differ by birth cohort over the narrow age ranges in this cohort, internal norms have been generated based on weighted data, placing the respondents into birth cohorts 3 months wide. Because the age at which children start kindergarten differs across States, older cohorts of respondents (even those who are older by just a few months) may have completed 1 more year of school than their peers who narrowly missed the cutoff date for starting school. Since the time of the original AFQT norming process for the NLSY79, dates of birth have been revised for some respondents. These revised dates of birth have been used to generate new norms. However, respondents whose revised date of birth put them outside the 1957-64 interval of birth dates were moved to the nearest age cohort that was in the originally intended design.

The revised scores have 11,914 nonmissing observations. The original AFQT scores had only 11,878 nonmissing observations. The difference, 36 observations, arises because of individuals who are coded as having been subject to an "altered testing procedure." The original AFQT scores were coded "invalid skip" for these 36 respondents. However, because these 36 respondents do have scores for the four tests used for calculating the AFQT score, it was possible to compute revised scores for them. Users should be aware that most of these 36 respondents had very low percentile scores. The original Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) sampling weights gave a positive weight for respondents with altered testing procedures. For researchers who do not wish to include these 36 respondents for analysis, revised weights that exclude them are available.

Users are reminded that the number of respondents in the youngest 3-month cohort of the NLSY79 is smaller than expected. A stronger version of the same pattern emerged in the NLSY97.

Users should be aware that the percentiles employed for these revised scores on the NLSY79 employ internal norms using the sampling weights. The percentile scores are derived nonparametrically using the (weighted) cumulative distribution function for all respondents in each 3month birth interval. Standard normal equivalents are based on these percentile points, not vice versa. These percentiles are not based on any underlying normal distribution of the scores.

Spotlight: Job Satisfaction

What factors contribute to worker satisfaction? What are the consequences of high or low job satisfaction? Can job satisfaction be predicted? How does job satisfaction compare from generation to generation? Researchers may find answers to these questions and more using data from the NLS cohort groups.

Job satisfaction variables in the NLSY79

During each survey year from 1979 to 1992, NLSY79 respondents were asked to rate, on a four-point scale from "like it very much" to "dislike it very much" how they felt about their current or most recent job. This question provided a general indication of a respondent's current job satisfaction. In the 1994-2004 survey years, the question was asked about each job held.

Respondents who were working at a

job in conjunction with participation in a federally funded employment and training program were asked, during the 1979-87 survey years, how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with their entire experience in the job program. A job satisfaction question also was asked about armed forces enlistment during the 1979-85 survey years.

During the 1979-82 and 1988 surveys, wage and salaried workers, as well as the self-employed in incorporated businesses, were presented with a series of descriptive statements about their current job and asked to rate the veracity of each statement. Respondents indicated how satisfied they were with their physical surroundings and whether they had opportunities to use their best skills. They also responded to questions about on-the-job experience, job safety, salary, security, coworker friendliness, supervisor competency, and opportunities for promotion. A job satisfaction index can be constructed using these items. (See Appendix 3 of the NLSY79 Codebook Supplement, available on the Document portion of Web Investigator at www.bls.gov/nls.)

In addition to direct questions about job satisfaction, NLSY79 respondents were asked in each survey year their main reason for leaving their former jobs. In 1980-85, respondents who had left the armed forces also were asked to select the reasons for their departure, choosing from a list that included rank discrimination, better civilian jobs, family separation issues, and other military-specific reasons.

Job satisfaction variables in the NLSY97

In each of the NLSY97 surveys, respondents were asked how they felt about each job they had ever had, rating the job as "like it very much," "like it fairly well," "think it is OK," "dislike it somewhat," or "dislike it very much." For jobs that had ended, respondents in each survey year were asked the main reason they left the job.

Job satisfaction variables in the young adult cohort

A global job satisfaction variable was gathered in the 1994-98 and 2004 young adult surveys for all jobs. A job satisfaction variable was gathered in 2000 and 2002 for the current or most recent job. For jobs that had ended, young adult respondents in 1994-98 gave their main reason for leaving.

Job satisfaction variables in the original cohorts

Several variables about job satisfaction are available for the young women, mature women, older men, and young men cohorts—known collectively as the original cohorts.

The young women were asked about their attitudes toward their current jobs for select survey years between 1968 and 1988. They first were asked: "How do you feel about the job you have now?" They were then asked to name the three factors they liked most and disliked most about their jobs. In 1988 they were also asked to compare how they felt about a previous job and a current job. Young women in 1980 were asked an extended series of questions about job quality and satisfaction. Within this series were several questions that made up what is known as the Job Characteristics Index, which indicates to what degree certain generally desirable job aspects were part of their current job. These aspects included the opportunity for independent thought or action, opportunities to develop close friendships, and the like. Also included in the 1980 series was a job satisfaction index similar to that used in the NLSY79, with questions about surroundings, pay, supervisor, coworkers, safety, and more. In addition, respondents were asked to name their ideal job, either their current job or another one. The young women also were asked each survey year the main reason for leaving a job.

The young men respondents were asked questions similar to these. Questions about job attitudes and reasons for leaving a job were asked each year, and a larger series of questions about job characteristics was given in 1978.

The mature women were asked from 1967 to 1992 their attitude toward their current job and from 1995 to 2003 their attitude toward each job they listed. They also were asked each survey year why they left a job. In 1992 the respondents were asked to what degree their job entailed autonomy, physical effort, and other characteristics and whether it was harder to keep up with the job than previously.

In select survey years, the older men respondents provided their attitude toward their current job, as well as the reason why they left a job. In the early years of the survey, they also were asked to compare attitudes between previous and current jobs. In 1990, older men were asked questions about their overall attitude toward all their years of employment, including job satisfaction and what single aspect was most enjoyable about their work. The widows of deceased respondents (who were interviewed in 1990) also were asked a job satisfaction question.

Locating job satisfaction variables and research

Job satisfaction variables and related items can be found through Web Investigator, often by searching on the words "satisfaction" and "attitudes." Web Investigator can be accessed at **www.bls.gov/nls.**

For research related to job satisfaction, researchers are encouraged to browse the *NLS Annotated Bibliography* at **www.nlsbibliography.org.** More than 100 research articles, papers, and dissertations can be found by searching using "job satisfaction" as the key word.

Frequently Asked Questions

The NLS staff encourages researchers to contact NLS User Services with questions and problems encountered while accessing and using NLS data and/or documentation. Every effort is made to answer these inquiries. Some recent questions and answers that may be of general interest to NLS users are listed below.

Q1. I am interested in mortality data in the NLSY79. Is there information available about deceased respondents, such as year, place, and cause of death? I used the keyword "death" to search, but found only parental death, fringe benefit, and death of children.

A1. The only mortality information available in the NLSY79 survey about the main respondent is the deceased category (code 65) in the "reason for noninterview" (RNI) variable. These RNI variables, available for every year following the initial base survey year (1979), indicate in which survey year a respondent was not interviewed because he or she was deceased.

Q2. How do I find the religion of NLSY79 respondents in 2002? I can only find the religion for the respondent's spouse for that year.

A2. Questions about respondents' religious affiliation and frequency of religious attendance were asked in 1979, 1982, and 2000, but not in 2002. For religious background, researchers might use information about the religion in which the respondents were raised, which was gathered in the 1979 and 2000 survey years. For 2002 and 2004, religion questions were asked only about new spouses. To access these variables, search on the words "religion" and "religious."

Q3. In what manner were the sexual behavior questions asked in the NLSY97 survey? I see some unusually high numbers (such as 99) for the question about number of sexual partners in the last 12 months, and I wonder how the answers were monitored.

A3. The sexual behavior questions (along with other questions about personal behavior) are in the self-administered (YSAQ) sections of the NLSY97 survey. For in-person interviews, the interviewer turns the laptop computer toward the respondent and has the respondent complete the YSAQ section without monitoring the responses. For phone interviews, the questions are read over the phone, and the respondent answers the interviewer directly. Researchers can use question YIR-560, Interviewer Remarks, "Was any part of this interview conducted by telephone?" to determine whether an interview was in phone or in person. Unusual responses stand as stated. In the case of the sexual partner questions, only 2 digits were allowed in the response, which limited the maximum response to 99.

To get a sense of respondent cooperation in general, researchers are encouraged to look at variables in the "Interviewer Remarks" area of interest.

Q4. In the NLSY97, what is the difference between the variable "How is respondent's general health?" (YHEA-100) and "How is respondent's health?" (PC9-001). They look like the same question to me.

A4. The first variable, YHEA-100, is from the 1997 youth questionnaire and asks the youth respondent about his or her general health. The second variable, PC9-001, is from the 1997 parent questionnaire and asks the parent about the youth respondent's health.

Because many question titles are similar to one another, researchers are encouraged to check the codebook information on each question to make certain they are accessing the correct variables. \Box

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 *NLS News*. For a comprehensive listing of NLS-related research, see the *NLS Annotated Bibliography* at **www.nlsbibliography.org.**

Argys, Laura M.; Rees, Daniel I.; Averett, Susan L.; and Witoonchart, Benjama. "Birth Order and Risky Adolescent Behavior." *Economic Inquiry* 44, 2 (April 2006): 215-33. [NLSY79, NLSY97]

Cascio, Elizabeth Ulrich and Lewis, Ethan Gatewood. "Schooling and the Armed Forces Qualifying Test: Evidence from School-Entry Laws." *The Journal of Human Resources* 41, 2 (Spring 2006): 294-318. [NLSY79]

Christakis, Dimitri A. and Zimmerman, Frederick J. "Early Television Viewing Is Associated With Protesting Turning Off the Television at Age 6." *Medscape General Medicine* 8, 2 (June 2006): 63. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Crockett, Lisa J.; Moilanen, Kristin L.; Raffaelli, Marcela; and Randall, Brandy A. "Psychological Profiles and Adolescent Adjustment: A Person-Centered Approach." *Development and Psychopathology* 18, 1 (Winter 2006): 195-214. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

Hartmann, Peter; Reuter, Martin; and Nyborg, Helmuth. "The Relationship Between Date of Birth and Individual Differences in Personality and General Intelligence: A Large-scale Study." *Personality and Individual Differences* 40, 7 (May 2006): 1349-62. [NLSY79]

Lanza, Stephanie T. and Collins, Linda M. "A Mixture Model of Discontinuous Development in Heavy Drinking From Ages 18 to 30: The Role of College Enrollment." *Journal of Studies on Alcohol* 67, 4 (July 2006): 552-61. [NLSY79]

Liu, Ruth X. and Chen, Zeng-Lin." The Ef-

fects of Marital Conflict and Marital Disruption on Depressive Affect: A Comparison Between Women In and Out of Poverty." *Social Science Quarterly* 87, 2 (June 2006): 250-71. [NLSY79]

Loury, Linda Datcher. "All in the Extended Family: Effects of Grandparents, Aunts, and Uncles on Educational Attainment." *American Economic Review* 96, 2 (May 2006): 275-78. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

London, Rebecca A. "The Role of Postsecondary Education in Welfare Recipients' Paths to Self-Sufficiency." *The Journal of Higher Education* 77, 3 (May/June 2006):472-96. [NLSY79]

Pavalko, Eliza K. and Henderson, Kathryn A. "Combining Care Work and Paid Work: Do Workplace Policies Make a Difference?" *Research on Aging* 28, 3 (May 2006): 359-74. [Young Women]

Steckel, Richard Hall and Krishnan, Jayanthi. "The Wealth Mobility of Men and Women During the 1960s and 1970s." *Review of Income and Wealth* 52, 2 (June 2006): 189-212. [Mature Women, Older Men]

Strow, Claudia W. and Brasfield, Chris. "Divorce Probability and the 'Preference' for Sons." *Journal of Applied Economics and Policy* 25, 1 (2006): 42-55. [NLSY79]

Wellington, Alison. "Self-Employment: The New Solution for Balancing Family and Career?" *Labor Economics* 13, 3 (June 2006): 357-86. [NLSY79, Young Women]

Zellman, Gail L. and Perlman, Michal. "Parent Involvement in Child Care Settings: Conceptual and Measurement Issues." *Early Child Development and Care* 176, 5 (July 2006): 521-38. [NLSY79]

Zimmerman, Frederick J. and Bell, Janice F. "Income Inequality and Physical and Mental Health: Testing Associations Consistent With Proposed Causal Pathways." *Journal* of Epidemiology and Community Health 60, 6 (June 2006): 513-21. [NLSY79]

Official Business Penalty for Private Use, \$300 Address Service Requested

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS Postal Square Building, Rm. 2850 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE. Washington, DC 20212-0001

FIRST CLASS MAIL Postage and Fees Paid U.S. Department of Labor Permit No. G-738



NLS Contact Information

NLS News is published quarterly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is distributed both nationwide and abroad without charge to researchers using NLS data, as well as to other interested persons.

NLS User Services:	Center for Human Resource Research The Ohio State University 921 Chatham Lane, Suite 100	NLS documentation, data, and data updates:	usersvc@postoffice.chrr.ohio- state.edu
	Columbus, Ohio 43221-2418 usersvc@postoffice.chrr.ohio-state.edu	NLS Web site:	www.bls.gov/nls
	(614) 442-7366 (614) 442-7329 (Fax)	BLS-NLS publications:	Jain_Rita@bls.gov (202) 691-7405
NLS Program Office:	National Longitudinal Surveys 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Room 4945	NLS News Editor:	Donna S. Rothstein Rothstein_D@bls.gov
	Washington, DC 20212-0001 Attention: Rita Jain NLS_INFO@bls.gov (202) 691-7405 (202) 691-6425 (Fax)	NLS Program Director and Media Contact:	Charles R. Pierret Pierret_C@bls.gov (202) 691-7519