

# NLS News



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## NLSY79 Workhistory Data Release

The latest NLSY79 workhistory data CD-ROM has been released to the public. The CD-ROM contains data on employment collected during the 1996 interview, as well as all similar data from the previous interviews.

The NLSY79 workhistory data file contains a unique set of created variables. This constructed data file provides a week-by-week longitudinal work record for each respondent from January 1978 through the 1996 interview date. Data are arranged in three primary arrays:

- Each respondent's labor force status, including any military experience, during each week since 1978;
- The usual number of hours worked each week at all jobs; and
- Additional job numbers for respondents who worked for more than one employer simultaneously in any week.

In addition to the three arrays, this file includes start and stop dates and usual hours worked for each of up to five employers for whom the respondent worked during the survey period. Data are also included on rate of pay, occupation, industry, and class of worker. Dates of active military service and constructed variables detailing gaps in employment are provided.

The data set also includes constructed variables summarizing various aspects of the respondent's labor force participation, such as number of weeks spent working, unemployed, or out of the labor force and number of hours worked, for both the previous calendar year and the period of time since the last interview. Finally, key linkage variables facilitate use of the

workhistory data in combination with data from the main NLSY79 or NLSY79 child data files.

The NLSY79 workhistory data are distributed on a CD-ROM that includes specialized search/retrieval software and documentation files to aid researchers in using the data. Users can find further details on the workhistory data in the *NLSY79 Users' Guide*. For more information or to order the CD-ROM, contact NLS User Services (see back page for contact information).

## NLSY97 on Health

The first round of the NLSY97 asked respondents a variety of questions related to their health status, behavior, and knowledge of health practices. This article summarizes the information collected on the health of respondents; on their health-related behavior, particularly substance use and sexual activity; on their knowledge of how various activities may influence their health; and on the health of their parents. It also compares the NLSY97 round 1 survey questions to the information available for the other NLS cohorts.

Several different sections of the round 1 NLSY97 survey collected health information. Some questions were simply asked by the interviewer in the health section of the youth questionnaire. More sensitive questions, notably those about substance use and sexual activity, were included in the self-administered section of the youth questionnaire. Because interaction with the interviewer might influence response quality, the self-administered portion allowed respondents to enter their answers directly into the computer rather than being asked questions by an interviewer. Finally, some of the information

about the youth's health was collected from the responding parent in the parent questionnaire, as were all of the data about the health of the parents.

Although this article focuses on information from round 1, researchers should note that round 2, scheduled to begin fielding in fall 1998, will include many similar questions. However, the parent questionnaire is unique to round 1.

### Health status

In the health section of the youth questionnaire, all respondents reported their height and weight and stated the level of their general health. In the self-administered section, youths further described their weight (very underweight, slightly underweight, almost the right weight, slightly overweight, very overweight) and their current weight plans (e.g., lose weight, gain weight, stay the same weight, not doing anything about weight). The survey also asked the respondents whether they had entered puberty and their age at the time of onset.

The 1997 parent interview provided additional information about the general state of the youth's health. In the parent questionnaire, the responding parent reported any past or present medical conditions that limit or have limited the youth's ability to attend school regularly, to do regular school work, or to work at a job for pay. The survey specifically asked whether the youth suffers from any of the following health conditions:

- Chronic health condition or life threatening disease
- Learning disability
- Part of body missing or deformed
- Physical, emotional, or mental condition
- Trouble seeing, hearing, or speaking

For each health condition, the survey recorded the youth's age when it was first noticed and whether the youth was currently limited by the condition.

**Health insurance.** Respondents who did not live with a parent or guardian at the time of the survey reported the source of any health insurance coverage that includes physician or hospital care. For the rest of the youths, the responding parent provided information about the source of the youth's health insurance.

### Substance use

The use of substances such as alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana can have a significant impact on current and future health status. To provide the opportunity for analysis of the effects of these factors on youths, the self-administered section of the youth questionnaire collected data on whether the youth had ever smoked a cigarette, consumed an alcoholic beverage, or used marijuana.

**Cigarette use.** In the 1997 self-administered portion of the youth questionnaire, all youths who had ever smoked an entire cigarette stated their age the first time they smoked. Additional data included the number of days they smoked during the 30 days prior to the survey and the number of cigarettes they usually had on those days.

**Alcohol use.** The focus of the alcohol use section was on the intensity of use in a recent period. This section defined an alcoholic beverage as a can or bottle of beer, a glass of wine, a mixed drink, or a shot of liquor. The youth was instructed not to include any childhood sips from an older person's drink.

The survey initially established the age at which the youth consumed his or her first alcoholic beverage. Youths who had consumed alcohol answered a series of questions about the quantity and frequency of alcohol use in the 30 days prior to the interview. Specific questions included the number of days the youth had one or more alcoholic beverage(s); how many drinks he or she (usually) had per day, and the number of days the youth had 5 drinks or more. Finally, the survey asked about the number of days that the

youth had an alcoholic drink right before or during school or work.

**Marijuana use.** Youths also were surveyed on their experiences with marijuana, also referred to as 'grass' or 'pot.' In round 1, youths who reported using marijuana stated the age at which they first used the drug. Additional information was collected on the number of days the youth smoked marijuana and the number of times he or she used marijuana right before or during school or work in the 30 days prior to the interview.

### Dating and sexual activity

The self-administered section of the round 1 questionnaire asked a series of questions designed to examine the extent of the respondent's sexual activity.

All respondents first stated whether they had ever been on a date or unsupervised social outing with a member of the opposite sex. Those who had were asked how old they were the first time they went on a date. Other questions included how often the respondent dated and the number of different people he or she went out on a date with in the past year.

Data on sexual activity were obtained from older respondents in the NLSY97—those born in 1980 through 1982. If a respondent reported ever having sexual intercourse, the youth was asked to provide his or her age at the time of first sexual encounter and whether birth control had been used. Those who reported not using any method of birth control were questioned on whether they wanted a pregnancy at that time. Additional information included the respondent's total number of partners and the number of partners in the previous year. Complementing information on the number of times that the respondent had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, the respondent reported the number of times he or she used birth control during the same period. Finally, these respondents stated the method of birth control used most often.

Although not described in this article, data were also collected in round 1 on fertility, pregnancy, and children of NLSY97 respondents. Contact NLS User Services for more information about these topics.

### Health practices and knowledge

Youths born in 1983 were asked about

a number of health-related practices in the health section of the youth questionnaire. Nutritional questions included the number of days in a typical school week that the youth ate breakfast and the number of days in a typical week the youth ate green vegetables or fruits. The survey also questioned these youths about other health practices (e.g., the number of days in a typical week that the youth engaged in exercise that lasts 30 minutes or more, the percent of the time the youth wore a seat belt when riding in a car).

Further questions in the health section assessed these youths' knowledge of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The youth chose the most effective method of preventing pregnancy, e.g., withdrawal, condom, or birth control pill. Using these choices, the youth also selected the most effective means of preventing sexually transmitted diseases. Finally, the youth stated the point in the female menstrual cycle at which he or she believed pregnancy to be most likely to occur.

In addition, interviewers questioned the respondents' knowledge about the health effects of alcohol and cigarette use. Youths born in 1983 stated whether they believed that having five or more drinks of alcohol once or twice per week increases the risk of damaging the liver, getting heart disease, getting arthritis, becoming addicted to alcohol, or harming an unborn child. These same youths also stated their opinions on whether smoking cigarettes contributes to getting heart disease or getting AIDS. The responding parents of youths born in 1983 also answered the same questions about alcohol in the self-administered section of the parent questionnaire, so comparisons between the youths' answers and those of their parents are possible.

### Parents' health

Data collected on the responding parent's and his or her current spouse's or partner's general health may provide researchers with the means to compare the health of the NLSY97 respondents with that of their parents. In the parent questionnaire, the responding parent first stated whether he or she had any long-term health problem that limits the type or amount of employment possible. The parent then reported any serious long-

standing medical condition (e.g., severe heart problem, cancer, potentially life-threatening disease) since the birth of his or her oldest NLSY97 child. Finally, the parent provided his or her height and weight.

The responding parent also reported the above information for his or her current spouse or partner, although height and weight were only collected if the spouse or partner was a biological parent of the youth. If the NLSY97 respondent was living apart from a biological parent but had been in contact with that person since age 10, the responding parent estimated the height and weight of that parent.

### Comparison to other NLS surveys

Similar questions on many of the above topics have been asked of the other NLS cohorts, allowing for cross-generational comparisons. Respondents in each cohort have answered interviewer-administered questions about their health; however, the specific questions have varied widely as the health sections were modified to reflect the respondents' different stages in the life cycle. Questions have generally been about the respondent's height and weight and about specific health conditions that limit work and school activities. Additionally, the NLSY79 children provide detailed information on recent accidents and injuries, medical care for physical or emotional problems, and hospitalizations. Health insurance information has been collected from respondents in all cohorts except the young men.

Some information about substance use has also been collected from all cohorts except the young men. NLSY79 respondents answered questions about the quantity and frequency of their alcohol consumption in the 1982-85, 1988-89, 1992, and 1994 surveys. Additionally, during the 1980 interview, underage respondents reported the number of times they had consumed alcoholic beverages without their parents' permission. The 1984, 1992, and 1994 surveys included questions on the quantity and frequency of cigarette use. Finally, drug use questions were asked in 1984, 1988, 1992, and 1994, with respondents reporting the age at which they first used various substances, lifetime use, and frequency of use in the past 30 days. The NLSY79 substance use

questions have been both interviewer-administered and self-administered in various surveys; users should consult the questionnaires to determine the method of administration.

The children of the NLSY79 have also provided information about substance use. In each survey beginning in 1988, children ages 10 and older have answered questions in a self-administered questionnaire about the quantity and frequency of their use of alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana and other drugs. These children also give their age at the first use of each substance. The 1994 and 1996 surveys of "young adults," those age 15 and older, asked a more detailed series of questions, including whether substance use has interfered with school or job performance.

Data on alcohol and cigarette use by older respondents is available in the mature women, young women, and older men surveys. In interviewer-administered sections, the mature women provided data about the quantity and frequency of their alcohol use in 1989 and 1995; the young women answered these questions in 1991, 1993, and 1995. In 1989 (mature women) or 1991 and 1993 (young women), respondents provided data about both current and prior cigarette use. The 1995 surveys of both cohorts asked whether the respondent currently smoked. Finally, the 1990 interview of the older men collected retrospective data on lifetime cigarette and alcohol use.

Interviewers gathered information on sexual activity from NLSY79 respondents in the 1983-85 surveys, and data on contraception have been regularly collected since 1982. In 1984, NLSY79 respondents additionally answered health knowledge questions about when pregnancy occurs; the NLSY79 children ages 10 and over (10-14 in 1994 and 1996) have responded to this question each year since 1988. NLSY79 children ages 13 and older have reported on their sexual activity in a self-administered questionnaire beginning in 1988. Children ages 15 and older, the young adults, have also provided information on contraceptive use since 1994.

The data collected on the health and health behavior of NLSY97 respondents may help researchers to analyze the ways in which health affects other aspects of life, such as educational attainment and labor market outcomes. As the round 1

data are further supplemented by longitudinal health information in future surveys, researchers will be able to gain a more complete picture of the health of a new generation. In addition to specific data on health conditions, the information on the health beliefs and practices of these teenagers will enable researchers to understand the factors that have an impact on current and future health. Finally, the availability of comparable information for other NLS cohorts allows examination of changes in health attitudes, practices, and conditions across four generations of U.S. residents.

### Spotlight: NLSY79 High School and Transcript Surveys

Educational experiences of individuals can strongly influence their labor market outcomes. To aid researchers in examining this crucial component, the early rounds of the NLSY79 included two special data collections: the high school survey and the transcript surveys. The 1980 high school survey gathered data on both school and respondent characteristics directly from high schools attended by civilian NLSY79 respondents. The transcript surveys collected the transcripts of respondents directly from the schools and coded course information for use by researchers. These collections allow researchers to compare school characteristics, individual performance, and labor market outcomes for the same set of respondents, a combination offered by very few data sets.

This article first describes the administration and objectives of these two data collections. It then briefly summarizes the available data. Sample sizes and completion rates for the various sections of the surveys are reviewed. The final section discusses types of existing research using data from the school and transcript surveys and provides more information about documentation that aids users of these data. This article (particularly the review of the data) relies heavily on data analysis done by Audrey Light (1995) of the Department of Economics, The Ohio State University.

### Administration and objectives

The school and transcript surveys supplement respondent-reported information on educational experience. Because data reported by respondents can be subjective or affected by recall, the collection of information directly from the schools provides an opportunity for verification of respondent data. Additionally, the questions on school-level characteristics allow users to pursue additional research topics that would not be feasible if the data were limited to respondent characteristics.

Initial data collection for both the school and transcript surveys took place in 1980. The National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago conducted both surveys. U.S. schools currently or most recently attended by civilian respondents were located through name and address information obtained from the respondents during the first 1979 interview. At that time, respondents (and the parents or guardians of those under age 18) also signed release forms permitting access to their official school records.

School surveys were mailed directly to the schools attended by NLSY79 respondents in April 1980; most schools responded to the survey between May and October 1980. Each school received one "school questionnaire," which asked a school official to provide information about school characteristics, and a "student questionnaire" for each NLSY79 respondent in the school. The contents of these questionnaires are described in more detail below. Although this was primarily a mail survey, a number of schools were called by phone and even visited in person to ensure the highest possible response rate.

The first round of the transcript survey was conducted in conjunction with the high school survey, during April 1980. At that time, the schools were asked to provide transcripts for respondents ages 17 and older when they returned the school survey. Because many respondents were not yet 17 or had not yet completed eight semesters of high school coursework or both, additional requests for transcripts were made in September 1981 and September 1983. Personal visits were used to obtain transcripts in 1980 but not in later rounds.

### Content of the surveys

The school survey collected both school- and respondent-specific information through the administration of a school questionnaire and a student questionnaire. A school official was asked to complete both questionnaires. Designed to supplement both subjective respondent information on educational experiences obtained during the main surveys and the transcript data described below, the school questionnaire gathered information on the following topics:

- Total enrollment
- Type of grading system
- Number of books in the school library
- Vocational/technical course offerings
- Average daily attendance
- Dropout rate
- Gender and ethnic/racial composition of students and faculty
- Percent of economically disadvantaged students
- Characteristics/qualifications of the staff
- Staff retention rate
- Entry-level salary

The student questionnaire collected information specific to individual respondents. Schools with more than one NLSY79 respondent completed one questionnaire for each student. This questionnaire asked for information on: Date of last enrollment, reason the student was not currently enrolled, highest grade attended, and participation in remedial or bilingual education classes. This questionnaire also collected scores and percentile ranks from various aptitude and intelligence tests (e.g., the California Test of Maturity, the Differential Aptitude Test), as well as the date and grade level when each test was taken.

The transcript surveys complement the school and student information collected in the school survey. During this data collection effort, the following information was coded from student transcripts and included in the data set:

- Course information for up to 64 courses including course title, number of credits received, final grade received, and grade level at which the course was taken
- Respondent's attendance record for

grades 9–12

- Respondent's class rank and total class size during the last year of school attended
- Date and reason the respondent's enrollment ended
- Scores on the math and verbal sections of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Aptitude Test, and the American College Test

Schools were also asked to mail their course catalog to NORC, if one was available; this information was used as an aid in coding respondent course records.

The school survey data are located in the SCHLSURV record type on the NLSY79 CD-ROM. Although they were actually collected in 1980, these variables are listed as 1979 raw data. Record type TRANSURV contains the 320 course-related variables from the transcript survey; the attendance, class rank, and enrollment variables are located in record type M81VAR. Although transcript variables were collected in 1980, 1981, and 1983, the variables were merged and listed as 1981 created variables in the data for easier use.

### Sample sizes and response rates

For a variety of reasons, particularly because nonresponse varies widely across questions on the same instrument, it is difficult to calculate a single response rate for either the school survey or the transcript surveys. The amount of useful data available to researchers depends heavily on the topic of research and the specific variables under analysis. This section summarizes the sample sizes and response rates for the surveys and describes some of the main reasons for nonresponse to either the survey as a whole or to individual items.

For the high school survey, the sample of eligible respondents included only civilian respondents who attended U.S. schools. The total number of eligible respondents was 11,231, or the total NLSY79 sample of 12,686 minus 1,280 military sample members and 175 respondents whose current or last high school was outside the United States. The school questionnaire was collected from the schools attended by 8,805 eligible respondents (78.4 percent); however, as described below there is considerable item

nonresponse in this survey.

As with the school survey, 11,231 sample members were eligible for the transcript surveys. Some transcript data are available for 9,010 respondents, or 80.2 percent of the eligible sample. However, these data are incomplete for many respondents.

Reasons for noncompletion of either survey include the following:

- The respondent (and the parent or guardian, if necessary) did not sign a release form
- The school could not be located due to incomplete or inaccurate information from the respondent
- The respondent transferred to a new high school after the 1979 interview
- The school refused to cooperate
- For the transcript surveys, the school provided transcript information that could not be coded

Data are also affected by item nonresponse, which decreases the amount of available information. This section provides a brief overview of item nonresponse in the school and transcript surveys; those interested in a more complete description of item nonresponse should consult "Notes on the NLS Schooling Data" by Audrey Light, available from NLS User Services.

As one would expect, school officials most often responded to easily-answered questions in the school survey. The school's grading system was identified for 8,312 respondents, whether vocational or technical programs were available was reported for over 8,200 respondents, and the respondent's highest grade attended was provided for 8,602 respondents. The schools of some 7,702 respondents reported the annual entry-level teacher's salary, the number of books in the library (7,112 respondents), and the respondent's reason for leaving the school (6,087 respondents). Response rates for most of the other items in the school survey fall somewhere between these extremes.

Scores on standardized aptitude tests collected during the school survey are available for as many as 1,191 respondents (for the Otis-Lennon Mental Ability Test) and as few as 101 respondents (for the Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale); 1,875 respondents have a score, date taken, and

grade recorded for at least one of the many standardized tests.

The transcript data are also affected by item nonresponse. Assuming that a complete high school education includes at least 16 courses, transcript survey information seems to represent all high school courses taken for at least 7,761 respondents.

Achievement test scores are one notable area of interest for researchers. Both the school and transcript surveys collected scores from the ACT, PSAT, and SAT college entrance tests. Combining data from the two surveys, ACT scores are available for 1,155 respondents, PSAT scores for 1,421 respondents, and SAT scores for 978 respondents; 2,500 respondents have a score for at least one of the above tests.

#### Research

Researchers have used the school and transcript surveys for a number of research projects on a variety of topics. Following is a brief and partial summary of primary research topics investigated using the school and transcript data sets.

A number of researchers have used the NLSY79 to investigate the potential tradeoff between high school performance and high school employment and the effects of both on future labor market outcomes. The detailed employment data in the NLSY79 have been used in conjunction with performance measures drawn from the school and transcript surveys. Although students' grade point averages or simply whether they graduate can measure "performance", the transcript data allow researchers to construct detailed measures of high school achievement. Recent examples of this line of research include Eckstein and Wolpin (1997), Light (1997), and Oettinger (1997).

A related topic of research asks how the "quality" of students' high school education affects subsequent earnings, schooling, and other labor market outcomes. One approach examines the benefits associated with certain curriculum choices, such as mathematics and science courses (Levine and Zimmerman, 1995). Another approach focuses on school and teacher characteristics, such as teacher-student ratios, teacher salaries, and number of books in the library, as a measure

of quality (Betts, 1995; Strayer, 1997).

Instead of linking high school factors to post-school labor market outcomes, other researchers have focused on contemporaneous outcomes such as teenage delinquency and in-school achievement test scores. Krapp (1996) used the various test scores obtained from NLSY79 respondents' school records to determine whether the relationship between test scores and socioeconomic demographic factors varies with age. Jarjoura (1993) examined the effect of dropping out of high school on delinquency after controlling for demographic factors, grade point average, and whether the student had ever enrolled in vocational programs (the latter two variables are from the school survey).

The projects described above offer an overview of possible areas of research using the school and transcript data. Additional research articles can be located using the on-line NLS Bibliography (<http://www.chrr.ohio-state.edu/nls-bib/>).

#### References

- Betts, Julian R. "Does School Quality Matter? Evidence from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth." *Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 77, pp. 231-250, May 1995.
- Eckstein, Zvi and Wolpin, Kenneth I. "Youth Employment and Academic Performance in High School." Unpublished paper, March 1997.
- Jarjoura, G. Roger. "Does Dropping out of School Enhance Delinquent Involvement? Results from a Large-Scale National Probability Sample." *Criminology*, Vol. 31, pp. 149-172, May 1993.
- Krapp, Peter. "Age, IQ, and Ability." Presented at the American Sociological Association Meetings, New York, 1996.
- Levine, Philip B. and Zimmerman, David J. "The Benefit of Additional High-School Math and Science Classes for Young Men and Women." *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, Vol. 13, pp. 137-149, April 1995.
- Light, Audrey. "High School Employment." Department of Economics, The Ohio State University, 1997.

Oettinger, Gerald S. "Does High School Employment Affect High School Academic Performance?" Department of Economics, University of Texas, Austin, 1997.

Strayer, Wayne Earle. "The Returns to High School Quality: College Choice and Earnings." Ph.D. Dissertation, The Ohio State University, 1997.

**Documentation**

The following reference sources will aid researchers in using data from the NLSY79 school and transcript surveys. Contact NLS User Services for more information or to obtain these items.

Borus, Michael E. and Carpenter, Susan A. "Choices in Education." In *Pathways to the Future, Vol. II: A Final Report on the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth Labor Market Experience in 1980*. Michael E. Borus, ed. Columbus, OH: Center for Human Resource Research, The Ohio State University, 1982.

Center for Human Resource Research. *NLSY79 Users' Guide*. Columbus, OH: Center for Human Resource Research, The Ohio State University, 1997.

Light, Audrey. "Notes on the NLS Schooling Data." Columbus, OH: Center for Human Resource Research, The Ohio State University, 1995.

National Center for Research in Vocational Education and Center for Human Resource Research. *NLSY High School Transcript Survey: Overview and Documentation*. Columbus, OH: Center for Human Resource Research, The Ohio State University.

National Opinion Research Center. "The School and Transcript Survey: Technical Report." Chicago: NORC, University of Chicago, 1980.

**Errata: NLSY79 1979-1996 Data Release**

There are several known errors with the current release of the NLSY79 data, as outlined below. Although they will be corrected with the next release, users

should be aware of them. Please contact NLS User Services with further questions.

- The 1994 variable R50096. has the title "Total Income from Alimony Received in 1993 by R." However, this title is inaccurate; alimony information was collected in a single question that combined it with other income such as interest and dividends. R50096. is actually an internal machine computation item, producing values ranging from 0 to 1, that determines which respondents are asked child support questions. This title is incorrect on both the 1994 and 1996 CD-ROMs.
- The 1993 variable R44179. is incorrectly titled "Does R Have a High School Diploma or Equivalent." The correct title should be "Family Poverty Level in 1992." This title is incorrect on the 1993, 1994, and 1996 CD-ROMs.
- In the 1996 variable R51685., called "Is R's Current Residence in SMSA?", the data were incorrectly calculated. The current variable shows that all respondents either reside in an 'SMSA-not central city' or in an 'SMSA-central city status unknown'. In other words, no respondents were coded as living outside an SMSA or in a central city. The next NLSY79 data release will contain the corrected variable.
- Record type RECIP\_YEAR includes variables called fill flags. These flags explain how the yearly reciprocity data were checked and, if data were missing or out of range, how the reciprocity data were filled in. All fill flags for 1979-1992 are correct; however, fill flags for 1993-1996 are incorrect. Users who need the correct information in these fill flags should contact NLS User Services for the corrected set of variables. Reference numbers for the affected 1993-1996 variables are provided below:

R43139.27	R50433.51
R43322.27	R50433.54
R43540.27	R56500.00

R43697.27	R56503.00
R43871.27	R56699.00
R49955.27	R56702.00
R49955.51	R56920.00
R50095.51	R56923.00
R50095.54	R57089.00
R50245.51	R57092.00
R50245.54	R57244.00
R50340.51	R57247.00
R50340.54	

- In several 1996 variables, respondents who worked continuously over the last two interviews have an extra week's worth of work counted. The week that forms the seam between interviews was inadvertently counted twice. Affected variables are R51676.00, "Number of Hours Worked Since Last Int \*KEY\*," and R51646.-R51650., "Total Tenure (in Weeks) with Employers as of Interview Date Job #1-5."
- There are two problems with the "Total Net Family Income" variable. Traditionally, this variable has not included income from partners. Beginning with the 1994 survey, however, income information for spouses and partners was collected in the same series of questions, which is then used to compute total family income. As a result, partner's income was inadvertently included in the 1994 (R50807.) and 1996 (R51660.) total net family income variables. Second, for situations where both respondent and spouse are receiving child support, only one support amount was included in the calculation of the total net family income variable for 1993 (R44177.), 1994 (R50807.), and 1996 (R51660.). Users should note that these miscalculations for total net family income will likely have implications for Family Poverty Status variables in 1993 (R44178.), 1994 (R50808.), and 1996 (R51661.). These variables will be revised on the next data release. In the meantime, interested users should contact NLS User Services to obtain corrected versions of these variables.
- The FERTILE record type contains a set of repeated reference numbers in 1996. The reference numbers for the

date of birth (month, day, and year), sex, usual residence, and 2-digit ID (R51723.00, R51723.01, R51723.02, R51724., R51725., and R51726.) are identical for the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> biological children of the respondent. The data and codebook information for each variable are unique and correct for each child. Users should edit their SAS or SPSSx programs by simply renaming either the 8<sup>th</sup> or the 9<sup>th</sup> child's variables to make the variable names different, ensuring that one set of child variables is not overwritten by the other.

- On the Geocode CD-ROM (not the main public release CD-ROM) the following 1996 variables have no valid skips recorded in the data. These variables concern the location of the respondent's college and the state in which a child support agreement was filed. Respondents for whom these six variables should be valid skips are instead coded as 0.

R51859.00	R51864.00
R51861.00	R51865.00
R51863.00	R51866.00

Users can work around this problem by using other information to infer which respondents should have a valid skip. For example, users can infer valid skips on the three college variables from variables containing the FICE codes of each college. Respondents who did not go to college are labeled a valid skip in the FICE variables.

### 1994 NLSY79 Child CD-ROM Error

On the 1994 NLSY79 Child CD-ROM, children who were NOT assessed in 1994 were inadvertently assigned values other than -5 for the following assessments:

- PIAT Reading Recognition (G15079., G15080., G15081.)
- PPVT (G15086., G15087., G15088.)
- Temperament—Insecure Attachment subscale (G15008.)

Children with a 1994 child sampling weight (G1508900) of 0 (not assessed) should all be coded “-5” on these scores. The above scores are correct on the CD-ROM for all children actually assessed in 1994; researchers should use the weights to restrict analyses to those children who were assessed. This error will be corrected on the 1986–96 NLSY79 child/young adult data release.

### Completed NLS Research

The following is a listing of recent research based on data from the various NLS cohorts that has not appeared in its current form in previous issues of *NLS News*. For a comprehensive listing, see the NLS Annotated Bibliography, located online (<http://www.chrr.ohio-state.edu/nls-bib/>).

Björklund, Anders and Jäntti, Markus. “Intergenerational Income Mobility in Sweden Compared to the United States.” *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 87, No. 5, pp. 1009-1018, December 1997. [Older Men and Young Men]

Bratsberg, Bernt and Turunen, Jarkko. “Wage Curve Evidence from Panel Data.” *Economics Letters*, Vol. 51, pp. 345-353, 1996. [NLSY79]

Cameron, Stephen V.; Heckman, James J. “Life Cycle Schooling and Dynamic Selection Bias: Models and Evidence for Five Cohorts.” Working Paper No. 6385, National Bureau of Economic Research, January 1998. [Older Men, Mature Women, Young Men, Young Women, NLSY79]

Cooksey, Elizabeth C.; Menaghan, Elizabeth G.; and Jekielek, Susan M. “Life-Course Effects of Work and Family Circumstances on Children.” *Social Forces*, Vol. 76, No. 2, pp. 637-667, December 1997. [NLSY79, Children of the NLSY79]

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