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NLSY79 Round 22 Data Released

The main file and work history data release for round 22 of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79) is now available to researchers.

This latest survey round to be released collected information from 7,654 members of the NLSY79 cohort, or 80 percent of the eligible respondents. The round 22 release includes data from the 2006 interview and all public data collected during the previous 21 interviews of the cohort. (Since 1994, NLSY79 respondents have been interviewed every other year.)

The work history data comprise created variables tracking respondents' employment status from January 1, 1978, through the most recent interview date. The data file contains each respondent's labor force status (including any military experience) during each week since January 1, 1978; the usual number of hours worked each week at all jobs; and additional details about respondents who worked for more than one employer simultaneously in any week. The data file also contains start and stop dates for the jobs and usual hours worked for each of up to five employers for whom the respondent worked during the survey period. Rate of pay, occupation,

industry, and class of worker are included as well. Dates of active military service and gaps in employment are provided.

The data set also contains constructed variables summarizing various aspects of respondents' labor force participation, including the number of weeks spent working, unemployed, or out of the labor force and the number of hours worked, both during the previous calendar year and during the period since the last interview. In addition, variables that summarize respondents' lifetime experiences in the labor force, such as the number of jobs ever held, are created. Formerly separate from the main data file, the work history data now are combined with the other data and are identified under "Work History" areas of interest search options.

Round 22 questionnaire content

The round 22 questionnaire is similar to those used in previous rounds. Each NLSY79 respondent is asked about his or her labor force behavior, educational attainment, training investments, income, health conditions, insurance coverage, and marital and fertility histories. The 2006 questionnaire also included some changes, which are outlined as follows.

Additions to the Round 22 survey: A series of employment questions known as the CPS questions was reintroduced in round 22. The CPS questions duplicate a set of questions from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly government survey that gathers data on the U.S. labor force, employment, unemployment, and persons not in the labor force. Having this set of questions in the NLSY79 allows researchers to compare NLSY79 data with CPS data. Topics include any work for pay, any unpaid work on a family farm or business, any business profit, inability to work due to

disability, desire for a job, absences from work, multiple jobs, hours usually worked, main reason for part-time work, actual hours worked in previous week, layoffs and returns to work, job search details, and the respondent's current employment situation. The focus of these questions is on the survey week preceding the interview. The CPS series was last included in 1998.

New to the survey is a series of variables on volunteerism. The series includes questions about the number of weeks that volunteer work was performed and the number of hours per week, the types of organizations involved, and the type of organization for which the respondent volunteered the most. (See T03090.00 to T03095.11.)

The Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, another addition to this round, is a widely used measure of self-esteem whereby respondents rate the applicability of several statements about themselves. For instance, for the statement "On the whole, I am satisfied with myself," respondents choose a range from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree." Other statements in this 10-question series cover the following issues: whether the respondent that feels he or she has a worth equal to others', has good qualities, is a failure, does things as well as most others, doesn't have much to be proud of, takes a positive attitude toward him- or herself, wishes that he or she had more self-respect, feels useless sometimes, and feels no good. (See T08998.00 through T08998.09.) The series was last asked of NLSY79 respondents in 1987. The variables are found in the "Attitude" Area of Interest.

A new cognitive function series has been introduced as well. Respondents first rate their current memory on a scale of poor to excellent and rate their current memory compared with their memory 2 years ago.

Respondents also participate in a word recall exercise in which they try to recall aloud a set of 10 words that the interviewer has read to them. In addition, respondents count backwards and are asked some simple subtraction problems. (See T09062.00 through T09108.00 in the "Cognitive" Area of Interest.)

Several questions on alcohol consumption also were included in this round, among which are questions about whether the respondent consumed alcohol in the last 30 days, the number of days the respondent consumed at least one drink in the last 30 days, the number of drinks the respondent consumed on an average day, and how often during the last 30 days the respondent had six or more drinks on one occasion. (See T09111.00 through T09115.00.) These questions were last asked in 2002. A new variable that was added asks the interviewer whether anyone besides the respondent was present while he or she was asking the questions about drinking.

New questions about health include queries about whether the respondent is taking cholesterol-lowering medications (T08995.00) or hormone replacement therapy (T08997.00). In this round, the respondent also provided his or her height (T08974.00 and T08975.00), in feet and inches (last asked in 1985). As in most of the NLSY79 survey rounds, the respondent provided his or her weight as well.

In addition, a new series on consumer activity was included. (See T09555.00 through T09604.00.) Respondents estimated the usual daily, weekly, or monthly expenditures at grocery stores or supermarkets for 90 days prior to the interview and how much of that amount was for nonfood items. Respondents also provided details on food purchases from places other than grocery stores (convenience stores, vegetable stands, etc.), as well as information on usual monthly expenses for food from restaurants or street vendors. Besides information on food consumption, details also were gathered about the average daily, weekly, or monthly charges for telephone service in the past 90 days, whether the respondent's telephone service bill included Internet service, and the amount of the household's most recent utility bills.

Round 22 also included a series of questions on hypothetical risk preferences.

(See T09605.00 through T09616.00.) Respondents were asked (1) the amount for which they would be willing to sell an unspecified asset with a possible value of \$1,000 or \$10,000 before its actual value was determined and (2) the percentage of the selling price the respondent would save for the future, as opposed to spending the money immediately. A new series of questions designed to measure impatience asked respondents to imagine that they had won a prize of \$1000, which they could claim immediately. (See T09617.00 through T09622.00.) If, however, respondents voluntarily delayed receiving the prize, they would receive more money. Respondents were asked what would be the smallest amount of money they would take to wait for the prize, rather than receive the prize immediately.

In a new experimental series of questions on expectations about retirement, a subsample of respondents provided definitions of retirement, answered questions about learning about retirement and preparing for retirement, predicted their age of retirement, and estimated the probability of not working for pay at age 62, 65, and 67. (See T09623.00 through T09630.00.)

Respondents who reported siblings in previous interviews were asked in this round whether those siblings had the same mother and father as the respondent.

Deletions from the Round 22 survey:

The assets module, including questions on debt and personal finance, are asked in the NLSY79 every other round. Because these questions were asked in round 21, they were omitted from round 22. The deleted series include questions about the value of and debt owed for vehicles; checking, savings, and money market account balances; the worth of certificates of deposit, government bonds, mutual funds, pension plans, and insurance policies; real estate holdings, including residences, farms, and businesses; loans held; and net worth.

The hypothetical Social Security alternative investment preference questions, inserted in round 21, were not included in this round.

Questions about women's roles in the home and workplace, asked originally in 1979 and periodically since that time, were included in round 21 but not included in this round.

NLSY79 Child and Young Adult Data

The 2006 NLSY79 Young Adult data and a preliminary version of the 2006 NLSY79 Child data are scheduled for release in early June. Information on the content of these questionnaires will be included in the next NLS News (Issue 133).

Obtaining NLSY79 data

NLSY79 main-file data, child and young adult data, and supporting documentation, along with data and documentation from the other NLS cohorts, can be accessed free of charge via Web Investigator on the Internet at www.nlsinfo.org/web-investigator. NLSY79 Geocode data variables, which provide information on each respondent's county of residence, will be available for round 22 as a separate data set approximately 3 months after the release of the main data set. Geocode data for the NLSY79 Child and Young Adult files similarly will be available approximately 3 months after the release of the public data. Researchers interested in obtaining the geocode CD must complete the accessing agreement required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). For more details, see the NLSY97 section of the NLS Web site (www.bls.gov/nls) or contact NLS User Services. (See the back cover of this newsletter for contact numbers.) □

Women's Surveys Offer Nearly 100,000 Variables

Researchers are encouraged to use data from the NLS Mature Women and Young Women Cohort Surveys, sometimes known collectively as the Women's Survey. Together, these two surveys provide users with a wealth of data about the changing roles of American women during the latter part of the 20th century. The two surveys were part of the Original Cohort surveys and began in the late sixties. Data collection for both continued through 2003.

Interviews for the NLS Mature Women Survey, a survey of a group of 5,083 American women aged 30 to 44 years, started in 1967. Much of the information gathered over the years included information on issues related to women reentering the labor market at middle age after child rearing, along with information about

retirement decisions and health issues. Extensive information about pension plans also was gathered, including characteristics of each pension provider and each plan. The mature women were interviewed a total of 21 times; data collection ended in 2003, with 2,237 women participating in the final survey.

The NLS young women (aged 14 to 24 years at the initial interview) were first surveyed in 1968. These 5,159 women in their teens and early twenties were completing school, making initial career and job decisions, and starting families. Many of the individuals in this younger group were the daughters of the mature women, thus allowing for a comparison of the two generations. As the young women matured into middle age, they, too, began facing retirement choices and health concerns, thus providing even more data for comparisons. The young women cohort was interviewed for 22 rounds, with 2,859 women participating in the last survey in 2003.

Collectively, close to 100,000 variables from the two women surveys are available for analysis. These data can be accessed through the NLS Web Investigator at www.nlsinfo.org/web-investigator. □

Topic Spotlight: Religion Variables in the NLSY97

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

Respondents provided religious preference information (denomination or designation, if any) in round 1 (YINF-3600) and again in round 9 (YHHI-55709). The participating parent in round 1 listed his or her own religious preference (P2-014) and in what religion the parent was raised (P2-013). In addition, respondents stated the religion of their partners (rounds 2 and up) and household members (round 3 and up).

In rounds 1 through 4, youths still living at home estimated the number of days in a typical week they participated with their families in a religious activity, such as going to church, praying or reading scriptures together (YSAQ-010). Respondents in rounds 4 through 9 gave information on how often they had attended a worship service in the past 12 months (YSAQ-282A). In

round 4, approximately 40 percent of the NLSY97 respondents reported attending a service once a month or more. In round 9, that percentage dropped to 30 percent. The variable denoting attendance at a worship service also will be included in round 10 data, to be released later this year. The 1997 parent questionnaire included a question about the frequency that the parent and the parent's spouse or partner attended church (P2-015 and P2-051). In addition, respondents were asked in round 1 about the percentage of their peers who went to church or religious services on a regular basis (YPRS-600).

Respondents answered a series of questions about religious attitudes and practices in rounds 6 and 9. Respondents answered true or false to the following statements (see YSAQ-282A2 through YSAQ-282A6): "I don't need religion to have good values"; "The [Bible/Koran/Torah/religious teachings] should be obeyed exactly as written in every situation"; "God has nothing to do with what happens to me personally"; "I often ask God to help me make decisions"; and "I pray more than once a day." A little more than 72 percent of the respondents reported in round 6 that they often asked God for help, and 35 percent of those responding in round 6 said that they prayed more than once a day. Those percentages remained steady in the round 9 responses. The 1997 parent questionnaire included a similar series asked about the parents' religious attitudes and practices (P6-015 through P6-021A). In addition, in rounds 5, 7, and 9, respondents were asked to what extent their parents or parent figures knew about the respondents' values and spiritual beliefs. (YSAQ-618.01 through YSAQ-618.04).

To access data on NLSY97 religion variables through Web Investigator (www.nlsinfo.org/web-investigator), select "Religion," "Religious," "Worship," "God," "Pray," or "Spiritual" in the "Word in Title" search option. Several dozen citations related to religion and the NLS projects are listed in the *NLS Annotated Bibliography* at www.nlsbibliography.org. □

Frequently Asked Questions

The NLS staff encourages researchers to contact NLS User Services with questions and problems encountered while accessing

and using NLS data or documentation. Every effort is made to answer these inquiries. Following are some recent questions and answers that may be of general interest to NLS users:

Q1: In the first part of the initial NLSY79 questionnaire, respondents are asked for the month, day, and year of their birth and the name of the State where they were born. Despite much searching in the Web Investigator, I am unable to locate State of birth and day of birth. How can I access them?

A1. State of birth and day of birth are considered confidential data and are available in the geocode data set only. Those interested in accessing these data need to complete a confidentiality agreement with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. To read more about the application process, go to www.bls.gov/nls/nlsfaqs.htm#anch25.

Q2. Is it possible to find out anything about an NLSY97 respondent's job supervisor?

A2. Both the NLSY97 and NLSY79 provide a few details on the respondent's immediate supervisor or boss. In all rounds of the NLSY97 so far, respondents have supplied information for each employer (EMP 01, EMP 02, etc.), on their immediate supervisor's gender, race, and age (or estimated age). (See the series of questions beginning with YEMP-80900.01, or use the Web Investigator to search for "Supervisors" under the "Word in Title" search option.)

For the NLSY79, supervisor information is more intermittent. The early rounds of the NLSY79 gathered a limited amount of information about the respondent's supervisor in the current job, including the supervisor's gender and racial or ethnic background (asked in 1980 and 1982), along with a rating of the supervisor's competency (asked in 1979, 1980, 1982, and 1988). This information is found within the Job Satisfaction series. Then, in 1990, NLSY79 respondents provided the educational level of their supervisor (R31343) and the likely reason the supervisor came to be in that position (R31344). In 1996 and 1998 respondents provided their supervisor's gender for each job (Job #1, Job #2, etc.), along with some information about the number of employees supervised by each supervisor. Search "Supervisor" under the

“Word in Title” option in the NLSY79 cohort database.

Q3. How can I tell if one of the respondents in the NLSY97 survey has died?

A3. For the NLSY97, use the “Reason For Non Interview” (RNI) variable, which provides interview specifics for each round starting with round 2. In this RNI variable there are two “Deceased” categories, Code 80 and Code 98, with cases coded on the basis of whether the respondent was already known to be deceased prior to that round’s fielding period or whether the field office learned that a respondent was deceased during that round’s fielding period. To find NLSY97 RNI variables in Web Investigator (www.nlsinfo.org/web-investigator), select “RNI” in the “Search Question Name” option.

In the NLSY79 main survey, the “Deceased” category also is found within the RNI variable and can be searched by selecting “Common” in the Area of Interest search option. In the NLSY79 Child/Young Adult surveys, the “Deceased” category is found in the variable “Usual Residence of Child,” which can be selected through the “Child Background” Area of Interest option.

Q4. Is there a variable in the NLSY97 that shows whether the respondent is still getting financial support from his or her parents?

A4. This information is gathered through several variables rather than a single one. Look at questions YSCH-22006, YSCH-23900, YSCH-24600, and YSCH-24700, which indicate the amount of gifts or loans given to the respondent by family members to help pay education expenses. Look also at various questions in the income section that collect information on gifts provided by parents. (See YINC-5700, YINC-5800, YINC-5900, YINC-6500, YINC-6600, YINC-6700, YINC-7100, YINC-7200, YINC-7300, YINC-5600A, YINC-5700A, and YINC-5800A.) Note the important distinction between respondents who are living with their parents and respondents who no longer live with their parents. The HHI (Household Information) roster is a good place to determine who is part of the respondent’s household during a particular round. □

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 www.nlsbibliography.org for a comprehensive listing of NLS-related research):

Apel, Robert, and Kaukinen, Catherine. “On the Relationship Between Family Structure and Antisocial Behavior: Parental Cohabitation and Blended Households.” *Criminology* 46,1 (February 2008): 35–70. [NLSY97]

Baird, Chardie L. “Importance of Community Context for Young Women’s Occupational Aspirations.” *Sex Roles* 58,3–4 (2008): 208–221. [NLSY79]

Bobo, Janet Kay, Klepinger, Daniel H., and Dong, Frederick B. “Identifying Social Drinkers Likely to Consume Alcohol during Pregnancy: Findings from a Prospective Cohort Study.” *Psychological Reports* 101,3 Pt 1 (December 2007): 857–870. [NLSY79]

Cebi, Merve. “Locus of Control and Human Capital Investment Revisited.” *Journal of Human Resources* 42,4 (Fall 2007): 919–932. [NLSY79]

Davis, Shannon N., and Pearce, Lisa D. “Adolescents’ Work-Family Gender Ideologies and Educational Expectations.” *Sociological Perspectives* 50,2 (Summer 2007): 249–271.

Dembe, Allard E., Delbos, Rachel G., Erickson, J. Bianca, and Banks, Steven M. “Associations between Employees’ Work Schedules and the Vocational Consequences of Workplace Injuries.” *Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation* 17,4 (December 2007): 641–651. [NLSY79]

Dunifon, Rachel, and Kowaleski-Jones, Lori. “Influence of Grandparents in Single-Mother Families.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 69,2 (May 2007): 465–481. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Eshbaugh, Elaine M. “Perceptions of Family Relationship Factors and Depressive Symptoms in Adolescents: What Roles Do

Parents and Gender Play?” *Journal of Child and Family Studies* 17,1 (February 2008): 127–139. [NLSY97]

Ewing, Bradley T. “Labor Market Effects of High School Athletic Participation: Evidence from Wage and Fringe Benefit Differentials.” *Journal of Sports Economics* 8,3 (June 2007): 255–265. [NLSY79]

Fuller, Sylvia. “Job Mobility and Wage Trajectories for Men and Women in the United States.” *American Sociological Review* 73,1 (February 2008): 158–183. [NLSY79]

Hair, Elizabeth Catherine, Moore, Kristin Anderson, Garrett, Sarah Bracey, Ling, Thomson, and Cleveland, Kevin. “Continued Importance of Quality Parent–Adolescent Relationships during Late Adolescence.” *Journal of Research on Adolescence* 18,1 (March 2008): 187–200. [NLSY97]

Judge, Timothy A. and Hurst, Charlice. “Capitalizing on One’s Advantages: Role of Core Self-Evaluations.” *Journal of Applied Psychology* 92,5 (September 2007): 1212–1227. [NLSY79]

Koenig, Katherine A., Frey, Meredith C., and Detterman, Douglas K. “ACT and General Cognitive Ability.” *Intelligence* 36,2 (March 2008): 153–160. [NLSY79]

Magee, Tracy, and Roy, Sister Callista. “Predicting School-Age Behavior Problems: The Role of Early Childhood Risk Factors.” *Pediatric Nursing* 34,1 (January/February 2008): 37–44. [NLSY79]

Magnuson, Katherine A. “Maternal Education and Children’s Academic Achievement during Middle Childhood.” *Developmental Psychology* 43,6 (November 2007): 1497–1512. [Children of the NLSY79]

Majumdar, Sumon. “Market Conditions and Worker Training: How Does It Affect and Whom?” *Labour Economics* 14,1 (January 2007): 1–23. [NLSY79]

Mauldin, Teresa A., and Mimura, Yoko. “Marrying, Unmarrying, and Poverty Dynamics among Mothers with Children Living at Home.” *Journal of Family and Economic Issues* 28,4 (December 2007): 566–582. [NLSY79]

McKinnish, Terra G. "Sexually Integrated Workplaces and Divorce: Another Form of On-the-Job Search." *Journal of Human Resources* 42,2 (Spring 2007): 331–352. [NLSY79]

Prause, Joann, Dooley, David, Ham-Rowbottom, Kathleen A., and Emptage, Nicholas. "Alcohol Drinking Onset: A Reliability Study." *Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse* 16,4 (Summer 2007): 79–90. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

Rendon, Silvio Roberto. "Does Wealth Explain Black-White Differences in Early Employment Careers?" *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics* 25,4 (October 2007): 484–500. [NLSY79]

Renna, Francesco, and King, Randall. "Impact of Racial Discrimination on the Early Career Outcomes of Young Men." *Atlantic Economic Journal* 35,3 (September 2007): 269–278. [NLSY79]

Rotolo, Thomas, and Wilson, John. "Effects of Children and Employment Status on the Volunteer Work of American Women." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 36,3 (September 2007): 487–503. [Young Women]

Sarkadi, Anna, Kristiansson, Robert, Oberklaid, Frank, and Bremberg, Sven. "Fathers' Involvement and Children's Developmental Outcomes: A Systematic Review of Longitudinal Studies." *Acta Paediatrica* 97,2 (February 2008): 15–158. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Shin, Taek-Jin. "Impact of Structural Dynamics on Job Mobility Rates in the United States." *Social Science Research* 36,4 (December 2007): 1301–1327. [NLSY79]

Shore, Stephanie A. "Obesity and Asthma: Implications for Treatment." *Current Opinion in Pulmonary Medicine* 13,1 (January 2007): 56–62. [NLSY79]

Van Hulle, Carol A., Rodgers, Joseph Lee, D'Onofrio, Brian M., Waldman, Irwin D., and Lahey, Benjamin B. "Sex Differences in the Causes of Self-Reported Adolescent Delinquency." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 116, 2 (May 2007): 236–248. [NLSY79 Young Adult]

Walsemann, Katrina Michelle, Geronimus, Arline T., and Gee, Gilbert C. "Accumulating Disadvantage over the Life Course." *Research on Aging* 30,2 (March 2008): 169–199. [NLSY79]

Wells, Samantha L. "Differences in Predictors of Alcohol-Related Aggression and Non-Alcohol-Related Violent Perpetration: An Exploratory Analysis in a Sample of Young Adult Drinkers." *Contemporary Drug Problems* 33,4 (Winter 2006): 563–583. [NLSY79]

Western, Bruce. "Mass Imprisonment and Economic Inequality." *Social Research* 74,2 (Summer 2007): 509–532. [NLSY79] □

Are You Working With NLS Data?

If you are, we are interested in your work!

- Have you received funding to sponsor a project using NLS data?
- Are you working on a paper that uses NLS data?
- Have you published a recent paper using NLS data?

If you have received funding on a project, are working on a paper, or published a recent paper that uses NLS data, please contact: NLS User Services, Center for Human Resource Research, The Ohio State University, 921 Chatham Lane, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43221; (614) 442-7366; e-mail: usersvc@chrr.osu.edu. Or use our online submission form—just go to www.nlsbibliography.org and click on "Submit Citation." □

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