

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

NLSY97 Round 8 Event History and Geocode Data Release

Event history and geocode data from round 8 of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97) are now available. Round 1 interviews were conducted with 8,984 young adults aged 12 to 16 as of December 31, 1996; of these, 7,503 respondents (83.5 percent) were interviewed in round 8.

Event history data

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

- Employment status
- Marital status
- Program participation
- Schooling experiences

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

Employment status. Employment status of each respondent (working for a specific employer, unemployed, out of the labor force, and so forth) is included for each week from the respondent's 14th birthday to the most recent interview date. Researchers are able to link the job in the array with associated characteristics using the employer ID, YEMP_UID. This section also provides data on total hours worked at all civilian jobs each week and data on additional jobs held in the same week, where applicable. Finally, the sec-

tion includes beginning and ending dates for each job and for gaps within jobs, allowing these dates to be easily linked to the employment arrays.

Also included are "deny" variables related to employment status. These variables flag employment status data that a respondent denies having reported in a previous survey round. For example, some respondents report working for a specific employer in one round and later deny that they have ever worked for that employer. The deny variables provide the employer identification of the job that was denied in the previous round.

Three types of job-specific variables, not in arrays, have been included since round 4 to show discrepancies in start dates of new jobs. Some respondents report a job with a start date prior to the date of the last interview that was not reported during that particular round. The event history arrays created at the previous interview date are not changed to include information about these new jobs. Instead, three variables are available to alert users to changes that would have resulted if the jobs had been correctly reported during the previous interview. The first variable, EMP_BK_WKS, tells how many weeks before the previous interview date the job started. The second and third variables, EMP_BK_STATUS and EMP_BK_HOURS, show how the status and hours arrays would have been affected had the job beginning before the date of last interview been reported at the prior interview and included in the original array.

Employment status variables are found in the database under question names beginning with "EMP_."

Marital status. These variables cover the respondent's marital or cohabitation status

during each month from his or her 14th birthday to the month of the most recent interview. Possible status labels include the following: Never married and not cohabiting, never married and cohabiting, married, legally separated, divorced, or widowed. A second marital status variable combines the status with the total number of spouses or partners; a code of 100 indicates that the person living in the household during that month is a partner, while 200 denotes a spouse. The last digit of this variable corresponds to the total number of partners or spouses. For example, 102 would be two total partners, and 202 would denote the second spouse. Researchers also can link the spouse or partner in the arrays with that individual's characteristics through the MAR_PARTNER_LINK variable and the PARTNERS_ID variable found in the PARTNER roster. There is also a deny variable. Marital status variables are found in the database under question names beginning with "MAR_."

Program participation status. For each month since the respondent's 14th birthday, these variables report the respondent's receipt of economic assistance. Program participation arrays are constructed individually for three need-based programs: Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC); Food Stamps; and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The AFDC array includes all Federal and State programs created under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program or any government assistance program for low-income families that replaces AFDC. All other need-based programs, such as Supplemental Security Income, are combined into a fourth program participation array entitled "Other."

In addition, arrays are available for two employment-based programs. Unemployment insurance is included in all rounds, and workers' compensation is included in rounds 1 through 3. A deny variable also exists for program participation.

Program participation status variables can be located by searching for question names beginning with "WKCOMP_," "UNEMP_," "AFDC_," "FDSTMPS_," "WIC_," or "OTHER_."

Schooling experiences. Unlike the other sections, this one presents some of the information yearly, beginning with each youth's date of birth. For each year, the schooling variables provide data regarding the following:

- Respondent's grade in school
- Number of times respondent changed schools
- Number of months during which respondent did not attend school
- Summer classes attended
- Whether respondent repeated or skipped a grade
- Number of times respondent was suspended

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

Schooling experience variables can be located by searching for question names beginning with "SCH_."

Geocode data

These variables, which provide detailed statistics for each respondent's county of residence, are not available in the main file or in the event history database. Because these data are confidential, completion of an application and a confidentiality agreement is required to obtain access to them. Most of the variables described in this section have question names that begin with "GEO_."

In addition to all main file and event history data, the geocode data set provides a list of the counties in which respondents lived between interviews. The unemployment rate for the respondent's metropolitan area or State also is reported.

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

The final group of variables on the geocode CD focuses on colleges attended. Survey staff members use information from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) to provide users with the identification code, UNITID, and State of each college attended by the respondent. For rounds 7 and 8, information on the colleges to which a respondent applied also is available. The identification codes can be used to associate the NLSY97 respondent's college with various characteristics of the institution—such as school enrollment, school type (public or private), and type of degrees offered—contained in the IPEDS database. These college choice geocode variables begin with the prefix "YCOC."

Obtaining event history and geocode data

NLSY97 event history data for rounds 1 through 8 are available by going to the NLS Web site, www.bls.gov/nls, and linking to the Web Investigator. Once there, users can create an account by providing an e-mail

address. Web Investigator allows users to search and extract online, then download the extracted data. NLS data sets are also available on CD or as zip files from the NLS Web site. The data set contains the record for each youth, including all information in the main file and the event history variables described above.

Because the NLSY97 geocode data set contains confidential data, researchers interested in obtaining the geocode CD fill out an application and sign a confidentiality agreement required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Four to six weeks are needed for processing the application. For more information, or to receive an application for data access, see the NLSY97 section of the NLS Web site or contact NLS User Services. (See the back cover of this newsletter for contact numbers.)

Like the event history CD, the geocode disc is accompanied by the NLSY97 User's Guide and an electronic copy of the round 8 questionnaire. Other available documentation includes a geocode codebook supplement containing the codes for the various geographic areas. Geocode data files are not available for download, although a public-use version of the geocode codebook supplement is available on the NLS Products page of the NLS Web site so that researchers can evaluate the potential uses of the data set. □

Co-Initiator of NLS Passes Away

Herbert S. Parnes, co-initiator of the National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) and a former professor of economics at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, passed away on August 5, 2006. He was 87.

Professor Parnes was a national leader in research on the labor supply and the aging of the population in the United States. In 1965, Professor Parnes and Howard Rosen (director of the Manpower Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor, the predecessor of the Employment and Training Administration) co-initiated the NLS at the request of Daniel Patrick Moynihan, then an Assistant Secretary of Labor. In addition to providing a wealth of

information about the dynamics of the U.S. labor force, these surveys have been the intellectual model for numerous longitudinal surveys conducted during the last four decades in the United States and worldwide. Professor Parnes' role in the project was so central that for years the NLS was known as "the Parnes data."

Following his retirement from Ohio State in 1980, he became professor of industrial relations and human resources at Rutgers University's Institute of Management and Labor Relations, where he remained until 1983. He returned to Columbus and served as principal investigator for one segment of the NLS from 1988 to 1992, as well as frequent advisor to the NLS principal investigator for many years. □

Spotlight: Bankruptcy Variables in the NLSY79

The latest NLSY79 data set offers researchers a series of bankruptcy-related variables introduced in the 2004 survey year. NLSY79 respondents were asked whether they or their spouse had ever declared bankruptcy, with nearly 14 percent of respondents reporting "yes." Of those respondents who had reported bankruptcy, 9.2 percent said they had declared bankruptcy more than once. Respondents were asked the month and year of the bankruptcy, the type of bankruptcy, and if the bankruptcy was related to a business failure (the answer to the latter question was yes in 9.0 percent of cases).

Respondents were also asked whether they or their spouse had applied for any type of credit or loan since the bankruptcy had been declared and whether their request for credit was turned down or reduced.

The 1979-2004 NLSY79 data set can be accessed by linking to the Web Investigator through the NLS Web site at www.bls.gov/nls. Bankruptcy variables can be accessed by searching in Web Investigator using "bankruptcy" as the word-in-title search or using reference numbers R8417700 to R8418200.

No other NLS cohort databases currently have variables about personal bankruptcy available for research. However, a bankruptcy series will be included in the

NLSY97 round 9 data set, scheduled for release in 2007. □

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. Some recent questions and answers that may be of general interest to NLS users are listed below.

Q1. I am working on creating a variable for the exact interview date for the NLSY79 survey. Are there some survey rounds where the interviewing period included more than one year?

A1. For the 2000 and 2004 survey years, the field period did extend into the following calendar year. The field period for all other survey years was completed within that calendar year. See variables R69633.02 and R84232.02 for the year of interview in survey years 2000 and 2004, respectively.

Q2. In the NLSY79 geocode data files, there are some valid skips within the residence variables. What do these valid skips mean?

A2. A valid skip on a county or State of residence variable means either the respondent has an APO address or there is not enough information to unambiguously assign a county or State code. A related point to remember is that if the county code is 0, the State code variable indicates residence in a U.S. territory or other outlying area; if the State code is 0, the county code variable indicates residence in another country.

Q3. For the NLSY97, I'm trying to find out how many of the respondent's siblings are older than the respondent. How would I go about doing that?

A3. Sibling data can be found on the household rosters (HHI and NONHHI). It is necessary to locate all of the siblings on the HHI and NONHHI rosters, collect their ages, and then compare them with the respondent's age. Chapter 3 of the NLSY97 User's Guide (available at www.bls.gov/nls)

can provide additional information about rosters. □

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.

Apel, Robert John; Paternoster, Raymond; Bushway, Shawn; and Brame, Robert. "A Job Isn't Just a Job: The Differential Impact of Formal Versus Informal Work on Adolescent Problem Behavior." *Crime and Delinquency* 52, 2 (April 2006): 333-69. [NLSY97]

Bacolod, Marigee Ponla and Hotz, V. Joseph. "Cohort Changes in the Transition from School to Work: Evidence from Three NLS Surveys." *Economics of Education Review* 25, 4 (August 2006): 351-73. [NLSY79, Young Men, Young Women]

Baughman, Reagan A. "Evaluating the Impact of the Earned Income Tax Credit on Health Insurance Coverage." *National Tax Journal* 58, 4 (December 2005): 665-84. [NLSY79]

Baum, Charles L. II. "Effects of Government-Mandated Family Leave on Employer Family Leave Policies." *Contemporary Economic Policy* 24, 3 (2006): 432-45. [NLSY79]

Budig, Michelle Jean. "Intersections on the Road to Self-Employment: Gender, Family and Occupational Class." *Social Forces* 84,4 (June 2006): 2223-2239. [NLSY79]

Colman, Rebecca A.; Hardy, Sam A.; Albert, Myesha; Raffaelli, Marcela; and Crockett, Lisa. "Early Predictors of Self-Regulation in Middle Childhood." *Infant and Child Development* 15, 4 (November 2006): 421-37. [Children of the NLSY79]

Dembe, Allard E.; Erickson, J. Bianca; Delbos, Rachel G.; and Banks, Steven M. "Nonstandard Shift Schedules and the Risk

- of Job-Related Injuries." *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health* 32, 3 (June 2006): 232-340. [NLSY79]
- Harder, Valerie S.; Morral, Andrew R.; and Arkes, Jeremy. "Marijuana Use and Depression Among Adults: Testing for Causal Associations." *Addiction* 101, 10 (October 2006): 1463-72. [NLSY79]
- Heckman, James J. "Skill Formation and the Economics of Investing in Disadvantaged Children." *Science* 312, 5782 (30 June 2006): 1900-02. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]
- Johnson, William R. "Are Public Subsidies to Higher Education Regressive?" *Education Finance and Policy* 1, 3 (Summer 2006): 288-315. [NLSY79]
- Jones, Alison Snow and Richmond, David W. "Causal Effects of Alcoholism on Earnings: Estimates from the NLSY." *Health Economics* 15, 8 (March 2006): 849-71. [NLSY79]
- Kenkel, Donald S.; Lillard, Dean R.; and Mathios, Alan D. "Roles of High School Completion and GED Receipt in Smoking and Obesity." *Journal of Labor Economics* 24, 3 (2006): 635-60. [NLSY79]
- Koop, Gary and Tobias, Justin L. "Semiparametric Bayesian Inference in Smooth Coefficient Models." *Journal of Econometrics* 134, 1 (September 2006): 283-315 [NLSY79]
- Kowaleski-Jones, Lori and Dunifon, Rachel. "Family Structure and Community Context: Evaluating Influences on Adolescent Outcomes." *Youth and Society* 38, 1 (September 2006): 110-30. [NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]
- Lichter, Daniel T.; Qian, Zhenchao; and Mellott, Leanna M. "Marriage or Dissolution? Union Transitions Among Poor Cohabiting Women." *Demography* 43, 2 (May 2006): 223-40. [NLSY79]
- Loury, Linda Datcher. "Some Contacts Are More Equal than Others: Informal Networks, Job Tenure, and Wages." *Journal of Labor Economics* 24, 2 (2006): 299-318. [NLSY79]
- Lundquist, Jennifer Michelle Hickes. "Black-White Gap in Marital Dissolution Among Young Adults: What Can a Counterfactual Scenario Tell Us?" *Social Problems* 53,3 (August 2006): 421-441. [NLSY79]
- Manlove, Jennifer S.; Terry-Humen, Elizabeth; and Ikramullah, Erum N. "The Role of Parent Religiosity in Teens' Transitions to Sex and Contraception." *Journal of Adolescent Health* 39,4 (October 2006): 578-587. [NLSY97]
- McDonald, Steve and Elder, Jr., Glen H. "When Does Social Capital Matter? Non-Searching for Jobs Across the Life Course." *Social Forces* 85,1 (September 2006): 522-549. [NLSY79]
- Neumark, David B. and Rothstein, Donna S. "School-to-Career Programs and Transitions to Employment and Higher Education." *Economics of Education Review* 25, 4 (August 2006): 374-93. [NLSY97]
- Osborne Groves, Melissa. "Personality and the Intergenerational Transmission of Economic Status." In *Unequal Chances: Family Background and Economic Success*, edited by Samuel Bowles, Herbert Gintis, and Melissa Osborne Groves. New York: Russell Sage Foundation; Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2005. [Older Men, Young Men]
- Parks-Yancy, Rochelle. "The Effects of Social Group Membership and Social Capital Resources on Careers." *Journal of Black Studies* 36,4 (March 2006): 515-45. [NLSY79]
- Rissman, Ellen R. "The Self-Employment Duration of Younger Men Over the Business Cycle." *Economic Perspectives* 30,3 (3rd Quarter, 2006): 14-27. [NLSY79]
- Sen, Bisakha. "Frequency of Sexual Activity Among Unmarried Adolescent Girls: Do State Policies Pertaining to Abortion Access Matter?" *Eastern Economic Journal* 32, 2 Spring 2006): 313-30. [NLSY97]
- Stewart, Jay. "Male Nonworkers: Who Are They and Who Supports Them?" *Demography* 43,3 (August 2006): 537-552. [NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]
- Strenze, Tarmo. "Who Gets Ahead in Estonia and America? A Comparative Analysis of Mental Ability and Social Origin as Determinants of Success." *Trames* 10,3 (2006): 232-54. [NLSY79]
- Sullivan, Christopher J. "Early Adolescent Delinquency: Assessing the Role of Childhood Problems, Family Environment, and Peer Pressure." *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice* 4,4 (October 2006): 291-313. [Children of the NLSY79]
- Wadsworth, Thomas P. "The Meaning of Work: Conceptualizing the Deterrent Effect of Employment on Crime Among Young Adults." *Sociological Perspectives* 49,3 (Fall 2006): 343-368. [NLSY79]
- Warner, David F. and Hayward, Mark D. "Early-Life Origins of the Race Gap in Men's Mortality." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 47,3 (September 2006): 209-226. [Older Men]
- Wheeler, Christopher H. "Cities and the Growth of Wages Among Young Workers: Evidence from the NLSY." *Journal of Urban Economics* 60,2 (September 2006): 162-84. [NLSY79]
- Wolaver, Amy M. and White, Nancy E. "Racial Wage Differences among Young Male Job Changers: The Relative Contribution of Migration, Occupation Change, Site Characteristics, and Human Capital." *Growth and Change* 37,1 (March 2006): 34-59. [NLSY79]
- Yamokoski, Alexis and Keister, Lisa A. "The Wealth of Single Women: Marital Status and Parenthood in the Asset Accumulation of Young Baby Boomers in the United States." *Feminist Economics* 12,1-2 (January-April 2006): 167-194. A Special Issue on Women and Wealth. [NLSY79]
- Zhan, Min. "Assets, Parental Expectations and Involvement, and Children's Educational Performance." *Children and Youth Services Review* 28, 8 (August 2006): 961-75. [Children of the NLSY79, 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@postoffice.chrr.ohio-state.edu**. Or use our online submission form—just go to **www.nlsbibliography.org** and click on “Submit Citation.” □

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