



National Longitudinal Surveys

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics

Young Women
User's Guide
2001

NLS OF YOUNG WOMEN

USER'S GUIDE

A Guide to the 1968–1999
National Longitudinal Survey of Young Women Data

Prepared for the
U.S. Department of Labor by

Center for Human Resource Research
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

2001

This publication is prepared under contract #J-9-J-9-0029 with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. The contents do not necessarily represent the official position or policy of the Department of Labor.

Acknowledgments

The National Longitudinal Survey of Young Women Cohort is sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, and conducted by the Census Bureau and the Center for Human Resource Research at The Ohio State University.

This document pays tribute to the initiators of the NLS, Herbert S. Parnes and Howard Rosen, who had the vision to see that the collection of longitudinal data on the labor force experience of American men and women could provide a basis for policies fostering more efficient and equitable labor markets. Additional thanks are given to the NLS of Young Women cohort's current Principal Investigator, Randall Olsen.

Special thanks go to the other members of the documentation and archival teams: Linda Boyer, Tiffany Chase, Pat Rhoton, Cheryl Segrist, Evelyn Walker, and Jay Zagorsky.

Amanda McClain
Jennifer Hering
Editors

Help and Information

This manual is one of a set of user-oriented documents available to the NLS research community containing information on the Original Cohorts (Older Men, Young Men, Mature Women, and Young Women), the NLSY79, the Children of the NLSY79, and the NLSY97. Appendix A in this document contains a quick reference guide to essential information about the NLS and the Young Women cohort. Persons needing more information on the NLS in general or the NLS cohort groups are encouraged to obtain copies of the *NLS Handbook*. Summaries of research completed on the NLS over the past several decades are presented on-line in the NLS Annotated Bibliography of Research, located at <<http://www.nlsbibliography.org>>. Persons needing detailed information on the other cohorts should read the *NLS of Mature Women User's Guide*, the *NLSY79 User's Guide*, the *NLSY97 User's Guide*, and the *NLSY79 Child and Young Adult Data Users Guide*; contact User Services for more information on the men's cohorts. Ordering information for NLS documentation and data sets is available from NLS User Services, 921 Chatham Lane, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43221-2418; Phone (614) 442-7366, fax (614) 442-7329, or by e-mail at <usersvc@postoffice.chrr.ohio-state.edu>.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction	1
1.1 The NLS of Young Women Cohort	3
1.2 The NLS	3
1.3 Surveys of the Young Women	6
1.4 The Data on CD	9
1.5 Organization of the Guide	9
Chapter 2: Sample Design and Attrition.....	11
2.1 Sample Design	13
2.2 Screening Process	13
2.3 Sampling Process	14
2.4 Interview Schedule & Fielding Periods.....	14
2.5 Interview Methods	16
2.6 Eligible Sample & Reasons for Noninterview	17
2.7 Sample Representativeness and Attrition	22
2.8 Sample Weights	25
Chapter 3: Guide to the Young Women Data.....	29
3.1 Survey Instruments and Related Documentation	31
3.2 Types of Variables	36
3.3 Young Women Codebook System	40
3.4 CD-ROM Search Functions.....	49
Chapter 4: Topical Guide to the Young Women	51
4.1 Age	53
4.2 Alcohol Use	56
4.3 Aptitude, Achievement & Intelligence Scores.....	57
4.4 Attitudes & Expectations.....	59
4.5 Child Care.....	64
4.6 Cigarette Use	66
4.7 Class of Worker	67
4.8 Crime, Delinquency & School Discipline	69
4.9 Discrimination	70
4.10 Educational Status & Attainment.....	72
4.11 Family Background.....	76
4.12 Fertility.....	80
4.13 Fringe Benefits.....	82
4.14 Geographic Residence & Environmental Characteristics.....	84
4.15 Health	90
4.16 High School Survey & College Information.....	94
4.17 Household Composition	96
4.18 Income & Assets	103
4.19 Industries	109
4.20 Job Characteristics Index.....	113
4.21 Job Satisfaction	115
4.22 Job Search.....	117
4.23 Labor Force Status	121
4.24 Marital Status & Marital Transitions.....	128
4.25 Occupations & Occupational Prestige Indices.....	131

4.26 Pension Benefits & Pension Plans	135
4.27 Public Assistance Support Sources	138
4.28 Race, Ethnicity & Nationality	140
4.29 Social Security & Disability	142
4.30 Training	143
4.31 Transfers	146
4.32 Wages	151
4.33 Work Experience.....	153
Appendices.....	161
Appendix A: Quick Reference Guide	163
Appendix B: Original Cohort Dictionary of Key Words	169
Appendix C: Unpacking Multiple Entries.....	173
Index	177

List of Tables and Figures

Table 1.2.1	The NLS: Survey Groups, Sample Sizes, Interview Years & Status	5
Table 2.4.1	Sample Sizes, Retention Rates, and Fielding Periods	15
Table 2.6.1	Selection of Respondents Eligible for 1985 Survey	18
Table 2.6.2	Reasons for Exclusion from the Eligible Samples	19
Table 2.6.3	Conceptual & Raw Coding Categories for the Reason for Noninterview Variables.....	20
Table 2.6.4	Reasons for Noninterview: 1969–99	21
Table 2.6.5	Reasons for Noninterview by Race: 1969–99.....	22
Table 2.7.1	Sample Characteristics by Race: 1968 and 1999	23
Figure 2.7.1	Interview Completion Rates among Living Respondents by Race and Survey Year	23
Table 2.7.2	Number of Interviews Respondents Completed out of 20 Surveys, by Race: 1968–99...	24
Table 3.1.1	Question Numbering Conventions in PAPI Surveys.....	34
Table 3.1.2	Questionnaire Sections and Sample Question Numbers in CAPI Surveys.....	35
Table 3.2.1	Young Women Reference Numbers by Survey Year.....	37
Figure 3.3.1	Sample Created Variable Codeblock	42
Figure 3.3.2	Sample Interview Question Codeblock	42
Table 4.1.1	Reference Numbers for Date of Birth & Age Variables.....	53
Table 4.1.2	Ages of Interviewed Respondents by Survey Year: 1968–99.....	55
Table 4.2.1	Reference Numbers of Alcohol Use Questions.....	56
Table 4.3.1	Aptitude & Intelligence Tests: School Survey.....	57
Table 4.4.1	Reference Numbers for Attitudes toward Wives Working Questions.....	59
Table 4.4.2	Summary of Work Attitudes Questions by Survey Year.....	60
Table 4.4.3	Reference Numbers for Questions on Respondent Responsibility for Household Tasks	61
Table 4.4.4	Summary of Information on Educational Plans	62
Table 4.4.5	Summary of Information on Occupational Plans	63
Table 4.6.1	Reference Numbers of Cigarette Use Questions.....	66
Figure 4.7.1	Definitions of CPS Class of Worker Entries	68
Table 4.9.1	Types of Work-Related Discrimination Data by Survey Year	70
Table 4.11.1	Birth Country of Parents and Grandparents	76
Table 4.11.2	Occupation of Mother and Father of Respondent at Age 14.....	78
Table 4.11.3	Highest Grade Completed by Mother and Father of Respondent in 1968.....	78
Table 4.13.1	Numbers of Employed Respondents Reporting the Availability of Various Types of Fringe Benefits at Their Current Job.....	83
Table 4.14.1	Created Variables for Geographic Residence and Mobility by Survey Year.....	84
Table 4.15.1	Medical Insurance Coverage of Respondent by Provider (Unweighted): 1988–99	92
Table 4.17.1	Young Women Household Roster Questions 1968–99	97
Table 4.17.2	Distribution of Respondents Living within Single & Multiple Respondent Households: The Original Cohorts.....	99
Table 4.17.3	Distribution of Respondents by Intra- & Inter-Cohort Households: The Original Cohorts	100
Table 4.17.4	Number & Types of Dominant Pairs Identified during the Initial Survey Years: The Original Cohorts	101
Table 4.18.1	Income Questions: 1968–99.....	104
Table 4.18.2	Asset Questions: 1968–99	105
Table 4.18.3	Response Rates to Income Questions (Unweighted): 1997	106
Table 4.18.4	Response Rates to Questions on Wealth (Unweighted): 1997.....	106
Table 4.19.1	Industry Coding Systems Used by Survey Year	109
Table 4.19.2	Industrial Sector of Respondents' Current/Last Job by Survey Year: 1968–99.....	110

Table 4.19.3	Occupation & Industry Variables from the O & I Rewrite	111
Table 4.20.1	Variables Needed to Construct the Job Characteristics Index: 1980.....	113
Table 4.21.1	Reference Numbers of Job Satisfaction Questions by Survey Year.....	115
Table 4.21.2	Job Satisfaction Scale Components by Year and Search Phrase.....	116
Table 4.23.1	Employment Status Recode/Monthly Labor Recode Creation	123
Table 4.23.2	Employment Status Recode/Monthly Labor Recode Codes	124
Table 4.23.3	Labor Force Status: Civilian Respondents 1968–99 (Unweighted)	125
Table 4.23.4	Labor Force Status: Non-black Civilian Respondents 1968–99 (Unweighted)	126
Table 4.23.5	Labor Force Status: Black Civilian Respondents 1968–99 (Unweighted).....	127
Table 4.25.1	Occupation Coding Systems Used by Survey Year	131
Table 4.22.1	Pension Plan Rostering Systems	137
Table 4.27.1	Public Assistance Questions by Survey Year, Type of Assistance, Reference Period & Universe.....	139
Table 4.28.1	Number of Respondents by Race and Nationality.....	140
Table 4.28.2	Country Codes for the Nationality Variables	141
Table 4.30.1	Numbers of Respondents Participating in Training Programs by Type of Training and Race: 1980–97.....	145
Figure 4.31.1	Children Included in the Transfers Data Collection.....	149
Table 4.31.1	Universe Information for the 1997 and 1999 Transfers Sections.....	150
Table 4.33.1	Average Number of Weeks Worked in All Survey Years by Race (Unweighted): 1968–99.....	159
Table 4.33.2	Average Number of Weeks Worked by the Number of Years Reported Working and Race (Unweighted): 1968–99.....	159
Table 4.33.3	Number of Weeks Worked by Survey Year and Race (Unweighted): 1968–99.....	160
Table 4.33.4	Average Number of Employers per Survey Period by Race (Unweighted): 1968–99 .	160
Table A.1	List of NLS Documentation	163
Table A.2	Frequently Asked Questions	168