

Selected NLSY97 Variables by Survey Round

Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
I. EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND JOB SEARCH (age restrictions as of interview date)										
A. Current Population Survey (CPS): Week before survey										
Labor force and employment status	Y≥15			≥15						*
Worked for profit or pay; worked at unpaid position in family business or farm	Y≥15			≥15						*
Hours per week worked or usually worked at main job	Y≥15			≥15						*
Hours per week worked at main job last week	Y≥15			≥15						*
Number of overtime hours	Y≥15			≥15						*
Reason worked part time	Y≥15			≥15						*
Reason absent from work	Y≥15			≥15						*
Actual weeks or expected duration of layoff	Y≥15			≥15						*
Disability prevents Y from working or accepting work	Y≥15			≥15						*
Length of time spent looking for work	Y≥15			≥15						*
Search methods used in last 4 weeks	Y≥15			≥15						*
Is Y searching for part-time or full-time job	Y≥15			≥15						*
B. Characteristics of employee jobs (starting in round 4, also self-employed jobs of youths age 18 at end of prior calendar year)										
1. Jobs of any length										
Who helped Y find job	Y≥14									
Job start and stop dates	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Industry and occupation at start date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rate of pay at start date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Usual hours per week worked	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Overtime rate of pay at start date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Weeks Y had worked as of job's stop date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Class of worker	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y covered by collective bargaining (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Reason for gap during employment	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Did Y look for work during gap	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Age, race, and sex of immediate supervisor (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Shift worked (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Size of employer (# employees/locations/people worked for Y) (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Benefits available at employer (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Reason for leaving job or reason self-employment job ended	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
General job satisfaction (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
2. Jobs lasting more than 13 weeks										
Y covered by collective bargaining (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Age, race, and sex of immediate supervisor (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Shift worked (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*

Table codes: For round 1, Y=Youth Questionnaire, P=Parent Questionnaire, S=Screeners, Household Roster, and Nonresident Roster Questionnaire. An asterisk in subsequent rounds indicates the variable was present in the youth questionnaire. A number with the symbol ≥ or = in front of it (such as ≥15) indicates the question was asked in the youth questionnaire to an age-restricted subsample. In rounds 2–5, U=Household Income Update.

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Size of employer (# employees/locations/people worked for Y) (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Benefits available at employer (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
General job satisfaction (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Occupation and industry at current or stop date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rate of pay at current or stop date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Overtime rate of pay at current or stop date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Usual hours per week at current or stop date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Volunteer work: frequency and reason									*	*
C. Characteristics of freelance jobs (any length)¹										
Type and duration of freelance job(s)	Y	*	*	*	*					
Who helped Y find job	Y									
Usual hours worked per week	Y	*	*	*	*					
Number of weekdays, weekends worked	Y	*	*	*	*					
Number of days per week usually worked	Y	*	*	*	*					
Hours per day worked on weekdays, weekends	Y	*	*	*	*					
Usual weekly earnings	Y	*	*	*	*					
Number of weeks worked at job	Y	*	*	*	*					
1. Self-employment jobs for youths earning \$200 or more per week										
Industry and occupation	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	²	²	≥16	≥16	≥16	²	²
Number of people who worked for Y	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	²	²	≥16	≥16	≥16	²	²
Reason job ended	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	²	²	≥16	≥16	≥16	²	²
D. Military (Youths age 16 and older who report an ongoing job)										
Branch of Armed Forces		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Current or most recent military occupation		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Current pay grade or pay grade when entered			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
E. Periods not working at an employee job										
Start and stop date of period not working	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of weeks on layoff	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of weeks unemployed	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of weeks out of labor force	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of weeks actively looking for work	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Methods of job search used	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Main reason did not look for work	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
II. SCHOOLING (age restrictions as of 12/31/96)										
Y's educational history (number of schools, type) (since last interview)	P	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

¹ In rounds 1 and 2, the survey collected characteristics of freelance jobs for youths ages 14 or older (as of the interview date) and characteristics of all jobs for youths ages 12 and 13. The round 3 survey gathered characteristics of freelance jobs for all youths. Round 4 included freelance jobs for youths born in 1983 or 1984. Round 5 included freelance jobs only for youths born in 1984.

² Youths age 16 or older at the interview date but younger than 18 at the end of the previous calendar year answer these questions. Older youths report information on self-employment jobs in the regular employee jobs section.

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Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Y or spouse/partner claimed Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) on previous tax return	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
B. Assets (all questions asked only of independent youths)³										
Market value of Y's residence or business	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Amount of rent/mortgage/land contract/loans	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Improvements to property since last interview		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y paid property taxes	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Average amount spent on utilities per month	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Value of Y's stock or mutual funds	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Value of Y's retirement plan	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y's current checking and savings balance	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Value of certificates of deposit/bonds/bills	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Value of real estate	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Value of business or professional practice	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Value of and amount owed on motor vehicles	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Estimated net value of Y's household furnishings	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Value of other assets	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Amount of loans (\$200 or more) Y received	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Amount owed on other types of debt	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Value of assets owned solely by spouse/partner		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Amount of college loans							*	*	*	*
C. Program participation (all questions asked only of independent youths) (asked of Y and spouse jointly except where noted)										
# and duration of unemployment compensation spells, income per week each spell (Y and spouse collected separately)	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
# and duration of workers' compensation spells, income per week each spell (Y and spouse collected separately)	Y	*	*	*	*					
Source of workers' compensation payments	Y	*	*	*	*					
Income from workers' compensation, amount received (Y and spouse collected separately)	Y					*	*	*	*	*
# and duration of AFDC/TANF/ADC spells, income per month each spell	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Persons covered under the AFDC/TANF/ADC program	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
# and duration of Food Stamp (FS) spells, value of FS received per month each spell	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Persons covered under the FS program	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
# and duration of WIC spells, income per month each spell	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Persons covered under the WIC program	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
# and duration of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program spells, income per spell	Y									

³ Youths are asked these asset questions in the first interview after they become independent, turn age 18, and turn age 20. They will continue to be asked periodically in future rounds.

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Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
# and duration of other welfare spells, income per month each spell	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Persons covered under other welfare programs	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y lives in public housing or receives rental vouchers	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
D. Welfare Knowledge (geocode release- selected respondents only)										
Words used by Y to describe assistance programs							*			
Y's knowledge of assistance program eligibility							*			
Y's knowledge of assistance program benefits							*			
Y's knowledge of assistance program time limits							*			
V. FAMILY FORMATION (age restrictions as of end of previous calendar year—12/31/96 in rd 1, 12/31/97 in rd 2, and so on)										
A. Marital history										
Spells Y married or lived with sexual partner	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y's current marital status	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Duration of Y's and partner's cohabitation	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Current partner's age, race, highest grade completed, degree earned, and labor market status (from HH roster; only in R 2-6 if new to HH)	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Demographic characteristics of noncurrent partner (new since last interview)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Partner's religion	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Partner enrolled in government program	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Changes in relationship status	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y's and partner's relationship quality (questions vary)	Y≥16			≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*
B. Fertility and children										
Number, sex, and ages of biological children	S, Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number, sex, and ages of adopted children ⁴	S, Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number and outcome of pregnancies not ending in live births	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Current residence of live biological or adopted children ⁴	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y has legal responsibility for or custody of biological or adopted child ⁴	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Male youths: has Y gotten someone pregnant, number, outcome		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Male youths: quality of relationship with child's mother				*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Female youths: quality of relationship with child's father					*	*	*	*	*	*
Male youths: current economic status of child's mother, amount of informal child support				*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Female youths: current economic status of child's father, amount of informal child support					*	*	*	*	*	*

⁴ In round 1, information on adopted children was collected only if such children were reported on the household or nonresident rosters; otherwise, an age filter made these questions impossible to reach. In rounds 2 through 4, these questions were asked only of respondents who reported an adopted child on the household or nonresident roster or who were age 17 or older as of the end of the previous calendar year.

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Household occupants' demographics (age, sex, race, ethnicity, marital status)	S	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nonresident demographics (age, sex, race, ethnicity, marital status)	S									
Current labor force status: household occupants age 16 and older	S	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Employment status in 1996: nonresident spouse, biological or adoptive parent	S									
Current or most recent occupation, weeks worked in past year: HH occupants 16 and older	S									
Current enrollment status, highest degree and grade completed: household occupants	S	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Highest grade completed: nonresidents	S									
Income received, all sources: household occupants age 14 and older (independent youths)	P, Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Type of dwelling	S	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
VII. EXPECTATIONS (age restrictions as of 12/31/96)										
Situations parent expects Y to be in during next year, by age 20, and by age 30	P \geq 15									
Situations Y expects to be in during next year, by age 20, and by age 30 in R 1; by next year and in 5 years for R 4; various times in R 5	Y \geq 15			*	*					
VIII. ATTITUDES, BEHAVIORS, AND TIME USE										
A. Attitudes (age restrictions as of 12/31/96)										
Y's perception of teachers, school discipline, school safety	Y									
Percent of peers Y believes participate in various activities	Y									
Percent of peers Y believes have had sexual intercourse	Y \geq 15									
Y's contact with absent parent	Y	*	*	<14	<14	\geq 13	*	*	*	*
Y's opinion of parent's supportiveness, permissiveness	Y	*	*	*		\geq 13				
Y's opinion of resident/biological mother, resident/biological father	Y=12-14	=12-14	=12-14		*		*			
Belief about parent's knowledge of Y's activities	Y=12-14	=12-14	=12-14	=12-14	*		*			
Frequency of contact between Y's parents, level of friendliness and hostility	Y=12-14	=12, 13	=12, 13	=12-14		*				
Y's opinion of parents' relationship behaviors	Y=12-14	=12-14	=12-14	=12-14	=12-14	<13				
How much say Y has in making rules	P, Y=12, 13	=12, 13	=12, 13	=12, 13	=12, 13					
Y's communication with and advice from parent figures				*	*	\geq 13	*	*		
Whom Y would turn to for help with a problem	Y \leq 14	\leq 14	\leq 14	*		*		*		*
Religious identification and attendance (questions vary)	Y			*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y's perception of criminal justice system	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*			

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Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Y's perception of own personality traits (series shortened in R7)						≤14	≤14			
Series about Y's best friend						*		*		
Frequency of family rituals and holidays					*		*		*	
Persons Y turns to for advice on relationships							*		*	
Persons Y turns to for advice on education, employment, and finances (not finance in R9)							*		*	
Persons Y turns to for advice on work issues										*
Series about R's time and how it is spent										*
Y's opinions on government responsibility										*
B. Behaviors (age restrictions as of previous calendar year—12/31/96 in round 1, 12/31/97 in round 2, and so forth)										
Dating: Age first dated, frequency of dating, # of people dated	Y	*	*	*	*					
More detailed dating series about most recent partner						*	*	*	*	*
Age first had sexual intercourse	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
# of sexual partners	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Characteristics of first and most recent sexual partner or experience				*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Risky sexual behaviors				*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Type and use of birth control (condom, other)	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Amount of cigarettes/alcohol/marijuana in past month	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Age of first cigarette/alcohol/marijuana use	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Age first used/frequency of use of other drugs such as cocaine, crack, heroin		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Age first time/# of times ever ran away (age restriction as of last interview date)	Y	≤16	≤16	≤16	≤16	≤16	≤16			
Age Y first carried a handgun	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Y carried a handgun in the last month	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Age Y joined a gang	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Type of crimes Y committed	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	6	*	*
Age when Y committed crime first time	Y									
Number of crimes committed in the previous year or since last interview	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	6	*	*
Amount from selling illegal drugs or merchandise	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	6	*	*
# of times Y arrested	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Date of Y's first or most recent arrest	Y	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	*	*
Offense charged with for each arrest	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y convicted or plead guilty for each arrest	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Facility, duration of sentence	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y's Internet experience and current access to the Internet							*	*	*	*

⁵ First commission of a crime and first arrest information were collected in a later round only if not available from a previous round.

⁶ Questions were asked only to those previously arrested and the control group.

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C. Time use (age restrictions as of 12/31/96)										
Time spent on homework (weekends/weekdays)	Y=12-14									
Time in extra classes, reading, watching TV (weekends/weekdays)	Y=12-14									
Time Y usually gets up (not enrolled or employed youths)	Y≥16	≥15	≥15							
Place Y goes to on a regular basis, time goes and returns (not enrolled or employed)	Y≥16	≥15	≥15							
IX. HEALTH (age restrictions as of 12/31/96)										
Y's general health	Y, P	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mental health in past month (series)				*		*		*		*
Y practices health-related behaviors (details vary, shortened in R7)	Y=13					*	*			
Y's opinion on effects of smoking or drinking	Y=13					=13				
Y's height and weight	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y's perception about weight	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y's health insurance coverage	Y,P					*	*	*	*	*
Y diagnosed with chronic health condition	P					*				
Age first noticed health condition	P					*				
Health condition limits school or work activities	P					*				
Visits to doctor in past 12 months						*	*	*	*	*
Knowledge of pregnancy and birth control	Y=13					=13				
Has Y entered puberty and age at onset	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
X. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION										
Interested in government and public affairs								*		*
Voter registration								*		*
Did Y vote in recent election								*		*
XI. ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES (in main data set)										
Dates of residential moves to new State/city/county (since last interview)		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Current residence urban or rural	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Current residence in metropolitan statistical area	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Region of residence	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*