

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

Child and Young Adult 2006 Release

The 1986–2006 NLSY79 Child and Young Adult data set, collected biennially from NLSY79 mothers and their children, has now been released. The cohort for this data set consists of children aged 14 years and under as of December 31 of the survey's calendar year (a group known as the NLSY79 child group) and those aged 15 years and older (designated as young adults). The 2006 survey year (the latest year for which data are available) gathered information on 1,972 children and 5,844 young adults.

General Content of the Child and Young Adult Surveys

The NLSY79 child survey uses the mother's report, direct assessment, and the child's self-report to gauge children's health, abilities, achievement, problems, activities, attitudes, school progress, and home environment. As of 1994, NLSY79 children aged 15 years and older are no longer given cognitive and other assessments like those given to their younger counterparts. Instead, the young adults participate in a personal or telephone interview similar to their mothers', covering work experience, military experience, schooling, training, family background, health, fertility, income and assets, dating and relationships, attitudes, and drug and alcohol use.

Changes in the Child Survey

In 2006, the Mother Supplement was fully integrated into the mother's main NLSY79 questionnaire. Prior to 2006, NLSY79 mothers completed the Mother Supplement as a separate instrument, one for each child. The change was designed to allow the mother to complete most or all of her survey modules in the same instrument,

thereby reducing the time burden inside the household.

As a part of their own main interview, mothers reported on each age-eligible child's schooling, health, and relevant assessments. The mother-based assessments administered in 2006 consisted of assessments (1) of Behavior Problems Index, (2) Motor and Social Development, (3) Temperament, and (4) the HOME (Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment). These assessments also can be accessed as *child-based* variables in the NLSY79 child database. (See the "Mother Supplement 2006" Area of Interest in Web Investigator.) Child Background and Child Health variables for 2006 are found in both the main NLSY79 database (see the "Mother Supplement 2006" Area of Interest) and the final release of the 1986–2006 child data in the "Mother Supplement" Area of Interest. Question names for Child Background have BKGN as their prefix; question names for Child Health begin with HLTH-x_MS. The Mother Supplement assessments in the child database, which are child-based versions of the direct pickups from the mothers' record, are prefixed with "MS". Measures of child height and weight are found in both the main Youth questionnaire and the Child Supplement.

As in past years, all scores for the 2006 child assessments, both child administered and mother reported, are included in the child database in the "Assessment 2006" Area of Interest.

Changes in the 2006 Young Adult Survey

The 2006 Young Adult questionnaire remains similar to the 2004 questionnaire, but with some new questions added.

A series of questions was added to the Family Background section to ascertain the biological relatedness of each young adult

to his or her other NLSY79 child/young adult siblings. For example, a young adult respondent might be asked, "Do you share a biological father with ...?" (See Y1707300 to Y1709300.)

In the Health section, young adult respondents answered a new series of questions concerning catastrophic events, including the death or imprisonment of a close relative and whether the respondent had ever been a victim of a violent crime. (See Y1891800 to Y1908400.) These questions were modified from a series of questions previously asked of NLSY97 respondents.

In the 2006 Income section, questions on assets and debts were expanded. In addition, respondents living on their own, away from parents, answered a series of questions about receiving financial help with living expenses. (See Y1914800 to Y1908400.) Similar financial-help questions were asked in the early rounds of the NLSY79 main respondent survey.

The Ten-Item Personality Inventory (TIPI) was added to the Attitudes section in 2006. Young adult respondents used a scale from 1 to 7 to indicate the degree to which they thought that several personality traits applied to themselves. (See Y1921300 to Y1921309.) Traits include extraverted/enthusiastic, critical/quarrelsome, dependable/self-disciplined, anxious/easily upset, open to new experiences, reserved/quiet, sympathetic/warm, disorganized/careless, calm/emotionally stable, and conventional/uncreative. The TIPI, developed by researchers at the University of Texas, provides a quick measure of the Big Five Dimensions of Personality, which are extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness.

A new series of questions on politics appears in the self-report section. (See Y1945400 to Y1947200.) Young adult

respondents answered questions about whether they voted in the 2004 presidential election, what party (if any) they consider themselves affiliated with, whether they think of themselves as strongly partisan, how often they follow political news, how often they understand politics, whether they volunteered for a political candidate or contributed money to a political organization, and whether they contacted a government official about any issue in the last 2 years.

Respondents also answered questions on how often they think the Federal Government does what most Americans want, whether people need to work hard to get ahead, whether everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed, and how often others can be trusted. In addition, respondents answered questions about their parents' political involvement and leanings.

How to obtain child and young adult data

Researchers can access the Child and Young Adult data set through the NLS Web Investigator at www.nlsinfo.org/web-investigator. Data documentation, including a user's guide, also can be found through Web Investigator. □

NLSY79/NLSY97 Data Collection and Release Timetable

The following is the 2009 schedule for NLSY79 and NLSY97 data collections and data releases:

- The NLSY97 is an annual survey with 10 rounds of data currently available. Data from round 11 will be released early in the fall of 2009. Round 12 NLSY97 interviews began in October 2008 and will continue through the first half of 2009, with round 13 interviews scheduled to begin October 2009.
- The NLSY79 main survey began as an annual survey in 1979 and then became a biennial survey in 1996. To date, 22 rounds of data have been released to the public. Round 23 NLSY79 interviews commenced in early 2008 and will come out of the field in spring 2009. Round 23 data are scheduled for release in spring 2010. Round 24 fielding will begin in early 2010.

- The NLSY79 Child Survey, which began in 1986, and the NLSY79 Young Adult Survey, which started as a separate survey in 1994, both interview children of the main NLSY79 respondents and are fielded during the same time as the main NLSY79 survey. Data from 1986 to 2006 are currently available. A preliminary release of the 2008 Young Adult data will be available in June 2009. □

Early NLSY97 Rounds Include Information Gathered from Respondents' Parents

Besides providing a decade of information gathered from the NLSY97 youth respondents themselves, the NLSY97 database offers information provided by the parents of the youth respondents in the early years of the survey. The latter information, which includes details about the parents, as well as additional data about the respondents, provides researchers an added perspective on the youth cohort.

The Parent Questionnaire. The *Parent Questionnaire* collected extensive background information from one of the youth's biological parents in 1997, the initial survey year of the NLSY97. In most cases, the biological mother of the youth was interviewed; if she was unavailable, the biological father was interviewed instead. (If no biological parent lived in the respondent's primary household, another adult household member was selected for the interview.)

In the *Parent Questionnaire*, the resident parent was asked to provide information about his or her activities and the activities of the NLSY97 youth and family. The parent verified information on household composition, cited data about family background, provided dates of significant events in the parent's life (marital history and employment history dates, for instance), and offered information about the general state of the parent's health, parental income, and assets. In a self-administered section, the parent also answered questions about self-esteem, religion, behavior and beliefs, and spouse-partner relations. In addition, the parent provided details about his or her child (the youth respondent), including school history, paternity (the child's biological father), child care, health and health insurance, earnings, expectations

(predictions about the youth's life in the next year and at ages 20 and 30), and the youth's social skills, behavior, and relationship with parents.

The *Parent Questionnaire* variables can be accessed through the "Parent Current Status" Area of Interest in the NLSY97 cohort section of the NLS Web Investigator (www.nlsinfo.org/web-investigator). Question names for these variables begin with PINF, PIR, and P2-0 through P6-I. In many cases, the variable titles include the abbreviation "PR" (for "parent"). For instance, in P2-013, a question about the parent's religious background reads, "WHAT RELIGION WAS PR RAISED IN?" Users can access the entire *Parent Questionnaire* through the Web Investigator's NLSY97 documentation link.

Household Income Update. If the NLSY97 youth respondent still lived at home in rounds 2–5, one resident parent or guardian of the respondent participated in a short survey known as the *Household Income Update* (HIU). The HIU provided basic information about parental income from the previous year. The participating parent or guardian reported whether he or she received any income from wages, salary, commissions, or tips and gave gross-income information. The parent answered the same questions for her spouse or partner. The parent also answered questions about other sources of income (for example, farm or business income, inheritances, child support, or government programs) received by both the parent and spouse or partner. The interviewer recorded the relationship of the HIU respondent to the youth respondent. If the HIU was not filled out, the interviewer recorded the reason.

Beginning with round 6, the *Household Income Update* survey was no longer conducted, because all respondents were at least 18 years.

Household Income Update variables are found under the "Parent Characteristics" Area of Interest and begin with "HIU". □

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NLS information. To subscribe, use the form at www.bls.gov/nls/nls_subscribe.htm. □

Did You Know? NLS Bibliography Includes Citations from Conference Presentations

One way to find the latest in NLS-related research is to search the *NLS Annotated Bibliography* for conference presentation citations. To date, more than 900 presentations are listed. A conference presentation listing can provide timely information on new research topics in advance of journal articles or other releases.

NLS research has been presented at annual meetings hosted by a wide range of organizations, including such groups as the Population Association of America, American Sociological Association, American Public Health Association, American Economic Association, Society of Labor Economists, Association for Public Analysis and Management, Society for Social Work and Research, Allied Social Science Association, Rural Sociological Society, Society for Research in Child Development, American Association for Public Opinion Research, American Psychological Association, Society for the Study of Social Problems, American Pediatric Society, Society for Prevention Research, American Society of Criminology, American Educational Research Association, and American Statistical Association.

Researchers also have presented NLS data at specialized conferences, congresses, workshops, symposia, and regional meetings in the United States and abroad.

To find citations that feature conference presentations, go to the *NLS Annotated Bibliography* Web site, www.nlsbibliography.org, and choose “Oral Presentation, Conference” as the “Formats” search option. Recent conference presenters can use this site to submit information about their presentations. □

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. What does it mean when the word “revised” is found in a variable title?

A1. The word “revised” in a title means that some work was done to revise the variable or make corrections to the data after the original variable was released. For instance, in the case of asset variables, the revised version might contain corrections to eliminate some implausible sums or amounts that were initially reported. The original variable is still kept in the data set, and the revised variable title will generally be the original variable’s title with the word “revised” added to it. For the most part, users should use the revised variable (where it exists) rather than the original.

Q2. Why are the respondent universes so low for Round 22 NLSY79 retirement expectations questions? For instance, in the question that asks “What is the probability that you will not be working for pay at age 67?” (T02795.00), it looks like fewer than 1,000 people were asked that question.

A2. The round 22 retirement expectation questions asked respondents the likelihood of not working for pay by the time they reached age 67, 65, or 62. The series of questions was considered experimental and was designed to test wording, response categories, and so forth. Hence, only a stratified random subsample of NLSY79 respondents received these questions in this round. The same questions or a modified version of them may be asked again to a broader universe of respondents in a later round.

Q3. Why do there appear to be outliers (data that are extreme) in some of the NLSY79 IQ variables?

A3. Scores from IQ tests (such as the Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale and the California Test of Mental Maturity) were gathered as part of the NLSY79 High School Survey effort, a separate mail survey sent in 1980 to the schools attended by civilian NLSY79 respondents. Besides gathering general information about the schools, the survey collected respondent-specific data, including enrollment dates,

highest grade completed, and scores from intelligence and aptitude tests. School staff recorded the information onto the survey sheets and sent the documents back to the NLS staff. These data were then entered unedited into the NLS database. Inaccurate school records or human error could have resulted in some inconsistencies and errors—hence the outlier scores. Users may need to look at individual cases to decide how to handle data that appear extreme.

Users might consider examining the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) percentile score as another measure of ability. (See R06183.01.) This score was derived from select sections of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), a special survey administered in 1980 to NLSY79 respondents.

Q4: In the NLSY97, how do I find out whether two respondents are siblings of one another?

A4. Up to five siblings were interviewed as NLSY97 respondents. YOUTH_SIBID is the public ID of the other interviewed youth, and YOUTH_SIBRELY denotes that youth’s relationship to the respondent. Sibling categories include full, half, step, adoptive, and foster brothers and sisters, along with brother-in-law and sister-in-law. □

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 John, Bushway, Shawn, Brame, Robert, Haviland, Amelia, Nagin, Daniel S., and Paternoster, Raymond. “Unpacking the Relationship between Adolescent Employment and Antisocial Behavior: A Matched Samples Comparison.” *Criminology* 45,1 (February 2007): 67–97. [NLSY97]

Beltran, Daniel O., Das, Kuntal Kumar, and Fairlie, Robert W. “Are Computers Good for Children? The Effects of Home Computers on Educational Outcomes.” *Discussion Papers*: 576. Centre for Economic Policy Research, Research School of

- University, 2008. [NLSY97]
- Berzin, Stephanie Cosner. "Difficulties in the Transition to Adulthood: Using Propensity Scoring to Understand What Makes Foster Youth Vulnerable." *Social Service Review* 82,2 (June 2008): 171–196. [NLSY97]
- Buckles, Kasey. "Understanding the Returns to Delayed Childbearing for Working Women." *American Economic Review* 98,2 (May 2008): 403–407. [NLSY79]
- Campione, Wendy. "Employed Women's Well-Being: The Global and Daily Impact of Work." *Journal of Family and Economic Issues* 29,2 (September 2008): 346–361. [Young Men]
- Case, Anne, and Paxson, Christina. "Stature and Status: Height, Ability, and Labor Market Outcomes." *Journal of Political Economy* 116,3 (June 2008): 499–532. [Children of the NLSY79]
- Comanor, William S., and Phillips, Llad. "Family Structure and Child Support: What Matters for Youth Delinquency Rates?" In *Law And Economics Of Child Support Payment*, W.S. Comanor, ed., UK & Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, 2008: 269–287. [NLSY97]
- Davis, E.E., and Bosley, S.A. "Impact of the 1990s Economic Boom on Less-Educated Workers in Rural America." *Community Development* 38,1 (January 2007): 59–73. [NLSY79]
- Glauber, Rebecca. "Race and Gender in Families and at Work: The Fatherhood Wage Premium." *Gender and Society* 22,1 (February 2008): 8–30. [NLSY79]
- Gruber, Jonathan, and Hungerman, Daniel M. "Church versus the Mall: What Happens When Religion Faces Increased Secular Competition?" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123,2 (May 2008): 831–62. [NLSY79]
- Guttmanova, Katarina, Szanyi, Jason M., and Cali, Philip W. "Internalizing and Externalizing Behavior Problem Scores: Cross-Ethnic and Longitudinal Measurement Invariance of the Behavior Problem Index." *Educational and Psychological Measurement* 68,4 (August 2008): 676–694. [NLSY79]
- Haas, Steven A., and Fosse, Nathan Edward. "Health and the Educational Attainment of Adolescents: Evidence from the NLSY97." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 49,2 (June 2008): 178–192. [NLSY97]
- Heckman, James J., and Masterov, Dimitriy V. "Productivity Argument for Investing in Young Children." *Review of Agricultural Economics* 29,3 (Fall 2007): 446–493. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]
- Hynes, Kathryn, Joyner, Kara, Peters, H. Elizabeth, and DeLeone, Felicia Yang. "Transition to Early Fatherhood: National Estimates Based on Multiple Surveys." *Demographic Research* 19 (June 2008): 337–376. [NLSY79, NLSY97]
- Jacknowitz, Alison. "Role of Workplace Characteristics in Breastfeeding Practices." *Women and Health* 47,2 (February 2008): 87–111. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]
- Judge, Timothy A., and Hurst, Charlice. "How the Rich (and Happy) Get Richer (and Happier): Relationship of Core Self-Evaluations to Trajectories in Attaining Work Success." *Journal of Applied Psychology* 93,4 (July 2008): 849–863. [NLSY79]
- Kammeyer-Mueller, John D., Judge, Timothy A., and Piccolo, Ronald F. "Self-Esteem and Extrinsic Career Success: Test of a Dynamic Model." *Applied Psychology: An International Review* 57, 2 (April 2008): 204–224. [NLSY79]
- Keil, Jacqueline M., and Christie-Mizell, C. André. "Beliefs, Fertility, and Earnings of African American, Hispanic, and Non-Hispanic White Mothers." *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences* 30,3 (August 2008): 299–323. [NLSY79]
- Lahey, Benjamin B., Van Hulle, Carol A., D'Onofrio, Brian M., Rodgers, Joseph Lee, and Waldman, Irwin D. "Is Parental Knowledge of their Adolescent Offspring's Whereabouts and Peer Associations Spuriously Associated with Offspring Delinquency?" *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology* 36,6 (August 2008): 807–823. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]
- Lin, I-Fen. "Mother and Daughter Reports About Upward Transfers." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 70,3 (August 2008): 815–827. [Mature Women, Young Women]
- Manlove, Jennifer S., Logan, Cassandra, Moore, Kristin Anderson, and Ikramullah, Erum N. "Pathways from Family Religiosity to Adolescent Sexual Activity and Contraceptive Use." *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 40,2 (June 2008): 105–117. [NLSY97]
- Massoglia, Michael. "Incarceration, Health, and Racial Disparities in Health." *Law and Society Review* 42,2 (June 2008): 275–306. [NLSY79]
- Meade, Christina S., Kershaw, Trace S., and Ickovics, Jeannette R. "Intergenerational Cycle of Teenage Motherhood: An Ecological Approach." *Health Psychology* 27,4 (July 2008): 419–429. [NLSY97]
- Miller, Daniel P., and Han, Wen-Jui. "Maternal Nonstandard Work Schedules and Adolescent Overweight." *American Journal of Public Health* 98,8 (June 2008) 1495–1502. [Children of the NLSY79]
- Mulligan, Casey B., and Rubinstein, Yona. "Selection, Investment, and Women's Relative Wages over Time." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123,3 (August 2008): 1061–1110. [NLSY79, Young Women]
- Mykerezi, Elton, and Milis, Bradford F. "Wage Earnings Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities." *Southern Economic Journal* 75,1 (July 2008): 173–187. [NLSY79]
- Nofziger, Stacey. "'Cause' of Low Self-Control." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 45,2 (May 2008): 191–223. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]
- Pleck, Joseph H., and Hofferth, Sandra L. "Mother Involvement as an Influence on Father Involvement with Early Adolescents." *Fathering*, 6,3 (Fall 2008): 267–286. [Children of the NLSY79]
- Shaff, Kimberly Anne, Wolfinger, Nicholas H., Kowaleski-Jones, Lori, and Smith, Ken R. "Family Structure Transitions and Child Achievement." *Sociological Spectrum* 28,6

(November 2008): 681–704. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Todd, Petra E., and Wolpin, Kenneth I. “Production of Cognitive Achievement in Children: Home, School, and Racial Test Score Gaps.” *Journal of Human Capital* 1,1 (December 2007): 91–136. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Tyler, Kimberly A., and Bersani, Bianca E. “A Longitudinal Study of Early Adolescent Precursors to Running Away.” *Journal of Early Adolescence* 28,2 (May 2008): 230–251. [NLSY97]

Wheeler, Christopher H. “Local Market Scale and the Pattern of Job Changes among Young Men.” *Regional Science and Urban*

Economics 38,2 (March 2008): 101–118. [NLSY79]

Zagorsky, Jay L., and Rhoton, Patricia. “Effects of Promised Monetary Incentives on Attrition in a Long-Term Panel Survey.” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 72,3 (Fall 2008): 502–513. [Mature Women, Young Women] □

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.” □

NLS News



NLS Contact Information

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