

Selected NLSY97 Variables by Survey Round (Often referred to as the “Asterisk Table”)

Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14
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	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Table codes: For round 1, Y=Youth Questionnaire, P=Parent Questionnaire, S=Screeener, 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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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	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
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	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of people who worked for Y	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	²	²	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Reason job ended	Y≥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		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

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. Starting in round 6, all self-employed jobs were collected inside the regular employment section, regardless of the amount earned or the age of the respondent.

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Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14
Stipend Y received for participation	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
C. College														
Number of colleges or universities attended	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Type of college Y currently attending (2-year or 4-year; public or private)	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y currently full- or part-time student	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cost of attendance at Y’s college	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Type and amount of educational loans or financial aid	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Type of diploma/degree/certificate working toward	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Type of degree received	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of credits required for Y’s degree	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
College credits Y earned before college	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Method of earning college credits before college	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Date and terms Y enrolled	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of credits enrolled for or earned per term	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Grade point average (GPA) in each term	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Field of study in each term	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Terms in which Y took remedial math or English course	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
D. College Choice														
Colleges applied to (geocode only)							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Location of colleges applied to (geocode only)							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Amount and type of financial aid and scholarships offered							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
III. TRAINING (age restrictions as of interview date)														

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Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14
Previous year’s income from parental transfers other than allowance	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous year’s income from other sources	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous year’s income from parental allowance	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous year’s income paid to parents	Y, P													
Y or spouse/partner claimed Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) on previous tax return	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Extreme financial situations: cash advance or payday loan used, late rent/mortgage, pressure from bill collectors											*	*	*	*
B. Assets (questions are asked only of independent youths and at varied ages)³														
Market value of Y’s residence or business	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Purchase price of residence		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
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	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

³ Youths are asked many of these asset questions in the first interview after they become independent, turn age 18, turn age 20, turn 25 (in “Assets 25” section), and turn 30 (in “Assets 30” section). For any given round, therefore, many asset questions will be asked only of a subset of the respondents. 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	R11	R12	R13	R14
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	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fertility expectations													*	*
Infertility details													*	*
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					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

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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Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14
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					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Male youths: contact with resident and nonresident children				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Race, age, highest grade completed, welfare reciprocity, school enrollment, religion, and labor force status of other parent at conception (if not already collected in household roster or marriage section)	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C. Childcare														
1. Female youths with at least one resident child under the age of 13														
Hours spent at work, at school, at training, or commuting in a typical week					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Type of childcare					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hours spouse/partner cared for child					*				*			*		
Specify relatives who care for child, location of this care					*				*			*		
Hours spent in each type of childcare					*				*			*		
Payment details (total amount, amount of funding from outside source)					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Who most often dropped off and picked up child at childcare, travel time					*				*			*		
2. Female youths with children who did not use child care														
# of relatives living close to youth’s home					*				*			*		
These relatives able to care for child without or with pay, amount would need					*				*			*		

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Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14
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. Limited to parents, spouse/partner, and older children beginning in R 13	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≥15													
-+260+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≥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≥15													
Y's contact with absent parent	Y	*	*	<14	<14	≥13	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Y's opinion of parent's supportiveness, permissiveness	Y	*	*	*		≥13	*			*		*		*

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Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14
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				*	*	≥13	*	*						
Whom Y would turn to for help with a problem	Y≤14	≤14	≤14	*		*		*		*		*	*	*
Religious identification and attendance (questions vary)	Y			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y's perception of criminal justice system	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*							
Y's perception of own personality traits (series shortened in R7)						≤14	≤14					*		
Series about Y's best friend						=13, 14		=13, 14						
Frequency/importance of family events and holidays					*		*		*		*			*
Persons Y turns to for advice on relationships							*		*					
Persons Y turns to for advice on education and employment							*		*	*	*	*		
Persons Y discusses/turns to for advice on finances							*			*	*	*	*	*
Persons Y turns to for advice on work issues										*	*	*		

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Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14
Y's opinions on government responsibility										*				
Y's opinions on personal responsibility											*			
Ladder of life: Y's rating of life now, five years in past and five years in future													*	
Y's perceptions about their risk-taking tendency, work ethic, and rule-following ethic.														*
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	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Expanded section on contraceptive choice (asked of a subset of respondents)											*			
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	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*					

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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	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Details of imprisonment (Consequences such as loss of job, loss of children, etc., services offered while in prison, visits from family, etc.)												*	*	*
Details of post-incarceration, parole experience												*	*	*
Y’s Internet experience and current access to the Internet (questions vary).							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
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											

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.

