

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

NLSY97 Round-14 Data Released

Round-14 data for the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97) have been released. Users now can access NLSY97 main file data, event history data, and geocode data from round 1 through round 14. The NLSY97 cohort is comprised of 8,984 respondents born in the 1980–1984 period. In round 14, which was fielded from October 2010 to June 2011, 7,479 persons (83.2 percent) were interviewed. Respondents comprised 5,544 (82.1 percent) of the cross-sectional sample and 1,935 (86.5 percent) of the supplemental sample of Black or African-American and Hispanic or Latino youths. In the Round-14 interview, respondents ranged from 25 to 31 years of age.

Round-14 questionnaire general content

NLSY97 variables cover a wide range of topics, including job characteristics, labor market status, education, training, health, marital history, family characteristics, and income and assets. Round-14 questionnaire content is similar to the Round-13 questionnaire but has a few additions and other changes that may interest researchers. (Some changes are made to the questionnaire between survey rounds because of the maturation of the re-

spondents while other changes reflect interest in new research topics.)

Additions to Round-14 Survey

The Round-14 survey contains a new series of risk assessment questions, included in the “Tell Us What You Think” section. (Questions begin with the prefix “YTEL.”) Respondents rated themselves on their willingness to take risks in their lives, in general, and in specific areas such as: driving, finances, work, health, faith in people, romance, major life changes, gambling, and earned income. The risk preference questions were developed from the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP). Similar risk questions can be found in the NLSY79 and the young adult cohort datasets.

In the Round-14 YTEL section, respondents answered questions that probe two dimensions of the personality trait known as conscientiousness. These two dimensions are industriousness and traditionality. (Additional personality questions are asked in the Round-12 interview.)

New questions have been added about cash benefits from government programs such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) also known as the Food Stamp Program. Respondents answered questions about receiving

government assistance for childcare, transportation, energy, and housing. (See YINC-6000 through YINC-6300 and YPRGA-1000 through YPRGA-1200.) The new questions replace a longer set of assistance questions that had been asked in previous years.

Beginning in round 14, questions about assets, known as the Assets 30 (YAST30) section, are administered to respondents born in 1980. The Assets 30 section is similar in content to the Assets 25 section, but the order of some questions was changed, and the section is streamlined to reduce the number of questions asked to respondents who have few or no assets. The political participation questions asked in rounds 8, 10, and 12 are repeated in round 14. These questions ask respondents how interested they are in government and public affairs, whether they registered to vote in the most recent November election, and whether they actually voted in the election. (YPOL-100 through YPOL-130B)

Previous round-13 variables not included in round 14

Questions are designed to rotate in and out of each survey round. For instance, the NLSY97 “Tell Us What You Think” section includes questions designed to appear in one survey year or occasionally over several survey years. Within this section, the Round-13 “Ladder of Life” questions—where

respondents used a hypothetical ladder to report their success in life at different points—were removed from the Round-14 survey.

Also, removed in round 14 were questions about highly stressful events; being hospitalized, having a close relative pass away, being a victim of a violent crime, being homeless, having a household member incarcerated, and experiencing a parental divorce, which occurred in the previous 5 years of the respondent's life. These questions were first asked in round 6 and round 11 (with non response follow up in rounds 12 and 13). The deleted questions may return in a future survey round.

Continuing variables for round 14

The employment sections of the questionnaire continue to include questions about all jobs, including self-employment, held by the respondent since the last interview. Data collected include dates of employment, industry in which employed, occupation, class of worker (private sector, non-profit sector, and so forth.), rate of pay, hours worked, and reason a job ended. The employment section in Round 14 also continues the section on military veterans.

Information about the respondents' formal education—similar to that collected in previous rounds—was recorded. Specifically, for each term of enrollment in college, information is collected on educational credit accumulation, financing, major area of study, and grade point average. For youth born in 1983 or 1984, a "College Choice" section records each college that respondents applied to for undergraduate schooling, along with the term in which they applied to enroll. Respondents also provided information about any transferable financial aid they may have received. Some questions record whether each of the colleges that the respondent applied to accepted him or her for

admission, along with the type of financial aid offered by each college. (The identities of the colleges are available only on the geocode release.)

As in previous rounds, the income and assets sections, and the abbreviated program participation section, collected information about respondents' sources of income, their assets and debts, home ownership status, and the value of owned homes. Certain questions on assets and debts were asked only of respondents who either turned 25 or 30 years old since their last interview. (See questions with the "YAST25" and "YAST30" prefix.)

As in previous rounds, respondents answered questions on marriage, cohabitation, and family formation. Respondents' answers to family questions were complemented by the customary collection of basic information on residents of the respondents' household, including information about their gender, age, enrollment status, labor force status, and relationship to the respondent.

The Round-14 survey includes an extensive series of questions on the attitudes and behaviors of the respondent. These self-administered questions ask about relationships, substance abuse, criminal activity, and arrests.

Event history data

Event-history data include variables that were created to cover four major topics: employment status, marital status, program participation, and schooling experiences. Each topic is documented through a series of arrays that show the respondents' status or activities during each week, month, or year within a specific period. Users should note that all reference numbers for event history variables now begin with the letter "E."

The Round-14 data release includes two new event history arrays on incarceration and arrests. These follow the format of monthly arrays (such as marital status and schooling);

but at this time, they are available only through the Round-13 interview. The Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, sponsored the preparation of these arrays.

Geocode data

Variables that provide information about each respondent's county of residence, will be available on a CD as a separate dataset in September 2012 and are not part of the main/event history database. Because of the confidential nature of geocode data, the completion of a thorough application process and confidentiality agreement is required to obtain access to them.

The geocode dataset provides a list of the states and counties where respondents lived between interviews. The unemployment rate in the respondents' current metropolitan area or state is also reported.

Another group of variables on the geocode CD focuses on the colleges attended by the respondents. Survey staff use information from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) to provide users with the identification code (UnitID) and state of each college the respondent attended. Identification codes can be used to associate the NLSY97 respondents' college with various characteristics of the institution contained in the IPEDS database. For individuals responding to the College Choice section, information on the colleges they applied to also is available. These college choice geocode variables begin with the prefix "YCOC."

Obtaining NLSY97 data

All 14 rounds of the NLSY97 main-file data, along with public use data from the other NLS cohorts, are available to researchers free of charge via NLS Investigator at www.nlsinfo.org/investigator. Supporting documentation (such as user guides) can be accessed at this site. In addition, the NLS Anno-

tated Bibliography (www.nlsbibliography.org), which provides citations of NLS-related research, is available. As of July 2012, there were 633 research citations using NLSY97 data.

Researchers interested in obtaining a geocode CD must complete the accessing agreement required by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The process includes filling out an application and signing a confidentiality agreement. For more information and/or to receive an application for geocode access, see the section on NLSY97 Data that Require Special Permission at www.bls.gov/nls/nlsy97.htm.

Child and Young Adult 2010 Full Release Available

The full 1986–2010 NLSY79 Child and Young Adult dataset from the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY79), containing information collected biennially from NLSY79 mothers and their children, has been released. The cohort for this dataset consists of children 14 years and younger (a group known as the NLSY79 children) and those 15 years and older (designated as young adults) as of December 31 of the survey's calendar year. The 2010 survey year (the latest year for which data are available) gathered information on 895 children and 6,102 young adults. Information on children and their family background has been updated in the 2010 public release for the 8,099 children born to mothers interviewed in that survey round. Data collected for both children and young adult children can be linked with information collected from their mothers in the main NLSY79.

General content of the Child and Young Adult Surveys. The NLSY79 Child and Young Adult survey uses the mothers' report, assessments administered to the child by the in-

terviewer, and the child's self-report to gauge children's health, abilities, achievement, problems, activities, attitudes, school progress, and home environment. Beginning in 1988, children 10 years and older have answered a self-administered set of questions about their families; friends; jobs; schools; after-school activities; computer use; religious attendance; and use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. As of 1994, NLSY79 children 15 years and older no longer receive 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, smoking, and drug and alcohol use. In 2010, the oldest young adults interviewed were 38 years of age. Beginning with the 2010 survey year, young adults over age 30 will be interviewed once every 4 years rather than biennially.

New 2010 content for the Young Adult Survey. The young adult 2010 respondents were asked several new questions about adverse financial situations, ranging from being more than 60 days late in paying bills, receiving calls from collection agencies, repossessions, filing bankruptcy, and facing foreclosure. (See Y25827.00 through Y25842.00.)

New health questions look at consumer habits, lack of health coverage, and caretaking. A new health module for respondents 29 years and older included family history of chronic medical conditions, age and cause of parents' death if deceased, dental hygiene, restrictions of activity due to health, and recent medical screening checks. Questions that measured cognitive abilities (remembering words and numbers) also were introduced in the 29-and-

older module. (See the YA Health Area of Interest for these questions.)

Also added to the 2010 Young Adult survey was a short series of questions on taking risks with employment. This job-risk series can be found in select survey years of the NLS79 main survey, as well. The respondents also reported any military service and answered a short series of new questions about military service-related disabilities.

How to obtain child and young adult data. Researchers can access the 1986–2010 Child and Young Adult dataset in the NLS Investigator. Data documentation, including a user's guide, also can be found at this site.

Bibliography Tops 3,000 NLS-related Journal Article Citations

Users can now peruse more than 3,000 NLS-related journal article citations in the *NLS Annotated Bibliography* at www.nlsbibliography.org. In July 2012, the official count of journal article citations stood at 3,156. Citations generally include an abstract and indicate which NLS cohorts were used for the analysis. Looking at the 10 journals that have tallied the highest number of NLS-related articles, the *Journal of Human Resources* published 149 articles, followed by *Journal of Marriage and Family* (119), *Demography* (79), *Journal of Labor Economics* (75), *The Review of Economics and Statistics* (74), *Monthly Labor Review* (62), *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* (61), *Social Forces* (59), *American Economic Review* (56), and *American Sociological Review* (51). There are more than 600 distinct journals listed.

Besides journal articles, the *Bibliography* includes chapters, theses and dissertations, legislation, monographs, newspaper articles, conference presentations, reports, webcast presentations, and working papers.

Researchers are encouraged to submit article information to the Bibliography via the user submission form at www.nlsbibliography.org.

Data Collection and Release Schedule

Following is the latest schedule for NLSY79 and NLSY97 data collections and data releases:

- **NLSY97 Survey.** Data from rounds 1 through 14 of the NLSY97 are now available. These data were collected in the 1997 through 2010 survey years. Round-15 data collection has been completed and is scheduled for release in the summer of 2013. Round-16 fielding will begin in 2013.
- **NLSY79 Main Survey.** Data from rounds 1 through 24 of the NLSY79 are available. These data were collected in the 1979 through 2010 survey years. Round-25 data collection begins in the latter part of 2012, with Round-25 data scheduled for release in 2014.
- **NLSY79 Child Survey and NLSY79 Young Adult Survey.** Both surveys are fielded during approximately the same timeframe as the main NLSY79 survey. Data from survey years through 2010 are available. The next round of data collection for the Child and Young Adult surveys begins later this year (2012).

Each cohort's dataset includes a merger of all previously released rounds from that cohort. All public NLS data can be accessed free of charge at www.nlsinfo.org/investigator, which features data from the active cohorts listed earlier, as well as

the four NLS original cohorts: older men, mature women, young women, and young men.

NLS Variable Spotlight: Four Measures of Non-Cognitive Skills

Recently, more researchers have started examining noncognitive skills and their role in outcomes such as educational attainment and labor market success. Noncognitive skills, such as personality, values, and attitudes are "soft skills" (as opposed to cognitive skills, which measure knowledge, achievement, and ability). Four popular measures of noncognitive skills found in the NLS are discussed here: Rotter's Locus of Control, Pearlin's Mastery Scale, Rosenberg's Self-Esteem Scale, and the Ten-Item Personality Inventory Scale (TIPI). These variables (as well as other noncognitive skill measures, to be featured in future issues) are available within the NLS public datasets, found at www.nlsinfo.org/investigator.

Rotter's Internal-External Locus of Control Scale. The Locus of Control Scale, developed by J.B. Rotter, measures generalized expectancies for internal versus external control. Internal control refers to the perception of events as being under personal control, and external control involves events being perceived as unrelated to one's own behavior. Respondents are presented a series of paired statements, such as "What happens to me is my own doing," and "Sometimes I feel that I don't have enough control over the direction my life is taking," and are asked to select the statement closest to their opinion.

NLSY79 respondents answered questions on a four-item abbreviated version of Rotter's scale in 1979. Abbreviated versions of the scale also are available in select survey years for all four original cohorts: older

men, young men, mature women, and young women.

Pearlin Mastery Scale. The Mastery Scale, developed by Leonard Pearlin and similar in concept to the Rotter scale, measures self-concept and references the degree to which individuals perceive themselves in control of forces that significantly impact their lives. Each item in the seven-item scale is a statement (such as "Sometimes I feel that I'm being pushed around in life" or "I can do just about anything I really set my mind to") regarding the respondent's perception of self, and respondents are asked how strongly they agree or disagree with each statement.

NLSY79 respondents took the Pearlin Mastery Scale as part of the 1992 survey. The NLSY79 Young Adult questionnaire has included the Pearlin Mastery Scale in every survey year, with individual respondents taking it several points in the life course. Raw scores as well as created variables—Item Response Theory (IRT) score, standard error, custom-weighted Z score, and percentile for Z score—are available.

Rosenberg's Self-Esteem Scale. Developed by Morris Rosenberg, this scale is a widely used self-esteem measure and was designed for adolescents and adults. The 10-item scale contains statements of self-approval ("I feel that I have a number of good qualities," for instance) and disapproval ("I feel I do not have much to be proud of") with which respondents are asked to strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

The Rosenberg scale was administered to NLSY79 respondents during the 1980, 1987, and 2006 survey years and has been included in all young adult survey years (1994–2010), with respondents having answered these questions at various points. Raw scores and created variables—IRT score, standard error, custom-weight-

ed Z score, and percentile for Z score are available.

Ten-Item Personality Inventory Scale (TIPI). The TIPI was designed to assess the constellation of traits defined by the Five Factor Theory of Personality. The TIPI uses a scale from 1 to 7 to agree or disagree with how well a series of paired personality traits applied to the respondent. Pairings include extraverted/enthusiastic, critical/quarrelsome, dependable/self-disciplined, anxious/easily upset, open/complex, reserved/quiet, sympathetic/warm, disorganized/careless, calm/emotionally stable, and conventional/uncreative.

The TIPI has been included in the young adult survey since 2006, with many respondents having answered these items in two rounds. NLSY97 respondents took the TIPI as part of the Round- 12 survey.

Did You Know? Business Ownership Variables in the NLSY79

Researchers can now learn more details about NLSY79 respondents who own or have owned businesses. While only limited information was collected on business ownership in previous NLSY79 rounds, the Round-24 release includes an extensive series of questions on each business owned since age 18. Information was gathered on the characteristics of businesses owned by over 1,500 NLSY79 respondents.

Respondents who reported having owned a business gave the year each business was established and how ownership was acquired: whether the respondent established the business themselves or with partners, received ownership as a gift, purchased ownership, inherited ownership, or received an ownership stake through marriage. Respondents answered questions about working for a related type of business prior to starting their business, the

source of the money used to establish or acquire the business, the number of employees and the number of physical locations of the business, the legal form of the business (sole proprietorship, corporation, etc.) the sales or revenue in a typical year, and whether the business was family owned.

In addition, all NLSY79 respondents interviewed in round 14 (regardless of “own business” status) were asked several questions on family ownership of businesses, their own patent-seeking activities, and whether they consider themselves to be entrepreneurs.

The new business ownership variables are found in the public 1979-2010 NLSY79 database, accessed through the NLS Investigator.

New Coding Procedure for College Major Data in NLSY97

There has been a change in how college major information is collected and coded in the NLSY97. Beginning with round 14, college majors have been collected in a verbatim format and then coded by staff using the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2010 from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Prior to round 14, respondents selected their majors from a pick list.

College major data for round 14 can be found via NLS Investigator (www.nlsinfo.org/investigator) under the variable names YSCH-21300-COD.xx.yy (for first majors) and YSCH-21400-COD.xx.yy (for second majors).

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. Is there a way to identify discouraged workers among NLSY97 respondents?

A1. Respondents reporting they are without a job but not looking for work are asked “What would you say is the main reason that you were not looking for work during that period?”(See variables YEMP-118300.xx and YEMP-119650.xx.) This question has a “believed no work is available” response category that could serve as an indicator of worker discouragement.

Q2. In the NLSY79, what does the outcome “Non-interview(-5)” mean?

A2. The NLSY79 started out with 12,686 respondents in the first interview in 1979. In every round since, some number of respondents were not interviewed, either because they refused, were not able to be located, deceased, or some other reason. A code of “-5” is assigned to account for the respondents not interviewed in a particular round.

Q3. I'm having trouble finding an age variable for NLSY79 respondents. Is that available?

A3. Each NLSY79 survey year contains a variable for age of respondent at date of interview in the “Key Variable” Area of Interest, under the variable title “AGE OF R AT INTERVIEW DATE.” In the 2010 Survey Year, the variable number is T31087.00, and the codebook indicates that the respondents’ ages at interview date ranged from 45 to 53 years of age.

Q4. How do I match up a mother and child in the NLSY79? I'm interested how a NLSY79 mother's or family's income might affect aspects of a child's life.

A4. You will need to extract a data set from the NLSY79 and merge it with your Child/YA data set by matching the mother's NLSY79 ID (R00001.00) to her ID in the Child/YA file (C00002.00). To find family income and other created variables of note, look in the "Key Variables" area of interest. For more information on how to match up the two datasets, see the tutorial "Intergenerational Links: NLSY79 Mothers and Their Children," available as part of the NLSY79 Child and Young Adult documentation link at www.nlsinfo.org/investigator.

Completed NLS Research

Following is a listing of recent research that has not appeared in its current form in a previous issue of the NLS News, based on data from the NLS cohorts. (See the NLS Annotated Bibliography at www.nlsbibliography.org for a comprehensive listing of NLS-related research.):

Agee, Mark D., Scott E. Atkinson, and Thomas D. Crocker. "Child Maturation, Time-invariant, and Time-varying Inputs: Their Interaction in the Production of Child Human Capital." *Journal of Productivity Analysis* 38, no. 1 (August 2012), pp. 29–44. [Children of the NLSY79]

Bares, Cristina B. and Fernando H. Andrade. "Racial/Ethnic Differences in the Longitudinal Progression of Co-occurring Negative Affect and Cigarette Use: From Adolescence to Young Adulthood." *Addictive Behaviors* 37, no. 5 (May 2012), pp. 632–640. [NLSY97]

Boylan, Khrista, Tracy Vaillancourt, and Peter Szatmari. "Linking Oppositional Behaviour Trajectories to the Development of Depressive Symptoms in Childhood." *Child Psychiatry and Human Development* 43, no. 3 (June 2012), pp. 484–497. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

Caputo, Richard K. "Patterns and Predictors of Debt: A Panel Study, 1985-2008." *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* 39, no. 2 (June 2012), pp. 7–29. [NLSY79]

Chen, Alice J. "When Does Weight Matter Most?" *Journal of Health Economics* 31,1 (January 2012): 285–295. [NLSY79]

Gasper, Joseph, Stefanie DeLuca, and Angela Estacion. "Switching Schools: Revisiting the Relationship Between School Mobility and High School Dropout." *American Educational Research Journal* 49, no. 3 (June 2012), pp. 487–519. [NLSY97]

Ganzach, Yoav and Itzhak Fried. "The Role of Intelligence in the Formation of Well-being: From Job Rewards to Job Satisfaction." *Intelligence* 40, no. 4 (July-August 2012), pp. 333–342. [NLSY79]

Glauber, Rebecca. "Women's Work and Working Conditions: Are Mothers Compensated for Lost Wages?" *Work and Occupations* 39, no. 2 (May 2012), pp. 115–138. [NLSY79]

Johar, Meliyanni and Hajime Katayama. "Quantile Regression Analysis of Body Mass and Wages." *Health Economics* 21, no. 5 (May 2012), pp. 597–611. [NLSY79]

Kaplan, Greg. "Moving Back Home: Insurance against Labor Market Risk." *Journal of Political Economy* 120, no. 3 (June 2012), pp. 446–512. [NLSY97]

Lee, Joyce M., Achamyeleh Gebremariam, Sandeep Vijan, and James G. Gurney. "Excess Body Mass Index—Years, a Measure of Degree and Duration of Excess Weight, and Risk for Incident Diabetes." *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* 166, no. 1 (January 2012), pp. 42–48. [NLSY79]

Malone, Patrick S., Thomas F. Northrup, Katherine E. Masyn, Dorian A. Lamis, and Andrea E. Lamont. "Initiation and Persistence of Alcohol Use in United States Black, Hispanic, and White Male and Female Youth." *Addictive Behaviors* 37, no. 3 (March 2012), pp. 299–305. [NLSY97]

Parcel, Toby L., Lori A. Campbell, and Wenxuan Zhong. "Children's Behavior Problems in the United States and Great Britain." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 53, no. 2 (June 2012), pp. 165–182. [Children of the NLSY79]

Rackin, Heather and Christina M. Gibson-Davis. "The Role of Pre- and Postconception Relationships for First-Time Parents." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 74, no. 3 (June 2012), pp. 526–539. [NLSY97]

Rippeyoung, Phyllis L. F. and Mary C. Noonan. "Is Breastfeeding Truly Cost Free? Income Consequences of Breastfeeding for Women." *American Sociological Review* 77, no. 2 (April 2012), pp. 244–267. [NLSY79]

Schwartz, Christine R. and Robert D. Mare. "The Proximate Determinants of Educational Homogamy: The Effects of First Marriage, Marital Dissolution, Remarriage, and Educational Upgrading." *Demography* 49, no. 2 (May 2012), pp. 629–650. [NLSY79]

Stansfield, Richard. "A Multilevel Analysis of Hispanic Youth, Exposure to the United States, and Retail Theft." *Race and Social Problems* 4, no. 2 (June 2012), pp. 121–132. [NLSY97]

Stewart, Leslie, Yujia Liu, and Eunice Rodriguez. "Maternal Unemployment and Childhood Overweight: Is There a Relationship?" *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 66, no. 7 (July 2012), pp. 641–646. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY]

Tapia, Michael. "U.S. Juvenile Arrests: Gang Membership, Social Class, and Labeling Effects." *Youth and Society* 43, no. 4 (December 2011), 1407–1432. [NLSY97]

Weden, Margaret M. and Jeremy N. Miles. "Intergenerational Relation-

ships between the Smoking Patterns of a Population-Representative Sample of US Mothers and the Smoking Trajectories of their Children." *American Journal of Public Health* 102, no. 4 (April 2012), pp. 723–731. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

Zhang, Zhiyong, John J. McArdle, and John R. Nesselroade. "Growth Rate Models: Emphasizing Growth Rate Analysis through Growth Curve Modeling." *Journal of Applied Statistics* 39, no. 6 (June 2012), pp. 1241–1262. [Children of the NLSY79]



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