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National Longitudinal Surveys

1998

U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics

Release of NLSY79 1996 Survey Data

The public release of the 1996 NLSY79 data is scheduled for this coming winter. This latest survey collected information from over 8,600 members of the NLSY79 cohort, or almost 87 percent of the respondents remaining eligible for interview. The data will be available on compact discs and will include information gathered during the 17 interviews conducted since 1979. The 1996 survey marks the beginning of the NLSY79's move from an annual to a biennial survey.

The 1996 survey repeats all core NLSY79 modules. As it has each year, the survey contains a detailed labor force section based on the Current Population Survey (CPS). In addition, respondents who report working since the date of last interview complete a questionnaire on each employer in the employer supplements. The 1996 survey also continues NLSY79 modules on education, fertility, child care, income, assets, and training.

There are, however, some changes between the 1994 and 1996 surveys. New questions were added in 1996 that assess the amount of supervisory responsibility the respondent has at each job, and respondents are asked to provide information about their own supervisors. There are also new questions on promotions and position changes.

The employer supplement no longer contains questions on training. These have been moved into the training section of the questionnaire. This reorganization places all training questions together in one section. There are no changes in the series of questions on formal training. Questions on informal types of training now focus on training that occurred in the past 4 weeks

for each applicable job.

Additionally, the set of questions that determines if a worker is temporary or permanent was rewritten to match somewhat more closely the set of questions asked in the CPS.

The NLSY79 Users' Guide is now available. It is the first of the cohort-specific guides to replace the previous NLS Users' Guide, which discussed all cohorts. The new guide updates all the NLSY79 information found in the previous guide and includes several new sections.

NLSY79 data are released on a CD-ROM containing, in addition, documentation and search and retrieval software. Supplemental documents are also distributed with each CD-ROM. Researchers interested in purchasing these data should contact NLS User Services.

NLSY97 on Household and Family Composition

Researchers have long recognized that a youth's family background can affect his or her educational and labor market outcomes. The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97), a nationally representative sample of youths born during the period 1980-84, obtains information on the members of a respondent's household and on key non-resident relatives. Thus, it will be possible with information from future survey rounds to connect childhood family background information with respondents' eventual outcomes.

This article describes information pertaining to members of the youth's household and non-resident relatives collected in the screener, household roster, and nonresident roster questionnaire during round 1 of the NLSY97. These data detail the relationship between members of the NLSY97 youths' households. They also provide detail on the youths' non-resident relatives. This article also compares the NLSY99 household information to that gathered in the NLSY97. Extensive family background information is also collected in the parent and youth questionnaires, although it is not discussed in this article. Data collected in round 1 of the NLSY97 are scheduled for public release in 1998.

Identification of eligible youth

The gathering of much of the round 1 household information is closely tied to the process by which eligible youths were identified for the NLSY97 survey. To identify these youths, field interviewers initiated the screening process by rostering potentially-eligible households (over 90,000 households in about 200 primary sampling units were pre-identified). A member of the household, designated as the "household informant," was asked to provide certain information on those who usually resided in the household. To ensure more accurate reporting of those data, the household informant had to be age 18 or older and to consider the selected household his or her usual place of residence.

The household informant was asked to list (provide a roster) of the current household occupants. The interviewer reminded the respondent to include all those who usually resided in the household (e.g., boarders, persons employed by the household, foster children, newborns), as well as any household occupants who were temporarily away (e.g., travelers, students away at school, those in prisons or hospitals)

After establishing a roster of household occupants, the survey elicits information

from the respondent about each person's birth date or age. This information was the first step in identifying NLSY97 eligible youths. Those potentially eligible for the NLSY97 cohort were age 12 to 16 as of December 31, 1996. For youths who were identified as potentially eligible (born in the years 1980 through 1984), the respondent was also questioned about household members' race and ethnicity, sex, and the usual residence of the potentially eligible youth. Information on race and ethnicity was used to select youths for the supplemental oversamples of blacks and Hispanics.

If the household did not contain a youth in the correct age range (for the cross-section sample) or a youth in the correct age range who fit the oversample criteria, the interview ended and no additional information was collected from the household. (Residential status of the potentially eligible youth was also a criteria for eligibility.) Otherwise, the interview continued with the household informant, and additional information was collected on the eligible youths' resident household as well as on their non-resident relatives.

Relationships among the youth's resident household members

After identifying an eligible household, the household respondent was questioned about the relationship of each household occupant to all other household occupants. When possible, the survey program imputed the relationships between household occupants from previously defined relationships. For example, the NLSY97 system automatically listed two non-NLSY97 siblings as full brothers if the respondent had previously identified these males as the NLSY97 youth's full brothers. This decreased the number of questions the respondent answered. For relationships that could not be imputed, the interviewer asked the respondent to provide the information.

Follow-up questions verified the exact relationship between the NLSY97-eligible youth and other household occupants when necessary. If the respondent identified an individual as the NLSY97 youth's mother, for example, an additional question asked if she was the biological, adoptive, stepmother, or foster mother. The interviewer collected the same type of information for a person described as the youth's father.

The survey also collected complete data

on the youth's siblings. If the reported birth dates for full siblings differed by a month or less, follow-up questions determined whether the siblings were part of a multiple birth. Multiple-birth siblings of the same gender were identified as either identical or fraternal. Questions about the NLSY97 youth's half-siblings provided information on whether the siblings shared a biological mother or a biological father.

The survey also asked for limited demographic data about household members on education, marital status, and employment.

Non-resident roster

After collecting information about residents of the youth's household, the interview moved to the non-resident roster. A non-resident relative is defined as a member of the youth's immediate family whose permanent residence was not in the youth's household at the time of the survey. Eligible for inclusion on this roster are the following non-residents: Biological, adoptive, or stepparents; biological, adoptive, or stepsiblings; the youth's spouse; biological children; and the other parent of the youth's biological children. In addition, the entire household of a youth's non-resident biological parent is listed.

The non-resident roster questionnaire first collected data on the relationship between the NLSY97 youth and those listed on the roster. It also asked for limited demographic data about each non-resident such as sex, race, ethnicity, age, marital status, education, and employment status. The amount of demographic information collected depended on the particular relationship the non-resident individual has with the NLSY97 youth. This information, along with that from the household roster questionnaire, provides a picture of the youth's relationship to non-resident relatives and household occupants.

Additionally, the non-resident roster questionnaire collected information about the number of miles the youth lived from a biological parent. Information about each non-resident child of the youth included the person the child lives with (e.g., other biological parent, foster parent, adoptive parent) and the distance between the child's current residence and the NLSY97 youth's current residence. For non-resident children who are living with their other biological parent, follow-up

questions determined the type of household in which they live (e.g., no other adults, other parent's spouse, other parent's partner, other parent's parents).

The non-resident roster questionnaire also gathered information on relatives who are no longer living. If the youth's biological parent, full sibling, or child was reported to be deceased, the household respondent was asked to provide additional information on that person's sex, year of death, and age at death.

Choice of a parent to respond to the parent questionnaire

Finally, the screener, household roster, and non-resident roster questionnaire chooses a parent to complete the parent interview. From information in the household roster, the survey program identified a parent of the sample youth who was asked to answer the parent questionnaire. The order of choosing the responding parent is shown in figure 1. The program selects the first person listed in the hierarchy who is a resident of the sample household (e.g., the biological mother was asked to participate before the biological father). In cases where that person is unavailable to complete the interview, the next resident parent in the hierarchy is asked to partici-

All youths who did not live with a parent figure or who lived with a guardian or parent-figure not on this list are considered "emancipated." No parent interviews exist for emancipated youths.

Comparison to the NLSY79

Similar to the household roster found in the NLSY97, the NLSY79 records the relationship between the members of the respondent's household and the respondent. Relationships between members of the household (other than the respondent) may often be inferred from this information. However, the NLSY79 does not explicitly ask about them. As in the NLSY97, the NLSY79 respondent provides additional demographic data (e.g., sex, age, highest grade completed) for each household member. The NLSY79 also does not gather information on non-resident relatives of the youth, like the NLSY97 does.

Users interested in more information about family composition data available in the NLSY97 or about the survey in general should contact NLS User Services.

Figure 1. Resident parental hierarchy

1	Biological mother
2	Biological father
3	Adoptive mother
4	Adoptive father
5	Stepmother
6	Stepfather
7	Guardian related to youth
8	Non-relative guardian (e.g., foster mother or foster father the youth lived with for 2+ years)
9	Mother figure, relative
10	Father figure, relative
11	Mother figure, non-relative the youth lived with for 2+ years
12	Father figure, non-relative the youth lived with for 2+ years

NLS Topic Spotlight: Child

Through the years, the mature women, young women, and NLSY79 surveys have each gathered extensive child-care data. Many questions examine basics such as type of care and costs, and a number of questions directly focus on the link between child care and labor force participation. This article reviews the child-care information available in the NLS surveys.

For parents, child care is an important factor in deciding to join or to continue in the labor force. Questions asked since 1971 in the CPS sections of the questionnaires have included child-care problems as one of the main reasons that a respondent was not looking for work during the survey week; respondents could also give the lack of available child care as a reason for gaps in their work history.

In addition to the CPS questions, the NLS surveys periodically ask separate questions focused on child care. These questions, usually located in the child-care, fertility, or family background sections of the questionnaires, are described below by cohort.

NLSY79

Questions concerning the use of child care first appeared in the NLSY79 in 1982. To minimize respondents' burden, the questionnaire only asked them to describe child-care arrangements for the youngest biological child, stepchild, or adopted child. Using a reference period of the last 4 weeks, respondents were asked about the

type of care (e.g., relative, day care center) and location (e.g., in child's home, in other private home, at center), the number of hours per week the child spent in child care, and the weekly cost of the care. These questions continued through 1985 and were asked of all respondents. The 1986 and 1988 surveys requested similar information for all children, but only from female respondents.

In addition to the data on recent child care, the 1986 and 1988 surveys collected retrospective information on child-care arrangements during the first 3 years of each child's life. The child-care questions for the 1992, 1994, and 1996 surveys focused exclusively on collecting retrospective information on child care during the first 3 years of life for children for whom this information had not been collected in an earlier survey.

In 1989, a special supplement administered to the first 350 female respondents with children collected information about every child-care arrangement used during the survey week. These data include the type and location of care, hours used, characteristics of the care giver, and the reason child care was needed. The supplement then asked respondents to construct a child care event history, reporting the above information for each arrangement lasting at least 10 hours in any 1 week since the 1988 survey.

This special supplement is an aid to help evaluate data quality. The first section can be used to assess to what extent researchers may be missing information if questions ask only about the primary and secondary care arrangements. The event history is useful in studies evaluating the quality of retrospective reconstruction of child-care information. More information about this supplement is available in *NLS Discussion Paper* 92-6, "Evaluation of the 1989 Child Care Supplement in the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth," by Frank L. Mott and Paula Baker (1989).

Several questions have related child care to the respondent's labor force behavior. In addition to the CPS questions asked of all cohorts, the 1982, 1983, and 1984 NLSY79 surveys asked whether finding satisfactory child care would affect hours spent in school, at work, or looking for a job. In 1986 and 1988, female respondents stated whether they or their spouse or partner had missed any work in the last 4 weeks due to child-care problems. In each employer supplement since 1988, employed respondents have indicated whether company-provided or subsidized child care is available as a benefit.

NLSY79 data on child care are unique because they can be linked with the NLSY79 child survey. Together, these two surveys provide researchers with the opportunity to tie a parent's child-care and employment decisions, documented in the NLSY79 surveys, directly to child outcomes, recorded in the NLSY79 child surveys. The list of references at the end of this article provides several examples of such research. The NLSY79 child sample includes over 7,000 children, or over 90 percent of the children born to interviewed mothers. Almost all children in the sample have some type of child-care information associated with them, because parents are asked the retrospective questions in each survey year until the information is obtained.

To extend this knowledge even further, child-care questions are also contained in the 1994 and 1996 NLSY79 young adult surveys, which focus on the older children of NLSY79 mothers. This survey asks respondents what type of child care they use for their children. These questions allow researchers to trace child care across three generations.

Mature and young women

The first mature women's survey in 1967 included child-care questions; collection of these data continued until 1977, when most women in the survey no longer had children under 18. A brief set of questions in 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, and 1977 asked women who had children under age 18 in their household whether child care was used, where the children were cared for, and how much it cost. The 1971 and 1972 surveys also asked about the number of hours per week that child care was required.

Child-care questions have appeared in the young women's questionnaire 13 different times since the cohort's inception. Basic information obtained each year includes where the respondent's child receives care and who provides that care. In some surveys, respondents also provided information about costs of care and hours of care required, with varying reference periods. In some years, the survey has collected data for only the youngest child; in others, several children in different age groups were included.

The 1971 survey of the young and mature women's cohorts included an extended series of child-care questions. This series asked respondents about their attitude toward their current child-care arrangement and their preferences for the ideal arrangement. Unemployed respondents also provided information about likely child-care arrangements if they took a job.

Like the NLSY79, some questions asked of the women's cohorts relate child care to labor force activity. In 1971, 1972, and 1977 (mature women) and in 1971, 1975, 1977, 1978, and 1983 (young women), respondents who were out of the labor force stated whether they would look for work if child care was available at no cost. In 1971, both cohorts answered questions about the dependability of their regu-

lar child-care arrangements; the young women were asked this question again in 1988. Finally, the benefits series has included child care as a category since 1983 for the young women and in 1989 and 1995 for the mature women.

Also, for the surveys of 1983, 1991, 1993, and 1995, young women were asked whether they missed any days of work in the last year due to problems with child care and, if so, the number of days missed. In the current labor force status section of many surveys after 1971, unemployed young women respondents could state that child-care problems were the reason they could not accept a job this week. "Child care problems" was also one of the reasons young women could select for leaving a previously held job.

Research

Researchers have used NLS data extensively to investigate a variety of child-care topics. Many researchers have investigated the interrelationship of child care and the labor market decisions of women. Analysis has often focused on understanding how child care influences a woman's labor force participation decision. Other research investigates the extent to which child care changes female labor supply decisions, such as hours worked and amount of overtime. Investigations have also examined the relationship between child care and the ability to leave welfare.

A second major topic of interest uses NLSY79 child data to investigate whether child care affects a youth's development. Completed research has considered the effects of child care on intellectual, social, verbal, and behavioral development.

A third major research area is the mechanics of child care. This avenue of research examines the rates people pay for child care, the total amount they spend, how often child care is used, and where children are cared for.

Research articles based on NLS child-care data can be located using the on-line NLS Bibliography (http://www.chrr.ohiostate.edu/nls-bib). The database contains over 100 articles under the child-care descriptor. Users can also obtain, at no charge, a bibliography of NLSY79 child-care articles entitled, "Child Care, Maternal Employment and Family Economic Well-Being," by contacting NLS User Services.

References: (These articles analyzing the relationship between child care and child outcomes are drawn from the NLS Internet bibliography.)

Baydar, Nazli and Brooks-Gunn, Jeanne. "Effects of Maternal Employment and Child Care Arrangements in Infancy on Preschoolers' Cognitive and Behavioral Outcomes." *Developmental Psychology* 27,6 (November 1991): 932-945.

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British Parent and Child Data and the NLSY79 and Children

Researchers who study cross-country comparisons may be interested in the upcoming release of the British National Child Development Study (NCDS) on CD-ROM. The NCDS is a continuing multidisciplinary longitudinal study of approximately 16,500 individuals living in Great Britain who were born in the week of March 3-9, 1958. In 1991, all children of one-third of the cohort members were given cognitive and emotional assessments similar to those given to children of the NLSY79 cohort. Due to the similarities between the NLSY79 and NCDS child surveys, researchers have a wealth of data for comparing U.S and British children.

Initiated to identify factors associated with birth outcomes, the NCDS study has been widely used to explore patterns of child development, to evaluate the efficacy of medical and educational programs, and to document national trends in health, socio-economics, and demographics. Following initial data collection of all births registered in Great Britain for the specified week in 1958, NCDS follow-ups have been carried out in 1965, 1969, 1974, 1981, and 1991 when the respondents were 7, 11, 16,

23, and 33 years of age, respectively. Each follow-up obtained information from a variety of sources including medical and school records, the cohort members, their parents, teachers, and partners, and their children.

The NCDS Round 5 survey (NCDS5), conducted in 1991, collected details from cohort members and their spouses (or partners) about education after age 16, adult education and training, employment histories, housing, family formation, income and wealth, health, health risks, citizenship, and attitudes across a range of social topics. For a random sample of 1 in 3 cohort members, an attempt was made to get information for all natural or adopted children living with them. The children themselves and their mother or mother-figure were interviewed. A series of age-specific child assessments measured the cognitive, socio-emotional, and behavioral development of the sample children. A number of interviewer observations about the home and mother-child interaction supplemented the assessment battery. Interviews gathered additional information from the mother about the birth, health, and physical development of each child.

The child assessments employed in the NCDS5 draw from those used in the 1990 NLSY79 child survey. The following scales in the NCDS5 have direct parallels in the NLSY79 child surveys: (1) Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT), (2) verbal memory, (3) Peabody Individual Achievement Test (PIAT) math, (4) PIAT reading, (5) memory for digit span, (6) "What I am like" (self-perception), (7) the Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment (HOME), (8) motor and social development, (9) behavior problems, and (10) "How my child usually acts/temperament".

Because many NLSY79 respondents were in their early to mid-30's during the early 1990s, researchers can make systematic cross-cultural comparisons between the NLSY79 and NCDS5 cohorts. For large national samples of British and American children, the family antecedents of employment and educational behaviors can be analyzed from the parent's perspective. Similarly, from the child's perspective, one can contrast the maternal employment, educational, income, and familial antecedents of children's development.

Users should note that the children in the NCDS5 child sample do not represent

a random sample of British children. As is true with the NLSY79, the older children of NCDS respondents have been born to teenage parents, and the younger ones to parents in their late twenties and early thirties. Although some children in the sample are from families in which childbearing has been completed, many come from families that are still growing.

The CD contains data from all waves of the NCDS for parents of children interviewed or assessed in 1991, as well as data on their children. Individuals interested in purchasing the NCDS parent and child data can obtain the CD-ROM from the User Services Office of the Center for Human Resource Research at (614) 442-7300. Users who would like in-depth information about the NCDS or data on all NCDS cohort members (not just parents and children) should consult one of the British social science data repositories:

NCDS User Support Group Social Statistics Research Unit (SSRU) City University Northampton Square London EC1V 0HB England Phone: 0171 477-8484

FAX: (0171) 477 8583 Website: http://ssru.city.ac.uk E- ail: ncds@ssru.city.ac.uk

ESRC Data Archive University of Essex Wivenhoe Park Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ England

Phone: +44 (0) 1206 872001 FAX: +44 (0) 1206 872003 Website: http://dawww.essex.ac.uk E-mail: archive@essex.ac.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

NLS User Services encourages researchers to contact them with questions and problems they have encountered while accessing and using NLS data and/or documentation. Every effort is made to answer these questions. Below are some examples of questions asked by NLS users along with the answers.

Q1: In the NLSY79 1994 data, there are slightly less than 8,000 respondents who stated they were employed. Why do only

about 4,400 of these respondents have an occupational code?

A1: In 1994 the occupational skip pattern changed to reduce spurious occupational movements. Instead of asking respondents their occupation in each year, the survey simply asked respondents if they had changed their occupation since the last interview. This new question creates a branch. Answers for respondents who maintained the same occupation are found in questions like R45878. (Occupation From Last Interview Job 1). Answers for respondents with new occupations are found in questions like R45864. (Occupation Job 1). Combining these two questions results in an occupational variable that is similar to previous years. For example, R45878. (2,958 responses) and R45864. (4,408) together encompass almost all working respondents. Although combining the variables is slightly more work, this method may result in fewer unnecessary occupational transitions.

Q2: Do the provided sampling weights account for the presence and the later discontinuation of the economically disadvantaged non-black/non-Hispanic oversample in the NLSY79?

A2: Yes, the sampling weights are adjusted to account for changes in the economically disadvantaged non-black/non-Hispanic oversample, including the dropping of the subsample after the 1990 survey. After each survey the sampling weights are recalculated to account for nonresponse, attrition, and dropped sample members.

Q3: According to NLSY79 variable R02147., 'R's racial/ethnic cohort from screener,' there are only three categories: Hispanic, black, and non-black/non-Hispanic. Is there any variable I can use to identify whether the respondent is white?

A3: Additional, detailed questions on respondents' racial and ethnic origin were asked in 1979 and can be found in the family background variables for 1979 (FAMBKGN Record Type, Questions R00096. to R00102.).

Call for Policy-relevant or

General Interest NLS Research

To encourage continued respondent participation, the Bureau of Labor Statistics plans to send, prior to each survey round, materials to respondents emphasizing the importance of the surveys. NLS respondents have indicated that they would like to know how their participation in the NLS affects public policy. Your help is needed in finding appropriate studies and other information for use in these respondent materials. These materials will augment those already gathered over the years.

NLS plans to provide respondents with findings that may be of interest to them. Of specific interest is information about any NLS-based studies, tables, or charts that have made a documented contribution to any level of government policy (e.g., cited in legislation; cited in court transcripts, agency stance, report to a government agency). Documentation sources may include:

- Testimony before a governing body (e.g., text of committee hearings, The Congressional Record);
- Citation by a government agency (e.g., EEOC) as lending support to a particular policy stance;
- Report(s) to a government agency; or
- Citation in a precedent-setting court decision

Also of interest are any citations by the media (e.g., *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*) that indicate a contribution of the NLS research to a governmental policy.

In addition to the policy-relevant research, any charts, tables, or graphs that may be of interest to the general public would be welcome. These materials may focus on interesting trends, unusual facts, or items of popular appeal.

If your NLS-based study fits any of these criteria, please send the following information to NLS User Services: The policy-relevant paper or abstract; the title, year, and governmental body of the legislation; the name of the non-academic source that cites this material as a policy reference; or the policy-relevant or general interest table, figure, chart, or graph.

NLS User Services (Policy Research) Center for Human Resource Research 921 Chatham Lane, Suite 200 Attn: Steve McClaskie Columbus, OH 43221 Phone: (614) 442-7300 Fax: (614) 442-7329

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state.edu

Thank you in advance for your help.

Completed NLS Research

The following is a listing of recent research based on data from the various NLS cohorts that has not appeared in its current form in a previous issue of the *NLS News*. For a comprehensive listing, see the NLS Annotated Bibliography located at http://www.chrr.ohio-state.edu/nls-bib/

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Prosser, William R. "Family Structure, Substitute Care, and Educational Achievement." Discussion Paper 1140-97, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 1997. [NLSY79]

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Are You Working With NLS Data?

If you are, we are interested in your work!

- Have your exerived funding to sponsor a project using NLS data?
- Areyou working on a paper that uses NLS data?
- Haveyou 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, 921 Chatham Lane, Suite 200, Columbus, OH 43221; (614) 442-7300; e-mail: user svc@pewter.chrr.dnio-state.edu

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