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# **NLSY79 QUESTIONNAIRE**

## **ROUND 19 (2000)**

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**Prepared for the  
U.S. Department of Labor by**

**Center for Human Resource Research  
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2002**

*This questionnaire includes the SF-12<sup>TM</sup> Health Survey, item numbers Q11-SF12-1 to Q11-SF12-8 in this questionnaire. Reproduced with permission of the Medical Outcomes Trust, Copyright © 1994 The Health Institute; New England Medical Center.*



For more information about any aspect of the NLS program, contact:  
Nls\_info@bls.gov

Information is also available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/nls](http://www.bls.gov/nls)

## INTRODUCTION

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This questionnaire is a representation of the Round 19 NLSY79 instrument which was fielded in late April 2000. Below are explanations of important conventions found throughout the questionnaire.

### SAVE ARRAYS

“Save arrays” are fields in which information is stored. Each such field, or save array, is assigned a name. For example, the name of the respondent’s current employer would be stored in the “EMPLOYER.NAME(1)” save array for use during the interview. This “save array name” is then used to reference and access the data in the save array field during the actual operation of the survey. Each time a question refers to the current employer, the computer automatically inserts the name of the employer into the question. Information stored in save arrays is used:

- a) as part of the actual text of survey questions (e.g. the name of a given household member, child, employer, types of training programs, different sources of income for household members)
- b) to govern paths through the questionnaire. The save array field is accessed, and the content (or absence of content) is checked. The path through the questionnaire is determined based upon the information in the save array field.
- c) as elements in equations and calculations which are used to produce new pieces of information which may be used later in the instrument

When used in a question text, save arrays are similar to the text fills used in the PAPI NLS interviews. These text fills indicated that the interviewer should substitute a given word or phrase into the question at the time of the interview so it read correctly. For example, in a printed PAPI questionnaire one would often see “*Since (DATE OF LAST INTERVIEW) have you...*”; this phrase would instruct the interviewer to insert the actual date for a given respondent. However, correctly inserting such text fills was the job of the interviewer and often involved flipping between pages.

In the CAPI questionnaire most text fills are automated or handled by the computer. Some CAPI text fills are identical to those used in the PAPI interviews, such as “*he/she*” to handle gender fills. In the date of last interview example, the computer code in the CAPI questionnaire would automatically insert that date into the question. The interviewer never actually sees the text “[*Date of last interview*]” on the screen, only the date stored in that location.

In this questionnaire, text fills which refer to a save array are represented by text appearing between percentage signs, describing what piece of information is substituted in the interview. Although this descriptive text is never seen by an interviewer, researchers can use this information to better follow the flow of the interview and understand the data or text fill contained in the save arrays. Abbreviations commonly used in text substitutions include:

- hshold = household
- hh = household
- dli = date of last interview
- q or qs = question(s)
- r = respondent
- bio = biological
- non-bio = non-biological
- nbio = non-biological
- spar = spouse/partner

### LOOPS

The instrument contains various sets of questions that are repeated for a specified number of elements. For example, a set of questions is repeated for each household member or each biological child reported. These sets of repeating questions are called loops.

Loops can be identified by the occurrence of a question block with the text "REPEAT" at the beginning, a question block with the text "UNTIL" at the end. The questions in between are subject to repetition a certain number of times specified in the program. The text comments in these question blocks also generally identify them as the beginning and end of a loop.