



U.S. Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Release of the Round 2 NLSY97 Geocode and Event History CD-ROMs

The round 2 NLSY97 event history and geocode data are now available for distribution to researchers. The newest survey in the National Longitudinal Surveys program, the NLSY97 is designed to be representative of the U.S. population born during 1980–84. Round 1 interviews were conducted with 8,984 young adults aged 12 to 16 as of December 31, 1996; of these, 8,386 respondents (93.3 percent) were interviewed in round 2. This article describes the data available on the newly released event history and geocode CD-ROMs.

### Event history data

Included on the main data CD, the event history variables are divided into four major arrays. The first array contains the employment status (that is, working for employer #1, unemployed, out of the labor force, and so forth) of each respondent for each week from the respondent's 14th birthday to the interview date. This array also provides data on total hours worked at all jobs each week and, if the respondent was working for more than one employer in a given week, data on dual jobs. Finally, the array includes beginning and ending dates for each job and for gaps between jobs. The employment status array variables can be found on the CD-ROM by searching for question names that begin with "EMP\_."

The second array on the event history CD contains the marital status variables. These cover the respondent's marital or cohabitation status during each month from his or her 14th birthday to the month of the most recent interview. Possible status labels are: Never married and not cohabiting, never married and cohabiting, married, legally sepa-

rated, divorced, or widowed. The marital status array variables also provide an identification number for the respondent's spouse or partner that can be used to link the spells of marriage or cohabitation with information about that person collected during the youth interviews. Searching for question names beginning with "MAR\_" on the CD-ROM will locate these marital status array variables.

Program participation status, the third array, is similar to marital status in its structure. For each month since the respondent's 14th birthday, these variables report whether the respondent was receiving economic assistance. Six categories of assistance are included in the variables: Unemployment compensation; worker's compensation; Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC); Food Stamps; the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC); and any other government program, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The different types of assistance are represented by six separate sets of variables. Each set includes data on the amount of assistance received each month and on the people in the respondent's household receiving the assistance each month (respondent only, spouse or partner only, respondent and child, other, and so forth). For unemployment compensation and worker's compensation, data are collected for the respondent only. Finally, this array provides the dates on which the respondent began and stopped receiving assistance. These variables can be located by searching for question names beginning with "WKCOMP\_," "UNEMP\_," "AFDC\_," "FDST\_," "WIC\_," or "OTHER\_."

The respondent's schooling experiences are presented in the fourth event history array. Unlike the other constructions, this array presents most of the information on a

yearly basis, beginning with each youth's date of birth. For each year, the schooling variables provide data regarding:

- The respondent's grade in school
- The number of times the respondent changed schools
- Months during which the respondent did not attend school
- Summer classes that the respondent attended
- Whether the respondent repeated or skipped a grade
- The number of days for which the respondent was suspended during the year

In round 2, new monthly variables were created to capture information for each month from the respondent's interview date in round 1 to the interview date in round 2. These monthly arrays include enrollment status, school type and grade, and school identification code for linking to the main data file.

Researchers may access the schooling event history variables by searching for question names that begin with "SCH\_."

### Geocode data

The majority of geographic data collected about NLSY97 respondents is found on the geocode CD. These variables provide detailed statistics for each respondent's county of residence that are not available on the main/event history CDs. Due to the detailed nature of these data, completion of a thorough application process and confidentiality agreement is required. (See the end of this article for more information.)

In addition to all main file and event history data, the geocode CD provides a variety of statistics for the counties in which respondents lived as of the round 1 and round 2 interview dates. Basic demographic information about these counties makes up the first group of variables. These data include

land area in square miles; population by race, age, and gender; and birth and death rates. Another variable reports the percent of persons who lived in a different house or State in 1990 compared with their residence in 1985, providing information about migration rates for the respondent's area.

Factors that might influence the respondent's education and employment outcomes are the focus of several other geocode variables. These provide the number of serious crimes, households with children, female householders with no spouse present, persons with high school or college degrees, and families below the poverty level. A pair of variables summarizes availability of medical care in the county, reporting the number of active nonfederal physicians and community hospital beds.

Economic and labor force issues are represented by geocode variables for the size of the county's civilian labor force, the percent employed in various industries, and the percent of workers aged 16 and older with jobs outside their county of residence. Income variables include per capita money income for the respondent's county, per capita personal income, and median family money income. The unemployment rate for the respondent's metropolitan area (or the rate for all portions of the State not in a Metropolitan Statistical Area) also is reported.

The final group of geocode variables involves colleges attended by respondents. Survey staff use information from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) to provide users with the identification code and location of each college attended by the respondent. The codes can be used to associate the NLSY97 respondent's college with various characteristics of the institution contained in the IPEDS database.

Most variables on the geocode CD are based on the 1994 *County and City Data Book (CCDB)* prepared by the Census Bureau. The *CCDB* data file includes information from the 1990 Census of Population and Housing and from the Current Population Surveys, as well as other supplemental data derived from a variety of Federal Government and private agencies.

#### Accessing the event history and geocode data

NLSY97 event history data are available to the public on CD-ROM for \$20. Each CD contains the data record for each youth, in-

cluding all information in the main file and the event history variables described above. The data file also includes DOS-based search and extraction software and complete codebook documentation on each variable. To aid researchers in using the data, each disc is accompanied by the *NLSY97 User's Guide*, which examines the data set in detailed topical sections. Other supplemental documentation items, such as the questionnaires, are available at an additional charge. Researchers can obtain NLSY97 event history discs and documentation from NLS User Services.

Because the NLSY97 geocode CD-ROM contains detailed data, researchers interested in obtaining the CD must complete the accessing agreement procedure required by BLS. This process includes filling out an application and signing a confidentiality agreement. For more information or to receive an application, contact NLS User Services or Rita Jain at BLS. (See the back cover for contact numbers.) Like the event history CD, this disc is accompanied by the *NLSY97 User's Guide*. Other available documentation includes the questionnaire and a codebook supplement containing the codes for the various geographic areas. □

### Expectations of NLSY97 Youths and Parents

Several NLS surveys, including the NLSY97, have asked various questions about respondents' expectations for the future. In round 1, the NLSY97 questionnaire asked certain youths and their responding parents to state their beliefs about events that may occur in the youth's future. This article describes these NLSY97 question sets, and then concludes with an overview of expectations questions found in other NLS cohorts. Over time, researchers can compare expectations with actual experiences or examine differences among generations.

*NLSY97 expectations questions.* In the round 1 youth questionnaire, NLSY97 respondents born in 1980 or 1981 were asked to assess the probability that certain events would occur in their lives by a specified time. These events were grouped as happening within 1 year, by the youth's 20th birthday, or by the youth's 30th birthday. For example, one question asked respondents whether they expected to receive a high school diploma by

their 20th birthday. Youths were asked to state the percent chance that they would receive a diploma by that date, with 0 meaning "impossible" and 100 meaning "certain." Each event used the same percent scale. See table 1 for a complete list of events included in the survey.

The parents of the youths responded to a selected group of these expectation questions. (See table 1.) They also were asked to state the likelihood that each event would occur by a specified point in the youth's life. Because the responding parents used the same ranking scale as the youth, these questions allow researchers to compare answers from both groups.

*Comparison with other cohorts.* The other NLS cohorts also have been asked various expectation questions, permitting comparison between the cohorts. Topics addressed range from occupational and educational aspirations to retirement expectations, depending on the ages of the respondents. The older men, for instance, reported their expected age of retirement and the amount of income expected at that time. Retirement expectations also appear in the mature women surveys; these include questions concerning the future retirement of both the women and their husbands or partners.

The young men and young women were asked similar sets of questions because of their closeness in age. Both cohorts reported their educational and occupational goals and plans. In addition, the young women were asked about the number of children they expected to have.

The NLSY79 surveys include extensive questions on future expectations. The highest grade respondents expected to achieve in school, their future occupational plans, and their intentions concerning military enlistment were collected in the NLSY79 in various years. Respondents also reported the number of children expected, the timing of their next child, and marital expectations.

In a self-administered questionnaire, the children of the NLSY79 aged 10 and older are asked about their educational expectations and the ages at which they expect to marry and to have their first child. The NLSY79 mothers of these children reported their belief about the child's probable educational achievement. The questions asked of the young adults (aged 15 and older) are even more extensive. They include the respondents' work expectations, educational

**Table 1. Round 1 NLSY97 expectation questions**

Event and time	NLSY97 youth	Responding parent
<i>Percent chance event will occur within 1 year from the interview date</i>		
Arrested (whether rightly or wrongly)	*	
Died from any cause (such as crime, illness, or accident)	*	
Enrolled in a regular school	*	*
Pregnant or have gotten someone pregnant	*	
Seriously drunk at least once	*	
Victim of a violent crime	*	
Working for pay for more than 20 hours per week and enrolled in school	*	*
Working for pay for more than 20 hours per week and not enrolled in school	*	
<i>Percent chance event will occur by the youth's 20th birthday</i>		
Gave birth to or fathered a baby	*	*
Died from any cause (such as crime, illness, or accident)	*	
Received a high school diploma	*	*
Served time in jail or prison	*	*
<i>Percent chance event will occur by the youth's 30th birthday</i>		
Earned a 4-year college degree	*	*
Working for pay for more than 20 hours per week	*	*

goals, and the ages at which they expect to marry and to have their first child. An additional series gathers information about whether the young adult would like to be married, raising a family, and working at the age of 35.

The various expectation questions asked in the NLS surveys and the longitudinal survey design allow researchers the unique opportunity to compare respondents' goals and aspirations with what they later achieve. This is especially true for the future years of the NLSY97, as the cohort ages and the specific expectations outlined in round 1 can be tested. Further, changes in expectations about education, employment, and childbearing can be compared across generations. □

### Retirement and Pension Benefits

The various National Longitudinal Surveys offer researchers the ability to compare the pension benefits and retirement plans and expectations of four different cohorts of Americans.

This article provides an overview of the

retirement and pension questions asked of respondents in the older men, mature women, young women, and NLSY79 cohorts. It first briefly describes questions asked about retirement income actually received by the respondents and then discusses the respondents' pension plans, Social Security eligibility, and other sources of anticipated retirement income. This section also explains the special mature women pension matching project conducted in 1989. Finally, questions related to the decision to retire are reviewed, including the respondent's attitudes, expectations, and experiences.

#### Actual pension or retirement benefits received

For all cohorts, questions about income actually received from pensions or Social Security represent the most regular collection of data relating to retirement. Generally, such questions are located in the income section of the interview and ask about the amount of money received in the previous calendar year. There is some variation both within and across cohorts, and researchers are encouraged to consult the questionnaires for exact question wording and universes before using

any pension income data in their analyses.

Every survey of the older men and mature women, except the 1968 mail surveys, includes questions about income from pensions and Social Security. Most surveys asked about income in the previous calendar year from a government pension, from other sources such as a private employer pension, and from Social Security or Railroad Retirement. In the early survey years, these three categories were sometimes combined, and the questions referred to income received by different family members (for example, respondent only, respondent and spouse, any family member). Exact questions and universes can be determined through examination of the questionnaires.

Beginning with the 1980 older men survey and the 1982 mature women survey, the pension income questions were standardized and income from Social Security was recorded in a separate series. In these later interviews, respondents first reported the amount that they had received in the previous calendar year from the following sources: Private employer, the military, the Federal Government, State or local governments, a union, a personal plan (such as an

Individual Retirement Account (IRA), a Keogh plan, or a 401k plan), or another source. This series was then repeated for the respondent's spouse (or partner, for the 1987 and subsequent surveys of the mature women).

Because young women were interviewed at earlier ages, questions about pensions and Social Security were not included in the initial surveys. The 1993–99 interviews collected information about pension benefits actually received as income by the respondent and her husband or partner. Pension sources included a personal plan (such as an IRA or 401k plan), a private employer, the military, the Federal Government, a State or local government, a union, or another source.

The 1983 and 1988–99 surveys included specific questions on whether income from Social Security/Railroad Retirement benefits had been received during the past 12 months. If income was received, the survey asked about the amounts received by either the respondent or her spouse. During other years, receipt of such income was incorporated within a residual “all other income” question.

NLSY79 respondents have not yet reached retirement age, so interviews with this cohort do not include questions that ask specifically about pensions or Social Security. Income from these sources is reported in an “other income” question, grouped with sources such as interest, dividends, and rental income. The 1979–86 surveys did collect some limited information about receipt of Social Security by other household members. In these years, respondents reported the total income received by all other household members and then listed the sources of this income; however, there were no questions about the amounts received from each specific source.

### Expected retirement income

As respondents approach mid career, each NLS survey has introduced questions regarding the respondents' anticipated sources of retirement income. Topics examined include participation in employer-provided or private pension plans, eligibility for Social Security or Railroad Retirement, and, for the older men only, total income expected from all sources. In addition, the 1989 mature women interview featured a special pension matching project that linked information gathered directly from plan providers with that reported by respondents. Taken together, these data help researchers analyze the factors affect-

ing the retirement decisions of different generations of Americans.

*Participation in pension plans.* Several surveys of the older men collected information about expected benefits from a pension plan. The initial survey asked whether respondents would receive retirement benefits from a source other than Social Security. If so, the type of source was recorded (for example, government, private employee, personal plan, or military).

Expected pension benefits for older men respondents who were working for a private employer or the government were explored in more detail in 1969, 1971, 1976, and 1981. The 1969 survey simply asked whether the respondent expected to receive income from a pension provided by his employer. An expanded series in 1971 and 1976 elicited anticipated retirement ages at which the respondent would be eligible for full and reduced benefits, as well as the corresponding monthly income amounts. The respondent also was asked whether he would be eligible to receive a benefit if he were to leave his job or retire today. In 1981, respondents who had not yet retired were asked whether they expected to receive income from current employer pensions, past employer pensions, and personal pension plans. This interview also asked whether the respondent's wife expected to receive income from an employer-provided pension.

The mature women have periodically answered questions about their eligibility for pension income other than Social Security or Railroad Retirement. Questions fielded in 1979 asked about working respondents' eligibility for a pension plan from their employers, including the age at which they would be entitled to receive benefits. Also collected was information on the eligibility of the respondent's spouse for other pension benefits from a personal plan, a private employer, a government employer, or the military.

The 1982 and 1986 questionnaires included similar sets of questions designed to explore current and expected pension coverage of the household from present or past employment. Questions included: (1) Whether the respondent or her spouse was eligible for or already receiving pension benefits from a current or past employer, (2) whether the respondent was eligible for or already receiving survivor benefits or other benefits from a husband's or ex-husband's employment or military service, and (3)

whether the respondent or husband had a personal retirement (IRA or Keogh) plan. Information collected in 1989 is described in the special pension matching project section below.

Recent surveys of the mature and young women contained very similar questions on pension coverage. The 1991 interview of young women, the 1992 survey of mature women, and the 1995–99 interviews with both cohorts yielded an extensive collection of data on employer-provided pension plans. In the 1991 young women collection, respondents reported whether they were enrolled in a program with their current or last employer. If so, they answered questions about the amount of money in their retirement account, the method used to determine the benefit amount, and their current and future vesting rights.

In 1992 (mature women only) and 1995–99, mature and young women respondents provided extensive data on multiple employer-provided pension plans. Separate questionnaire sections collected information for both the respondent and her husband on future pensions from current employers, current pensions from previous employers, and future pensions from previous employers. Each series gathered details on participation in up to four defined benefit or defined contribution pension plans offered by an employer, including expected benefit amounts, the number of years the respondent or her husband had been included in the plan, and the age at which the respondent would be eligible to receive or had begun receiving benefits. Respondents providing pension plan information also were asked whether they had been offered an early retirement option with incentives such as credit for extra years of service, increased benefits, early benefits, or a lump-sum settlement.

Finally, the 1982 mature women and 1983 young women questionnaires collected information on the effect of the respondent's move to her current residence on the retirement plans of the respondent or her spouse. Coding categories delineated whether the respondent or spouse had lost some, none, or all pension or retirement rights, or whether she or he had no such rights before the move.

The 1994–2000 NLSY79 surveys gathered data on pension plans in the fringe benefits section of the *Employer Supplement*. For each job at which the respondent worked at least 20 hours per week, these questions collected information on the number of plans

the respondent was eligible for and the number in which he or she was actually participating, the number of years the respondent had been enrolled in the plan, the amount of employer and employee contributions, the type of plan, and the investment strategy used.

In addition, a series of four questions in the 1994–2000 NLSY79 asset section tracked retirement savings. These questions asked about the amount of money that respondents or their spouses or partners had invested either in an IRA or in a 401(k) or 403(b) account.

*Social Security eligibility.* Older men, mature women, and young women respondents have reported their eligibility to receive Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits upon retirement. The initial survey of the older men simply asked whether respondents would be eligible to receive such benefits. The 1971 and 1976 surveys collected information about the respondents' and their wives' expected monthly income from Social Security/Railroad Retirement. In 1981, respondents reported whether they were eligible to receive Social Security benefits and the amount per month expected. This survey also asked whether the respondent's wife expected to receive income from Social Security based on her own work record.

Several mature women surveys between 1979 and 1992 included questions about Social Security benefits. Respondents interviewed in the 1979, 1982, 1986, and 1989 surveys stated whether they would be eligible for Social Security based on their own work record when they reached retirement age. Information on the eligibility of the respondent for benefits from her husband's or ex-husband's account was collected during 1982, 1986, and 1989. The 1984, 1986, and 1989 interviews asked respondents to report the total number of years they were employed in jobs covered by Social Security or Railroad Retirement. Finally, the 1989 and 1992 surveys included a question asking whether the respondent was covered by Social Security or Railroad Retirement in her current or last job.

Information provided by the young women about eligibility for Social Security is fairly limited. In the 1991 and 1993 surveys, respondents reporting a current or last job were asked whether they were covered by Social Security or Railroad Retirement at that job.

*Total expected income.* In addition to the above questions, which gathered information related specifically to employer pensions or Social Security, several interviews with the older men asked about the total amount of income they expected to receive after retirement. The 1971 and 1976 surveys asked respondents to report the total amount of monthly or yearly retirement income they expected to receive from all sources, including pension plans, Social Security, and any other sources.

The 1981 survey collected the most detailed data. In this interview, respondents who had not yet retired were read a list of 10 possible sources of income and asked whether they expected to receive income from each source. In addition to Social Security and pension plans, income sources included investments, money from children or relatives, Supplemental Security Income, other welfare payments, rental income, or another source. Finally, considering all of these sources, respondents reported their total expected retirement income on either a yearly or monthly basis. Follow-up questions asked how much of this total income would come from a current employer pension, a past employer pension, or Social Security/Railroad Retirement benefits.

*Mature women pension matching project.* The 1989 survey of mature women included a detailed series of questions designed to identify the most important pension plan for which the respondent was eligible through her own employment, the most important pension plan of her spouse, and any other benefits for which she was eligible through a spouse's or ex-spouse's employment or military service. Information was gathered on whether the pension provider was a private employer, the military, a governmental unit, a union, and so forth, and on characteristics of each plan (for example, age/service year requirements and estimated pension benefit amounts for full versus reduced benefits; method of determining benefits; vesting rules; and, for those already receiving benefits, actual monthly benefit amounts). Respondents also provided address information for each pension provider.

After the regular survey, the Census Bureau contacted the pension providers identified for the pension matching project. Copies of the relevant Summary Plan Descriptions (SPD), actual pension plans, and Internal Revenue Forms-5500 were obtained. Details

on 815 plans were systematically coded by the Institute for Survey Research (ISR) at the University of Michigan, using the protocol developed for the *Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF)*. The SCF-based instruments recorded data on plan definitions, benefit formulas, and other provisions applicable to six different retirement conditions: early retirement, normal retirement, late retirement, employment termination prior to retirement, disability retirement, and death or survivor's benefits.

These special pension plan data are available in a supplementary data file on the main mature women CD-ROM; an identification variable permits users to link plan characteristic information with the respondent data in the main data file. Of the approximately 1,900 respondent households reporting pension eligibility from one or more sources, plan information was linked to respondent information for 1,329 respondents.

#### **Attitudes and expectations about retirement**

The older men, mature women, and young women surveys have collected information about respondents' expectations for and experiences in retirement. Question topics have included attitudes toward retirement in general, the timing of the respondent's retirement, and the respondent's activities during this period. Because the older men respondents have been in the retirement age range for the longest time, they have answered far more questions on these topics than any other cohort.

*Attitudes toward retirement.* Surveys of the older men included a number of questions about respondents' feelings and perceptions about retirement. For example, in various years, respondents stated whether they are looking forward to retiring, provided information about attitudes of their wife and friends, and listed the things they like the most and the least about retirement. Researchers should consult the older men survey instruments to determine the precise years in which these questions were asked.

The older men, mature women, and young women all have responded to a set of statements designed to elicit information about the respondent's attitude toward retirement in general. This series asked the respondent to agree or disagree with five statements such as "Work is the most meaningful part of life" and "People who don't retire when they can

afford to be foolish.” This series permits researchers not only to compare an individual’s attitude with his or her subsequent behavior but also to track differences in attitudes among generations.

*Timing of retirement.* Older men respondents regularly answered questions about when they intended to retire and what factors affected that decision. In every survey except 1968 and 1990, respondents reported the age at which they expected to retire. Five surveys asked respondents whose plans had changed about the reason for the difference. Every personal interview except that conducted in 1990 asked employed respondents whether their employer had a compulsory retirement age, whether they would work longer than that age if they could, and whether they expected to retire earlier than the mandatory age.

Limited information was gathered from older men about the retirement plans of the respondent’s wife. In 1981 and 1983, married respondents stated their wife’s expected retirement age. The 1981 survey further asked whether the respondent and his wife had made decisions jointly or separately about when to retire.

Respondents in the older men cohort answered questions in two surveys about training courses taken in preparation for retirement. In addition, these respondents were asked several questions about financial obligations that might affect retirement plans. In 1971 and 1976, the respondent stated the year in which he expected to have no dependents other than his wife. The 1971 survey also asked whether the respondent wanted to leave an inheritance to his children.

In later surveys of older men, retrospective information was collected about retirement decisions. The final five surveys included a series of questions asking why the respondent had retired; whether the respondent’s employer had encouraged him to retire; whether, in retrospect, the respondent would change the age at which he had retired; and whether the respondent would have continued to work if his employer had permitted it. In 1980–90, respondents reported whether they had ever retired and the year in which this had occurred, even if they had subsequently reentered the workforce.

The mature women have answered a smaller number of questions about the ex-

pected timing of their retirement. In 1979, 1982, 1984, and 1986, respondents were asked at what age they expected their husbands to retire; those who were participating in the labor market at the time of the survey also were asked at what age they expected to retire. Additionally, these women were asked if they intended to continue working after their husband’s retirement.

*Social networks and activities.* Older men respondents regularly provided information about their plans for activities during retirement. This series of questions generally asked respondents whether they would take part in activities such as travel, relaxing, enjoying a hobby, volunteering, or working with or without pay. If the respondent planned to work, follow-up questions asked about the type of work he would like and the number of hours per week he would work. Three surveys asked about the leisure-time activities in which the respondent had engaged in the past year. Although the exact list of activities varied among surveys, it typically included sports or exercise, reading, working at hobbies, visiting friends or relatives, and volunteer work.

Older men respondents were asked about their social and familial relationships in 1981 and 1990. A series of questions in both of these interviews asked about sources of emotional support for the respondent, other than his spouse. In addition to the total number of people with whom the respondent had a close emotional relationship, the surveys recorded the relationship of the closest confidante, the distance to his or her residence, and the frequency of contact between the respondent and that person. A similar series of questions asked to whom the respondent would turn if he had a serious financial problem. In 1990, an additional pair of questions gathered information about the person who most often helped the respondent with daily tasks like grocery shopping or housecleaning. Finally, both the 1981 and 1990 interviews asked the respondent to describe how often he visited or talked with children who did not live in his household.

#### For more information

This article is intended to provide only a general overview of the large amount of data available regarding pensions and retirement. Researchers are encouraged to examine the various data files, questionnaires, user’s

guides, and the *NLS Handbook* for more information about specific topics of interest. Data and documentation items are available from NLS User Services. (Contact information is provided on the back of this newsletter.)

In general, users can locate questions about income received from pensions or Social Security in the “Income” or “Income and Assets” section of the appropriate cohort’s questionnaires. The corresponding variables can be found in the data files by conducting any word searches for “pension AND income” or “Social Security AND income.” The NLSY79 variables are located in the INCOME and PENSIONS areas of interest. Information about expected pension benefits and retirement income was collected in a variety of questionnaire sections. Interested researchers should look for sections such as “Future Pensions,” “Husband’s Future Pensions,” “Retrospective Work History,” and “Employer Supplement.” Finally, attitudes questions generally are located in sections such as “Retirement Plans,” “Plans for the Future,” and “Attitudes.”

A special appendix in the mature women *Codebook Supplement* provides detailed information about the 1989 pension matching project. Produced by the Institute for Survey Research, this appendix describes the *Survey of Consumer Finances*, reproduces instructions for the pension coders, and provides copies of the pension coding instruments and coding sheets. □

## 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 inquiries. Some recently asked questions that may be of general interest to NLS users are listed below, with their answers. All of these questions refer to the NLSY97.

*Q1. Why are different questions asked of the older and younger adolescents in the NLSY97? For example, younger respondents answered more questions about their relationship with their mother and father while older adolescents responded to the expectations about the future questions in round 1.*

A1. The questions about relationship with parents were asked only of the younger youths mainly due to timing issues. We wanted to be sure that the questionnaire was not too long for any individual respondent, and older youths tend to answer more questions about jobs and training. Expectations questions were addressed only to the older youths because we felt they could better understand and think through the questions, and thus give a more accurate and thorough answer.

*Q2. I am searching for a data set in which grandparents may be co-resident with grandchildren. Does the NLSY97 address this?*

A2. The NLSY97 contains a household roster that provides information on all household relationships, including grandparents of youths if applicable. We also collect information about these household members, such as highest grade completed and employment status.

*Q3. In the event history section of the NLSY97 CD, the weeks for each year are labeled 01, 02, 03, ... 52. How can we determine the specific dates that correspond with these weeks? For example, does week 01 of 1996 begin on the first Sunday in January 1996 and end on the following Saturday, or does it begin on January 1, 1996 and end on January 7?*

A3. You should refer to the crosswalk with the continuous month and continuous weeks found in the *NLSY97 Codebook Supplement*. The crosswalk provides the starting date and continuous week number for each week from January 1994 through the current survey date. We say that a week starts with Sunday and ends with Saturday. For 1996, week 01 actually starts on Sunday, December 31, 1995, and ends on Saturday, January 6, 1996. Contact NLS User Services to obtain a copy of the *NLSY97 Codebook Supplement*.

*Q4. Does the NLSY97 ask any questions about high school students taking any special education classes?*

A4. Two looped questions in the round 1 parent questionnaire, PC8-158 and PC8-162, asked parents to report the type(s) of remedial/special education classes taken by the youth, and the grade(s) in which each was taken. However, 1,049 youths do not have a parent interview available, so these data will not be present for all youth respondents in the cohort. □

### 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 online NLS Annotated Bibliography at <http://www.nlsbibliography.org> for a comprehensive listing.

Altonji, Joseph G. and Dunn, Thomas A. "An Intergenerational Model of Wages, Hours, and Earnings." *Journal of Human Resources* 35,2 (Spring 2000): 221-258. [Older Men, Mature Women, Young Men, Young Women]

Bernhardt, Annette; Morris, Martina; Hancock, Mark S.; and Scott, Marc A. "Trends in Job Instability and Wages for Young Adult Men." *Journal of Labor Economics* 17,4, Pt. 2 (October 1999): S65-S90. [Young Men, NLSY79]

Blackburn, McKinley L. "Welfare Effects on the Marital Decisions of Never-Married Mothers." *Journal of Human Resources* 35,1 (Winter 2000): 116-142. [NLSY79]

Dunn, Thomas and Holtz-Eakin, Douglas. "Financial Capital, Human Capital, and the Transition to Self-Employment: Evidence from Intergenerational Links." *Journal of*

*Labor Economics* 18,2, (April 2000): 282-305. [Older Men, Young Men, Mature Women]

Hoffman, Saul D. and Foster, E. Michael. "AFDC Benefits and Nonmarital Births to Young Women." *Journal of Human Resources* 35,2 (Spring 2000): 376-391. [NLSY79]

Kowaleski-Jones, Lori and Duncan, Greg J. "Effects of Participation in the WIC Food Assistance Program on Children's Health and Development: Evidence from NLSY Children." IRP Discussion Paper No. 1207-00, Institute for Research on Poverty, April 2000. [NLSY79 Children]

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