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## NLSY97 Round 5 Data Release

Researchers may now order the main file round 5 data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97). This release includes main file variables only for rounds 1 through 5. The main file and event history release for rounds 1 through 5 will be available in the fall. The NLSY97 cohort includes 8,984 respondents aged 12 to 16 as of December 31, 1996. In round 5, fielded between October 2001 and May 2002, 7,883 sample members (87.7 percent) were interviewed. Surveyed respondents included 5,919 (87.7 percent) of the original cross-sectional sample and 1,964 (87.8 percent) of the original supplemental sample of black and Hispanic youths.

This article looks at changes made to the survey content in round 5. It also provides information about the data and documentation available to researchers.

### Round 5 questionnaire content

The round 5 questionnaire was similar to the round 4 instrument, but there were some changes that may be of interest to researchers. These changes are outlined below.

Current Population Survey questions (CPS) were not asked in round 5. These questions, which ask respondents about their labor force status in the week before the interview, are asked of NLSY97 respondents only every third round. They were last asked in round 4.

A new set of questions on childcare was added in round 5. Female respondents who have resident children (biological, adopted, or step), and at least one child younger than age 13, were asked to answer questions on the number of hours in a typical week during which the respondent

was at work, was in school or training, or was commuting to one of those. The respondent then reported on the type of childcare arrangement used during most of those hours. Choices included spousal/partner care, relative care, sibling care, self-care, nonrelative care, family daycare, childcare center, and formal schooling. After indicating which type of childcare was used for the majority of hours, the respondent then reported which type of care was used for most of the remaining hours. Various details were collected about the type of care chosen, including the number of hours, distance from home, and payment information. For types of care not used, questions were asked about the distance to the location of the nearest service provider or relative and how much the respondent would expect and be willing to pay for the type of care provided there.

Female respondents who were born in 1983 or 1984 (the youngest NLSY97 respondents) and who had no children were asked questions about the different types of care that would be available to them if needed, proximity to relatives or childcare centers, and the amount that the respondent would expect to and be willing to pay for care.

Round 5 saw the introduction of questions to be addressed to female respondents with children about the current economic status of the child(ren)'s father and the amount of informal child support received from him. In addition, some slight changes were made to questions about the parents of NLSY97 respondents.

A new created variable—CV MIGRATE.XX, added in rounds 2 through 5—defines the categories reported in the household information section according to the following coding scheme:

- 1 = move within the county
- 2 = move within the State; different county
- 3 = move between States
- 4 = move to or from a foreign country

Also of interest is the addition of survey methodological variables in the round 5 data, including unique field-interviewer IDs across respondents and across rounds 1 through 5, and timings for the administration of each section of the questionnaire in round 5.

Finally, a series of questions on citizenship was added in this most recent round. Respondents reported if they were a citizen of the United States by birth or by naturalization, or if they were not a U.S. citizen. Respondents who were not U.S. citizens were then asked to describe their current status as applicant for naturalization to become a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident of the United States, applicant for legal permanent residence, refugee/asylee, on temporary visa, living outside of the United States at this time, or other.

### NLSY97 data and documentation

Researchers may obtain the NLSY97 main file data free of charge via download from the World Wide Web by visiting <http://www.bls.gov/nls> and choosing the "Ordering Data" link. The same data are available on CD-ROM for \$20. Also available from NLS User Services and on the Web is a variety of documentation items, including the *NLSY97 User's Guide*. This guide explains the selection of the NLSY97 sample, describes the contents of the data set, and provides helpful information for researchers using the data. The 2003 edition updates the previous guide with information about the round 5 survey and includes new information on how to use this complex data set effectively.

Researchers interested in obtaining the main file data or documentation via the Web should visit the Web address listed above. Those desiring the data set on CD-ROM, and/or hard copy documentation, should contact NLS User Services. Questions on the data set also should be directed to NLS User Services. (See the back of this newsletter for contact information.) □

### NLSY79 Round 19 (2000) Survey Methodology Data File

A survey methodology data file is now available to accompany the round 19 (2000) data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79). The 2000 Survey Methodology data file contains data for each survey question that appeared on screen during the interview and for which information was released in the NLSY79 1979-2000 main public data file. For each such survey question, the methodology data file contains up to four separate items, described below.

- **Time spent on a question during first visit:** The total amount of time in milliseconds spent on a question the first time it was visited.
- **Total time spent on a question during all visits:** The total amount of time in milliseconds spent on a question during all visits combined.
- **Number of visits:** The total number of visits to a question. In this instance, total number of visits is the number of times a question was accessed, no matter how long or how short the visit.
- **Help-screen access:** Indication that a help screen was accessed for a question. (Because help screens are not available for the majority of individual questions, this item is released only for questions for which a help screen was accessed.)

Each item in the methodology data file has a reference number corresponding to the reference number for that item on the NLSY79 round 19 main public data release. Instead of the R number pertaining to individual items on the main data release, the survey methodology data file contains F

numbers (first visit), T numbers (total time), V numbers (number of visits), and H numbers (help screen accessed), respectively, for each set of variables described above. This facilitates the linking of question characteristics with the appropriate question from the main data file. For example, the following set of variables references the same variable in the main and methodology data file:

R6530300—TYPE OF RESIDENCE R IS LIVING IN (main data file)

F6530300—TYPE OF RESIDENCE R IS LIVING IN (time on question, first visit)

T6530300—TYPE OF RESIDENCE R IS LIVING IN (total time on question, all visits)

V6530300—TYPE OF RESIDENCE R IS LIVING IN (number of visits to question)

H6530300—TYPE OF RESIDENCE R IS LIVING IN (help screen accessed)

The methodology data file contains data only for interviews conducted in 2000. The “-5” code for noninterviews may be assigned to the appropriate cases by merging variables from the 1979-2000 main data file and the methodology file. The 2000 main data file variables (such as R7006300—REASON FOR NONINTERVIEW for round 19) can be used to assign noninterview codes to variables from the methodology data file.

Users also should note that data for internal functions that do not appear on the screen during the interview are not included in the methodology data file. Time spent on these functions is automatically determined and not driven by human intervention, and there are no help screens available for these functions.

In addition, certain types of questions that generate multiple variables in the main public data file will correspond to a single variable of each type in the methodology data file. For instance, both R6532200 and R6532201 (DATE OF MOVE SINCE DLI—MOVE 1; month and year) in the main data file are generated from a single question. In the methodology data file, those variables correspond to a single variable of each type (see below). Note that,

as previously mentioned, help-screen access (or H number) data will be available only for variables generated by questions for which help screens are available. This is a small number of questions overall.

F6532200—DATE OF MOVE SINCE DLI (MOVE 1) (time on question, first visit)

T6532200—DATE OF MOVE SINCE DLI (MOVE 1) (time on question, all visits)

V6532200—DATE OF MOVE SINCE DLI (MOVE 1) (number of visits to question)

H6532200—DATE OF MOVE SINCE DLI (MOVE 1) (help screen accessed)

The case identification number is contained in the methodology data file to allow straightforward merging of information with other NLSY79 data files (the main public or geocode data releases). Data for 8,032 cases are included in the methodology file (1 less than the 8,033 completed interviews for the 2000 survey). One case with generally faulty data on interview timing was omitted.

Users can download the round 19 Survey Methodology data file free of charge by visiting <http://www.bls.gov/nls> and choosing the “Ordering Data” link. If you are unable to obtain the data via download, please contact NLS User Services. (See the back of this newsletter for contact information.) □

### Early Release for 2002 NLSY79 Young Adult Data

A preliminary version of 2002 Young Adult data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79) will be available in the late spring of 2003. This release will include all of the data collected for young adults interviewed in the 2002 data collection round as well as a limited number of created variables. Because the release is preliminary, it will not include data from any of the data collection rounds before 2002; however, the new data can be easily linked to the final 2000 Child/Young Adult data release as well as to the most recent NLSY79 data release. The final 2002 Child

and Young Adult data set, including all previous data, will be available in spring of 2004.

In 2002, interviews were completed with 4,238 young adult respondents. The 2002 survey round is the fifth wave of young adult data. Since 1994, NLSY79 children aged 15 and older have no longer been given cognitive and other assessments like those given to their younger counterparts. Instead, they have participated in a computer-assisted personal or telephone interview on work experience, military experience, schooling, training, family background, health, fertility, income and assets, dating and relationships, attitudes, and drug and alcohol use. In 1994 and 1996, the young adult samples included all children aged 15 and older. The young adult sample in 1998 was limited to those aged 15 to 20. In 2000, the sample again included young adults aged 15 and older; however, interviews for approximately 40 percent of the young adults between 15 and 20 from the black and Hispanic oversample families were not fielded in 2000 for budgetary reasons. The young adults not interviewed in 2000 were again eligible to be interviewed in 2002. For the 2002 fielding, there also were no sample restrictions for age. The primary interview mode in 2002 was telephone, with a small portion of interviews completed in person.

Researchers interested in obtaining the 2002 NLSY79 Young Adult preliminary release free of charge should visit <http://www.bls.gov/nls> and choose the "Ordering Data" link. Documentation on the NLSY79 Child/Young Adult surveys also may be found on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site. Persons having questions on the data should contact NLS User Services. (See the back of this newsletter for contact information.) □

### **NLS Data Sets Offer Opportunity for Studying Obesity**

Data in several National Longitudinal Survey (NLS) cohorts allow researchers to look at respondent weight and how it might relate to topics including wealth, family size, siblings, parents, geographic location, occupation, work hours, education, and sources of income. This

article looks at some of the NLS variables related to the topic of obesity. Researchers are cautioned that this article does not attempt to outline all the variables present for each cohort. Those wishing to pursue this topic in more depth are encouraged to begin by looking at the NLS Handbook or at cohort-specific user's guides. These documentation items are available at <http://www.bls.gov/nls>.

#### **Obesity-related variables in the NLSY97**

In each of the first five rounds of the NLSY97, respondents have reported their weight and their height. These respondents are also asked to describe their weight as very underweight, slightly underweight, about the right weight, slightly overweight, or very overweight. They then report whether they are trying to lose weight, gain weight, or stay the same weight, or whether they are not trying to do anything at all about their current weight.

In round one, biological parents of respondents reported on their weight and height.

Also in round one, respondents reported the number of days per school week on which they ate breakfast or ate green vegetables or fruit. In addition, they provided information on the number of days per week on which they exercised for 30 minutes or more.

#### **Obesity-related variables in the NLSY79**

At different points in the collection of data for the NLSY79 cohort, respondents reported their weight and their height. Female respondents with children also gave information on their weight before pregnancy and at the time of delivery.

In selected years, NLSY79 respondents reported whether their usual work activities include walking up stairs, lifting heavy items, or other physical activity. They also reported, in selected years, on their leisure activities and told how often they participated in either light or vigorous physical activities or sports. In survey rounds administered from 1990 through 1994, these respondents were asked questions about delivery of food to their door.

#### **Obesity-related variables in the Children of the NLSY79 and Young Adults**

Measures of each child's height and weight have been taken in every round of the NLSY79 child survey. The mother reports on each child's birth weight and on the amount of her own weight gain or loss during the pregnancy leading to each live birth.

Of interest concerning the child cohort is a series of questions about the degree to which the child is allowed a choice in breakfast and lunch foods, how often the child eats with both parents, and whether the child eats what he or she is told to eat. Information on the child file indicates whether the child was breast fed, when the child first began eating solid food, and whether he or she experienced serious feeding problems during the first year of life.

In recent rounds, children aged 10 and older reported whether they engaged in sports or a physical activity after school.

Since 1994, NLSY79 young adults (children aged 15 and older) have been asked their height and weight in each survey round. They also report, as part of the CES-D depression scale, if they had a poor appetite in the past week and, as part of the self-report booklet, if they have received help for an eating disorder. Young adult respondents also are asked about weight gain or loss during pregnancy, as well as the birth weight of their children.

#### **Obesity-related variables in the Original Cohorts**

The four original cohorts of the NLS include the older men, young men, mature women, and young women. Each of these cohorts answered questions related to weight and physical activity, although not to the same extent as some of the later cohorts. Questions about height and weight in the women's surveys were asked only in recent years. The women respondents also reported whether they had experienced discrimination at work because of their weight.

The men's cohorts were asked about height and weight in the early years of their surveys. Weight for the older men also was collected in the 1990 survey of remaining respondents. In the same survey round, the older men answered questions about typical work activities; leisure activities in which they participated, both active and passive; and their attitude toward lei-

sure activities. Young men respondents provided information on the activities performed regularly at their job as well as information on extracurricular activities in which they participated during high school.

### Finding weight-related variables

Weight-related types of variables may be found in the data sets by doing an “any word in context” search for words such as weight, height, activity/activities, health, eat, food, and exercise.

### Literature review

Researchers interested in reviewing previously completed articles on obesity using NLS data are encouraged to peruse the publications listed below. Additional articles on the topic may be accessed by visiting <http://www.nlsbibliography.org> and searching by keywords such as Body Mass Index (BMI), obesity, and weight.

Allison, David B.; Faith, Myles S.; Nathan, J.S. “Risch’s Lambda Values for Human Obesity,” *International Journal of Obesity* 20 (1996): 990-999

Allison, David B. “The Use of Discordant Sibling Pairs for Finding Genetic Loci Linked to Obesity: Practical Considerations,” *International Journal of Obesity* 20 (1996): 553-560

Averett, Susan L.; Korenman, Sanders D. “Black-White Differences in Social and Economic Consequences of Obesity,” *International Journal of Obesity* 23, 2 (February 1999): 166-173

Cawley, John. “Obesity and Labor Market Outcomes,” Working Paper, Department of Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University (2002)

Faith, Myles S.; Manibay, Elizabeth; Kravitz, Meredyth; Griffith, John; Allison, David B. “Relative Body Weight and Self-Esteem Among African Americans in Four Nationally Representative Samples,” *Obesity Research* 6,6 (November 1998): 430-437

McLean, R.A.; Moon, Marilyn. “Health, Obesity, and Earnings,” *American Journal of Public Health* 70, 9 (September 1980): 1006-1009

McTigue, Kathleen M.; Garrett, Joanne M.; Popkin, Barry M. “The Natural History of the Development of Obesity in a Cohort of Young US Adults Between 1981 and 1998,” *Annals of Internal Medicine* 136,12 (June 18, 2002): 857-864

Must, Aviva; Gortmaker, Steven L.; Dietz, William H. “Risk Factors for Obesity in Young Adults: Hispanics, African Americans and Whites in the Transition Years, Age 16-28 Years,” *Biomedicine and Pharmacotherapy* 48, 3-4 (1994): 143-156

Pagan, Jose A.; Davila, Alberto. “Obesity, Occupational Attainment, and Earnings,” *Social Science Quarterly* 78,3 (September 1997): 756-770

Register, Charles A.; Williams, Donald R. “Wage Effects of Obesity among Young Workers,” *Social Science Quarterly* 71,1 (March 1990): 130-141

Strauss, Richard S.; Pollack, Harold. “Epidemic Increase in Childhood Overweight, 1986-1998,” *Journal of the American Medical Association* 286,22 (December 2001): 2845-2848

Strauss, Richard S. “Childhood Obesity and Self-Esteem,” *Pediatrics* 105,1 (January 2000): e15

Strauss, Richard S.; Knight, Judith. “Influence of the Home Environment on the Development of Obesity in Children,” *Pediatrics* 103,6 (June 1999): e85

Zagorsky, Jay L. “Is Obesity as Dangerous to your Wealth as to your Health?” Working Paper, Center for Human Resource Research, The Ohio State University (2003) □

## Frequently Asked Questions

NLS User Services encourages researchers to contact them with questions and problems they have encountered while accessing and using NLS data 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.

*Q1: For each youth in the NLSY97, I would like to create a series of indicators about*

*his or her siblings who were also interviewed. For example, when predicting employment I would like to know if the youth has an older sibling who is employed. Or, when predicting delinquency, I would like to know if one of the youth’s siblings also reports delinquency. Is there a convenient way to link each respondent with his or her siblings? How can I then pull information for the sibling(s) and add it as a new variable for the respondent?*

A1: You can use the variables YOUTH\_SIBID01 through YOUTH\_SIBID04 to locate respondents who have other respondents in their household as of the round 1 interview. These variables will give you the PUBID of the other respondent(s). To determine the relationship between the two respondents, you can use the variables YOUTH\_SIBRELY01 through YOUTH\_SIBRELY04. Before doing this, make sure you have a recent version of the data set. The most recent version may be downloaded by visiting <http://www.bls.gov/nls> and selecting the “Ordering Data” link.

*Q2: I am looking at employment tenure in the NLS of Older Men data. When I did a search by the word “tenure” (relating to employment), the latest survey that appears is 1971. I noticed that there are other similar questions, such as “how many years were worked at current job?” in later survey rounds. Can I assume that these are the same question with different wording? Are all three variables I’m looking for (industry, occupation, tenure) available in all years?*

A2: There are a few questions about tenure in the older men survey, but generally tenure must be calculated from the start and stop dates. In later years, the start date may have gone back only to the date of the previous interview. In this case, you will need to link the jobs using the employer comparison variables in order to derive total tenure. You might also check the NLS annotated bibliography, <http://nlsbibliography.org>, for tenure and the older men. You might find some materials in which another researcher describes how he or she previously created the variables. Also check question 11a in the 1990 older men’s survey.

*Q3: In the NLSY79, I am trying to track*

down each child who has shown up on the women's fertility record. There seems to be a discrepancy between the number of children and the ID code for the children. For example, there were 6,371 responses for year of birth for child1, but when I look up ID for child1 there are only 3,425 responses. I am aware that the fertility history was created only for children born before 1998. Is the gap between number of children born and child ID completely due to this?

A3: The FERTILE dates of birth include all of the children for both male and female respondents, whereas the ID variables in FERTILE are constructed only for the female respondents. If you limit the analysis to females, you should have the same number of IDs as dates of birth.

Q4: In the Children of the NLSY79, is there one specific ID number category for the children that is consistent from survey year to survey year?

A4: Yes. Use the child variable C00001.00. This variable uniquely identifies each child respondent. The variable C00002.00 is the mother's five-digit ID number from the main file. You may wish to review Chapter 5 in the current Child/Young Adult Data User's Guide for more details on the child ID code and how to use it to link files. □

## 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 *NLS Annotated Bibliography* at <http://www.nlsbibliography.org> for a comprehensive listing of NLS-related research.

Boardman, Jason D.; Powers, Daniel A.; Padilla, Yolanda Chavez; and Hummer, Robert A. "Low Birth Weight, Social Factors, and Developmental Outcomes Among Children in the United States." *Demography* 39,2 (May 2002): 353-368. [Children of the NLSY79]

Bradley, Robert H. and Corwyn, Robert Flynn. "Socioeconomic Status and Child Development." *Annual Review of Psychology* 53,1 (2002): 371-399. [Children of the NLSY79]

Bratsberg, Bernt; Ragan, Jr., James F.; and Nasir, Zafar. "The Effect of Naturalization on Wage Growth-A Panel Study of Young Immigrants." *Journal of Labor Economics* 20,3 (July 2002): 568-97. [NLSY79]

Brooks-Gunn, Jeanne; Han, Wen-Jui; and Waldfogel, Jane. "Maternal Employment and Child Cognitive Outcomes in the First Three Years of Life: The NICHD Study of Early Child Care." *Child Development* 73,4 (July-August 2002): 1052-1072. [Children of the NLSY79]

Caputo, Richard K. "Economic Mobility in a Youth Cohort, 1979-1997." *Journal of Poverty* 5,3 (2001): 39-63. [NLSY79]

Carneiro, Pedro and Heckman, James J. "The Evidence on Credit Constraints in Post-Secondary Schooling." *The Economic Journal* 112,482 (October 2002): 705-734. [Children of the NLSY79]

Certain, Laura K. and Kahn, Robert S. "Prevalence, Correlates, and Trajectory of Television Viewing Among Infants and Toddlers." *Pediatrics* 109,4 (April 2002): 634-642. [Children of the NLSY79]

Cooksey, Elizabeth C.; Mott, Frank L.; and Neubauer, Stefanie A. "Friendships and Early Relationships: Links to Sexual Invitation among American Adolescents Born to Young Mothers." *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 34,3 (2002): 118-126. Also <http://www.agi-usa.org/pubs/journals/3411802.html>. [Children of the NLSY79]

Dunifon, Rachel and Kowaleski-Jones, Lori. "Who's In the House? Race Differences in Cohabitation, Single Parenthood and Child Development." *Child Development* 73,4 (July/August 2002): 1249-1264. [Children of the NLSY79]

Eamon, Mary Keegan. "Effects of Poverty on Mathematics and Reading Achievement of Young Adolescents." *Journal of Early Adolescence* 22,1 (February 2002): 49-74. [Children of the NLSY79]

Gibbons, Robert; Katz, Lawrence F.; Lemieux, Thomas; and Parent, Daniel. "Comparative Advantage, Learning, and Sectoral Wage Determination." Working Paper No. 8889, National Bureau of Economic Research, April 2002. [NLSY79]

Glied, Sherry. "Youth Tobacco Control: Reconciling Theory and Empirical Evidence." *Journal of Health Economics* 21,1 (January 2002): 117-135. [NLSY79]

Gould, Eric D.; Weinberg, Bruce A.; and Mustard, David B. "Crime Rates and Local Labor Market Opportunities in the United States: 1979-1997." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 84,1 (February 2002): 45-61. [NLSY79]

Hofferth, Sandra L. and Reid, Lori Lynn. "Early Childbearing and Children's Achievement and Behavior Over Time." *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 34,1 (January/February 2002): 41-49. [Children of the NLSY79]

Joyce, Theodore J.; Kaestner, Robert; and Korenman, Sanders D. "On the Validity of Retrospective Assessments of Pregnancy Intention." *Demography* 39,1 (February 2002): 199-213. [NLSY79]

Keane, Michael P. and Wolpin, Kenneth I. "Estimating Welfare Effects Consistent with Forward-Looking Behavior: Part II: Empirical Results." *Journal of Human Resources* 37,3 (Summer 2002): 600-622. [NLSY79]

Murray, Charles A. "IQ and Income Inequality in a Sample of Sibling Pairs from Advantaged Family Backgrounds." *American Economic Review* 92,2 (May 2002): 339-343. [NLSY79]

Padilla, Yolanda Chavez; Boardman, Jason D.; Hummer, Robert A.; and Espitia, Marilyn. "Is the Mexican American 'Epidemiologic Paradox' Advantage at Birth Maintained through Early Childhood?" *Social Forces* 80,3 (March 2002): 1101-1123. [NLSY79, Children of the NLSY79]

Reardon, David C. and Cogle, Jesse R. "Depression and Unintended Pregnancy in the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth: A Cohort Study." *British Medical Journal* 324,7330 (January 2002): 151-152. [NLSY79]

Taniguchi, Hiromi. "Determinants of Women's Entry into Self-Employment." *Social Science Quarterly* 83,3 (September 2002): 875-894. [NLSY79] □

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