

# NLS News



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## NLSY97 Round 5 Event History and Geocode Data Release

Event history and geocode data from round 5 of the NLSY97 now are available. 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 January 1, 1997; of these, 7,883 respondents (87.7 percent) were interviewed in round 5. Surveyed respondents included 5,919 (87.7 percent) of the cross-sectional sample and 1,964 (87.8 percent) of the supplemental sample of black and Hispanic youths.

This article describes the data available on the newly released event history and geocode data sets. It also provides information about the data and documentation available to researchers.

### Event history data

In addition to all variables on the main data file, including interview data, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) scores, and transcript survey data, the event history data file contains created variables covering four major topics:

- employment status
- marital status
- program participation
- schooling experiences

Each topic is documented through a series of arrays that report the respondent's status or activities during each week, month, or year within a specific period.

*Employment status.* Employment status of each respondent (that is, working for a

specific employer, unemployed, out of the labor force, and so forth) is included for each week from the respondent's 14th birthday to the most recent interview date. This section of the event history also provides data on total hours worked at all civilian jobs each week and data on additional jobs held in the same week, where applicable. Finally, the section includes beginning and ending dates, by weeks and years, for each job and for gaps within jobs, allowing these dates to be easily linked to the employment arrays.

Also included are employment status "deny" variables. These variables flag employment status data that a respondent denies reporting in a previous survey round. For example, some respondents report working for a specific employer in one round and then later deny that they have ever worked for that employer.

Three types of job-specific variables, not in arrays, were added in round 4 and also are included in round 5. During the current interview, some respondents report a new job with a start date prior to the date of the last interview that was not reported during that interview. If such jobs had been reported at the previous interview, the weeks and hours worked would have been represented in the arrays at that time. When they are instead reported in the current interview, the event history arrays created at the previous interview date are not changed to include information about these new jobs. The three new variables alert users to changes that would have resulted if the jobs had been correctly reported during the previous interview.

The first variable, EMP\_BK\_WKS, tells how many weeks before the previous interview date the job started. The second and third variables show how the status and hours arrays would have been affected had the job beginning before the date of last

interview been reported at the prior interview and included in the original array construction. One variable, EMP\_BK\_STATUS, indicates the number of weeks from the job's start date to the date of last interview for which an indicator of nonworking status would have been changed to an employer ID, had the job been reported during the previous interview round. The other variable, EMP\_BK\_HOURS, informs users about the additional number of hours per week worked on this job for the weeks from the job's start date to the date of the previous interview.

For example, assume that a respondent named Mary was interviewed on January 15, 2000 (round 4), and January 15, 2001 (round 5). In round 4, Mary reported no employers. In round 5, she reported working 30 hours a week at a job that began on January 1, 2000. Because the job began 2 weeks before the round 4 interview, EMP\_BK\_WKS would have a value of 2. EMP\_BK\_STATUS also would have a value of 2, indicating that 2 weeks in the round 4 arrays would have been changed from nonworking to working status. EMP\_BK\_HOURS would have a value of 30, indicating that 30 additional hours of work would have been reported for each of those weeks.

Similarly, assume that a respondent named John was interviewed on the same dates as was Mary in rounds 4 and 5. In round 4, John reported a job that he had worked at for 10 hours per week since the round 3 interview. In round 5, he reported a second, 20-hours-per-week job that began on January 1, 2000, 2 weeks before his round 4 interview. Like Mary, John would have a value of 2 for the EMP\_BACK\_WKS variable. However, the record for the weeks between January 1 and January 15, 2000, would already indicate that John was working (at the original employer). There-

fore, EMP\_BK\_STATUS would have a value of 0, because no weeks would have been changed from nonworking to working status if John had reported the new job in round 4. EMP\_BK\_HOURS would have a value of 20, indicating the number of hours per week that John worked at the new job. In John's case, the hours-worked array variables created in round 4 would have a value of 10, reflecting the job he reported in round 4. Researchers can add the value of EMP\_BK\_HOURS to the value in the original round 4 arrays for the 2 weeks before January 15, 2000, to determine that John worked 30 hours per week in those weeks.

Employment status variables are found in the database under question names beginning with "EMP\_."

*Marital status.* The second section contains the marital status variables. These variables 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 include the following: Never married and not cohabiting, never married and cohabiting, married, legally separated, divorced, or widowed. A second marital status variable combines the status with the total number of spouses/partners; in this case, a code of 100 indicates that the person living in the household during that month is a partner, while 200 denotes a spouse. The last digit of this variable corresponds to the total number of partners or spouses. For example, 102 would be two total partners and 202 would denote the second spouse. This allows the data user to identify people who live with the same spouse or partner for two or more different periods separated by time living with a different spouse or partner.

A newly created partner roster in the round 5 main data set assigned public IDs for all partners; this roster was created for round 1 through round 5 and will be included in future rounds. Consequently, the partner link variable in the event history data (MAR\_PARTNER\_LINK) now uses those new IDs. Because this information permits the data user to better link partners across rounds, cohabitation (MAR\_COHABITATION) and marital status arrays (MAR\_STATUS) were updated for the round 5 event history release. These changes, combined with

careful cleaning of the data, minimized the possibility that one spouse/partner is incorrectly recorded as a second spouse/partner due to the respondent reporting the same information in more than one interview. As a result, it is less likely that overcounting of the total number of marriages and spells of cohabitation (MAR\_COHABITATION) will occur. The changes also reduced the number of dual partners reported (MAR\_DUAL).

A "deny" variable in this section flags respondents who deny a relationship reported in a previous survey round. Marital status variables are found in the database under question names beginning with "MAR\_."

*Program participation status.* Program participation status is included in the third section. For each month since the respondent's 14th birthday, these variables report the respondent's receipt of economic assistance. Program participation arrays are constructed individually for three need-based programs: Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Food Stamps, and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. The AFDC array includes all Federal and State programs created under Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or any government program for needy families that replaces AFDC. All other need-based programs, such as Social Security Income (SSI), are combined into a fourth program participation array entitled "Other." In addition, arrays are available for two employment-based programs. Unemployment insurance is included in all rounds and workers' compensation is included in rounds 1 through 3.

For each type of assistance, the data include monthly status variables indicating receipt or nonreceipt of that type of assistance, variables providing the amount of assistance received each month, and variables showing which people in the respondent's household received the assistance (respondent only, spouse or partner only, respondent and child, other, and so forth) each month. Unemployment insurance and workers' compensation arrays present data for the respondent only. Finally, this section provides the dates on which the respondent began and stopped receiving assistance and includes variables for rounds 3 through 5 to flag respondents

who deny previously reported receipt of assistance. Each such pair of start and stop dates constitutes a spell. Whenever any of these dates are reported as "don't know" or "refuse," they are imputed based on supplementary information such as estimated weeks during which benefits were received. Flag variables are available for each spell to indicate which aspect of the dates (start and/or stop, month and/or year) has been imputed. For each spell, flag variables also are available to indicate whether the amount received in that spell had been reported.

Program participation status variables can be located by searching for question names beginning with "WKCOMP\_," "UNEMP\_," "AFDC\_," "FDSTMP\_," "WIC\_," or "OTHER\_."

*Schooling experiences.* The fourth section in the event history data contains information on the respondent's schooling experiences. Unlike the other sections, this one presents some 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 that the respondent changed schools in each school year
- The number of 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 times for which the respondent was suspended during the year

Monthly schooling event history variables, which provide information about the respondent's educational status for each month from the round 2 interview to the current interview date, also are available. The three monthly arrays report the respondent's enrollment status, the type of school attended that month, and the identification (ID) code of the school. Because the same ID codes are used in the monthly arrays and on the NEWSCHOOL roster, users can link the monthly arrays with information collected in the schooling section of the interview. Finally, a "dual school" variable flags the small number of respondents who attended more than one school during the same month. There is only one

dual school variable for the entire period; the specific month of the overlap is not reported.

As with the other topical areas, the schooling arrays include a denial variable that identifies respondents who deny ever attending a school reported in a previous interview round.

Schooling experience variables can be located by searching for question names beginning with "SCH\_."

### Geocode data

The majority of the geographic data collected about NLSY97 respondents are found in the geocode data. These variables, which provide detailed statistics for each respondent's county of residence, are not available in the main/event history database. Due to the confidential nature of these data, completion of a thorough application process and confidentiality agreement is required in order to obtain access to them. (See the end of this article for more information.) All of the variables described in this section have question names that begin with "GEO\_."

In addition to all main file and event history data, the geocode data set provides a list of the counties in which respondents lived between interviews, as well as a variety of county-level statistics for the places in which respondents lived when they were interviewed during the first five survey rounds. Basic demographic information about these counties makes up the first group of variables. These data include the county's land area in square miles; population by race, age, and gender; and birth and death rates.

Factors that might influence the respondent's education and employment outcomes are the focus of several other variables. For the respondents' county of residence, these variables provide the numbers 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 characteristics are represented by geocode variables for the size of the county's civilian labor force, the percent of the labor force 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 State also is reported.

The final group of variables on the geocode CD focuses on colleges attended by the respondents. Survey staff use information from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) to provide users with the identification code (UNITID) and State of each college 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 county-level variables in the geocode data are based on the 1994 *County and City Data Book (CCDB)* prepared by the U.S. 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 obtained from a variety of Federal Government and private agencies. The unemployment rate is computed using Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) State and metropolitan area labor force data from March of the survey year.

No changes were made between round 4 and round 5 to the types of geocode data collected.

### Obtaining the event history and geocode data

NLSY97 event history data are available for free as a download by clicking on the "Order Data" link on the <http://www.bls.gov/nls> Web site. Users also have the option of purchasing the public data on CD-ROM for \$20. The data set contains the data record for each youth, including all information in the main file and the event history variables described above. The data file also includes Windows-based search and extraction software and complete codebook documentation on each variable. A downloaded data file contains exactly the same data that the CD contains. Users also have the option of extracting data over the Web using the online software available on the Web site.

To aid researchers in using the data, each data set is accompanied by the *NLSY97 User's Guide*, which examines the data set in detailed topical sections; the codebook supplement; and an electronic copy of the round 5 questionnaire. Other supplemental documentation items, such as additional questionnaires, are available for purchase. Researchers can obtain NLSY97 event history CDs and documentation from NLS User Services. Some documentation items also are available for download from <http://www.bls.gov/nls>.

Because the NLSY97 geocode data set contains confidential 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 for access, see the NLSY97 section of the NLS Web site or 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* and an electronic copy of the round 5 questionnaire. Other available documentation includes a geocode codebook supplement containing the codes for the various geographic areas. Geocode data files are not available for download, although a public version of the geocode codebook supplement will be available on the order page, so that researchers can evaluate the potential uses of the data set. □

### Researchers Should Note Updates to NLSY79 Reciprocity Event History Variables

The discovery of several problems in the calculation of created reciprocity event history variables in the NLSY79 warrants an alert to researchers who may be using these data. The areas of interest affected by these problems are RECIPIENT MONTH and RECIPIENT YEAR. Also affected are the Total Net Family Income variables. It is possible that poverty status variables in previous survey years may be affected in some cases as well.

Survey staff are currently reviewing all reciprocity event history data, investigating the problems and making necessary corrections. Users should check the

NLSY79 errata section on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/nls> for updates on the status of these data. Survey staff anticipate that data corrections will be completed by March 2004. Any corrections completed by the time of the 2002 (round 20) data release will be included and documented in that release. The problems are described below:

- *Inaccurate dollar values for unemployment compensation:* For calendar years 1978-2000, many of the dollar values for yearly and monthly unemployment compensation are inaccurate for both the respondent and spouse/partner. These dollar values were improperly edited to be substantially lower than actual amounts. From the 1993 interview to the 2000 interview, approximately 50 percent of those reporting unemployment compensation for themselves or their spouse/partner are affected. A much smaller proportion of unemployment compensation recipients—around 10 percent—is affected for the 1979 through 1992 interviews. Until data corrections are available, users should disregard the dollar values for cases that have an edit flag code of “3” or “5” and use the original value provided by the respondent to calculate the correct monthly and yearly amounts. Edit flag variables for respondent and spouse/partner, respectively, are UNEMPR-EDIT-[YEAR] and UNEMPSP-EDIT-[YEAR]. These variables may be found in the RECIPIENT YEAR area of interest.
- *Questionable edit flags for all reciprocity programs:* In general, for all survey years, cases that received a code “3” on the [PROGRAM]-EDIT-[YEAR] flags for variables other than unemployment compensation should be checked carefully. The dollar amounts reported by respondents in these cases were incorrectly edited, affecting both the resulting monthly and yearly dollar amounts. Those with a code “3” on the [PROGRAM]-EDIT-[YEAR] flags were edited under the incorrect assumption that a reported MONTHLY amount higher than an arbitrarily set maximum was actually a YEARLY amount. The values reported by respondents should be used, and researchers should make their own decisions about whether the value is

“too high” or “too low” based on the benefit structure of the program in question.

- *Seam problem for Aid for Families with Dependent Children/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (AFDC/TANF) receipt:* Monthly AFDC/TANF receipt information created from survey year 2000 (round 19) data contains a small seam problem. For data created from responses for this year only, some respondents were coded as “-4” in the interview month, or a month immediately before or after the interview month, when they should have received a value indicating the dollar amount of receipt. This problem affects only respondents who reported continuous receipt up until the interview month in that survey year, or who reported the interview month as the month in which they stopped receiving benefits. This error results in deflated values for yearly AFDC/TANF dollar amounts and combined welfare dollar amounts. It also might cause users to overestimate the number of receipt spells for a given respondent, because it erroneously appears that respondents ended one spell of benefit receipt and began another spell.
- *Inconsistent coding of nonreceipt:* In round 19 (survey year 2000), the conventions used for assigning code “0” or “-4” for some of the reciprocity created variables are not consistent with those used in prior rounds. However, this is unlikely to affect many users because these codes both indicate nonreceipt.
- *Erroneous data for some program receipt in the month of June:* Respondents who reported during the 2000 interview that they had received program benefits during 1998 or earlier may have incorrectly been assigned a “-4,” indicating nonreceipt during the month of June. This problem is particularly prevalent for June 1998, because respondents interviewed in May 1998 or earlier did not report June 1998 receipt until the 2000 interview. The June data are far less likely to be missing for calendar years prior to 1998. However, users should check receipt information for pre-1998 years carefully if it was reported in the round 19 (2000) interview. Yearly re-

ceipt amounts are affected, because cases in which the June data are missing have a 1-month undercount in the yearly total dollar receipt amount. An exception to this is a small number of respondents who did not know the dates for their receipt; their yearly totals may be correct.

- *Reciprocity stop month not counted:* For data reported in survey year 2000, the stop month of receipt was not counted as a receipt month, as it has been in reciprocity event histories for other years. This leads to a truncated receipt spell and a slight downward bias in the yearly receipt totals.
- *Error effects on Total Net Family Income and Poverty Status variables:* The problems described in the bulleted points above may affect 1998 and 2000 Total Net Family Income values for some respondents. Those reporting unemployment compensation or AFDC/TANF receipt in June 1998 and continuous AFDC/TANF receipt at the 2000 interview will most likely require adjustments to the Total Net Family Income values. In addition, the Poverty Status released for the 1998 and 2000 survey years may require adjustment for a subset of those cases.

Users with questions about the problems associated with these NLSY79 event history reciprocity variables should contact NLS User Services. (See the back cover for contact information.) □

### Small Number of Incorrect Values in NLSY97 Schooling Event Histories Is Corrected in Round 5

The NLSY97 Schooling Event Histories include information for a small number of respondents who are enrolled in college across multiple survey rounds and have incorrect values indicating the semester that they are attending in the second and third survey rounds. For example, if a respondent stated that he or she was a freshman in college in round 3, the schooling event history would correctly label the semesters as semesters 1 and 2. But if, in round 4, the respondent stated that he or she was a

sophomore in college, the event history code incorrectly handled the case and labeled the next semesters as 1 and 2 again, instead of 3 and 4.

This mistake affects only a few months in fewer than 300 cases. The problem data are fixed as of the round 5 event history release. For more information, contact NLS User Services. (See the back cover for contact information.) □

## NLS Provides Opportunities for Studying Unionization in America

Several cohorts within the NLS family of surveys provide data on union membership. By combining these union indicator variables with the other demographic and labor force variables in the NLS, researchers can explore unionization across cohorts. This article looks at some of the union-related variables collected in the NLS.

### Union variables in the NLSY97

In each survey round, NLSY97 respondents report on whether or not they are covered by a union or employee contract. This information is collected for multiple employers where applicable. These variables are found in the JOBS AND EMPLOYERS and SELF-EMPLOYMENT areas of interest.

### Union variables in the NLSY79

Respondents in the NLSY79 have reported on several union-related topics. In 1979, members of this cohort provided information, for up to five jobs, about whether they belonged to a union or employee association and, if so, the name of the group.

From 1979 on, respondents were asked about coverage by union or employee contracts, although the wording on the questions was changed slightly between the 1993 and 1994 surveys.

In 1981, in a section on job search, respondents reported on any contact with a labor union. If contact had occurred, respondents who had been seeking work in the prior four weeks were asked if the contact had resulted in a job offer. Questions about the effects of labor union affiliation on pay rate also were asked.

In 1982, 1986, 1987, and again from 1998 forward, interviews asked about the

use of labor unions during the process of searching for a job.

From 1988 on, NLSY79 respondents once again reported, for up to five jobs, whether they belonged to a union or employee association.

Union variables in the NLSY79 are found in the JOB INFORMATION, CPS, JOB SEARCH, and MISCELLANEOUS areas of interest.

### Union variables in the Children of the NLSY79

The NLSY79 Child data file contains a series of created variables that describe the mother's employment history during the year prior to and up to 5 years after the birth of each child. This quarterly profile includes a set of variables called UNIONMN that indicate whether the wages of the mother's main job are set by collective bargaining or covered by a union contract. The maternal employment variables are assigned to the MATERNAL WORK HISTORY area of interest on the Child file.

The NLSY79 young adults are the children, now aged 15 years and older, born to female respondents of the NLSY79 cohort. These respondents complete an interview similar to the one administered to their mothers. Included in the young adult questionnaire for survey years 1994 through 1998 are queries about membership in a union or employee association and coverage by union or employee contracts. These questions are found in the YA JOB INFORMATION area of interest.

### Union variables in the Original Cohorts

The original study groups within the NLS include the older men, young men, mature women, and young women. These four groups are known collectively as the Original Cohorts.

The older men cohort, surveyed from 1966 through 1983, and again in 1990, answered questions in the earlier years on membership in a union or employee association on current or last job, type of union or employee association on current job, and receipt of income from private, union, or government pensions.

During the 1990 resurvey of surviving cohort members or of the spouse or next-of-kin of deceased sample members, infor-

mation was collected on the portion of medical insurance paid for by an employer or union and the amount of income from private, union, or government pensions.

Members of the young men cohort were interviewed from 1966 through 1981. They reported, for their current or last job, whether they belonged to a union or employee association, what type of union or employee association existed at their workplace, and whether their wages were set by collective bargaining. In 1980, young men respondents also answered a question related to their satisfaction with their union or employee association.

Mature women respondents, like members of the other cohorts, reported on union or employee association membership and use of union contacts during a job search. These respondents also provided information on union-related pensions earned by themselves and their spouses and the amount of medical insurance costs covered by their own or their spouse's union benefit plan.

Members of the young women cohort indicated whether they were members of a union or employee association, the type of union or association present at their current place of employment, and whether they had used union contacts during a job search. This cohort also answered questions about whether they had ever held a union job and, if so, the number of years during which they had held such a job. Measures of satisfaction with unions or employee associations also were collected from these respondents.

Unlike the other original cohorts, the young women were asked whether they had a husband or father who had worked in a union job.

Finally, the young women reported on union-related pensions earned by themselves or their spouses and the amount of medical insurance costs covered by their own or their spouse's union benefit plan.

### Finding union variables in the NLS

Researchers interested in pursuing this topic are encouraged to peruse the *NLS Handbook* and cohort-specific user's guides for more detail on available variables, and to search the various data sets by using an "any word in context" search for the terms "union" and "collective." □

## User's Guide for NLS of Older Men and NLS of Young Men Now Available Online

A user's guide for the NLS of Older Men and the NLS of Young Men is now available online at <http://www.bls.gov/nls>. This guide explains details of these two cohorts, including sample selection and data set contents. The guide is a useful resource for researchers using the data sets or for those curious to see if the data sets support their research interests.

The NLS of Older Men is a cohort of men who were aged 45 to 59 in 1966. The NLS of Young Men is a cohort of men who were aged 14 to 24 in 1966. These two cohorts, along with the NLS of Mature Women and the NLS of Young Women, make up the four Original Cohorts of the National Longitudinal Surveys.

The user's guide for the men's cohorts will be available only online. □

## Frequently Asked Questions

NLS User Services encourages researchers to contact them with questions and problems that 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.

*Q1: I'm working with the data files for the Children of the NLSY79. I need to work with white children but the race variable in the codebook shows me only whether the child is black, Hispanic, or non-Hispanic/nonblack. How can I differentiate between white and other races of children? Also, where are the Asians in the race variable?*

A1: The child's race/ethnicity is derived from the mother's race/ethnicity from the NLSY79 main file. Because of this, the mother's race (R02147) becomes the child's race. Variable R02147 has three codes—Hispanic, non-Hispanic black, and non-Hispanic/nonblack. The non-Hispanic/non-black category includes whites as well as Asians, Pacific Islanders, and others (essentially everyone not identified as Hispanic or black). If you need to identify specific races and ethnicities, use variables R00096

through R00102, where NLSY79 respondents reported their race/ethnicity in 1979. No other race/ethnicity variable has been collected for the child respondents. However, child respondents who are old enough to be considered young adult respondents have been asked race/ethnicity questions. Look in the Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality section of the *NLSY79 User's Guide* for more information.

*Q2: Was information about the race/ethnicity of the partners/spouses of NLSY79 respondents ever collected? I am interested in identifying interracial unions.*

A2: The NLSY79 has not asked for the race/ethnicity of the spouse/partner. On the 1978 screener, however, race and ethnicity are given for each member of the household. You may want to note that information about the race/ethnicity of the fathers of NLSY79 young adults is collected, and is therefore available for the spouse/partners of NLSY79 females if a child resulted from the relationship.

*Q3: Where can I find more information about how to use the sampling weights provided in the NLSY79? I know the survey oversamples blacks and Hispanics but I was looking for some more material on how the weights are supposed to be used in practice.*

A3: Look at chapter 2, "Sample Design and Fielding Procedures," in the *NLSY79 User's Guide*. This chapter contains a section on sampling weights. In general, we suggest that you *not* use weights if you are running regressions. A full explanation as to why is found in the user's guide chapter mentioned above. However, if you want descriptive statistics, we suggest that you do use weights. Custom weights for research spanning multiple years may be created using the custom weighting program found on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/nls>.

*Q4: I just downloaded data from the BLS Web site. Are there any special procedures needed to use the data within SPSS?*

A4: When you download an NLS cohort data set from the Web site, be sure to also download the NLS DB Investigator software. This software is necessary in order to search the database and make data extractions. When you get to the point of making

an extraction, there is an option to produce an SPSS syntax file for extracted data. The extraction then makes an ASCII text file for the data and gives you the SPSS syntax to read that data. From that point, you simply have to put the syntax into the SPSS syntax editor and run it. □

## 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.

Antecol, Heather and Bedard, Kelly. "The Relative Earnings of Young Mexican, Black, and White Women." *Industrial & Labor Relations Review* 56,1 (October 2002): 122-136. [NLSY79]

Bernhardt, Annette; Morris, Martina; Handcock, Mark S.; and Scott, Marc A. "Trends in Job Instability and Wages for Young Adult Men," In: *On the Job: Is Long Term Employment a Thing of the Past?* D. Neumark, ed. New York: Russel Sage Foundation, 2000. [NLSY79, Young Men]

Bratsberg, Bernt and Ragan, Jr., James F. "The Impact of Host-Country Schooling on Earnings-A Study of Male Immigrants in the United States." *Journal of Human Resources* (Winter 2002): 63-105. [NLSY79]

Caputo, Richard K. "Assets and Economic Mobility in a Youth Cohort, 1985-1997." *Families in Society* 84,1 (January 2003): 51-62. [NLSY79]

Caputo, Richard K. "Head Start, Other Preschool Programs, and Life Success in a Youth Cohort." *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* 30,2 (June 2003): 105-126. [NLSY79]

Cawley, John; Markowitz, Sara; and Taurus, John. "Lighting Up and Slimming Down: The Effects of Body Weight and Cigarette Prices on Adolescent Smoking Initiation." NBER Working Paper No. w9561, National Bureau of Economic Research, March 2003. Also: <http://papers.nber.org/papers/w9561>. [NLSY97]

Chatterji, Pinka and Frick, Kevin. "Does Returning to Work After Childbirth Affect Breastfeeding Practices?" NBER Working Paper No. w9630, National Bureau of Economic Research, April 2003. Also: <http://papers.nber.org/papers/w9630>. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Colder, Craig R.; Mott, Joshua Adam; and Berman, Arielle, S. "The Interactive Effects of Infant Activity Level and Fear on Growth Trajectories of Early Childhood Behavior Problems." *Development and Psychopathology* 14,1 (Winter 2002): 1-23. [Children of the NLSY79]

Coleman, Priscilla K., Reardon, David C.; and Cogle, Jesse R. "The Quality of the Caregiving Environment and Child Developmental Outcomes Associated with Maternal History of Abortion Using NLSY Data." *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines* 43,6 (September 2002): 743-757. [Children of the NLSY79]

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