

No. 07-128

National Longitudinal Surveys

2007

U.S. Department of Labor U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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The bibliography can be accessed at **www.nlsbibliography.org**. \square

Round 9 Data Release Information

Working with NLSY97 data? The next data release is scheduled for fall 2007 and will include the data from rounds 1-9. In previous years, the main data file and the event history data file have been released at different times; this year, there will be a single release date for both files. As is customary, the *NLS News* will supply details on the

content of the data once the release takes place. \Box

Spotlight: Alcohol and Drug Use Variables in the NLS

Drug or alcohol abuse can affect many aspects of a person's life, including employment (job performance, tenure, and advancement, for instance), marriage, health, mortality, and more. The NLS has fielded several alcohol and drug use modules over the years. A cohort-by-cohort review of these variables follows.

NLSY97 Alcohol and Drug Use Variables

Alcohol Use. Round 1 of the NLSY97 survey first established whether the respondent had ever consumed an alcoholic beverage and then asked for the respondent's age the first time. In rounds 2-8, respondents were asked whether they had had a drink of an alcoholic beverage since the date of last interview. Respondents who had consumed alcohol then were asked a series of follow-up questions about the quantity and frequency of their alcohol use in the 30 days prior to the interview. Specific questions requested information on the number of days the respondent had one or more alcoholic beverages, how many drinks the respondent usually had per day, and the number of days the respondent had five or more drinks on the same occasion.

In all rounds, the survey also elicited information on the number of days (in the 30 days prior to the interview) that the respondent had something alcoholic to drink immediately prior to or during school or work. In round 6, respondents were asked how many times they had driven while under the influence of alcohol and how many times they had ridden in a car with a driver

who had been drinking alcohol.

Additional questions asked in round 1 and round 6 gathered information on the respondent's perception of the effects of alcohol on various health conditions (heart disease, liver disease, and other conditions).

Cigarette Use. In round 1, NLSY97 respondents were asked whether they had ever smoked an entire cigarette and at what age they first did. In subsequent rounds, additional data were collected on the number of days respondents smoked during the 30 days prior to the interview and the number of cigarettes they usually had on the days they smoked during those 30 days.

Drug Use. Respondents were asked whether they had ever used marijuana and, if so, the age when they first did so. Respondents were asked whether they had used marijuana since the last interview and the number of days they had used it in the 30 days prior to the interview. Questions also asked for the number of times the respondent used marijuana right before or during school or work in those 30 days.

Rounds 2-8 added questions about the use of other drugs, such as cocaine, crack, heroin, and any other substance not prescribed by a doctor and used to get high or achieve an altered state. Questions on whether the respondent ever sold drugs also were asked.

NLSY79 Alcohol and Drug Use Variables

Alcohol Use. In the 1982–85, 1988–89, 1992, 1994, and 2002 NLSY79 surveys, respondents were asked a series of questions about their alcohol use during the periods covered by the surveys. These questions elicited information about the development of drinking patterns in the respondents, the

quantity of various alcoholic beverages the respondents consumed, their frequency of use, the impact of consumption on their schoolwork or job performance, and the types of physiological and behavioral dependency symptoms they experienced. Information on familial history of alcohol abuse or dependency was collected during the 1988 survey, which included a series of questions about whether relatives of the respondent had been alcoholics or problem drinkers, the relationship of the respondent to up to seven such alcoholic relatives, and the length of time, if any, that the respondent resided with each such relative. There was considerable variation in both the quantity and type of questions asked during each round of the survey. Researchers are encouraged to consult the documentation for the exact wording of the questions in each survey year..

Two additional sets of alcohol use variables were collected for select NLSY79 respondents: information on alcohol use during pregnancy was gathered for female respondents during the 1983–86, 1988, 1990, 1992, and 1994–2004 surveys, and the 1980 supplement on illegal activities asked underage respondents a question on the number of times they had consumed alcoholic beverages without their parents' permission.

Cigarette Use. Three sets of data on NLSY79 respondents' cigarette use are available: (1) during the 1984 survey, data were collected on age at first use, most recent use, and number of cigarettes smoked in the previous 30 days; (2) the 1992, 1994, and 1998 surveys gathered information on the age that respondents who had smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their life had started smoking daily or the number of months or years since they had last smoked daily; (3) the 1983-86, 1988, 1990, 1992 and 1994-2004 surveys gathered information on whether female NLSY79 respondents had smoked during pregnancy and, if so, the number of cigarettes they smoked during pregnancy. (The latter question was asked only in the 2000-04 surveys.)

Drug Use. An extensive set of questions on substance use asked of the NLSY79 respondents was included in the 1984 survey; a more limited follow-up series of questions on respondents' use of marijuana/hashish and cocaine was asked in the 1988

survey. The latter survey collected information on respondents' use of marijuana, as well as of illicit and nonprescribed amphetamines, barbiturates, tranquilizers, psychedelics, cocaine, heroin, and other narcotics. For each of these substances, information was collected on the respondents' lifetime use, age at first use, most recent use, and frequency of use during the previous 30 days. In addition, retrospective data on respondents' monthly use of marijuana from January 1979 through the 1984 survey date were gathered. Information on the extent of respondents' use of three types of prescribed drugs (amphetamines, barbiturates, and tranquilizers) also was collected. Respondents who were working or who were in the military were asked whether they had used or "felt high" from one or more of these substances since the date of their last interview or since their job or military duty began and how frequently they had used each on the job or during their military service.

A special Drug Use Supplement was administered during the 1988, 1992, 1994, and 1998 surveys to collect information on respondents' ages at first use of marijuana/hashish, crack, cocaine, and other drugs; lifetime use; most recent use; and use in the previous 30 days. The 1992, 1994, and 1998 questionnaires also asked about respondents' use of prescribed and nonprescribed sedatives, tranquilizers, stimulants, and painkillers. Beginning in 1994, with full-scale computer-assisted interviewing, respondents were able to enter their answers directly into a laptop computer.

Other questions on drug use are found in the 1988, 1990, 1992, and 1994–2004 fertility series, which included questions on the use of marijuana or cocaine during pregnancy. In addition, the 1980 survey gathered information on the frequency with which respondents were engaged in smoking or selling marijuana or other drugs during the previous year.

Child/Young Adult Drug and Alcohol Use Variables

Alcohol Use. In the Children of the NLSY79 survey, children 10 years and older received questions on whether they had ever consumed alcohol, whether they had had a drink during the 3 months prior to the interview, their age at first use, and the number of times in the past year they became drunk. In the young adults' survey,

questions on alcohol included age at first use, age when respondents first began to drink once a month or more, and specifics on the amount of drinking (both quantity and frequency). Young adult respondents answered a series of questions about the number of people their same age who might drink, including students at the same school, people the respondents "hung out" with, and people in their neighborhood. Respondents also were asked an extensive series of questions about situations that occurred during or immediately after they drank, such as getting into arguments or fights; missing school, work, or other obligations; and having problems with teachers/principals, family/friends/neighbors,

In addition, young adult respondents were asked about some of the consequences of drinking, including inappropriate activities, missing school because of hangovers, poor grades, driving under the influence, or not getting a raise or promotion. They also were asked if they ever found it difficult to stop drinking once they started. Female respondents answered questions about drinking alcohol during pregnancy.

Cigarette Use. Questions on smoking have been asked in each round of the children's survey, starting with the 1988 survey. Children 10 years of age and older have been asked about the age they first used cigarettes and the extent of their use of cigarettes. Beginning in 1992, children also were asked whether they ever felt pressure from friends to try cigarettes.

In each year the young adults' surveys were conducted, respondents were asked the age they first began smoking, how recently they last smoked, and the number of cigarettes and frequency with which they smoked. Like the child respondents, younger young adults also were asked about peer pressure to smoke. Female respondents were asked about cigarette use during pregnancy.

Two questions about secondhand smoke were asked of young adults in 2004, including a question about anyone smoking in the home in the previous 2 weeks and a question on whether respondents had spent time routinely in a place that smelled of cigarette smoke.

Drug Use. Starting with the 1988 survey, children aged 10 and older answered a

series of questions on whether they had ever used marijuana or other drugs, such as LSD and cocaine. If they answered "yes," they reported whether such use occurred in the previous 3 months and how old they were when they first used the drugs. They also were asked about peer pressure to try marijuana or other drugs. In 1994, children also were asked about inhalants. In 1998, the child self-report series on drug use was expanded to ask specifically about hallucinogens, cocaine, and amphetamines.

Young adults responded to a series of questions about their recent and lifetime use of substances such as marijuana, inhalants, cocaine, crack, and other drugs (including LSD, "uppers," and "downers"). Questions similar to those on alcohol use were asked about the impact of the drug use on various activities (school attendance, grades, driving, job advancement, and more).

From 1994 to 1998, questions also were asked about the authorized use of prescription drugs, as well as the unauthorized use of sedatives, tranquilizers, amphetamines, and painkillers. A question about steroid use also was included.

Beginning in 2000, young adult respondents answered a series of questions designed to assess the impact of heavy marijuana usage, including time spent obtaining, using, and getting over the effects of marijuana, whether a tolerance had been built up, resultant health or emotional problems, and the effect of the usage on activities. Explicit questions about amphetamine usage were added to the young adult survey in 2000.

Original Cohort Drug and Alcohol Use Variables

Alcohol Use. The 1990 older men's survey collected information from living respondents, and from proxy respondents about deceased members of the sample, on the frequency and quantity of alcoholic beverages they had consumed during the past year. If the person had consumed at least 12 drinks during his years as an adult, data also were gathered on the frequency and quantity of lifetime consumption.

Questions on the use of alcohol (extent and frequency of use and type of alcohol consumed) were asked in the 1989 and the 1995–2003 mature women's survey and in the 1991–2003 young women's survey. No questions about alcohol were asked in the young men's surveys.

Cigarette Use. The 1990 older men's survey asked respondents about their lifetime cigarette use. Data are available about both current and past users' ages when they first started smoking regularly and number of cigarettes or packs they typically smoked each day. In addition, the survey asked those older men respondents who had stopped smoking to report the age at which they last smoked regularly. (The same question was posed to the proxy respondents about the deceased members of the sample.)

The mature women were asked about their cigarette use in 1989 and in 1995–2003. The 1989 survey included questions for both current and past users about the age they first started smoking regularly and how many cigarettes they typically smoked each day. If respondents had quit smoking, they stated the age they last smoked regularly. The 1995–2003 surveys simply asked whether or not respondents currently were smokers. Similar cigarette use variables also can be found in the young women's 1991–2003 surveys. The young men were not asked about cigarette use.

Drug Use. No questions were asked in the original cohort surveys about the use of nonprescription drugs. A series of questions about prescription-drug use was asked in the young women's and mature women's surveys in 2003. Respondents were asked whether they took all the medication they were prescribed and, if not, the reasons they didn't. In addition, they were queried on their per month out-of-pocket expenses for prescriptions. Women respondents also answered a question in 2003 about whether they currently were taking medication for depression or nerves. □

Frequently Asked Questions

The NLS staff encourages researchers to contact NLS User Services with questions and problems encountered while accessing and using NLS data or documentation. Every effort is made to answer these inquiries. Some recent questions and answers that may be of general interest to NLS users are listed below.

Q1. How does the NLSY97 deal with data inconsistencies during the data collection and processing stages?

A1. Data inconsistencies in the NLSY97 (as well as in other NLS surveys) are treated differently across different topics. For instance, some sections have consistency checks built in that trigger follow-up questions. An example is the marriage section, which asks for an explanation if the respondent reports a spouse in the household information section but then reports never having been married in the marriage section. Many questions have "soft" range checks that prompt the interviewer to double check when an unusual answer has been entered (an unusually high or low wage, for instance). The longitudinal nature of the NLSY97 also allows for the verification of a number of important items, such as employment status, enrollment status, and marital status at the time of the previous interview.

However, because of the substantial length and complexity of the NLSY97 survey, it is not feasible to control and monitor all possible inconsistent answers. When inconsistent answers are detected, if a preponderance of evidence indicates that a particular answer is incorrect (the evidence may come from interviewer comments; data on other, unreleased questions; or answers from previous rounds), then the inconsistent answer will be manually corrected. Many times, however, it will not be obvious what the corrected answer should be, in which case the answer will remain unchanged.

Q2. Is there a variable in the NLSY79 that indicates what type of school (public, private, or parochial) the respondent attended? I am particularly interested in finding out if the respondent attended a Catholic school.

A2. In the first round of the NLSY79, respondents were asked whether the school the respondent was currently attending or had attended was private or public. (See variable R00175.00.) No information has been collected that would allow a further breakdown of private schools into secular and parochial.

Q3. We are considering using the Rotter Locus of Control variables that were in the NLSY79. In 1979, 4 of the standard 29 Rotter items were used. How were these 4 items chosen?

A3. Because it was impractical to place

the entire Rotter internal-external control scale (a standard psychological measure) in the NLSY79 survey, the members of the survey design team, which included people familiar with the Rotter scale, chose the 4 items (see R01530.00 through R01537.00) on the basis of the results of some of their own statistical work.

An abbreviated version of the Rotter scale also was included in the four original cohort surveys.

Q4. When a mother in the NLSY79 survey has more than one child, in what order does she complete the questionnaires, particularly the Behavior Problem Index, for her multiple children? Is the order randomized, or does she complete items for the child from youngest to oldest or in some other order?

A4. Because of individual household circumstances, it was deemed unrealistic to ask interviewers to follow a set order in households with multiple children. Generally, the field interviewers will start with whatever child is convenient or whomever the mother wants to schedule to first. Given no preference by the mother, the interviewer usually opens with the first child on the list, meaning that the oldest child will likely be the first interviewed. In computer-assisted personal interviews, detailed timing information could be used to identify the sequence of administration in a particular survey year. (Interested parties should feel free to contact NLS User Services at usersvc@chrr.osu.edu for additional as-

Q5. Is it possible to use the Web Investigator and CHRR Database Investigator interchangeably? That is, may I open the tagset I saved from Web Investigator with CHRRDBA?

A5. Yes, CHRRDBA and Web Investigator can use the same tagset interchangeably. A tagset can be created and saved in either one of those software tools and opened in the other one with no problem.

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*. For a com-

prehensive listing of NLS-related research, see the *NLS Annotated Bibliography* at **www.nlsbibliography.org.**

Baum, Charles L., II, Ford, William F., and Hopper, Jeffrey D. "The Obese Smoker's Wage Penalty." *Social Science Quarterly* 87,4 (December 2006): 863–881. [NLSY79]

Black, Dan A., and Smith, Jeffrey A. "Estimating the Returns to College Quality with Multiple Proxies for Quality." *Journal of Labor Economics* 24,3 (July 2006): 701–728. [NLSY79]

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Bronte-Tinkew, Jacinta, Moore, Kristin A., and Carrano, Jennifer. "The Father-Child Relationship, Parenting Styles, and Adolescent Risk Behaviors in Intact Families." *Journal of Family Issues* 27,6 (June 2006): 850–881. [NLSY97]

Cawley, John, Joyner, Kara, and Sobal, Jeff. "Size Matters: The Influence of Adolescents' Weight and Height on Dating and Sex." *Rationality and Society* 18,1 (February 2006): 67–94. [NLSY97]

Cellini, Stephanie Riegg. "Smoothing the Transition to College? The Effect of Tech-Prep Programs on Educational Attainment." *Economics of Education Review* 25,4 (August 2006): 394–411. [NLSY97]

Colder, Craig R., Lengua, Liliana J., Fite, Paula J., Mott, Joshua A., and Bush, Nicole R. "Temperament in Context: Infant Temperament Moderates the Relationship between Perceived Neighborhood Quality and Behavior Problems." *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology* 27,5 (September 2006): 456–467. [Children of the NLSY79]

Crockett, Lisa J., Raffaelli, Marcela, and Shen, Yuh-Ling. "Linking Self-Regulation and Risk Proneness to Risky Sexual Behavior: Pathways through Peer Pressure and Early Substance Use." *Journal of* Research on Adolescence 16,4 (December 2006): 503–525. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

Currie, Janet, and Stabile, Mark. "Child Mental Health and Human Capital Accumulation: The Case of ADHD." *Journal of Health Economics* 25,6 (November 2006): 1094-1118. [Children of the NLSY79]

Dooley, David, Prause, Joanne, Ham-Rowbottom, Kathleen A., and Emptage, Nicholas. "Age of Alcohol Drinking Onset Precursors and the Mediation of Alcohol Disorder." *Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse* 15,2 (January 2006): 19–37. [NLSY79]

Grogan-Kaylor, Andrew, and Otis, Melanie D. "The Predictors of Parental Use of Corporal Punishment." *Family Relations* 56,1 (January 2007): 80–91. [Children of the NLSY79]

Harford, Thomas C., Yi, Hsiao-Ye, and Hilton, Michael E. "Alcohol Abuse and Dependence in College and Noncollege Samples: A Ten-Year Prospective Follow-Up in a National Survey." *Journal of Studies on Alcohol* 67,6 (November 2006): 803–808. [NLSY79]

Heckman, James J., and Fontaine, Paul A. "Bias-Corrected Estimates of GED Returns." *Journal of Labor Economics* 24,3 (July 2006): 661–700. [NLSY79]

Lahey, Benjamin B., Hulle, Carol A., Waldman, Irwin D., Rodgers, Joseph Lee, D'onofrio, Brian M., Pedlow, Steven, Rathouz, Paul, and Keenan, Kate. "Testing Descriptive Hypotheses Regarding Sex Differences in the Development of Conduct Problems and Delinquency." *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology* 34,5 (October 2006): 737–755. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

Lloyd, Kim M. "Latinas' Transition to First Marriage: An Examination of Four Theoretical Perspectives." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 68,4 (November 2006): 993–1014. [NLSY79]

Munasinghe, Lalith Roshan. "Expectations Matter: Job Prospects and Turnover Dynamics." Labour Economics 13,5 (October 2006): 589–609. [NLSY79]

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Pergamit, Michael R., and Krishnamurty, Parvati. "Multiyear Nonfatal Work Injury Rates." *Monthly Labor Review* 129,5 (May 2006): 35–38. [NLSY79]

Pierret, Charles R. "The 'Sandwich Generation': Women Caring for Parents and Children." *Monthly Labor Review* 129,9 (September 2006): 3–9. [Young Women]

Saffer, Henry, and Dave, Dhaval. "Alcohol Advertising and Alcohol Consumption by Adolescents." *Health Economics* 15,6 (June 2006): 617–637. [NLSY97]

Schmitz, Mark F. "Influence of Social and Family Contexts on Self-Esteem of Latino Youth." *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences* 28,4 (November 2006): 516–530. [Children of the NLSY79]

Votruba-Drzal, Elizabeth. "Economic Disparities in Middle Childhood Development: Does Income Matter?" *Developmental Psychology* 42,6 (November 2006): 1154–1167. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Wadsworth, Tim. "The Meaning of Work: Conceptualizing the Deterrent Effect of Employment on Crime among Young Adults." *Sociological Perspectives* 49,3 (Fall 2006): 343–368. [NLSY79] [Information corrected from previous issue]

Wang, Y. Claire, Gortmaker, Steven L., Sobol, Arthur M., and Kuntz, Karen M. "Estimating the Energy Gap among U.S. Children: A Counterfactual Approach." *Pediatrics* 118,6 (December 2006): e1721–e1733. [Children of the NLSY79]

Zagorsky, Jay L. "Native Americans' Wealth." In Wealth Accumulation and Communities of Color in the United States. Jessica Gordon Nembhard and Ngina Chiteji, eds. The University of Michigan Press, 2006: 133–154. [NLSY79]

Zavodny, Madeline. "Does Watching Television Rot Your Mind? Estimates of the Effect on Test Scores." *Economics of Education Review* 25,5 (October 2006): 565–573. [NLSY79]

Zhan, Min. "Economic Mobility of Single Mothers: The Role of Assets and Human Capital Development." *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* 33,4 (December 2006): 127–150. [NLSY79]

Are You Working With NLS Data?

If you are, we are interested in your work!

- Have you received funding to sponsor a project using NLS data?
- Are you working on a paper that uses NLS data?
- Have you published a recent paper using NLS data?

If you have received funding on a project, are working on a paper, or published a recent paper that uses NLS data, please contact: NLS User Services, Center for Human Resource Research, The Ohio State University, 921 Chatham Lane, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43221; (614) 442-7366; e-mail: usersvc@chrr.osu.edu. Or use our online submission form—just go to www.nlsbibliography.org and click on "Submit Citation."

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NLS Contact Information

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NLS User Services: Center for Human Resource Research

The Ohio State University

921 Chatham Lane, Suite 100 Columbus, Ohio 43221-2418

usersvc@chrr.osu.edu

(614) 442-7366

(614) 442-7329 (Fax)

NLS Web site:

NLS documentation,

data, and data updates:

www.bls.gov/nls

BLS-NLS publications: Jain_Rita@bls.gov

(202) 691-7405

usersvc@chrr.osu.edu

NLS Program Office: National Longitudinal Surveys

2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE.

Room 4945

Washington, DC 20212-0001 Attention: Rita Jain

NLS_INFO@bls.gov (202) 691-7405 (202) 691-6425 (Fax) NLS News Editor:

Donna S. Rothstein Rothstein_D@bls.gov

NLS Program Director

and Media Contact:

Charles R. Pierret Pierret_C@bls.gov

(202) 691-7519