

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

Newly Released: NLSY97 Round-11 Data

Round-11 data for the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97) have been released. Users can now access main-file data, event history data, and geocode data from round 1 through round 11. The NLSY97 cohort includes 8,984 respondents born in the 1980-84 period. In round 11, which was fielded from October 2007 to May 2008, 7,418 persons (82.6 percent) were interviewed. Respondents included 5,521 (81.8 percent) of the original cross-sectional sample and 1,897 (84.8 percent) of the original supplemental sample of black or African-American and Hispanic/Latino youths. As of the round-11 interview, respondents ranged in age from 22 to 28 years. □

General Round-11 Questionnaire Content

NLSY97 variables cover a wide range of topics, including job characteristics, labor market status, education, training, health, marital and family characteristics, and income and assets. The round-11 questionnaire is similar to the round-10 questionnaire, but with some changes and additions that may interest researchers. Certain changes were made to the questionnaire between survey rounds because of the maturation of the respondents, and other changes reflect interest in new research topics. □

Additions to Round 11

A more lengthy series of health-related questions was added back into the survey. Many of these questions were previously fielded in round 6. These questions were brought back to find out about any chronic physical or mental health disabilities and

conditions experienced by the respondents, including types of conditions (diabetes, asthma, epilepsy, cancer, and so forth), age when each condition was diagnosed, and the extent to which the condition has limited the respondent's activities. (See YHEA-1060A.01 through YHEA-1060A.04, YHEA-1010D through YHEA-1360.) Respondents also answered a series of questions about health habits (YHEA-500A through YHEA-820), including the number of times per week the respondent ate fruit and vegetables, exercised, used the computer, watched television, drove under the influence of alcohol, or rode in a car with an alcohol-impaired driver. Respondents also estimated the average amount of sleep they got per night.

A series of questions was added to find out about any significant health-related stressors for respondents in the past 5 years. (See YHEA-2310 through YHEA-2980.) These questions included whether the respondent had been hospitalized, a victim of a violent crime, or homeless. Respondents also were asked about stressful events involving close relatives, including deaths or hospitalizations, prolonged periods of unemployment, and incarceration. In addition, respondents provided details on any parental divorces in the past 5 years (YHEA-3000 through YHEA-3030). Most of these questions were asked previously in round 6.

Two questions about celebrating family events were added back into the survey (YSAQ-640 and YSAQ-631). Respondents estimated the frequency that they gathered together with family members for family-oriented events (birthday parties, holidays, reunions, and so forth). Respondents then rated how important it was to them to attend these events. These family-event questions were first asked in round 5 and are routinely asked in odd-numbered rounds.

Respondents answered three new questions measuring financial knowledge (YINC-7910 through YINC-7930), including questions on whether purchasing a single company stock was safer than purchasing a mutual fund, a question about the rate of interest accumulation, and a question about inflation versus interest rates. Respondents also described their current financial condition using a 5-point scale (YINC-7990).

A subgroup of respondents answered a new series of questions about contraceptive knowledge (YPECC-0151 through YPECC-1352, SAQ2 section). The respondents were asked about their chances of getting pregnant or contracting a sexually transmitted disease during the next year using specific birth control methods. They also answered questions about how likely these birth control methods were to interfere with romance and intimacy with their partner and how likely it was that their partner would object to using the birth control methods. In addition, respondents were asked about the anticipated medical side effects (headaches, menstrual irregularities, and so forth), and the amount of money that would be spent per month on each method.

In the "Tell Us What You Think" section of the survey, a subset of respondents rated how well things were going in their lives currently and evaluated the perceived importance of the NLSY97 research (YTEL-21 and YTEL-41 through YTEL-43). Respondents also answered questions about any charitable acts they had performed over the past 12 months, including whether they had donated blood, given to the homeless, returned extra change to the cashier, let someone ahead of them in line, or allowed someone to borrow a valuable item. (See the YTEL-51 series.) In addition, respondents answered a series of questions

on personal responsibility, among which were questions about the importance of people looking after themselves in contrast to helping the less fortunate (YTEL-52 series) and the importance of participating in community activities such as voting, jury duty, reporting a crime, and keeping informed about current events. (See the YTEL-53 series.) □

Previous Round-10 Variables Not Included in Round 11

By design, some questions rotate in and out of the survey each round. The following topics were formulated into questions asked in round 10, but *were not included* in round 11:

- A series of mental health questions (a shortened five-item version of the Mental Health Inventory) ask the respondents to rate their moods during the month prior to the interview. These questions were first included in round 4 and are fielded in even-numbered rounds, so they will be back in the survey for round 12.
- The series of questions on how respondents feel about religion and religious practices will return to the survey in round 12.
- The political participation section can be found in rounds 8 and 10 and will be part of the round 12 dataset as well.
- Other dropped questions included those directed toward male respondents who are fathers, specifically questions about the respondents' participation in maternity-related activities before the child's birth; a question about who makes the major decisions about a child's care; and two questions asking how a respondent's mother and father acts toward him or her.
- Lastly, questions ascertaining the degree to which a respondent would change the amount of time spent on certain activities (work, household chores, and so forth) were not asked in this round. □

Continuing Variables for Round 11

The employment sections of the questionnaire continued to ask about all jobs, including self-employment, held by the respondent since the last interview. Data collected included the dates of employment, industry, occupation, class of worker (private sector, nonprofit sector, and so forth), rate of pay, hours worked, reason the job ended, and training.

Information about the respondent's formal high school and college education—similar to that collected in previous rounds—was recorded. A "College Choice" section, introduced in round 7 for select birth years, recorded each college that respondents applied to, along with the term in which they applied to enroll. Respondents also provided information about any transferable financial aid they might have received. Other questions recorded whether each of the colleges that the respondent applied to accepted him or her for admission, along with the type of financial aid offered by each college. The identities of the colleges in the responses to this section will be available only on the geocode release.

The income, assets, and program participation sections of the interview remain largely the same. As in previous rounds, these sections asked respondents about their sources of income and their assets and debts. The questions on assets and debts are asked only of respondents who are 20 years old at the time of the interview or whose cohort turns 25 years old during the interview round.

As in previous rounds, respondents answered a number of questions on marriage and family formation. Respondents' answers to family questions were complemented by the customary collection of basic information on all residents of the respondent's household, including information about their gender, age, enrollment status, labor force status, and relationship to the respondent.

The round-11 survey continued the practice of including an extensive series of questions on the attitudes and behaviors of the respondent. These self-administered questions asked about relationships, substance abuse, criminal activity, and arrests. □

Event History Data

The event history data include created variables covering four major topics: employment status, marital status, program participation, and schooling experiences. Each topic is documented through a series of arrays that show the respondent's status or activities during each week, month, or year within a specific period. □

Geocode Data

These variables, which provide information about each respondent's county of

residence, are available as a separate dataset and are not included in the main/event history database. Due to the confidential nature of the geocode data, the completion of a thorough application process and confidentiality agreement is required to obtain access to them. Most of the variables described in this section have question names that begin with "GEO."

The geocode dataset provides a list of the States and counties in which respondents lived between interviews. The unemployment rate in the respondent's current metropolitan area or State also is reported.

The final group of variables on the geocode CD focuses on the 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 the respondent attended. Beginning with round 7, information on the colleges that a respondent applied to is also available. The identification codes can be used to associate the NLSY97 respondent's college with various characteristics of the institution contained in the IPEDS database. These college choice geocode variables begin with the prefix "YCOC." □

Obtaining NLSY97 Data

All 11 rounds of the NLSY97 main-file data, along with data from the other NLS cohorts, are available to researchers free of charge on the Web via Investigator at <http://www.nlsinfo.org/investigator>. Data documentation for all cohorts also is available at this site.

Researchers interested in obtaining the geocode CD must complete the accessing agreement required by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The 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 (<http://www.bls.gov/nls>) or contact NLS User Services at the BLS. (See the last page of this newsletter for contact numbers.) □

Data Collection and Data Release Timetable

Do you need to know when the next dataset will be released? The following is the latest

schedule for NLSY79 and NLSY97 data collections and data releases:

- The NLSY97 is an annual survey with 11 rounds of data now available to the public. (For content details about the newest release, see the related article in this issue.) Round-12 NLSY97 interviewing began in October 2008 and has now been completed, with round-13 interviews scheduled to begin in September 2009. The next data release is scheduled for the summer of 2010 and will include rounds 1 through 12.
- The NLSY79 main survey began as an annual survey in 1979 and became a biennial survey in 1996. Twenty-two rounds of data have been released to the public so far. Round-23 NLSY79 interviews commenced in January 2008 and came out of the field in March 2009. Data collected during round 23 are scheduled for release in spring 2010. Round-24 fielding is scheduled to begin December 2009.
- The NLSY79 Child survey, which began in 1986, and the NLSY79 Young Adult survey, which started as a separate survey in 1994, both interview children of the main NLSY79 respondents and are fielded at the same times as the main NLSY79 survey. Child and young adult data from 1986 to 2006 are currently available, along with a preliminary release of the Young Adult 2008 data. □

Prenatal/Postnatal Variables in NLSY79 Child Survey

Research literature has long established the link between the prenatal and postnatal behaviors of mothers and the long-term outcomes of children. The Children of the NLSY79 dataset provides an extensive series of variables on prenatal and postnatal details, with NLSY79 respondents who are mothers providing detailed information for each of their children.

Prenatal Information. NLSY79 mothers reported how far along in their pregnancy they were when they first received prenatal care; the amount of alcohol, drugs, or cigarettes they used in the 12 months before the birth of the child; the reasons for and results of a sonogram or amniocentesis during the pregnancy; and dietary information such as vitamin usage, reduction of calories

or salt, and diuretic use. The mother also reported her weight just before pregnancy and just prior to delivery of the child.

Birth Information. Mothers provided the length of gestation, whether the child was born by Cesarean section, the weight and length of the child at birth, and the number of days the mother and child stayed in the hospital.

Postnatal Information. Mothers provided details on any medical visits the child had during his or her first year for illnesses, surgery, or well baby care, including the nature of the illnesses and whether the child was treated at a public clinic or private medical setting. Questions about immunization schedules were included as well. In addition, the mother reported any work she missed if the child was admitted to the hospital.

Mothers answered questions about methods for feeding the young child, including the number of weeks a child was breastfed, when the child was put on formula, when the child began drinking cow's milk, and when the child began eating solid food. Also, a question about intravenous feedings was asked.

Users should review the Fertility Section of the main NLSY79 questionnaire to see when certain prenatal/postnatal questions were asked for specific children of specific ages.

Of longitudinal note, when these same children are interviewed later as young adults, they provide substantial health-related information, such as specific health conditions or limitations at the time of interview, menstrual history, height and weight, medical visits, and other details. This enables researchers to examine possible links between prenatal and postnatal data and subsequent adolescent and adult health.

Accessing Prenatal/Postnatal Data. Researchers can access prenatal and postnatal data in Investigator (<http://www.nlsinfo.org/investigator>). Select the NLSY79 Child/Young Adult cohort and choose "Pre/Post Natal" for the Area of Interest. Users should review the Fertility Section of the main NLSY79 questionnaire to see when certain prenatal/postnatal questions were asked for specific children of specific ages. Generally, the prenatal/postnatal in-

formation is collected the first year that the mother was interviewed after the birth of her child. (See C00052.00, "1st Survey Year of Mother Following Date of Birth of Child).

Comparable data (though somewhat less detailed) are collected in the Young Adult survey about the birth of the young adults' children. (Search under the "Birth Record" Area of Interest for these young adult data.) □

NLS Terms To Know: Original Cohorts

The term *original cohorts* refers to the first four groups of respondents—the older men, the mature women, the young men, and the young women cohorts—initially interviewed for the National Longitudinal Surveys back in the 1960s. The older men cohort included an initial group of 5,020 men in the United States who were interviewed in select years from 1966 through 1990 and who were 45 to 59 years old at the time of the first interview. The mature women, a group of 5,083 women originally aged 30 through 44, were interviewed from 1967 and 2003. The young men, a group of 5,225 males aged 14 through 24, were interviewed between 1966 and 1981, and the young women, a group of 5,159 females originally aged 14 through 24, were interviewed between 1968 and 2003. The two women cohorts are sometimes known collectively as the Women's Survey because during the last several years of data collection both cohorts were interviewed during the same fielding periods using similar survey instruments.

Active data collection efforts for these four cohorts have been discontinued. Nearly 2,400 research citations related to the original cohorts can be found in the NLS Annotated Bibliography (<http://www.nlsbibliography.org>). Datasets for all four cohorts can be accessed free of charge at <http://www.nlsinfo.org/investigator>.

Original cohorts helps differentiate the first four cohorts from the currently active NLS cohorts, the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth Cohort 1979 (including the NLSY79 Main Youth and Child and Young Adult components), and the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth Cohort 1997 (NLSY97). □

Reminder: Updated Investigator Now Available

Users are encouraged to begin using the new Investigator, the Web interface for accessing NLS data. Unveiled earlier this year, Investigator's redesign makes finding variables faster and easier, with features such as preselected basic demographic variables, multiple graphical formats for a codebook page's description of variable values, and the ability to select a range of years for a variable search. (See *NLS News*, Issue #136, for a complete description of Investigator's new features.) The previous version of Investigator, known as Web Investigator, will remain a user option for a limited time. The new Investigator can be accessed at <http://www.nlsinfo.org/investigator>. □

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. Following are some recent questions and answers that may be of general interest to NLS users:

Q1. What variable is used to identify NLSY97 participants across the rounds? I'm assuming each participant has a unique ID number:

A1. Yes, all NLSY97 respondents (as well as respondents in the other cohort projects) have been assigned a unique ID number, found in the NLSY97 variable R00001.00 (PUBID). Users can access the variable in Investigator (<http://www.nlsinfo.org/investigator>) by selecting the "Symbols" Area of Interest. The newly redesigned Investigator now preselects the PUBID at the beginning of each variable search, thus ensuring that users will have this ID variable included on each tagset of variables they create.

Q2. How can I determine which respondents are first-time participants in the Young Adult survey for the 2004 survey year?

A2. Children of the NLSY79 mothers are eligible to be part of a separate survey (known as the Young Adult survey) in the

year they turn 15. For the 2004 survey, use the variable R16727.00 (AGEDEC2004). This is the respondent's age as of December 2004, and the 15- and 16-year-olds are first-time eligible in 2004. Occasionally, a young adult respondent is interviewed for the first time at an age beyond 15 or 16, due to locating or sample restriction issues. Such respondents can be identified through machine check variables such as Q2-1 (Y14517.00 in 2004) where all respondents are branched on interview status.

Q3. Why is it that in the NLSY97 there are 9,022 observations, when there are only 8,984 individuals?

A3. The NLSY97 contains 8,984 observations and the maximum PUBID (unique ID number) is 9022. When the round-1 dataset was first released in 1999 there were 9,022 respondents, and the PUBID was sequential from 1 to 9022. Upon further review of these respondents, it was found that 38 cases should not have been included because dates of birth or other characteristics were inconsistent with the NLSY97 sample. These cases were subsequently dropped from the NLSY97, and the ID numbers were dropped from the PUBID variable.

Q4. In the Children of the NLSY79 database, many of the variables have high numbers of missing data coded as "-7." What does "-7" represent?

A4. The Child/Young Adult file contains all known children born to NLSY79 mothers (N=11,469 through 2006). If the frequencies for all codes in a variable are summed, it will always sum to 11,469. This is the number of known biological children born to NLSY79 females. However, because only a fraction of the children are interviewed in any particular survey year, this number does not represent the number of children interviewed for that year. The children who are not interviewed that year are coded as "-7." To filter out the noninterviewed children, users can employ the sampling weight variables (revised) for a specific round to account for the noninterviewed respondents. A sampling weight of 0 means noninterview. At that point, the remaining children coded as a "-7" will be the valid skips. In other words, the question does not apply for those interviewed.

Q5. Is the latest NLSY79 dataset available

on CD? I remember there being a CD version available for past releases.

A5. All public NLS datasets are now available solely online via Investigator (<http://www.nlsinfo.org/investigator>) at no cost to users. This more timely method of data delivery provides researchers with the most up-to-date releases and reduces version control concerns. All accompanying data documentation is available online as well.

Due to its restricted access, geocode data will continue to be available only on CD. □

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):

Arkes, Jeremy. "How the Economy Affects Teenage Weight." *Social Science and Medicine* 68,11 (June 2009): 1943-47. [NLSY97]

Artz, Benjamin. "Essays in Job Satisfaction." *Labour: Review of Labour Economics and Industrial Relations* 22,2 (June 2008): 315-43. [NLSY79]

Barber, Jennifer S. and Patricia L. East. "Home and Parenting Resources Available to Siblings Depending on Their Birth Intention Status." *Child Development* 80,3 (June 2009): 921-39. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Baum, Charles L., II and Christopher J. Ruhm. "Age, Socioeconomic Status and Obesity Growth." *Journal of Health Economics* 28,3 (May 2009): 635-48. [NLSY79]

Bhattacharya, Jay and M. Kate Bundorf. "Incidence of the Healthcare Costs of Obesity." *Journal of Health Economics* 28,3 (May 2009): 649-58. [NLSY79]

Blau, David M. and Wilbert Van Der Klaauw. "A Demographic Analysis of the Family Structure Experiences of Children in the United States." *Review of Economics*

of the Household, 6,3 (September 2008): 193-221. [NLSY79]

Brooks, W. Trevor and Meredith Redlin. "Occupational Aspirations, Rural to Urban Migration, and Intersectionality: A Comparison of White, Black, and Hispanic Male and Female Group Chances for Leaving Rural Counties." *Southern Rural Sociology* 24,1 (2009): 130-152. [NLSY79]

D'Onofrio, Brian M., Jackson A. Goodnight, Carol A. Van Hulle, Joseph Lee Rodgers, Paul J. Rathouz, Irwin D. Waldman, and Benjamin B Lahey. "A Quasi-Experimental Analysis of the Association Between Family Income and Offspring Conduct Problems." *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology* 37,3 (April 2009): 415-29. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Fertig, Angela R. and Tara Elizabeth Watson. "Minimum Drinking Age Laws and Infant Health Outcomes." *Journal of Health Economics* 28,3 (March 2009) : 737-47. [NLSY79]

Gangl, Markus and Andrea Ziefle. "Motherhood, Labor Force Behavior, and Women's Careers: An Empirical Assessment of the Wage Penalty for Motherhood in Britain, Germany, and the United States." *Demography* 46,2 (May 2009): 341-369. [NLSY79]

Goldscheider, Frances K., Sandra Hofferth, Carrie E. Spearin, and Sally Curtin. "Fatherhood Across Two Generations." *Journal of Family Issues* 30,5 (May 2009): 586-604. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

Goosby, Bridget J. and Jacob E Cheadle. "Birth Weight, Math and Reading Achieve-

ment Growth: A Multilevel Between-Sibling, Between-Families Approach." *Social Forces* 87,3 (March 2009): 1291-1320. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

Han, Wen-Jui and Daniel P Miller. "Parental Work Schedules and Adolescent Depression." *Health Sociology Review* 18,1 (June 2009): 36-49. [Children of the NLSY79]

Hartman, Jennifer L., Michael G. Turner, Leah E. Daigle, M. Lyn Exum, and Francis T Cullen. "Exploring the Gender Differences in Protective Factors." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* 52,3 (June 2009): 249-77. [Children of the NLSY79]

Hay, Carter and Walter Forrest. "Implications of Family Poverty for a Pattern of Persistent Offending." In: *The Development of Persistent Criminality*. Joanne Savage, ed., New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. [Children of the NLSY79]

Heiland, Frank. "Does the Birth Order Affect the Cognitive Development of a Child?" *Applied Economics* 41,14 (June 2009): 1799-1818. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Hill, Carolyn J., Harry J. Holzer, and Henry Chen. "Against the Tide: Household Structure, Opportunities, and Outcomes among White and Minority Youth." Kalamazoo, MI, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 2009. [NLSY79, NLSY97]

Lee, Kyunghee. "Impact of the 1996 Welfare Reform on Child and Family Well-being." *Journal of Community Psychology*

37,5 (July 2009): 602-17. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Magnuson, Katherine A., Greg J. Duncan, and Ariel Kalil. "Contribution of Middle Childhood Contexts to Adolescent Achievement and Behavior." In: *Developmental Contexts in Middle Childhood: Bridges to Adolescence and Adulthood*. Aletha C. Huston and Marika N. Ripke, eds., New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006: 150-72. [Children of the NLSY79]

McDonald, Jill A., Jennifer Manlove, and Erum N Ikramullah. "Immigration Measures and Reproductive Health Among Hispanic Youth: Findings from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997-2003." *Journal of Adolescent Health* 44,1 (January 2009): 14-24. [NLSY97]

Moore, Kristin Anderson, Thomson Ling, Akemi Kinukawa, and Sharon Vandivere. "Creating a Longitudinal Indicator: an Exploratory Analysis of Turbulence." *Child Indicators Research* 2,1 (March 2009): 5-32. [NLSY97]

White, Roger. "Displacement-Related Earnings Losses." *Labor Studies Journal* 34,2 (June 2009): 219-34. [NLSY79]

Wong, Jen D. and Melissa A Hardy. "Women's Retirement Expectations: How Stable Are They?" *Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences & Social Sciences* 64,1 (January 2009): 77-86. [Mature Women]

Yankow, Jeffrey Jon. "Some Empirical Evidence of the Efficacy of Job Matching in Urban Labor Markets." *International Advances in Economic Research* 15,2 (May 2009): 233-44. [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@postoffice.chrr.ohio-state.edu. Or use our online submission form—just go to www.nlsbibliography.org and click on “Submit Citation.” □

NLS News



NLS Contact Information

NLS News is published quarterly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is distributed both nationwide and abroad without charge to researchers using NLS data, as well as to other interested persons.

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