

NLSY97 Round-15 Data Released

Round-15 data for the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97) have been released. Users now can access NLSY97 main-file data and event-history data for rounds 1 through 15. The NLSY97 cohort is made up of 8,984 respondents born from 1980 to 1984. In round 15, 7,423 people (82.6 percent of the cohort) were interviewed from September 2011 to June 2012. Of those interviewed in that round, 5,501 respondents were from the cross-sectional sample and 1,922 were from the supplemental sample of Black or African-American and Hispanic or Latino youths. In the round-15 interview, respondents ranged in age from 26 to 32.

Round-15 questionnaire general content

NLSY97 variables cover a wide range of topics, including job characteristics, labor market status, education, training, health, marital history, family characteristics, and income and assets. Round-15 questionnaire content is similar to the round-14 questionnaire content but researchers may be interested in the additions and changes. Some changes are 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-15 survey

In the Employment section of the round-15 survey, respondents answered new questions about the greatest number of hours and fewest hours worked per week, how far in advance they knew what days and hours they would work, and how much control they had over determining the hours they worked. (See YEMP-WS1B through YEMP-WS4B.) These questions were also asked with respect to the employment of the respondent's spouse/partner.

New questions were asked about the respondent's number of biological and adopted siblings and the current age of the respondent's oldest sibling. (See YHHI-51941 and YHHI-51942.)

A series of questions was introduced in round 15 to determine if respondents were predominantly left-handed or right-handed. Respondents indicated which hand they used (left, right, or both) and how much they used that hand (always or usually) for the following activities: writing, throwing a ball, brushing teeth, slicing with a knife, and holding a nail when hammering. (See YTEL-85.) In past surveys, respondents were asked only a single question about their handedness.

Round 15 again included an expanded series of child care questions, asked previously in rounds 5, 9, and 12. Female respondents who were born in 1983 or 1984 (the youngest NLSY97 respondents) were asked details about the primary child care arrangements for each

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child, including whether care is provided by a relative or nonrelative, child care location, transportation to and from the child care location, any assistance (person or agency) the respondent received for child care, the number of hours the child spent being cared for, whether a respondent's older child watched the respondent's younger child, and how often the child stayed alone. Female respondents in these birth cohorts (including those who had no children) answered questions about the different types of care available to them if needed, proximity to relatives or child care centers, and the amount that the respondent would expect to pay and would be willing to pay for child care. (See variables beginning with the prefix YCCAL.)

Round-14 variables not included in round 15

Most of the questions related to political involvement were removed from the survey for round 15, including questions about how much NLSY97 respondents followed news about government and whether they registered to vote. The round-15 survey included only one question about politics: respondents who had not previously reported their 2010 voting behavior were asked if they voted in 2010.

Also, the round-15 survey did not include the questions about personality traits that were asked in round 14.

Continuing variables for round 15

The Employment sections of the NLSY97 questionnaire continue to include questions about all jobs held by the respondent since the last survey interview, including those jobs in which they were self-employed. Data collected include dates of employment, industry in which the respondent was employed, occupation, class of worker (private sector, nonprofit sector, and so forth), rate of pay, hours worked, and reason a job ended. The employment section in round 15 also continues the section on military veterans that was introduced back in round 13.

Information about the respondents' formal education—similar to information collected in previous rounds—was recorded. Specifically, for each term of enrollment in college, data are collected on educational credit accumulation, financing, major area of study, and grade-point average. For respondents born in 1983 or 1984, a College Choice section records all undergraduate colleges to which respondents applied, along with the term and year that the respondents hoped to start attending college. Respondents also provided information about any transferable financial aid they may have received. Some questions record whether respondents were accepted into the colleges to which they applied, and if so, what kind of financial aid was offered by each college. (The identities of the colleges are available only on the geocode release.)

As in previous rounds, the Income and Assets sections and the abbreviated Program Participation section collected information about respondents' sources of income, their assets and debts, home ownership status, and the value of owned homes. Certain questions on assets and debts were asked only of respondents who either turned 25 or 30 years old since their last interview. (See questions with the YAST25- and YAST30- prefix.)

Round-15 respondents answered questions on marriage, cohabitation, and family formation, as they had in previous rounds. Respondents' answers to family questions were complemented by the customary collection of basic information on residents of the respondents' household, including information about household members' gender, age, enrollment status, labor force status, and relationship to the respondent.

The round-15 survey includes an extensive series of questions on the attitudes and behaviors of the respondent. These self-administered questions ask about relationships, substance abuse, criminal activity, risk, and arrests.

Event-history data

Event-history data include variables that were created to cover four major topics: employment status, marital status, program participation, and schooling experiences. Each topic is documented through a series of arrays that show the respondents' status or activities during each week, month, or year within a specific period. Users should note that all reference numbers for event history variables now begin with the letter "E."

The round-15 data release includes two event history arrays on incarceration and arrests introduced in the round-14 release. These arrays follow the format of monthly arrays (such as marital status and schooling), but at this time, they are available only through the round-13 interview.

Geocode data

Variables that provide information about each respondent's county of residence will be available on a CD as a separate release later in 2013 and are not part of the main/event-history database. Because geocode data are confidential, the completion of a thorough application process and confidentiality agreement is required to obtain access to them.

The geocode dataset provides a list of the states and counties where respondents lived between interviews. The unemployment rate in the respondents' current metropolitan area or state is also reported.

Another 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. Identification codes can be used to associate the NLSY97 respondents' college with various characteristics of the institution contained in the IPEDS database. For individuals responding to the College Choice section, information on the colleges they applied to also is available. These college choice geocode variables begin with the prefix YCOC-.

Obtaining NLSY97 data

All 15 rounds of the NLSY97 main-file data, along with public-use data from the other NLS cohorts, are available to researchers free of charge via the NLS Investigator at www.nlsinfo.org/investigator. Supporting documentation can be accessed by cohort at www.nlsinfo.org. In addition, the NLS Annotated Bibliography (www.nlsbibliography.org), which provides citations of NLS-related research, is available. As of July 2013, there were 741 research citations about research using NLSY97 data.

Researchers interested in obtaining a geocode CD must complete the accessing agreement required by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The process includes filling out an application and signing a confidentiality agreement. For more information or to receive an application for geocode access, see the section on "NLSY97 Data that Require Special Permission" on the NLSY97 homepage at www.bls.gov/nls/nlsy97.htm. □

NLSY79 Employer-History Roster Beta Version Now Available

A beta version of the new Employer-History Roster has been made available with the recently updated NLSY79 1979-2010 data. The variables include virtually all employers reported by NLSY79 respondents, with many of the employer

characteristics reported for each employer included in a single record.

These items can be identified using the Investigator search and extract software in the following ways:

Data Collection and Release Schedule

Following is the latest schedule for NLSY79 and NLSY97 data collections and data releases:

- **NLSY97 Survey.** Data from rounds 1 through 15 of the NLSY97 are now available. These data were collected in the survey years from 1997 through 2011. Round-16 NLSY97 fielding will begin later this year (2013).
- **NLSY79 Main Survey.** Data from rounds 1 through 24 of the NLSY79 are available. These data were collected in the survey years between 1979 and 2010. Round-25 data collection began in the latter part of 2012, with round-25 data scheduled for release in 2014. Round-26 fielding is currently scheduled to begin in 2014.
- **NLSY79 Child Survey and NLSY79 Young Adult Survey.** Both of these surveys are fielded during approximately the same timeframe as the main NLSY79 survey. Data from survey years through 2010 are now available. The current round of data collection for the Child and Young Adult surveys began in the latter part of 2012 and data from this round will be released in 2014.

Each cohort's dataset includes a merger of all previously released rounds from that cohort. All public NLS data can be accessed free of charge at www.nlsinfo.org/investigator, which features data from the active cohorts listed earlier as well as the four NLS Original Cohorts: Older Men (1966 to 1990 survey years), Mature Women (1967–2003 survey years), Young Women (1968–2003 survey years), and Young Men (1966–1981 survey years).

- “Question Name (enter search term)” index, “starts with,” enter “EMPLOYERS_ALL” search term
- “Area of Interest (pick from list)” index, “equals,” choose areas of interest beginning with “EMPLOYERS_ALL”
- “Reference Number (enter search term),” “starts with,” enter “E”

Characteristics for each job may include the following:

- Original start date
- Most recent stop date
- Start date/start week at each survey
- Stop date/stop week at each survey
- Industry/occupation/class of worker reported at each survey
- CPS employer flag at each survey
- Currently working flag at each survey
- Union status at each survey
- Previous employer ID at each survey
- Employer ID from work history labor force status array at each survey
- A number of additional items specific to each employer

Further documentation is available through links on the codebook pages for these variables.

As noted, the variables contained in the updated 1979-2010 release are a beta version of the Employer-History Roster. Development of this set of variables is ongoing. We are very interested in any comments and questions pertaining to these variables and the accompanying preliminary documentation. Please direct any comments or questions to NLS User Services, usersvc@chrr.osu.edu. □

NLS-Related Research Makes Strong Showing at 2013 PAA Meeting

The Population Association of America (PAA) held its annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, from May 1 to 3, 2013, with NLS-related research featured in at least 31 oral presentations over the course of the 3-day conference. NLS cohorts represented included the NLSY79, NLSY97, Children of the NLSY79, and the NLSY79 Young Adult. Topics included obesity, marital patterns, wage returns, children's cognitive skills, mid-life health, cross-national comparisons of the benefit of higher education, timing of sexual initiation, age at first birth, and more.

Bibliographic citations for NLS-related conference presentations can be found in the NLS Annotated Bibliography at www.nlsbibliography.org. An advanced bibliography search with "Population Association of America" in the Search Citation Sources function will yield a listing of the NLS papers presented at PAA meetings. For more information about PAA, including details on the upcoming 2014 PAA Annual Meeting in Boston, go to www.populationassociation.org. □

NLS Terms to Know: School and Transcript Surveys

To provide a more complete picture of NLS respondents' educational experiences, four of the cohorts' datasets were supplemented with special collections known as the School Surveys and the Transcript Surveys.

NLSY97 Dataset. School surveys conducted in 1996–1997 and 2000–2001 provided data about high schools in the areas where NLSY97 respondents lived. Information collected from school officials included characteristics of the school, staff, and student body, along with general practices, graduation policies, and school-to-work programs. Transcripts collected in 1999–2000 and in 2004 provided high school information about NLSY97 respondents themselves. School registrars provided a copy of the respondent's transcript, a course catalog, and indicated if the student was designated for special programs such as bilingual education, special education, or gifted/talented programming. Transcript information was obtained only if the respondent signed and returned a permission form.

NLSY79 Dataset. A mail survey of the schools attended by NLSY79 respondents was conducted during 1980. This school survey gathered information

on enrollment, grading system, ethnic/racial composition, dropout rate, and more. Also collected was respondent-specific information including month/year last enrolled, reason not enrolled, highest grade attended, and participation in special classes. From 1980 to 1983, transcript information was collected for NLSY79 respondents, including course information such as the grade for the course, grade level taken, and credits received. Also included was the number of days absent, rank, enrollment size of classroom, dates enrolled, and reason left.

Children of the NLSY79 Dataset. A one-time school survey was conducted in 1995 and 1996 to learn more about the schools that NLSY79 children over the age of 5 attended during the 1994–1995 school years. Information collected in this survey included school characteristics, graduation rate, ethnic and gender composition, school policies, and community involvement. Child-specific information was also obtained, including academic success, social adjustment, participation in activities, grade level, attendance record, and involvement in special programs. In addition, the survey collected standardized test scores from each child's transcript.

Young Men and Young Women Datasets. A 1968 school survey collected information from the schools attended by respondents of the Young Women and Young Men cohorts, part of the Original Cohorts. The survey

collected characteristics of the school, characteristics of the teachers and counselors, and the respondents' performances of aptitude and intelligence tests, as well as their absenteeism and school disciplinary records. □

Did You Know? NLSY Datasets Include Home and Neighborhood Characteristics

General home and neighborhood characteristics data are available for the NLSY97 and the NLSY79 Child and Young Adult public datasets. All public variables can be found at www.nlsinfo.org/investigator.

NLSY97 Cohort. Interviewers for several rounds provided observational data about the NLSY97 respondent's home and neighborhood characteristics. In rounds 1–5 of the NLSY97, if the interview was conducted at the respondent's home (either inside the home or immediately outside the home), the interviewer described the type of area where the respondent lived (rural and agricultural, suburban and residential, urban—residential only, etc.) and the most common type of residence in the respondent's street (single-family home, trailer, townhouse, large apartment complex, campus setting, etc.). The interviewer provided his or her own evaluation of the condition of the exterior and interior of the respondent's housing unit, and he or she assessed how well kept the other buildings were on the respondent's street. Finally, the interviewer answered the question, "When you went to the respondent's neighborhood/home, did you feel concerned for your safety?" (See YIR-800 through YIR-1500.)

Children of the NLSY79 Cohort and Young Adult Cohort. In survey years 1992–2000, mothers of the NLSY79 children rated the quality of their neighborhoods as a place to raise children, using a range from excellent to poor. (See R38841.00.) Also during those survey years,

the NLSY79 mothers answered a series of questions designed to measure both resources and efficacy in their neighborhood. (See R38842.00 through R38849.00 for the 1992 items.) Starting in 1994, NLSY79 young adults answer this same series of eight neighborhood quality items that rate levels of crime, the presence of abandoned or run-down buildings, neighbors' attitudes, parental supervision, police protection, public transportation, and unemployment. Note: Although the mothers report neighborhood conditions for the children in their households through 2000, young adult reports are based on their own residence and continue through the current survey round.

Starting in 1992, children age 10 and older answer a question (in the Child Self-Administered Supplement) about how safe they feel walking and playing in their neighborhood. (See C11362.00.)

As part of the Home Observation and Measurement of the Environment (HOME) inventory, the interviewer provides observations regarding the child's home environment. Interviewers rated whether the play environment in the home appeared safe, if the home interior was dark or monotonous, and if all visible rooms were reasonably clean and minimally cluttered. (See C05292.00 through C05295.00.) The interviewer also noted whether the building appeared to have any structural or health hazards. (See C05306.00.) □

FAQs 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:

1. I'm looking for the NLSY79 net worth variable for 2010. Is it available yet?

The NLSY79 net worth variables calculate net worth (assets minus debts) for each survey year in which asset information was collected: 1985–1990, 1992–1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2004 and 2008. (See questions with NET_WORTH as their prefix.) A net worth variable for 2010 is not available because no asset questions were included in the survey that year and only a partial set of liability questions was asked.

2. Are NLSY97 and NLSY79 respondents ever interviewed if they live overseas?

Yes, NLSY respondents living abroad are interviewed by phone. However, the actual country of residence has never been released. During the early rounds there was concern that releasing the country, even on the geocode dataset, provided a greater risk of respondent re-identification.

3. Why was the question about self-reported participation in a gang removed from the NLSY97 in round 10?

The rationale was that gang initiation and participation largely take place during the teenage

years, and by 2006 the youngest NLSY97 respondents were 22 years old. Thus, the question was no longer relevant enough to warrant its continuation.

4. In the NLSY79, I am looking for the depression-related data using CES-D scale items. When were these questions asked?

CES-D (Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression) scale variables were included in 1992 (the full 20-item scale) and in 1994 (7-item scale). The 7-item scale was also included in the Age 40+ Module administered from 1998 to 2006 and the Age 50+ Module administered in 2008 and 2010. CESD questions were not asked in 1996. In the two age-related modules, respondents were asked these questions once as they turned age 40 and once as they turned age 50. The source year variables indicate the survey year administered.

5. Does the Children of the NLSY79 dataset include information on whether the children were in an “English as a Second Language” learning program at school?

Yes, beginning in 1998, questions have been included that ask if the child was enrolled in an ESL class. (See the variable title “School & Family Background: Was Child in English as 2nd Language Program Past Yr”) □

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 www.nlsbibliography.org for a comprehensive listing of NLS-related research.)

Bersani, Bianca Elizabeth and Elaine Eggleston Doherty. “When the Ties that Bind Unwind: Examining the Enduring and Situational Processes of Change

Behind the Marriage Effect.” *Criminology* 51, 2 (May 2013): 399–433. [NLSY97]

Burton, Peter, Shelley Phipps, and Lihui Zhang. “From Parent to Child: Emerging Inequality in Outcomes for Children in Canada and the U.S.” *Child Indicators Research* 6, 2 (June 2013): 363–400. [Children of the NLSY79]

Chen, Jen-Hao. “Maternal Alcohol Use during Pregnancy, Birth Weight and Early Behavioral Outcomes.”

Alcohol and Alcoholism 47, 6 (November–December 2012): 649–656. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY97]

Condon, Meghan and Matthew Holleque. “Entering Politics: General Self-Efficacy and Voting Behavior Among Young People.” *Political Psychology* 34, 2 (April 2013): 167–181. [NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

Coyle, Thomas R., Jason M. Purcell, and Anissa Snyder. “White–Black Differences in g and non-g Effects for the SAT and ACT.” *Personality and Individual Differences* 54, 8 (June 2013): 941–945. [NLSY97]

Farré, Lidia, Roger Klein, and Francis Vella. “A Parametric Control Function Approach to Estimating the Returns to Schooling in the Absence of Exclusion Restrictions: An Application to the NLSY.” *Empirical Economics* 44, 1 (February 2013): 111–133. [NLSY79]

Fletcher, Edward Charles, Jr. “Predicting the Influence of Demographic Differences and Schooling Experience in Adolescence on Occupational Choice in Adulthood.” *Career and Technical Education Research* 37, 2 (2012): 121–139. [NLSY97]

Galizzi, Monica. “On the Recurrence of Occupational Injuries and Workers’ Compensation Claims.” *Health Economics* 22, 5 (May 2013): 582–599. [NLSY79]

Girtz, Robert. “The Effects of Personality Traits on Wages: A Matching Approach.” *Labour: Review of Labor Economics and Industrial Relations* 26, 4 (December 2012): 455–471. [NLSY79]

Goodnight, Jackson A., Brian M. D’Onofrio, Andrew J. Cherlin, Robert E. Emery, Carol A. Van Hulle, and Benjamin B. Lahey. “Effects of Multiple Maternal Relationship Transitions on Offspring Antisocial Behavior in Childhood and Adolescence: A Cousin-Comparison Analysis.” *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology* 41, 2 (February 2013): 185–198. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

Hong, Jun Sung and Mary Keegan Eamon. “Students’ Perceptions of Unsafe Schools: An Ecological Systems Analysis.” *Journal of Child and Family Studies* 21, 3 (June 2012): 428–438. [Children of the NLSY79]

Huang, David Y.C., Debra A. Murphy, and Yih-Ing Hser. “Developmental Trajectory of Sexual Risk Behaviors From Adolescence to Young Adulthood.” *Youth and Society* 44, 4 (December 2012): 479–499. [NLSY97]

Jennings, Wesley G., George E. Higgins, Ronald L. Akers, David N. Khey, and Jason Dobrow. “Examining the Influence of Delinquent Peer Association on the Stability of Self-Control in Late Childhood and Early Adolescence: Toward an Integrated Theoretical Model.” *Deviant Behavior* 34, 5 (May 2013): 407–422. [Children of the NLSY79]

Killewald, Alexandra. “A Reconsideration of the Fatherhood Premium: Marriage, Coresidence, Biology, and Fathers’ Wages.” *American Sociological Review* 78, 1 (February 2013): 96–116. [NLSY79]

Krupka, Douglas J. and Douglas S. Noonan. “City Air and City Markets: Worker Productivity Gains across City Sizes.” *International Regional Science Review* 36, 2 (April 2013): 183–206. [NLSY79]

Lanza, H. Isabella, David Y.C. Huang, Debra A. Murphy, and Yih-Ing Hser. “A Latent Class Analysis of Maternal Responsiveness and Autonomy-Granting in Early Adolescence: Prediction to Later Adolescent Sexual Risk-Taking.” *Journal of Early Adolescence* 33, 3 (April 2013): 404–428. [NLSY97]

McDonald, Steve, Richard A. Benton, and David F. Warner. “Dual Embeddedness: Informal Job Matching and Labor Market Institutions in the United States and Germany.” *Social Forces* 91, 1 (September 2012): 75–97. [NLSY79]

Merry, Joseph. “Tracing the U.S. Deficit in PISA Reading Skills to Early Childhood: Evidence from the United States and Canada.” *Sociology of Education* 86, 3 (July 2013): 234–252. [Children of the NLSY79]

Montizaan, Raymond, Frank Cörvers, and Andries de Grip. “Training and Retirement Patterns.” *Applied Economics* 45, 15 (May 2013): 1991–1999. [Older Men]

Nsiah, Christian, Ron DeBeaumont, and Annette Ryerson. “Motherhood and Earnings: Wage Variability

by Major Occupational Category and Earnings Level.” *Journal of Family and Economic Issues* 34, 2 (June 2013): 224–234. [NLSY79]

Poschke, Markus. “Who Becomes an Entrepreneur? Labor Market Prospects and Occupational Choice.” *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control* 37, 3 (March 2013): 693–710. [NLSY79]

Seals, Richard Alan and Liliana V. Stern. “Cognitive Ability and the Division of Labor in Urban Ghettos: Evidence from Gang Activity in U.S. Data.” *Journal of Socio-Economics* 44 (June 2013): 140–149. [NLSY97]

Shafer, Kevin M. and Spencer L. James. “Gender and Socioeconomic Status Differences in First and Second Marriage Formation.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 75, 3 (June 2013): 544–564. [NLSY79]

Sorokina, Olga V. “Parental Credit Constraints and Children’s College Education.” *Journal of Family and Economic Issues* 34, 2 (June 2013): 157–171. [NLSY79 Young Adult]

Tanda, Rika, Pamela J. Salsberry, Patricia Benton Reagan, and Muriel Z. Fang. “The Impact of Prepregnancy

Obesity on Children’s Cognitive Test Scores.” *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 17, 2 (February 2013): 222–229. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Teachman, Jay D. and Lucky M. Tedrow. “Veteran Status and Body Weight: A Longitudinal Fixed-Effects Approach.” *Population Research and Policy Review* 32, 2 (April 2013): 199–220. [NLSY79]

Tong, Xin and Zhiyong Zhang. “Diagnostics of Robust Growth Curve Modeling Using Student’s t Distribution.” *Multivariate Behavioral Research* 47, 4 (2012): 493–518. [NLSY97]

Walters, Glenn D. and John Ruscio. “Trajectories of Youthful Antisocial Behavior: Categories or Continua?” *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology* 41, 4 (May 2013): 653–666. [Children of the NLSY79]

Young, Laura N., Ellen Winner, and Sara Cordes. “Heightened Incidence of Depressive Symptoms in Adolescents Involved in the Arts.” *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts* 7, 2 (May 2013): 197–202. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult] □

NLS Contact Information

NLS News is a quarterly newsletter that provides information about changes in labor market activities and other significant events that occur in the lives of several groups of men and women over time. Also, it includes information about new data releases, completed NLS research, and other information of interest to researchers. *NLS News* is available at <http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsnews.htm>.

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