

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

In addition to this *Handbook*, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Center for Human Resource Research (CHRR) at The Ohio State University prepare and distribute a variety of materials designed to inform the research community about the National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) program. This chapter describes the various documents available to the public, including general and technical publications, special summary reports, bibliographies, and research papers. Persons wishing to order any item should check for item availability online at the <http://www.bls.gov/nls> Web site.

### **NLS News**

All purchasers of NLS data and other interested persons receive this complimentary quarterly newsletter. Previous issues of *NLS News* can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/nls>. The newsletter contains:

- Updates on the status and availability of the various NLS data releases
- Notices of errors found in the data files or documentation
- Citations for completed NLS research
- Topical information on areas of interest in the surveys
- Other information of general interest to the NLS research community

### **Technical manuals**

**NLS User's Guides.** These guides to accessing NLS data and documentation are designed for researchers working with one or more of the NLS data sets. Separate cohort-specific guides are published in conjunction with each survey round for the continuing cohorts—the NLS of Mature Women, the NLS of Young Women, NLSY79, and NLSY97. These documents function to (1) introduce the reader to the NLS program, the various NLS cohorts, and the public-use data releases; (2) present discussions of important subsets of NLS variables; and (3) describe the components of the NLS documentation system. The user's guide for each NLS cohort can be viewed on the BLS Web site (<http://www.bls.gov/nls>) or ordered in hardcopy form from NLS User Services.

The user's guides discuss sampling design and fielding

procedures, sample representativeness and attrition, sample sizes and retention rates, reasons for noninterview, created variables, and weighting for all cohorts, as well as design effects for the NLSY79 and NLSY97. Each guide also contains topical discussions of sets of NLS variables, including variable summaries, references to relevant survey instruments or documentation items, and cautionary notes to users about any inconsistencies in, or special considerations in using, those sets of variables. Finally, the guides describe the paper copy and electronic documentation items distributed with each data set. Included are discussions of the organization and content of the NLS data-collection instruments; the NLS Investigator search and extraction software that facilitates identification of variables of interest; and the NLS codebook system that provides core information on each variable's coding categories, frequency distribution, universe, and source.

Figure 10.1 lists the topical areas of discussion for the NLSY97 guide, and figure 10.2 lists the topics in the NLSY79, Mature Women, and Young Women guides.

**NLSY79 child documentation.** The NLSY79 child documentation informs data users about certain nuances of the various assessments and the limitations of these data; it then provides specific instructions on how to properly access and use the child assessment variables. Of particular interest are discussions of the nature of the mother and child samples and the longitudinal nature of the child assessment data. A report, entitled "Patterning of Child Assessment Completion Rates in the NLSY: 1986–1996" (CHRR, 1998) documents patterns of assessment completion through the 1996 survey. The *NLSY79 2000 Child and Young Adult Data Users Guide* (CHRR, 2002) provides additional important information for users of these data; for specific tabular information, users should refer to the 1994–2000 *NLSY79 Child Assessments Selected Tables* reports (CHRR, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002). The *NLSY79 Child Handbook (1986–90)* summarizes the overall administration of child assessments.

Together, these manuals and reports describe each of the child assessments administered during the biennial child surveys and the criteria used in their selection. They supply information regarding the field procedures used in administering the child and young adult interviews, the interviewer

Figure 10.1. *NLS User's Guide* topical areas: NLSY97

<p><b>Aptitude, achievement, and intelligence scores</b>                  Achievement tests                  Administration of the <i>CAT-ASVAB</i>  <i>PIAT Math Test</i></p> <p><b>Education</b>                  College experience                  Educational status and attainment                  School-based learning programs                  School experience                  School and transcript surveys</p> <p><b>Employment</b>                  Employers and jobs                  Fringe benefits                  Gaps in employment                  Industry                  Job search                  Labor force status                  Occupation                  Self-employment characteristics                  Tenure                  Time spent at work                  Wages                  Work experience</p> <p><b>Event history</b></p> <p><b>Expectations, attitudes, behaviors, and time use</b>                  Alcohol use                  Attitudes</p>	<p>Autonomy and parental control                  Cigarette use                  Crime, delinquency, and arrest                  Drug use                  Expectations                  Sexual activity and dating                  Time use</p> <p><b>Family background and demographic characteristics</b>                  Age of respondent                  Sex                  Geographic indicators                  Household and neighborhood environment                  Household composition                  Nonresident characteristics                  Parent characteristics                  Race and ethnicity                  Youth history</p> <p><b>Health</b></p> <p><b>Income, program participation, and assets</b>                  Assets and debts                  Income                  Program participation</p> <p><b>Marital history and fertility</b>                  Fertility, pregnancy, and children                  Marital and marriage-like relationships</p> <p><b>Training</b></p>
---	---

Figure 10.2. *Figure NLS User's Guide* topical areas: Mature Women (MW), Young Women (YW), and NLS79 (79)

<p>Age                  Alcohol use                  Aptitude, achievement, and intelligence scores (YW, 79)                  Attitudes and expectations                  Child care                  Cigarette use                  Class of worker                  Crime, delinquency, and arrest records (YW, 79)                  Discrimination                  Drug use (79)                  Educational attainment                  Family background                  Fertility                  Fringe benefits                  Sex (79)                  Geographic residence and environmental characteristics                  Government training and jobs programs (79)                  Health                  High school survey and college information (YW)                  Household composition                  Income and assets                  Industries</p>	<p>Job characteristics (YW, 79)                  Job satisfaction                  Job search                  Jobs and employers (79)                  Labor force status                  Marital status and marital transitions                  Military (79)                  Occupations                  Pension benefits and pension plans                  Poverty status and public assistance support sources                  Race, ethnicity, and nationality                  School and transcript surveys (79)                  School discipline (YW, 79)                  Sexual activity and contraception (79)                  Social Security and disability (MW, YW)                  Time and tenure with employers (79)                  Training                  Transfers (YW, MW)                  Wages                  Work experience                  Work history data (79)</p>
--	--

training required, and the types of field conditions encountered. Indicators of the reliability and validity of the assessments are presented, as well as references to other studies that used the same or similar measures. The documents discuss the scoring of the child assessments and the types of summary scores available. Descriptive materials about the assessments include tabular information relating the distribution of the various outcome scores to a number of child and maternal characteristics, correlations among assessments, selected reliability coefficients, and a discussion of potential biases due to attrition. The data user's guide also provides comprehensive information on the young adult surveys.

### Summary reports

Also available to users are several reports that summarize either special data collections or selected sets of NLS variables. The following reports currently are distributed:

***NLS Older Male Sample Revisited.*** This volume introduces the reader to the 1990 resurvey of the NLS Older Men cohort, to which 2,092 members of the original sample and 2,206 widows or other family members of deceased sample members responded. The document first describes the purpose and content of the 1990 survey; seven additional sections on mortality, physical well-being, emotional well-being, family and friendship support systems, economic well-being, current and prospective labor market activity, and status of the widows provide an overview of the data. The 56 tables and accompanying descriptive text in the seven sections (1) describe and illustrate the categories of data that were collected, (2) record the sizes of various subsets of the sample (for example, the number of men who were employed in the year preceding the survey), (3) present some simple relationships that invite more sophisticated analysis, and (4) provide some evidence on the reliability and validity of several of the psychological scales used in the survey. Although the tabulations presented within this volume are based on preliminary data, researchers will find the results useful in developing their research plans and deciding whether the database meets their needs.

***Patterning of Child Assessment Completion Rates in the NLSY79: 1986–1996.*** This paper examines completion rate patterns in the child data for the period 1986–96 by looking for evidence of changes in interview quality, changes associated with the transition to CAPI interviewing, and connections between child or family characteristics and completion patterns. The report focuses on the completion rates of the *PIAT Math Test*, *PIAT Reading Test*, and the *Behavior Problems Index*.

***NLSY79 Children: 1992 Description and Evaluation.*** This report describes the 1992 child assessment data, including completion rates for all assessments by the respondent's age, race, and ethnicity. Systematically explored within a multivariate context are (1) the independent association between a wide range of socioeconomic and demographic characteristics and all of the 1992 assessment scores, and (2) the extent to which the full range of 1986 assessment scores are useful predictors of many of the 1992 scores.

This analysis provides information about the internal validities of many of the NLSY79 child assessments, particularly those targeting the younger children in 1986. The report explores the extent to which hyperactivity of the child or the presence of others in the testing environment affects a child's performance on a number of the 1992 assessments.

***The Ten-and-Over Years: Self-Reports from the Children of the NLSY79: 1990 Tabulations and Summary Discussion.*** This report describes the sample of 1,116 children age 10 and older who responded to the *Child Self-Administered Supplement* during the 1990 survey. That instrument collected self-reports on a wide range of topics, including parent-child activities and decision making, school satisfaction, after-school employment, and religious involvement. Other topics included in the administration were friendship networking; dating and sexual initiation; future education, family, and career expectations; and substance use and participation in other illicit activities. This report presents narrative overviews of the types of data collected and tabular summaries of these data.

***Children of the NLSY79: 1988 Tabulation & Summary Discussion.*** This document describes the child assessment data collected in the 1988 round of the NLSY79. The tables present the characteristics of the children and their mothers, the distribution of scores and completion rates for each assessment, and correlations between assessment scores and subscores in 1988, as well as selected cross-year correlations between 1986 and 1988 assessment scores. These data may be useful in clarifying issues of reliability and validity.

***Maternal-Child Health Data from the NLSY79: 1988 Tabulations and Summary Discussion.*** This report provides narrative descriptions and tabular summaries of the prenatal, infant, and child health information collected during the 1983–88 NLSY79 rounds. It describes a range of maternal pre- and postnatal behaviors, including prenatal care, use of sonograms and amniocentesis, cigarette and alcohol use, and infant feeding. This report also discusses the health status information collected biennially for all NLSY79 children. Brief descriptions highlight data quality and other sub-

stantive issues of interest.

### NLS bibliography database

NLS User Services maintains an up-to-date archive of NLS research. The electronic NLS database stores records of more than 3,900 NLS-based journal articles, working papers, conference papers, monographs, theses, and dissertations published during the past three decades. Updates to the bibliographic database are ongoing and new records are accessible as soon as the record is entered into the database.

The NLS bibliographic database, accessible live on the Internet at the <http://www.nlsbibliography.org> Web site, allows users to search, retrieve, and print customized listings of NLS research. Each search produces an annotated bibliography of all citations matching user specifications. Users may conduct database retrievals using any of the search fields described below; search types can be combined to produce more refined results.

**AUTHOR:** Select one or more authors from the list of more than 2,000 authors of NLS research and retrieve all citations by the author(s) selected.

**TITLE:** Select a single title from the title list (such as “What Researchers Have Learned from the NLS about Youth Unemployment”) or search the title field by supplying the specific title term(s) to be found (for instance, titles of research entries containing the words “siblings” [or] “brothers” [or] “sisters”).

**SOURCE:** Choose a source of NLS research, such as a journal name (for example, *Econometrica*) or the name of a professional conference (such as Population Association of America). It is then possible to retrieve a list of all NLS research from that source or to search the title field by supplying the specific source term(s) to be found (for instance, citation sources containing “conference” or “school of”).

**KEYWORD:** Select one or more of the 600 keywords that describe the research projects and retrieve all citations to which those topical keywords have been assigned.

**ABSTRACT:** Supply terms to search the abstract fields of the citations. This search is useful when the supplied term does not exist as a keyword or has not been assigned to a citation.

**COHORT:** Select one or more of the NLS sample groups (such as the Mature Women) and retrieve citations associated with the selected cohort(s).

**FORMAT:** Select one or more of the types of publications (such as monographs, journal articles, or working papers) and retrieve all citations of each type.

**YEAR:** Select one or more years of publication and retrieve all citations published in the selected year(s).

**ADVANCED:** Combine many of the above search types to form a complex search strategy. Searches that may be combined are those for author, format, keyword, cohort, and year.

**FULL-TEXT:** Search for text in any of the citation text fields: Titles, abstracts, and keywords. This search is useful to find newly emerging research terms before they are indexed as keywords.

**User submission form.** Web users may now submit a new citation to the bibliography or correct an existing citation. The process involves filling out a short online form that is then sent by e-mail to the *NLS Bibliography* staff for review and entry into the database.

### NLSY79 child bibliographies

Bibliographies present research based on the NLSY79 fertility, childcare, and child development data collections. Updated periodically, these topical publications list published articles, monographs, theses, reports, and presentations that use data from the NLSY79 and Children of the NLSY79.

“Research Using NLSY79 Data on Fertility, Child Care, & Child Development” (Bibliography No. 1 in Series)  
“Child Assessment Research” (Bibliography No. 2 in Series)

### Error updates

Prior to working with an NLS data file, users should make every effort to acquire current information on data or documentation errors. Several methods are used to notify users of errors in the data files or documentation and to provide corrected information for those persons who acquired an NLS data set from CHRR. The most up-to-date list of errors can be obtained on the BLS Web site (<http://www.bls.gov/nls>) by choosing the appropriate cohort and then clicking on the heading “Errata.” Errors discovered after the release of a data file are distributed in hardcopy form to current data purchasers along with the data set. Error notices and information on how to acquire the corrected data or documentation also appear in *NLS News*, the quarterly NLS newsletter, available online at <http://www.bls.gov/nls>.

### Research analyses

**CHRR research reports.** NLS User Services continues to distribute NLS research reports prepared over the past three decades by CHRR’s research staff. These reports include (1) the individual cohort research volumes, which present analyses of data from round-specific data collections of the Older Men, Young Men, Mature Women, Young Women, and