

THE NLS ORIGINAL COHORTS: MATURE AND YOUNG WOMEN

Interviews of the National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) of Mature Women and of Young Women were begun in the mid-1960s because the U.S. Department of Labor was interested in studying the employment patterns of two groups of women. Respondents to the NLS of Mature Women were in their 30s and early 40s, and many were reentering the workforce and balancing the roles of homemaker, mother, and labor force participant. The NLS of Young Women included women in their teens and early 20s, who were completing school, making initial career and job decisions, and starting families. The surveys of both cohorts were discontinued after the 2003 interviews.

Chapter organization

This chapter begins with a summary of the NLS Mature Women and Young Women samples and special features of the sample design. Users then will find information regarding the interviews, fielding periods, retention rates, and sampling weights for the cohorts. The chapter continues with descriptions of the topical content of the data sets and information on the specific data files and documentation available for each cohort. Finally, tables provide further detail on the types of questions asked in the surveys and the survey years in which the questions were included.

The samples

During 1966, the U.S. Census Bureau conducted two house-

hold screenings. Using information about household residents compiled during these screenings, two cohorts of women were established: 5,393 Mature Women ages 30 to 44 as of March 31, 1967, and 5,533 Young Women ages 14 to 24 as of December 31, 1967. Each sample group represented the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of women in the age group residing in the United States at the time the samples were selected. To meet the requirement of providing statistically reliable estimates for black Americans, blacks were to be represented in the sample at twice their expected rate in the population.

During 1967 and 1968, the first interviews were conducted with the NLS of Mature Women and the NLS of Young Women, respectively. Of the 5,393 Mature Women identified during the household screenings, 5,083 (94 percent) participated in the 1967 interview. Of the 5,533 Young Women designated for interview, 5,159 (93 percent) completed the initial interview in 1968. Table 5.1 presents, by race, the number of respondents in the two NLS cohorts of women interviewed during the initial survey and several subsequent surveys. Data through the 2003 survey are now available to researchers.

Multiple-respondent households

Mature and Young Women. The sampling design used by the U.S. Census Bureau to select respondents for the four

Table 5.1. Number of respondents interviewed by cohort and race: Mature and Young Women

Cohort	Initial survey	10-year survey	20-year survey	30-year survey	Final survey
Mature Women	1967	1977	1987	1997	2003
Total	5,083	3,964	3,241	2,608	2,237
Nonblacks	3,693	2,892	2,383	1,939	1,692
Blacks	1,390	1,072	858	669	544
Young Women	1968	1978	1988	1997	2003
Total	5,159	3,902	3,508	3,049	2,857
Nonblacks	3,700	2,838	2,628	2,287	2,113
Blacks	1,459	1,064	880	762	744

1960s cohorts made it possible for an NLS household to include multiple respondents from the same cohort or from different cohorts. At the time the samples were selected, one-half of the respondents from the Mature Women cohort shared their household with at least one other NLS respondent; more than three-quarters of the respondents from the Young Women cohort shared the same household with at least one other NLS respondent. A matching process, conducted after interviews had been completed with each of the 1960s cohorts, identified common relationships in these multiple-respondent households during the early survey years. Variables present in the data files identify each of the respondents belonging to a multiple-respondent household at the time of the screening.

Table 5.2 presents the number of matched pairs for the NLS of Mature and Young Women by cohort and relationship. During the initial survey years, 492 Mature Women respondents shared a household with a husband who was a respondent in the Older Men cohort, 1,540 Mature Women lived with a daughter who was a member of the Young Women cohort, and 1,620 Mature Women resided in the same household as a son who was a respondent in the Young Men cohort. Originally, 574 Young Women respondents shared a household with a husband who was a respondent in the Young Men cohort, and 963 Young Women resided in the same household as a father who was a respondent in the Older Men cohort. In addition, some of the Young Women lived with siblings participating in the surveys: 949 shared a household with a sister who was also a respondent in the Young Women cohort, and 1,243 Young Women lived with a brother who was a member of the Young Men cohort. Attrition and mortality of one or more members have reduced the

number of pairs for whom data are available across survey years.

These pairs offer unique samples for a number of research topics. However, the original cohorts do not contain nationally representative samples of spouses and siblings of all ages and living arrangements. For example, sibling pairs represent only those who were fairly close in age and both in the sampled age range at the time of the initial survey. Users should be aware of these statistical sampling issues when using NLS data to study siblings and spouses.

Interviews and fielding periods

Mature Women. Respondents in the Mature Women cohort participated in 21 interviews from 1967 to 2003. Interviewers from the U.S. Census Bureau conducted all of the surveys. Interviewers administered 14 of these surveys primarily in person, 6 by telephone, and 1 (the 1968 survey) by mail. Users should note that, in years during which the survey was conducted primarily in person, some interviews were administered by telephone when the interviewer decided this alternative method was necessary. Interviews of Mature Women took place during a 3-month period in the spring and summer, with only the 1992 survey conducted during the fall. Table 5.3 lists the mode of interview (in person or by telephone) and completion rates for each survey of the Mature Women cohort.

Young Women. The Young Women cohort completed 22 interviews from 1968 to 2003. Interviewers from the U.S. Census Bureau conducted all surveys. Interviewers administered 16 of these surveys primarily in person and 6 by tele-

Table 5.2. Number of respondent pairs by cohort and relationship identified during the initial survey years: Mature and Young Women

Cohort relationships: Mature women	Number of pairs	Cohort relationships: Young Women	Number of pairs
Mature Women-Older Men	506	Young women-Mature women	1,848
Wife-husband (same household)	492	Daughter-mother (same household)	1,540
Daughter-father (same household)	11	Daughter-mother (different household)	308
Sister-brother (same household)	3	Young Women-Young Men	2,398
Mature Women-Young Women	1,848	Sister-brother (same household)	1,243
Mother-daughter (same household)	1,540	Sister-brother (different household)	571
Mother-daughter (different household)	308	Wife-husband (same household)	574
Mature Women-Young Men	1,671	Wife-husband (different household)	10
Mother-son (same household)	1,620	Young Women-Older Men	988
Mother-son (different household)	51	Daughter-father (same household)	963
		Daughter-father (different household)	25
		Young Women-Young Women	949
		Sisters (same household)	949

Table 5.3. Mature Women interview schedule

Year ¹	Personal		Telephone		Not available		Interviewed	Not interviewed	
1974	917	21.2%	3,326	77.0%	79	1.8%	4,322	761	15.0%
1976	612	14.7	3,560	85.3	0	—	4,172	911	17.9
1979	472	12.4	3,328	87.3	12	0.3	3,812	1,271	25.0
1981	383	10.4	3,294	89.6	0	—	3,677	1,406	27.7
1984	354	10.3	3,063	89.5	5	0.1	3,422	1,661	32.7
1986	366	11.0	2,948	88.4	21	0.6	3,335	1,748	34.4
1989	2,567	83.0	513	16.6	14	0.5	3,094	1,989	39.1
1992	2,298	77.8	602	20.4	53	1.8	2,953	2,130	41.9
1995	2,144	79.1	536	19.8	31	1.1	2,711	2,372	46.7
1999	1,523	61.7	813	33.0	131	5.3	2,467	2,616	51.5
2001	1,376	59.4	883	38.1	59	2.5	2,318	2,765	54.4
2003	1,299	58.1	836	37.4	101	4.5	2,237	2,847	56.0

¹ The years with available mode of interview data are listed. Missing years do not have this information recorded.

NOTE: Respondents who conducted part of an interview in

person and part over the telephone are included in the telephone category.

phone. Users should note that, in years during which the survey was conducted primarily in person, some interviews were administered by telephone when an interviewer considered this alternative method necessary. The majority of the earlier interviews with Young Women respondents occurred from January through March; fielding of post-1987 interviews shifted to the summer, with only the 1993 interview taking place in the fall. Table 5.4 lists the mode of interview (in person or by telephone) and completion rates for each survey of the Young Women cohort.

CAPI surveys. The 1995 survey marked the departure from a paper-and-pencil instrument (PAPI) to a computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI). In 1995, the Mature Women and Young Women cohorts responded to the same survey instrument during the same fielding period; the data for the two cohorts are still presented separately on the cross-cohort CD and are separate downloadable files on the www.bls.gov/nls Web site.

Attrition

Mature Women. In 2003, 2,237 respondents (44.0 percent) of the original 5,083 Mature Women continued to participate in the survey. The retention rate is the percentage of base-

year respondents (including those who have subsequently died or become institutionalized) interviewed in any given year; table 5.5 presents the total number of respondents interviewed in each survey round and the survey's retention rate at that point. Because many of the Mature Women died, the participation measure was the percentage of respondents interviewed out of all respondents known to be alive. With a base that excluded deceased respondents but included institutionalized respondents, 62.2 percent of the Mature Women continued to participate in 2003. Users should note that institutionalized respondents were excluded from interviewing during all surveys except 2003; in 2003, institutionalized respondents were asked to participate if they were capable of being interviewed. Until the mid-1980s, the U.S. Census Bureau enforced a policy of excluding from continued interviewing respondents who refused to be interviewed or were not interviewed for any reason for 2 consecutive years; the agency changed the rules and attempted to interview some of these respondents beginning in 1986. By the time of the 2003 survey, the major groups not interviewed included 1,036 respondents who refused an interview, 1,485 respondents whom the Census Bureau reported as deceased, and 147 women who were dropped after 2 consecutive years of noninterview and not included in the expanded 1986 sample.

Table 5.4. Young Women interview schedule

Year ¹	Personal		Telephone		Not available		Interviewed	Not interviewed	
1975	887	20.9%	3,329	78.4%	27	0.6%	4,243	916	17.8%
1977	660	16.1	3,434	83.6	14	0.3	4,108	1,051	20.4
1980	333	8.8	3,468	91.2	0	—	3,801	1,358	26.3
1982	376	10.3	3,273	89.7	1	²	3,650	1,509	29.2
1985	369	9.9	3,343	89.9	8	0.2	3,720	1,439	27.9
1987	344	9.5	3,273	89.9	22	0.6	3,639	1,520	29.5
1991	2,502	73.6	860	25.3	38	1.1	3,400	1,759	34.1
1993	2,071	65.0	1,082	34.0	34	1.1	3,187	1,972	38.2
1995	2,144	71.0	844	28.0	31	1.0	3,019	2,140	41.5
1999	1,505	51.9	1,238	42.7	157	5.4	2,900	2,259	43.8
2001	1,388	49.5	1,319	47.0	99	3.5	2,806	2,353	45.6
2003	1,392	48.7	1,326	46.4	139	4.9	2,857	2,302	44.6

¹ The years with available mode of interview data are listed. Missing years do not have this information recorded.

² Less than 0.05%.

NOTE: Respondents who conducted part of an interview in person and part over the telephone are included in the telephone category.

Young Women. In 2003, 2,857 respondents (55.4 percent) of the original 5,159 Young Women continued to participate in the survey. Table 5.5 presents the total number of respondents interviewed in each survey round and the survey's retention rate at that point. Although fewer Young Women than Mature Women have died, a better participation measure looks at the percentage of respondents interviewed out of all respondents who are known to be alive. With a base that excludes deceased respondents but includes institutionalized respondents, 59 percent of the Young Women continued to participate in 2003. Until the mid-1980s, the Census Bureau enforced a policy of excluding from continued interviewing respondents who refused to be interviewed or were not interviewed for any reason for 2 consecutive years; the agency attempted to interview most of these respondents beginning in 1985. By the time of the 2003 survey, the major groups not interviewed included 1,382 respondents who refused an interview, 176 respondents who could not be located, 315 respondents whom the Census Bureau reported as deceased, and 248 women who were dropped from the sample after 2 consecutive years of noninterview and not included in the expanded 1985 sample. As with the Mature Women cohort, respondents institutionalized in jail or long-term care facilities were not interviewed, except in 2003 when respondents in care facilities were interviewed if possible.

Sampling weights

Mature and Young Women. The Census Bureau created sampling weights for each cohort after the initial interview; the Center for Human Resource Research (CHRR) at The Ohio State University has adjusted them after each subsequent interview. These weights account for the overrepresentation of blacks in the initial sample and for persons who were not interviewed. Analysis of each of the cohorts indicates that the weighting scheme used to compensate for nonresponse has allowed the samples to remain representative (Rhoton, 1984; Rhoton and Nagi, 1991; Zagorsky and Rhoton, 1998). In 2003, a series of revised reason for noninterview variables and revised sampling weights were released based on new information on dates of death provided by the Social Security Administration.

Major data elements

The surveys of the women collected three basic types of information: (1) Core data on each respondent's labor market experiences, training investments, schooling, family income and assets, physical well-being, and geographic residence; (2) background information on the respondent's family and household composition and on her marital and fertility history; and (3) supplementary data specific to the

Table 5.5. Interview schedules and retention rates: Mature and Young Women

Year	Mature Women				Young Women			
	Primary type of interview ¹	Total interviewed	Retention rate ²	Response rate, living respondents only	Primary type of interview ¹	Total interviewed	Retention rate ²	Response rate, living respondents only
1967	Personal	5,083	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
1968	Mail	4,910	96.6	97.0	Personal	5,159	100.0	100.0
1969	Personal	4,712	92.7	93.3	Personal	4,930	95.6	95.6
1970	—	—	—	—	Personal	4,766	92.4	92.5
1971	Personal	4,575	90.0	91.1	Personal	4,714	91.4	91.6
1972	Personal	4,471	88.0	89.2	Personal	4,625	89.6	90.0
1973	—	—	—	—	Personal	4,424	85.8	86.1
1974	Telephone	4,322	85.0	86.8	—	—	—	—
1975	—	—	—	—	Telephone	4,243	82.2	82.7
1976	Telephone	4,172	82.1	84.2	—	—	—	—
1977	Personal	3,964	78.0	80.2	Telephone	4,108	79.6	80.1
1978	—	—	—	—	Personal	3,902	75.6	76.1
1979	Telephone	3,812	75.0	77.7	—	—	—	—
1980	—	—	—	—	Telephone	3,801	73.7	74.2
1981	Telephone	3,677	72.3	75.5	—	—	—	—
1982	Personal	3,542	69.7	73.1	Telephone	3,650	70.8	71.4
1983	—	—	—	—	Personal	3,547	68.7	69.4
1984	Telephone	3,422	67.3	71.3	—	—	—	—
1985	—	—	—	—	Telephone	3,720	72.1	72.9
1986	Telephone	3,335	65.6	70.3	—	—	—	—
1987	Personal	3,241	63.7	68.7	Telephone	3,639	70.5	71.5
1988	—	—	—	—	Personal	3,508	68.0	69.0
1989	Personal	3,094	60.9	66.5	—	—	—	—
1991	—	—	—	—	Personal	3,400	65.9	67.1
1992	Personal	2,953	58.1	65.1	—	—	—	—
1993	—	—	—	—	Personal	3,187	61.8	63.1
1995	Personal	2,711	53.3	61.3	Personal	3,019	58.5	60.0
1997	Personal	2,608	51.3	61.0	Personal	3,049	59.1	61.1
1999	Personal	2,467	48.5	59.2	Personal	2,900	56.2	58.4
2001	Personal	2,318	45.6	57.9	Personal	2,806	54.4	57.0
2003	Personal	2,237	44.0	62.2	Personal	2,857	55.4	59.0

¹Even in years during which the survey was conducted in person, some interviews were administered by telephone when an interviewer determined that method to be the most appropriate for completing a case.

²Retention rate is defined as the percentage of base-year respondents who were interviewed in any given survey year. Included in the calculations are deceased and institutionalized respondents, as well as those serving in the military.

age, stage of life, or labor market attachment of the cohort (for example, household responsibilities, childcare arrangements, retirement plans, volunteer work).

This section provides brief summaries of the major data elements available for respondents in the NLS of Mature and Young Women. Certain data elements were collected longitudinally, while others are available only for particular survey years; not all data elements will be present for all respondents. Because the descriptions below are not comprehensive, readers interested in additional information

should review the topical descriptions of variables found in the *Mature Women User's Guide* and the *Young Women User's Guide* (available at www.bls.gov/nls), examine the detailed variable tables provided at the end of this chapter, acquire copies of the survey instruments, and browse the documentation files present in the separate Mature Women and Young Women data sets.

Data elements for the NLS of Mature and Young Women are discussed in the order presented in figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1. Data elements in the NLS of Mature and Young Women

1	Labor market experiences	10	Attitudes, aspirations, and psychological well-being
2	Work-related discrimination	11	Geographic and environmental data
3	Training investments	12	Demographics, family background, and household composition
4	Schooling information (school records, aptitude, IQ)	13	Marital and fertility histories
5	Retirement status and plans, pensions	14	Child care arrangements
6	Volunteer work and leisure-time activities	15	Care of ill and disabled persons
7	Income and assets	16	Household chores
8	Physical well-being, health care, and health insurance	17	Transfers
9	Alcohol and cigarette use		

1. Labor market experiences

Mature and Young Women. Each survey collected information on the respondent's labor force status during the survey week. Although the data are similar, users should note that the questions in this section were changed beginning with the 1995 survey to reflect the redesign of the Current Population Survey. Employed respondents gave details about their occupation, class of worker, rate of pay, hours worked per week, and job satisfaction. Additional questions asked during selected surveys collected information about the respondent's job or job-related activities, such as shift worked, union membership, tenure, and types of fringe benefits.

Each survey asked about the number of weeks the respondent worked in the past year or since her last interview. Respondents who reported being unemployed or out of the labor force provided data about their activities. Included is information on method(s) that respondents used to seek employment, the number of weeks they spent looking for work, their reasons for not looking for work, and the number of weeks they spent out of the labor force.

Selected surveys collected detailed job information for intervening jobs. Specific information includes the start and stop dates for each job, the number of hours that the respondent worked, the occupation and industry of each job, the respondent's class of worker, her rate of pay, and her reason for leaving the job.

2. Work-related discrimination

Mature and Young Women. Mature Women respondents answered questions on work-related discrimination during the 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1989, 1995, and 2001 surveys; Young Women responded to these questions during the 1972, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1988, 1995, and 2001 interviews. In general, each series of questions asked whether the respondent had experienced a particular type of discrimination (age, race, religion, nationality, sex, marital status, or health-re-

lated) for a specified amount of time. In 1995 and 2001, this list also included discrimination based on weight, sexual orientation, or AIDS status. A follow-up question gathered information on the way in which the discrimination was experienced (not hired, not promoted, paid less for equal work, fired, and so forth). The 1988 Young Women survey included an expanded series that asked about steps taken to resolve the problem and the results of this action.

3. Training investments

Mature Women. The initial survey collected information on the training experiences of each respondent during high school and after her regular schooling ended. Questions included: (1) Whether the respondent had enrolled in a vocational or commercial training program while in high school; (2) the type of high school specialty (for example, typing or bookkeeping); (3) the number of years in which she had enrolled in typing or shorthand classes; and (4) whether she had enrolled in other training programs.

Details recorded about each training program included the type of training, the time spent by the respondent in training, and whether she used the skills acquired in the program on her current job. Interviewers also asked about certifications that the respondent had earned to practice a profession or a trade and about her plans to enroll in educational courses or training programs in the future. Subsequent surveys updated both the respondent's training and certification records.

Post-1977 surveys of this cohort gathered information about the respondent's participation in on-the-job training programs and other vocational programs. Data collected about each program include its overall length, the number of hours the respondent spent in the program each week, and whether she completed the program.

Young Women. The initial 1968 survey collected information on the training plans and experiences of respondents since they had stopped attending regular school. For each train-

ing program, detailed information includes the type of training, the length of the training program, the number of hours the respondent was enrolled per week, whether she completed the program, and whether she used the skills acquired in the program on her current or last job. Subsequent surveys have updated information about training experiences and certifications.

Beginning in 1980, the survey fielded two series of questions, one dealing with the respondent's participation in on-the-job training (OJT), and the other with other training courses or educational programs. The OJT series included questions about the duration and intensity of the training and whether the respondent was still attending or had completed the program. The second training series collected data on the respondent's participation in any other training program, including whether the program was an apprenticeship.

4. Schooling information (school records, aptitude, IQ)

Mature Women. Selected surveys gathered information on the educational status and attainment of respondents in the Mature Women cohort. The initial survey asked about the highest grade of regular school the respondent attended, whether that grade was completed, the type of curriculum (such as vocational, commercial, or college preparatory) she followed, and whether she completed any additional coursework since earning a diploma. Interviewers updated school attainment information during the 1977, 1987, 1989, and 1995–2003 surveys.

Various interviews gathered information on whether the respondent attended high school and whether or when she received a diploma or a GED. College attendance information—including type of degree received, field of study, and the number of weeks and hours per week spent on college education—also was collected during selected surveys. Finally, data on current school enrollment status, the highest grade of school attended, and whether that grade was completed are available in early survey years for each family member living in the respondent's household.

Young Women. A primary focus of the Young Women surveys was on schooling and the transition from school to work. Therefore, the interviews of this cohort regularly collected information regarding both the respondent's enrollment in regular schooling and her subsequent educational attainment. In addition, a separate 1968 survey of high schools attended by respondents in this cohort provided details on school characteristics and respondent test scores.

The following types of school-related information are available for respondents in this cohort: The respondent's school enrollment status, the grade she was attending at the interview date, the highest grade completed,

the date she received a diploma or equivalent, whether she attended college, the type of college degree she earned, the type of curriculum she followed in high school and college, her college field of study, the types of financial assistance she received, the amount of college tuition paid, and the type of school (public or private) that she attended.

During 1968, a special set of questions gathered information from the respondent on her high school and college experiences. These questions asked for details on her participation in high school extracurricular activities, the amount of time she spent on homework, and the high school subjects she liked and disliked.

In several survey years, Young Women were asked about their educational aspirations and expectations. Information gathered includes the years of education the respondent desired, the college degree she wanted, the years of education she expected to get, and, if she planned on attending college, the type of college she expected to attend and her specific field of study.

A special school survey mailed directly to each school in 1968 collected information on secondary schools attended by respondents in this cohort. Data included characteristics of the school (such as type of school, student enrollment by grade, expenditure per pupil, and number of books in the library) and characteristics of the school's teachers and counselors (for example, number of teachers and counselors and the amounts of their salaries). A set of constructed variables summarized characteristics, such as the ratio of students to teachers, and provides an index of overall school quality.

The school survey also recorded respondents' grade point averages and individual test scores from instruments such as the *Otis/Beta/Gamma*, *California Test of Mental Maturity*, *Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Test*, and the *Scholastic Aptitude Test* (available for selected respondents). An "IQ score" created from these data is available for more than 3,300 of the Young Women respondents. Finally, the school survey collected information about respondents' school behavior with regard to absenteeism, disciplinary actions, and so forth.

5. Retirement status and plans, pensions

Mature Women. All but two surveys since 1977 sought information on respondents' retirement plans, expectations, and eligibility for various pension plans. Questions fielded from 1979–86 asked the age at which the respondent expected to stop working, her eligibility to receive Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits, and the number of years for which she has been employed in jobs covered by Social Security. These surveys also recorded the age at which she would be eligible for full rather than reduced benefits, the number of years for which she worked for each employer, and the type of provider for her pension plan. In addition,

each respondent reported the sources of income she expected during retirement, and, if she did not expect to receive pension benefits, the reason.

The 1989 survey collected the above information separately for both respondents and their spouses. In addition, this survey included a very large section devoted to pension questions. This series determined the most important pension plan for the respondent, the most important pension plan for her spouse, and any other pension or survivor's benefits for which she was eligible through her spouse's (or former spouse's) employment or military service. This section also asked for the characteristics of each pension provider, the characteristics of each plan, and locator information used for the pension-matching project described below.

With this information, the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan conducted a special pension-matching project in conjunction with the Census Bureau. The locator information enabled the Census Bureau to obtain pension plan summary descriptions from respondents' employers. These plans were then coded using a protocol developed for the *Survey of Consumer Finances*. A total of 1,329 respondents (out of 1,900 households reporting pension eligibility) participated in at least 1 of 815 different pension plans. Users can find these data on the cross-cohort CD that includes the Mature and Young Women data sets.

Each survey of the Mature Women since 1992 included questions that gathered details on pension plans, updating the 1989 information. In addition, the income-asset section of the questionnaire examined the retirement income received by the respondent and her spouse from various sources (such as Social Security, pensions, and disability benefits) during most survey years.

Young Women. The most recent surveys of the Young Women (1) added "retired" as a reason why the respondent was not in the labor force during the survey week, (2) recorded whether a retirement pension program is available through the respondent's employer, and (3) determined amounts of income received by the respondent and her spouse during the past calendar year from retirement-related sources such as Social Security.

The 1991 and 1995–2003 surveys included questions on pension coverage and vesting rights for respondents who indicated that their employer provided a retirement pension program. Respondents enrolled in an employer's pension program gave information on the method used to determine their benefit amount (either defined benefit or defined contribution) and whether they were vested in the pension plan. Those not vested answered questions about the number of years until vesting and what would happen if they left the employer before that time. Specific sources of pension income during the past 12 months for the respondent and her spouse were determined during the 1993–2003 surveys.

6. Volunteer work and leisure-time activities

Mature and Young Women. Respondents gave information in selected surveys on the number of weeks and number of hours per week they spent during the past year in unpaid volunteer work. Respondents also were asked about the type(s) of organization(s) in which they volunteered. Occasional questions further asked why the respondent engaged in volunteer work, whether she held an office or position within the volunteer organization(s), and whether she participated in volunteer work to change social conditions. In 1967 (Mature Women) or 1983 (Young Women), respondents answered a single question about how they spent their time when not engaged in housework or working for pay.

7. Income and assets

Mature and Young Women. The survey regularly asked about the total income received by each respondent's family during the past year; it also covered the amount of income received by the respondent herself and by her spouse from various sources during that period. Sources included wages and salary, business or farm income, unemployment compensation, rental income, interest and dividends, child support, alimony, Social Security, disability payments, public assistance, Food Stamps, and pension benefits.

In 1995–2003, special sections addressed to women who had been widowed since their last interview determined the type and amount of benefits or other assistance that the widow had received in connection with her husband's death. Sources of income recorded include insurance, Social Security, pensions, and family members.

A series of questions on family assets and debts collected details on (1) whether the respondent and her spouse owned their own home, other types of real estate, or automobiles and, if so, the total market value and amount owed on each; (2) the value of other assets such as savings accounts, U.S. Savings Bonds, stocks or bonds, and personal loans; and (3) whether there were other personal debts, such as money owed to stores, physicians, hospitals, or banks. In selected years, the respondent stated whether she believed that her overall financial position was better, worse, or about the same as it was a few years earlier. In recent survey years, respondents were asked about the income and assets of partners. In 2003, a series of questions recorded the respondent's perception of how adequate her or her family's income was to meet basic needs.

8. Physical well-being, healthcare, and health insurance

Mature and Young Women. A comprehensive set of health-related variables is available for respondents. This informa-

tion includes the respondent's health status, perceived changes in her health over time, specific health conditions she has experienced, types of health-related problems, and data on her health insurance coverage. For all interviews, the life status of respondents in both cohorts at the time of the interview is indicated by the presence or absence of "deceased" as a reason for noninterview.

Various surveys asked respondents to rate their health. Periodic questions asked if the respondent considered her health to have changed over time. Self-reported height and weight measurements are available for Mature Women interviewed in 1992 and 1997–2001 and for Young Women interviewed in 1991, with another weight measurement obtained for both cohorts in 1995. In 2003, self-reports on weight were collected for both cohorts, and interviewers measured respondent height whenever possible or asked for self-reports. Respondents provided information about specific diseases that limited or prevented them from working during the post-1989 surveys of the Mature Women and the 1973 and 1991–2003 surveys of the Young Women.

During multiple surveys, interviewers asked respondents whether they experienced health-related problems such as pain, tiring easily, weakness, aches, or swelling. A second series, fielded during the same surveys, asked the respondent whether she ever had difficulty performing a predetermined set of activities, such as walking, using stairs, or standing for long periods.

The survey collected information on occupation-related health problems at multiple survey points. Respondents identified specific workplace conditions that would hamper their ability to work, such as places that were hot or damp or places that had fumes or noise. The 1980 survey of Young Women included a series of questions asking the respondent to rate conditions at her current job. In 1991, Young Women stated whether they had ever been refused employment or been unable to hold a job or stay in school because of health issues.

The 1991 and 1993 Young Women surveys gathered information about the number of times the respondent had had an overnight hospital stay during the past 12 months and how often the respondent had been treated at clinics or by physicians during the past 5 years. In the 2003 survey, both the Mature and Young Women were asked more detailed questions concerning any hospital stays. The data set also includes health insurance information, collected during the 1981, 1986, and post-1989 surveys of Mature Women and the post-1988 surveys of young women. The 1995–2003 surveys of both cohorts included questions about respondents' menopausal status and hormone use during menopause. Finally, the 1995 survey of both cohorts of women and the 1997–2003 Mature Women surveys asked respondents whether they had driven a motor vehicle in the past 12 months, the distance they drove, whether they drove at

night, and why they stopped driving, if applicable.

9. Alcohol and cigarette use

Mature and Young Women. The 1989 and 1995–2003 Mature Women surveys and the 1991–2003 Young Women surveys included several questions for respondents who reported drinking alcoholic beverages. Though the details vary by year, questions typically focused on the frequency and intensity of alcohol use in the past month and since the last interview. In 1991, Young Women respondents also were asked two questions concerning alcohol use over their lifetime.

Several recent surveys gathered cigarette use data from these cohorts. The 1989 Mature Women survey and the 1991 Young Women survey first asked whether respondents currently smoked. Those who smoked reported the age at which they started smoking regularly and the number of cigarettes or packs they smoked per day. Respondents who reported smoking in the past but not at the time of the interview were asked for the number of cigarettes or packs smoked per day, the age at which they last smoked regularly, and the age at which they first started smoking. The 1993 Young Women survey asked whether respondents currently smoked and, for those who did, the number of cigarettes or packs they smoked per day. The 1995–2003 surveys of both cohorts determined only whether respondents smoked at the time of the interview.

10. Attitudes, aspirations, and psychological well-being

Mature and Young Women. A collection of attitude, aspiration, and psychological well-being variables is available for respondents in each cohort. Selected surveys administered the *Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression (CES-D) Scale* (Radloff, 1977) and the *Internal-External Locus of Control Scale* (Rotter, 1966). Periodic questions investigated the respondent's occupational aspirations; her attitudes toward life in general, women working, her current job, and retirement; and her general knowledge of the world of work (Young Women only).

11. Geographic and environmental data

Mature and Young Women. Three sets of variables provide information on the respondent's residence at the interview date. The first set broadly defines the geographic area in which the respondent resided. This definition includes the name of the census division (New England, Middle Atlantic, Pacific, and so on), whether the respondent's region of residence was located in the South or in a non-South region of the United States, and whether her residence was in a metro-

politan statistical area.

The second set of variables compares the State or metropolitan statistical area of the respondent's residence at the interview date with those of her previous residence and job at the interview date. Users can find information on the characteristics of the respondent's environment in a third set of variables detailing the size of the labor force and the unemployment rate for the labor market of the respondent's residence at the time of the interview. However, beginning in the early 1990s, most of the variables in the last two sets were eliminated.

Other geographic variables available for these cohorts include a set of geographic mobility questions fielded during 1982, 1989, 1992, and 1997 for Mature Women and during 1983, 1988–93, and 1997 for Young Women. These questions provide information about the date on which the respondent moved to her residence at the interview date, the location of her previous residence, the number of years she had lived there, and the reason why she moved. Additionally, the 1992 and 1995 surveys of Mature Women and the 1983, 1988, 1991, and 1995 surveys of Young Women collected information about a second residence of the respondent, including which months the respondent lived in this second residence, the year in which she began spending time there, and a comparison of the second residence's location with that of the primary residence.

Beginning with the 1995 survey of both cohorts, the data include an interviewer-recorded observation of the type of area (farm, city, suburb, and so on) and the type of residence (detached house, apartment, trailer, and so forth) in which the respondent lived.

Research Data Centers. Geographic information collected during interviews with the Mature Women and Young Women is now available for research use at the Census Bureau's Research Data Centers. The cohort-specific files contain the respondent identification number, survey year, and State code. Researchers may match these files to the NLS data sets. Currently, the Research Data Centers have available, by survey year, the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) State codes, which represent the State of residence for each interviewed respondent. Having the State variables allows researchers to determine the census regions and divisions. Variables also are available at the Research Data Centers on county, metropolitan statistical area, ZIP Code, census tract and block, and latitude and longitude of residence. Selected environmental variables are available about the counties and metropolitan statistical areas in which the women resided, and information also is available on the names of the colleges and universities that the women attended.

The Census Bureau developed the Research Data Centers to give researchers access to valuable data in a setting

designed to safeguard respondent confidentiality. Researchers interested in more detailed information on the procedures to follow in applying for access to a Research Data Center should see the NLS Web site at www.bls.gov/nls.

12. Demographics, family background, and household composition

Mature and Young Women. The surveys collected data regarding each respondent's race, nationality, origin, or descent; date of birth; and age. They also determined whether the respondent's residence at age 15 (Mature Women) or age 14 (Young Women) was in an urban or rural area. Information on family background includes the birthplace of the respondent's parents and grandparents, the relationship of the respondent to the person(s) with whom she lived at age 15 (Mature Women) or age 14 (Young Women), the occupation of and highest grade completed by her mother and father, and the life status of both the respondent's parents and in-laws. Mature Women also provided information on the place of residence and health of their parents and in-laws. The 1993 survey of Young Women recorded the sex, age, educational attainment, and fertility of the respondent's biological siblings (living or deceased).

Every interview except the 1968 mail survey of Mature Women collected detailed information on the composition of the household in which the respondent lived. For as many as 20 family members (during the early survey years) or household members (later survey years) living in the respondent's household during the survey, the following information is available: The relationship of each member to the respondent, the household member's age or date of birth, and the number of weeks and hours worked in the previous year. Selected surveys also asked about each household member's occupation, school enrollment status at the interview date, highest grade of school attended, whether that grade was completed, and the years of education the respondent predicted that person would complete.

13. Marital and fertility histories

Mature Women. Every interview except the 1968 mail survey asked about the respondent's marital status at the interview date. Selected interviews collected information regarding timing of marital transitions (such as the month and year of the respondent's marriage(s) and whether the marriage(s) ended in divorce or widowhood). A series of variables constructed in the early survey years provides a profile of the respondent's marital and family status at various interview points, indicating whether she was married and if she resided with her spouse and her children at the time of the survey. For the early years, created variables also describe the timing of the respondent's marriage in relation-

ship to work, school, and the birth of her first child.

Regularly collected information about each child living in the respondent's household at the time of the interview includes that child's age, date of birth, and sex. Post-1976 surveys specified whether a nonbiological child was an adopted son or daughter, or an adopted son or daughter by marriage. For both biological and nonbiological children, these surveys also collected more detailed information, such as the child's life status, residency status, enrollment status, and highest grade completed. Selected surveys contain information about the total number of children of specific ages who live at home. Most surveys asked about the number and relationship of the respondent's dependents. The marital and fertility histories of up to four living children were collected during the 1986 interview. Finally, the 1987–97 and 2001–03 surveys asked for the number of the respondent's children enrolled in college at the interview date and the amount of financial support provided by the respondent and her husband. Similar information about children in college was collected in 1999 and 2003 as part of the children and transfers section of the survey.

Young Women. Every survey collected marital status at the interview date; respondents reported timing of marital transitions (see above) during selected interviews. A set of variables tracks transitions between various marital states from 1968–73. It also provides information regarding the timing of the respondent's marriage in relation to work, school, and the birth of her first child.

Regularly collected information about each child living in the respondent's household at the time of the interview includes that child's age, date of birth, and sex. Most surveys collected information about the number of dependents the respondent had and her relationship to dependents living outside the household. Beginning in 1973, more detailed information on biological and nonbiological children was collected, including the child's life status, residency status, school enrollment status, and highest grade completed. Post-1982 surveys specified whether a nonbiological child was an adopted son or daughter, or an adopted son or daughter by marriage. Finally, the 1991–97 and 2001–03 surveys recorded the number of the respondent's children currently enrolled in college and the amount of financial support provided to them by the respondent and her husband. Similar information about children in college was collected in 1999 and 2003 as part of the children and transfers section of the survey.

An expanded series of questions in the 1985 survey asked about children living outside of the household. This series determined the date on which the respondent last lived with the child, the frequency of contact and duration of visits, where and how far from the respondent the child lived, and the amount of financial support the respondent had pro-

vided to the child over the previous 12 months. Children who lived together outside of the respondent's household were identified.

Additional information gathered during the 1971, 1973, 1978, and 1982–91 interviews includes fertility expectations; the respondent stated the number of children she considered ideal, the number she expected to have during the next 5 years, and the date by which she expected to have her next child. Finally, the 1970, 1972, and 1973 questionnaires included a series of questions detailing how a child's birth had changed the respondent's labor force status.

14. *Childcare arrangements*

Mature and Young Women. Five of the early interviews of the Mature Women cohort collected information on the types and locations of childcare arrangements; all but seven of the Young Women surveys obtained similar information. The information collected includes details regarding costs, the number of hours during which childcare was required, the type of childcare arrangements the respondent used, her attitude toward childcare or daycare centers, and the impact of childcare availability on her job search behavior. The 1971 survey of each cohort included an expanded series of questions identifying the types of childcare arrangements for the respondent's children and her preferred care arrangements. Information on the extent of the respondent's responsibility for various household tasks, including childcare, was collected during seven Mature Women surveys between 1974 and 1989 and five Young Women interviews from 1975 to 1985.

The 1993 and 1995 surveys of Young Women and the 1995 survey of Mature Women examined whether the respondents were responsible for the care of their own children under age 18 and living in the household. If the respondent was responsible for care, follow-up questions determined care arrangements, the total cost of care, and the effect of this responsibility on the respondent's employment.

15. *Care of ill and disabled persons*

Mature Women. In most years, respondents stated whether the health of a spouse or family member affected their employment opportunities. The respondent's care of ill and disabled persons was explored in more detail in each survey since 1982, except for the 1986 survey. In 1982, 1984, and 1987–2003, the survey asked respondents whether they regularly spent time caring for a relative or friend outside of their household and, if applicable, the number of hours allocated to this task each week. The 1984, 1987, and 1989 surveys included questions about care of household members as part of the household chores series. Details were collected on whether the respondent cared for an ill or disabled person in

the household, her relationship to that person, and the total hours spent on all chores (including this caregiving). Although the household chores series was discontinued in 1992, the surveys continued to ask similar questions about caring for ill or disabled household members. Respondents reporting such activity stated their relationship to each person and the total hours per week spent caring for all ill or disabled household members.

The parental transfers section of the 1997 and 2001 questionnaires included a series of questions on whether transfers of time for activities such as “caretaking” had taken place over the preceding 12 months. The child transfers section of the 1999 and 2003 surveys included similar questions about the respondent’s children.

In 1995–2003, respondents who had been widowed since their last interview answered an additional set of questions about their husband’s needs during the last year of his life, including whether the respondent provided special nursing care for her husband, the number of hours per day such care was required, and how this affected the respondent’s employment opportunities. The 1990 Older Men survey asked similar questions of widowed women whose spouses had been members of that cohort.

Young Women. As part of the household chores series, the 1987 survey sought information about whether the respondent provided care to household members who were ill or disabled. Beginning with the 1991 survey, additional questions determined whether the respondent regularly spent time helping or caring for household members who were chronically ill or disabled or for friends or relatives who did not reside in the respondent’s household. Follow-up questions established the number of hours per week the respondent spent providing care.

The parental transfers section of the 1993, 1997, and 2001 questionnaires included a series of questions about whether transfers of time for activities such as “caretaking” had taken place over the past 12 months. The child transfers section included similar questions about the respondent’s children in the 1999 and 2003 surveys. Like the Mature Women surveys, the 1995–2003 Young Women surveys asked respondents who identified themselves as widowed since the last interview about their role in caring for their husband in the year before his death.

16. Household chores

Mature and Young Women. A comprehensive set of questions, asked of the Mature Women eight times starting in 1974 and of the Young Women five times beginning in 1975, collected information on the amount of time the respondent spent on all household tasks and her responsibility for specific household chores. The core set of household chores

about which information was gathered included tasks such as grocery shopping, childcare, cooking, cleaning the house, and yard work. The early to mid-1980s interviews added the tasks of family bill paying and care of chronically ill or disabled household members.

Although some variation occurred across survey years, the basic series determined how responsible the respondent felt for each household chore, whether she performed each task with another family member or with hired help, and, if she shared a task, the amount of time she contributed to the task. Respondents also reported the total number of hours per week they usually spent on these tasks.

In response to a separate question, women in both cohorts also have periodically stated their attitude toward doing housework in their own home.

17. Transfers

Mature and Young Women: Parents and transfers. Prior to the 1993 survey of Young Women, a limited amount of data was collected about parents and transfers. Both the Mature Women and Young Women cohorts periodically reported the life status of their and their husband’s parents; the 1992 survey of Mature Women and the 1993 survey of Young Women also recorded the parents’ cause of death, if applicable. The income section in some recent surveys included a question about any inheritance the respondent has received.

In 1993, the Young Women responded to a detailed series of questions about transfers of time and money to and from their parents and their husbands’ parents; both cohorts answered these questions in 1997 and 2001. Stepparents were included in the collection if they are currently married to a biological parent. In each year, this section began with the collection of biographical and health information for the respondent’s and her husband’s parents. If any parent was deceased, the 1997 and 2001 survey rounds asked questions concerning that parent’s estate (for example, if it was settled, if she received any amount, if it was equally distributed). Information was then gathered about the parents’ residences, income, assets, and debts. Finally, questions examined the nature and extent of transfers of time and money from respondents to their parents. Transfers mentioned include gifts, loans, financial support, personal care, and household chores or errands. In 1993 and 2001, these questions also asked about transfers from the parents to the respondents. The 2003 survey retained the estate questions asked in 1997 and 2001, but all other 2003 transfers information refers to transfers between respondents and their children.

In 1997, the Mature Women survey included questions about transfers of time and money that respondents had received from their daughters who were in the Young Women cohort. Although the sample does not represent all mothers

and daughters, researchers can use these data to compare mothers' and daughters' perceptions about the transfers daughters have made to their mothers.

Mature and Young Women: Children and transfers. The 1999 and 2003 surveys asked both Mature and Young Women about transfers involving the respondent's children. Included in the data collection was information on biological, adopted, and stepchildren of both the respondent and her husband. The transfers section initially collected demographic data and residence information for all children not residing in the household (these data were collected in the household roster for coresident children). The respondent then answered questions about the assets and debts of each child age 19 or older, as well as each child ages 14 to 18 who were married or had children. The section also included a series of questions regarding shared living arrangements of the respondent and her children, if the children met these same age requirements.

After collecting this preliminary information, the survey asked the respondent to report transfers of time and money to and from up to five children meeting the universe requirements described above. Included were questions regarding loans, gifts, and other financial assistance, as well as time transferred for childcare, personal care, chores, and errands.

The 1999 Young Women survey included a set of questions for respondents who had a mother in the Mature Women cohort. These Young Women described transfers of time and money to and from their mothers, providing researchers with an opportunity to assess the quality of the transfers data.

Data files and documentation

Data for the NLS of Mature Women (1967–2003) and the NLS of Young Women (1968–2003) are released on the cross-cohort CD and also are available as separate downloadable files from the www.bls.gov/nls Web site. These files contain the longitudinal record of each respondent, as well as information from the 1968 Young Women school survey and the 1989 Mature Women pension-matching project. Included in the data are: (1) Raw responses to the set of questions administered during the 1967–2003 surveys of Mature Women and 1968–2003 surveys of Young Women; (2) a series of edited and created variables based on these raw responses; (3) selected demographic, household, and residential data provided by the Census Bureau from its administrative records; (4) respondent- and school-specific information gathered during the separately administered 1968 survey of the high schools attended by respondents in the Young Women cohort; and, on the cross-cohort CD, (5) the 1989 pension plan characteristic data for Mature Women (as an ASCII file).

Each data set includes documentation files and is accompanied by search and extraction software that enables users to easily peruse, select, and extract variables. Chapter 8 provides more technical information on the NLS data format and extraction software, as well as descriptions of supplementary documentation items available for the NLS of Mature and Young Women.

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Selected variables by cohort and year: Mature and Young Women

Tables 5.6 and 5.7 depict selected variables from the main data files of the NLS of Mature and Young Women. The top row of the tables lists the years in which the women have been surveyed; the first column gives some of the variables that have been collected. An asterisk (*) indicates that information for the designated variable was obtained for the cohort in the year indicated. "R" used in variable descriptions stands for "respondent"; "H" stands for "husband" of the respondent. Researchers should be aware that, in some instances, the variable descriptions in the tables represent a group of questions and not single response items.

Table 5.6. Selected Mature Women variables by survey year: Respondents ages 30 to 44 in 1967

Variable	67	68	69	71	72	74	76	77	79	81	82	84	86	87	89	92	95	97	99	01	03
I. LABOR MARKET EXPERIENCE VARIABLES																					
A. Current labor force and employment status																					
Survey week labor force and employment status	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hours worked in survey week	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Weeks worked (time frames vary)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Usual hours worked during weeks worked	*	*	*			*	*										*	*	*	*	*
Weeks unemployed (time frames vary)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Spells of unemployment in past year	*		*	*	*			*			*			*			*	*	*	*	*
Weeks out of labor force (time frames vary)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
B. Characteristics of current or last job																					
Occupation, industry, class of worker	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Start date and stop date	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hours per week usually worked	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hourly rate of pay	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Commuting time, costs	*		*		*			*			*			*	*		*				
Covered by collective bargaining, union member				*	*			*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Work for employer at home															*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Firm size															*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Shift worked				*			*	*		*			*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*
Fringe benefits available								*			*			*	*		*	*	*	*	*
Displaced worker														*	*		*	*	*	*	*
Supervises others														*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C. Work experience prior to initial survey																					
Occupation, industry, class of worker, start date, stop date, and reason for leaving (series):																					
First job after leaving school (never-married R's)	*																				
Longest job since leaving school (never-married R's)	*																				
Longest job between school and marriage	*																				
Longest job between marriage and first birth	*																				
Longest job since first birth	*																				
Number of years since leaving school in which R worked 6 months or more	*																				
D. Work experience since previous survey																					
Occupation, industry, class of worker, hours per week, start date, stop date, and reason for leaving intervening jobs (through 1987) or employers (beginning in 1989) (details vary)		*	*	*	*		*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Interfirm mobility (details vary)		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*							
Promotions (any, effects)												*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*

Table 5.6. Selected Mature Women variables by survey year: Respondents ages 30 to 44 in 1967

Variable	67	68	69	71	72	74	76	77	79	81	82	84	86	87	89	92	95	97	99	01	03
II. HUMAN CAPITAL AND OTHER SOCIOECONOMIC VARIABLES																					
A. Early formative influences																					
Age or date of birth	*									*				*	*		*	*	*	*	*
Nationality or ethnicity	*																*	*	*		
Type of residence at age 15	*																				
Person(s) R lived with at age 15	*																				
Occupation of head of household when R was 15	*																				
Highest grade completed by father and mother	*																				
Occupation of mother when R was 15	*																				
B. Migration																					
Years at current residence	*																				
Comparison of birthplace to current residence	*																				
Geographic mobility (details vary)	*		*	*	*			*		*					*	*	*	*			
C. Education																					
Current enrollment status								*						*	*		*	*	*	*	*
Highest grade completed	*							*						*	*		*	*	*	*	*
High school curriculum	*																				
Year of high school diploma or GED								*		*							*	*	*	*	*
Math courses taken in high school										*											
College (attended, duration, hours per week attended, field of study, highest degree received)								*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*
D. Training																					
On-the-job training (did R take, duration, hours per week, did R complete)										*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*
Additional or other training or educational program (type, sponsor, duration, hours per week attended, reason took, did R complete, certificate, use on job)	*		*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*
E. Health and physical condition																					
Self-rating of health	*												*			*	*	*	*	*	*
Comparison of R's condition with past			*	*			*			*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	*
Does health limit work or housework	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Duration of health limitations	*		*				*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Problematic activities (stooping, kneeling, and so forth)			*				*			*			*	*			*	*	*	*	*
Problematic working conditions (noise, smoke, and so forth)			*				*			*			*	*			*				
Alcohol and cigarette use															*		*	*	*	*	*
Height and weight (details vary)																*	*	*	*	*	*

Table 5.6. Selected Mature Women variables by survey year: Respondents ages 30 to 44 in 1967

Variable	67	68	69	71	72	74	76	77	79	81	82	84	86	87	89	92	95	97	99	01	03
Menopausal status and hormone use during menopause																	*	*	*	*	*
Extent R drives an automobile																	*	*	*	*	*
Types of health conditions (cancer, diabetes, and so forth)																	*	*	*	*	*
Insurance coverage (R's, other family members')													*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Does others' health limit work (details vary)	*		*						*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accidents (on-the-job, how, when)								*			*			*	*						
Is R able to go outdoors, use public transportation, or perform personal care without help				*				*			*			*	*						
Is R able to go shopping, manage money, do light housework, do heavy housework															*						
F. Marital and family characteristics																					
Marital status	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Marital history (details vary)	*							*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Husband's attitude toward R's working	*			*				*			*			*							
Life status of R's and R's husband's parents	*		*	*	*					*		*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of dependents	*		*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*					
New information or update on all children born or adopted	*							*			*							*			
Number and ages of children in household	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Childcare arrangements (type, cost, preferences, attitude toward, hypothetical use, effect on work) (details vary)	*		*	*	*			*										*			
Childcare (extent of responsibility)						*	*			*	*	*									
Any children in college last 12 months; amount of support from R and spouse															*	*	*	*	*		*
Family or household (starting in 1989) members: age, sex, relationship to R, education, employment status (details vary)	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unrelated household members (relationship to R, sex, age)											*	*	*	*							
Household activities (responsibility for, attitude toward, hours per week spent on) (details vary)	*					*	*		*	*	*	*		*	*						
Responsibility for care of chronically ill or disabled												*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Frequency of contact with family and friends										*											
G. Characteristics of R's husband; characteristics of R's partner, beginning in 1995																					
Current labor force status													*			*	*	*	*	*	*
Usual weeks worked																*					
Firm size																*					
Covered by Social Security or Railroad Retirement																*					
Covered by collective bargaining or union contract																*	*	*	*	*	*

Table 5.6. Selected Mature Women variables by survey year: Respondents ages 30 to 44 in 1967

Variable	67	68	69	71	72	74	76	77	79	81	82	84	86	87	89	92	95	97	99	01	03
Is spouse or partner union member																*	*	*	*	*	*
Job search activity in past month																	*	*	*	*	*
Retirement plans, expectations, status																*	*	*	*	*	*
Weeks and hours worked 1982–86																*					
Detailed information on employers since 1987 or since last interview (occupation, industry, class of worker, rate of pay, start and stop date, hours worked, shift worked)																*	*	*	*	*	*
Unemployment of husband (weeks)						*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Does husband's health limit his work	*		*	*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Duration of husband's limitations	*		*					*			*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
H. Questions asked of widows																					
Husband's medical care in 12 months before death																	*	*	*	*	*
How medical costs were paid																	*	*	*	*	*
R's care of husband																	*	*	*	*	*
Death benefits paid to R (amount, source, lump sum or periodic payment)																	*	*	*	*	*
Financial assistance to R from family members																	*	*	*	*	*
I. Financial characteristics																					
Total net family assets	*			*	*			*			*			*	*		*	*	*	*	*
Total family income	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Income from farm or business	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wage or salary income	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unemployment compensation income	*		*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Supplemental unemployment benefits income								*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Income from public assistance	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Social Security income	*		*	*	*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Pension income	*		*	*	*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Disability income	*		*	*	*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rental income	*		*	*	*			*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Interest or dividend income	*		*	*	*			*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total market value of Food Stamps received	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Income from AFDC/TANF	*		*	*	*						*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Alimony payments						*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Child support payments						*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Amount of financial assistance received from others											*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*
Income from other sources	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
J. Transfers ("H" refers to "husband" of the respondent)																					
Life status of R's parents, age	*		*	*	*					*		*			*	*		*		*	*

Table 5.6. Selected Mature Women variables by survey year: Respondents ages 30 to 44 in 1967

Variable	67	68	69	71	72	74	76	77	79	81	82	84	86	87	89	92	95	97	99	01	03	
Cause of death of R's parents																*						
Life status of H's parents, age	*		*	*	*					*		*			*			*		*		
Health status of R's and H's parents																		*		*		
Do R's or H's parents live in nursing home																		*		*		
Marital status of R's and H's parents																		*		*		
Distance R's and H's parents live from R										*		*			*			*		*		
Yearly income of R's and H's parents																		*				
Do R's and H's parents own home; value																		*				
Amount of R's and H's parents' assets and debts																		*		*		
Transfers of time to R's and H's parents																		*		*		
Transfers of money to R's and H's parents																		*		*		
Transfers of time from R's and H's parents																				*		
Transfers of money from R's and H's parents																				*		
Did R's parents have will																		*		*	*	
Amount of parents' estate																		*		*	*	
If R has a daughter in the Young Women cohort:																						
Transfers of time from daughter to R or H																		*				
Transfers of money from daughter to R or H																		*				
Sex, age and date of birth, highest grade completed of R's and H's children																				*		*
Relationship of child(ren) to R																				*		*
Residence of child(ren) and distance from R																				*		*
Do child(ren) and child(ren)'s spouse own home; value																				*		*
Amount of child(ren)'s assets and debts																				*		*
Transfers of time to and from child(ren)																				*		*
Transfers of money to and from child(ren)																				*		*
Does R have will; who are beneficiaries																				*		*
K. Attitudes and perspectives																						
How R feels about job	*		*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
What does R like best and least about job	*		*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Would R continue to work if had enough money to live on	*		*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Which is more important: high wages or liking work	*		*		*		*		*		*		*		*		*		*		*	
Attitude toward women working	*				*		*		*		*		*		*		*		*		*	
Rotter Internal-External Locus of Control score (shortened version in 2001)			*		*		*														*	
CES-Depression Scale															*		*	*	*	*	*	*
Attitude toward women and retirement															*		*	*	*	*	*	*

Table 5.7. Selected Young Women variables by survey year: Respondents ages 14 to 24 in 1968

Variable	68	69	70	71	72	73	75	77	78	80	82	83	85	87	88	91	93	95	97	99	01	03
D. Training outside regular school																						
Any training or educational program (did R take, did R complete, type, sponsor, reason took, duration, hours per week, reason not completed)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*										*	*	*	*
Other training or educational program (did R take, did R complete, type, apprenticeship program, sponsor, reason took, duration, hours per week)										*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
On-the-job training (did R take, did R complete, duration, hours per week attended)										*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Program enrolled in at last interview (type, did R complete, duration)												*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Training used on current job (universes vary)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
E. Health and physical condition																						
Comparison of R's condition with past			*	*		*		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Does health limit work	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Does health limit school activity	*	*	*		*																	
Does health limit housework	*		*		*				*	*		*	*									
Duration of health limitations	*	*	*		*	*	*	*		*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Problematic activities (stooping, kneeling, and so forth)			*					*		*		*	*		*	*		*				*
Problematic working conditions (noise, heat, and so forth)								*		*		*	*		*	*						
Accidents (on-the-job, how, when)								*														
Does health permit going outdoors, using public transportation, or personal care			*					*		*		*		*								
Does others' health limit R's work					*		*		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Insurance coverage of R and family members															*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cigarette; alcohol use																*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Height and weight (details vary)																*	*					*
Menopausal status and hormone use																	*	*	*	*	*	*
Extent to which R drives an automobile																	*					
Types of health conditions (cancer, diabetes, and so forth)																*	*	*	*	*	*	*
F. Marital and family characteristics																						
Marital status	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Husband's attitude toward R working	*			*				*		*		*										
Marital history					*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
New information or update on all children born or adopted					*		*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				*
Number of dependents	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*					
Parents (weeks worked, full-time, occupation)	*	*	*		*	*									*							

Table 5.7. Selected Young Women variables by survey year: Respondents ages 14 to 24 in 1968

Variable	68	69	70	71	72	73	75	77	78	80	82	83	85	87	88	91	93	95	97	99	01	03	
Number and ages of children in household	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Any children in college last 12 months; amount of support from R and spouse																*	*	*	*			*	*
Childcare arrangements (type, cost) (universes and details vary)	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*			*			*	*	*	*					
Number of children R expects and number R considers ideal				*		*			*		*	*	*	*	*	*							
Family or household (starting in 1988) members: Relationship to R, sex, age, education, employment status	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unrelated household members: Relationship to R, age, sex									*		*	*	*	*									
Household activities: Responsibility, hours per week spent							*		*		*	*		*									
Did R's husband ever have a unionized job															*			*					
Did R's father ever have a unionized job															*								
Responsibility for care of chronically ill or disabled															*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*
G. Characteristics of R's husband; characteristics of R's partner, beginning in 1995																							
Current labor force status															*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Usual weeks worked																	*						
Firm size																	*						
Covered by Social Security or Railroad Retirement																	*						*
Covered by collective bargaining or union contract																	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Is spouse or partner union member																	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Job search activity in past month																		*	*	*	*	*	*
Retirement plans, expectations, status																	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Weeks and hours worked 1990–92																	*						
Detailed data on employers since 1987 or last interview (occupation, industry, class of worker, rate of pay, start and stop date, hours worked, shift worked)																	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unemployment of husband (weeks)									*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Husband's health limits work, limitations	*		*	*		*			*			*			*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*
H. Questions asked of widows																							
Husband's medical care in 12 months before death																	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
How medical costs were paid																	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
R's care of husband																	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Financial assistance to R from family members																	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Table 5.7. Selected Young Women variables by survey year: Respondents ages 14 to 24 in 1968

Variable	68	69	70	71	72	73	75	77	78	80	82	83	85	87	88	91	93	95	97	99	01	03
Death benefits paid to R (amount, source, lump sum or periodic payment)																		*	*	*	*	*
I. Financial characteristics																						
Total net family assets	*			*	*	*			*			*			*		*	*	*	*	*	*
Total family income	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Income from farm or business	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wage or salary income	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unemployment compensation income	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Supplemental unemployment benefits income									*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Disability income									*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rental income									*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Interest and dividend income									*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total market value of Food Stamps received									*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Income from AFDC/TANF									*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Income received from public assistance									*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Income from Social Security or Railroad Retirement												*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Pension income																	*	*	*	*	*	*
Alimony payments										*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Child support payments										*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Financial assistance received from others	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*		*					*	*	*	*	*	*
Income from other sources	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
J. Transfers ("H" refers to "husband" of the respondent)																						
Life status of R's parents, age	*														*	*	*		*		*	*
Cause of death of R's parents																*						
Life status of H's parents, age	*																*		*		*	
Health status of R's and H's parents																	*		*		*	
Do R's or H's parents live in nursing home																	*		*		*	
Marital status of R's and H's parents																	*		*		*	
Distance R's and H's parents live from R																	*		*		*	
Yearly income of R's and H's parents																	*		*			
Do R's and H's parents own home; value																	*		*			
Amount of R's and H's parents' assets and debts																	*		*		*	
Transfers of time to R's and H's parents																	*		*		*	
Transfers of money to R's and H's parents																	*		*		*	
Transfers of time from R's and H's parents																					*	
Transfers of money from R's and H's parents																					*	
Did R's parents have will																			*		*	

Table 5.7. Selected Young Women variables by survey year: Respondents ages 14 to 24 in 1968

Variable	68	69	70	71	72	73	75	77	78	80	82	83	85	87	88	91	93	95	97	99	01	03
Amount of parents' estate																			*		*	*
Sex, age and date of birth, highest grade completed of R's and H's children																					*	*
Relationship of child(ren) to R																					*	*
Residence of child(ren) and distance from R																					*	*
Do child(ren) and child(ren)'s spouse own home; value																					*	*
Amount of child(ren)'s assets and debts																					*	*
Transfers of time to and from child(ren)																					*	*
Transfers of money to and from child(ren)																					*	*
Does R have will; who are beneficiaries																					*	*
If R has a mother in the Mature Women cohort:																						
Mother's marital status																					*	
Amount of mother's and mother's husband's assets and debts																					*	
Transfers of time to and from R and mother																					*	
Transfers of money to and from R and mother																					*	
K. Attitudes and perspectives																						
How R feels about job	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
What R likes best and least about job	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*			*							
Attitude toward homemaking									*	*		*			*							
Would R continue to work if had enough money to live on			*		*				*			*			*							
Which is more important: high wages or liking work	*					*						*										
Attitude toward women working	*				*				*			*			*							
Facet-Specific Job Satisfaction Index										*												
Would R like more education or training	*	*	*	*	*	*			*													
Educational goal	*	*	*	*	*	*			*													
What would R like to be doing when 35 years old	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*									
What would R like to be doing when 50 years old and 5 years from now											*	*	*	*								
Knowledge of World of Work score		*																				
Rotter Internal-External Locus of Control score (shortened version in 2001)			*			*			*			*			*							*
CES-Depression Scale																	*	*	*	*	*	*
Way feeling these days										*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
IQ score	*																					
Discrimination ever experienced, type (expanded in 1988)					*				*	*	*	*			*			*			*	

