

The 1994 NLSY79 YOUNG ADULT QUESTIONNAIRE

An Overview

The 1994 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY79) included an hour-long interview with the children of NLSY79 mothers who were at least 15 years of age by the end of the interview period. Interviews were completed with 980 of these Young Adult, out of an eligible sample of 1,111. The in-person, CAPI-administered questionnaire focused on the transition to adulthood, with detailed questions on education, employment, training, health, family experiences, and attitudes. A confidential self-report booklet was used to collect information on interactions with other family members., substance use, sexual activity, non-normative activities, computer use, health problems, and prosocial behavior.

The NLSY79 Young Adult data are being released on CD along with all the assessment information and constructed variables for these same respondents when they were part of the Child sample that has been interviewed every two years since 1986. The CD also contains the complete 1979-1994 longitudinal record for all females in the NLSY79 main Youth cohort. Software on the CD can be used to connect Young Adult respondent information from 1994 to any of the Child record types, including the 1986-1992 assessment files, or to information about that young adult's mother, drawn from the NLSY79 main Youth. A preliminary version of the 1996 Young Adult data will be available to users in the Fall of 1997.

The following outline briefly describes the contents of each section of the 1994 Young Adult survey instruments. For further information on NLSY79 data and documentation, please contact NLS User Services, The Center for Human Resource Research, 921 Chatham Lane, Suite 200, Columbus, Ohio 43221-2418, (614) 442-7366 or usersvc@pewter.chrr.ohio-state.edu, <http://www.chrr.ohio-state.edu>.

Section 1: Household Interview

The household interview for the Young Adult questionnaire closely parallels that of the NLS main Youth; however, because this is the first survey round for young adult respondents, no pre-existing information is incorporated into this section. Each young adult goes through this section as though this were a new household, even if the young adult is living in the NLSY79 mother's household. The Young Adult is first asked to describe the type of dwelling that best describes his or her usual living arrangement. Questions are asked about the identification, gender, age, and relationship to the young adult of each person usually living in the household. Information is also asked about the employment status during the past year of each person age 14 and older and the highest grade completed by each household member age five and older. A limited amount of information is collected on the type and location of the residence.

Section 2: Family Background

The family background section is unique to the Young Adult questionnaire but parallels information collected at earlier points in time for main Youth respondents. This section includes information about date and place of birth, residence history, race, ethnicity and religious affiliation and attendance. There are also some questions about father's presence/absence, his work, education, and race. Respondents are branched in this section based on whether they are living with their mother, with both parents, on their own, or in some other living arrangement. Young adults not living with their mother are asked when and why they left home and the amount of contact they have with their parent(s). The Household Interview relationship codes are critical to understanding many of the skip patterns in the Family Background section.

Section 3: Dating and Marital History

This section of the questionnaire collects detailed cohabitation histories, with comparable series for spouses and partners. It parallels the marital history section in the NLS main Youth; there are some important differences. Whereas information is *updated* in the main Youth, the Young Adult first establishes an initial relationship history. Information is collected on up to four relationships. Unlike the NLS Youth, this YA section asks more detail about current spouses and partners. For current spouses or partners, there is a short CPS section on employment as well as a 14-item series on relationship quality. A number of questions are asked about current dating. Respondents are branched to various points in this section based on marital status.

Section 4: Regular Schooling

This section collects information about enrollment status, school experiences, and educational aspirations. All respondents, unless never enrolled, answer core questions about repeating or skipping grades and dropping out. Additionally, there are special questions on (1) school quality for people currently in grades 1-12, (2) on course-taking for people who have completed ninth grade or more, (3) on the use of career planning or college preparation services by people who are high school seniors or above, and (4) on the type of school and program and financial assistance for college students. Respondents are branched throughout this section according to both enrollment status and highest grade completed. By mid 1997, data from the 1995 NLSY79 Child School Survey will be available for use with the Young Adult Survey for those Young Adults enrolled in grades 1-12 as of the 1994 survey.

Section 5: Military and Military Training

This section establishes a history of military service, with detailed questions asked about up to two periods of service. This section is similar to the military section in the NLS main Youth; however, the questions in the Young Adult ask greater detail about military jobs and

training. This section determines which branches the Young Adult has been sworn into and the time period of service. There are also questions which ask about the most recent military job and training. The Young Adult is asked about schooling prior to and during their service.

Section 6: Current Labor Force Status

This section in the Young Adult is nearly the same as the section in the NLS main Youth. If they are not currently serving in the Active Military Forces, the Young Adult respondents are asked about work activities during the last week. The survey determines if the Young Adult did any work for pay or profit, if they did unpaid work in a family business or farm, whether they have a disability that prevents them from doing work, number of jobs or businesses, and hours per week usually worked at job. If on layoff, they are asked about the duration of the layoff and job search activities. Those not working are asked about when they last worked, and if they are searching for a job. Respondents are also asked about active and passive job search methods.

Section 7: Jobs

The jobs section in the Young Adult closely parallels that in the NLS main Youth. The major difference between the two surveys is that the main Youth section updates from the date of the last interview, whereas the Young Adult creates an initial job history. Information about dates of employment for all jobs held since January 1, 1993, is collected. Because of the relatively young age of the Young Adult respondents, users may anticipate a greater likelihood of odd jobs, part-time jobs, and possible multiple jobs.

Employer Supplements

As in the main Youth, the employer supplements gathers details about each job for each employer within the target period. These sections are essentially the same for the two surveys; however, the first employer supplement (which asks about current or most recent job) in the Young Adult has a short series of additional questions that asks the respondents to assess certain aspects of their job.

Extensive information on jobs for up to five employers is collected. The specific questions closely parallel those asked in the main NLSY79. Information is collected on the start and stop dates of employment, the number of hours worked, the type of shift worked, as well as within-job gaps and between job gaps. Other job characteristics asked include occupation, industry, and the reason the respondent left a job (if not currently working there). Information on unusual earnings as well as the hourly rate of pay is collected for up to the last five jobs held by the respondent. The Employer Supplement section also contains questions pertaining to the current/most recent job and corporation status of business. The class of worker questions are the same as in the main NLSY79.

Section 8: Gaps When Not Working or in Military

This section of the Young Adult is the same as that in main Youth. The number and time periods of gaps when not working are determined. Young Adult respondents are asked whether they were looking for work or on layoff. If not looking for work, the respondent is asked the main reason why.

Section 9: Last Job Lasting Two Weeks or More

This short section is designed to collect a small amount of employment information from respondents who are not on active duty in the military and who do not report working at any jobs since January 1, 1993 (see Section 7, Jobs). For respondents who are not initially skipped out of this section, we try to determine if and when they have had a job for pay lasting two or more weeks.

Section 10: First Significant Job after Leaving School

This section attempts to identify the first job a respondent had after leaving high school. Only respondents who have left school prior to January 1, 1993 are branched into this section. The respondent had to work at this job for at least 2 months and at least 20 hours a week in order to be eligible for detailed questions in this section. A limited number of job characteristics are asked about, including: start date, stop date, kind of business or industry, kind of work the respondent did, hours per week, hours per day, usual earnings, and why they left the job.

Section 11: Other Training

This section collects information about training received outside of regular schooling or the military. The questions are very similar to the training section of main Youth; however, the Young Adult has additional questions about types of government programs and types of ancillary services received as part of training programs. Information is collected on up to six training programs. The Young Adult questionnaire also asks about certificates, licenses and journeyman's cards. Respondents are asked to identify the type of training, the duration of the program, as well as the source of money to pay for the training. In addition, they are asked if the training was useful on the current job or if it helped them to get a different job.

Section 12: Fertility

The fertility section of the Young Adult differs from that in main Youth in two important ways. In the Young Adult fertility section, no information is collected about non-biological children and, because 1994 is the first Young Adult survey round, a complete fertility record is collected for all respondents. The respondent identifies each child born and answers questions regarding the child's residence and contact with each parent. Female respondents are asked

about the pregnancy, the birthweight and length of the child when born, medical visits during the first year due to sickness or injury, well baby care, health insurance, and feeding. All respondents are asked about how many children they expect to have.

Section 13: Child Care

The child care section in the Young Adult has questions which are parallel in form to main Youth, but the Young Adult questionnaire focuses on current child care rather than on child care in the first three years of life. The Young Adult survey asks about child care arrangements for respondent's own and/or spouse's/partner's children who are currently living in the household.

Section 14: Health

The health section in the Young adult differs in several ways from the health section in the main Youth. In main Youth, the health section concentrates on work-related injuries, whereas the Young Adult health section is more general and more closely parallels the health history that has been obtained for the children of NLSY79 mothers. The Young Adult health section gathers information on types of limitations, accidents and injuries, number of hospitalizations, height, weight, and insurance coverage. Young Adult respondents who are not in their mother's household are asked additional questions about illnesses and routine medical care.

Section 15: Income and Assets

This section in the Young Adult closely parallels that in main Youth; however, main Youth has more extensive questions in areas such as interest income, filing income taxes, and income received by household members other than the respondent or spouse/partner. The Young Adults are asked about income they have received from the military, from wages, salary, commissions, or tips, from their farm, or from non-farm business, partnership, or professional practice. Respondent are asked if they received unemployment compensation and if so, for each year received, they are asked how much they received per week.

Respondents who are married or who have a partner are asked about income received by their spouse or partner from the military, wages, farm, or business. They are also asked whether their spouse received unemployment compensation.

For each of the following types of reciprocity, respondents are asked if they or their spouse or partner have received it, and if so, during what time periods and for what amounts. The reciprocity categories are: child support; AFDC; food stamps; supplemental security income, public assistance, or welfare payments. Finally, respondents are asked about assets.

Section 16: Attitudes

This section is somewhat unique to the Young Adult questionnaire, but contains series of questions that have been used in previous rounds of main Youth. The first questions about the world of work come from the 1979 round of the NLSY79, and several of the other attitudinal series have been asked in more than one main Youth survey round.

The series about the respondent's knowledge of the world of work is followed by a number of hypothetical job offers. Each job offer contains a wage offer as well as a brief description of the job duties and respondents are asked whether or not they would accept the offer. Respondents are then given the Pearlin Mastery scale, introduced into the main NLSY79 in 1992. The Young Adults answer a series of questions from the Rosenberg self-esteem scale, also administered to their mothers in 1980 and 1987. After completing a 7-item version of the CES-D depression scale, the Young Adults answer a number of questions on womens roles and family attitudes, given to the main Youth in 1979, 1982, and 1987.

Section 17: Locating Information

This section of the Young Adult is much the same as that in main Youth; however, not as much pre-existing information will be available. The respondent's permanent address and place of employment are verified.

Section 18: Interviewer Remarks

This section of the Young Adult is much the same as that in main Youth. The interviewer answers questions about the respondent's comprehension of the questions and their attitude toward the survey. They are also asked which questions gave the respondent difficulty or the interviewer difficulty.

NLSY79 Young Adult Self-Report

This self-administered confidential booklet includes a wide range of questions about parent/child relationships, computer use, drug and alcohol use, cigarette use, contact with the criminal justice system, sexual activity, abortion history and participation in community activities.