What is the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health?
The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) is a longitudinal study of a nationally representative sample of adolescents in grades 7-12 in the U.S. during the 1994-95 school year. This sample has been interviewed four times: Wave I—conducted in 1994-95; Wave II—conducted in 1996; Wave III—conducted in 2001-02 when respondents were 18-26 years old; and Wave IV—conducted in 2007-08 when respondents were 24-32 years old. The total sample size for Wave IV is 15,701, with 80.3% of eligible respondents completing a survey questionnaire.

What’s new in the Add Health Wave IV
The Wave IV survey maintained longitudinal elements from earlier waves of data collection and added new questions and sections that were more pertinent to the lives of young adults. Survey questions were expanded on educational transitions; economic status and financial resources and strains; emotional content and quality of current or most recent romantic/cohabiting/marriage relationships; and childhood maltreatment. A personality inventory was added, as were indicators of interpersonal and occupational stressors, loneliness, and attitudes about parenting. Expanded questions on substance addiction and dependency, and items on intersections and balance between work and family responsibilities were also added.

Wave IV also collected information on the dates and circumstances of key life events occurring in young adulthood, including:

- complete marriage and cohabitation history,
- full pregnancy and fertility histories from both men and women,
- educational history--dates of degrees and school attendance,
- contact with the criminal justice system,
- military service, and
- various employment events, including the date of first and current jobs, with respective information on occupation, industry, wages, hours, and benefits.

Wave IV also collected a residential history of state locations and recent mobility since Wave III and updated U.S. citizenship status when applicable.

What does the Add Health Wave IV offer family and marriage scholars?
The Add Health Wave IV is a rich resource for studies of the family. The data provide researchers with complete information (total number, beginning and end dates) on all marriages, cohabitations, pregnancies, and current partners resulting in information on over 30,200 relationships. For each relationship, respondents are asked the current relationship status; duration of relationship; history of cohabitation prior to marriage (if a marital relationship); number of times married to their spouse; and if no longer married, how the marriage ended. They are also asked questions regarding the age, sex, and race/ethnicity of their partner (see Section 16A-C: Relationships).

Additional questions are asked regarding their current or most recent relationship (see Section 17: Relationships in Detail), including respondent’s age at the start of the relationship; duration of the relationship; among those who aren’t married or cohabiting--
type of relationship (engaged, dating exclusively, dating frequently-not exclusively, dating once in awhile, or only having sex); and among cohabiters, there are questions about multiple residences and how often they spend the night together. There are additional relationship quality and intimate partner violence questions as well.

The Add Health IV also contains a Pregnancy Table (see Section 18), which provides information on 21,966 pregnancies. This section includes information on live births; children and parenting, with new information regarding attitudes about parenting; infertility; and the health of respondents’ children.

**Using Wave IV Data**

Codebooks for the Wave IV data of Add Health are publically available through the Add Health project website. In analyzing Add Health data, researchers should take into account the complex sampling methods used and include the appropriate sampling and respondent weights.

**How do I access the data?**

Although previous waves of Add Health included a publically available subset of the data, this is currently unavailable for the Wave IV data. At this time, Wave IV is only available as a restricted data set through the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). Restricted-use data are available by contractual agreement only. Contract application materials and forms are available on the DSDR website. If you would like to initiate a new Add Health restricted-use data contract or renew or modify a current contract, please email Russ Hathaway at ICPSR (rhataway@umich.edu).

**Where can I learn more about Wave IV of the Add Health Data?**

Visit the Add Health project website for more information about the Wave IV data at [http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/design/wave4](http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/design/wave4).

You can learn more about the Add Health project in general at [http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth](http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth).