

#### 1 Sample Description: NLSY79

The NLSY79 is a nationally representative sample of 12,686 young men and women who were 14-22 years old when they were first surveyed in 1979. Data was collected yearly from 1979 to 1994, and biennially from 1996 to the present. The NLSY79 sample design enables researchers to analyze the experiences of groups such as women, Hispanics or Latinos, blacks and the economically disadvantaged. The following three subsamples compose the NLSY79: (1) a cross-sectional sample of 6,111 respondents designed to represent the noninstitutionalized civilian segment of people living in the United States in 1979 and born between January 1, 1957, and December 31, 1964 (ages 14-21 as of December 31, 1978); (2) a supplemental sample of 5,295 civilian Hispanic or Latino, black, and economically disadvantaged nonblack/non-Hispanic respondents living in the US in 1979 and born between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1964; (3) a sample of 1,280 respondents designed to represent the population serving in one of the four branches of the US military as of September 20, 1978, and born between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1961 (ages 17-21 as of December 31, 1978). With a few exceptions, all members of the cross-sectional sample have been eligible for interview during each round of the NLSY79. Following the 1984 interview, 1,079 members of the military subsample were no longer eligible for interview; 201 respondents randomly selected from the military subsample remained in the survey. Following the 1990 interview, none of the 1,643 members of the economically disadvantaged, nonblack/non-Hispanic subsample were eligible for interview. The NLSY79 sample design selected as respondents individuals ages 14 to 21 as of December 31, 1978, who were connected to a surveyed household during 1978. Respondents interviewed in 1979 originated from 8,770 unique households; 2,862 households included more than one NLSY79 respondent. The most common relationships between respondents living in multiple respondent households at the time the survey began were those of sibling or spouse. During the 1979 survey, 5,863 respondents were members of a household containing multiple interviewed siblings. More than 330 respondents were members of a household in which their spouse was also interviewed. Text taken from the NLSY79 Users Guide, Chapter 1: Introduction, found at: <http://www.nlsinfo.org/nlsy79/docs/79html/79text/79sample/tocintrosample.html>

#### 2 Project Website

<http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsy79.htm>

#### 3 Years covered: NLSY79

Twenty-three rounds

\* Sixteen annual rounds

R1 [1979] through R16 [1994]

\*Seven biennial rounds

R17 [1996] through R23 [2008]

#### 4 Longitudinal

YES

#### 5 Publicly available

Public data are *only* available for download via the

[NLS Investigator](#)

*Data are no longer available on CD*

**6 Restricted access data available**

[Yes, restricted access data is available for both onsite and offsite research.](#)

Data available for onsite research:

Zip code and census tract files

School survey

Data available for offsite research:

[Geocode data](#)

**7 Web-accessible analysis**

YES, via the

[NLS Investigator](#)

*Researchers can run frequencies and cross tabs*

**8 Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) NLSY79:**

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/4683?archive=ICPSR&q=nlsy79>

*To download data, must belong to member institution*

**9 FAQ page**

<http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsfaqs.htm#anch2>

**10 Data specific bibliography**

<http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsbib.htm>

**11 Data citation**

National longitudinal survey of youth, rounds 1-22: 1979-2008. [machine-readable data file] / U.S. Department of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics Columbus, OH: Ohio State University. Center for Human Resource Research [distributor].

**12 List serve/user group/help line**

[List serve](#)

[General info e-mail](#)

[Technical help e-mail](#)

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**National Center for Family & Marriage Research**

[website: http://ncfmr.bgsu.edu](http://ncfmr.bgsu.edu)

e-mail: [ncfmr@bgsu.edu](mailto:ncfmr@bgsu.edu)