

National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997: Round 1 Parent/Parent-Figure Family Structure Snapshot *Variable Notes*

1 The Round 1 survey was conducted using three different questionnaires: the Screener, Household Roster, and Non-Resident Roster Questionnaire; the Parent Questionnaire; and the Youth Questionnaire. The Screener, Household Roster, and Non-Resident Roster Questionnaire was administered to a household resident over the age of 18. The Parent Questionnaire was administered to a parent or parent-like figure of the youth residing in the household. The Youth Questionnaire was administered to the youth respondent living in the household.

2 Parent roster was administered to a parent or parent-like figure of the youth residing in the household, in some cases (6,368) the Household Informant is also the responding Parent.

Priority for choosing responding parent (1) Biological mother (2) Biological father (3) Adoptive mother (4) Adoptive father (5) Stepmother (6) Stepfather (7) Guardian, relative (8) Foster parent, youth with 2+ years (9) Other non-relative youth with 2+ years (10) Mother-figure, relative (11) Father-figure, relative (12) Mother-figure, non-relative youth with 2+ years (13) Father-figure, non-relative youth with 2+ years. There are 1,042 youth respondents without a Responding Parent.

Documentation

3 The NLSY97 provides information on their variables via the NLSY97 User's Guide. The User's Guide is organized into topical areas. It is accessible through the NLS website and via the NLS Investigator electronic codebook.

Links:

[NLSY97 User's Guide](#)

[Topical Guide to NLSY97 Data](#)

[Family Background and Demographic Characteristics](#)

[Fertility, Pregnancy and Children](#)

[Household Composition](#)

[Marital and Marriage-Like Relationships](#)

[Marital History and Fertility](#)

[Non-Resident Characteristics](#)

[Parent Characteristics](#)

[Youth History](#)

[NLS Investigator](#)

Area of Interest

4 Also known as the electronic codebook location. The NLS Investigator (used to access the electronic codebook) is divided into separate "sections" referred to as *Areas of Interest* to help users identify variables.

[NLS Investigator](#)

a. Children

b. Common variables

c. Demographic indicators

d. Household characteristics

e. Marriage and cohabitation

f. Non-res characteristics

g. Parent background

h. Parent current status

i. Parent family background

j. Parent retrospective

k. Youth history

Variable Name

5 The name of each individual variable as it is identified in the data file. Because similar questions are asked repeatedly (over time) in the NLSY97, each question had to be given a unique variable name to distinguish the respondents' answers to the same questions over time. The variable names and the question names associated with each variable both appear in the Investigator--the NLS on-line electric codebook.

[NLS Investigator](#)

Variable Type

- 6 a. Created variables
- b. Parent response
- c. Respondent response
- d. Roster item
- e. Screener response

Question Name

- 7 The name given to each unique question in the questionnaire. Because the NLSY97 data are longitudinal and ask many of the same questions in multiple survey rounds, this allows--with the use of the variable name--researchers to identify respondents' answers to the same questions over time. The question names along side the questionnaire also allow researchers to determine the flow of the questionnaire and who answered which questions and why. It's important to note that in the Investigator, the universe of respondents is not always identified--particularly in the newer rounds. Additionally, the NLSY advises users to reference the associated questionnaires to help them determine who was asked each question in a given round.

PARYOUTH Roster

- 8 The variables derived from this roster have the PARYOUTH prefix in their *question name* . Information from the YOUTH roster is transferred into the parent interview. Some information is verified and updated; other data are used to direct the flow of the interview.
- 9 There should have only been 1,042 youth respondents without Parent/Parent-Figure Interviews [resulting in 1,042 youths coded as *valid skip* (-4) on the PARYOUTH variables], but there are actually 1,051 youths coded as *valid skip* (-4)--9 of these youths should have been coded as *invalid skip* (-3) on the PARYOUTH variables.
- 10 This question is asked regarding more than one non-responding parent, only unweighted frequencies for the *first* non-responding parent are displayed here.
- 11 Only response categories with valid cases are shown here.
- 12 The category of relationships found in this variable has been changed since the original Round 1 release.
- 13 Multiple variables are associated with this one question. The unweighted frequencies displayed are associated with the (numerically) first variable associated with this question.
- 14 There should have only been 1,042 youth respondents without Parent/Parent-Figure Interviews [resulting in 1,042 youths coded as *valid skip* (-4) on this variable], but there are actually 1,048 youths coded as *valid skip* (-4)--6 of these youths should have been coded as *invalid skip* (-3) on this variable.
- 15 This question is asked regarding [up to] 6 spouses, only the unweighted frequencies for the *first* spouse is displayed here.
- 16 This question is asked regarding [up to] 5 spouses, only the unweighted frequencies for the *first* spouse is displayed here.
- 17 Interviewers are instructed to select "death" only if the couple was together until the partner died. If the couple split up first, and the partner died later, they are instructed to select one of the first four options as the end of the relationship.
- 18 No responding parents reported a legal separation with their 4th spouse in this loop of questions; but 2 parent respondents reported legal separations with their 5th spouse.
- 19 This variable captures changes in the youth respondents' residency associated with their grandparents on [up to] five different occasions. Unweighted frequencies are only shown for the first reported change.
- 20 Of these 1,084 valid skips (-4) 1,042 were simply lacking a parent interview. The remaining 42 cases are missing information from the youth-specific portion of the parent interview.
- 21 Asked regarding [up to] 17 residences, not all variable and question names are listed, only those for the first residence after birth.
- 22 Years of [up to] 16 changes are recorded, only the unweighted frequencies for the year of the first change are displayed here.
- 23 Asked regarding [up to] 11 different living periods, only the unweighted frequencies for the first living period are displayed here.

24 Interviewers are instructed to select one only. If more than one, they are told to select the category which appears farthest down on the list.

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