

# National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997:

## Round 1 Youth Respondent

### 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.

#### Respondents

- 2 The youth respondents that comprise the NLSY97 sample were born between 1980 and 1984 (age 12 to 16 as of December 31, 1996) and 23-29 at the most recent (Round 12) interview. The survey began with 8,984 youth respondents and consists of two subsamples; a nationally representative cross-sectional sample of 6,748 youth respondents and a supplemental sample of 2,236 designed to oversample for Hispanic (or Latino) and Black youth. Users can identify whether each respondent was a member of the cross-sectional or supplemental sample type by referring to the sample type variable (CV\_SAMPLE\_TYPE).

The NLSY97 has multiple respondent households; the 8,984 round 1 youth respondents originated from 6,819 unique households--1,862 households included more than one NLSY97 youth respondent. The most common relationship between multiple respondents living in the same household was that of siblings (n=3855). Users should note: the NLSY97 samples do not contain nationally representative samples of siblings of all ages and living arrangements making generalizations from the findings of sibling studies based on the NLSY97 problematic.

#### 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](#)

[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. Fertility and pregnancy

e. Household characteristics

f. Marriage and cohabitation

g. Non-res characteristics

h. Parent: Contact with Non-Residential Parents

i. Parent current status

j. Sexual activity

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 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.

**8** This variable reports the relationship of the youth to the primary adults in the household at the time of the survey (e.g. both biological parents, biological mother, adoptive parent[s]). This variable is included in rounds 1-7 only. In round 1, this variable was also created for various points in the youth's childhood (CV\_YTH\_REL\_HH\_AGE\_x). Users should be aware that, on the round 1 release, these variables were originally named CV\_HH\_REL\_BIRTH (for current household composition) and CV\_HH\_REL\_AGE\_x. They were subsequently renamed to reflect more accurately the information presented.

- a.** This variable was renamed in
- b.** This variable was renamed in
- c.** This variable was renamed in
- d.** This variable was renamed in

**9** During the interview, a respondent's answers to questions about household members were organized into a "household roster." This roster (grid of data) is considered the most complete source of information about household members in a given respondent's permanent household. **Use the roster instead of the raw data in analyses.** Survey staff strongly recommend that researchers use the roster information whenever possible as it is more accurate and easier to use than the raw data. Roster items are presented as consolidated blocks of data in the data set and can be identified through their unique question names. Edits to the household composition are posted to the rosters and not necessarily to the raw data.

**10** In rounds 1 through 6, the respondent's household is based on what the respondent considers to be his or her permanent household as reported in the household information section. This is not necessarily the same as where he or she is living at the time of the survey. Beginning in round 7, the respondent's household is considered to be current residence.

**11** The classification of a step-parent who has legally adopted a child may differ between the Screener, Household Roster, and Nonresident Roster Questionnaire and the other survey instruments. In the former, help screens instructed interviewers to categorize such parent-figures as step-parents rather than adoptive parents. Since the respondent defines this relationship in the self-administered section of the Youth Questionnaire, he or she may choose to list this parent-figure as an adoptive parent.

**12** Multiple variables are associated with this one question. The unweighted frequencies displayed are associated with the (numerically) first variable associated with this question.

**13** This series of questions is designed to determine how long it has been since the youth respondent has had contact with his/her bio mother. Respondents are filtered through questions that ask about a year or more, down to how many days ago.

**14** This series of questions is designed to determine how long it has been since the youth respondent has had contact with his/her adoptive or step-mother who adopted him/her. Respondents are filtered through questions that ask about a year or more, down to how many days ago.

**15** Refers only to partners, including partners who lived together and later married.

- 16** As indicated earlier, until round 7, the respondent's household is based on what the respondent considers to be his or her permanent household, not where he or she is living at the time of the survey, so respondents who are in the military (or away at college or incarcerated) may report their spouse or children as being in the household, even though the answers in the fertility and marriage sections have the respondent separated from them. Beginning in round 7, household is the place where the respondent currently resides.
- 17** In some cases, problems arose in the marriage and fertility sections due to inaccuracies in relationship codes in the household roster. If a household member was identified on the roster as the respondent's child or spouse, the marriage and fertility sections asked questions about that person. If the relationship code in the roster was incorrect and the person was not a spouse or child, the youth respondent would correct the relationship at that point in the interview. NLS staff subsequently corrected a number of problems in the roster relationship codes. Thus, it may appear that respondents were asked marriage and fertility questions even though there was no one in the household to ask these questions about. Users may not be able to trace a child or spouse back to the roster due to these corrections. Researchers should contact NLS User Services (614-442-7366 or [usersvc@chrr.osu.edu](mailto:usersvc@chrr.osu.edu)) for more details.
- 18** For details on how to link the respondent's first cohabiting partner to the partner's characteristics, click the link below.  
[Matching Cohabiting Partners to Their Characteristics in the NLSY97 tutorial](#)
- 19** In the NLSY97, a marriage-like relationship is defined as a sexual relationship in which partners of the opposite sex live together (the phrase "of the opposite sex" was removed from the definition in round 9). In rounds 2 and above, the partners must have lived together for at least one month.
- 20** This variable prefix (PARYOUTH) indicates this is information from the YOUTH roster that was transferred into the parent interview. After being transferred into the parent interview some of the information was verified and updated; other information was used to direct the flow of the parent interview.
- 21** 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). Nine of these youths should have been coded as *invalid skip* (-3) on the PARYOUTH variables.
- 22** Only response categories with valid cases are shown here.
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