

National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997: Round 12 Youth Respondent Family Structure Snapshot *Variable Notes*

- 1 Exercise caution when drawing conclusions based on household characteristics using NLSY97 data. The large number of multiple respondent households in the sample may skew the data on certain characteristics if the analysis is performed at the respondent level rather than at the household level.

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.

Information on who the respondents are for each survey question (i.e. the question universe) are not yet provided for Rounds 10, 11, or 12 in the NLS Investigator (the NLS on-line electronic codebook) and are subsequently not in this snapshot. Examining the Round 12 questionnaire in conjunction with the NLS Investigator can help users determine respondents for individual questions.

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](#)

[Codebook Supplement-Appendix 3-Created Variables](#)

[Family Background and Demographic Characteristics](#)

[Fertility, Pregnancy and Children](#)

[Household Composition](#)

[Income](#)

[Income, Program Participation & Assets](#)

[Marital and Marriage-Like Relationships](#)

[Marital History and Fertility](#)

[Non-Resident Characteristics](#)

[Parent Characteristics](#)

[Sexual Activity & Dating](#)

[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. Dating
- c. Demographic indicators
- d. Fertility and pregnancy
- e. Household characteristics
- f. Income
- g. Marriage and cohabitation
- h. Non-res characteristics
- i. Sexual activity
- j. 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.

Household Roster

8 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 (see the *Roster Response Sheet* for a list of all possible responses available to respondents). **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.

[Roster Response Sheet](#)

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.

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.

Definitions of Relationships in Household Roster:

Biological Relationship: Two people are related by blood or conception and birth. For example, one's biological father is the same as one's natural father or the man who made one's biological mother pregnant.

Step Relationship: Two people are related through a marriage where the husband and/or wife had children with another partner. For example, a stepchild is the biological offspring of one's spouse (with some other partner). A stepmother is the wife of one's biological father (if he is not married to one's biological mother). A stepbrother is the biological son of one's stepmother who is not the biological son of one's biological father.

Adoptive Relationship: The permanent legal rights and duties with respect to a child have been transferred from one person or institution to another. The parental rights to an adopted child have been permanently and legally transferred from the birth parents to the adoptive parents. Any other children of the adoptive parents become adopted siblings of the adopted child.

Foster Relationship: Someone assumes a legal and financial obligation for a child but there is no permanent adoptive relationship.

In-law Relationship: Two people are related through marriage. A mother-in-law is the mother of one's spouse. A son-in-law is the spouse of one's daughter. A sister-in-law is the sister of one's spouse or the spouse of one's brother.

Full Relationship: The youth and his or her siblings share the same biological mother and biological father.

Half Relationship: Siblings share only one common biological parent. Half-siblings have the same biological mother but different biological fathers, or vice versa.

Social Relationship: A person functions in a particular family role but is not biologically related. For example, one's social grandparent would be someone who functions as a grandparent but is not biologically related. Source: Interviewer Reference Manual for Screener, Household Roster, and Nonresident Roster Questionnaire, 1997.

After the roster was created, the respondent provided additional information about the household members including their gender. Marital status was recorded for all household members age 16 or older.

9 This question is present in the questionnaire but does not have a corresponding variable in the NLS Investigator.

10 Due to the many possible response categories--in an effort to conserve space--the response category display has been collapsed. As a result, valid cases are provided for this variable instead of unweighted frequencies.

Non-Resident Roster

11 After data on nonresident relatives were collected (during the administration of the round 1 Screener, Household Roster, and Nonresident Roster Questionnaire), the information was organized into a nonresident relative roster (see the Roster Response Sheet for a list of all possible responses available to respondents). This roster was maintained in subsequent rounds even though no additional questions were asked about most nonresident relatives (exceptions are biological, step, or adoptive parents after round 1).

[Roster Response Sheet](#)

Anyone who was previously a member of the youth's household but who left that household is moved to the nonresident roster. This permits the unique code (UID) of that person to be maintained across rounds. If the person later returns to the respondent's household, he or she will be moved back into the household roster.

The UID code can also be used to track nonresident parents across rounds if their information is updated.

Additional information about a nonresident biological parent includes the members of that parent's household, and the relationship of each member of that parent's household to the youth.

12 The lead in to this question in YMAR-710. There were 60 respondents who elected to correct past information regarding a marriage or marriage-like relationship at the date of their last interview. The follow-up question only had 59 valid respondents when there should have been 60 and the 1 who should have answered was NOT coded as an invalid skip.

13 This question is present in the questionnaire but does not have a corresponding variable in the NLS Investigator because no respondents made a correction in question YMAR 717.01-.04.

14 Respondents are told to select all that apply for up to 3 children .

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

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