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Release of the Round I NLSY97 Event History CD

The round 1 NLSY97 event history data file is now available for distribution to researchers. The newest survey in the National Longitudinal Surveys program, the NLSY97 is designed to be representative of the U.S. population born during the years 1980 through 1984. The NLSY97 cohort includes 9,022 respondents ages 12-16 as of December 31, 1996. This article briefly describes the event history data presented on the newly released data file.

The event history CD-ROM contains created variables summarizing the month and year in which major life events occurred for each respondent. Variables cover topics such as employment status, marital status, program participation, and school enrollment. The user can create an array for an individual respondent showing his or her status (e.g., single, married, receiving government assistance) at a point in time or over time. All of these variables are located in the "Event history" area of interest (an organizational grouping and search index on the CD-ROM). In addition, the event history disc includes all information from the main disc released earlier this year, so users can easily link other data about the respondent to the event history variables. Users should note that corrections to the initial main release are incorporated in the new event history release (please contact NLS User Services for more information; contact information is provided on the back of this newsletter).

The CD-ROM includes four major arrays of event history information. The first array presents the employment status (i.e., working for employer # 1, unemployed, out of the labor force, etc.) of each respondent for each week from the respondent's 14th birthday to the interview date. It also provides data on dual jobs if the respondent was working for more than one employer in a given week and on total hours worked at all jobs each week. Finally, the employment array includes the beginning and ending dates of each job and of gaps within and between jobs. The employment status array variables can be easily identified on the CD-ROM by searching for question names beginning with "EMP_."

A second set of variables, the marital status array, presents the respondent's marital or cohabitation status during each month from the respondent's 14th birthday to the month of interview. Respondents are categorized as never married, not cohabiting; never married, cohabiting; married; legally separated; divorced; or widowed. In addition, marital status array variables provide an identification number for the respondent's spouse or partner that can be used to link the spells of marriage or cohabitation with information about that person collected during the youth interview(s). Marital status array variables can be located on the CD-ROM by searching for question names beginning with "MAR_."

The third array, program participation status, is constructed much like marital status. For each month since the respondent's 14th birthday, these variables report whether the respondent was receiving assistance from four categories of government assistance for the economically disadvantaged: Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC); food stamps; the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC); and any other government program (such as Supplemental Security Income-SSI). Each type of assistance is presented in a separate set of variables. For each type, data also include the amount of assistance received each month and the people in the respondent's household receiving the assistance each month (e.g., respondent only, spouse or partner only, respondent and child, other, etc.). Finally, the program participation array provides the dates the respondent began and stopped receiving assistance. Users can locate these variables by searching for question names beginning with "AFDC_," "FDST_," "WIC_," or "OTHER ."

The final event history array furnishes information about the respondent's schooling experiences. Unlike the other arrays, this information is presented for all respondents on a yearly basis beginning at the respondent's date of birth. For each year, the schooling variables provide data regarding:

- The respondent's grade in school
- The number of times the respondent changed schools
- Months the respondent did not attend school
- Summer classes attended
- Whether the respondent repeated or skipped a grade
- The number of days the respondent was suspended during the year

Researchers may access these variables by searching for question names beginning with "SCH_."

NLSY97 data are available to the public on CD-ROM at a charge of \$20. Each event history CD-ROM contains the data record of each youth, including information from the main file, described in issue #97 of the *NLS News*, and the event history variables described above. The data file also includes DOS-based search and extraction software and complete codebook documentation on each variable. To aid researchers in using the data, each disc is accompanied by the *NLSY97 User's Guide*, which examines the data set in detailed topical sections. Other supplemental documentation items, including the questionnaire, are available at an additional charge. Researchers can obtain the NLSY97 discs and documentation from NLS User Services.

Parallel Data in the NLSY97 Youth and Parent Questionnaires

An important part of the initial NLSY97 survey is the parent questionnaire. Several similar question sets can be found in both the round 1 NLSY97 youth questionnaire and its corresponding parent questionnaire. This offers a unique opportunity for comparison of responses to the same or similar questions that are answered by both the youth and the responding parent. These sets of questions cover various topics such as health knowledge, income, attitudes, autonomy and parental control, and expectations.

The parent questionnaire was administered only during round 1 and collected extensive background information from one of the youth's resident parents. The parent questionnaire asked the responding parent to provide information about the NLSY97 youths' parents' backgrounds as well as details concerning the NLSY97 youth. Interviews were administered to 6,149 parents; 7,973 youth respondents have information available from a parent questionnaire.

Health knowledge

One area that has a parallel set of questions in both the youth and parent questionnaires is health knowledge, specifically concerning alcohol use. Comparing the answers of youths and their parents demonstrates whether alcohol-related risks are understood and allows researchers to examine correlations in knowledge across generations. Specifically, these questions were asked of youth respondents born in 1983 and their responding parents. This health knowledge series was concerned with whether the respondent believed that the risk for certain health problems would increase if a person had five or more drinks of alcohol once or twice per week. The risks listed were: Damaging the liver, getting heart disease, getting arthritis, becoming addicted to alcohol, or harming an unborn child.

Income

Parallel questions in the youth and parent questionnaire are also found in reference to income. One set asks the youth and the parent about the youth respondent's income; another series gathers details from both respondents about the parent's income. Comparing the youth's understanding of a parent's income with what the parent actually reports can indicate to researchers the accurateness of the youth's perception of parental income.

All youth respondents and all responding parents answered the series concerning the youth's income. Both youths and parents reported the amounts of gross wages and salary that the youth earned in the past calendar year. These amounts included odd jobs, temporary or seasonal work, military positions, regular jobs, and allowances.

The parent questionnaire asked the responding parents to report their own income, as well as that of their spouse, for the previous calendar year. Details about the parent's income were only gathered from youths age 14 or older (as of 12/31/ 96). This set of questions collected information from youths in this age range on whether any income was earned during the past calendar year by their parents or guardians and, if so, the amount of that income.

Attitudes

One of the more extensive groups of parallel questions falls under the topic of attitudes. One set of such questions concerns the tenor of the relationship of the youths' parents. Youth respondents who were born in 1982-84 and lived with one or both of their biological parents answered this first set of questions; the responding parents for these youths were asked the same set of questions about their spouse/partner.

The youth respondent was asked for the frequency with which his or her parents displayed certain behaviors. ("Parents" refers to the youth's biological parents if the youth lived with both; otherwise the questions were concerned with the biological parent the youth lived with and that parent's current spouse or partner.) The list included the following behaviors:

- Blames partner for problems
- Criticizes partner or partner's ideas
 - Encourages partner to do things partner

considers important

- Expresses affection or love for partner
- Is fair and willing to compromise when disagree
- Screams and yells at partner when angry

Youth respondents who were born in 1982-84 and lived with only their biological father or neither biological parent, answered questions that focused on the frequency of contact between the youth's biological parents and the level of hostility or friendliness in their relationship. If the responding parent was one of the youth's biological parents and the other one did not reside in the household, the questions in the parent questionnaire paralleled those in the youth survey. They again asked about the frequency of contact and the level of hostility or friendliness in his or her relationship with the other biological parent.

Another set of attitudes questions, which uses items from Achenbach's Youth Self-Report, has the potential to point out differences between the youth's and parent's perceptions of the youth's behavior. All youth respondents born in 1982-84, regardless of the parent situation in their household, were presented with a set of statements similar to Achenbach's scale. The responding parents of these youths were also presented with these phrases. The youth and parent respondents were asked how well a set of four statements described the vouth during the past six months (not true, somewhat/sometimes true, or often true). Two of the phrases were presented to all the respondents: "You lie or cheat" and "you are unhappy, sad, or depressed." Female youth respondents and their parents also had the statements "your school work is poor" and "you have trouble sleeping." The other two phrases given to male youth respondents and their parents were "you don't get along with other kids" and "you have trouble concentrating or paying attention."

Autonomy and Parental Control

A series of questions about youth autonomy and parental control was also asked of both the youth and the responding parent. Youths born in 1983 or 1984 and their responding parents were presented with a series of questions that inquire as to the level of parental control involved in the relationship. Specifically, they reported who makes decisions about the youth's activities; these included how late the youth is allowed out at night, the kinds of TV shows and movies he or she is allowed to watch, and who he or she is allowed to "hang out" with. If these particular rules were made solely by the parents or jointly by the youth and the parents, the survey collected information about how many times in the past 30 days the youth broke the rules. These questions also inquired as to which person is most likely to handle the rule violation.

Expectations

Expectations questions provide researchers with another opportunity to compare the perceptions of youths and their parents. The questions asked youth respondents born in 1980 or 1981 and their responding parents about the probability of certain events occurring within a specific time period in the youth's life. The respondents ranked each event on a scale from 0 (impossible) to 100 (certain). The events and their corresponding time periods are listed below.

One year from the interview date:

- Enrolled in a regular school
- Working for pay for more than 20 hours per week and enrolled

By the youth's 20th birthday:

- Gave birth to or fathered a baby
- Received a high school diploma
- Served time in jail or prison

By the youth's 30th birthday:

- Earned a 4-year college degree
- Working for pay for more than 20 hours per week

Although the parallel sets of questions described above allow direct comparison of youth and parent knowledge, perceptions, and expectations, there are many other areas in the parent and youth questionnaires that are similar. Questions in the following topic areas ask youth and parent respondents about themselves: Basic background information (e.g., birth date), health (e.g., height and weight), employment history (e.g., spells of employment), and marital history (e.g., length of marriages, changes in status during marriage). As youths age, the parent and youth profiles that can be constructed with this information will allow researchers to

examine the impact of parental characteristics on the education and employment outcomes of youth respondents.

Further, both the parent and youth questionnaires contain many sets of questions comparable to items in the original cohorts, NLSY79, and NLSY79 children surveys. Areas of similarity have been described in past issues of the *NLS News*, as well as the in *NLSY97 User's Guide*. Researchers are encouraged to consult these sources and to examine the various survey instruments for the cohorts and interview years of interest.

Reference

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Multiple-Respondent Households in the NLS

Many researchers in the social sciences study the influence of family and home environment on social and economic outcomes. The NLS surveys offer researchers a unique opportunity to compare the life experiences of siblings as well as parents and children. All the NLS cohorts were selected using a household-based sampling design. Households were chosen for screening and then all members of the household who met the sample criteria were asked to participate in the surveys. As a result, a large number of NLS respondents shared a household with another respondent in the initial survey years. This article reviews the numbers and types of multiple-respondent households initially present in the NLS surveys and those still remaining in the active cohorts. It also highlights some research questions that take advantage of this unique survey design.

Although multiple-respondent households generate valuable samples for a number of research topics, users should be aware that these respondent groups are typically not representative. For example, due to the age restriction used in drawing the NLSY79 sample (i.e. ages 14 to 21 as of December 31, 1978), sibling respondents in the NLSY79 would be no more than 7 years apart in age and would have resided in the same household in 1979. Thus, the sibling sample would not be a nationally representative sample of all siblings. However, if used with an awareness of this limitation, these data offer researchers in-depth information about two or more members of the same household, providing opportunities for comparison across a wide variety of research areas.

NLSY97

The NLSY97 surveyed all youths between the ages of 12 and 16 (as of December 31, 1996) residing in a screened household. As table 1 shows, the 9,022 NLSY97 sample members lived in 6,844 households during the initial survey round; 1,872 households contained more than one NLSY97 respondent. Approximately 45 percent of NLSY97 respondents lived in a multiplerespondent household during round 1.

The most common relationship between NLSY97 respondents residing in the same household is that of sibling (biological, step-sibling, or adopted). Almost 96 percent of respondents from multiple-respondent households have a sibling in the survey. In addition to siblings, the sample also contains cousins, foster siblings, inlaws, and other relatives and non-relatives. There are an extremely small number of cohabiting partners but no spouse pairs.

Table 1. Round 1 NLSY97 multiple respondent households

Type of Household	Households	Respondents
Total	6,844	9,022
Single respondent	4,972	4,972
Total multiple respondents 2 respondents	1,872 1,604	4,050 3,208
3 respondents	236	708
4 respondents	26	104
5 respondents	6	30

The first round of the NLSY97 survey also included a parent interview, which collected information from one of the NLSY97 youth's parents about experiences of both the parent and the youth respondent. Interviews were conducted with 6,149 parents; 7,973 youth respondents have data available from a parent interview. This unique feature of the NLSY97 offers users the opportunity to compare parent and youth responses on a number of topics, as discussed in detail in a previous article in this newsletter.

NLSY79 and NLSY79 Children

The sample design for the NLSY79 cohort is very similar to the NLSY97. All residents of a screened household between the ages of 14 and 21 (as of December 31, 1978) were selected for participation in the survey. The original 12,686 NLSY79 respondents resided in 8,770 households; 6,742 respondents (53 percent of the sample) were members of multiple-respondent households. Table 2 presents the number of respondents living in multiplerespondent households during the 1979 interview.

In 1998, 4,465 respondents who were part of a multiple-respondent household in 1979 were interviewed and had at least one other respondent from that 1979 household interviewed in 1998. Thus, in both 1979 and 1998, about 53 percent of the respondents were from 1979 multiple-respondents households. (This does not imply that the respondents still lived in the same household in 1998, only that they were still being interviewed.)

As with the NLSY97, the most common relationship among NLSY79 sample members in multiple-respondent households was that of sibling. In the first survey year, 5,918 respondents (47 percent) had at least one sibling who was also in the NLSY79 cohort. Out of this initial group of biological, step-, and adopted siblings, 4,178 were interviewed in 1998 and had at least one other sibling interviewed. It is important to note that, although respondents lived in the same household when selected for interview, they did not necessarily grow up in the same household. Researchers may want to consult childhood residence information available for many respondents to help determine the length of time respondents resided together while growing up.

Additionally, the sample contains a

	Table 2.	NLSY79 multi	ple responden	t households	in 1979
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Type of Household	Households	Respondents
Total	8,770	12,686
Single respondent	5,944	5,944
Total multiple respondents	2,826	6,742
2 respondents	1,985	3,970
3 respondents	634	1,902
4 respondents	170	680
5 respondents	32	160
6 respondents	5	30

number of spouse pairs. In 1979, 334 respondents had a spouse in the cohort (this total excludes 3 pairs in which the relationship of "spouse" is assigned to only 1 member of the pair). By the 1998 interview, 85 spouse pairs still had both members in the survey; however, these respondents are not necessarily still married to each other or living together. Other relationships in multiple-respondent households besides those of sibling or spouse included cousins, in-laws, and various non-relatives.

The NLSY79 children are, by definition, all members of multiple-respondent households because all children of the mothers in the NLSY79 are eligible to be interviewed for the NLSY79 child and young adult surveys. (Some children and young adults live outside the mother's household, but most reside with their mothers.) In addition, over 6,200 or approximately 88 percent of NLSY79 children had between 1 and 8 full or half siblings interviewed during the 1996 survey. A number of the mothers also had spouses, siblings, or other relatives interviewed during the main youth surveys, so their children could potentially have data available for their fathers, aunts or uncles, or other relatives. Identification codes for the mother's spouse, sisters, and female cousins are provided on the child CD-ROM; other relatives must be identified by using data from the main NLSY79 data set.

Mature and young women

The sample design used to select respondents for the four original cohorts resulted in a number of multiple-respondent households both within and across the sample groups. Screening was initially conducted for the original cohorts in spring 1966. After the selection of older men respondents, the sample households were rescreened in fall 1966 to select respondents for the young men, mature women, and young women. The age requirements for the four original cohorts were as follows:

- Older men were ages 45-59 as of April 1, 1966
- Young men were ages 14-24 as of April 1, 1966
- Mature women were ages 30-44 as of April 1, 1967
- Young women were ages 14-24 as of January 1, 1968

All members of each sampled household who were in the correct age range for one of the cohorts were asked to participate in the initial interview. As a result, more than half the respondents in the mature women, young men, and young women cohorts and one-third of the older men resided in a multiple-respondent household. The various intra- and inter-cohort households are described in detail in the *NLS Handbook* and the cohort-specific user's guides.

There were many cross-cohort pairs in the early survey years, providing spouse and sister-brother pairs comparable to the NLSY97 and NLSY79. Approximately 10 percent of mature women had a spouse in the older men cohort. A number of young women lived with a brother (35 percent) or spouse (11 percent) in the young men cohort.

The original cohort sampling design also resulted in multiple-respondent groups that crossed generational lines. There are a number of households in which a member of the older men or mature women cohort lived with one or more young men or young women respondents. The most common relationship of this type is a parent residing with one or more children, although there are other relative and non-relative groupings.

This article focuses on the pairs of women in the initial surveys and those remaining in the survey as of 1995, first looking at multiple-respondent households within a single cohort and then examining cross-cohort groups. Information about pairs involving the men's cohorts is available in the *NLS Handbook* and *User's Guides*.

Relatively few mature women resided in a household with another mature woman in 1967, the initial survey year. At that time, only 74 mature women shared a residence with another respondent in the same cohort. In 1995, 31 of those respondents continued to be interviewed along with another mature woman from the initial shared residence.

A far larger number of young women shared a residence with another young woman during the initial 1968 survey. Approximately one-third of these respondents lived with another member of the same cohort. Table 3 summarizes the number of multiple-respondent households within the young women's survey in 1968.

In the 1995 young women survey, 702 of the respondents from multiple-respondent households in 1968 were interviewed

along with at least 1 other young women respondent from that household. These respondents represent 330 of the original 743 households shared in 1968 (but not necessarily shared in 1995).

As with the NLSY97 and NLSY79, most of the young women residing in the same household had a sibling relationship. In 1968, there were 1,016 respondents who shared a residence with a sister who was also in the young women cohort. By the 1995 survey, 453 respondents were still interviewed along with at least 1 other sister.

Table 4 shows the number of motherdaughter pairs in the initial survey of each cohort. Twenty-eight percent of mature women interviewed in 1967 and 36 percent of young women surveyed in 1968 were part of a mother-daughter pair. By 1995, almost 40 percent of those daughters (or 707), in 581 of the original 1,423 households, were still participating in the survey along with their mother.

Research opportunities

Information from multiple-respondent households can be used in a number of research applications. For example, the cross-generational pairs in the original cohorts, the NLSY79 child sample, and the parent interview in the NLSY97 survey

Table 3. Young women multiple respondent households in 1968

Type of Household	Households	Respondents
Total	4,257	5,159
Single respondent	3,514	3,514
Total multiple respondents 2 respondents	743 608	1,645 1,216
3 respondents	116	348
4 respondents 5 respondents	14 5	56 25

 Table 4.
 Mature and young women: Households with mother/daughter pairs in 1967-68

Type of Household	Households	Young women respondents
Total	1,423	1,848
Mother and 1 daughter	1,070	1,070
Mother and 2 daughters	292	584
Mother and 3 daughters	53	159
Mother and 4 daughters	5	20
Mother and 5 daughters	3	15

permit researchers to trace outcomes from parents to children. Sibling pairs can be used to control for unobservable family characteristics when studying a number of issues such as returns to education, earnings growth, occupational choice and employment stability patterns.

Researchers may also study attitudes and expectations of respondents from multiple-respondent households. By comparing respondents' answers to similar questions, researchers may gain insight into the formation of attitudes and expectations and the relative importance of familial and other influences. For example, one specific possibility is to compare the NLSY79 mother's assessment of neighborhood safety with that of her children. In addition, both the NLSY79 mother and her children also answer questions about the quality of the mother's relationship with her spouse. Similar questions on the quality of spousal relationships are asked of the NLSY97 youth respondent and their responding parent.

In addition to these analyses, researchers can take advantage of a number of more specific sets of questions to examine data quality among multiple respondents who come from one household. In most surveys, for example, respondents answer questions about both their own and their spouse's income. If the spouse is also a respondent in the survey, it is possible to compare one respondent's perception of the spouse's income with the spouse's actual report. A similar analysis could be performed using family asset questions. Finally, the sets of sibling questions periodically included in the various surveys can be used to ascertain the accuracy of the respondent's answers about his or her siblings in the survey. This type of study may yield valuable information about data quality for these kinds of questions.

Another area well suited to data quality studies is the mature and young women transfers questions. This section of the 1997 survey of both women's cohorts focused on transfers of time and money to and from the parents of the respondent. However, the mature women questionnaire also included a set of questions on transfers received from the respondent's daughter in the young women cohort. Similarly, the 1999 women's questionnaires asked respondents about transfers of time and money to and from their children, and daughters in the young women provided additional information on transfers received from and given to their mothers in the mature women. Therefore, researchers can compare the daughter's perception of the amount of help given with the mother's report on the amount of help received. Such an analysis may provide insight into how respondents understand and answer the cognitively challenging transfers questions.

The large number of multiple-respondent households, including siblings, spouses, parents and children, and other relationships, coupled with the longitudinal nature of the NLS surveys, provides users with unique research opportunities. As an examination of the NLS online bibliography (http://www.chrr.ohio-state.edu/ nls-bib/) will demonstrate, the preceding paragraphs offer only a brief overview of the many possible topics. Researchers interested in multiple-respondent households are encouraged to examine the questionnaires and the topical sections of the various user's guides to gain a better understanding of the types of information available.

NLSY79 Children Errata Notice

Data are available correcting two omissions on the 1996 NLSY79 child and young adult CD-ROM. First, a constructed variable based on maternal data from the 1993 main youth survey was inadvertently omitted from the 1996 data CD. This variable, reference number C00611.18, is titled 'Highest Grade Completed by Mother as of 93 Int.' Researchers interested in this variable can obtain an ASCII file with the child ID and highest grade completed data from NLS User Services.

The second problem on the 1996 child and young adult CD concerns several Behavior Problems Index (BPI) variables that report scores normed relative to children of the same sex. Four BPI variables, reference numbers C15608., C15609., C15615., and C15616., contain valid scores only for female children; scores for male children were inadvertently omitted from the CD. Users can obtain an ASCII data file reporting same-sex normed scores for all children assessed in 1996 by contacting NLS User Services. □

Frequently Asked Questions

NLS User Services encourages researchers to contact them with questions and problems they have encountered while accessing and using NLS data or documentation or both. Every effort is made to answer these inquiries. Some recently asked questions that may be of general interest to NLS users are listed below with their answers.

Q1: Is the NLSY79 CD year 2000 compliant?

A1: There is no code in the search and extraction software that checks for a current date, so no procedure is dependent on a date calculation. In the data, year variables are currently 2-digits (i.e., 96 rather than 1996), but as dates are collected in the year 2000 and beyond, the year variables will include 4 digits (i.e., 2001 rather than 01). Although users will have to take this change into account when writing programs, there should be no significant problems caused by the year 2000.

Q2: When there are multiple respondents in the NLSY79 household, do the responses represent only the respondent's situation or the whole household? For example, does each respondent report only his or her own cars or the cars possessed by everyone in the household?

A2: Most asset questions refer only to items owned by the respondent and his or her spouse. Thus, the only overlap should occur in the case of married respondents. A few questions ask for information about the entire household, such as total income of all residents except the respondent and spouse. In this case, the answer would include other respondents still living in the household. By carefully examining the wording of the questions of interest, you should be able to determine exactly who is included in the answer. Potential overlap problems have declined as most respondents have established their own households.

Q3: Do the income questions in the mature women refer to the past 12 months or the previous calendar year? It seems somewhat inconsistent from the documentation.

A3: The reference period goes back and forth between the past 12 months and the

previous calendar year. The variable titles and actual questions include information about the reference period for each year. \Box

Completed NLS Research

The following is a listing of recent research based on data from the various NLS cohorts that has not appeared in its current form in a previous issue of the *NLS News*. See the NLS Annotated Bibliography located online at http://www.chrr.ohiostate.edu/nls-bib/ for a comprehensive listing,

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Georges, Annie. "Racial and Ethnic Differences of the Effect of the GED Test on Entry into and Exit out of Poverty among Women." Ph.D. Thesis, Pennsylvania State University, December 1998. [NLSY79]

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Harvey, Elizabeth. "Short-Term and Long-Term Effects of Early Parental Employment on Children of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth." *Developmental Psychology*, Vol. 35, No. 2, pp. 445-459, March 1999. [NLSY79, NLSY79 Children]

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NLS Contact Information

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	(614) 442-7366 (614) 442-7329 (Fax)	BLS-NLS publications:	Jain_Rita@bls.gov (202) 606-7405
NLS Program Office:	National Longitudinal Surveys 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Room 4945 Washington, DC 20212-0001	NLS News Editors:	Mary Joyce and Donna S. Rothstein Joyce_M@bls.gov Rothstein_D@bls.gov
	Attention: Rita Jain NLS_INFO@bls.gov (202) 606-7405 (202) 606-4602 (Fax)	NLS Program Director and Media Contact:	Michael W. Horrigan Horrigan_M@bls.gov (202) 606-7386