

Dataset Title: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY)

Overview: According to the 1979 NLSY questionnaire, “the purpose of the survey is to collect and analyze information on the education, training, and work experience of youth in order to help solve youth’s employment and unemployment problems” (NLSY79). While it is particularly interested in labor force participation, the types of data collected include educational experiences, family background, income, welfare, family life, and health issues.

Date: 1979-1994, biennial since 1994

Time dimension: Longitudinal Study following Cohorts

Sample: A list of houses in certain areas of the U.S. was created for the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. Interviewers from the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago conducted a brief interview to obtain general information (such as sex, age, and race) for 155,000 people.

According to NLSY’s website, “NORC administered the civilian sample screening interview in approximately 75,000 dwellings and group quarters. These interviews occurred in 1,818 sample segments of 202 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs), which included most of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The screening interview was designed to elicit information that would identify persons eligible for inclusion in the NLSY79 sample. The civilian screening interviews were completed within 91.2 percent of the cross-sectional and 91.9 percent of the supplemental occupied dwelling units selected for screening.”

People were assigned to certain sampling groups based on this general information. The three sample groups were: a cross-sectional sample of youth aged 14-21 as of December 31, 1978 (6,111 respondents); supplemental samples of Hispanic, African-American, and economically-disadvantaged populations of the same age (5,298 respondents); and a sample of military youth (1,280 respondents).

Further information on sampling procedures can be found at:
<https://www.nlsinfo.org/content/cohorts/nlsy79/intro-to-the-sample/sample-design-screening-process>

Source:

“Sample Design & Screening Process.” *National Longitudinal Surveys*. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, n.d. Web. <<https://www.nlsinfo.org/content/cohorts/nlsy79/intro-to-the-sample/sample-design-screening-process>>.

Data source: The 1979 data came from personal interviews with 12,686 respondents. There were 7,510 non-black/non-Hispanic respondents, 3,174 African-American respondents, and 2,002 Hispanic or Latino respondents.

Self-Identified Race and Hispanic Origin Measures:

Asked in 1979

30. HAND CARD C. What is your origin or descent? CODE
ALL THAT APPLY.

Black, Afro-American, or Negro	01
Chinese	02
English	03
Filipino or Philipino	04
French	05
German	06
Creek	07
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	08
Indian-American, or Native American	09
Indian-Asian	10
Irish	11
Italian	12
Japanese	13
Korean	14
Latino or Spanish Descent	
Cuban or Cubano	15
Chicano	16
Mexican or Mexicano.	17
Mexican-American.	18
Puerto Rican, Puertorriqueno, or Borincano	19
Other Latino, Hispano, or Latin-American	
Descent	20
Other Spanish Descent	21
Polish	22
Portuguese	23
Russian	24
Scottish	25
Vietnamese	26
Welsh	27
Other (SPECIFY) _____	28
IF VOLUNTEERED: American	29
OR	
NONE	00

- 12 -

SEC 01

IF MORE THAN ONE CODED IN Q.30, ASK Q.31.

31. You said that your origin or descent was (READ CATEGORIES
CODED IN Q. 30). Which one of these do you feel closest to?

ENTER CODE |__|__|
 |__|__|

Asked in 2002

What race or races do you consider yourself to be?

- 1 WHITE
- 2 BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN
- 3 ASIAN
- 4 NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER
- 5 AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE
- 6 SOME OTHER RACE (SPECIFY)
- 7 RESPONDENT REFUSES TO CLASSIFY RACE EXCEPT AS HISPANIC/LATINO

Are you Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin?

- 1 Yes
- 0 No

Observed Race Measures:

Asked in 1979

INTERVIEWER REMARKS

INTERVIEWER: Complete these remarks as soon as you have finished the questionnaire.

3. Race of Respondent

White	1
Black	2
Other	3

Reflected Race Measures: N/A

Phenotype Measures: N/A

Race or Ethnic origin of Respondent's Parents:

Asked in 1979

15. Now we have a few questions about your family.
First, where was your mother born?

IN THE UNITED STATES . (PROBE FOR
STATE, RECORD BELOW, AND GO TO Q.16). . . 1

STATE: _____

OTHER COUNTRY . . (PROBE FOR NAME OF
COUNTRY, RECORD BELOW, AND GO TO Q.16). . 2

COUNTRY: _____

IF VOLUNTEERED:
HAVE NEVER KNOWN MY MOTHER ...(ANSWER A)..3

21. Where was your father born?

IN THE UNITED STATES . (PROBE FOR
STATE, RECORD BELOW, AND GO TO Q.22). . . 1

STATE: _____

OTHER COUNTRY . . (PROBE FOR NAME OF
COUNTRY, RECORD BELOW, AND GO TO Q.22). . 2

COUNTRY: _____

IF VOLUNTEERED:
HAVE NEVER KNOWN MY FATHER ..(ANSWER A).. 3

Information only collected on father's family.

Interviewer Characteristics:

Race of Interviewer

- 1 WHITE
- 2 BLACK
- 3 HISPANIC
- 4 ASIAN
- 5 AMERINDIAN

Other Race Measures:

Asked in 1979

2. A. In what country were you born?

IN THE UNITED STATES (ASK B)..... 1
IN SOME OTHER COUNTRY .(SPECIFY AND GO TO
Q. 3, _____ 2

22. And where was your father's <u>father</u> born-- in the United States or some other country?	
In the United States	1
In some other country (SPECIFY) _____	2
DON'T KNOW	8

Asked in 1990

In 1990, NLSY79 respondents born outside the United States, its territories, or Puerto Rico were asked a series of questions on their immigration history and visa status.

8. Please tell me what country (you were/the principal entrant or immigrant with whom you entered was) a citizen of at the time of your entry in (DATE IN Q.2, PAGE 13-229).

31-33/

COUNTRY

Collected by:

National Opinion Research Center at the University of Michigan

Center for Human Resource Research at Ohio State University

Weblinks:

<http://www.bls.gov/nls/y79summary.htm>

<https://www.nlsinfo.org/content/cohorts/NLSY79>

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/3959>

Citation:

Ohio State University. Center for Human Resource Research. National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. ICPSR3959-v2. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research[distributor], 2004-08-02. <http://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR3959.v2>

Website citation:

"NLSY79." *Bureau of Labor Statistics*. United States Department of Labor, 25 June 2003. Web. <<http://www.bls.gov/nls/y79summary.htm>>.

Publications using NSLY data:

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