

Selected NLSY97 Variables by Survey Round (Often referred to as the “Asterisk Table”)

Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12
I. EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND JOB SEARCH (age restrictions as of interview date)												
A. Current Population Survey (CPS): Week before survey												
Labor force and employment status	Y≥15			≥15						*		
Worked for profit or pay; worked at unpaid position in family business or farm	Y≥15			≥15						*		
Hours per week worked or usually worked at main job	Y≥15			≥15						*		
Hours per week worked at main job last week	Y≥15			≥15						*		
Number of overtime hours	Y≥15			≥15						*		
Reason worked part time	Y≥15			≥15						*		
Reason absent from work	Y≥15			≥15						*		
Actual weeks or expected duration of layoff	Y≥15			≥15						*		
Disability prevents Y from working or accepting work	Y≥15			≥15						*		
Length of time spent looking for work	Y≥15			≥15						*		
Search methods used in last 4 weeks	Y≥15			≥15						*		
Is Y searching for part-time or full-time job	Y≥15			≥15						*		
B. Characteristics of employee jobs (starting in round 4, also self-employed jobs of youths age 18 at end of prior calendar year)												
1. Jobs of any length												
Who helped Y find job	Y≥14											
Job start and stop dates	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Industry and occupation at start date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rate of pay at start date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Usual hours per week worked	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Overtime rate of pay at start date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Weeks Y had worked as of job's stop date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Class of worker	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y covered by collective bargaining (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Reason for gap during employment	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Did Y look for work during gap	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Age, race, and sex of immediate supervisor (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Table codes: For round 1, Y=Youth Questionnaire, P=Parent Questionnaire, S=Screeener, Household Roster, and Nonresident Roster Questionnaire. An asterisk in subsequent rounds indicates the variable was present in the youth questionnaire. A number with the symbol ≥ or = in front of it (such as ≥15) indicates the question was asked in the youth questionnaire to an age-restricted subsample. In rounds 2–5, U=Household Income Update.

Selected NLSY97 Variables by Survey Round (Often referred to as the “Asterisk Table”)

Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12
Shift worked (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Size of employer (# employees/locations/people worked for Y) (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Benefits available at employer (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Reason for leaving job or reason self-employment job ended	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
General job satisfaction (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2. Jobs lasting more than 13 weeks												
Y covered by collective bargaining (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Age, race, and sex of immediate supervisor (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Shift worked (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Size of employer (# employees/locations/people worked for Y) (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Benefits available at employer (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
General job satisfaction (all jobs in R 1)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Occupation and industry at current or stop date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rate of pay at current or stop date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Overtime rate of pay at current or stop date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Usual hours per week at current or stop date	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Volunteer work: frequency and reason									*		*	
C. Characteristics of freelance jobs (any length)¹												
Type and duration of freelance job(s)	Y	*	*	*	*							
Who helped Y find job	Y											
Usual hours worked per week	Y	*	*	*	*							
Number of weekdays, weekends worked	Y	*	*	*	*							
Number of days per week usually worked	Y	*	*	*	*							
Hours per day worked on weekdays, weekends	Y	*	*	*	*							
Usual weekly earnings	Y	*	*	*	*							

¹ In rounds 1 and 2, the survey collected characteristics of freelance jobs for youths ages 14 or older (as of the interview date) and characteristics of all jobs for youths ages 12 and 13. The round 3 survey gathered characteristics of freelance jobs for all youths. Round 4 included freelance jobs for youths born in 1983 or 1984. Round 5 included freelance jobs only for youths born in 1984.

Selected NLSY97 Variables by Survey Round (Often referred to as the “Asterisk Table”)

Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12
Number of weeks worked at job	Y	*	*	*	*							
1. Self-employment jobs for youths earning \$200 or more per week												
Industry and occupation	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	2	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of people who worked for Y	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	2	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Reason job ended	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	2	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
D. Military (Youths age 16 and older who report an ongoing job)												
Branch of Armed Forces		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Current or most recent military occupation		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Current pay grade or pay grade when entered			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
E. Periods not working at an employee job												
Start and stop date of period not working	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of weeks on layoff	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of weeks unemployed	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of weeks out of labor force	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number of weeks actively looking for work	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Methods of job search used	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Main reason did not look for work	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
II. SCHOOLING (age restrictions as of 12/31/96)												
Y's educational history (number of schools, type) (since last interview)	P	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Current enrollment status	Y, P	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Grade level currently attending	Y, P	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Reason stopped attending school	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Date of last enrollment	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Type of school attended (public, private, or alternative)	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Degree and date degree received	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Highest grade level attended	Y, P	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

² Youths age 16 or older at the interview date but younger than 18 at the end of the previous calendar year answer these questions. Older youths report information on self-employment jobs in the regular employee jobs section. Starting in round 6, all self-employed jobs were collected inside the regular employment section, regardless of the amount earned or the age of the respondent.

Selected NLSY97 Variables by Survey Round (Often referred to as the “Asterisk Table”)

Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12
IV. INCOME, ASSETS, AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION												
A. Income (all questions except wages/salary and parental allowance asked only of independent youths)												
Previous year's income from wages or salary (collected separately for Y and spouse)	Y, P	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous year's income from farm or own business (collected separately for Y and spouse)	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous year's income from child support	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous year's interest or dividend payments	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous year's income from states/trusts/annuities/inheritance	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous year's income from rental properties	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous year's income from parental transfers other than allowance	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous year's income from other sources	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous year's income from parental allowance	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous year's income paid to parents	Y, P											
Y or spouse/partner claimed Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) on previous tax return	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Extreme financial situations: cash advance or payday loan used, late rent/mortgage, pressure from bill collectors											*	*
B. Assets (questions are asked only of independent youths and at varied ages)³												
Market value of Y's residence or business	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Purchase price of residence		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Amount of rent/mortgage/land contract/loans	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Improvements to property since last interview		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y paid property taxes	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Average amount spent on utilities per month	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Value of Y's stock or mutual funds	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

³ Youths are asked many of these asset questions in the first interview after they become independent, turn age 18, and turn age 20. For any given round, therefore, many asset questions will be asked only of a subset of the respondents. They will continue to be asked periodically in future rounds. In round 9, an “Assets 25” section was added, designed to be administered after the calendar year in which the respondent first turns 25. (Some standard questions about assets are asked in every round to every age of respondent. These questions may be asked at different places during the interview, depending on the birth cohort.)

Selected NLSY97 Variables by Survey Round (Often referred to as the “Asterisk Table”)

Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12
# and duration of other welfare spells, income per month each spell	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Persons covered under other welfare programs	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y lives in public housing or receives rental vouchers	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
D. Welfare Knowledge (geocode release- selected respondents only)												
Words used by Y to describe assistance programs							*					
Y's knowledge of assistance program eligibility							*					
Y's knowledge of assistance program benefits							*					
Y's knowledge of assistance program time limits							*					
V. FAMILY FORMATION (age restrictions as of end of previous calendar year—12/31/96 in rd 1, 12/31/97 in rd 2, and so on)												
A. Marital history												
Spells Y married or lived with sexual partner	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y's current marital status	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Duration of Y's and partner's cohabitation	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Current partner's age, race, highest grade completed, degree earned, and labor market status (from HH roster; only in R 2-6 if new to HH)	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Demographic characteristics of noncurrent partner (new since last interview)	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Partner's religion	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Partner enrolled in government program	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Changes in relationship status	Y≥16	≥16	≥16	≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y's and partner's relationship quality (questions vary)	Y≥16			≥16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
B. Fertility and children												
Number, sex, and ages of biological children	S, Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number, sex, and ages of adopted children ⁴	S, Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number and outcome of pregnancies not ending in live births	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

⁴ In round 1, information on adopted children was collected only if such children were reported on the household or nonresident rosters; otherwise, an age filter made these questions impossible to reach. In rounds 2 through 4, these questions were asked only of respondents who reported an adopted child on the household or nonresident roster or who were age 17 or older as of the end of the previous calendar year.

Selected NLSY97 Variables by Survey Round (Often referred to as the “Asterisk Table”)

Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12
Current residence of live biological or adopted children ⁴	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y has legal responsibility for or custody of biological or adopted child ⁴	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Male youths: has Y gotten someone pregnant, number, outcome		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Male youths: quality of relationship with child's mother				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Female youths: quality of relationship with child's father					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Male youths: current economic status of child's mother, amount of informal child support				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Female youths: current economic status of child's father, amount of informal child support					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Male youths: contact with resident and nonresident children				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Race, age, highest grade completed, welfare reciprocity, school enrollment, religion, and labor force status of other parent at conception (if not already collected in household roster or marriage section)	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C. Childcare												
1. Female youths with at least one resident child under the age of 13												
Hours spent at work, at school, at training, or commuting in a typical week					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Type of childcare					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hours spouse/partner cared for child					*				*			*
Specify relatives who care for child, location of this care					*				*			*
Hours spent in each type of childcare					*				*			*
Payment details (total amount, amount of funding from outside source)					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Who most often dropped off and picked up child at childcare, travel time					*				*			*
2. Female youths with children who did not use child care												
# of relatives living close to youth's home					*				*			*

Selected NLSY97 Variables by Survey Round (Often referred to as the “Asterisk Table”)

Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12
Value of parents' assets	P											
Amount of parents' debt	P											
Parents' height and weight	P											
Parents' longstanding health problem	P											
Parent's attitude toward self	P=12-14											
Parent's attitude toward certain behaviors	P=13											
Parent's attitude toward relationship with partner	P=12-14											
B. Youth history												
Country/state of birth					*	*	*	*		*	*	*
Citizenship status					*	*	*	*		*	*	*
Age when first came to United States					*	*	*	*		*	*	*
Which parent(s) Y lives with	P	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Custody arrangements	P	*	*	*	*	*						
# of residential moves away from parent	P						*	*				
Y has adoptive parent(s)	P	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Is Y legally adopted, year adoption occurred	P											
Did Y ever live with biological parent	P						*	*	*			
Distance from biological mother/father	S											
Date biological mother/father died	S											
Y ever in Head Start	P											
Y at childcare from birth to age 5	P											
Y's biological father legally identified by medical test, signed legal or nonlegal document	P											
C. Household environment												
Y's house conducive to studying, had computer in the past month	Y≤14	≤14	≤14	*	≤13	*	*					
Days per week Y's family interrelates	Y≤14	≤14	≤14	≤14								
Days per week Y's family completes housework	Y≤14											
Days per week Y hears gunshots in the neighborhood	Y≤14											
Y was victim of crime before age 12	Y											
Y was victim of crime between ages 12 and 18 (if not already answered) (age restrictions as of end of previous calendar year)		≥18	≥18	≥18	≥18	≥18	≥18					

Selected NLSY97 Variables by Survey Round (Often referred to as the “Asterisk Table”)

Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12
# of sexual partners	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Characteristics of first and most recent sexual partner or experience				*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Risky sexual behaviors				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Type and use of birth control (condom, other)	Y≥14	≥14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Expanded section on contraceptive choice (asked of a subset of respondents)											*	
Amount of cigarettes/alcohol/marijuana in past month	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Age of first cigarette/alcohol/marijuana use	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			
Age first used/frequency of use of other drugs such as cocaine, crack, heroin		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Age first time/# of times ever ran away (age restriction as of last interview date)	Y	≤16	≤16	≤16	≤16	≤16	≤16					
Age Y first carried a handgun	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			
Y carried a handgun in the last month	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Age Y joined a gang	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			
Type of crimes Y committed	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	6	*	*	*	*
Age when Y committed crime first time	Y											
Number of crimes committed in the previous year or since last interview	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	6	*	*	*	*
Amount from selling illegal drugs or merchandise	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	6	*	*		
# of times Y arrested	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Date of Y’s first or most recent arrest	Y	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	*	*	*	*
Offense charged with for each arrest	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y convicted or plead guilty for each arrest	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Facility, duration of sentence	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Details of imprisonment (Consequences such as loss of job, loss of children, etc., services offered while in prison, visits from family, etc.)												*

⁵ First commission of a crime and first arrest information were collected in a later round only if not available from a previous round.

⁶ Questions were asked only to those previously arrested and the control group.

Selected NLSY97 Variables by Survey Round (Often referred to as the “Asterisk Table”)

Variable	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12
Y's Internet experience and current access to the Internet							*	*	*	*	*	*
C. Time use (age restrictions as of 12/31/96)												
Time spent on homework (weekends/weekdays)	Y=12-14											
Time in extra classes, reading, watching TV (weekends/weekdays)	Y=12-14											
Time Y usually gets up (not enrolled or employed youths)	Y≥16	≥15	≥15									
Place Y goes to on a regular basis, time goes and returns (not enrolled or employed)	Y≥16	≥15	≥15									
Attitudes about how much time spent on paid job, housework, family, friends, leisure activities, relaxing										*		
IX. HEALTH (age restrictions as of 12/31/96)												
Y's general health	Y, P	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mental health in past month (series)				*		*		*		*		*
Y practices health-related behaviors (details vary, shortened in R7)	Y=13					*	*				*	
Y's opinion on effects of smoking or drinking	Y=13					=13						
Y's height and weight	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y's perception about weight	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y's health insurance coverage	Y,P					*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Y diagnosed with chronic health condition	P					*					*	*
Age first noticed health condition	P					*					*	*
Health condition limits school or work activities	P					*					*	*
Visits to doctor in past 12 months						*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hospitalization in past 5 years											*	*
Traumatic health incidents (victim of violent crime, homelessness, death of close relative, lengthy unemployment or incarceration for household member, divorce of parents). Five year retrospective.						*					*	*
Knowledge of pregnancy and birth control	Y=13					=13					*	
Has Y entered puberty and age at onset	Y	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
X. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION												
Interested in government and public affairs								*		*		*

