

# Fertility and Related Social and Attitudinal Information

NLS

**BIOLOGICAL FERTILITY: YOUNG WOMENS COHORT**

- ~ FIRST SURVEY IN 1968 (14-24) N=5159
- ~ MOST RECENT AVAILABLE 2001 (47-57) N=2806
- ~ 21 SURVEY POINTS COVERING FULL CHILD-BEARING PERIOD!

	Total Ever Born	Birth Dating	Ideal	Total Expect	Add. Expect	In-Home Detail
1968-1970						X
1971	X		X	X	X	X
1972						X
1973 (a)	X		X	X	X	X
1975						X
1977						X*
1978	X	X (73-78)	X	X	X	X*
1980						X*
1982	X		X	X	X	X*
1983	X	X (78-83)	X	X	X	X*
1985 (b)	X	X (83-85)			X	X*
1987	X	X (85-87)			X	X
1988	X	X (87-88)			X	X*
1991	X	X (88-91)			X	X*
1993 (c)	X	X (91-93)				X*
1995						X*
1997						X*
1999	X					X*
2001	X					X*

**NOTES:**

- (a) No complete retrospective including 1968 to 1973 has ever been collected. However, a record that is as comprehensive as possible was completed by examining all individual household records (including child names) at the Census Bureau for the 1968 to 1973 period. Any biological child who appeared even once was thus detected. A fringe benefit of this evaluation clarified the maternal status for a number youth previously undefined. This refined information is included in the public use data file.
- (b) From 1985 through 1993, these updates went to the preceding survey round in which a respondent was interviewed.
- (c) The gender of births is available for children in the household record, as well as 1978, 1983, and 1993 for all children being reported on.
- (d) It is possible to calculate total children ever born, as well as the gender and age for all LIVE children from information available in the income transfer section.  
\* dates of birth available in household record in asterisked years. Only ages in non-asterisked survey years.

## **BIOLOGICAL FERTILITY: 1979 MALE COHORT**

~ FIRST SURVEY IN 1979(14-22) N=6,403

~ MOST RECENT AVAILABLE (39-47) N=3,984 (LOSS REFLECTS ATTRITION, MORTALITY, ELIMINATION OF OVERSAMPLES)

~ 21 SURVEY POINTS THAT INCLUDE A SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF ANTICIPATED CHILDBEARING.

~ ANNUAL SURVEYS THROUGH 1994; BIENNIAL THROUGH 2004.

### **DATA ISSUES AND AVAILABILITY:**

- (1) Based on regular updates from survey round to survey round, and in-house examination of household records and related information, a cumulative live birth history for the men has been created. It is recommended that this public use male fertility file be used. This file enables users to link specific children with other data elements relating to them in the nlsy79 file.
- (2) It is fair to note that the repeated live birth files that include gender, and dates of birth, is in all likelihood of lower quality than the female file. This is closely linked with the greater propensity for fathers not to be living with their children.
- (3) A set of variables has been created relating to birth spacing that in many respects parallels that for young women
- (4) A parallel created longitudinal relationship file has been created that permit researchers to juxtapose fertility and relationship information that permits clarification of many paternity and maternity issues.
- (5) As was true for the women, more detail is available in the household record for children in residence. Also, as with the women, visitation information and other residence information is available for absent children.

## **BIOLOGICAL FERTILITY: 1979 FEMALE COHORT**

- ~ FIRST SURVEY IN 1979 (14-22) N= 6,283
- ~ MOST RECENT AVAILABLE 2004 (39-47) N=3,677
- ~ 21 SURVEY POINTS COVERING ABOUT 90% OF CHILDBEARING.
- ~ ANNUAL SURVEYS 1979-1994; BIENNIAL THROUGH 2004.

### DATA AVAILABLE (summary):

- (1) Dating/gender of all live births--drawing on repeated updating of fertility profiles, a "cleaned" cumulative fertility file is available for all children reported as ever-born. Cumulative profiles for given survey points are limited to women who are interviewed at that point.
- (2) Repeated information about child/parental residence—better for years from 1984 forward.
- (3) Total children ever born are available on a continuing basis for women interviewed in a given year.
- (4) Age at first sex: reported in 1984 and/or 1985
- (5) Age of mother at first birth and age at first pregnancy are available for most survey points. Also there are created variables defining gaps between marriage and first birth, first and second birth with more recent surveys carrying this logic to higher parity levels.
- (6) Total fertility expectations: repeatedly asked, beginning in 1979. Since 1986, asked in all even survey years. In general, more detailed fertility information is available in these even survey years. Also, fertility desires were asked in 1979 and 1982.
- (7) Pregnancy outcome information (live birth, abortion, miscarriage) typically updated for most even survey years from 1983 onward. The live birth information is of much higher quality than the abortion and miscarriage information. In recent years, miscarriage and abortion data have been joined.
- (8) Current birth control information (use-nonuse and type) and birth control use at time of last pregnancy) at most even survey rounds.
- (9) Pregnancy "wantedness" information as of most recent pregnancy. Was pregnancy wanted at that time, or "ever" wanted? Most even surveys since mid-1980s.
- (10) Maternal child-specific information ( for example) relating to birth weight, gestation length, weight gain during pregnancy, health care and selected substance use during pregnancy for most births.
- (11) Child-specific information for most children ever-born including (not limited to) breastfeeding, feeding supplementation, well and sick baby care for most children.
- (12) A variety of child-specific age-specific health-related, socio-emotional, and cognitive information following the children as they age. Additionally, there is extensive info about the children's home environment.
- (13) For children in residence, more detailed information is available from the household record.

### **BIOLOGICAL FERTILITY: YOUNG ADULT COHORT**

~ FIRST SURVEY IN 1994 (CHILDREN OF NLSY79 FEMALES 15 AND OVER)  
N=980

~ MOST RECENT AVAILABLE 2004 (15 AND OVER) N=5,024

~ 6 BIENNIAL SURVEY POINTS.

~ SAMPLE STRENGTHS AND CONSTRAINTS:

~ AGE OF MOTHERS AT YA BIRTH IN 1994=MOSTLY UNDER 21

~ AGE OF MOTHERS AT YA BIRTH IN 2004: 1,212<20. 2,137=20-24. 4,189>25

~ OLDER YA'S HAD YOUNGER MOTHERS!

### DATA AVAILABILITY (SUMMARY)

- (1) For male and female respondents, a created variable for number of children ever born and age of respondent at first birth are available from 2000 forward.
- (2) For all live births, "cleaned" variables indicating month and year of birth and gender are available.
- (3) Age at first pregnancy, abortion, and partial abortion information.
- (4) A residence history for all children is available for all survey years. Visitation and related information for absent parent.
- (5) Questions relating to age at first sex, sex and contraception use (including method type) in past year, and sex education.
- (6) In some rounds, the household record section provides additional detail about biological children in the home.
- (7) For all survey rounds, questions on fertility desires and expectations are available.
- (8) For child subsets (2000 and later), a limited set of questions about parental values and interactions re biological children. Also, infant health care, feeding practices, during first year.
- (9) Child wantedness; use of contraception and desire for child as of beginning of last pregnancy. Asked re respondent and partner.
- (10) Health-related activities, substance use, asked of women and male respondents (about partner) for pregnancies leading to live births.
- (11) Detailed psychometric history

## **BIOLOGICAL FERTILITY: 1997 MALE AND FEMALE COHORT**

~ FIRST SURVEY IN 1997 (12-17 AT SURVEY POINT) MALE N=4,599. FEM N=4,385

~ MOST RECENT AVAILABLE 2004 (19-24) MALE N=3,729. FEMALE N=3,773

~ 8 SURVEY ROUNDS COVERING AGES UP TO 23/24 AT THIS TIME

### **DATA AVAILABILITY (SUMMARY):**

- (1) Live births (gender, dates of births) history in round one, updates in subsequent rounds. Created cumulative histories
- (2) Abortions, miscarriages (girls  $\geq 14$  in round one, updates for both sexes in subsequent rounds) estimated dates of pregnancy beginnings.
- (3) Residence information for all respondent's children. Legitimization of paternity status.
- (4) Characteristics of other partner at conception (some rounds)
- (5) Respondent pregnancy-related behaviors and post-birth child involvement including male involvement if female was respondent. (rounds 4 and 5)
- (6) Fertility expectations (round 5)
- (7) Ever sex? Age at first sex? Use of contraception at first sex. Information about partner at first sex.
- (8) Frequency of sex since last interview? (youth 14 and over at round one or two; all youth from round 3 forward)
- (9) Recent contraceptive use and mode of contraception.
- (10) Knowledge about pregnancy and contraception (for subset).
- (11) Wantedness questions for those not using contraception.

**Table 1.1. NLSY79 Mother and Child Samples: 1986-2004 Surveys**

Sample Groups	1979	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004
<b>NLSY79 Females</b>											
Interviewed	6,283	5,418	5,312	4,510	4,535	4,480	4,361	4,299	4,113	3,955	3,984
<b>NLSY79 Mothers:</b>											
Interviewed		2,922	3,346	3,088	3,325	3,464	3,489	3,533	3,425	3,315	3,365
Interviewed; Children also interviewed		2,774	3,196	2,772	2,964	3,212	3,228	3,221	2,934	3,122	3,168
<b>NLSY79 Children:</b>											
Born to interviewed mothers		5,255	6,543	6,427	7,255	7,862	8,125	8,395	8,323	8,100	8,267
Children: birth – 14						6,622	6,010	5,343	4,438	3,502	2,755
Young Adults						1,240	2,113	3,052	3,885	4,598	5,512
<b>Interviewed</b>		<b>4,971</b>	<b>6,266</b>	<b>5,803</b>	<b>6,509</b>	<b>7,089</b>	<b>7,103</b>	<b>7,067</b>	<b>6,417</b>	<b>7,467</b>	<b>7,538</b>
Children: birth – 14						6,109	5,431	4,924	3,392	3,229	2,514
Young Adults						980	1,672	2,143	3,025	4,238	5,024

Note: Child age in this table is computed as of the mother's date of interview.

**Table 3.1. NLSY79 Young Adults Interviewed 1994-2004 by Age and Race/Ethnicity**

	Age at Interview											Total
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23-25	26+	
1994												
Hispanic	23	63	47	28	26	12	6	2				207
Black	57	115	92	74	64	42	16	12	2	1		475
White	40	95	55	44	38	17	5	3		1		298
Total	120	273	194	145	128	71	27	17	2	2		980
1996												
Hispanic	51	81	69	54	41	31	15	12	2	1		357
Black	80	136	142	108	91	60	62	32	15	12		739
White	79	141	129	70	66	41	34	11	6	2		576
Total	210	358	340	232	198	132	108	55	23	15		1672
1998												
Hispanic	58	102	107	81	73	50	37	5				515
Black	80	163	150	134	141	93	87	5				853
White	90	176	148	127	111	64	54	5				775
Total	228	441	405	342	325	207	180	15				2143
2000												
Hispanic	44	64	79	70	68	56	62	63	43	67	8	624
Black	63	102	106	106	112	82	127	103	89	179	31	1100
White	114	212	168	173	139	137	121	76	61	88	12	1301
Total	221	378	353	349	319	275	310	242	193	334	51	3025
2002												
Hispanic	64	94	106	91	93	91	106	82	74	123	39	963
Black	76	124	137	123	157	151	146	142	150	254	130	1590
White	136	181	212	197	165	164	158	128	123	169	52	1685
Total	276	399	455	411	415	406	410	352	347	546	221	4238
2004												
Hispanic	59	82	93	103	102	100	89	95	107	202	103	1135
Black	75	132	125	133	136	134	138	165	147	386	269	1840
White	143	180	206	173	188	206	162	158	162	316	155	2049
Total	277	394	424	409	426	440	389	418	416	904	527	5024

Note: In 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004, a respondent must have attained the age of 15 by the end of the survey year to be included in the Young Adult survey. In 1998 only, an additional age restriction was imposed: respondents had to be under 21 by the date of interview. A decision was made to retain data from the 15 Young Adults who were inadvertently interviewed even though they had already turned 21. In 2000 only, approximately 40 percent of black and Hispanic oversample cases between age 15 and 20 were not fielded.



**Table 3.2. Young Adult Age at 2004 Interview by Age of Mother at Birth of Young Adult and by Race/Ethnicity**

Age of YA	Age of Mother at Child's Birth								
	11-13	14-16	17-19	20-22	23-25	26-29	30+	Total	Mean
All Young Adults									
14-17	0	0	0	45	490	799	170	1504	26.5
18-20	0	0	46	433	476	300	0	1255	23.4
21-24	0	52	502	659	300	2	0	1515	20.4
25+	5	208	399	138	0	0	0	750	17.6
Total	5	260	947	1275	1266	1101	170	5024	20.1
Hispanic Mother									
14-17	0	0	0	13	120	165	39	337	26.3
18-20	0	0	15	94	115	67	0	291	23.4
21-24	0	15	118	150	67	1	0	351	20.3
25+	0	29	88	39	0	0	0	156	18.1
Total	0	44	221	296	302	233	39	1135	20.0
Black Mother									
14-17	0	0	0	21	181	221	42	465	26.1
18-20	0	0	21	174	142	71	0	408	22.9
21-24	0	23	224	248	101	0	0	596	20.1
25+	5	135	186	45	0	0	0	371	17.2
Total	5	158	431	488	424	292	42	1840	20.8
Non-Black, Non-Hispanic Mother									
14-17	0	0	0	11	189	413	89	702	26.8
18-20	0	0	10	165	219	162	0	556	23.8
21-24	0	14	160	261	132	1	0	568	20.7
25+	0	44	125	54	0	0	0	223	18.2
Total	0	58	295	491	540	476	89	2049	19.5

**Table 1.2. Age of Child by Age of Mother at Birth of Child: NLSY79 Children and Young Adults Interviewed in 2004**

Child Age	≤17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37+	Total
<1																					21	21
1																					42	42
2																					48	48
3																			2	9	60	71
4																		2	26	27	56	111
5																	1	21	27	19	46	114
6																9	22	23	33	24	48	159
7															2	32	32	39	32	23	18	178
8														2	30	38	36	25	18	8	23	180
9													2	39	26	45	39	25	14	14	14	218
10												9	44	38	46	40	30	26	17	16		266
11										5	38	50	34	55	51	44	21	23	20	2		298
12								3	51	57	58	45	43	41	22	22	4					297
13								8	25	26	27	20	22	14	19	3						346
14 & Ch								6	37	43	45	41	34	25	27	21						164
14 & YA								5	47	54	58	62	45	36	31	1						279
15							8	43	66	78	58	46	43	20	4							398
16							5	32	72	54	48	60	48	35	5							424
17				6	53	62	63	48	50	53	45	38	9									407
18				5	42	63	59	58	53	65	31	11										427
19				4	37	51	51	45	51	41	4											440
20				7	39	61	58	63	45	57	39	2										389
21				20	36	64	53	70	56	60	45	6										428
22				55	46	53	43	43	37	2												410
23				76	51	57	65	51	47	4												325
24				54	41	38	35	52	4													351
25				74	28	41	35	5														224
26				54	32	33	4															183
27				81	29	5																123
28				56	6																	115
29				30-34																		62
30-34				517	312	383	405	451	419	438	424	415	470	323	322	298	224	206	192	142	376	7538

Note: Child age for children under 15 is measured as of mother's interview date (see AGECH2004, C00047.47) and may differ from age at date of child assessment. For children whose mothers were not interviewed in 2004, age at Child Supplement interview date (CSAGE2004, C00070.52) was used. Age of children 15 and over (young adults) is measured at their young adult date of interview (see AGEINT2004, Y16727). Age of mother at birth of child (C00070) is in the CHILD BACKGROUND area of interest.

**Table 1.3. Child's Birth Year by Age of Mother at Child's Birth: NLSY79 Children and Young Adults Interviewed in 2004**

Child Birth Year	Age of Mother at Birth of Child																						Total
	≤17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37+		
1970-1973	29																					29	
1974	40																					40	
1975	74	19																				93	
1976	63	35	18																			116	
1977	69	25	46	22																		162	
1978	65	36	37	35	26																	199	
1979	62	50	43	49	58	27																289	
1980	74	46	55	63	49	43	26															356	
1981	25	41	64	64	52	55	51	22														374	
1982	16	47	51	44	67	57	48	57	31													418	
1983		13	52	59	58	55	44	56	48	25												410	
1984			17	48	56	54	63	49	44	59	24											414	
1985				21	64	67	59	59	59	53	37	31										450	
1986					21	50	67	50	45	48	59	49	34									423	
1987						11	63	51	53	75	59	42	43	18								415	
1988							17	61	64	61	51	45	31	30	19							379	
1989								19	60	67	71	79	58	38	43	22						457	
1990									11	61	53	52	51	39	30	30	15					342	
1991										21	51	68	33	50	46	26	21	13				329	
1992											22	43	52	48	58	43	17	24	10			317	
1993												24	44	41	50	34	28	18	27	5		271	
1994													15	41	30	45	36	29	10	22	5	233	
1995														18	26	35	34	25	17	10	26	191	
1996															20	40	30	36	20	18	16	180	
1997																23	34	29	39	23	31	179	
1998														9	21	31	21	31	19	54	134		
1999																	11	32	23	45	111		
2000																		6	19	56	81		
2001																			3	66	69		
2002																				39	39		
2003																					27	27	
2004																					11	11	
Total	517	312	383	405	451	419	438	424	415	470	427	433	361	323	322	298	224	206	192	142	376	7538	

**Table 4.1. Data Elements Available over the Life Course for Two Age Cohorts**

Available Data	1984–1985 Births	1980–1981 Births
Age in 2004 (by Dec.31)	19-20	23-24
Sample Size in 2004	839	730
Mom Age at Birth	18-27	15-24
Key Data Elements		
Pre-/Postnatal Information	Yes	Yes
Child Residence Information	Lifelong	Age 3-4 onward
Detailed Child Health	Age 1-2 onward	Age 5-6 onward
School Early Years	1990/1991	1986/1987
Child Assessment Years	1986–1998	1986–1994
HOME Assessment	1986–1998	1986–1994
Behavior Problems	1986–1998	1986–1994
PPVT	1988/1990 and 1994/1996	1986, 1990, 1994
PIAT Math & Reading	1990–1998	1986–1994
Adolescent Self-Report	1994–1998	1990–1994
Young Adult Survey	2000–2004	1996–2004

**Table 1.7. Age of YA at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004 by YA, Child, and Total Interviews<sup>1</sup>**

		Type of Interview															
		Young Adult Interview						Child Interviews				Total Number of Interviews					
# of Interviews		1	2	3	4	5	6	0-5	6	7	8	0-6	7	8	9	10	
Age of YA																	
15 Years		457						52	100	305		52	100	305			
16 Years		379						33	54	135	157	33	54	135	157		
17 Years		49	384					68	99	266		33	57	89	254		
18 Years		59	387					61	92	232	61	43	32	93	221	57	
19 Years		41	103	345				58	63	368		28	19	54	109	279	
20 Years		37	113	311				52	53	356		29	20	49	99	264	
21 Years		32	41	118	283			133	341			39	33	69	97	236	
22 Years		32	58	125	269	1		116	369			42	32	60	119	232	
23 to 25		44	77	131	251	503	205	1201				131	84	142	278	566	
26 to 34		39	62	103	106	290	209	809				183	63	143	244	176	
Total All	5634	1169	1225	1123	909	794	414	2583	1171	1662	218	613	494	1139	1578	1810	
Race/ Ethn. of Mother	Age of YA																
15		97						15	32	50		15	32	50			
16		78						1	19	33	25	1	19	33	25		
17		13	95					25	35	48		10	25	26	47		
18		10	89					17	30	44	8	12	8	29	42	8	
Hispanic 19		9	31	71				16	20	75		6	7	16	29	53	
20		11	36	56				11	22	70		6	8	15	31	43	
21		7	9	38	64			34	84			6	10	20	2	53	
22		13	23	39	48			49	74			17	12	27	29	38	
23-25		13	27	36	77	96	38	287				43	31	46	65	102	
26-34		8	7	22	24	53	49	163				35	14	34	45	35	
Total H	1287	259	317	262	213	149	87	618	316	320	33	151	166	296	342	332	
15		142						17	39	86		17	39	86			
16		119						12	20	42	45	12	20	42	45		
17		13	111					15	37	72		9	10	36	69		
18		19	125					24	37	65	18	14	16	35	61	18	
Blacks 19		14	44	96				19	22	113		10	7	16	48	73	
20		12	46	88				20	12	114		11	9	13	34	79	
21		14	16	54	90			57	117			14	15	34	40	71	
22		7	16	57	87	1		33	135			9	8	18	61	72	
23-25		13	23	40	116	180	96	468				42	26	51	134	215	
26-34		20	25	47	59	161	95	407				90	24	80	129	84	
Total B	2046	373	406	382	352	342	191	1072	419	492	63	227	174	411	621	612	
15		218						20	29	169		20	29	169			
16		182						20	15	60	87	20	15	60	87		
17		23	178					28	27	146		14	22	27	138		
18		30	173					20	25	123	35	17	8	29	118	31	
Whites 19		18	28	178				23	21	180		12	5	22	32	153	
20		14	31	167				21	19	172		12	3	21	34	142	
21		11	16	26	129			42	140			19	8	15	28	112	
22		12	19	29	134			34	160			16	12	15	29	122	
23-25		18	27	45	58	227	71	446				46	27	45	79	249	
26-34		11	30	34	23	76	65	239				58	18	25	70	57	
Total W	2301	537	502	479	344	303	136	893	436	850	122	234	154	432	615	866	

<sup>1</sup> Includes all young adults ever interviewed.

**Table 4.3. Cross-Generational Research Possibilities**

Maternal Background & Inputs	Childhood Mediators	YA Mediators & Outcomes
Demographic	Pre-/Postnatal Information	Demographic
Race/Ethnicity	Maternal Work History	Race/Ethnicity
Religion	Maternal Work History	Religion
Region	Child Care in 1 <sup>st</sup> Three Years	Region
Urban/Rural	Temperament	Urban/Rural
Migration Patterns	Motor and Social Development	Migration Patterns
Behavioral	Body Parts	Behavioral
Age at Menarche	Memory for Location	Age at Menarche
Age at 1 <sup>st</sup> Sex	Digit Span	Age at 1 <sup>st</sup> Sex
Age at 1 <sup>st</sup> Birth	PIAT Math	Age at 1 <sup>st</sup> Birth
Age at 1 <sup>st</sup> Drug Use	PIAT Reading	Age at 1 <sup>st</sup> Drug Use
Age at 1 <sup>st</sup> Marriage	PPVT-R	Age at 1 <sup>st</sup> Marriage
Deviant Activity	HOME	Age at 1 <sup>st</sup> Cohabitation
Social Psychological	BPI (Behavior Problems)	Deviant Activity
Self-Esteem	SPPC (Self Perception)	Sexual Activity
Depression	Preschool/Head Start	Dating Activity
Locus of Control	Schooling	Social Psychological
Mastery	Health	Self-Esteem, Depression
Women's Roles	Relationship with Parents	Mastery, Women's Roles
Early Formative Influences	Risk Taking	Goals/Expectations for Education
Goals/Expectations for Education	Depression	Educational Attainment
Educational Attainment	Gender Attitudes	School to Work Transition
School to Work Transition	TV Viewing	Marital History/Relationship Quality
Marital History/Relationship Quality	Physical development (hgt & wgt)	Job History
Job History	Early work for pay	Military Service
Military Service		Reciprocity
Reciprocity		Transition to Parenthood
Father's Background (for years married to mother)		Parenting attitudes and behaviors
		Father's Background (for non-residential fathers)

### NLSY79 Mothers & Children: Comparable Attitudinal and Behavioral Questions

NLSY79 Mothers	Children 10 & Older	Young Adults
Educational Aspirations/ Expectations, own & child's	Educational Expectations	Educational Expectations
Women's Roles	Gender Role Attitudes	Women's Roles
Employment, own	Employment/Work for Pay	Employment
Marriage & Birth Expectations	Marriage & Birth Expectations	Marriage & Birth Expectations
—	Sex Education	Sex Education
Early Sexual Activity	Early Sexual Activity	Early/Current Sexual Activity
Early Childbearing	Early Childbearing	Early Childbearing
Pearlin Mastery	—	Pearlin Mastery
Rosenberg Self-Esteem	Child Loneliness; SPPC	Rosenberg Self-Esteem
Locus of Control	Peer Pressure	—
Depression Scale (CES-D)	Child Moods	Depression Scale (CES-D)
AIDS Knowledge	Pregnancy Knowledge	Pregnancy Knowledge
Religion, own & child's	Religion & Attendance	Religion & Attendance
Delinquency; Police Contact	Non-Normative Behavior	Delinquency; Police/Justice System Contact; Non-Normative Behavior
HOME Items on Family Activities	Parent-Child Joint Activities	—
School Discipline, own & child's	School Discipline	School Discipline
Child HH Chore Expectations & Time Spent	Family Decision-Making	—
Child Closeness to Each Parent	Parent-Child "Closeness"/Interaction	Parent-Child "Closeness"/Interaction
Relationship (Marital) Quality	Mother-Father Consensus; Dating	Relationship Quality (Spouse, Partner, or Steady Boy-/Girlfriend) Mother-Father Consensus; Dating
School Rating/Satisfaction, own & child's	Child Satisfaction with School	Child Satisfaction with School
Trouble in School (BPI & MS child items)	Bring Parent to School	Bring Parent to School
Parental Monitoring	Parental Monitoring	Limit Setting
Parental Involvement in Child's School	Parental Involvement in Child's School	Parental Involvement in Child's School
Neighborhood Safety	Neighborhood Safety	Neighborhood Safety
TV Viewing by Child	TV Viewing	TV Viewing
Knowledge of Child's Friends	How Much Tell Parents about Friends	—
Childhood Residence, own	Time Away from Parents; Contact with Nonresident Father	Reasons Left Mother's HH; Contact with Nonresident Father
Cigarette, Alcohol, & Drug Use, own	Cigarette, Alcohol, & Drug Use	Cigarette, Alcohol, & Drug Use

NOTE: Items in the "NLSY79 Mothers" column that are qualified with "own" refer to reports about her own behavior; questions where she reports on her own AND her child(ren)'s behavior are noted.

**Table 3.5. Selected Attitudinal/Behavioral Sequences Available for Mothers and Young Adults**

Question Sequence	Mothers	YA 1994-1998	YA 2000-2004
<b>Attitudinal</b>			
Job Satisfaction	X	X	X
Fertility Desires/Expectations	X	X	X
Educational Desires/Expectations	X	X	X
Career Expectations	X (Women)	X	X
Marriage Expectations	X	X	X
Pregnancy "Wantedness"	x	X	X
Women's' Roles Scores	X	X	
Relationship Quality	X	X	X
Locus of Control	Rotter, Pearlin	Pearlin	Pearlin
Rosenberg Self-Esteem	X	X	X
Depression Scale (CES-D)	X	X	X
<b>Behavioral</b>			
Religion	X	X	X
Police Contact	X	X	X
Delinquency	X	X	X
School Discipline	X	X	X
<i>Alcohol</i>			
Ever?	X	X	X
Age First?	X	X	X
Frequency	X	X	X
Intensity	X	X	X
Location	X	X	
<i>Marijuana</i>			
Age first	X	X	X
Age last	X	Recency	Recency
Lifetime frequency	X	X	
30 day frequency	X	X	X
<i>Cocaine ("Crack" separate in 92, 94)</i>			
		(separately)	(separately)
Age first	X	X	X
Age last	X	Recency	Recency
30 day frequency	X	X	X
Lifetime frequency	X	X	
<i>"Other" Drugs</i>			
	(laundry list)	(more detail)	(more detail)
Lifetime frequency	X	X	
Age first/last	X	X/Recency	X/Recency
30 day frequency	X	X	X
Ever?	X	X	X
<i>Cigarettes</i>			
Ever?	X	X	X
Age first?	X	X	X
Frequency	X	X	X
Intensity	X	X	X
Age Last	X	Recency	Recency

Note: Pearlin = Pearlin Mastery Scale and CES-D = Center for Epidemiologic Studies of Depression Scale



## **Select Created Variables: 1979 Cohort (2002)**

### 1979 Cohort

- (1) # of kids ever born and dates of birth
- (2) Age of youngest child
- (3) Age of R at first, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> birth
- (4) Months between marriage and first birth
  - ...First and 2<sup>nd</sup> birth
  - ...2<sup>nd</sup> and third birth
- (5) M/Y and age of R at first pregnancy
- (6) Outcome of first pregnancy
- (7) Number of miscarriages, abortions
- (8) Many created marriage variables

Questions Asked of Respondents in Long Fertility Section during Even Numbered Survey Years	
All Respondents	
Validate known biological children (name, birthdate, sex)	Validate known nonbiological children (name, birthdate, sex)
Current residence information for each biological child	Number of additional children respondent expects
<i>For each biological child not residing in the household ask:</i>	Expected time to arrival or interval of next child
How far does child live from respondent?	Birth control methods used by respondent
How often do you see the child?	
Male Respondents	
<i>For each child in household ask:</i>	Had any children since last interview?
Does other biological parent live in the household?	
How often does child see biological parent?	Number of children and vital statistics
Wantedness of most recent child	
Female Respondents	
Have you been pregnant since last interview?	<i>For each pregnancy ending in live birth:</i>
When did pregnancy begin, end?	Prenatal doctor visits
Result of pregnancy (birth, miscarriage, etc.)	Alcohol/cigarette/drug use during pregnancy
Did respondent want to become pregnant?	Other prenatal behaviors (vitamin intake, salt intake, etc.)
Confidential abortion card	Amniocentesis, ultrasound performed
For each child in household ask:	Was child born early or late?
Does biological father live in household?	Cesarean birth
How often does child see biological father?	Weight gain during pregnancy
	Child's birth size
	Length of hospital stay
	Well baby/sick baby health care in first year
	Was child breast fed?
	Other infant feeding practices

## NLSY79 Mothers, Children, and Young Adults Health Data Across Cohorts

Mothers	Children	Young Adults
Height and Weight of Respondent	Height and Weight of Respondent	Height and Weight of Respondent
Sex Education (Detailed questions)	Sex Education	Sex Education
Early Sexual Activity	Early Sexual Activity	Early/Current Sexual Activity
Early Childbearing & Fertility	Early Childbearing & Fertility	Early Childbearing & Fertility
Pearlin Mastery Scale	Self-Perception (SPPC)	Pearlin Mastery Scale
Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale	Child Loneliness; Self-Perception	Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale
Locus of Control	Peer Pressure	
Depression Scale (CES-D)	Child Moods	Depression Scale (CES-D)
AIDS Knowledge	Pregnancy knowledge	Pregnancy knowledge
TV Viewing (1981 only)	TV Viewing (detailed)	TV Viewing (parental control)
Cigarette, Alcohol, & Drug Use	Cigarette, Alcohol, & Drug Use	Cigarette, Alcohol, & Drug Use
Eye Color (1985 only)	Eye Color (1986 only)	
Handedness (hand used for writing)	Handedness (hand used for writing)	Handedness (hand used for writing)
Health Limits to Work/Leisure/Mobility	Health Limits to School/Play	Health Limits to School/Work/Leisure
Menses (onset and patterns)	Menses (onset and patterns)	Menses (onset and patterns)
Cognitive Functioning (IQ/ability tests)	Cognitive Functioning (reading/math)	Self-report on Learning Disabilities
Health Assessments	Health Assessments (injuries/accidents)	Health Assessments (describe health)
Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health	Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health	Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health
Relationships (limited information)	Relationships/Friendships (detailed)	Relationships/Friendships (detailed)
Marital/Partner Quality (arguments)		Marital/Partner Quality (history/facts)
Insurance Coverage Periods/Sources	Insurance Coverage Periods/Sources	Insurance Coverage Periods/Sources

**Table 4.4. Health Data in the NLSY79 Child Surveys**

Child Health	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	00	02	04
Child's eye and hair color	M									
Does health limit school or play	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Physical, emotional, or mental condition requiring: treatment, medicine, or special equipment	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Type/duration of limiting health conditions	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Accidents/injuries needing medical attention in last 12 months	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Accidents/injuries needing hospitalization since last interview/since birth		M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Number of illnesses requiring medical attention or treatment	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Date of last routine health checkup	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Menarche; age at 1 <sup>st</sup> menses for female child (and mother)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Right/left handedness						M	M	M	M	M
Date of last dental checkup/work	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Source of health insurance, if any	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Behavioral, emotional, or mental problems; did insurance cover doctor visit	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Or prescription drugs taken to help control activity/behavior	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Height and body weight of child	M-I	M-I	M-I	M-I	M-I	M-I	M-I	M-I	M-I	M-I
Healthcare during pregnancy leading to child's birth <sup>1</sup>	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Postnatal infant healthcare and feeding <sup>1</sup>	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Temperament Scales (<4 years)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Motor and Social Development Scale (<4 years)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Behavior Problems Index (4+ years)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Asthma										M/C
Cigarette use; age first smoked; frequency		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Alcohol use; age first drank; frequency		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Marijuana use; age first used; frequency		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Substance use (like glue, gas, sprays, fluids) that are "sniffed/huffed"; age first used; frequency					C	C	C	C	C	C
Other drug use (LSD, cocaine, uppers, downers); age first used; frequency		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C

NOTE: Users are reminded that, while Child and Young Adult health items are presented separately in this table, all child health items were collected for young adults when they were age 14 or younger in the years their mothers were interviewed.

"C" denotes child report.

"M" denotes mother report.

"M-I" denotes either mother report or interviewer measurement; flag indicating source of report appears in the data file for each survey year.

<sup>1</sup> Pre- and postnatal items have been asked in the mother's main Youth interview since 1982 so that most information has been collected for most births. This information includes child's birth weight and length, mother's weight gain, type of delivery, etc.

**Table 1.9. NLSY79 Women Interviewed in 2004 by Number and Ages of Children and by Race/Ethnicity**

Type of Household (Female)	Age of Child(ren)	Number of Households			
		Hispanic	Black	White	Total
Females with no children		87	190	344	621
Family units 1 or more child					3363
Mothers with 1 child	< 6 years old	15	12	27	54
	6-9 years old	12	17	42	71
	10-14 years old	15	40	88	143
	15+ years old	63	150	172	385
	Total	105	219	329	653
Mothers with 2 children	Both < 6 years old	1	2	8	11
	Both 6-9 years old	5	8	15	28
	Both 10-14 years old	9	14	72	95
	Both 15+ years old	129	212	351	692
	Older 6-9, Younger < 6	9	8	34	51
	Older 10-14, Younger < 6	1	3	17	21
	Older 15+, Younger < 6	9	8	7	24
	Older 10-14, Younger 6-9	15	11	78	101
	Older 15+, Younger 6-9	15	18	21	54
	Older 15+, Younger 10-14	54	68	155	277
	Total	244	352	758	1354
Mothers with 3 or more children	All < 6 years old	1	0	1	2
	All 6-9 years old	0	1	2	3
	All 10-14 years old	0	2	5	7
	All 15+ years old	119	230	200	549
	Oldest 6-9, Youngest < 6	2	1	14	17
	Oldest 10-14, Youngest < 6	5	4	18	27
	Oldest 15+, Youngest < 6	44	34	38	116
	Oldest 10-14, Youngest 6-9	6	6	36	48
	Oldest 15+, Youngest 6-9	53	63	85	201
	Oldest 15+, Youngest 10-14	99	128	159	386
	Total	329	469	558	1356

**Table 1.8. Child and Young Adult Sample Types for Pooled Age Groups Through 2004**

<b>Younger Children</b>			
<b>Pooled Age Groups 1986-2004</b>	<b>Total Possible #</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
0 year olds	2661	1389	1272
1 year olds	3027	1538	1489
2 year olds	3220	1624	1596
3 year olds	3444	1738	1706
4 year olds	3569	1810	1759
5 year olds	3665	1875	1790
6 year olds	3657	1865	1792
7 year olds	3697	1884	1813
8 year olds	3630	1819	1811
9 year olds	3546	1802	1744
10 year olds	3453	1739	1714
11 year olds	3295	1685	1610
12 year olds	3063	1556	1507
13 year olds	2880	1469	1411
14 year olds	1609	805	804
<b>Young Adult Children</b>			
<b>Pooled Age Groups 1994-2004</b>	<b>Total Possible #</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
14 Year Olds	1307	669	638
15 Year Olds	2168	1095	1073
16 Year Olds	2110	1066	1044
17 Year Olds	1840	945	895
18 Year Olds	1765	864	901
19 Year Olds	1484	717	767
20 Year Olds	1384	675	709
21 Year Olds	1083	572	511
22 Year Olds	954	465	489
23 Year Olds	695	365	330
24 Year Olds	664	341	323
25 Year Olds	417	201	216
26 Year Olds	330	167	163
27 Year Olds	195	101	94
28 Year Olds	151	79	72
29 Year Olds	72	40	32
30 Year Olds	27	13	14
31 Year Olds	14	0	14
32 Year Olds	2	0	2
33 Year Olds	1	0	1

NOTE: Ages are computed as of survey dates. For younger children, the counts are cumulative from 1986 to the 2004 interview and are based on a child being interviewed in at least one survey year. Young adults are counted if they have been interviewed, from 1994 to 2004 interview, in at least one year. Starting in 1994, children who are 14 at the survey date but who would reach age 15 by the end of the survey year are eligible for the Young Adult survey and are thus counted as young adults. Children, who were age 15 or older in any of the survey years prior to 1994, are not represented in this table unless they were interviewed as young adults from 1994 to the present.

## Following Youth Through Later Adolescence/Early Adulthood

Young Women	14-17 (1968) →	24-27 (1978)	10 years
NLSY79 (M&F)	14-17 (1979) →	24-27 (1989)	10 years
NLSY-YA (M&F)	14-17 (1994 onward) →	24-27 (2004)	10 years
NLSY97 (M&F)	14-17 (1997) →	21-24 (2004)	7 years





## What is doable?

	'68	'79	'97	Y.A.
Patterning of early sexual activity	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Abortion/Miscarriage	No	Yes*	Yes	Yes*
Early sex education	No	Yes	No	Yes
Dating	No	No	Yes	Yes
Age at first birth	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age at first pregnancy	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Birth Spacing	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Relationship History	No	Yes	Yes	Partial
Marriage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cohabit	Partial	Partial	Yes	Partial
Wantedness	No	Yes	Yes	Yes