Recent Research on Aging from the National Longitudinal Surveys

The National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) are a set of surveys sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor. These surveys have gathered information at multiple points in time on the labor market experiences and other significant life events of several groups of men and women. Each of the NLS samples consists of several thousand individuals, many of whom have been surveyed over several decades.

Among the four original NLS cohorts (for which data collection has ended), three contain older sample members:


**Mature Women:** Began in 1967 with 5,083 women born in 1922-37 (ages 30-44 in 1967). Sample members were interviewed 21 times from 1967 to 2003. The final interview in 2003 was conducted with 2,237 women ages 66-80.

**Young Women:** Began in 1968 with 5,159 women born in 1943-53 (ages 14-24 in 1968). Sample members were interviewed 22 times from 1968 to 2003. The final interview in 2003 was conducted with 2,857 women ages 49-59.

Among the three NLS cohorts that continue to collect data, one contains older sample members:

**National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY79):** Began in 1979 with 12,686 men and women born in 1957-64 (ages 14-22 in 1979). Sample members were interviewed annually from 1979 to 1994 and biennially thereafter. The 2018 interview was conducted with 6,878 men and women ages 53-62.

The three remaining NLS cohorts (Young Men, NLSY79 Child/Young Adult, and 1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth) do not have sample members age 50 and above as of the most recent interview.

Citations:


Jang, Joy Bohyun and Sandra Tang. "Informal Caregiving and Health in Middle and Late Adulthood." *Innovation in Aging* 4, S1 (December 2020): 585. (*NLSY79*)

Kwon, Eunsun, Sojung Park, Hyunjoo Lee and Na Youn Lee. "Multiple Pathways Linking Early Socioeconomic Circumstances and Depressive Symptoms in Late Middle Age in the U.S." *Aging and Mental Health* published online (21 July 2021): DOI: 10.1080/13607863.2021.1951659. (*NLSY79*)


NLS data and documentation are publicly available for search and download at: http://www.nlsinfo.org/

The annotated, searchable NLS bibliography can be accessed at: http://www.nlsbibliography.org/