

## How do I obtain NLS data?

NLS data are made available to researchers through Investigator ([www.nlsinfo.org/investigator](http://www.nlsinfo.org/investigator)). Investigator allows users to search for variables of interest for any NLS cohort, create simple tabulations of the data, extract data files for analysis, and access documentation. NLS public data are immediately available and free of charge. See below for information on obtaining restricted-access NLS data such as the geocoded files.

## Where do I get more information?

Visit the NLS website ([www.bls.gov/nls/](http://www.bls.gov/nls/)) for online access to questionnaires and other documentation, a searchable, annotated bibliography of NLS research, news releases, updates, information on obtaining restricted-access data, and much more.

Questions about NLS data should be directed to NLS User Services: [usersvc@chrr.osu.edu](mailto:usersvc@chrr.osu.edu) or 614-442-7366.

Questions about BLS publications and restricted-access NLS data should be directed to [NLS\\_info@bls.gov](mailto:NLS_info@bls.gov) or 202-691-7410.

The National Longitudinal Surveys are sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) with data collection and user services provided, under contract, by the Center for Human Resource Research (CHRR) at The Ohio State University and NORC at the University of Chicago. Funding for the NLSY79 Child/Young Adult survey is provided by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

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# NLS of Older Men Fact Sheet

## What are 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.

## What is the National Longitudinal Survey of Older Men?

The NLS of Older Men is a sample of 5,020 men who were ages 45 to 59 in 1966. The survey is one of four original groups first interviewed when the NLS program began in the mid-1960s. The U.S. Department of Labor selected the Older Men cohort to enable research on the employment patterns of men who were nearing the completions of their careers, making decisions about the timing and extent of their labor force withdrawal, and planning for retirement. Data are available for this cohort from 1966 through 1983. Additional information was collected in 1990 during final interviews with the remaining respondents and the widows or other family members of deceased sample members. The survey covers a variety of topics, including:

- characteristics of jobs
- labor market status
- education
- health and physical condition
- marital and family characteristics
- income and assets
- attitudes and perspectives
- retirement
- environmental characteristics
- military service

## How was the sample designed?

The U.S. Census Bureau, which conducted the survey for BLS, designed the samples of the four original NLS cohorts so that any given household could include multiple respondents from the same cohort or from different cohorts. Variables present in the data files identify the respondents who lived in a multiple-respondent household at the time the samples were selected. These relationships offer unique samples for a number of research topics. For example, data collected from husband-wife pairs in the NLS of Older Men and the NLS of Mature Women allow researchers to examine retirement as a family decision.

### Sample sizes by race for selected surveys: NLS of Older Men

	1966 (initial survey)	1976	1990 (final survey)
<b>Total</b>	5,020	3,487	2,092
Nonblack	3,600	2,521	1,603
Black	1,420	966	489

Note: In 1990, interviews also were conducted with 2,206 widows or other family members of deceased respondents; these interviews collected information about both the original member of the cohort and his widow.

## Cohorts in the National Longitudinal Surveys

### NLSY97

-women and men ages 12-16  
as of December 31, 1996

### NLSY79

-women and men ages 14-21  
as of December 31, 1978

### NLSY79 Child and Young Adult

-children born to women of  
the NLSY79

### NLS of Older Men

-men ages 45-59 in 1966  
(discontinued after 1990)

### NLS of Young Men

-men ages 14-24 in 1966  
(discontinued after 1981)

### NLS of Mature Women

-women ages 30-44 in 1967  
(discontinued after 2003)

### NLS of Young Women

-women ages 14-24 in 1968  
(discontinued after 2003)