The National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) at APPAM

NLS papers prepared for the Annual Fall Research Conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

November 3-5, 2016 – Washington, DC

The National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) are nationally representative surveys designed to track the life experiences of several US cohorts over time. The surveys collect data on employment, schooling, fertility, family processes, household structure, marriage, cohabitation, income, mobility, intergenerational transfers, health, attitudes, non-normative and criminal behaviors, civic engagement, aging, and more. The National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth (NLSY) are ongoing.

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 Cohort (NLSY79) is a longitudinal project that follows the lives of a sample of American youth born in 1957-1964. The cohort originally included 12,686 respondents ages 14-22 when first interviewed in 1979. Data are now available from Round 1 (1979) to Round 25 (2012); this ongoing cohort is now interviewed biennially.

The Children of the NLSY79 mothers have been assessed biennially since 1986 to measure their cognitive ability, academic achievement, social development, health, behavior, and home environment. Starting in 1994, children age 15 and older have been interviewed in the Young Adult Survey (YA) and followed into adulthood. Child and YA data, which can be linked to the NLSY79 mothers’ full histories, are available from 1986 to 2012, representing 14 survey rounds for the Child sample and 10 survey rounds for Young Adults in that time span.

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97) is a longitudinal project that follows the lives of a sample of American youth born in 1980-1984; 8,984 respondents were ages 12-17 when first interviewed in 1997. This ongoing cohort has been surveyed 16 times to date and is now interviewed biennially. Data are now available from Round 1 (1997) to Round 16 (2013).

Data are also available for the NLS Original Cohorts, comprised of the Young Men (ages 14-24 in 1966), Older Men (45-69 in 1966), Young Women (ages 14-24 in 1968), and Mature Women (ages 30-44 in 1967). Respondents in these four original NLS cohorts are no longer interviewed, but data remain available for analysis.

Papers are listed by day and session time. Please check the program to confirm exact time and location.

Thursday, Nov 3, 8:15-9:45 AM
Albright (Washington Hilton)
Understanding the Labor Market Returns to Mobility for Young Workers
Janna E. Johnson (University of Minnesota), Sam Schulhofer-Wohl (Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis); NLSY79, NLSY97

Friday, Nov 4, 8:30-10:00 AM
Columbia 4 (Washington Hilton)
Racial Disparities in Student Loan Debt and the Reproduction of Inequality
Jason Houle (Dartmouth College), Fenaba Addo (University of Wisconsin – Madison); NLSY97
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. The Original NLS Cohorts were conducted under contract with ETA/BLS by the Center for Human Resource Research (CHRR) at The Ohio State University and the U.S. Census Bureau.

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.
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