

NLSY79

**1998
Child & Young Adult
Data**

Users Guide

April 2000

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Center for Human Resource Research
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

1998 NLSY79

CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT DATA

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The Ohio State University
921 Chatham Lane
Columbus, Ohio 43221**

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Contents

Introduction.....	1
The NLSY79 Child Sample.....	3
Sample Constraints.....	3
Child Cases Removed from NLSY79.....	4
Sample Size – Who Was Interviewed?.....	4
Characteristics of the Child Sample.....	5
Data Collection	7
Child Field Instruments.....	9
Young Adult Field Instruments.....	12
The NLSY79 Child & Young Adult Files.....	18
NLSY79 Child & Young Adult Data on CD-ROM.....	19
NLSY79 Child & Young Adult Documentation	21
Using the NLSY79 Child & Young Adult Data	22
Creating and Linking Variables	22
Linking Data Files.....	24
Sampling Weights	25
Child Age: A Cautionary Note.....	27
Frequently Used Variables.....	29
Missing Data.....	30
The NLSY Child Assessments	30
Who Was Assessed in 1998?	31
Changes in the Child Questionnaires	32
Assessment Completion Rates	33
Linking the Child Questionnaire to the Data File.....	33
Descriptions of the Child Assessments.....	34
The HOME	35
Temperament	40
Motor & Social Development.....	42
Behavior Problems Index	44
Parts of the Body.....	48
Memory for Locations	50
Verbal Memory.....	53
Self-Perception Profile.....	57
Memory for Digit Span.....	60
PIAT Mathematics.....	62
PIAT Reading Recognition	66
PIAT Reading Comprehension.....	69
The PPVT-R	73
Interviewer Remarks and Testing Conditions	78
Contact and Ordering.....	79
References.....	80

List of Tables

- Table 1. Age of Child by Age of Mother at Birth of Child: NLSY79 Children & Young Adults Interviewed in 1998
- Table 2. Year of Birth of Child by Age of Mother at Birth of Child: NLSY79 Children & Young Adults Interviewed in 1998
- Table 3. NLSY79 Child Sample Sizes by Age and Race/Ethnicity: 1986-1998
- Table 4. NLSY79 Children & Young Adults Interviewed 1986-1996 by Single Year of Age and Race/Ethnicity
- Table 5. NLSY79 Children & Young Adults Interviewed 1994-1998 by Single Year of Age and Race/Ethnicity
- Table 6. The NLSY79 Child & Young Adult Files by Reference Number and Subject Matter
- Table 7. Key Variables on the NLSY79 Child Files
- Table 8. Key Variables on the NLSY79 Young Adult Files
- Table 9. Assessment Scores on the NLSY79 Child File, 1986-1994
- Table 10. Assessment Scores on the NLSY79 Child File, 1996-1998
- Table 11. NLSY79 Child Assessments: Variations in Administration by Survey Year
- Table 12. NLSY79 Children with Valid Assessment Scores in 1998
- Table 13. Components of the NLSY79 Child Temperament Scales, 1998
- Table 14. Components of NLSY79 Child Behavior Problems Index Scores, 1998
- Table 15. Components of the NLSY79 Child HOME Scores, 1998

Appendices

- Appendix A1 The HOME: Question Recodes – Mother Supplement, 1998
 - Appendix A2 The HOME: Question Recodes – Child CAPI Supplement, 1998
 - Appendix A3 The HOME Environment: Composition of the HOME Scales
 - Appendix B How My Child Acts: Composition of the Temperament Scales
 - Appendix C Motor & Social Development: Raw Score-Normed Score Lookup Tables
 - Appendix D1 Behavior Problems: Composition of the BPI Scales
 - Appendix D2 Behavior Problems: Raw Score-Normed Score Lookup Tables
 - Appendix E Key to “Decision” Items (Q.8) in the 1992 Child Self-Administered Supplement
 - Appendix F Sample Programs for Merging NLSY79 Child & Main Youth Files
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Introduction

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY79) is a multipurpose survey that originally included more than 12,600 individuals in the U.S. who have been interviewed since 1979 when they were 14 to 21 years of age. Sponsored by the Department of Labor, the NLSY79 contains extensive information about the employment, education, training, and family experiences of the respondents. Since 1982, with support from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), questions have been asked about pregnancy, post-natal fertility, and child care experiences of the female respondents in the NLSY79 sample. Biennially since 1986, assessments have been administered to the children of NLSY79 mothers to measure their cognitive ability, temperament, motor and social development, behavior problems, perceived competence, and the quality of their home environment.

Beginning with 1994, children age 15 and over (hereafter termed “young adults”) were no longer assessed. These older children (ages 15 through 20 only in 1998) now complete an approximately one hour-long personal interview focusing on their education, employment, and family-related behaviors and attitudes. In addition, they fill out a self-administered paper questionnaire that asks about a variety of more personal attitudes and behaviors. This confidential booklet contains questions relating to substance use, early sexual activity, and other non-normative activities. The NLSY79 Young Adult data collection permits researchers to examine associations between a young adult’s family background, intellectual, and emotional development, and incipient career development activities.

The Child and Young Adult information can be combined with data from the mothers’ records to form a detailed data file for users interested in exploring the interrelationships between family and environmental factors, maternal behavior, and child and young adult development.

The Center for Human Resource Research (CHRR) at the Ohio State University and NORC at the University of Chicago are responsible for the design, collection, and dissemination of the NLSY79 Youth and Child data.

This data users guide provides basic information about the 1998 NLSY79 Child and Young Adult data. Also included here is a discussion of the child and mother samples, their constraints, and related issues. This document should be used in conjunction with a variety of other materials including selected NLSY79 Child Handbooks, the *NLS Handbook*, the *NLSY79 Users' Guide*, Young Adult, and main Youth questionnaires used in the field to collect the data. For in-depth information about constructed variables on the Child file that are items drawn from the mother's record (in the main NLSY79 files), users should consult *The NLSY79 Users' Guide*. Finally, detailed cross-tabulations describing the 1998 Child assessment scores are available from CHRR in a report entitled *The 1998 NLSY79 Child Assessments: Selected Tables* (CHRR, 1999). (Reports containing descriptive tables based on the 1994 and 1996 data are also available from CHRR.) These tables are referenced in this users guide. All of the above materials are available from the NLS User Services Office at CHRR.

Specific substantive questions regarding the Child assessment materials should be addressed to either Frank Mott at (614) 442-7378, mott.1@osu.edu or Paula Baker at (614) 442-7375, baker.21@osu.edu, at the Center. Questions regarding the Young Adult materials may be addressed to Canada Keck at (614) 442-7377, keck.2@osu.edu. Other questions, especially those relating to the availability and cost of public use materials, should be addressed to the NLS User Services Office at the Center for Human Resource Research, (614) 442-7300, usersvc@postoffice.chrr.ohio-state.edu.