

Dear NLSY97 Respondent -

For more than 20 years, the data you have provided has helped researchers better understand the needs of your generation. Now, in these unprecedented times, we understand that you, like most Americans, may be worried about your loved ones, your health, and your financial security.

In difficult times, such as the COVID-19 pandemic that our country now faces, your continued participation in the National Longitudinal Surveys is vital both for informing immediate public policies and for understanding the important long-term effects on the nation's general well-being.

It is for this reason that we invite you to participate in a brief online survey about how the pandemic has affected your work, health, and family. This survey is available at an individualized web address for you to complete now. You may also set an appointment to complete the survey over the phone. The average time to take the NLS COVID interview is about 10 to 15 minutes. We look forward to your participation and once completed, you will receive monetary gift in appreciation for your time. This survey doesn't replace the usual interview that you complete every other year, but it will provide an important update about how Americans of your age are coping with the current pandemic.

We follow the federal laws that govern the confidentiality of survey respondents, as well as additional policies and procedures that ensure your answers are safeguarded. Please see the back of this letter for more information about privacy and confidentiality.

Your thoughtful answers have made the NLSY97 one of the most vital surveys in the country for understanding your generation. Thank you for your continued contribution during these extraordinary times

Sincerely,

Keenan Dworak-Fisher, NLS Director Bureau of Labor Statistics

WHY IS THIS STUDY IMPORTANT? Thanks to your help, policymakers and researchers will have a better understanding of the work experiences, family characteristics, health, financial status, and other important information about the lives of people in your generation. This is a voluntary study, and there are no penalties for not participating or not answering all the questions. However, missing responses make it more difficult to understand the issues that concern people in your community and across the country. Your answers represent the experiences of hundreds of other people your age. We hope we can count on your participation again this time.

WHO AUTHORIZES THIS STUDY? The sponsor of the study is the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The study is authorized under Title 29, Section 2, of the United States Code. The CHRR at The Ohio State University and NORC at the University of Chicago conduct this study under a contract with the Department of Labor. The U.S. Office of

Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the questionnaire and has assigned 1220-0157 as the study's control number. This control number expires on [08/31/2022]. Without OMB approval and this number, we would not be able to conduct this study.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL THE INTERVIEW TAKE? Based on preliminary tests, we estimate that the average interview will take about 12 minutes. Your interview may be somewhat shorter or longer depending on your circumstances. If you have any comments regarding this survey or recommendations for reducing its length, send them to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Surveys, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, DC 20212.

WHO SEES MY ANSWERS? We want to reassure you that your confidentiality is protected by law. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002, the Privacy Act, and other applicable Federal laws, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, its employees and agents, will, to the full extent permitted by law, use the information you provide for statistical purposes only, will hold your responses in confidence, and will not disclose them in identifiable form without your informed consent. All the employees who work on the survey at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its contractors must sign a document agreeing to protect the confidentiality of your data. In fact, only a few people have access to information about your identity because they need that information to carry out their job duties.

Some of your answers will be made available to researchers at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other government agencies, universities, and private research organizations through publicly available data files. These publicly available files contain no personal identifiers, such as names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and places of work, and exclude any information about the States, counties, metropolitan areas, and other, more detailed geographic locations in which survey participants live, making it much more difficult to figure out the identities of participants. Some researchers are granted special access to data files that include geographic information, but only after those researchers go through a thorough application process at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Those authorized researchers must sign a written agreement making them official agents of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and requiring them to protect the confidentiality of survey participants.

Those researchers are never provided with the personal identities of participants. The National Archives and Records Administration and the General Services Administration may receive copies of survey data and materials because those agencies are responsible for storing the Nation's historical documents.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL THE INTERVIEW TAKE? Based on preliminary tests, we expect the average interview to take about XX minutes. Your interview may be somewhat shorter or longer depending on your circumstances. If you have any comments regarding this study or recommendations for reducing its length, send them to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Surveys, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, DC 20212.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION? To learn more about the survey, visit: www.bls.gov/nls. To search for articles, reports, and other research based on the National Longitudinal Surveys, visit: www.nlsbibliography.org.