# National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79)

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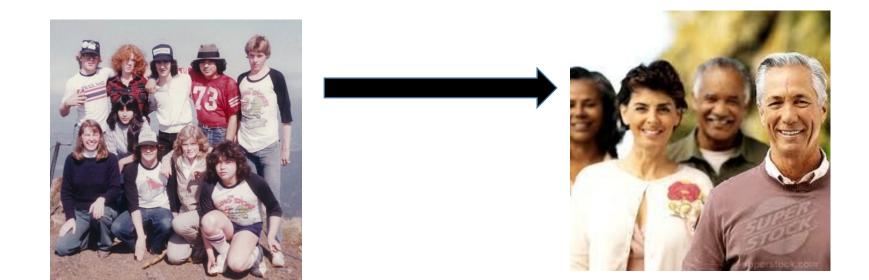PAA Webinar on COVD-19 in Longitudinal Studies

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# Acknowledgements

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- NORC at the University of Chicago
- NLSY97: Lowell Taylor (Carnegie Mellon University), PI
- NLSY79 Children & Young Adult: Elizabeth Cooksey (Ohio State University), PI

# NLSY79: The Basics

- Sample of ~10,000 individuals born 1957-64 and living in the U.S. when first interviewed.

- Includes oversamples of Black and Latinx individuals.

- Respondents were first interviewed in 1979 (ages 14-22).

- Re-interviewed every two years; 29th wave in 2020-21 (ages 56-64).

- High retention: ~70% of baseline sample participated in Round 28 (2018-19)

# The NLS Cohorts

| Cohort | Currently Aged | Sample Size | Survey Years | Number of Rounds |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Original Cohorts* | | | | |
| Older Men | 97 and older | 5,020 | 1966-1990 | 13 |
| Mature Women | 81 to 96 | 5,083 | 1967-2003 | 21 |
| Young Men | 66 to 77 | 5,225 | 1966-1981 | 12 |
| Young Women | 55 to 65 | 5,159 | 1968-2003 | 22 |
| *Active Cohorts* | | | | |
| NLSY79 | 56 to 64 | 9,964 | since 1979 | 29 |
| 79 Child & Young Adult | up to age 50 | 11,521 | since 1986 | 18 |
| NLSY97 | 36 to 40 | 8,984 | since 1997 | 19 |

# Topics… Continuity and Change, to Map Onto Participants' Life Course Stage

- Employment history
- Education history
- Training
- Cognitive skills
- Non-cognitive skills
- Mental health
- Physical health
- Disability
- Health behaviors
- Military service
- Spouse/partner labor supply
- Criminal behavior/imprisonment.

- Marriage
- Children
- Income
- Assets/debts
- Government program participation
- Household structure
- Migration
- And evolving age-related content

# Strengths of the NLSY

- Complete work and family histories
- Captures life events near when they occur
- Allows prospective explorations of long-term impacts of early life factors
- Can explore short-term changes and long-term trajectories
- Detailed health histories, with expanded measures at particular ages
- Cognition measures at baseline (ASVAB) and at age 48 (in NLSY79)
- Enables explorations of selective survival/mortality
- Racially and economically diverse sample
- Connections within families: interviews with children of mothers (NLSY79 Child and Young Adult surveys)

# New COVID-19 related data: Collection and dissemination schedule

- Field period: Data collection by phone. Round 29 collection begins October/November 2020, continues through early/mid-2021 (assuming 'normal' field operations).

- Public release:  By contract, 13 months after the last case is collected → late November or early December 2022.

- Potential slowdowns (low risk): staffing shortages due to illness; government shut-down.

# New COVD-19 related content: Diagnosis

Has a doctor or another healthcare professional told you that you had the coronavirus or COVID-19?

- ○ YES
- ○ NO
- ○ Don't Know
- ○ Refuse

If NO:

Do you suspect that you have ever had the coronavirus or COVID-19?

- ○ YES
- ○ NO
- ○ Don't Know
- ○ Refuse

# New COVD-19 related content: Access to Care

Were you unable to get or delayed in getting any of the following types of care because of the Coronavirus outbreak?

| | UNABLE TO GET | DELAYED IN GETTING | NO | Don't Know | Refuse | INAP/Don't Need |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Urgent Care for an Accident or Illness | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| A Surgical Procedure | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| A Diagnostic or Medical Screening Test | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| A Treatment for an Ongoing Condition | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| A Regular Check-up | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Dental Care | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Access to Prescription Drugs | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

# New COVD-19 related content: Employment

Since January 2020, the Coronavirus or COVID-19 has spread across the world and affected people's lives in many ways. This event may have affected your life. Through this interview, I will ask you questions that try to capture some of the important changes in your life, including those due to the outbreak of Coronavirus.

**After employment section:**

1. At any point that you have held this job, have there been changes due to the coronvirus outbreak?

For example, such changes could occur because of governmental restrictions on people's activities, because of your or others' COVID-related illnesses, or because of the overall changes in the economy because of COVID.

- ○ YES
- ○ NO
- ○ Don't Know
- ○ Refuse

2. Were your work hours reduced?

- ○ YES
- ○ NO
- ○ Don't Know
- ○ Refuse

3. Were your work hours increased?

  - ○ YES
  - ○ NO
  - ○ Don't Know
  - ○ Refuse

# New COVD-19 content: Employment (*cont'd*)

4. Could you only work from home?

- ○ YES
- ○ NO
- ○ Don't Know
- ○ Refuse

5. Did your earnings (including any overtime pay, tips, and commissions) decrease?

- ○ YES
- ○ NO
- ○ Don't Know
- ○ Refuse

6. Did your earnings (including any overtime pay, tips, and commissions) increase?

- ○ YES
- ○ NO
- ○ Don't Know
- ○ Refuse

# New COVD-19 content: Income & Finances

AFTER INCOME

Now let's talk about other types of income you might have received.

Since February 01, 2019, have you or your spouse received any Coronavirus stimulus payments?

Please just tell me about CARES Act or other direct cash payments that are not part of another program.

- ○ YES
- ○ NO
- ○ Don't Know
- ○ Refuse

How much did you [or] [Spouse/partner's name] receive in Coronavirus stimulus payments?

Since (date of last interview), have you completely missed a payment or been at least 2 months late in paying any of your bills?

# New COVD-19 content: Stress & coping

| | STRONGLY AGREE | AGREE | NEUTRAL | DISAGREE | STRONGLY DISAGREE | Don't Know | Refuse |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I tend to bounce back quickly after hard times. | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| I have a hard time making it through stressful events. | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| It does not take me long to recover from a stressful event. | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| It is hard for me to snap back when something bad happens. | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| I usually come through difficult times with little trouble. | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| I tend to take a long time to get over set-backs in my life. | | | | | | | |

# Using the 'usual' content to document COVID-19 impacts

- Can assess within-person change pre- (late 2018/early 2019) vs. post- or peri- (late 2020/early 2021) pandemic.

- Detailed income, assets, debt, benefits data.

- Marital status and family structure

- Retirement expectations (Chances from 0 to 100 working past ages 62 & 65*).

- Workplace characteristics (e.g., tasks, conditions, accommodations)

- Physical health* (e.g., health conditions, ADLs, pain)

- Mental health* (e.g., depressive symptoms)

- Cognition* (e.g., word recall)

- Health behaviors (e.g., sleep, body weight, painkiller/opioid use)

* Age-graded content (e.g., more extensive health questions for those ages 60+*)

# How to access data from NLSY79 and companion studies
https://www.nlsinfo.org/content/access-data-investigator

**Questions or comments?**

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