The NLSY79 Child and Young Adult Surveys

NLSY79 Children



- Large Samples at All Ages—Siblings and Cousins
- Racial/Ethnic Diversity
- Multi-Mode Reports from Child, Mother, Interviewer
- Assessed Biennially 1986-Present

Achievement
Behavior problems
Cognitive measures
Home environment/Parenting
Health/Illness/Injuries
Socio-emotional development
Temperament
Activities
Attitudes
Drug use and Smoking
Family interactions
Religion and Volunteering
Risk-taking
School and Friendships

Young Adults

- Ages 15-30 interviewed biennially 1994-present
- Ages 31 + interviewed every 4 years
- Young Adult interview topics:

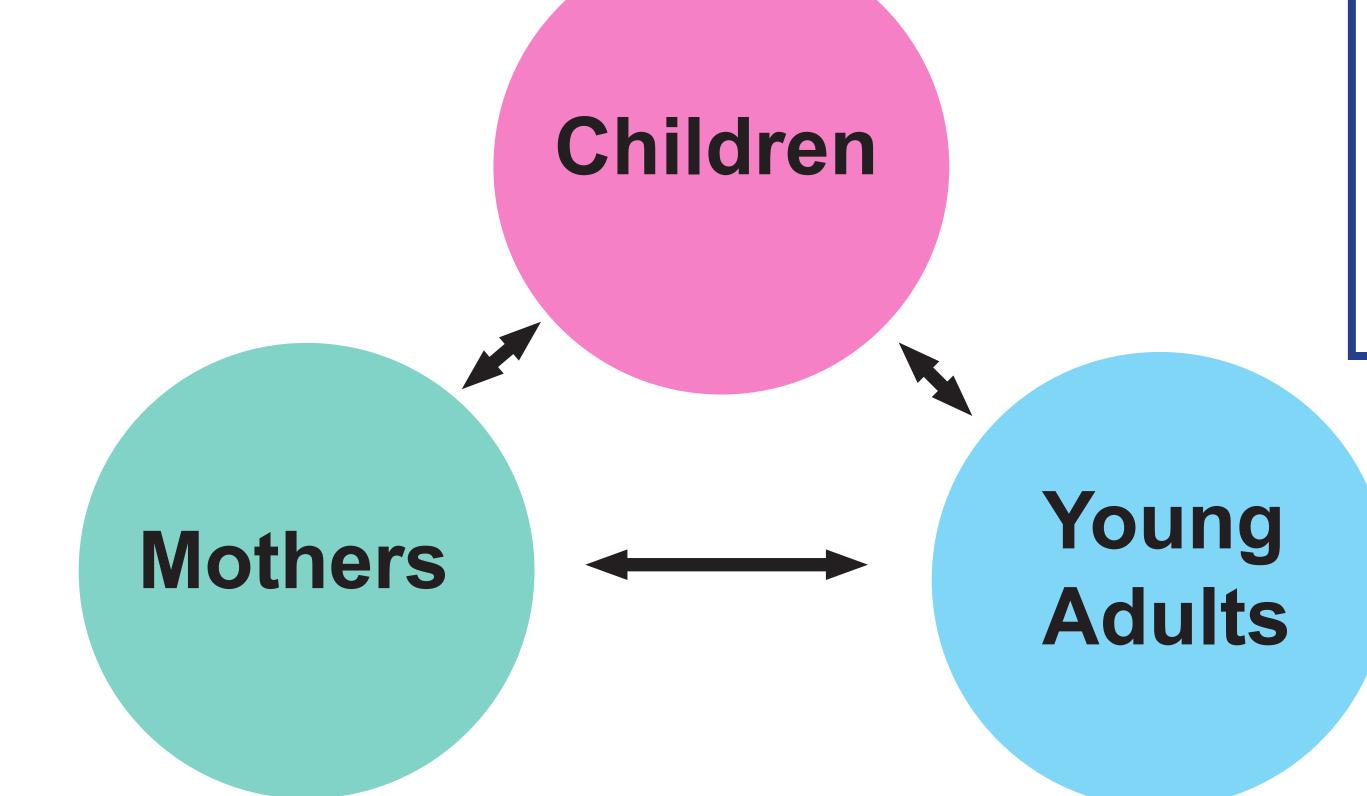
Attitudes

Community service/volunteering
Dating, relationships
Deviance & Substance use
Employment
Education & Job Training
Family background/interactions
Fertility & Sexual activity
Health/activity/nutrition
Income & Assets
Marriage, cohabitation

Voting civic engagement

NLSY79 Mothers

NLSY79 children can be linked to any item in the longitudinal record of their mothers.



Research & Policy Applications

Working Moms: The Kids Are Alright – maternal employment is largely inconsequential to child well-being

Maybe It's Not an Idiot Box – television has become a scapegoat for children who perform poorly in school

Prepregnancy Obesity Linked to Childhood Weight
Problems and Lower Child Test Scores – health disparities
can have long lasting effects

Choosing to Breastfeed has Economic Consequences – women who follow American Pediatrics Association guidelines for breastfeeding have postpartum earnings penalties

Early Academic Skills Best Predict School Success

– academic skills rather than child behavior increase the likelihood of educational success.

Earned Income Tax Credit Benefits Children – children in states with expanded EITC have better access to private health insurance and receive increased medical care

Economic Resource Differences Associated with Black-White College Attendance and Graduation Rates — strengthening financial regulation and ensuring that low-income minority families have access to transparent and fairly-priced credit may be important incentives for asset accumulation enabling college attendance.

Catch 'em Young – investing in disadvantaged young children has high economic return

Good Mother-Daughter Communication Associated with Later Sexual Initiation



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