The NLSY79 Child and Young Adult Surveys

**NLSY79 Children**
- Born to NLSY79 Mothers
- 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**