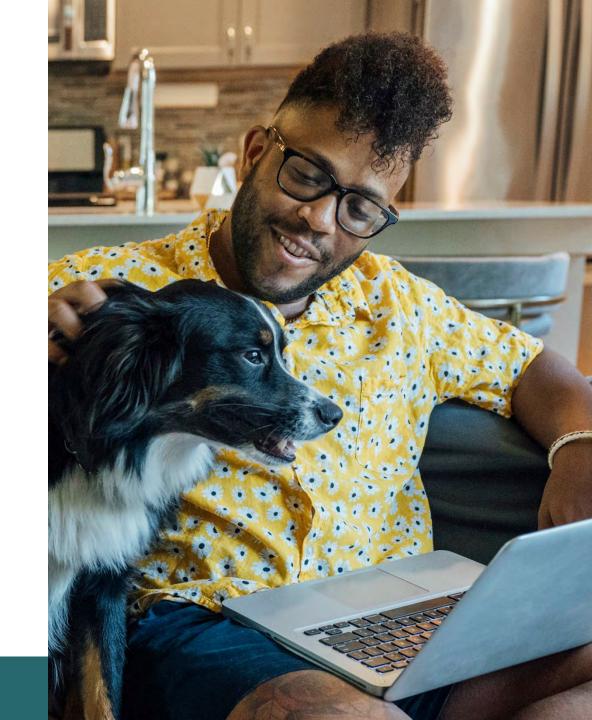


National Longitudinal Surveys

- Sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with additional funding from NIA, NICHD, and other Federal agencies
- A set of surveys designed to gather information at multiple points in time on labor market activities and other significant life events
 - NLS Youth 1997 (NLSY97): Men and women born in the years 1980-84
 - NLS Youth 1979 (NLSY79): Men and women born in the years 1957-64
 - NLSY79 Children and Young Adults: Biological children of women in the NLSY79
 - NLS Young and Mature Women (NLSW): Young women born in the years 1943-53 and mature women born in the years 1922-37
 - NLS Young and Older Men (NLSM): Young men born in the years 1941-52 and older men born in the years 1906-21

NLSY97 Cohort

- Longitudinal Sample of 8984 respondents born 1980 - 1984
 - Aged 12-17 during first interview in 1997
 - Oversamples of Black and Hispanic individuals
- Annual interview through 2011 then biennial
- Prior rounds conducted by interviewers, either in -person or by phone
 - Early in-person interviews included a small self-administered portion
- Round 21 currently in the field
- Round 20 data (collected 2021 -22) available in early December





COVID-19 Response: Onset March 2020

NLSY97 Round 19 data collection

- Scheduled field period fall 2019 summer 2020
- Moved to full phone effort

NLSY79 Round 29 response

- Scheduled fall 2020 fall 2021
- Worked with OMB to add COVID questions
 - Focused on impacts to work, health, and income

NLSY97 response

- Developed an interim survey: COVID-19 supplement
 - Collect information on the short-run impacts outside of the normal schedule
- Fielded Round 20 as planned (fall 2021-2022)
 - Included questions on impacts to work, health, and income







NLSY97 COVID-19 Supplement

- Fielded February May 2021
 - Between Round 19 (2019 2020) & Round 20 (2021 2022)
- 5,616 respondents completed
 - Ages 36-41 at the time of the supplement
- Designed to be a maximum of 12 minutes
 - Average time across all modes=8.83 minutes
- Both interviewer -administered phone and self -administered web modes
- Preload-free due to concerns about confidentiality
 - Questions couldn't build on historical information
 - Challenge for validation





Building the NLSY97 COVID-19 Supplement



Questionnaire programming challenges

Multi-modal administration: mode determination

On-screen presentation: Variations in question text and response options by mode

Questionnaire programming



Security and confidentiality issues

Protecting information collected in survey

Email security

Verifying correct respondent

CHRR Survey Suite Software

- Survey Suite Components: Designer, Survey, and Investigator
- Survey Features
 - In-house software created specifically for longitudinal surveys
 - Uses a central database to present questions within a web server
 - No need for respondents to download a separate app
 - Allows for multimodal administration
 - Display adjusts depending on device



Mode Determination

- Different links provided to respondents and interviewers
 - Access the same survey instrument
 - Determined appropriate survey presentation
- Automated process determined which link accessed each question
 - Seamlessly present each question in correct format depending on mode
 - Allows for multiple mode switches during the survey

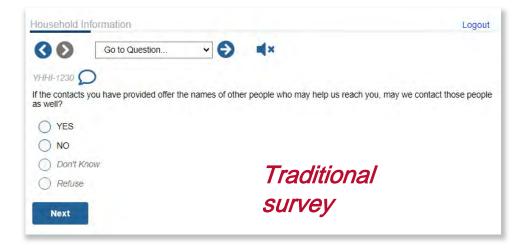
Example | Alternate non-response categories depending on mode

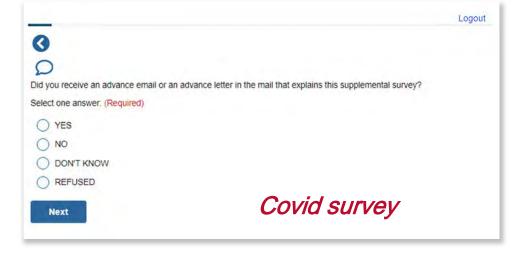
Interviewer version	Self-administered version		
Don't know	I don't know		
Refused	I prefer not to say		

On-Screen Presentation

Simplified appearance

- Streamlined screen to remove information
 - Section title
 - Question name
- Reduced possibility of respondent error
 - Fast forward
 - "Go to question" box





Questionnaire programming

- Shorter survey length to prevent breakoffs
 - 46 potential questions
- Review of question wording to simplify language
 - Respondent versus interviewer non-response wording
- Removal/rewording of interviewer instructions
- Limited response category lists
- Time-saving matrix questions were split into separate components
- Minimum and maximum values limited response options on subsequent questions

Survey Mode Differences

Survey Length	Time to complete
Web-only	8.18 minutes
Phone-only	12.55 minutes
Mixed mode	13.67 minutes

Responses	Average number
Web-only	32.83 responses
Phone-only	32.39 responses
Mixed mode	32.55 responses



Item Nonresponse by Mode

	Web-only	Phone-only	Mixed
At least one don't know	20.7%	9.3%	27.6%
At least one refusal	8.9%	1.5%	6.9%
At least one nonresponse answer	26.7%	10.4%	27.6%

- **Highest # refusals:** whether the respondent had on-line banking
- **Highest # don't know answers:** whether the respondent received an advance letter/email

Building the NLSY97 COVID-19 Supplement



Questionnaire programming challenges

Multi-modal administration: mode determination

On-screen presentation: Variations in question text and response options by mode

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Protecting Respondent Data

- Preload-free
- Only personally identifying information (PII) collected in survey was used for incentive payment
- Disabled backing up on the contact information questions



Email Security

- Respondents sent an individual link to the survey by advance letter and email
- Links used non-sequential random IDs
 - Respondents cannot be connected to public-use data
 - Non-sequential IDs prevent guessing of multiple unique links
- Some email products were found to have an automated process that opened the link when the email was sent

Verification Process

- Could not present or collect PII to verify that the actual respondent was doing the interview
- Presented three questions about known characteristics
- Post-fielding, matched answers to previously collected data



Verification Outcomes



- Fewer than 100 respondents missed one or more of three verification questions
- Incentive payment information compared to contact information in past rounds
- NORC called cases for verification if no match
- Fewer than 10 cases were dropped due to lack of verification

Conclusions

- 1
- Item nonresponse was significantly higher in the internet survey
- 2
- Interview length significantly shorter for self-administered surveys
- 3
- Content was limited by confidentiality concerns, with no preloads or collection of PII
- 4
- Additional verification techniques could be explored to further mitigate confidentiality concerns

Thank you!



CHRR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

chrr.osu.edu chrrinfo@chrr.osu.edu 614-442-7300

