

# Change: It All Adds Up



How can we know what's happening to individuals all across the United States? We could try to interview all 300 million people—but that might take years! Or we can interview you and the other NLSY97 respondents, because you represent hundreds of other US residents.



As you know, the US financial picture is vastly different now than it was just one year ago, so your interview is even more critical this year. And even if your life hasn't changed much, we still need to know that too. When we add your responses from all study rounds and add all the answers from others in the study, policymakers can know how you, your family, and those you represent are being affected.

The NLSY97 deals with very important questions about you and the direction our country is taking...here are just a few.

- What are your needs for healthcare?
- Do you need additional training?
- Has your job or household changed?
- How have your finances changed?

We realize that your life is very busy and your free time is limited. There are four easy ways you can contact us to schedule your interview.

- Call us at **1-800-789-1346**
- E-mail us at **nlsy97@norc.org**
- Visit our website at **www.norc.org/nlsy97**
- Fill out, detach and **mail the card below**

You can also call or e-mail with questions or feedback about the study. The average interview takes roughly an hour. You will receive a financial gift as a token of our appreciation. You also will receive a certificate that credits you for 5 hours of community service. As always, your participation is voluntary, and the information you provide is protected under Federal law. For more information about the survey and how we protect your privacy, please see the questions and answers on the back of this letter. As a small thank you, we have included a (reusable shopping bag or \$1 coin).

We are grateful for your continuing participation and look forward to speaking with you again soon. And again, thank you!

After completing the card below please detach and place in the pre-paid envelope.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Apt. or Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Work): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you Moving? When and Where? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call: Days \_\_\_\_\_  
Times \_\_\_\_\_

- Best way for us to reach you:
- In-Person       By Email
- By Phone       By Text Message

**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 answering 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 year.

**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 Center for Human Resource Research at The Ohio State University and the National Opinion Research Center 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 October 31, 2010. Without OMB approval and this number, we would not be able to conduct this study.

**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 65 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 find additional information about the survey, visit [www.bls.gov/nls](http://www.bls.gov/nls) and click on the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 link.