

# CELEBRATING THE NLSY79!



**W**hat's the celebration about? It's about the NLSY79 **AND** you! Throughout 25 rounds of the study, we have experienced school, work, and life milestones together, and we hope to experience many more with you.

The NLSY79, because of its quality, breadth, and thoroughness, is an important tool for researchers that study a broad range of topics including economics, sociology, criminology, and public health. In fact, it has become among the most analyzed longitudinal data sets of its kind. By being a part of this important study, you've helped researchers and policymakers better understand the economy, employment, health, family life, and education of people in your generation.

We know that you are sharing a big part of your lives with us and we take your confidentiality very seriously. We follow the federal laws that govern the confidentiality of survey respondents, as well as additional policies and procedures that ensure your answers are safeguarded. Please see the back of this letter for more information about privacy and confidentiality.

One of our interviewers from NORC at the University of Chicago will be contacting you in the coming weeks to set up a convenient appointment for your interview. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the study, please feel free to call us toll free at 1-877-853-5908, send us an e-mail at [nls79@norc.org](mailto:nls79@norc.org) or visit the NLSY79 website at [nlsy79.norc.org](http://nlsy79.norc.org). More information about the NLS and the Bureau of Labor Statistics is available online at <http://www.bls.gov/nls>.

We look forward to talking with you again soon!

And... *Thank you for your participation!*

**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 1220-0109 as the study's control number. This control number expires on December 31, 2013. 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 60 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 1979 link.

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**Y**ou're officially invited to help us celebrate 25 rounds of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979. In the past, you have participated as a child, but now that you are a young adult, we hope you will continue your involvement with the NLSY79 family. By being part of this important study you've helped researchers and policy makers better understand the economy, employment, health, family life, and education of people in your generation.



NLSY79

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**HOW MUCH TIME WILL THE INTERVIEW TAKE?** Based on preliminary tests, we expect the average interview to take about 45 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.

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