

June 16, 2026

Memorandum for: Reviewer of 1220-0202

From: Keenan Dworak-Fisher, Chief
Division of National Longitudinal Surveys

Subject: Non-substantive Change Request – Pretest Reserve Sample

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY) 2027 Pre-Test was approved for collection on March 6, 2026. The Pretest began April 6, 2026, and is on-going. The rate at which survey efforts have yielded completed youth questionnaires has been lower than projected, primarily because take-up of the short survey used to screen for eligible households has been significantly lower than expected.

BLS requests clearance to release a reserve sample of addresses to supplement the initial sample of the addresses released at the start of the Pretest to ensure that the target of 800 completed youth interviews is met. The initial sample contained 13,381 addresses at planning. After incorporating drop points which yield multiple units per address, the initial sample comprised 13,439 address units. The reserve sample adds 2,819 new address units, drawn in equal size from 54 SSUs (approximately 52 per SSU, with small deviations) from the same 9 areas from which the initial sample was drawn. Together with the initial sample, this would bring the total released for the NLSY27 Pretest to 16,258 address units.

The revised version of Exhibit 1 from the Part B Justification document shown below provides a revised projection of how the expanded sample will result in 800 completed youth interviews and 518 completed parent/caregiver interviews. The most significant change is an adjustment of the assumed completion rate for the eligibility screener from 50% to 42%. Based on the experiences of the Pretest to date, we have also revised the estimated number of households with age-eligible youth from 20% to 18% and adjusted the rate at which eligible youth will be selected for interview from 73.5% to 80%.

Exhibit 1. NLSY27 Pretest Sample Sizes and Assumed Rates

	Original Projections		Revised Projections	
	Count	Rate, %	Count	Rate, %
Housing Unit (HU) sample	13,381		16,258	
Occupied HUs	12,177	91	14,795	91.0%
Screened HUs	6,088	50	6,214	42.0%
Households with age-eligible youth	1,218	20	1,118	18.0%
Households selected for interview	895	73.5	895	80.0%
Average eligible youth per household	1.39		1.39	
Eligible youth	1,244		1,244	139.0%
Household screening and consent	931	74.9	932	74.9%

Youth interviews	800	85.9	800	85.9%
Eligible parents or caregivers	576	71.9	576	71.9%
Parent/caregiver interviews	518	90	518	90.0%

On net, these changes result in a modest reduction in the estimated respondent burden, from \$37,778 to \$37,678. The revised Table 4 from the Part A justification provides the details below.

Table 4. Estimated Annualized Respondent Cost and Hour Burden

Activity	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Total Responses	Average Burden (Hours)	Total Burden (Hours)	Hourly Wage Rate	Total Burden Cost
Eligibility Screener	6,214	1	6,214	0.083	516	\$20.04	\$10,341
Household Screener	1,118	1	1,118	0.166	186	\$20.04	\$3,727
Youth Interview	800	1	800	1.5	1,200	\$7.25	\$8,700
Parent/Caregiver Survey	518	1.39	720	1.0	720	\$20.04	\$14,429
Verification Calls	292	1	292	0.083	24	\$20.04	\$481
Total	6,214*		9,144		2,646		\$37,678

* Household Screener, Youth Interview, Parent/Caregiver Survey, Verification Calls are a subset of those screened for eligibility.

Current OMB approval is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2029. There is estimated to be a slight decrease in burden from this request from 2,651 burden hours to 2,646 burden hours due to the revised estimated number of households with age-eligible youth from 20% to 18% and adjusted the rate at which eligible youth will be selected for interview from 73.5% to 80%.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Keenan Dworak-Fisher by e-mail at Dworak-Fisher.Keenan@bls.gov.