

NLSY 1979

OSE-dev

# Introduction

The **National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS)** are a set of surveys conducted by the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, designed to gather information at multiple points in time on significant life events of several population samples of US citizens, especially their labor market activities.

The **National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79)** is a survey of men and women born in the years 1957-64. The NLSY79 is a nationally representative sample of 12,686 young men and women who were 14-22 years old when they were first surveyed in 1979. These individuals were interviewed annually through 1994 and are currently interviewed on a biennial basis.

## Topics

- ▶ education, training, and achievement
- ▶ employment
- ▶ health
- ▶ attitudes and expectations
- ▶ cognitive and noncognitive scores
- ▶ ...

## **Subsamples**

- ▶ cross-sectional sample designed to be representative of the civilian segment of young people
- ▶ supplemental sample designed to oversample civilian Hispanic, black, and economically disadvantaged non-black/non-Hispanic youth
- ▶ military sample designed to represent the population who are enlisted in one of the four branches of the military

Figure: Number of observations

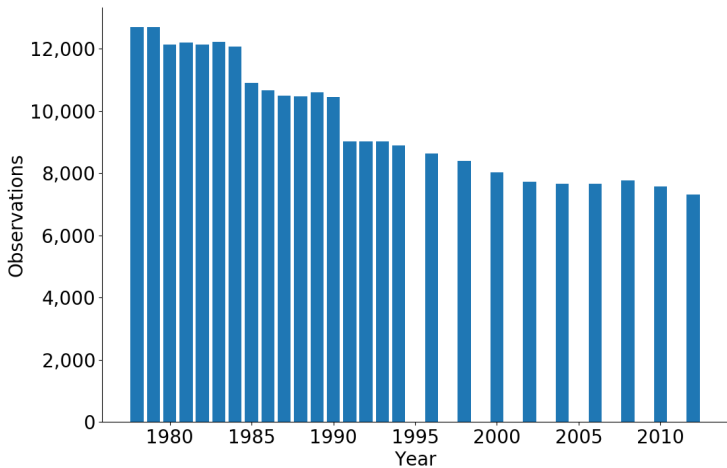


Figure: Samples

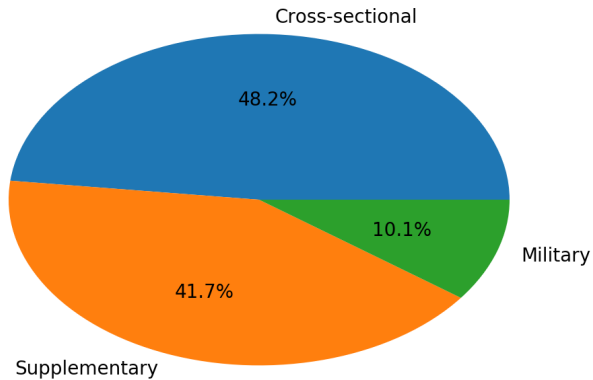




Figure: Year of birth

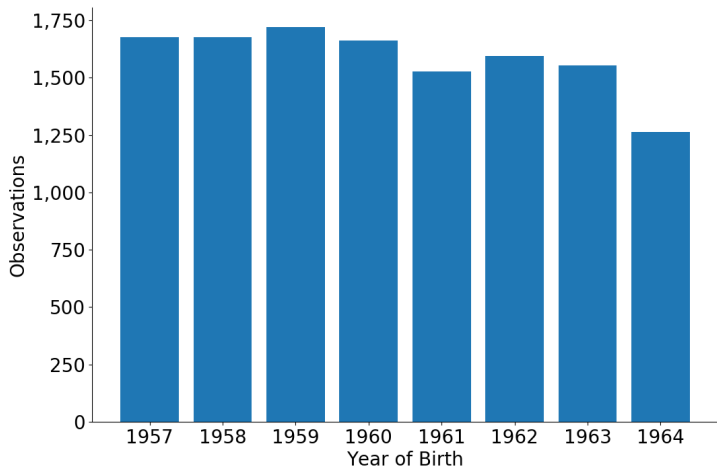


Figure: Gender

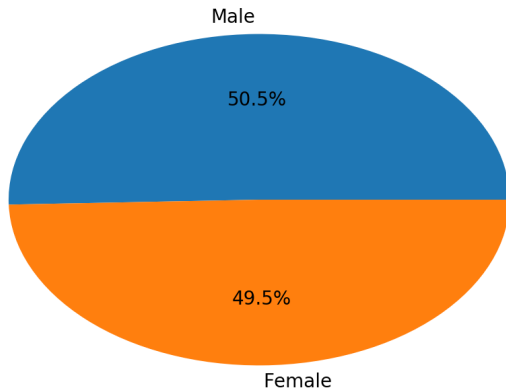
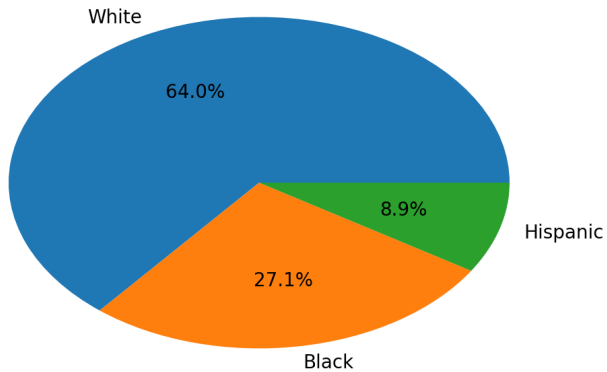


Figure: Race



## Figure: NLS Investigator I

# NLS Investigator

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### Welcome to NLS Investigator

Sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) are a family of surveys dedicated to tracking the labor market and other life experiences of American men and women.

The seven NLS cohorts are:

- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97)
- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79)
- NLSY79 Child and Young Adult
- Older Men
- Mature Women
- Young Men
- Young Women

To access data for any of the seven NLS cohorts use the login box to the left or [begin searching](#) as guest.

**NLSY User-Initiated Questions:** We're soliciting suggestions for new questions to add to the NLSY97, NLSY79, and child/young adult surveys. Please visit the [NLSY User-Initiated Questions](#) page to learn how to make an informal suggestion or submit a formal proposal.

**Attention**

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## Figure: NLS Investigator II

# NLS Investigator

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Select the study you want to work with:  
NLSY79 (National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979) ▾  
Released March 01, 2017

**Additional Resources:**  
[Errata, Documentation](#) (user's guide, questionnaires and other materials)  
[Custom Weights](#)  
To start a new search [click here](#)

Choose Tagsets

Variable Search

Review Selected Variables (5)

Codebook

Save / Download

**Required / Recommended Variables:**

- ☒ Required ID Variable - CASEID will always be selected (1 variable)
- ☒ Recommended Demographic Variables (4 variables)

**Saved Tagsets** (on server):  
None Available

**Upload Tagset** (from PC):

Choose File

 | No file chosen

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# **Human Capital**

Human capital is defined as:

*The knowledge, skills, competencies and attributes embodied in individuals that facilitate the creation of personal, social and economic well-being.*

- OECD (2001)

# *Basics*



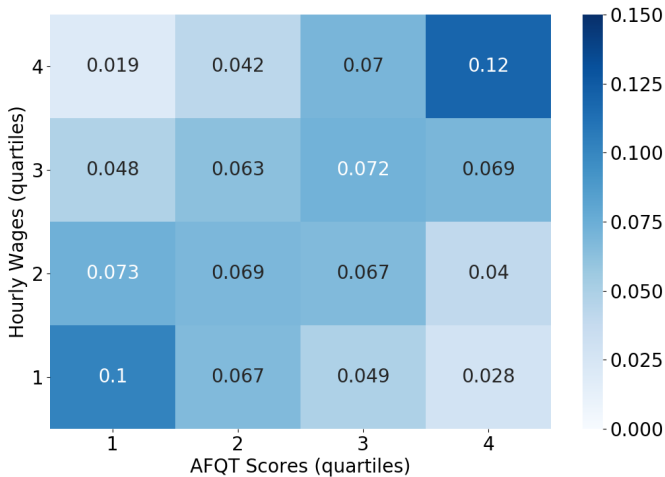
We study the basic relationship between basic measures of human capital and wages at age thirty-five.

- ▶ The **Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Test Battery** (ASVAB) is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military.

- ▶ Arithmetic reasoning
- ▶ Math knowledge
- ▶ Paragraph comprehension
- ▶ Coding speed
- ▶ Word knowledge

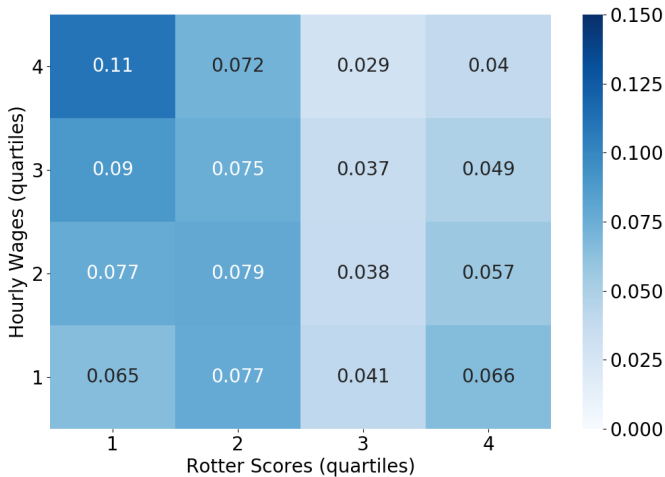
- ▶ The **Armed Forces Qualifications Test (AFQT)** is considered a general measure of trainability based on the ASVAB. It has been used extensively as a measure of cognitive skills in the literature.

Figure: AFQT Score



- ▶ The **Rotter scale** (Rotter, 1966) measures the degree of control individuals feel they possess over their life and has been used in previous studies analyzing the role of noncognitive skills on labor outcomes.

Figure: Rotter Score



- ▶ The **Rosenberg scale** (Rosenberg, 1965) measures perceptions of self-worth.

Figure: Rosenberg Score





# *Racial Differences*

Figure: AFQT Score

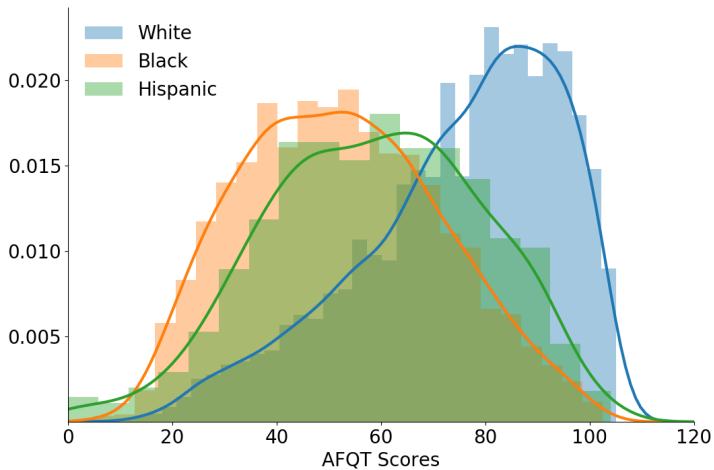


Figure: Rotter Score

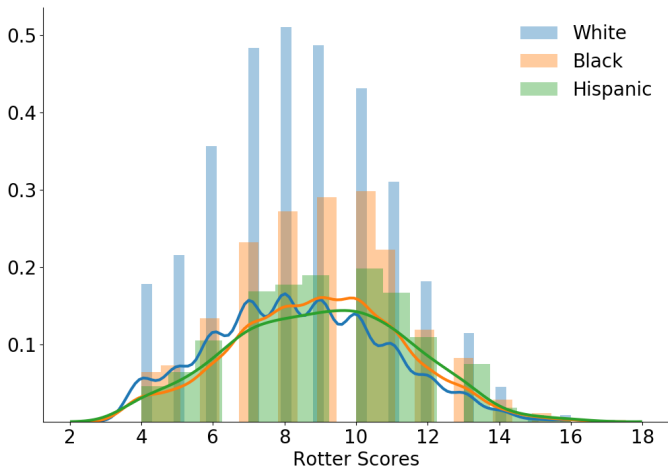
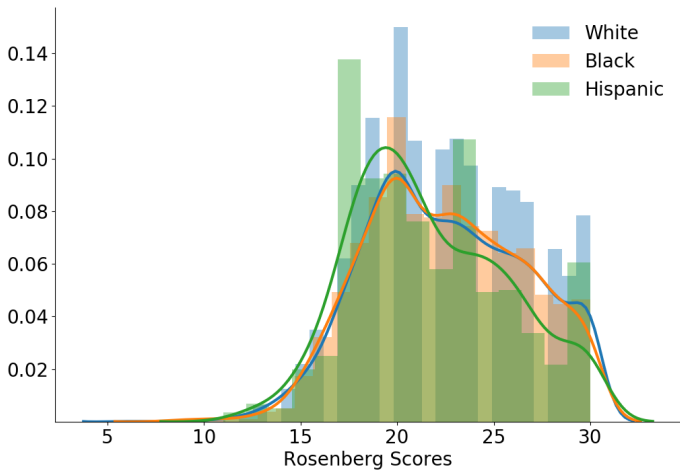


Figure: Rosenberg Score



## **Research Questions**

- ▶ What is driving the observed differences in these test scores?

# *Intergenerational Transmission*

Figure: Father's education

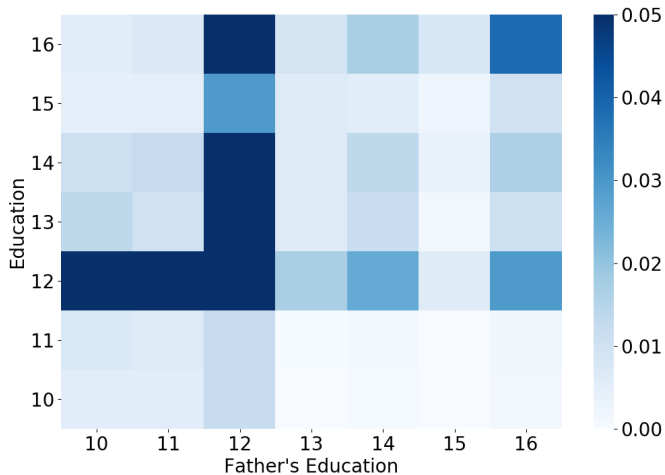
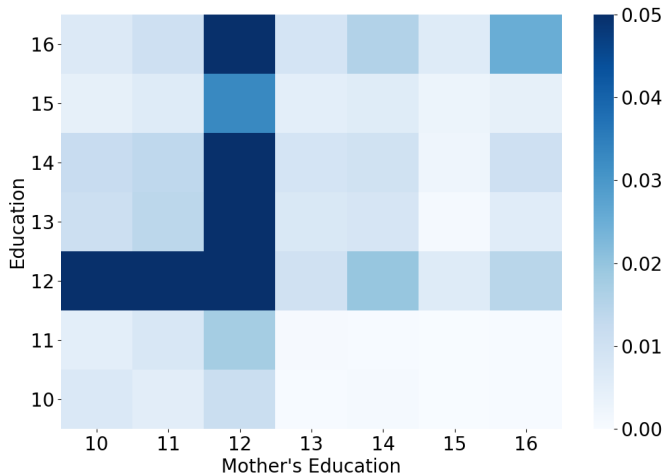


Figure: Mother's education





## Research Questions

- ▶ What are the mechanisms driving the intergenerational correlation of human capital?
- ▶ How does the relationship evolve over time?
- ▶ Are there any suitable policy responses to consider?

# **Appendix**

# *References*

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