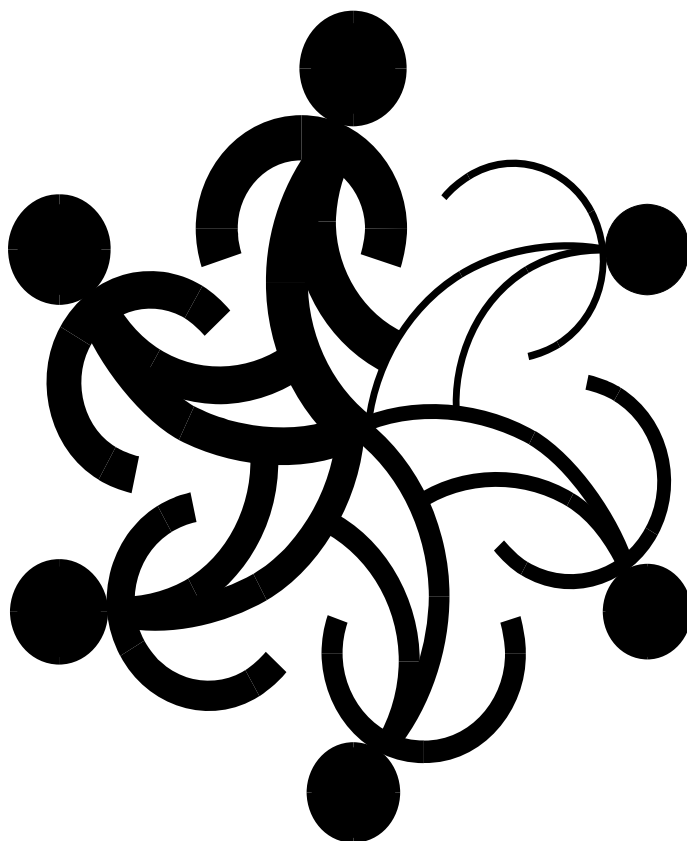




NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Survey Overview
for 2004/2005 Data Collection
Cycle 6



Statistics Canada
Statistique Canada



Human Resources and Social Development Canada
Ressources humaines et Développement social Canada

Canada

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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to describe the content and design of Cycle 6 (2004/2005) of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY). This document builds on the information presented in the previous NLSCY Overviews for Cycles 1 to 5.

The NLSCY has been conducted by Statistics Canada and is sponsored by Human Resources and Social Development Canada. Statistics Canada is responsible for data collection, while HRSDC provides the overall direction to the survey. Both agencies have played a role in funding, development of survey content, research and dissemination of findings.

In addition, HRSDC and Statistics Canada continue to benefit from the advice and contribution of a variety of interested partners. Provincial and territorial governments are kept informed of progress and their representatives provide valuable input.

The HRSDC and Statistics Canada have relied heavily on advice provided by HRSDC's Expert Advisory Group on Children and Families, a multi-disciplinary group of Canadian and international experts in child development. They are consulted on survey design, survey questions and research priorities, and are responsible for much of the original research that is conducted using the survey data. Additional experts are consulted as required.

For further information on the NLSCY, enquiries should be directed to:

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This is a companion report to the documents containing the survey questionnaires, **National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth: Survey Instruments for 2004/2005 Data Collection, Cycle 6, Books 1 and 2**. These are available on the Statistics Canada website at www.statcan.ca.

Acknowledgements

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) is the responsibility of a joint team of staff at Human Resources and Social Development Canada and the Special Surveys Division, Statistics Canada.

The team would also like to acknowledge the continuing cooperation of the responding children and their families, and the work of the survey interviewers and the Statistics Canada Regional Office staff.

Background

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) is a long-term study conducted by Statistics Canada and sponsored by Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC). The primary objective of the NLSCY is to monitor the development and well-being of Canada's children from infancy to adulthood.

The NLSCY follows a representative sample of Canadian children from birth to early adulthood, with data collection occurring at two-year intervals. The first collection of information (Cycle 1) took place in the winter and spring of 1994/1995. In addition to following the original longitudinal panel of children, now aged 10 to 21 years in Cycle 6, the survey has continued to add and follow a new sample to cover children aged 0 to 5 years.

Much of the information in the NLSCY is collected from parents on behalf of their children by means of a household interview. Children aged 10 and older complete a separate written questionnaire in the home. Finally, the NLSCY includes direct measures of achievement: interviewers administer a receptive vocabulary test as well as a test of early writing and numeracy skills for children aged 4 to 5 years; and a short mathematics/computation assessment for children in grades 2 to 10.

Cross-sectional data from Cycles 1 to 3 are available on a public use microdata file (PUMF); no PUMF was created for Cycles 4, 5 or 6. Statistics Canada retains a master microdata file from which tabulations can be requested. Other options for access to the longitudinal data include remote data access and the Statistics Canada research data centres.

Objectives

The objectives of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) are:

- to determine the prevalence of various risk and protective factors for children and youth;
- to understand how these factors, as well as life events, influence children's development;
- to make this information available for developing policies and programs that will help children and youth;
- to collect information on a wide variety of topics – biological, social, economic;
- to collect information about the environment in which the child is growing up – family, peers, school, community.

Information comes from different sources (parent and child) and from direct measures (Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test – Revised (PPVT-R), math tests, etc.).

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth Design

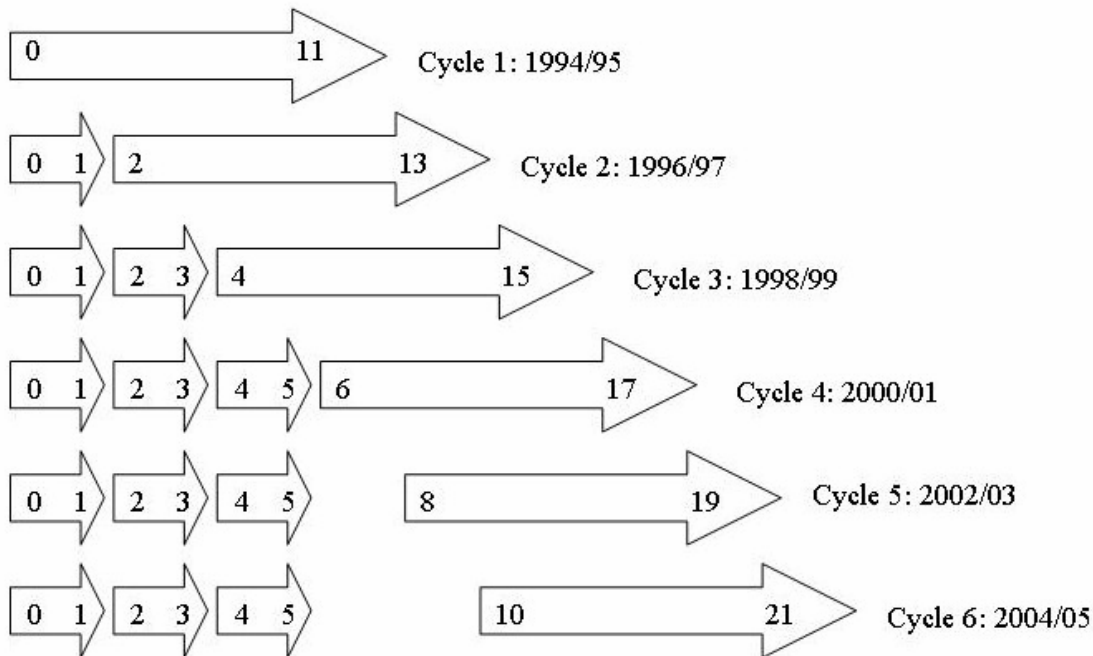
Survey Methodology - Sample

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) is a probabilistic survey developed to provide information on Canadian children and youth. To produce reliable estimates that respond to the expressed needs of the clients, a representative sample of children and youth was selected. This section describes the sample selection method and size.

At Cycle 6, the NLSCY sample consists of children aged 0 to 5 (Early Childhood Development or ECD children) and 10 to 21 (original cohort). A child's effective age at Cycle 6 is with respect to December 31st, 2004. Thus, 0-year-olds are born in 2004 and 1-year-olds are born in 2003.

The Northern cohort of children consists of a census of 5-year-old children who are attending kindergarten in the Yukon and Nunavut.

Age of children at each cycle, original cohort versus ECD cohorts



Details of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth Sample, Cycle 6

At Cycle 6, the NLSCY sample consists of: a new ECD cohort of 0- to 1-year-olds, a top-up sample of new 2- to 5-year-olds, and returning 2- to 5-year-olds and 10- to 21-year-olds from previous cycles. All children belong to LFS households. Cycle 6 was the first time that the LFS was used to top-up existing NLSCY sample.

In addition to explaining how sampling was performed, this section describes which children were surveyed. Some children are sampled but not surveyed because they were found to be out-of-scope cross-sectionally (deceased or left the country) at the previous cycle or due to too many cycles of nonresponse.

Original Cohort, Cycles 1 to 6

The following describes the composition of the original cohort at each cycle (see also diagram). The original cohort contains a maximum of two children per household.

Cycle 1

The sample of children selected at Cycle 1 (1994/1995) was designed to produce reliable -- but not equally reliable -- provincial estimates for children between the ages of 0 and 11, by two-year age groupings, i.e., 0 to 1, 2 to 3, 4 to 5, 6 to 7, 8 to 9, 10 to 11. A maximum of four children per household was selected. Households were sampled from the following sources:

- the old LFS, i.e., prior to 1994;
- the 1994 redesigned LFS;
- the National Population Health Survey (NPHS) (conducted by Statistics Canada).

At the end of Cycle 1, there were 22,831 respondent children in the NLSCY. The household response rate was 86.7%.

For more details, see the User's Guide for Cycle 1.

Cycle 2

At Cycle 2 (1996/1997) some children were dropped from the sample for budgeting reasons; all NLSCY households belonging to the NPHS sample were dropped, and to reduce the burden on households, the maximum number of children selected per household was cut from four to two. This resulted in a sample of 16,903 children at the beginning of Cycle 2. The household response rate for collection was 91.7%. The cumulative, longitudinal response rate for households in the original cohort was 79.8%.

For more details, see the User's Guide for Cycle 2.

Cycle 3

At Cycle 3 (1998/1999), 185 children were excluded from the sample because at the end of Cycle 2 they were either out-of-scope cross-sectionally (71) or hard refusals (114). Cross-sectionally out-of-scope children include those who died, whose age was not in-scope, who had permanently left the country, or moved to an Indian reserve. Thus, of the 16,903 children sampled for the original cohort, collection was performed on 16,718. The household response rate for collection was 89.6%. The cumulative, longitudinal response rate for households in the original cohort was 77.5%.

For more details, see the User's Guide for Cycle 3.

Cycle 4

At Cycle 4 (2000/2001), in order to make collection more efficient, it was decided that households with two or more consecutive cycles of nonresponse would be dropped from collection (along with households with one cycle of nonresponse followed by the status

'temporarily moved'). At Cycle 4, consequently, 1,086 children were dropped from collection because at the end of Cycle 3 they were either out-of-scope cross-sectionally (106) or had two or more cycles of nonresponse (980). A total of 15,632 children were surveyed. The household response rate for collection was 84.8%. The cumulative, longitudinal response rate for households in the original cohort was 69.4%.

For more details, see the User's Guide for Cycle 4.

Cycle 5

At Cycle 5 (2002/2003), it was decided that youth who were 18 or 19 years old would be dropped from collection only after three consecutive cycles of nonresponse (versus two for younger children). The reason for this is that at age 18, the youth becomes the sole respondent, while before age 18 the primary respondent is the person most knowledgeable (PMK), who is typically the mother.

At Cycle 5, there were 469 children who were dropped from collection because at the end of Cycle 4 they were either cross-sectionally out-of-scope (34) or had too many consecutive cycles of nonresponse (435). A total of 15,163 children were surveyed at Cycle 5. The household response rate for collection was 83.2%. The cumulative, longitudinal response rate for households in the original cohort was 66.6%.

For more details, see the User's Guide for Cycle 5.

Cycle 6

At Cycle 6 (2004/2005), there were 1,506 children who were dropped from collection because at the end of Cycle 5 they were either cross-sectionally out-of-scope (26) or had too many consecutive cycles of nonresponse (1,480). A total of 13,657 children were surveyed at Cycle 6. The household response rate for collection was 83.5%. The cumulative, longitudinal response rate for households in the original cohort was 62.1%.

For more details, see the User's Guide for Cycle 6.

Early Childhood Development Cohorts Present at Cycle 6

At Cycle 6, the only ECD children present were those introduced as babies in Cycles 4, 5 and 6, and the top-up of new 2- to 5-year-olds selected from the LFS. When the first ECD cohort of babies was selected at Cycle 2, the rule was a maximum of one child per household, except for twins, in which case both were sampled¹. At Cycle 5, the rule changed to one child per household without exception. Returning twins, however, continued to be surveyed until Cycle 6².

For the ECD samples, only respondents from the previous cycle are surveyed at the subsequent cycle, unlike the original cohort, where two or three consecutive cycles of nonresponse are required before a child is dropped from collection.

For information on the ECD cohorts introduced in Cycles 2 and 3, please consult the User's Guides for these cycles. For an illustration of the ECD cohorts present at Cycle 6, see the preceding diagram.

Cycle 4 ECD Cohort

¹ The ECD cohort sampled in Cycle 2 included 0- to 1-year-olds who were younger siblings of children belonging to the original cohort. This was the only cycle in which siblings from the original cohort were selected. There are no Cycle 2 ECD children present in the Cycle 6 sample.

² For the Cycle 7 sample, it was decided that one of the returning twins would be dropped for returning ECD cohorts. The original cohort continues to have a maximum of two children per household.

At Cycle 4, a sample of 0- to 1-year-olds was selected from the LFS along with a top-up sample of 5-year-olds sampled from Birth Registry data. The total sample size was 9,439 households. At the end of Cycle 4 collection, there were 6,960 responding children. The household response rate was 75.8%.

At Cycle 5, the 5-year-olds in Cycle 4 were dropped (4,405 households). At the end of Cycle 4, there were 125 households that were cross-sectionally out-of-scope and 1,121 were nonrespondents. Consequently, 3,788 of the returning households with 2- to 3-year-olds from the Cycle 4 ECD cohort were surveyed at Cycle 5. The household response rate was 86.9%. The cumulative, longitudinal response rate for households was 67.1%.

At the end of Cycle 5, of the returning 4- to 5-year-olds, 11 children were cross-sectionally out-of-scope and 507 were nonrespondents. These children were dropped from collection; 3,323 were surveyed at Cycle 6. The household response rate was 89.6%. The cumulative longitudinal response rate for households was 60.1%.

Cycle 5 ECD Cohort

At Cycle 5, a sample of 0- to 1-year-olds was selected from the LFS. The total sample size was 4,492 children and households. At the end of Cycle 5 collection, there were 3,252 responding children. The response rate was 74.0%.

At the end of Cycle 5, 98 children were cross-sectionally out-of-scope and 1,142 were nonrespondents. Consequently, only 3,252 of the 2- to 3-year-olds returning from the Cycle 5 ECD cohort were surveyed at Cycle 6. The response rate at Cycle 6 was 88.6%. The cumulative longitudinal response rate was 65.6%.

Cycle 6 ECD Cohort

At Cycle 6, a sample of 0- to 1-year-olds along with a top-up sample of new 2- to 5-year-olds was selected from the LFS. The total sample size was 5,795 children and households. At the end of Cycle 6 collection, there were 4,684 responding children. The response rate was 81.3%.

Main changes at cycle 6 since cycle 5

Content Changes

Each cycle, there are changes made to the content of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY). Any new variable or any variable that changed, e.g., wording, response categories, and eligible population, will have an “f” as the fifth character of the variable name. Variable name conventions are described in Chapter 7.0 of the User Guide for Cycle 6. The survey content is described in detail in Chapter 8.0.

The following is a list of the main changes to the content of the survey for Cycle 6:

- The self-complete booklet for 18- to 19-year-olds, Booklet 24, has been dropped. The questions from the booklet are now included in the computer-assisted interviewing (CAI) questionnaire. The concordance table in Appendix IV of the User Guide shows the Cycle 5 and Cycle 6 variable names.
- The oldest respondents in the longitudinal cohort are now 20 and 21 years old. Many of the questions for this age group are the same as those asked in Cycle 5. There are also new questions for these youth. There are new questions about financing post-secondary education (FEDYf165, FEDYf166, FEDYf167, FEDYf168), job quality (FLYYf14A, FLYYf14B, FLYYf14C), dependent children (FDMCfD22), and about voting (FACYfQ16).
- Two new direct assessments were added in Cycle 6. A literacy assessment for 18- to 19-year-olds (FLIYfS01) and a numeracy assessment for 20- to 21-year-olds (FNUYfS01). Assessments are described in Chapter 14.0 in the User Guide.
- The Education component (Kindergarten Teacher’s questionnaire) has been dropped.
- Questions were added that allow a respondent to self-identify as an Aboriginal person (FSDCfQ3A, FSDCfQ3BA, FSDCfQ3BB, FSDCfQ3BC).

Change to Timing of Collection

The allocation of the sample to various waves of collection affects the child’s age in months at the time of interview. This can impact the scores in tests and other direct measures. Some children were interviewed at different times in Cycle 6 than in Cycle 5. For example, 10-year-olds were interviewed in Wave 1 in Cycle 5 but in Wave 2 in Cycle 6. The timing of the Cycle 6 collection waves are described in Chapter 6.0 of the User Guide. The variables FMMCbQ1A and FMMCdQ1B give the child’s age at time of collection.

Methodology Changes

Sample

Cycle 5 had no top-up of 2- to 5-year-olds. At Cycle 6, there was a top-up sample of children aged 2 to 5 years old in provinces other than Quebec and Ontario. The respondents aged 2 to 5 years old from the top-up sample have a cross-sectional weight, but no longitudinal weight.

Between Cycle 5 and Cycle 6 there has been a shift in the sample distribution by age for the Early Childhood Development (ECD) group as the large cohort introduced at Cycle 3 was dropped at Cycle 6. Note that these children will be re-surveyed as 8- and 9-year-olds at Cycle 7. For more detail, see the User Guide, Chapter 5.0

Weights

The nonresponse adjustment differs from past cycles. For more detail see Chapter 11.0, Weighting and Treatment of Nonresponse.

Variance

A portion of the NLSCY sample was drawn after the Labour Force Survey redesign (re-forming of strata and clusters) that was phased in, beginning with the November 2004 rotation group. This affects how the bootstrap weights were created, yet should be inconsequential for data users.

The methods used to derive the bootstrap weights were modified to correspond with the weighting strategy at Cycle 6. Information about variance estimation can be found in the User Guide, Chapter 13.0.

Processing Changes

At Cycle 6, the Generalized Processing System was implemented from the Clean-Up stage through to the production of the master files. In Cycle 5, this system was used only after the Clean-up and relationship edits had been completed. As well, for reasons of data quality and efficiency, the longitudinal edits were done at the derived variable stage.

There were 26 youth aged 16 and 17 living independently in Cycle 6 (FDMCfD03=82). All variables in the longitudinal file were set to 'valid skip' for these respondents except for some variables in the Demographic Section, and certain variables in the Sociodemographic and Custody Sections, where some values were carried forward from previous cycles.

Updated classification systems were used to code the Industry and Occupation data. The National Occupational Classification – Statistics (NOC-S) 2001 was used to code the data received for the respondent's occupation(s); the industry questions were coded using the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2002).

Changes to Released Files

For Cycle 6, the youth variables are released on a separate file. There are now two files for the original cohort, one for the child (10 to 17 years old) and one for the youth (16 to 21 years old). The youth questions asked of the 16- and 17-year-olds will be on the youth file, while the other data for these respondents will be found on the Child File. The 16- and 17-year-olds who no longer live with a parent or guardian were asked the youth questions only. All data for the 18- to 21-year-olds are included on the Youth File.

Static variables from previous cycles, e.g., country of birth and birth weight, have been added to the Cycle 6 files.

The variables PPERSON and SPERSPERSON were added to the master file to identify the person most knowledgeable (PMK) and Spouse. These variables will become useful for future cycles as changes to the PMK and/or spouse between cycles will be easily identifiable.

Data collection

Data for Cycle 6 of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) were collected between the fall of 2004 and the spring of 2005.

Child Component

A child component was created for each selected child between 0 and 17 years of age. The person most knowledgeable about the children and youth answered the child component questions. The PMK was usually the child's mother, but it could also be the father, a step-parent or an adoptive parent who lived in the same dwelling. Only the PMK or his/her spouse was permitted to answer the questions in this component.

For households in which the only child selected was 16 or 17 years old and was living with his/her parents, a shorter version of the child component was asked. If the child was no longer living with his/her parents, the component was not created.

Youth Component

This component is used for selected respondents aged 16 and above. The youth was the only person permitted to answer the questions in this component, whether he/she was living in the family home or not.

Adult Component

An adult component was created for the PMK and his/her spouse or partner, if the selected child is 17 years old or younger. Only the PMK or his/her spouse was permitted to answer the questions in this component. Questions in the adult component are asked once per household, even if more than one child was selected in the household.

For households in which the only child selected was 16 or 17 years old and was living with his/her parents, a shorter version of the adult component was asked. If the child was no longer living with his/her parents, the component was not created.

Sample Sizes at Cycle 6

The number of children and youth sampled in Cycle 6 is shown by age and province in the following tables.

Table 1: Number of Sampled Children and Response Rate, by Age at Cycle 6

Age as of January 1 st , 2005	Sampled	In-scope	Respondents	Cycle 6 Response Rate (%)
0	1,777	1,770	1,457	82.3
1	2,579	2,573	2,064	80.2
2	1,845	1,834	1,627	88.7
3	2,140	2,121	1,834	86.5
4	1,900	1,889	1,662	88.0
5	2,127	2,122	1,870	88.1
6	1	0	0	n/a
7	0	0	0	n/a
8	0	0	0	n/a
9	0	0	0	n/a
10	1,595	1,587	1,378	86.8
11	1,689	1,683	1,447	86.0
12	1,189	1,182	1,015	85.9
13	1,147	1,146	980	85.5
14	1,085	1,077	907	84.2
15	1,026	1,022	884	86.5
16	924	920	790	85.9
17	932	929	795	85.6
18	1,119	1,106	815	73.7
19	1,052	1,044	758	72.6
20	992	978	746	76.3
21	908	898	663	73.8
Total	26,027	25,881	21,692	83.8

Table 2: Number of Sampled Children and Response Rate, by Province of Residence at Cycle 6

Province	Sampled	In-scope	Respondents	Cycle 6 Response Rate (%)
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,408	1,405	1,215	86.5
Prince Edward Island	959	955	815	85.3
Nova Scotia	1,749	1,746	1,493	85.5
New Brunswick	1,659	1,658	1,364	82.3
Quebec	4,385	4,379	3,667	83.7
Ontario	6,827	6,819	5,562	81.6
Manitoba	1,980	1,974	1,696	85.9
Saskatchewan	1,970	1,968	1,697	86.2
Alberta	2,683	2,677	2,263	84.5
British Columbia	2,304	2,300	1,920	83.5
Outside the 10 provinces	103	0	0	n/a
Total	26,027	25,881	21,692	83.8

Direct Assessments

A variety of direct assessments are administered to the selected respondent. These are summarized in the table below. For detailed information about the assessments, see Chapter 14.0 of the User Guide.

Name of assessment	Age group	Method of administration
Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test – Revised (PPVT-R)	4- to 5-year-olds	Computer-assisted interview
Who Am I?	4- to 5-year-olds	Paper questionnaire
Number Knowledge	4- to 5-year-olds	Computer-assisted interview
Mathematics Computation Exercise	10- to 15-year-olds in Grades 4 to 10	Paper questionnaire
Problem Solving Exercise	16- to 17-year-olds	Paper questionnaire
Literacy Assessment	18- to 19-year-olds	Paper questionnaire
Numeracy Assessment	20- to 21-year-olds	Paper questionnaire

Self-complete Questionnaires – Ages 10 to 17

Respondents between 10 and 17 years of age completed a paper questionnaire on various aspects of their lives. The youth was given the questionnaire during the interview and asked to complete it himself/herself. To ensure confidentiality, the youth placed the completed questionnaire in an envelope, sealed the envelope and gave it to the interviewer.

The Self-complete Questionnaires consisted of a set of four booklets, one for each age group. The table below shows the subjects covered by each age-group section in the booklet. The questions for each subject were different for each age group. The booklets are reproduced in Book 2 of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Cycle 6 Survey Instruments 2004/2005.

Topic	Section			
	10 - 11 Booklet #20 E/F	12 - 13 Booklet #21 E/F	14 - 15 Booklet #22 E/F	16 - 17 Booklet #23 E/F
Friends and Family	A	A	A	A
School	B	B	B	-
About me	C	C	C	B
Feelings and Behaviours	D	D	D	C
My Parent(s)	E	G	G	G
Smoking, Drinking and Drugs	G	F	F	D
Puberty	F	H	H	-
Activities	H	E	E	-
Dating / My Relationships	-	H	H	F
Health	-	H	H	E
Work	-	I	I	-
Thank you	J	J	J	H

Collection Personnel (Training, Supervision and Control)

The NLSCY was conducted by Statistics Canada interviewers. A number of them had worked on one or more previous cycles of the NLSCY. All interviewers report to a staff of senior interviewers

who are responsible for ensuring that interviewers are familiar with the survey's concepts and procedures. The senior interviewers ensure that prompt follow-up action is taken for refusal and other nonresponse cases. If necessary, nonresponse cases are transferred to a senior interviewer and re-assigned. The senior interviewers in turn report to the program managers, located at Statistics Canada's regional offices.

For the NLSCY, a combination of classroom training and self-study materials was used to ensure that interviewers and supervisors had a proper understanding of the survey concepts. In the self-study portion, which preceded the classroom training, the program managers, senior interviewers and interviewers read the Interviewer's Manual prepared for the survey and completed a case study exercise. The classroom training was given by a program manager or senior interviewer. There were two sets of training: one for the Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing application and one for the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing application.

Components and questionnaires for each age group and interview type

Children Aged 0 to 3 Years

Interview type	Components	Approximate length of interview
Telephone	Entry/exit	75 minutes
	Adult	
	Child	

Children Aged 4 to 5 Years

Interview type	Components	Approximate length of interview
Telephone and Personal interview	Entry/exit	140 minutes
	Adult	
	Child	
	PPVT-R	
	“Who Am I?” booklet	
	Number Knowledge Component	

Children and Adolescents Aged 10 to 15 Years

Interview type	Components		Approximate length of interview
Telephone and Personal interview	Entry/exit		90 minutes
	Adult		
	Child		
	Mathematics test	If in Grade 4 to 10	
	Self-complete Questionnaire		

Youth Aged 16 to 17 Years

Interview type	Components		Approximate length of interview
Telephone and Personal interview	Entry/exit		105 minutes
	Adult	Only if youth lives with parent	
	Child		
	Youth		
	Self-complete Questionnaire		
	Problem Solving Exercise		

Youth Aged 18 to 19 Years

Interview type	Components	Approximate length of interview
Telephone and Personal interview	Entry/exit	95 minutes
	Youth	
	Literacy Assessment	

Youth Aged 20 to 21 Years

Interview type	Components	Approximate length of interview
Telephone and Personal interview	Entry/exit	95 minutes
	Youth	
	Numeracy Assessment	

Data release

Public Use Microdata File (PUMF)

Although there is no public use microdata file (PUMF) for Cycles 4, 5 or 6 of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY), there is a PUMF available for Cycles 1 to 3. Each microdata file includes NLSCY public use data and accompanying documentation.

To ensure respondent confidentiality, a longitudinal file is not available to the public. In addition, certain variables are not available on the PUMF. Those wishing access to suppressed or longitudinal data can do so by either remote access or through custom tabulations.

Remote Data Access

Through remote access, researchers can have access to suppressed data by submitting programs to run on the NLSCY data set at Statistics Canada. A “dummy” research file will be made available to researchers to check the logic and syntax of their programs. Researchers will transmit their programs electronically to Statistics Canada, which will then be moved into the Department’s internal, secure environment. Next, the code would be processed, the results vetted for confidentiality, and sent back to the client. It should be noted that the onus is with the user to submit retrieval programs that are correct and tested. Statistics Canada will review results only for confidentiality concerns and will not make any assessment whatsoever as to whether or not the submitted program has worked properly.

Remote data access is available on a cost recovery basis. For further information on remote data access, please refer to contact information at the beginning of this document.

Custom Tabulations

Statistics Canada retains a master microdata file from which specific microdata files and personalized tabulations can be requested on a cost recovery basis; please contact nlscy@statcan.ca.

The Research Data Centres Program

The Research Data Centres (RDC) provide researchers with access, in a secure university setting, to microdata from population and household surveys. The centres are staffed by Statistics Canada employees. They are operated under the provisions of the [Statistics Act](#) in accordance with all the confidentiality rules and are accessible only to researchers with approved projects who have been sworn in under the *Statistics Act* as 'deemed employees.'

RDCs are located throughout the country, so researchers do not need to travel to Ottawa to access Statistics Canada microdata.

Please see <http://www.statcan.ca/english/rdc/index.htm> for more information.

Appendix A Labour Force Survey

Survey Coverage

The LFS is a monthly survey that collects labour market data from a national sample of about 54,000 dwellings. Following each decennial population census, the LFS is redesigned to reflect changes in the Canadian population and to respond to changes in the information needs of the LFS. Over the life of the NLSCY, there have been two LFS redesigns: one in 1994 and one in 2004/2005 (fully implemented in April 2005). As a result, the sample for the original cohort contains a mixture of pre-1994 LFS design and the 1994 redesign. The vast majority of ECD children surveyed at Cycle 6 were drawn from the 1994 LFS design, with a few children coming from the 2004/2005 LFS redesign. The following sections provide details on the 1994 LFS design.

Target Population

The LFS sample is representative of the civilian, non-institutionalised population 15 years of age or older in Canada's ten provinces. Specifically excluded from the survey's coverage are residents of the Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories, persons living on Indian Reserves, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces and inmates of institutions. These groups together represent an exclusion of approximately 2% of the population aged 15 or over.

Stratification

The LFS sample is based upon a stratified, multistage design employing probability sampling at all stages of the design. The design principles of the LFS are the same for each province.

Primary strata

Provinces are divided into economic regions and employment insurance economic regions. Economic Regions (ERs) are geographic areas of more or less homogeneous economic structure formed on the basis of federal provincial agreements. They are relatively stable over time. Employment insurance economic regions (EIERs) are also geographic areas, and are roughly the same in size and number as ERs, but they do not share the same definitions. Labour force estimates are produced for the EIERs for the use of Human Resources and Social Development Canada.

The intersections of the two types of regions form the primary strata for the LFS. Then, sub-stratification takes place within these primary strata. Note that a third set of regions, Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), is also respected by stratification in the current LFS design, since each CMA is also an EIER.

Types of areas

The primary strata (ER/EIER intersections) are classified into three types of areas: rural, urban, and remote areas. Urban and rural areas are loosely based on the Census definitions of urban and rural, with some exceptions. Urban areas include the largest CMAs down to the smallest villages categorised by the 1991 Census as urban (1,000 people or more), while rural areas are made up of areas not designated as urban or remote.

All urban areas are further classified into two types: those using an apartment list frame and an area frame, and those using only an area frame.

Approximately 1% of the LFS population is found in remote areas of provinces that are less accessible to LFS interviewers than other areas. For administrative purposes, this portion of the population is sampled separately through the remote area frame. Places with fewer than 10 households or 25 persons and Census Enumeration Areas (EAs) with fewer than 25 households are omitted from the design.

Secondary strata

In urban areas with sufficiently large numbers of apartment buildings, the strata are subdivided into apartment frames and area frames. The apartment list frame is a register maintained for the 18 largest cities across Canada. The purpose of this is to ensure better representation of apartment dwellers in the

sample as well as to minimize the effect of growth in clusters, due to construction of new apartment buildings. In the major cities, the apartment strata are further stratified into low income strata and regular strata.

Where it is possible and/or necessary, the urban area frame is further stratified into regular strata, high-income strata, and low population density strata. Most urban areas fall into the regular urban strata, which, in fact, cover the majority of Canada's population. High-income strata are found in major urban areas, while low-density urban strata consist of small towns that are geographically scattered.

In rural areas, the population density can vary greatly from relatively high population density areas to low population density areas, resulting in the formation of strata that reflect these variations. The different stratification strategies for rural areas were based not only on concentration of population, but also on cost-efficiency and interviewer constraints. Also, within each of the secondary strata in rural areas further stratification is carried out where necessary to reflect differences among a number of socio-economic characteristics within each stratum.

The remote area frame is stratified only by province.

Cluster Delineation and Selection

Households in final strata are not selected directly. Instead, each stratum is divided into clusters, and then a sample of clusters is selected within the stratum. Dwellings are then sampled from selected clusters. Different methods are used to define the clusters, depending on the type of stratum.

Within each urban stratum in the urban area frame, a number of geographically contiguous groups of dwellings, or clusters, are formed based upon Census counts. These clusters are generally a set of one or more city blocks or block faces. The selection of a sample of clusters (always six or a multiple of six clusters) from each of these secondary strata represents the first stage of sampling in most urban areas. In some other urban areas, Census EAs are used as clusters. In the low-density urban strata, a three-stage design is followed. Under this design, two towns within a stratum are sampled and then six or 24 clusters within each town are sampled.

For urban apartment strata, instead of defining clusters, the apartment building is the primary sampling unit. Apartment buildings are sampled from the list frame with probability proportional to the number of units in each building.

Other procedures are applied in rural and remote areas. Within each rural stratum, six EAs or two or three groups of EAs are sampled as clusters, whereas remote settlements within each province are sampled proportional to the number of dwellings in the settlement.

Dwelling Selection

In all three types of areas (urban, rural and remote areas) interviewers in the field first visit selected clusters and a listing of all private dwellings in the cluster is prepared. From the listing, a sample of dwellings is then selected. The sample yield depends on the type of stratum. For example, in the urban area frame, sample yields in regular strata within major urban areas are either six or eight dwellings, depending on the size of the city. In the urban apartment frame, each cluster yields five dwellings while in the rural areas and urban EAs, each cluster yields ten dwellings. In all clusters, dwellings are sampled systematically. This represents the final stage of sampling.

Sample Rotation

The LFS employs a panel design whereby the entire monthly sample of dwellings consists of six panels, or rotation groups, of approximately equal size. Each of these panels is, by itself, representative of the entire LFS population. All dwellings in a rotation group remain in the LFS sample for six consecutive months after which time they are replaced (rotated out of the sample) by a new panel of dwellings selected from the same or similar clusters.

This rotation pattern has the statistical advantage of providing a common sample base for month-to-month comparisons of LFS characteristics. It also ensures that the sample of dwellings constantly reflects changes in the current housing stock and helps to minimize the respondent burden and nonresponse that could result if households were to remain in the sample longer than six months. Surveys that use the LFS frame or sample can take advantage of the rotation group feature to use larger or smaller sample sizes than that of the LFS.

Household Members Eligible for the Labour Force Survey

The first month a dwelling is in the LFS, a roster containing information on the household composition is completed. Demographic information including the name, sex, date of birth and education level is obtained for all persons for whom the selected dwelling is the usual place of residence. Labour force information is obtained for all civilian household members 15 years of age or older.

When the dwelling is contacted in subsequent months the roster is updated to reflect changes in household membership from the previous month.

Using the Labour Force Survey Frame for the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth

One advantage of using the LFS survey frame for other surveys is that each rotation group of the LFS provides a sample capable of producing representative statistics for Canada and each province. In addition, the household composition information collected for the LFS is available to select a sample. Furthermore, LFS interviewers are available to do surveys when they are not working on the LFS and are familiar with the CAPI collection methodology. Because of these factors, the LFS frame was chosen for selecting the longitudinal sample for the first cycle of the NLSCY. A similar procedure was used for the second cycle in selecting the cross-sectional and supplementary samples.

Depending on the level of reliability required, the budget and the available collection capacity, from one to six rotation groups can be surveyed in a non-LFS collection week. This capacity can be expanded by the addition of dwellings which have rotated out prior to the survey reference month. In theory, this approach can be used to augment a survey's sample infinitely. In practice, however, a combination of cost and statistical reliability limit the additional "take" to roughly three times the regular LFS sample, which is about 15 rotation groups. With regard to the NLSCY, nine rotation groups were used for the first cycle to cover all age groups. For the second cycle, six rotation groups were used for the first collection period and four for the second period to cover the 0 and 1 year olds from the cross-sectional sample and the 2 to 5 year olds from the supplementary sample. A combination of active rotation groups and rotates out was used.

The LFS Household Record collects basic demographic information such as age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, economic family association and relationship to head of economic family for all members of all households identified in selected dwellings. The age data from this file is used to facilitate the selection of dwellings with children for the NLSCY. Starting with the third cycle, this alleviates much of the need to screen dwellings to determine if children under two or under six (in the case of the supplementary sample) reside in them.

NLSCY Cycle 6 Measures – Cognitive Development and Language Outcomes	Respondent	0-11 mths	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	6 - 7 yrs**	8 - 9 yrs**	10-11 yrs	12-13 yrs	14-15 yrs	16-17 yrs	18-19 yrs	20-21 yrs
Language:															
Receptive skills – Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test - Revised	Child					X	X								
Communication skills - <i>Ages and Stages</i>	Parent	X	X	X	X										
Communication skills	Parent				X	X	X								
Literacy:															
Emerging literacy skills - <i>Who Am I?</i>	Child					X	X								
Literacy and learning activities	Parent	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			
	Youth									X	X	X	X	X	
Numeracy:															
Quantitative knowledge– <i>Number Knowledge</i>	Child					X	X								
Math achievement - <i>Math computation exercise</i> Numeracy – <i>Cognitive measure</i>	Child									X	X	X	X		
Cognitive measure	Child												X		
School performance (math)	Parent					X	X			X	X	X			
Abilities (e.g., counting to 5)	Parent				X	X	X								
Science:															
School performance (science)	Parent										X	X			
Overall achievement:															
School performance	Parent					X	X			X	X	X			
	Youth									X	X	X	X	X	X
Educational Aspirations	Youth										X	X	X		

NLSCY Cycle 6 Measures – Cognitive Development and Language Outcomes cont'd.	Respondent	0-11 mths	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	6 - 7 yrs**	8 - 9 yrs**	10-11 yrs	12-13 yrs	14-15 yrs	16-17 yrs	18-19 yrs	20-21 yrs
Learning processes															
Task persistence	Parent				X	X	X								
Analytical Reasoning/problem solving															
Problem solving – <i>Ages and Stages</i>	Parent	X	X	X	X										
General Knowledge															
Computer Skills	Parent				X	X	X								
	Youth									X	X	X	X	X	X
Labour Force Participation	Youth										X	X	X	X	
Career Aspirations	Youth													X	

NLSCY Cycle 6 Measures – Emotional Development Outcomes	Respondent	0-11 mths	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	6 - 7 yrs**	8 - 9 yrs**	10-11 yrs	12-13 yrs	14-15 yrs	16-17 yrs	18-19 yrs	20-21 yrs
Temperament:															
Good-natured / difficult	Parent	X	X	X											
Adaptable	Parent	X	X	X											
Self-esteem	Youth									X	X	X	X	X	X
Emotional disorder-anxiety	Parent			X	X	X	X			X					
	Youth									X	X	X			
Depression	Youth												X	X	X
Emotional Intelligence	Youth									X	X	X	X	X	X

NLSCY Cycle 6 Measures – Social Development Outcomes	Respondent	0-11 mths	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	6 - 7 yrs**	8 - 9 yrs**	10-11 yrs	12-13 yrs	14-15 yrs	16-17 yrs	18-19 yrs	20-21 yrs
Personal/social skills - <i>Ages and Stages</i>	Parent	X	X	X	X										
Prosocial behaviour	Parent									X					
Positive behaviour, including perseverance and independence	Youth									X	X	X			
Interpersonal relationships	Parent				X	X	X								
	Parent					X	X								
Hyperactivity-inattention	Youth									X	X	X	X	X	X
Physical aggression-opposition	Parent			X	X	X	X			X					
	Youth									X	X	X			
Physical aggression-conduct disorder	Parent			X	X										
	Parent					X	X			X					
Separation anxiety	Youth									X	X	X			
Indirect aggression	Parent			X	X										
	Parent					X	X			X					
Property offence	Youth									X	X	X			
Delinquent behaviours	Parent									X					
	Youth									X	X	X	X	X	
Non-Sport Activity Participation	Parent									X					
	Youth									X	X	X	X	X	X
Community Participation:	Parent				X	X	X								
	Youth									X	X	X	X		
Volunteering															
	Youth									X	X	X	X	X	X
Engaged citizen	Youth										X	X	X		X
Life long learning	Youth												X	X	X
Social Support	Youth													X	X

NLSCY Cycle 6 Measures – Physical Health Outcomes	Respondent	0-11 mths	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	6 - 7 yrs**	8 - 9 yrs**	10-11 yrs	12-13 yrs	14-15 yrs	16-17 yrs	18-19 yrs	20-21 yrs
Perinatal period: Delivery details	Parent	X	X	X*	X*	X*	X*			X*					
Infant's health at birth	Parent	X	X	X	X	X	X			X*					
Infant's birth weight	Parent	X	X	X*	X*	X*	X*			X*	X*	X*	X*		
General health: Current health	Parent	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			
	Youth										X	X	X	X	X
Height/weight	Parent	X	X	X	X	X	X			X					
	Youth										X	X	X	X	X
Health status index	Parent					X	X								
Physical activity: Participation in sports and other physical activities	Parent	X	X	X	X	X	X								
	Youth									X	X	X	X		
Health problems:															
Injuries	Parent	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			
	Youth												X	X	
Asthma	Parent	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			
	Youth												X	X	X
Chronic conditions	Parent	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			
	Youth												X	X	X
Activity limitations	Parent	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			
	Youth												X	X	
Infections	Parent	X	X	X	X										
Development: Fine and gross motor skills – <i>Ages and Stages</i>	Parent	X	X	X	X										

Milestones:	Respondent	0-11 mths	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	6 - 7 yrs**	8 - 9 yrs**	10-11 yrs	12-13 yrs	14-15 yrs	16-17 yrs	18-19 yrs	20-21 yrs
NLSCY Cycle 6 Measures – Physical Health Outcomes cont’d.															
Sit up, solid food, feed self, first steps	Parent	X	X	X	X										
Puberty	Youth									X	X	X	X		
Exposure to risk: Use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco	Youth									X	X	X	X	X	X
Sexual health	Youth										X	X	X	X	X
Healthy lifestyles: Eating breakfast	Youth										X	X	X		
Dieting, weight gain/changes	Youth										X	X	X		
Use of seat belts, bicycle helmets	Youth										X				

*Delivery details & birth weight are collected only in the first interview

**Note: 6- to 9-year-olds were not collected in Cycle 6 as the youngest age group of the original longitudinal cohort was 10 to 11 years old.