

Priorities for a New National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth (NLSY) Cohort

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Outline

- What is the NLS?
- Plans and Progress for a New NLSY Cohort
- What is Different This Time?
- What is the Same?
- Your Feedback



NLS Conducts Surveys to Support Longitudinal Labor Market Studies

- For each of several cohorts of individuals, we:
 - ▶ Select a random sample of youth
 - ▶ Interview the youth and their parents
 - ▶ Gather other relevant information (e.g. about their school)
 - ▶ Re-interview the youth annually or bi-annually
- We are building a complete record of each members' labor market experiences over the life course
- We also collect a broad range of other measures reflecting the many factors that affect and are affected by the labor market experiences



We Need Longitudinal Data to:

- Study how an event affects future outcomes
 - ▶ School / Job training
 - ▶ Unemployment spells
 - ▶ Family structure, crime, program participation, etc
- Study changes over the life course
 - ▶ School to work transitions
 - ▶ Job search, Career evolutions
 - ▶ Health, Wealth, Human and Social Capital
- Allows studies of labor market dynamics

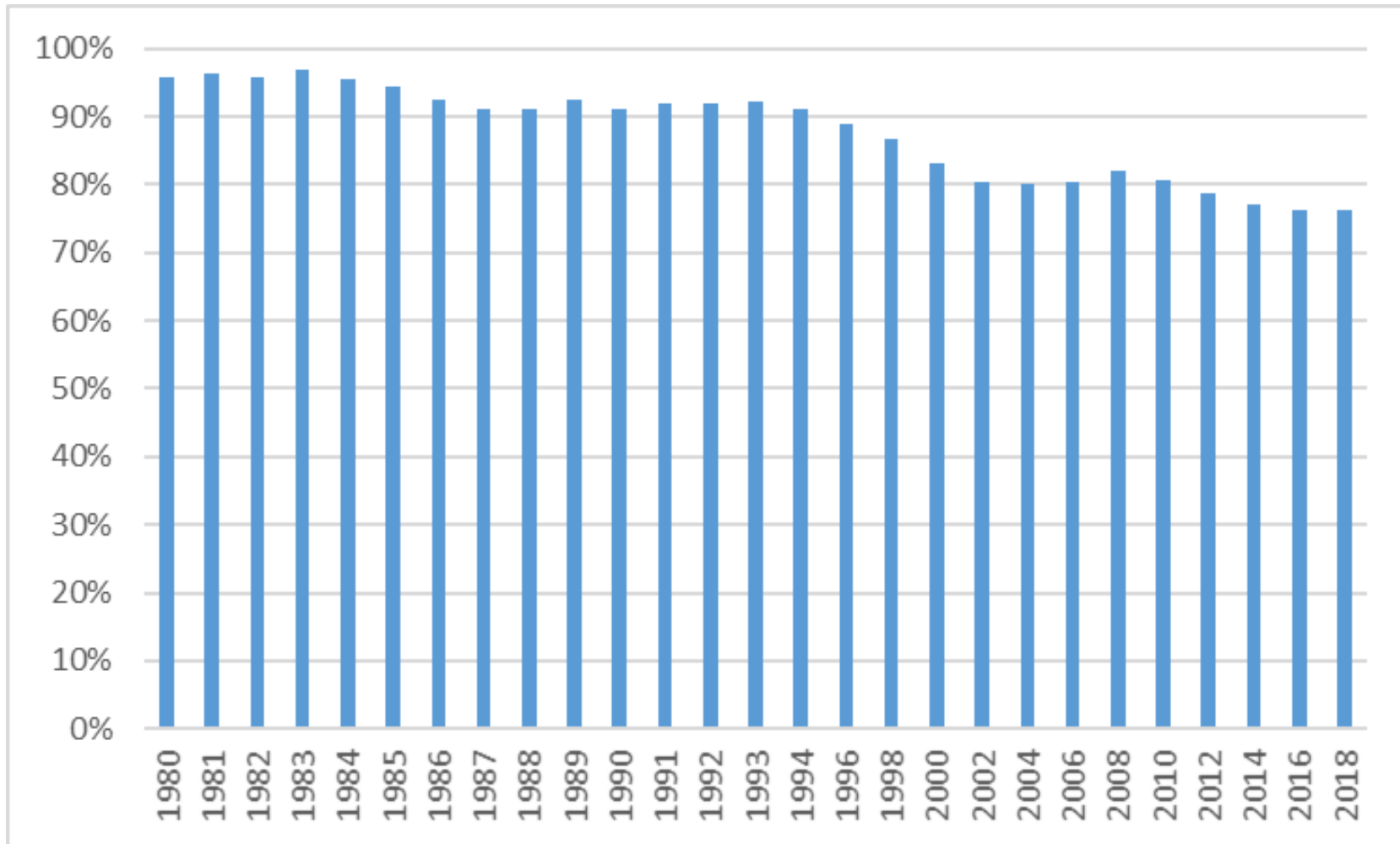


Currently “Active” Cohorts

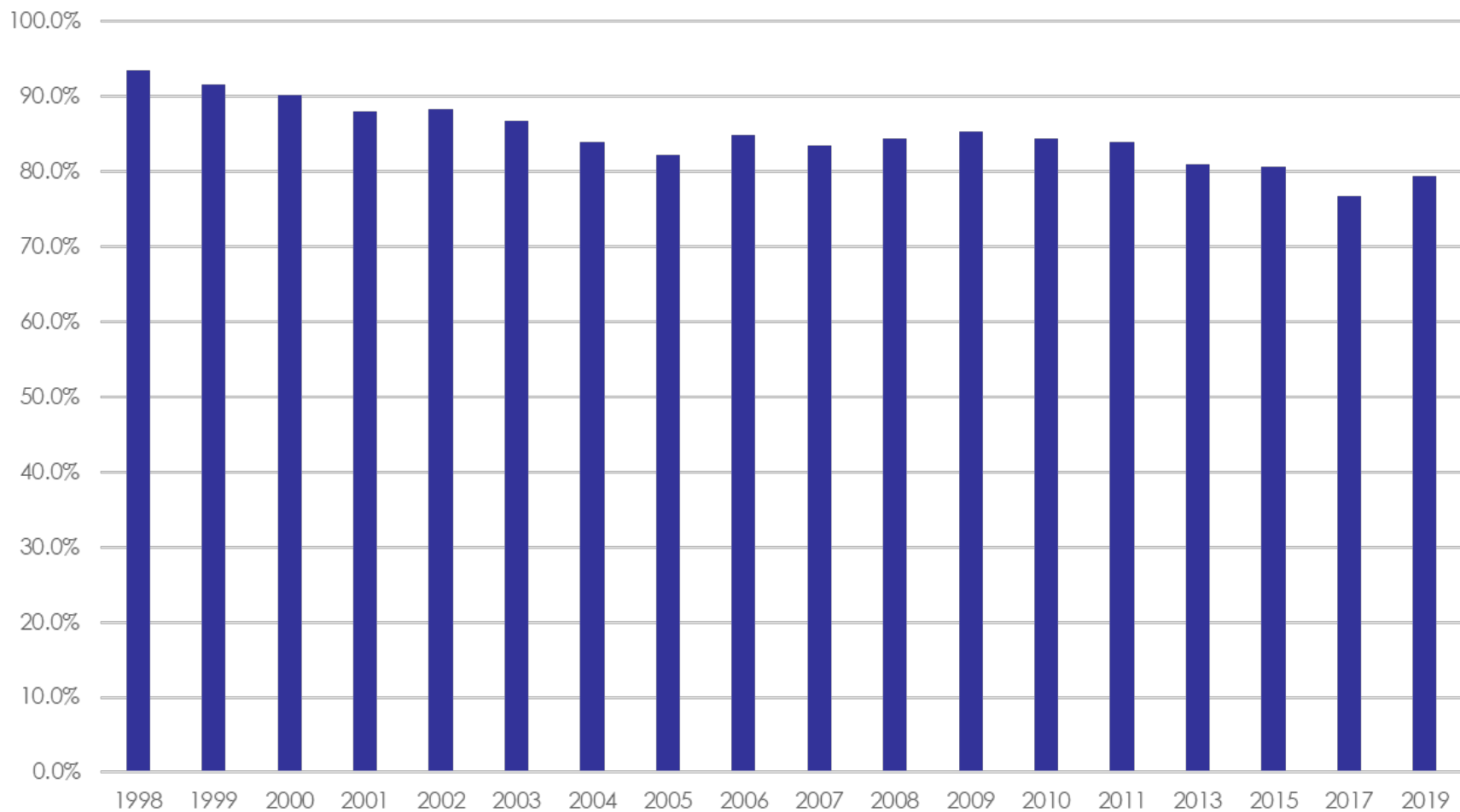
- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79)
 - ▶ Aged 14-21 at first interview
 - ▶ Now approaching retirement (aged 57-64)
- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97)
 - ▶ Aged 12-16 at first interview
 - ▶ Now reaching middle ages (aged 37-41)
- NLSY79 Child and Young Adult surveys (NLSY79CYA)
 - ▶ Biological children of female NLSY79 respondents
 - ▶ Now in their 20s, 30s, and 40s



NLSY79 Sample Retention Rates



NLSY97 Sample Retention Rates



Our Primary Output: MicroData

■ Public Use Data

- ▶ Available online, has extensive documentation and user support

■ Restricted Use Data

- ▶ Geographic and other restricted variables
- ▶ Users must be approved and sign agreements
- ▶ Provided through data enclaves



Thousands of Studies Yielded

- Over 10,000 published studies
- Over 4,800 journal articles
- Many fundamental insights and influential studies across multiple disciplines
- www.nlsbibliography.org



Building a New NLSY Cohort

- It has been 25 years since the last cohort
- Multiple changes (sociological, technological, economic, demographic) are unmeasured
- Enable new studies to inform current policies
- Comparisons with previous cohorts will capture the extent of change
- Dec 19: Congress directed us to start planning
- Looking to the FY23 Budget



New Cohort Development Plan

FY21: Initial Planning and Outreach

FY22: Expanded Outreach
Self-Study and Research

FY23-25: Systems Development

FY26: First Collection of the NLSY26



Current (FY22) Activities

Outreach:

- Speaking to User Groups
- Conducting Focus Groups
- Conducting Public User Survey
- Federal Register Notice
- Expanded Promotional Materials



Current (FY22) Activities

Self-Study and Research:

- Evaluation of Alternative Data Sources
- Retrospective / Bibliographic Analysis
- Convening Expert “Content” Panels
- Determining Dissemination Requirements
- Requests for Information from Vendors



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What is (Potentially) New?

- Sample – Size, composition
- Sources – Alternative Sources from the start
- Collection – Mode, frequency
- Content – Family Background, Education, Skills, Job characteristics, environment
- Dissemination – Tiered Access?



What is the Same?

NLS Mission Statement

The National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) provide information on the complex relationships between an individual's labor market activities and other experiences such as education, health, family formation, and economic decision-making over the life course. We strive to deliver excellent customer service to help researchers and policymakers use these rich data sets to their full advantage.



What is the Same?

- Employment and Event Histories
- Core Topics: training, education, family, health
- Partnerships with other agencies
 - ▶ National Center for Education Statistics
 - ▶ National Institutes of Health
 - ▶ National Institute of Justice
 - ▶ Social Security Administration
 - ▶ Department of Defense



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