Dataset Title: National Longitudinal Study of Freshmen (NLSF)

Overview: The National Longitudinal Survey of Freshmen (NLSF) initially interviewed freshman at 28 selective colleges and universities. It interviewed them throughout their college years, attempting to test theories of minority underperformance in college. As such, it is composed of relatively equal numbers of African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and Caucasian respondents. Individuals who drop out of college after freshman year are still a part of the survey and are therefore interviewed in later waves.

Date: Fall 1999 (Freshman; Wave 1)
Spring 2000 (Freshman; Wave 2)
Spring 2001 (Sophomore; Wave 3)
Spring 2002 (Junior; Wave 4)
Spring 2003 (Senior; Wave 5)
Spring 2004 (Post-grad follow-up; Wave 6)

Time dimension: Longitudinal Study

Sample: The NLSF survey attempted to add historically Black campuses, but otherwise followed the sampling methods of Bowen and Bok’s 1988 College and Beyond Survey. They included the majority of the 28 schools that Bowen and Bok chose, but added University of California Berkeley because it had just ended its historically strong affirmative action programs. They also added one historically Black university. The sampling size was 3,924 participants for the initial interview. There were 1,051 blacks, 998 whites, 959 Asians, and 916 Latino students. The sample only included first-time freshmen who were U.S. citizens or resident aliens. It excluded foreign and returning citizens.

Further information on sampling procedures can be found at: http://nlsf.princeton.edu/about.htm

Data source: Data was collected in two-hour face-to-face interviews that asked questions about the respondent’s neighborhood and educational experiences before college. A follow-up telephone interview was conducted in the Spring of freshman year and in the following Springs to garner information about student’s academic experiences in college.

Self-Identified Race and Hispanic Origin Measures:

*these questions are from Wave 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>w1qzeth</th>
<th>Respondent’s Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Black/African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Caucasian/White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Observed Race Measures: N/A

Reflected Race Measures: N/A

Phenotype Measures:

skincolr

**Interviewer Observation Question:**
To The Best Of Your Ability, Give Your Judgment
As To The Lightness Or Darkness Of The
Respondent’s Skin Color.

| 0   | Very Light |
| 0-9 |            |
| 10  | Very Dark  |

Race or Ethnic origin of Respondent’s Parents:

**w1q166** Where Was Your Biological Or Adoptive Mother Born? (Use Country Codes Given In Appendix C)

| 1   | United States |
| 60-990 |
| 999  | Other (Specify) |

996 Unable To Determine Location

998 Don’t Know

997 Refused

**w1q167** Where Was Your Biological Or Adoptive Father Born? (Use Country Codes Given In Appendix C)

| 1   | United States |
| 60-990 |

999 Other

996 Unable To Determine Location

998 Don’t Know

997 Refused

Interviewer Characteristics: N/A

Other Race Measures:
ETHNIC AND RACIAL COMPOSITION OF SCHOOL AND NEIGHBORHOOD AGE 6

VARIABLE: w1q11a
LABEL: When You Were In First Grade, What Was The Ethnic And Racial Composition Of All First Graders In Your School. I’ll Be Asking You About All Ethnic And Racial Groups, One Group At A Time. Out Of A Total Of 100% Of All The First Graders, What Percentage Were African Americans? (Use Codes Given Below For w1q11a-w1q11e)

0-100 Zero To One-Hundred Percent
998 Don’t Know (Please Give Me Your Best Guess
997 Refused
Blank - Coded 4, 5 Or S In Q9

w1q11b What Percentage Were Hispanics Or Latinos?

w1q11c What Percentage Were Asians?

w1q11d What Percentage Were Whites?

w1q11e What percentage were of other racial or ethnic backgrounds I have not already mentioned?

NEIGHBORHOOD AND SCHOOL COMPOSITION AGE 13

VARIABLE: w1q26a
LABEL: The next question is about the ethnic and racial composition of your school when you were 13.

Let’s start with your estimate of the percentage of African Americans? (USE CODES GIVEN BELOW FOR w1q26a-w1q26e)

<0-100> ZERO TO ONE HUNDRED PERCENT

<998> DON’T KNOW

<997> REFUSED

BLANK – CODED 4, 6 OR s FOR q22

w1q26b What percentage were Hispanics or Latinos?

w1q26c What percentage were Asians?

w1q26d What percentage were whites?
w1q26c  What percentage were of other racial or ethnic backgrounds I have not mentioned already?

w1q27a  Now Think Back To The Ethnic And Racial Composition Of The Three-Block Radius Of Where You Lived When You Were 13.

Let's Start With Your Estimate Of The Percentage Of African Americans
(Use Codes Given Below For w1q27a-w1q27e)

0-100  Zero To One Hundred Percent

998    Don’t Know

997    Refused

w1q27b  What percentage were Hispanics or Latinos?

w1q27c  What percentage were Asians?

w1q27d  What percentage were whites?

w1q27e  What percentage were of other racial or ethnic backgrounds I have not mentioned already?
HIGH SCHOOL ETHNIC AND RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS

w1q55a  The Next Question Is About The Ethnic And Racial Composition Of The Student Body Of Your Last High School.

    Let’s Start With Your Estimate Of The Percentage Of African Americans
    (Use Codes Given Below For w1q55a-w1q55e)
    0-100  Zero To One-Hundred Percent
    998    Don’t Know
    997    Refused
    Blank – Coded 4 or 7 for w1q38

w1q55b  What Percentage Were Hispanics Or Latinos?

w1q55c  What Percentage Were Asians?

w1q55d  What Percentage Were Whites?

w1q55e  What Percentage Were Of Other Racial Or Ethnic Backgrounds I Have Not Already Mentioned?

NEIGHBORHOOD ETHNIC AND RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS SENIOR YEAR

VARIABLE  LABEL
w1q82a  Now Think Back To The Ethnic And Racial Composition Of The Three-Block Radius Of Where You Lived Last Year.

    Let’s Start With Your Estimate Of The Percentage Of African-Americans.
    (Use Codes Given Below For w1q82a-w1q82c)
    0-100  Zero To One-Hundred Percent
    998    Don’t Know
    997    Refused

w1q82b  What Percentage Were Hispanics Or Latinos?

w1q82c  What Percentage Were Asians?

w1q82d  What Percentage Were Whites?

w1q82e  What Percentage Were Of Other Racial Or Ethnic Backgrounds I Have Not Already Mentioned?

Notes: There are measures of the race of respondent’s “ten closest friends last year” in Wave 1, as well as the race of their romantic partner and mentor. There are a lot of questions about the racial makeup that respondents desire in schools and neighborhoods. The survey also includes measures of racial prejudice on campuses and the racial makeup of extracurricular clubs.

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Weblinks:
http://nlsf.princeton.edu/index.htm
http://opr.princeton.edu/archive/nlsf/

Citation:
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