The Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

Pamela Herd
Prepared for presentation at the

FLRC Conference, Washington, D.C.
November 18-19, 2010
The research reported herein was performed pursuant to a grant from the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) funded as part of the Financial Literacy Research Consortium.

The opinions and conclusions expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not represent the opinions or policy of SSA or any agency of the Federal Government or of the University of Wisconsin System, including the Center for Financial Security.
Center for the Demography of Health and Aging
University of Wisconsin-Madison
with support from the National Institute on Aging and the Social Security Administration
Sample Selection

• One Out of Three

• Original Sample Size = 10,317
relational structure of data in the WLS
Surveys

- 1957 (10,317)
- 1964 (short mail survey of parents, 87%)
- 1975 (telephone, 89% response rate)
- 1977 (2000 randomly selected siblings, telephone, 80%)
- 1992-4 (telephone/mail; 85%/80% response rates for graduates/siblings)
- 2004-6 (telephone/mail; 86%/89%)
- 2010 (in person and mail)
Data Domains: Financial Data

- Parent’s occupations, income, and education (1957)
- Earnings, household and individual (1975-2010)
- Total income, household and individual (1992-2010)
- Full Assets (1992-2010)
- Intertransfers (1992-2010)
- Financial Literacy measure and Economic Games of which a subset of cases play for real-stakes (2010)
- Social Security records are coming
Data Domains: Education

- Complete Educational Attainment History (1957-2010)
- Classes in high school, perception of parents and teachers, aspirations, aspirations of friends (1957)
- Administrative data: Henmon Nelson IQ scores, Class rank, elementary through high school resources
Data Domains: Employment

- Employment aspirations (1957-1992)
- Jobs and job characteristics (1957-2010)
- Earnings (1975-2010)
Data Domains: Social

- Attractiveness, school activities (1957)
- Involvement with organizations (1975-2010)
- Time spent with family/friends and quality of relationships (1975-2010)
- Religious affiliation and participation (1975-2010)
- Caregiving (1992-2010)
Data Domains: Family

- Parental background (1957)
- Marriage plans (1957)
- Full marital history, marital quality, many details about spouse, including interviews in 2003 (1975-2010)
- Time spent with family (1975-2010)
- Children (1975-2010)
- Siblings (1975-2010)
Data Domains: Nonnormative

- Parents who lost a child early to death, have a child with a significant mental illness or a child with a developmental disability
- Special interviews 2004-2010
Data Domains: Cognition

- Henmon Nelson, grad and sibling (1957)
- Cognition (1992-2010)
- Subset given additional cognition measures
  - E-Prime ACASI
    - Single word reading
    - Word recognition
    - Picture naming
    - Category verification
  - Cookie Theft

SSA FLFC 19-F-10003-5-01, University of Wisconsin
Data Domains: Retirement

- Pensions (1992-2010)
- Retirement aspirations (1992)
- Changes in standards of living related to retirement (1992-2010)
Data Domains: Mental Health

- Personality (1992-2010)
- Psychological well-being (1992-2010)
- CESD (1992-2010)
- We know if child has significant mental health issues
Data Domains: Physical Health

• General health, Chronic conditions (1992-2010)
• Health Utilities Index (2004-2010)
• Health insurance (1992-2010)
• Medical use/costs (1992-2010)
• Smoking, Drinking (1992-2010), Obesity (1957, 1992-2010)
• Retrospective childhood health (2004)
• Medicare Records/Tumor Registry

- **Physical Functioning**
  - Grip Strength, Timed Gait test, Chair Rise, Peak Flow measure
- **Anthropometric measures**
  - Height, Weight, Waist and Hip circumference
  - Photograph
- **Health Literacy**
  - STOFHLA
  - Newest Vital Sign (NVS)
- **Visions Screeners**
- **Medication Inventory**
Data Domains: Physical Health

- DNA from spit samples
Future Endeavors

• Networks
• Survivors of Deceased
• Children
Telling the Story of Wisconsin's Class of 1957
Full contact info: Pamela Herd, 1080 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706, email: pherd@lafollette.wisc.edu.

http://cfs.wisc.edu/