The Economics of Child Health: Evidence from the National Longitudinal Surveys
Janet Currie

**OBESITY**

- The NLSY began in 1979 with ~12,000 youths aged 14-21 who have been followed since. The sample includes siblings and detailed background information.
- Beginning in 1986, all of the children of the NLSY women have been followed making it possible to link mothers and children.
- A new cohort of youth began in 1997, making it possible to compare changes across cohorts.
- Because of the utility of the data and the fact that it is available, over 6000 studies have been conducted using these data.
- Health domains covered include: Fertility, substance use, utilization of medical care, mental health, accidents, chronic conditions, and infant health.
- Ideal for making connections between physical and mental health and socioeconomic status.
- This is one of the few data sets available in the US that track children and families over time.

**MENTAL HEALTH**

**IMPORTANCE OF EARLY LIFE HEALTH**

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**The NLSY, NLS97, and NLSCM are unique resources for studying child health**

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