

WLS Nonnormative (NN) case identification

In the 2004-2007 surveys, respondents whose children had developmental disabilities or mental illnesses were identified through a series of screener questions that were asked of all respondents. The screener consisted of a maximum of 31 questions that began by asking respondents if any of their children (living or deceased) had a developmental disability or long-term mental health problem, and if so, the specific diagnosis. If a respondent indicated that any of his/her sons or daughters had a specific developmental disability or mental health condition, the respondent was included in the developmental disability and mental illness sample. If the respondent did not know the specific diagnosis given to his or her child, but indicated that the child had developmental or mental health problems, branching follow-up questions were asked to identify the child's condition.

In the NN identification process using the 2004-2007 survey data, we mainly used the information from the children's roster. Although we used the information from WLS primary respondents for most cases, we also used the child module from the interviews of the spouses or widows of the primary respondents. Specifically, we mainly used nonnormative screener questions in the telephone interview to identify NN cases (items Du116c, Du116d, Du116f1, Du116f2)¹, but we also use supplemental SAQ (items z23a to z23g)² for the mail-only respondents and the 2004-2005 spouse interview (items h_dscr, h_d2 to h_d12)³ to identify additional NN cases.

In developmental disability group, sons or daughters with the following conditions were included: mental retardation, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, brain injury before age 22, fragile X, fetal alcohol syndrome, and several other very rare conditions.

In mental illness group, sons or daughters with the following conditions were included: bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and psychotic episodes.

The severe depression group includes children that were either hospitalized for depression or suffered from an impairment of daily functions as a result of their depression.

¹ See Non-Normative Child Screener flowcharts for the 2003-2007 Survey of Graduates & Siblings in [Full Instrumentation 1957-2010](#).

² See replacement page 11 in the [Mail Labels](#) spreadsheet in [WLS 2003-2005 Questionnaires](#).

³ See Non-Normative Child Screener flowcharts for the 2003-2007 Survey of Spouses of Graduates & Siblings in [Full Instrumentation 1957-2010](#).