



# NLTS2 Update

## Spring 2003



The National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2) is an exciting study being conducted for the U.S. Department of Education. It includes thousands of youth nationwide who were ages 13 through 16 in 2000. We are following the progress of these youth by collecting information at several times over 9 years from parents, youth, and schools. We are in the third year of this study, and this is the second time we will be speaking with many parents. The result of this important study will be a national picture of experiences and achievements of young people that will guide future educational policy and programs, and ultimately help youth achieve success in adult life.

### Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

#### Who is conducting this study?

SRI International, with help from RTI, two large and respected research organizations that have been conducting research for many years, are conducting this study for the U.S. Department of Education.

#### Why should we be in NLTS2?

It is very important that NLTS2 represent young people with all kinds of backgrounds, abilities, and school programs. Based on your family's unique experiences, along with those of other families nationwide, we will be able to recommend improvements to programs and policies that help youth have positive school and early adult experiences.

#### Do we have a choice?

Of course you have a choice! Your participation is completely voluntary, but we strongly encourage you to take part.

#### How were we chosen for this study?

To represent students throughout the United States, about 500 school districts and special schools were selected by scientific sampling methods. At the beginning of the study, these districts and schools sent us lists of the students in their school at that time. From these lists, about 12,000 students were chosen randomly.

#### Who will see the information we give?

Everything we learn will be completely private. We will not share information with the school, the school district, the state, or the federal government in any way that identifies individual youth, parents, schools, or school districts.

#### Weren't we interviewed 2 years ago?

We hope to talk with you again to learn about how things have changed for the youth over time. By interviewing families and youth periodically, we will be able to understand better how youth transition from high school to adult life.

#### Who will you want to speak with?

We hope to begin the interview with the parent or adult in your home who knows most about the school, work, social, and other experiences of the youth named in the letter. If possible, we would like to talk with the youth as well.

#### What is MDLTS?

MDLTS (Maryland Longitudinal Transition Study) is a companion study to NLTS2. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing funding for approximately 1,000 additional students and their parents to participate. The study will help MSDE improve education and transition services for youth in Maryland.

## Recent Findings from NLTS2

We'd like to share with you some interesting findings from the first round of NLTS2 parent interviews about the experiences of youth with disabilities. These interviews took place in 2001.

### Have there been changes in employment over time?

The employment experiences of youth with disabilities appear to be improving. When the work experiences of youth with disabilities in 2001 were compared with those from the original NLTS in 1987, we found an increase in the percentage of youth with a paid job and a decrease in those earning less than minimum wage.

### In what types of extracurricular activities do youth participate?

Three-quarters (76%) of youth with disabilities participated in at least one extracurricular activity in 2001, compared with 83% of their peers in the general population. These included a wide range of activities, such as scouting, sports teams, performing groups, church or temple youth groups, and community service groups. Looking at changes over time, the percentage of

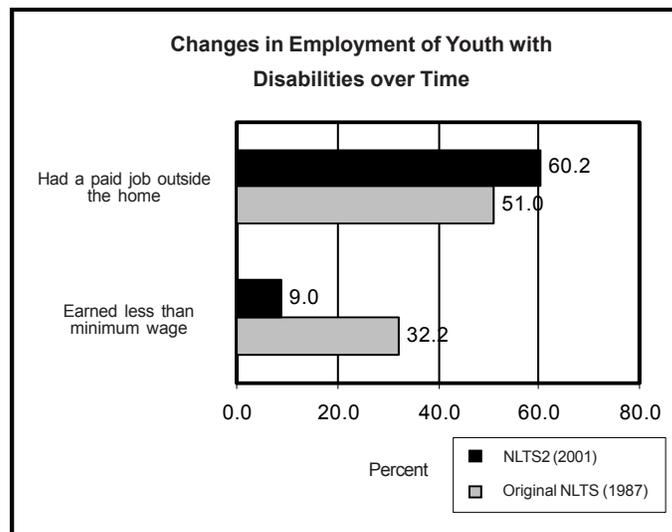
youth with disabilities doing volunteer work more than doubled between 1987 and 2001.

### How involved are parents in supporting education at home?

Parents of youth with disabilities were very involved in their children's education. Most parents of youth with disabilities reported talking

with their children about school, and more than 40% helped their children with homework at least three times a week. Youth with disabilities were much more likely to receive help with their homework than were their peers in the general population. Only

2% of parents of middle and high school students in the general population helped with homework five or more times a week, compared with 21% of parents of youth with disabilities.



Please check our Web site for additional NLTS2 findings and reports.

### NLTS2 welcomes feedback!

Call our toll-free number: 1-866-269-7274 E-mail: [nlts2@sri.com](mailto:nlts2@sri.com)

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