

Caregiver Demographics

LONGSCAN

1991

Description of Measure

Purpose

To gather demographic information from caregivers.

Conceptual Organization

The form begins with a series of items to gather information on the respondent's educational background, followed by the current employment status and occupations of both maternal caregivers and husbands or partners who are living in the home. Respondents are then asked to report their total family income, collapsed into a number of ranges, and to indicate each source of that income. The number of persons dependent upon this income is also gathered so that per capita household income may be calculated. The last section gathers basic demographic information including age, race, marital status, and religious affiliation and involvement.

Materials

Non-copyrighted form is included in this manual.

Time Required

10 minutes

Administration Method

Interviewer-administered

Training

Minimal

Scoring

Score Types

Individual item scores are most useful. Occupational status is scored using the 9-point

Hollingshead Occupational Scale (Hollingshead, 1975). Education was measured by number of years of schooling as well as by degrees or certification attained. Annual income was measured in \$5,000 increments up to 'greater than \$50,000 per year.'

Score Interpretation

The Hollingshead Occupational Scale ranges from 1 (menial jobs) to 9 (major professional jobs) (Hollingshead, 1975). Explicit coding instructions are found in the LONGSCAN scoring manual.

LONGSCAN Use

Data Points

Pre-Age 4: MW & NW sites only

Age 4, 6, 8, 12, 14: all sites

Respondent

Primary maternal caregiver

Mnemonic and Version

Pre-Age 4/Age 4: DEMA.

Age 6: DE6A. Modified to include questions about the educational status of the caregiver's partner. Also, the order of the questions was changed slightly.

Age 8: DEA. Caregiver race is omitted.

Age 12 & 14: DEMB. Racial/ethnic background is included again. Also asks for the number of rooms in the caregiver's home.

Rationale

Information gathered on this form is needed to examine research questions and variation in abuse and neglect rates by the socio-demographic characteristic of the child's caregiver(s). The Hollingshead Index (1975) is widely used as a measure of socioeconomic status.

Results

Race/Ethnicity

Due to space considerations, data for Age 4, which were reported in Volume I, are not repeated here. Table 1 shows that the racial distribution of caregivers remained stable at Age 6, except that the percentage in the other category decreased slightly. At Age 6 the percentage of Black caregivers increased slightly at EA, SO, and SW, and the percentage Hispanic increased slightly at NW.

Table 1 about here

Caregiver race was imputed from a previous interview when it was determined that the respondent was the same. Table 2 shows that the racial distribution of caregivers remained stable at Age 8, except that the percentage in the Hispanic category decreased slightly. At Age 8 the percent of White caregivers increased at all five sites, and the percent of decreased slightly across all sites but the EA sites.

Table 2 about here

Age Distribution

Table 3 displays the mean age of LONGSCAN caregivers by race and site at the Age 6 interview. Mean age was lowest for SO caregivers, while caregivers from the SW site have the highest mean age. The relatively high mean age of caregivers for the SW site may be due to the fact that many caregivers were foster parents, relatives, or other substitute caregivers. Higher mean age was also observed among the Hispanic caregivers. Age was not asked at the Age 8 interview.

Table 3 about here

Educational Attainment

Tables 4 and 5 show selected caregiver educational attainment by race and study site, based on responses at the Age 6 and 8 interviews. About 69% of LONGSCAN caregivers had obtained a high school diploma or equivalency certificate (GED). At Age 4, Caregivers at the

NW and SW sites had the highest levels of educational attainment at both interviews, while MW caregivers had the lowest. This trend for caregivers at the SW and NW sites to have the highest levels of educational attainment continues, however, it is the caregivers at the EA site rather than the MW site that have the lowest at this interview. Hispanic caregivers tended to have lower educational attainment than other racial/ethnic groups.

Table 4 about here

Table 5 about here

Tables 6 and 7 display caregiver occupational data. The percentage of caregivers who were working increased from 32% at Age 4 to 39% by Age 6 (Table 6) and to 47% by Age 8 (Table 7). At all three interviews, about half of the caregivers described themselves as neither working nor looking for work. The vast majority of these classified themselves as homemakers. At all three interviews, caregivers of White and Other racial designations were more likely to be employed. Black caregivers were most likely to be "unemployed, but seeking employment" at all time points.

Approximately one-quarter of the EA, MW, and SO caregivers were unemployed and looking for work at the time of the Age 4 interview. At the Age 6 and Age 8 interviews, a smaller percentage of caregivers at the SO site were unemployed. The proportion of caregivers at the SW and NW sites who were looking for work at the time of both the Age 4, 6, and 8 interview was relatively low.

Among the caregivers who were employed, the distribution of occupational status did not change substantially across the three interview times. There was a slight decrease in those with Level 4 or 5 jobs (skilled workers; clerical; sales) with a similar increase in those with Level 6-9 (technicians; semi-professionals; managers; professionals) jobs from Age 4 to Age 8 (Levels 1-3 on the Hollingshead Occupational Scale include menial service and unskilled or semi-skilled labor (Hollingshead, 1975)). The proportion of caregivers in the lowest level jobs (approximately 43%) remained fairly stable.

Table 6 about here

Table 7 about here

The data for occupational status of the caregivers' spouses/partners are not tabulated here. However, of those with a spouse or partner at Age 4 (N = 412), only 1/3 of the partners had full-time employment.

Tables 8 and 9 display data related to family income and financial assistance by race and study site. On average, LONGSCAN families had slightly more than 4 household members dependent upon the family's total yearly income between all interview times. For the Hispanic families, the number of dependents was closer to 5, at all interviews. These numbers remain fairly stable over time.

Table 8 about here

Table 9 about here

The median annual family income for LONGSCAN households was between \$10,000-\$15,000 at the Age 4 and 6 interviews, and increased to \$15,000- \$20,000 for the Age 8 interview. While the median family income and the proportion of families earning less than \$5000 per year did not change very much from Age 4 to Age 6, the percentage of families earning less than \$5,000 decreased at the Age 8 interview. It is also worth noting that the percentage of families receiving Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) decreased by roughly 8% between the Age 4, 6, and Age 8 interviews. Welfare reform initiatives that took place in the midst of the Age 6 data collection period may account for some of the decline.

Across all three interviews, Black families were more likely to earn less than \$5000 per year than any other racial group. All racial groups except Black families saw a decline in this indicator of extreme poverty by the Age 8 interview. This may be attributable, in part, to changes in marital status (the number of single/never married mothers decreased from Age 4 to Age 8) and to mothers reentering the labor force as their children started school.

EA, one of the sites with a large proportion of Black participants, had much lower family

incomes than any of the other sites at all three interviews. At the EA site, close to one-quarter of the families had annual incomes of less than \$5000, compared to NW and SW. SW was the only site where a significant proportion (22%) of families reported earning more than \$40,000 per year at the Age 4 and Age 6 interviews, and 27% at the Age 8 interview. The relatively high-income status of SW caregivers combined with the observation that a significant number were receiving AFDC benefits may be due to the fact that many caregivers were foster parents, relatives, or other guardians.

Marital Status

Tables 10 and 11 provide data on caregiver marital status. Overall, approximately 38% of the maternal caregivers reported that they were single and had never married, while almost 37% were currently married. The remaining 25% were divorced, separated, or widowed. The proportion of caregivers who were divorced or widowed increased slightly from Age 4 to Age 8. The proportion of White and Hispanic caregivers who had never married (approximately 23% at Age 4) was much lower than the proportion for Blacks (roughly 60%). Black caregivers had strikingly different marital status characteristics from other groups: They were more likely to be single or widowed, and were less likely to be divorced. Among the sites, SW caregivers were most likely to be married at all interview times. This may be a reflection of the large proportion of substitute, and older, caregivers at this site.

Table 10 about here

Table 11 about here

Religious Affiliation

Tables 12 and 13 present data on the religious characteristics of the caregivers at each of the three interview points. Twenty-nine percent of LONGSCAN caregivers reported having no religious affiliation at Age 4. This percentage dropped to 16% at Age 6 and then to 12% at Age 8. Of those who reported religious affiliation, more than 45% reported being Protestant at the Age 4 interview. This proportion increased to greater than 60% by the Age 6 and Age 8 interviews. The category “Other” affiliation included Judaism, Islam, Christian non-

denominational respondents. Black and Hispanic caregivers consistently report attending church more regularly than White and Multiracial caregivers. The SW site reported the highest frequency of church attendance.

Table 12 about here

Table 13 about here

References and Bibliography

Hollingshead, A. B. (1975). Four-factor Index of Social Status. Unpublished manuscript, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Table 1. Race/Ethnicity of Caregivers by Study Site. Age 6 Interview

	N	White %	Black %	Hispanic %	Multiracial %	Other %
Total	1215	32.5	54.7	7.6	2.8	2.5
Site						
EA	251	5.2	94.4	0.0	0.4	0.0
MW	213	21.1	58.2	16.0	2.8	1.9
SO	220	35.5	64.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
SW	297	37.4	37.4	17.2	3.0	5.1
NW	234	63.3	21.4	3.0	7.7	4.7

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.

Table 2. Race/Ethnicity of Caregivers by Study Site. Age 8 Interview

	N	White %	Black %	Hispanic %	Multiracial %	Other %
Total	794	35.6	53.2	5.9	3.0	2.3
Site						
EA	184	4.9	94.6	0.0	0.5	0.0
MW	114	23.7	55.3	16.7	3.5	0.9
SO	161	36.0	64.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SW	163	44.8	33.1	13.5	3.1	5.5
NW	172	67.4	16.3	3.5	8.1	4.7

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.

Table 3. Age Distribution of Caregivers by Study Site. Age 6 Interviews

	Age 6 Interview	
	N	<u>M</u> (SD)
Total	1214	34.17 (11.15)
Site		
EA	250	31.50 (10.61)
MW	213	31.30 (6.68)
SO	219	29.84 (12.37)
SW	298	41.17 (12.37)
NW	234	34.81 (10.23)

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.

Note. Date of birth not asked at Age 8.

Table 4. Caregiver Educational Attainment by Caregiver Race and Study Site. Age 6 Interview

	N	Less than HS %	HS Diploma/GED %	Some College %
Total	1216	31.9	39.1	29.0
Race				
White	395	23.8	40.3	36.0
Black	664	35.7	38.6	25.8
Hispanic	92	44.6	34.8	20.7
Multiracial	34	20.6	44.1	35.3
Other	30	30.0	43.3	26.7
Site				
EA	251	44.2	38.3	17.5
MW	213	39.0	38.0	23.0
SO	220	38.2	46.4	15.5
SW	298	23.2	31.9	45.0
NW	234	17.5	43.2	39.3

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.

Table 5. Caregiver Educational Attainment by Caregiver Race and Study Site. Age 8 Interview

	N	Less than HS %	HS Diploma/GED %	Some College %
Total	1045	27.9	39.1	32.9
Race				
White	283	20.9	34.6	44.5
Black	422	33.4	42.4	24.2
Hispanic	47	40.4	34.0	25.5
Multiracial	24	37.5	29.2	33.3
Other	18	16.7	55.6	27.8
Site				
EA	237	39.7	43.5	16.9
MW	130	31.5	38.5	30.0
SO	184	34.2	48.4	17.4
SW	271	19.9	31.0	49.1
NW	223	17.9	37.2	44.8

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.

Table 6. Occupational Status of Caregiver by Caregiver Race and Study Site. Age 6 Interview

	N	Unemployed/ Seeking Work %	Employed (Full/Part-time) %	Occupational Status of Employed Caregivers		
				HOS 1-3 %	HOS 4-5 %	HOS 6-9 %
Total	1215	13.3	39.6	44.3	35.4	20.3
Race						
White	394	6.9	43.4	33.3	41.0	25.7
Black	664	17.6	37.8	52.0	33.0	15.0
Hispanic	92	13.0	41.3	38.5	25.6	35.9
Multiracial	34	11.8	20.6	37.5	37.5	25.0
Other	30	6.7	46.7	57.1	35.7	7.1
Site						
EA	251	21.1	33.5	46.6	37.5	15.9
MW	213	22.1	42.3	46.5	36.4	17.2
SO	219	11.0	45.7	64.6	25.5	10.0
SW	298	5.7	39.6	39.3	31.2	29.5
NW	234	9.0	38.0	23.5	49.0	27.6

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.

Table 7. Occupational Status of Caregiver by Caregiver Race and Study Site. Age 8 Interview

	N	Unemployed/ Seeking Work %	Employed (Full/Part-time) %	Occupational Status of Employed Caregivers		
				HOS 1-3 %	HOS 4-5 %	HOS 6-9 %
Total	1045	11.5	47.7	41.0	35.0	24.0
Race						
White	283	5.7	53.7	29.3	38.9	31.9
Black	422	18.7	45.3	51.3	33.0	15.7
Hispanic	47	8.5	42.6	27.3	40.9	31.8
Multiracial	24	0.0	50.0	30.8	53.9	15.4
Other	18	0.0	55.6	40.0	30.0	30.0
Site						
EA	237	19.8	45.6	48.5	36.9	14.6
MW	130	15.4	46.9	42.0	40.6	17.4
SO	184	6.5	52.7	63.4	25.7	10.9
SW	271	8.5	41.3	31.7	29.2	39.2
NW	223	8.1	53.8	25.0	43.6	31.5

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.

Table 8. Income and Financial Assistance by Caregiver Race and Study Site. Age 6 Interview

	N	Dependents M (SD)	Annual Income			AFDC Recipients %
			Median (k)	<\$5,000 %	>\$40,000 %	
Total	1208	4.3 (1.7)	10-15	12.6	11.3	51.3
Race						
White	392	4.4 (1.7)	15-20	4.6	19.3	33.9
Black	660	4.3 (1.8)	10-15	19.0	6.0	62.0
Hispanic	92	4.8 (1.8)	10-15	6.6	12.1	50.0
Multiracial	33	4.3 (1.3)	10-15	0.0	19.4	55.9
Other	30	4.3 (1.7)	10-15	6.7	13.3	43.3
Site						
EA	250	3.9 (1.5)	5-10	24.2	4.8	63.4
MW	213	4.7 (2.0)	10-15	14.6	8.9	53.5
SO	219	4.0 (1.4)	10-15	20.2	3.2	46.4
SW	294	4.7 (2.0)	20-25	2.8	21.8	46.0
NW	232	4.3 (1.5)	15-20	3.0	15.2	47.8

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.

Table 9. Income and Financial Assistance by Caregiver Race and Study Site. Age 8 Interview

	N	Dependents M (SD)	Annual Income			AFDC Recipients %
			Median (k)	<\$5,000 %	>\$40,000 %	
Total	1039	4.4 (1.8)	15-20	10.1	14.7	41.0
Race						
White	282	4.5 (1.7)	5-10	6.1	25.5	23.1
Black	420	4.3 (1.8)	10-15	16.9	3.9	52.6
Hispanic	47	4.8 (1.8)	15-20	4.3	10.6	43.5
Multiracial	24	4.2 (1.2)	15-20	8.3	16.7	54.2
Other	18	3.9 (1.5)	5-10	5.6	16.7	38.9
Site						
EA	236	4.1 (1.6)	10-15	12.9	5.6	48.1
MW	130	4.7 (2.1)	10-15	19.2	10.8	36.2
SO	184	4.1 (1.4)	10-15	15.9	4.4	40.2
SW	268	4.8 (2.0)	5-10	2.3	27.2	42.7
NW	221	4.4 (1.5)	20-25	6.3	20.4	34.7

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.

Table 10. Caregiver Marital Status by Caregiver Race and Study Site. Age 6 Interview

	N	Marital Status				
		Single/ Never Married %	Married %	Separated %	Divorced %	Widowed %
Total	1215	33.0	42.5	8.0	13.7	2.8
Race						
White	395	21.3	52.7	6.3	19.0	0.8
Black	664	58.4	18.8	9.0	9.6	4.4
Hispanic	92	25.0	53.3	6.5	13.0	2.2
Multiracial	34	35.3	35.3	8.8	20.6	0.0
Other	30	33.3	26.7	10.0	30.0	0.0
Site						
EA	251	19.1	19.1	10.0	5.2	3.6
MW	213	23.5	23.5	6.6	9.4	1.9
SO	220	38.6	38.6	8.2	8.6	1.8
SW	298	46.3	46.3	8.4	18.8	4.7
NW	234	34.2	34.2	6.4	25.2	1.3

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.

Table 11. Caregiver Marital Status by Caregiver Race and Study Site. Age 8 Interview

	N	Marital Status				
		Single/ Never Married %	Married %	Separated %	Divorced %	Widowed %
Total	794	39.5	36.0	8.9	12.6	3.0
Race						
White	283	19.4	57.6	7.1	15.6	0.4
Black	422	59.2	18.5	9.0	9.7	3.6
Hispanic	47	27.7	51.1	4.3	12.8	4.3
Multiracial	24	45.8	25.0	8.3	20.8	0.0
Other	18	27.8	33.3	0.0	38.9	0.0
Site						
EA	237	60.8	19.4	8.9	8.0	3.0
MW	130	54.6	26.9	9.2	9.2	0.0
SO	184	39.1	37.0	14.7	6.0	3.3
SW	271	19.2	50.6	7.8	17.0	5.5
NW	223	33.2	40.4	5.4	19.7	1.4

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.

Table 12. Caregiver Religious Affiliation by Caregiver Race and Study Site. Age 6 Interview

	N	Catholic %	Protestant %	Other %	“No Religious Affiliation” %	Attend Religious Services...	
						Never %	Regularly %
Total	1211	13.5	61.6	8.8	16.1	20.8	42.6
Race							
White	392	17.1	57.7	8.2	17.1	26.9	37.7
Black	663	4.8	71.5	7.7	16.0	18.0	44.6
Hispanic	92	57.6	20.7	12.0	9.8	13.0	50.0
Multiracial	34	8.8	55.9	11.8	23.5	29.4	41.2
Other	29	31.0	27.6	24.1	17.2	17.2	41.4
Site							
EA	251	8.0	67.7	5.2	19.1	20.7	37.1
MW	211	26.1	57.8	1.0	15.2	22.4	38.1
SO	220	2.3	79.1	1.4	17.3	17.8	47.0
SW	297	19.2	50.5	20.5	9.8	13.8	54.9
NW	232	11.6	56.0	11.6	20.7	31.3	33.1

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.

Table 13. Caregiver Religious Affiliation by Caregiver Race and Study Site. Age 8 Interview

	N	Catholic %	Protestant %	Other %	“No Religious Affiliation” %	Attend Religious Services...	
						Never %	Regularly %
Total	1039	12.2	65.9	9.7	12.1	19.6	46.3
Race							
White	283	13.4	62.2	9.9	14.5	26.9	41.0
Black	418	4.8	73.2	9.1	12.9	18.3	44.3
Hispanic	47	57.5	25.5	10.6	6.4	10.6	53.2
Multiracial	24	8.3	79.2	0.0	12.5	25.0	58.3
Other	18	33.3	27.8	16.7	22.2	22.2	38.9
Site							
EA	236	8.9	67.4	11.4	12.3	20.7	39.2
MW	130	24.6	63.9	3.1	8.5	16.9	36.2
SO	182	2.8	79.7	2.8	14.8	18.0	55.7
SW	269	16.4	57.7	17.8	8.2	15.0	58.1
NW	222	11.3	64.4	7.7	16.7	27.0	37.8

Source. Based on data received at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center through 8/24/01.