

[Longitudinal Harlem Adolescent Health Study Records](#)

LONGITUDINAL HARLEM ADOLESCENT HEALTH STUDY.

Longitudinal Harlem Adolescent Health Study records, 1967-1999.

33.33 cubic feet (34 boxes)

#M-0123

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The Longitudinal Harlem Adolescent Health Study (LHAHS) studied for over 25 years the health needs and problems of 668 African-American adolescents who were 12 to 17 years old initially and lived in the Central Harlem Health District of New York City. The LHAHS was the nation's first community-based sociomedical survey of the health problems of teenagers and was one of the most significant such surveys in the U.S. in the 20th century.

The first survey was conducted in 1968-69 with funding from the U.S. Department of Maternal and Child Services. It aimed to provide a comprehensive description of the health and the health care needs of minority adolescents with the goal of establishing an adolescent health service at Harlem Hospital. There were four subsequent surveys of as many of the original participants as could be located. These "waves," as they were called, were conducted in 1975/76, 1983, 1989/90 and 1993 and were funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Waves 2-5 included questions on the health consequences of licit and illicit substance use. The 1989/90 and 1993 waves added questions designed to trace the history of HIV/AIDS in the cohort. The discovery by the 1993 survey that over 8% of the participants were HIV positive – and that most weren't aware of it – was the first significant documentation of infection rates in a minority neighborhood.

The 1968-69 survey was created by Eric Josephson of what is now the Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University. Ann F. Brunswick, also of the Mailman School, collaborated on the first wave and then conducted all the subsequent waves herself. Between 1969 and 1999 Brunswick wrote over 50 articles based on the findings of the study and in 1972 she co-authored with Josephson *Adolescent Health in Harlem*, a two volume work based on the 1968-69 survey (available in the circulating collection of the Health Sciences Library at RA564.5 .B78 1972 Q).

More information on the LHAHS can be found in the background materials included in the records (Box 1:1 and Box 34) and in *Looking at Lives: American Longitudinal Studies of the Twentieth Century*, Erin Phelps, et. al., eds. (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2002).

SCOPE AND CONTENT: The records primarily consist of an almost complete set of the interview questionnaires completed by the interviewer in a face-to-face session with the participant. Subjects covered included utilization of medical and dental care; personal health practices; and self-perceptions, among many others. Questions on substance use

(alcohol, tobacco, and drugs) were introduced in wave 2 (1974/75) while the wave 4 and 5 questionnaires elicited information relating to HIV/AIDS. The interviewer was also urged to note in the questionnaire booklet other aspects of the participant's answers or behavior that could not be captured by the questions alone.

The LHAHS was unusually successful in retaining its participants over a quarter century: the fifth wave (1993) was able to locate 74% of the initial 1968/69 participants, exclusive of those who had died or had relocated beyond a 60 mile radius of New York City. Although none of the participants are identified by name in any of the survey's record, "link lists" (Box 1:13-16) allow the researcher to follow an individual over time.

Besides the questionnaires, the records include background articles and reports, brochures, interviewer's manuals for waves 1-4, codebooks for all five waves, and a surveyor's kit from 1989. Questionnaires for several one-time surveys subsidiary to the main survey are also included in these records. These surveys include those for women who had early births; for the parents of the participants; and for Hispanic women.

ACCESS: Because the names and personally identifiable information of the participants were never included in the questionnaires, the records are open without restrictions.

Boxes 1-33 are stored off-site and will take 1-2 days to retrieve. Researchers must call in advance to use the collection.

By terms of the deed of gift, Archives and Special Collections is required to notify the donor of the names and affiliations of researchers who use the records. In addition, all researchers who use the records must deposit a copy of their published research (in any medium) with the Health Sciences Library.

ORGANIZATION: Organized in eight series: I. Background and Supporting Material; II. Questionnaires, Wave 1, Year 1 (1968); III. Questionnaires, Wave 1, Year 2 (1969); IV. Questionnaires, Wave 2 (1975/76); V. Questionnaires, Wave 3 (1983); VI. Questionnaires, Wave 4 (1989/90); VII. Questionnaires, Wave 5 (1993); VIII. Additional material (2014).

RELATED COLLECTIONS: Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library located in Butler Library on the Morningside Campus holds Brunswick's doctoral thesis, "Adolescent health: indicators and determinants for urban black youth" (1975).

PROVENANCE: Gift of Dr. Ann F. Brunswick, 2002 (acc. #2002.05.30); additional material was added in 2014 (Box 34) (acc.#2014.008)

SUBJECTS

Brunswick, Ann F., 1926-

Josephson, Eric.

African Americans – Health and Hygiene – New York (State) – New York.

Adolescence – New York (State) – New York.

Adolescent Medicine – New York (State) – New York.
Blacks – Adolescence – New York (State) – New York.
Epidemiology – Longitudinal Studies.
Harlem (New York, N.Y.)
Health – New York (State) – New York.

**Longitudinal Harlem Adolescent Health Study.
Records, 1967-1999.**

Box Folder

SERIES I: BACKGROUND AND SUPPORTING MATERIAL (ALSO SEE SERIES VIII)

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|--|
| 1 | 1 | General background materials: Brunswick bibliographies; articles about the survey, etc., 1972-1999 |
| | 2 | Progress reports to New York City Department of Health, 1968-1971; Pilot Study report, 1967 |
| | 3 | Survey brochures, 1968 (Wave 1), 1989 (Wave 4) |
| | 4 | Sample questionnaires ("interview schedules"), 1983 (Wave 3), 1989 (Wave 4) |
| | 5 | Interviewers' specifications/manual, 1969, 1975, 1983 (Waves 1-3) |
| | 6 | Interviewers' specifications/manual, 1989 (Wave 4) |
| | 7 | Wave 4 surveyor's kit, 1989 |
| | 8 | Codebook, 1968-1969 (Wave 1) |
| | 9 | Codebook, 1976 (Wave 2) |
| | 10 | Codebook, 1983 (Wave 3) |
| | 11 | Codebook, 1989 (Wave 4) |
| | 12 | Codebook, 1995 (Wave 5) |
| | 13 | Wave 1-Wave 2 link list |
| | 14 | Wave 2-Wave 3 link list |
| | 15 | Wave 4 link list |
| | 16 | Wave 5 link list |

SERIES II: QUESTIONNAIRES, WAVE 1, YEAR 1 (1968)

- | | | |
|----------|-------|--|
| | 17-22 | No. 001-060 |
| 2 | | No. 061-195 |
| 3 | | No. 196-289 [290 missing]
"Women Who Had Early Births," 1969, 1 folder
Mortality Study, 1969, 1 folder |

SERIES III: QUESTIONNAIRES, WAVE 1, YEAR 2 (1969)

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| 4 | No. 1-130 |
| 5 | No. 131-270 |
| 6 | No. 271-420 |

**Longitudinal Harlem Adolescent Health Study.
Records, 1967-1999.**

Box

7 No. 421-464
 Parent Interviews, 001-463, 7 folders

SERIES IV: QUESTIONNAIRES, WAVE 2 (1975/76)

 No. 3001-3012

8 No. 3013-3064

9 No. 3065-4040

10 No. 4041-4130

11 No. 4131-4230

12 No. 4231-4325

13 No. 4326-4430

14 No. 4431-4446
 Mortality Study, 5 folders
 Hispanic Women Feasibility Study, 2 folders

SERIES V: QUESTIONNAIRES, WAVE 3 (1983/84)

 No. 001-040

15 No. 041-085

16 No. 086-170

17 No. 171-300

18 No. 301-385

19 No. 386-427

SERIES VI: QUESTIONNAIRES, WAVE 4 (1989/90)

 No. 001-018

20 No. 019-051

**Longitudinal Harlem Adolescent Health Study.
Records, 1967-1999.**

Box

21	No. 052-096
22	No. 097-143
23	No. 144-190 [181 missing]
24	No. 191-233
25	No. 234-282
26	No. 283-331
27	No. 332-364

SERIES VII: QUESTIONNAIRES, WAVE 5 (1993/94)

	No. 1-15
28	No. 16-74
29	No. 75-134
30	No. 135-196
31	No. 197-260
32	No. 261-318
33	No. 319-347

SERIES VII: ADDITIONAL ACCESSION(2014)

34	1	“Adolescent Health in Harlem: Report of Findings” by Ann F. Brunswick and Eric Josephson, 1972. Part 1 of 2 ONLY
	2	“Changing Drug Abuse Patterns and Treatment Needs: Final Report, NIDA Research Grant #5 R18 DA03287” Ann F. Brunswick, Principal Investigator, 1985
	3	Survey Results, [1991?]
	4	[Survey Compilation] “Black, 12-17, by Sex,” no date