



Finding and using student loan data

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Overview

- Thinking about debt
- Finding debt data
- Using debt data

Thinking about debt

- Debt results from of a multi-stage process

Apply → FAFSA → Enroll → Borrow → Amount borrowed

- Get in the debt “lifecycle” mindset

Pre-college → During-college → Post-college

- Consider the unit of analysis – individual, institution, state
- Think about the impact and distribution of debt
- Use what we have until we get what we need

Finding debt data: student-level data

Pre-college	During college	Post-college
<p>NCES: National Longitudinal Study: 1972</p> <p>High School & Beyond: 1980</p> <p>National Educational Longitudinal Study: 1988</p> <p>Educational Longitudinal Study: 2002</p> <p>High School and Beyond: 2009</p>		
<p>BLS: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth: 1979 & 1997</p>		
<p>University of Michigan: Longitudinal Study of American Youth: 87-94; 07-11</p>		

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<p>BLS: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth: 1979 & 1997</p>	<p>University of Michigan: Panel Study of Income Dynamics (Transition into Adulthood Study): 2005 forward</p>	<p>BLS: Consumer Expenditures Survey: 13; 14; 15; 16; 17</p>
<p>University of Michigan: Longitudinal Study of American Youth: 87-94; 07-11</p>		<p>NCES: Baccalaureate & Beyond: 1993-03; 2000-01; 2008-2018; 2016-2026</p>
		<p>Census: National Survey of College Graduates: 01; 03; 06; 08; 10</p>

Finding debt data: institution-level data

Pre-college	During college	Post-college
FSA: FAFSA filing by high school	NCES: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: 1998-99 (2007-08) to 2016-17	ED: College Scorecard: 96-97 to 16-17
	FSA: Quarterly volume reports: 1999-01 to 2018-19	FSA: Cohort default rate Gainful Employment 90/10 reports (2007-08 to 16-17)
	College Board/Peterson's: Common Data Set College In-Sight	Brookings: A Crisis in Student Loans? Measuring loan outcomes
		Census: Postsecondary Employment Outcomes (TX, CO)

Finding data not publicly available

- National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)
- ISIR records via FAFSA
- Consumer credit panels
- Third party groups (e.g., One Wisconsin Institute, Gallup, etc.)

Using debt data

- Distinguish between annual vs. cumulative debt
- Report the proportion borrowing
- Report *distribution* of borrowing amounts
- Disaggregate student data by race/ethnicity, ever Pell, gender, graduation cohort, and campus/sector

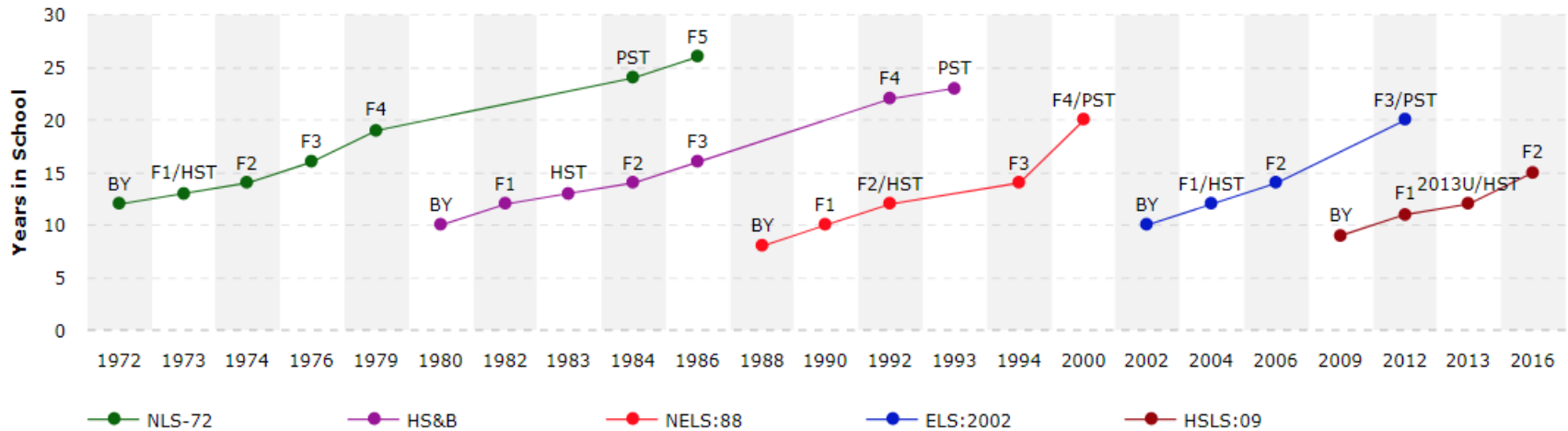
Thank you!

I would gladly share links and would love to hear about what I missed! Please reach out:

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Additional material

Research Design for the NCES High School Cohorts



NLS-72: National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972
 HS&B: High School and Beyond
 NELS:88: National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988
 ELS:2002: Education Longitudinal Study of 2002
 HSLS:09: High School Longitudinal Study of 2009

BY: Base Year
 F1: First follow-up data collection
 F2: Second follow-up data collection
 F3: Third follow-up data collection
 F4: Fourth follow-up data collection
 F5: Fifth follow-up data collection

2013 U: 2013 update
 HST: High School Transcript
 PST: Post-secondary Transcript

Additional material

Figure 1. Chronology of BPS 1990–2017

Academic year	Cohort			
	BPS:90	BPS:96	BPS:04	BPS:12
Entered PSE (Year 1)	1989–90 (NPSAS:90)	1995–96 (NPSAS:96)	2003–04 (NPSAS:04)	2011–12 (NPSAS:12)
Year 2	↓	↓	↓	↓
Year 3	1991–92 (BPS:90/92)	1997–98 (BPS:96/98)	2005–06 (BPS:04/06)	2013–14 (BPS:12/14)
Year 4	↓	↓	↓	↓
Year 5	1993–94 (BPS:90/94)	↓	↓	↓
Year 6		2000–01 (BPS:96/01)	2008–09 (BPS:04/09 & PETS:04/09)	2016–17 (BPS:12/17)
		↓	↓	
Year 12		2006–07 (FSA Supplement ¹)	2014–15 (FSA Supplement)	
		↓		
Year 20		2014–15 (FSA Supplement)		

¹ BPS:96/01 derived variables also include aggregate borrowing and grant information for 1995–96 through 2006–07 to offer a comparable 12-year time period for the two cohorts.

NOTE: BPS = Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study; FSA = Federal Student Aid; NPSAS = National Postsecondary Student Aid Study; PETS = Postsecondary Education Transcript Study; PSE = postsecondary education.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2015 Federal Student Aid Supplement.