

## Making Connections Survey: A Comparison to National Data

Jennifer Brown, Nola du Toit and Catherine C. Haggerty

*This report presents a comparison of Making Connections and NLSY79 and NLSY97 datasets with the intent to understand similarities and differences between Making Connections urban poor and nationally representative urban poor respondents found in the NLSY suite of surveys. Findings indicate more similarities than differences to national data. This is important to researchers using the Making Connections data as these data should not be used to extrapolate to people living in similar neighborhoods in the same or other cities. However, this work is also important as it highlights how respondents in MC neighborhoods are similar to other urban poor.*

### INTRODUCTION

This report presents findings from a comparison of two datasets: *Making Connections* (MC) and the National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth (NLS). The *Making Connections* sites were purposively selected as places in need of help and in which there were place-based supportive organizations on the ground whose philosophy of change meshed with that of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Since these sites were not selected to be nationally representative the authors undertook this comparison to understand the similarities and differences between the residents in neighborhoods specially selected for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's *Making Connections* initiative and those in poor urban communities in a nationally representative study. Researchers focused on issues facing residents in poor urban communities will be interested in these data and may use it to inform which of their own *Making Connections* analyses can be extrapolated to reflect the experiences of all Americans in similar communities and which may be idiosyncratic to the *Making Connections* sites.

### BACKGROUND

***Making Connections:*** The *Making Connections* Survey (MC) - funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation - is a longitudinal survey of low income households in ten US cities: Denver, Des Moines, Hartford, Indianapolis, Louisville, Milwaukee, Oakland, Providence, Seattle, and San Antonio. Baseline data were

gathered in 2002 to 2004 and Wave 2 was completed between 2005 and 2007. The third wave of data collection was conducted between 2008 and 2011 in seven of the ten sites (Hartford, Milwaukee, and Oakland and were excluded from Wave 3). The data include information on a variety of topics such as household member demographics, neighborhood participation, economic hardship, employment history, mobility, as well as information on children living in the home, including school readiness, health, insurance, physical activities.<sup>i</sup>

***National Longitudinal Surveys:*** The National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth (NLS) collect data on people living in the United States who were between the ages of 14 and 21 in 1979 (NLSY79) and 12 to 17 in 1997 (NLSY97). The NLSY79 is nationally representative and includes 12,686 men and women who were born during the years 1957 to 1964 and living in the United States in 1979.<sup>ii</sup> These data were collected annually from 1979 to 1994. After 1994 the data have been collected bi-annually. The NLSY97 is a nationally representative survey of 8,984 men and women who were born during the years 1980 to 1984 and living in the United States in 1997.<sup>iii</sup> The NLSY97 data has been collected annually since 1997. Topics in both surveys include household member demographics as well as respondent labor market participation, educational experiences, family and marital information, government program participation, health issues, and assets and income.

## METHODOLOGY

**ANALYTIC SAMPLE** We created two MC datasets (MC79 and MC97) to mirror the NLSY79 and NLSY97 samples.

**Making Connections:** We used the second wave of MC data (2005 to 2007) as it included more details on household members, their relationships to the respondent, and more data on all household children. We selected MC respondents to match NLSY participants in age (41 to 50 for the 1979 cohort and 21 to 27 for the 1997 group).

**National Longitudinal Surveys:** The 2006 rounds of the NLSY79 and NLSY97 were used as these matched the Wave 2 MC data by time period. Participants were included in the NLSY sample if they lived in a Metropolitan Statistical Area. This was done to match MC respondents by urbanicity. In order to make the samples match by income, we categorized respondents into three poverty groups based on their income per capita<sup>iv</sup>: *less than or equal to 100% poverty or “most poor”*, *101% to 200% poverty or “middle poor”*, and *201% to 300% poverty or “least poor”*.<sup>v</sup> Respondents with a household income over 300% of poverty were excluded from analyses.<sup>vi</sup>

**Analytic Subset and Weighting:** Sampling was different for each dataset. The NLSY has a nationally representative sample, while the MC sample is specific to low income neighborhoods and MC weights are specific to sub-groups of cases. That is, MC data collects data and assigns different weights depending on whether the household has children, moved within or out of the neighborhood, is longitudinal, etc. For more information about the MC study design, see <http://mcstudy.norc.org/study-design/>.

We re-weighted Making Connections (MC) to make it more comparable to the appropriate subset of National Longitudinal of Youth 1979 (NLS79) and 1997 (NLSY97) data. NLS79 and NLSY97 are nationally representative samples while MC is a sample of poor, urban areas. Therefore, we subset NLS79 and NLSY97 data to urban areas by restricting to respondents living in an area where MSA = 1 and also removed cases that exceed the 300% poverty level based on HH income and household size. We then normalized the NLS79 and NLSY97 weights to sum to the number of youths in this subset. Each MC community is weighted to the community’s population size. We combined the weights for all MC communities and normalized them as a total group so that respondents that represent a larger community have larger weights (community sample sizes were similar). Our analysis dataset consists of 717 MC cases that are compared to 1,195 NLS79 cases and 527 MC cases that are compared to 3,099 NLSY97 cases.

**MEASURES OF COMPARISON** Comparisons between the different datasets and across poverty levels were made on a variety of demographic, household, and socio-economic variables.<sup>vii</sup>

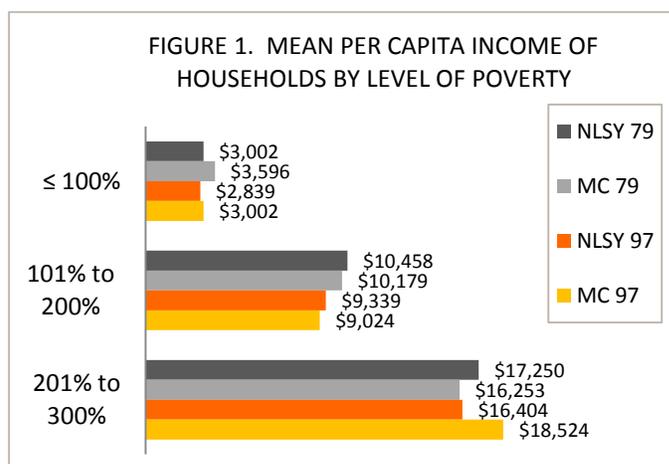
**Respondents:** Respondent demographic characteristics, employment, and homeownership were examined. Respondents in each dataset and level of poverty were compared by race and ethnicity (1=*Non-Black/Non-Hispanic*, 2=*Black/Non-Hispanic*, 3=*Hispanic*)<sup>viii</sup> and employment (1=*Employed*, 0=*Not employed*)<sup>ix</sup>. In addition, employed respondents’ mean number of hours worked per week was compared<sup>x</sup> as was respondent home ownership (1=*Respondent/Spouse/Partner own home*, 0=*Respondent does not own home*).<sup>xi</sup>

**Households:** Composition of the respondent’s household was compared in terms of *number of children*, *number of adults*, *total number in household*, and *number of employed of adults in the home*.<sup>xii</sup> Receipt of food stamps (1=*Yes*, 0=*No*) was also examined.<sup>xiii</sup>

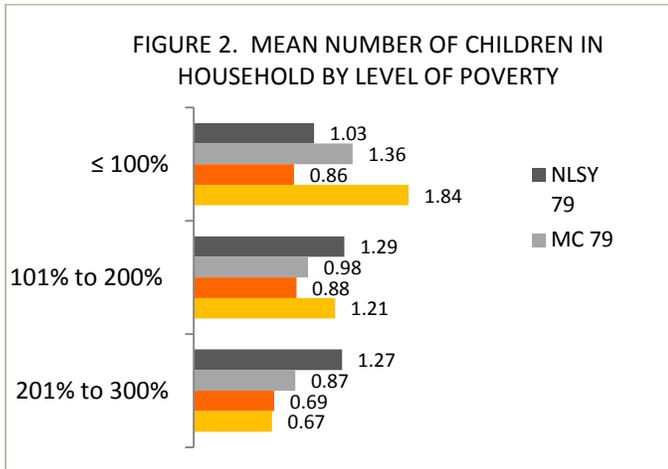
We tested results for the two NLS age cohorts (NLSY79 and NLSY97) against their MC counterparts (MC79 and MC97). ANOVA and chi-squared analysis were performed to test for significant differences. A \*symbol indicates a significant difference between MC79 and NLSY79, or between MC97 and NLSY97 (\*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001). Table 1 presents the unweighted frequencies for each group by characteristic examined.

**RESULTS** Findings indicate some significant differences between NLSY and MC respondents and households. However, for some characteristics the samples are alike. See Table 1 in the appendix for unweighted number of cases. Significant differences are noted as follows: \*p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001.

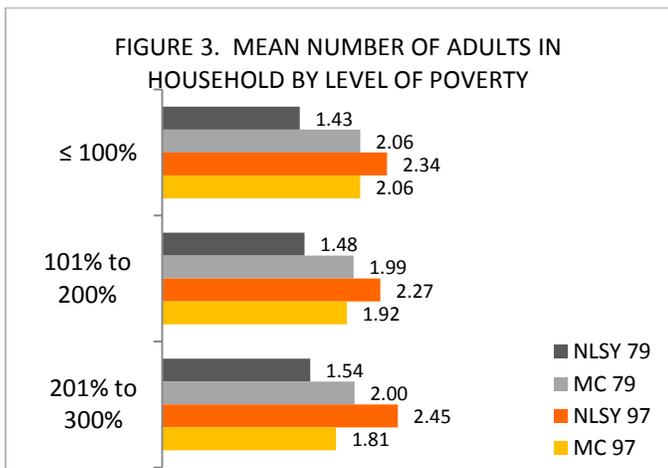
**Income per Capita:** Figure 1 presents the mean income per capita for each income level. While there are slight differences in income per capita between the MC and national samples, these differences are not significant.



**Number of Children:** See Figure 2. In terms of number of children in the home, we find no significant differences between the NLSY and comparable MC age groups. Among the most disadvantaged, MC groups have more children. There is no distinct pattern at the other poverty levels. As noted earlier, there are no significant differences.

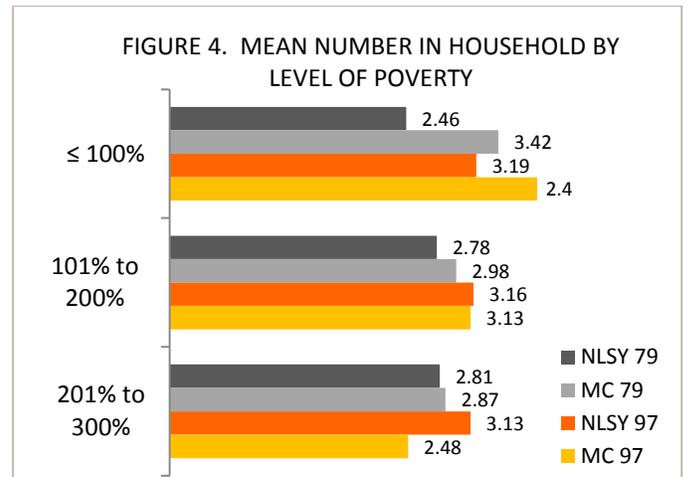


**Number of Adults:** The mean number of adults in the household is reported in Figure 3. MC79 respondents consistently reported more adults at every poverty level in comparison to NLSY97 respondents. The relationship was reversed for the younger cohort with NLSY97 respondents consistently reporting more adults than MC97 at each level. None of the results were significantly different.

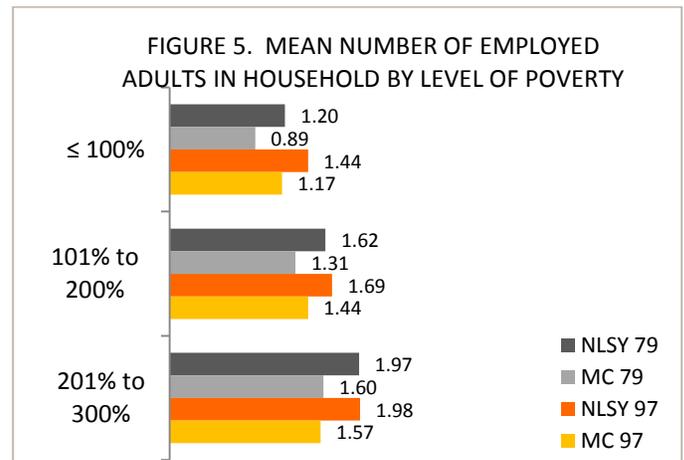


**Household Members:** Figure 4 outlines the mean number of household members by poverty level (adults and children). While the results vary by poverty level and age cohort, the findings show no significant differences between the NLSY age cohorts and their comparable MC counterparts. For the older cohort, at each poverty level, MC79 reports more adults in the

home than NLSY79. There is no distinguishable pattern among the younger cohort.

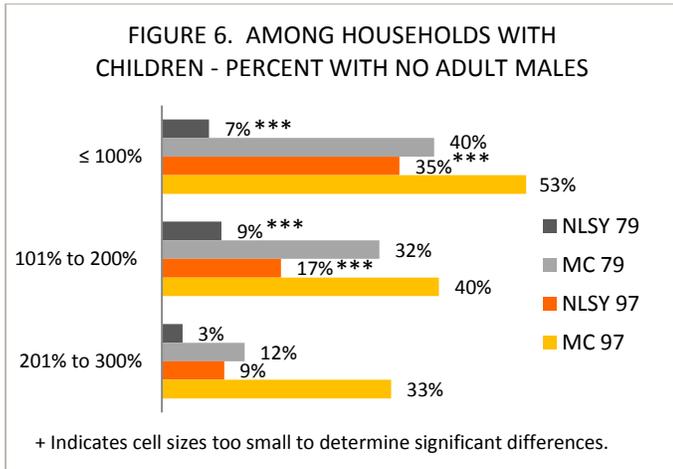


**Number of Employed Adults:** Figure 5 displays the relationship between NLSY and MC respondents in terms of mean number of employed adults in the household. At every poverty level, NLSY respondents reported a greater mean number of working adults than their MC counterparts. However, none of the differences are statistically significant.

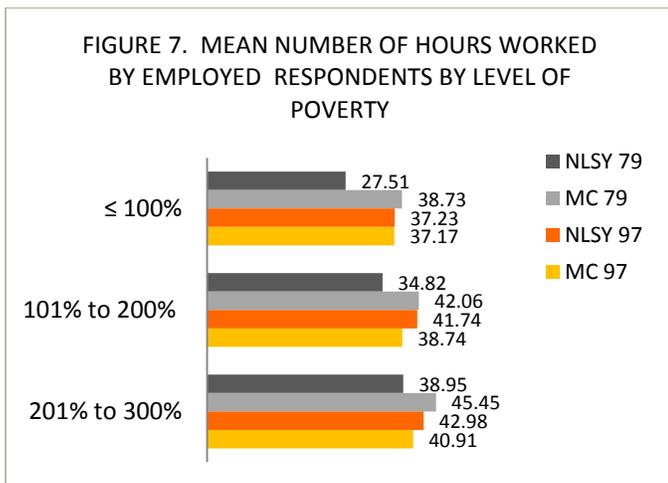


**Households with children and no adult males:** Figure 6 illustrates households with children where there is no adult male present in the home. Results indicate significant differences between NLSY and MC respondents. At the two lowest poverty levels and for each age cohort, more MC respondents lived in households with children but no adult males present. The results are significantly different. At the most poor level about five times more MC79 respondents reported having children but no adult male in the home than NLSY79 participants (40 percent compared to 7 percent). Among the younger very poor, 35 percent NLSY97 compared to more than half (53 percent) of MC97 respondents reported no adult males in the home. The relationship was similar at the

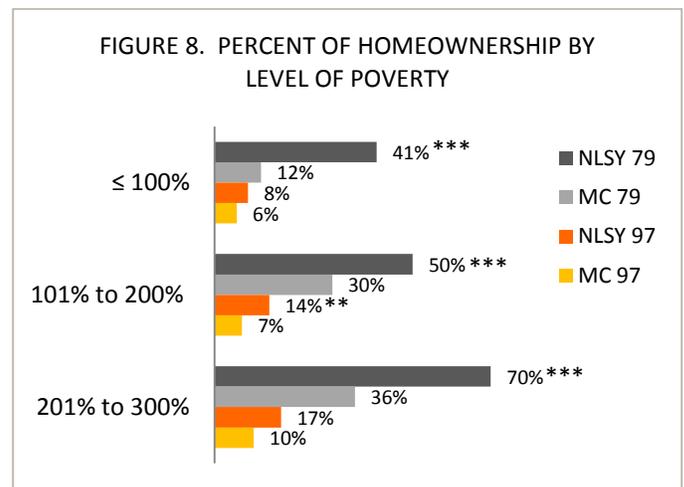
middle poverty level, with 9 percent and 32 percent of NLSY79 and MC79 respondents reporting children but no adult male in the home and 17 percent compared to 40 percent of NLSY97 and MC97 respondents reporting the same. Among the least poor group, a lower percentage of respondents reported having children but no adult male in the home as compared to the other poverty groups. Sample size prevents significance testing at this poverty level.



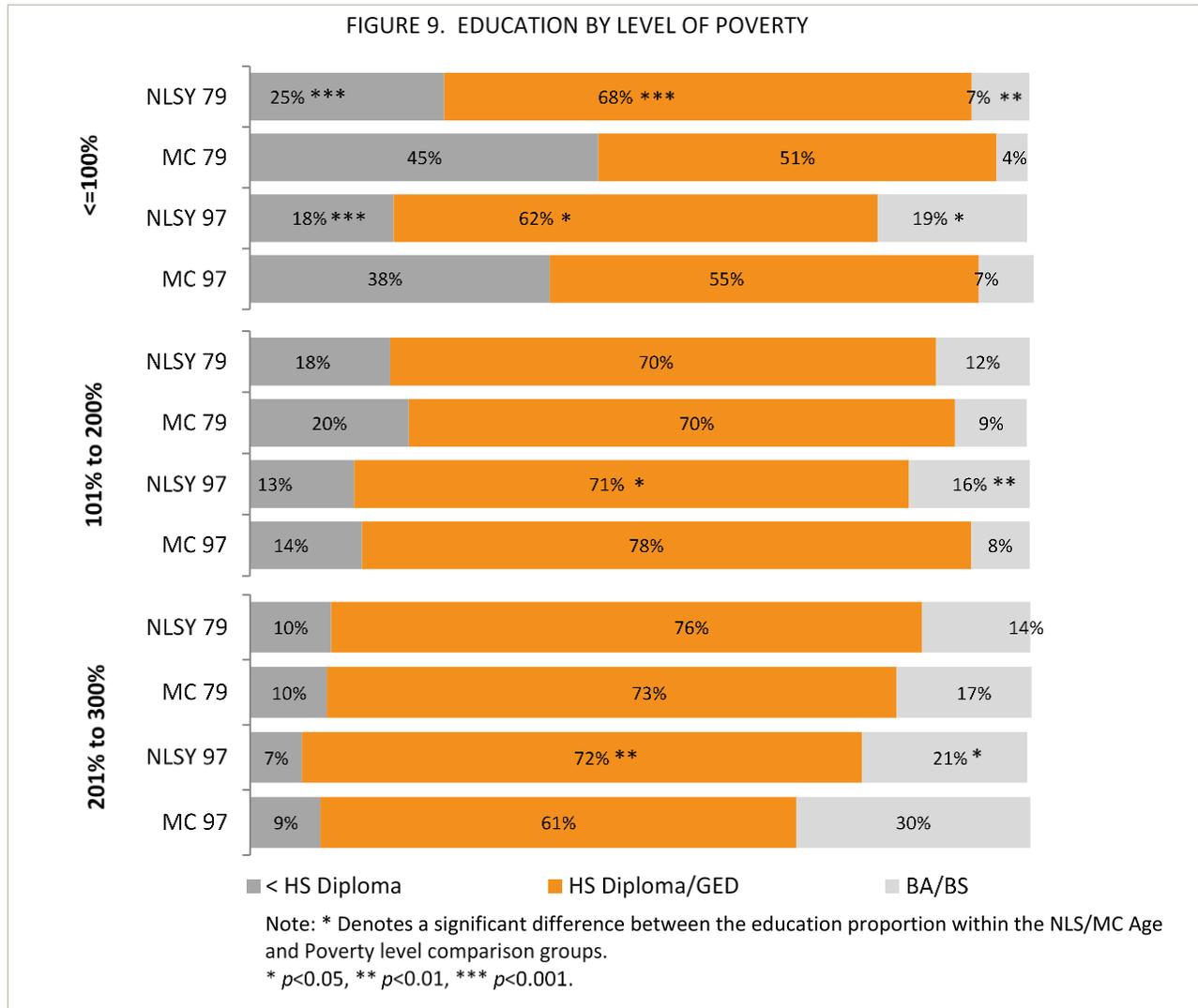
**Hours worked per week among the Employed:** The results for mean number of hours worked per week among employed respondents are shown in Figure 7. These findings indicate that, at each level of poverty, NLSY and MC are not statistically different.



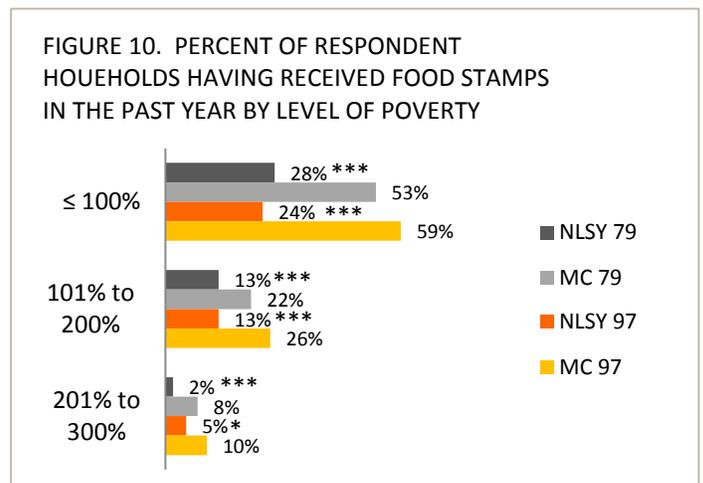
**Home ownership:** Home ownership, reported in Figure 8, was significantly different between NLSY79 and MC79 across all poverty groups. At the most poor level, 41% of NLSY79 respondents owned homes. This proportion increased to 50% for the middle level and 70% for the least poor. MC79 respondents saw similar increases in home ownership across poverty levels, but started from a significantly lower 12% at the most poor level, to 30% for the middle poor group, and 36% among the least poor. Overall, the younger cohort had lower rates than their older group. At each level, MC97 had lower homeownership rates than their NLSY97 counterparts; however, the differences were only significant at the middle poverty level. At this level, twice as many NLSY97 respondents owned their home than MC97 participants (14 percent compared to 7 percent).



**Education:** Figure 9 displays respondent education by level of poverty and we find significant differences between the groups. We tested for the proportion in each education level, comparing MC to NLS respondents at each poverty level and for each cohort. Among the most poor, MC respondents in both cohorts are significantly less educated than their NLSY counterparts with more MC respondents dropping out of high school and fewer completing college. At the middle poverty level, NLSY97 respondents are better educated, with a larger portion completing their college education (16 percent compared to 8 percent). However, at the lowest poverty level, the MC97 group is better educated than their NLSY97 counterparts, with more getting their college degree (30 percent compared to 21 percent for the NLSY97 sample).

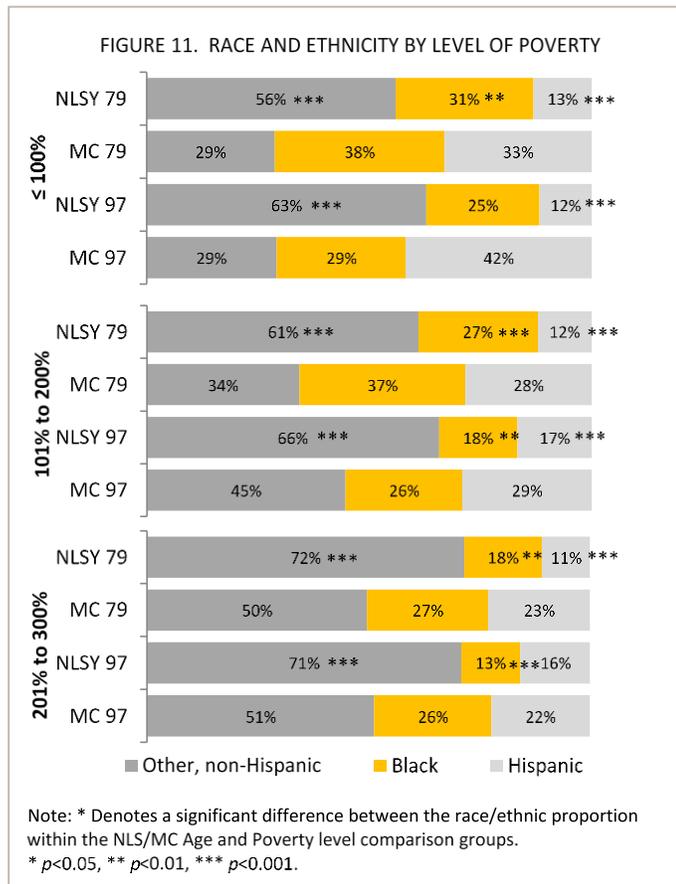


**Food Stamps:** Receipt of food stamp assistance in the past year can be found in Figure 10. Results indicate a significantly higher receipt of food stamps among all MC respondents regardless of poverty level or cohort. Most notably, at the most poor level, less than one third of NLSY reported having received food stamps in the past year compared to more than half of MC79 participants. While the rates decrease at the other poverty levels, the pattern stays the same, with more MC respondents receiving food stamps than those in the NLSY. The differences at each poverty level and for each cohort are statistically significant.



**Race and Ethnicity:** Overall, the NLSY and MC respondents are very different with regard to race and ethnicity.<sup>xiv</sup> See

Figure 11. Most of the differences in racial composition are significant. NLSY has a significantly lower percentage of Hispanic respondents than MC, but significantly more respondents who fall into the “Other, non-Hispanic” group. Compared to NLSY, a greater proportion of MC respondents are Black, however, the differences are not significant among the youngest, poorest cohort.



## DISCUSSION

These results suggest that MC respondents are fundamentally similar to those in poor urban neighborhoods nationally. However, for some characteristics, there are differences, and for researchers examining particular substantive issues it is important to understand how the Making Connections respondents are different.

**How are they different?** There are clear differences when we examine home ownership and food stamp receipt. The NLS groups are significantly more likely to own a home while the MC respondents are more likely to receive food stamps. Overall, NLS respondents are better educated, with more completing high school and college. Finally, the racial composition varies greatly. MC respondents tended to be Hispanic or Black, while

most NLS participants fell into the “Other, non-Hispanic” category. Household composition in terms of the presence of adult males in households with children indicated significant differences. Significantly more MC respondents lived in households with children in which there was no adult male present.

**How are they the same?** In terms of income per capita and employment, the two samples are similar. In addition, household size and composition tied to number of adults and children indicate similarities between the groups.

**Why are these analyses important?** Researchers using the MC data will be very interested in knowing how MC respondents compare to others in a nationally representative dataset who match our respondents in both geography and income. These data highlight ways in which MC respondents are different than those found in a nationally representative dataset. *Making Connections* neighborhoods were places targeted for an initiative to improve outcomes for children and families; these findings provide an important point of comparison for researchers interested in these particular neighborhoods.

## LIMITATIONS

These analyses are limited in a few ways. First, the survey questions are not identical. However, we used items that are very similar. The findings are also limited by the small number of cases. While there are enough cases for analysis, a larger sample size would make the findings more robust. Finally, we only compare MC data to one dataset - the NLSY. NLSY respondents are introduced to the sample when they are between the ages of 12 and 17 and *Making Connections* is a sample of adults living within a specific neighborhood. The age of entry into the study for those in the NLSY sample means that the NLSY group has the advantage of being in the US longer than those newly arrived and settled in *Making Connections* neighborhoods. It is possible that this may be a factor in the differences we observe and we plan to compare and contrast immigrant and non-immigrant respondents to determine if this is so.

## CONCLUSION

The *Making Connections* sites were not selected to be representative of poor urban places nationally. Our comparison of *Making Connections* respondents and households to similar respondents and households in both the NLS79 and NLS97 demonstrates that *Making Connections* sites are different from the average urban poor in some ways, but similar in others. Therefore, the *Making Connections* data may be used to extrapolate to the urban poor found in the US, as long as certain caveats about race and ethnicity and education are

addressed. Moreover, researchers examining home ownership, the presence of adult males in households with children, and public assistance, i.e. food stamps, and employment should note that the Making Connections households are different on these dimensions when compared to poor urban households at the national level.

## **FUTURE RESEARCH**

In addition to controlling for years in the US, future research could examine differences between MC respondents and other nationally representative datasets, such as the National Survey of Families and Households and the Survey of Consumer Finances. These findings also suggest avenues of future research, e.g. the use of food stamps, by examining the characteristics of those families eligible for but not getting food stamps within and across the Making Connections and the NLSY and other datasets.

## APPENDIX

TABLE 1. Unweighted number of cases for each set of analysis by poverty level (continued).

		NLSY 79	MC 79	NLSY 97	MC 97
<b>Income per Capita</b>					
≤ 100%		347	332	1116	253
101% to 200%		381	223	1051	177
201% to 300%		467	162	932	97
<b>Number of Children</b>					
≤ 100%		347	332	1116	253
101% to 200%		381	223	1051	177
201% to 300%		467	162	932	97
<b>Number of Adults</b>					
≤ 100%		347	332	1116	253
101% to 200%		381	223	1051	177
201% to 300%		467	162	932	97
<b>Number of Household Members</b>					
≤ 100%		347	332	1116	253
101% to 200%		381	223	1051	177
201% to 300%		467	162	932	97
<b>Number of Employed Adults</b>					
≤ 100%		347	332	1116	253
101% to 200%		381	223	1051	177
201% to 300%		467	162	932	97
<b>Households with children and no adult males</b>					
≤ 100%		187	211	540	194
101% to 200%		238	128	546	111
201% to 300%		294	76	460	37
<b>Hours worked per week among the Employed</b>					
≤ 100%		130	124	243	108
101% to 200%		264	162	449	129
201% to 300%		387	139	470	85
<b>Home ownership</b>					
≤ 100%		344	330	1025	251
101% to 200%		381	222	968	176
201% to 300%		467	161	869	96
<b>Education</b>					
≤ 100%	< HS Diploma	96	151	252	98
	HS Diploma/GED	232	163	707	139
	BA/BS plus	18	11	153	11
101% to 200%	< HS Diploma	82	53	152	27
	HS Diploma/GED	271	148	767	134
	BA/BS plus	28	21	132	16
201% to 300%	< HS Diploma	62	17	79	8
	HS Diploma/GED	357	122	684	59
	BA/BS plus	48	22	170	28

		NLSY 79	MC 79	NLSY 97	MC 97
<b>Food Stamps</b>					
≤ 100%		347	329	1114	252
101% to 200%		381	216	1050	175
201% to 300%		467	161	927	97
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>					
≤ 100%	Other, non-Hispanic	86	93	448	72
	Black	161	126	466	74
	Hispanic	100	113	202	107
101% to 200%	Other, non-Hispanic	106	70	467	78
	Black	165	88	302	47
	Hispanic	110	65	282	52
201% to 300%	Other, non-Hispanic	182	69	469	49
	Black	152	55	215	25
	Hispanic	133	38	248	23

## TECHNICAL NOTES

<sup>i</sup> Wave 1 included a child questionnaire that captured data on a randomly selected focal child. Waves 2 and 3 collected data on a focal child as well as all household children. The respondent was the person most knowledgeable about the focal child.

<sup>ii</sup> <http://stats.bls.gov/nls/nlsyouth.htm>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.nlsinfo.org/nlsy97/nlsdocs/nlsy97/97sample/introsample.html>

<sup>iv</sup> Income per capita was determined by dividing the household income by the number of people living in the home. The measures for household income are not entirely consistent across datasets. MC asked people, “What was your total household income from all of these sources for the last 12 months?” Possible sources include wages or salary; commissions, bonuses, or tips; self-employment income; interest payments, dividends, net rental income, royalty income, or income from estates and trusts; social security or railroad retirement; SSI; public assistance or welfare payments; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; other work such as child care/babysitting, etc.; and veteran’s payments, unemployment compensation, child support, or alimony. Net family income for NLSY79 is a composite of questions, such as, “During 2006, how much did you receive from wages, salary, commissions, or tips from all (other) jobs, *before* deductions for taxes or anything else?” questions ask about household members’ military income; wages, salary, tips; net business income; net farm income; jointly owned farm or business; unemployment compensation; child support, alimony; pay child support, alimony; AFDC payments; food stamps; other welfare and SSI; education; benefit/grant; disability, VA benefits; inheritance, gifts; parent, relative support; other (interest, dividends, rent); income other HH members; and rental subsidy. As with the NLSY79, the NLSY97 gross income variable is a composite variable comprised of many questions asking about specific sources of income including household members’ military income; wages, salary, tips; net business income; net farm income; jointly owned farm or business; unemployment compensation; child support, alimony; pay child support, alimony; pay child support; AFDC payments; food stamps; other welfare and SSI; education; benefit/grant; disability, VA benefits; inheritance, gifts; parent, relative support; other (interest, dividends, rent); income other HH members; and rental subsidy. Number of people in the home was determined by counting up the people listed on the household rosters for each study.

<sup>x</sup> Respondents in the MC, NLSY79, and NLSY97 data were excluded if their income per capita exceeded 300 percent poverty as determined by federal guidelines for households of matching sizes. This was necessary in order to create comparable income groups. This is a result of a few people living in low income neighborhoods, but having a higher household income. 2,734 NLSY97 and 2,029 NLSY97 participants were excluded due to higher income per capita.

<sup>v</sup> Poverty levels were defined based on Poverty Thresholds for the year 2006 as outlined by the United States Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/thresh06.html>). Poverty levels for MC and NLSY respondents were determined by the size of the family and the number of children in residence. Depending on its composition, if per capita income for a household was at or below the poverty threshold then the household was grouped as less than or equal to 100% poverty. Two additional poverty level groups were created: 101% to 200% and 201% to 300% of the federally defined poverty level for a household of a particular composition.

<sup>vi</sup> 338 respondents in the MC data were excluded as their income per capita exceeded the 300% poverty level as defined by the United States Census Bureau for the year 2006. This is a result of a few people living in low income neighborhoods, but having a higher household income. 2,734 NLSY97 and 2,029 NLSY97 participants were excluded due to higher income per capita.

<sup>vii</sup> Variables of interest were selected based on comparability of question wording across datasets. In most cases the wording is not exactly the same. This is a limitation of the study.

<sup>viii</sup> MC Race and Ethnicity were determined by two variables measured at wave 2. Hispanic origins were determined by the question “Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin or descent?” to which respondents chose from No, not Latino/Spanish/Hispanic; Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano; Yes, Puerto Rican; Yes, Cuban; Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino; don’t know; or refused. Race was measured using “What race do you consider yourself?” and respondents could select as many response options as necessary (NATIVE AMERICAN OR ALASKA NATIVE; ASIAN; BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN; NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER; WHITE; OTHER (SPECIFY); DON’T KNOW; or REFUSED). The two items were combined to create the categories 1=non-black and non-Hispanic, 2=Black, non-Hispanic, 3=Hispanic. NLSY79 Race and Ethnicity were determined by data collected during the initial screener in 1979. The question identifies only Hispanic, Black, or non-black/non-Hispanic. Similarly, the variable used to determine Race and Ethnicity from the NLSY97 classified respondents as Hispanic, Black, Mixed Race (non-Hispanic), or non-black/non-Hispanic. Variables existed within the MC and NLSY97 data that would have allowed for a more nuanced look at a respondent’s race and ethnicity but the NLSY79 did not. In order to make comparisons, we used the structure of the combined race and ethnicity variable found in the NLSY79.

<sup>ix</sup> Employment vars. Employment status of MC respondents was determined during roster collection where each household member's employment status was collected. Categories include Employed, In Job Training, Temporarily Laid Off, Unemployed, Retired, Permanently Disabled, Homemaker, Student, or Other (SPECIFY). The NLSY79 and NLSY97 employment variable included EMPLOYED, UNEMPLOYED, OUT OF LABOR FORCE, or IN ACTIVE FORCES. Respondents were considered employed if they indicated employed or in active forces.

<sup>x</sup> MC asked employed respondents; *"In the past 12 months, about how many hours per week have you worked in the average week? Count everything, including extra jobs or paid work you do at home."* Both NLS surveys asked two questions, *"How many hours per week do you USUALLY work at your main job? By "main" job we mean the one at which you usually work the most hours"* and *"How many hours per week do you USUALLY work at your other job?"* The wording is limiting as the NLS question asks first about main job and then about other jobs, while the MC questions refers to all jobs. The NLS measures were collapsed into one variable counting all hours worked to match the MC question. Specific to the NLSY79 variable, the NLSY79 project staff had a created variable that indicated all hours worked over the past calendar year. Weekly hours were found by dividing this variable by 52. Similarly, the NLSY97 collected hours for each week of the preceding calendar year. We averaged the 52 weekly hours worked to find a weekly average. The hours worked analysis was only conducted on respondents who reported being employed as MC respondents were only asked the hours worked question if they reported being employed.

<sup>xi</sup> The MC survey included the following questions, *"Do you (and your spouse or partner) own this (house/apartment), rent it, or what?"* Response categories included *own, buying, rent, rent to own, buying on contract, live here for free.* The NLSY79 asked, *"Do you rent or own your (primary) residence?"* with the following options: *rent, own/hold a mortgage, and neither.* This question was only asked of respondents who had moved since the date of the last interview and who did not own that residence. Homeownership for respondents who indicated not having moved between waves and homeownership in the previous had information imported from the previous wave. The NLSY97 questions stated, *"Do [you/you or your spouse/you or your partner] own this (house/apartment), do you rent, or something else?"* Respondents could choose from the following: *respondent owns, respondent and spouse/partner jointly own, spouse/partner owns separately from respondents, rents, and other/neither owns nor rents.* To make the categories match they were collapsed into the following two groups: (1) *respondent or respondent and spouse/partner own*, and (0) *respondent does not own.* Don't know responses and refusals were put into the modal category.

<sup>xii</sup> These data were taken from the household roster.

<sup>xiii</sup> MC collected data on food stamps with the question, *"In the past 12 months, have you (or anyone in your household) received food stamps?"* NLSY79 respondents were asked, *"Since [DATE], have you [sp\_or] received any SSI, TANF/AFDC/general assistance for families in need, or Food Stamp benefits?"* Respondents could indicate whether they had received food stamps. NLSY97 participants were asked, *"Since [DATE] have [you or your spouse/you or your partner/you] received the following programs...food stamp benefits?"* Respondents flagged each month that they received food stamps which allowed us to identify respondents who received food stamps at any point in the past 12 months. This variable is limited in that MC and the NLS questions refer to a time frame that may not be consistent. In addition, the MC questions reference the household while the NLS questions refer to the respondent and spouse/partner. Don't know responses and refusals were put into the modal category of not having received food stamps at any point in the past 12 months.

<sup>xiv</sup> Race categories are based on the NLSY 1979 race measure.