Has the intergenerational transmission of education increased in the United States?
Estimates from the NLSY

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**ABSTRACT**
I find that the intergenerational transmission of education (ITE) has risen significantly in the United States between 1991 and 2011. This contrasts with evidence from this study and others that demonstrate little change in intergenerational income mobility in the United States in recent decades. Using the NLSY79 and NLSY97, I am able to examine the ITE for cohorts born in 1956-1960 and 1976-1980. I find that the ITE, when measured using the father’s education, rises much more starkly than when measured using the mother’s education. It appears that blacks have exhibited the largest increase in educational persistence, nearly doubling between these cohorts. Persistence for Hispanics, however, has remained low and unchanged.

**Keywords:** Education, Mobility, Race

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