



indicators

The official newsletter of the International Society for Child Indicators



June 2008

ISCI News

SAVE THE DATE: ISCI's Second Conference

Counting Children In!

Child Indicators: Research, Theory, Policy, and Practice

University of Western Sydney, Parramatta, Sydney, Australia
November 4–5, 2009

Join ISCI for our second conference, for dynamic and productive dialogue around concepts of child indicators and child well-being. We will also focus on developing a structure for collaboration and communication among diverse stakeholders, helping to bridge research, theory, policy, and practice.

Mark your calendar now for this unique opportunity to network with your colleagues and help to advance our field!

Watch www.childindicators.org for information.

NOW AVAILABLE:

Child Indicators Research Journal

The second issue of ISCI's official journal, *Child Indicators Research*, is now online at <http://www.springer.com/12187>.

Featured articles include:

- *Conceptualizing a Monitoring System for Indicators in Middle Childhood*
- *Developing a Monitoring System for Indicators in Middle Childhood: Identifying Measures*
- *Pathways to Excessive Gambling—Are Young People's Approach to Gambling an Indication of Future Gambling Propensity?*
- *Social Competence: Development of an Indicator for Children and Adolescents*
- *Perceived Quality of Life and Health of Hospitalized Children*

ISCI members receive a complimentary subscription to the journal—join today!

New Publications

Groundbreaking Study Examines Children's Rights Laws

The children's rights movement dates back to the 18th century, but it was not until much later that significant legal safeguards and protections were instituted for children. The U.S. Law Library of Congress has produced a comprehensive analysis of the major children's rights laws of the 20th and 21st centuries, providing a valuable resource for researchers, legislators, and academics.



Children's Rights: International and National Laws and Practices summarizes the significant children's rights laws; defines and highlights their clauses and language; and describes the effects of each law.

It examines the laws of 16 nations around the world,

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Indicators, the newsletter of ISCI, provides information on child indicators with an international audience of researchers, advocates, policymakers, and the media.

Indicators is edited by William O'Hare, Senior Fellow at the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

To submit material, please see contact information on page 6.

ISCI Is Growing!

ISCI is now almost 200 members strong! Join us and help support the important work of advancing the development and use of child indicators. Your participation also helps us develop important benefits and tools for our members.

For membership details and benefits, visit www.childindicators.org and click on "Join ISCI." For those who join now, we are offering a discount on membership dues and a free subscription to *Child Indicators Research Journal* and discounts on various Springer publications.

New Publications *continued*

juvenile justice. The study also shows which international treaties each nation has ratified and implemented.

Children's Rights will help legal experts, policymakers, and others determine which policies and laws have had the most profound impact on the well-being of children around the world.

“There has been much progress in the children’s rights movement,” writes U.S. Congressman Ted Poe, initiator of the study, in its preface, “but more nations must act to protect those who most need it. ... The best gift we can give the world is to ensure a safe, healthy, educated and able future generation.”

See <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/child-rights/index.html> for more information, or contact:

Ralph Amelan
 Information Resources
 The American Center, Jerusalem
 Embassy of the United States of America
 Tel: 02-625-5755, ext. 320
 Mobile: 054-6660678
 E-mail: Amelanrm@state.gov or TelAvivPDIRC@state.gov

‘What Works’ to Enhance Children’s Development

Child Trends, a nonprofit research organization in Washington, D.C., has developed short, easy-to-read resources that provide research-based guidance for program providers.



The collection of five online tools, called **What Works**, ranges in focus from staff development and cultural competence to implementing evidence-based practices and evaluating program outcomes for youth.

One of these tools is **LINKS** (Lifecourse Interventions to Nurture Kids Successfully), a database that summarizes evaluations of programs that work (or not) to enhance children’s development. This approach is built on the concept that child development is a cumulative process that begins before birth and continues into young adulthood.

These resources are available online at www.childtrends.org/youthdevelopment.

Monitoring Children’s Issues in Europe

The April 2008 edition of Eurochild’s monthly *e-News Bulletin* is now available. The publication covers a broad range of topics related to children’s welfare and rights: social and political developments, the latest research, policy and legal updates, new programs for youth, upcoming industry events and courses—even child-related consumer product news.



Current and past issues of e-News Bulletin can be found at <http://www.eurochild.org/?id=122>.

To submit announcements or information for publication, write info@eurochild.org.

Eurochild is open to nonprofit and social service organizations working to improve the welfare and rights of children and young people throughout Europe. For more information, contact:

Eurochild AISBL
 Avenue des Arts 1
 B - 1210 Brussels
 Belgium
 Tel: +32 (0)2 511 70 83
 Fax: +32 (0)2 511 72 98
www.eurochild.org

New Publications *continued*

Report Reveals Status of Mexico City's Children

The Mexican Children's Rights Network (*Red por los Derechos de la Infancia in México*) has released an indicator-based report on the well-being of children in Mexico City (*Distrito Federal, or DF*). "Derechos de la Infancia en el DF," released in December 2007, provides an analysis of children's health and education, violence and the juvenile justice system, and other markers. It is available on the network's website at www.derechosinfancia.org.mx.



Journal Explores Well-Being and Education

The March 2008 issue of the *European Journal of Education* focuses on "Education and Well-Being." Articles may be downloaded free of charge from the website of Wiley-Blackwell: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/ejed/43/1>.



The issue explores the specific contributions of education to well-being and of well-being to education. It examines different approaches to researching the links between well-being and education, and presents the search for indicators both for the socio-economic aspects and to take account of the personal and subjective experience. The articles explore this relatively new theme in terms of its implications for and evolving contribution to designing education policy. Over recent years there has been a growing interest in using the notion of "well-being" to measure societal progress. There is also a developing interest in how subjective "well-being" affects how students learn and what they learn. This has implications for systems and for conditions for teaching and learning. For instructions on how to receive table of contents alerts for the *European Journal of Education*, visit Blackwell's Synergy website at <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/action/doUpdateAlertSettings?action=addJournal&journalCode=ejed>.



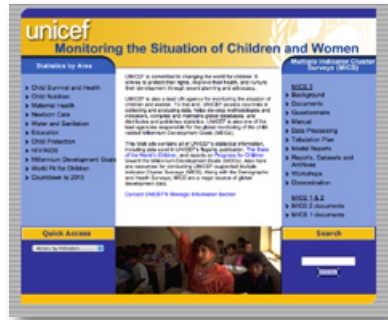
Join Today!

Visit www.childindicators.org

Resources

MICS Program Gives Global Look at Indicators

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) program is an international household survey initiative developed by UNICEF. Its goal is to assist countries in filling data gaps for monitoring human development in general, and the situation of children and women in particular.



MICS produces internationally comparable estimates of the social indicators for monitoring child welfare—for example, progress toward the Millennium Development Goals. Originally developed to track the goals established at the 1990 World Summit for Children, MICS is the largest source of statistical information on children worldwide.

The first three rounds of MICS were conducted in 1995, 2000, and 2005–2006. Starting with MICS 4, UNICEF will provide technical assistance more frequently to countries interested in collecting data at a shorter interval. This will enable countries to capture rapid changes in key indicators, particularly those related to child survival, and to provide quicker feedback to policymakers and other users, helping them to fine-tune policies and programs for children and mothers in a more timely fashion.

Since the program began, nearly 200 surveys have been conducted in approximately 100 countries—from Bangladesh to São Tomé and Príncipe—and experts from developing countries have been trained in survey methodology.

MICS survey reports and the majority of survey data sets, including new ones from MICS 3, are available at no cost at www.childinfo.org.

For more information, please contact:

Global MICS Coordinator
 Strategic Information Section
 Division of Policy and Planning
 UNICEF
 3 U.N. Plaza
 New York, NY 10017, USA
 Tel: 212-303-7982
 E-mail: ahancioglu@unicef.org or dvadnais@unicef.org
www.childinfo.org

Understanding the World Today

<http://gsociology.icaap.org>

This useful website features the Global Social Change reports, which show major world economic, demographic, social, and political changes and trends. You'll also find links to websites with theory, research and data on global



social, political, and economic change. The brief reports cover a range of specific topics in an easily readable format.

The site includes links to child data, including infant and child mortality. Organizers plan to expand this section and welcome input from ISCI members.

For more information, contact:

Gene Shackman, Ph.D.
 Global Social Change Research Project
<http://gsociology.icaap.org>
<http://www.journalofsocialchange.org/e/JournalHome.htm>

Join Today!
 Visit www.childindicators.org

Conferences and Meetings

The Transfer of Resources Across Generations: Family, Income, Human Capital and Children's Well-Being

June 9–13, 2008 • Vadstena, Sweden

This conference will focus on transfers of economic, social, and cultural resources from parents to children, which to a large extent are responsible for the inequalities of opportunity among children of different social origin and for the reproduction of economic disparities.



Supported by the European Science Foundation and Linköping University

Chair: Elizabeth Thomson, Stockholm University, SE

Co-Chair: Jan O. Jonsson, Stockholm University, SE

Grants: Some available for young researchers to cover conference fee and travel costs

For more information, visit www.esf.org/conferences/08256 or contact Jean Kelly, jkelly@esf.org.

XIIth ISPCAN European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

August 23–26, 2008 • St. Petersburg, Russia

For information, visit <http://www.ispcan.org/ConferencesSupportedByISPCAN.htm> or contact Angela Mock, eurocont2009@ispcan.org.

Children Focus of New Track at ISQOLS Meeting

For the first time, the conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS)—held in San Diego, California in December 2007—featured a special track on children's well-being. The track included four sessions devoted to measuring the quality of life for children and youth.



The next ISQOLS conference is scheduled for July 2009 in Florence, Italy.

A plenary presentation by Enrico Giovannini, chief statistician for the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development, described OECD's "Measuring the Progress of Societies: Toward a Global Effort" initiative.

A conference proceeding volume edited by M. Joe Sirgy is available through the publications order page at www.isqols.org.

17th International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect

September 7–10, 2008 • Hong Kong

For information, visit www.ispcan.org/congression2008

Additional European conferences

focusing on issues around child welfare and development are listed on pages 19–21 of Eurochild's April 2008 e-News Bulletin: <http://www.eurochild.org/?id=122>.

ISCI Steering Committee

Asher Ben-Arieh, Co-chair

Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Robert M. Goerge, Co-chair

Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, USA

Jonathan Bradshaw

Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York

Silvia Carrasco

Social Anthropology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Elizabeth Fernandez

School of Social Sciences and International Studies University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Ivar Frones

Department of Sociology, University of Oslo, Norway

Bong Joo Lee

Department of Social Welfare, Seoul National University, Korea

Jan Mason

Social Justice and Social Change Research Centre, University of Western Sydney, Australia

Kristin Moore

Child Trends, Washington, DC, USA

William O'Hare

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, USA

Gerardo Sauri

The Children Rights Network, Mexico

Rose September

Child and Youth Research and Training Programme, University of the Western Cape, South Africa

Editor

William O'Hare

Senior Fellow, Annie E. Casey Foundation

Please send any material you would like to submit to *Indicators* to:

Dr. William O'Hare

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

701 St. Paul Street

Baltimore, MD 21202

wohare@aecf.org

410-547-6600, ext. 2049

ISCI is supported by ChildWatch International
and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Join the International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI)



The International Society
for Child Indicators (ISCI)

contributes to improving the well-being of the world's children. The ISCI seeks to build a network of individuals dedicated to improving measures and data resources, advancing data analysis, exploring theoretical issues, and publicizing and disseminating information on the status of children. ISCI is also working to enhance the capacity of the field, especially for countries in the initial stages of producing child well-being indicators. Finally, ISCI is identifying and developing ways to facilitate the dissemination and application of indicators in policy and practice.

For a full description and information on joining ISCI, please visit www.childindicators.org