



Editor's Note:

Dear Colleagues,

Below is a note recently sent to the members of the Child Indicators Research Journal editorial board. I thought readers of Indicators might be interested in seeing the many ways ISCI has developed since its start in 2005.

Dear editorial board members,

Just a quick note with a short update.

The journal is flourishing; our first special issue will be out in June. It will be guest edited by Jill Korbin, Claudia Coulton, and Jim McDonnell and will present six papers on indicators of children well-being in small areas—two from the USA, one from the UK, one from South Africa, one from Australia, and one from Greenland. We have enough accepted papers for the third issue of the year and more than enough in the pipeline for the fourth issue! We have also rejected a few (more than 20%).

Papers are coming from all around the globe and from a variety of disciplines. In fact, Springer is so pleased with the progress that they are pushing the publication dates earlier, to January, April, July and October, so there will be more citations and as a preparation step to include CIR in the Journal Citation Report.

The journal is sent free to all ISCI members. We now have more than 80 paying ISCI members with the number continually growing. Our current goal is to reach 200 paying members in 2009 (especially with the second ISCI conference coming up).

Please help to spread the word and encourage people to join ISCI and get a free subscription to the journal through our website, <http://www.childindicators.org/join.html>.

We are planning to launch our book series at the ISCI conference in Sydney on November 4–5. The first volume is titled From child welfare to child well-being: an international perspective on knowledge in the service of making policy. A special volume in honor of Alfred J. Kahn and it will be ready for the conference!

So things are moving, and it is a great opportunity to thank you all for your help.

William O'Hare, Editor

ISCI News

REGISTER NOW FOR "COUNTING CHILDREN IN!" 2nd ISCI Conference to Feature Experts, Children

November 4–5, 2009

Pre-Conference Symposium » November 3

Planning is well underway for the second ISCI conference on the topic of child social indicators and child well-being, scheduled for November 4–5, 2009. The conference is being hosted at the **University of Western Sydney's Parramatta campus**.

Steeped in history, Parramatta is a large metropolis with one of the biggest shopping centers in the Southern Hemisphere and an abundance of restaurants featuring cuisine from around the world. Conference attendees have the option of traveling each day from accommodation in central Sydney or traveling by shuttle bus from accommodation closer to the venue.

The ISCI conference will be structured around these themes:

- *Theoretical, conceptual, and empirical issues in the development of child indicators*
- *Measurement issues at levels of individual, family, community, and globally*
- *Diversity as a challenge to the construction and implementation of indicators*

There will be expert speakers from a range of backgrounds, contributed papers, and opportunities for dialogue and networking.

A **one-day symposium** of the Social Justice and Social Change Research Centre will precede on **November 3**. Plans for "Children as Experts in Their Own Lives: Child Inclusive Research" include hearing from children and others on the topic of child research in plenary and panel sessions and in contributed papers.

To register or for more information, see <http://www.isci09.com>.

For details on the conference and the call for abstracts, visit :

<http://www.isci09.com/>

Deadline for abstract submission:
June 5

Wikichild.org

A Wiki Working for Children

An international consortium led by the **OECD Social Policy Division (OCED)** is building a wiki-website for child research called Wikichild.org. Wikichild will be an interactive website, like Wikipedia, but designed specifically for the global community of analysts and researchers of child policies and child well-being. Wikichild will be launched in 2009.

Built using web-based interactive software, wiki-sites allow browsers to contribute to a knowledge database. Wikichild will provide a service for academics, researchers, policymakers, advocacy groups, NGOs, and for those with a general interest in child policies and well-being.

From the outset Wikichild has been a collaborative project. In order ensure quality and quantity of content—to encourage browsers to visit the site, return to the site, and add to it—the Social Policy Division established a consortium of partner institutions. The consortium meets regularly (in a virtual sense, naturally) to manage pre-launch developments. The group will also be the first contributors to Wikichild, uploading in-house child-related research and data before the site goes live.

Other consortium members include the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, the International Society of Child Indicators, the University of Auckland New Zealand, and Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa, New Zealand.

The Wikichild consortium has recently invited child research institutions and independent experts from around the world to widen and deepen pre-launch content of the site, and to ensure the quality integrity of the site. The real work will begin as Wikichild partners start to review, collate, and upload research and data to the site. Processes for monitoring and reviewing content of the site are to be established by the invited expert group.



Contact:

Dominic Richardson
Policy Analyst (Child Well-being)
Social Policy Division
OECD
Dominic.RICHARDSON@oecd.org
tel (33-1) 45 24 94 56

Support for software development, including interactive map and chart tools, will be provided by the University of Auckland Business School. Professor David Sundaram, whose team is behind the also software development, said “The key purpose of Wikichild is to be a vehicle through which we can integrate resources from diverse databases, collaborate with researchers and practitioners, educate, and advocate, with a view to advance the well-being of children.”

The University of Auckland is also developing customized software for interactive presentations of child-specific statistics and research. A child-friendly version of Wikichild may also be developed.

When Wikichild child goes live later this year, browsers will be able to access a broad range of child research and explore other data on the site using interactive statistics software. Registered users will be able to upload articles and data, post comments, or suggest amendments to uploaded articles via varied online features.

Wikichild will complement existing sites on child well-being, child poverty, and child development by facilitating links to such sites, and by providing opportunities for Wikichild users to become familiar with the range of existing initiatives.

Work on Wikichild began following the inception of Wikiprogress, and the OECD’s first wiki-project Wikigender.org. Under the Wikiprogress umbrella, Wikichild will be one of the first pillars in a host of websites designed to act as an online research and data hub for the OECD-hosted Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies (www.oecd.org/progress).

The Wikichild project continues to gain momentum, and the pre-launch network of contributors is growing. Organizers welcome input from all members of the child research community.

Conferences

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies Conference

July 19–23, 2009 • Florence, Italy

ISQOLS announces its 9th international conference, Quality of Life Studies: Measures and Goals for the Progress of Societies. The conference includes a special track focusing on children and a special scholar-initiated session on Children and the Quality of Life.

For more information, go to www.isqols2009.istitutodeglinnocenti.it.



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Conference

October 27–30, 2009 • Busan, South Korea

The 3rd OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy is expected to draw more than 1,000 participants from more than 100 countries. Entitled “Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life,” the forum will address these key topics: 1) what to measure, 2) how to measure progress, and 3) ensuring that those measures are used.

For more information, go to <http://dd4d.net/Downloads/Busan-World-Forum.pdf>.



RECENT CONFERENCES

NGOs Gather at Landmark Mexico Convening

A historic meeting took place in Mexico City in August 2008, bringing together data-based child advocates from several Latin American countries. The three-day event was sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and organized by Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México (Children’s Rights Network of Mexico).

It was the first time NGOs from across Latin America had come together to exchange information about using indicators and data to promote the well-being of children.

More than 40 people from 17 countries gathered to discuss various aspects of data-based child advocacy, including:

- Overall data-based approaches to this work
- Getting and using data
- Strategies for connecting policy advocacy to data work
- Strategies for creating a data culture
- Choosing indicators within a Children’s Rights Framework

The event kicked off with a networking dinner and opening remarks on August 13. An intense two days followed, with participants sharing their work and discussing successes as well as common obstacles and barriers. Proceedings wrapped up at the end of the day August 15, when participants shared final thoughts and made preliminary plans to hold a similar meeting in Bogota, Colombia, in 2009.

Among the countries represented at the meeting were Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Spain, and the U.S.

A report on the conference in Spanish, with a summary in English, will be available soon.

For more information, write wohare@aecf.org.

Quality of Life Research Focus of Hong Kong Meeting

An international conference in Hong Kong December 12–13, 2008 provided a platform to examine advances in quality of life studies, specifically human development and the environment in different parts of the world.

“Human Development and the Environment: Advances in Quality of Life Studies” was jointly organized by the Human Behavior and the Social Environment Research Program of the Social Welfare Practice and Research Centre and Centre for Quality of Life, Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies. The conference also commemorated the 60th anniversary of New Asia College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, which emphasizes the importance of Chinese cultural heritage.

Significant synergy resulted from the multidisciplinary perspectives represented at the conference, all focused on quality of life research in the global and Chinese contexts. Disciplines included community development, counseling, education, geography, journalism, occupational therapy, medicine, nursing, political science, psychology, social work, sociology, and youth work.

Papers presented at the conference are available at <http://web.swk.cuhk.edu.hk/~swk/QOL>.

International Conference Bielefeld

“Children and the Good Life – New Challenges for Research on Children” was the title of a conference held April 2–4, 2009, at the Universität Bielefeld in Germany.

For a look at the program, see <http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/zkjf/tagungsprogramm.pdf>.

Child Observatory Established at Egypt Conference

Cairo, Egypt hosted a major conference January 19–20, 2009 at the elegant Marriott Zemalek Hotel. “Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice” was sponsored by UNICEF and various Egyptian agencies, with financial support from the government of the Netherlands. It drew 475 people from 25 countries, including researchers, advocates, government agency heads, and high-ranking officials.

The first day of the conference was focused on formally establishing a Child Observatory in Cairo. The second day featured two sessions, co-sponsored by ISCI, on the development and use of child indicators.

Representing ISCI was Dr. William O’Hare, a senior fellow at the Annie E. Casey Foundation and editor of Indicators newsletter.

Dr. O’Hare organized, presented and moderated the panels. Also participating was Dr. Sinead Hanafin, who led the development of a national set of child well-being indicators and has been instrumental in producing the first two “State of the Nation’s Children” reports in Ireland. Some 75 people attended the two sessions.



European Seminar on Child Well-Being Indicators

Some 100 professionals gathered in Florence, Italy on January 29, 2009 for this ChildONEurope conference, which took place at the Istituto degli Innocenti.

To see the conference program and speakers, go to http://www.childoneurope.org/activities/pdf/seminar_29012009.pdf.

Publications and Online Resources

Manual Offers Indicators for Children in Formal Care

UNICEF, in partnership with the Better Care Network (BCN), recently published the Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care. The purpose of the manual is to assist countries in designing a national information system to monitor child protection and well-being in formal care.



The manual introduces a set of 15 global indicators, practical guidance on data collection, and a common measurement approach to better monitor childcare practices, inform development of policy and programs, and facilitate comparison within and between countries.

The manual is available in hard copy, CD-ROM, and on the BCN website: www.bettercarenetwork.org. For more information, or to receive a copy write contact@bettercarenetwork.org.

Report Monitors Child Well-Being in Ireland

Ireland's Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has published the latest State of the Nation's Children Report. Second in a biennial series, the 2008 report supports the aim of the government's National Children's Strategy to regularly publish key indicators of children's well-being.

The report covers important aspects of children's lives, including their educational, health and social, emotional and behavioral outcomes; their relationships with parents and friends; and the services available to and accessed by them. It also presents data on contextual indicators that describe changes in the characteristics of the population as well as in children's family settings and living arrangements.

The report updates information from the first volume and incorporates several improvements—most notably, strengthening some of the indicators and closing critical data gaps, particularly in the middle childhood period.

To view the report, go to <http://childrensdatabase.ie/sonc2008/>.

Casey Foundation Brief Aims for Better Data on Children

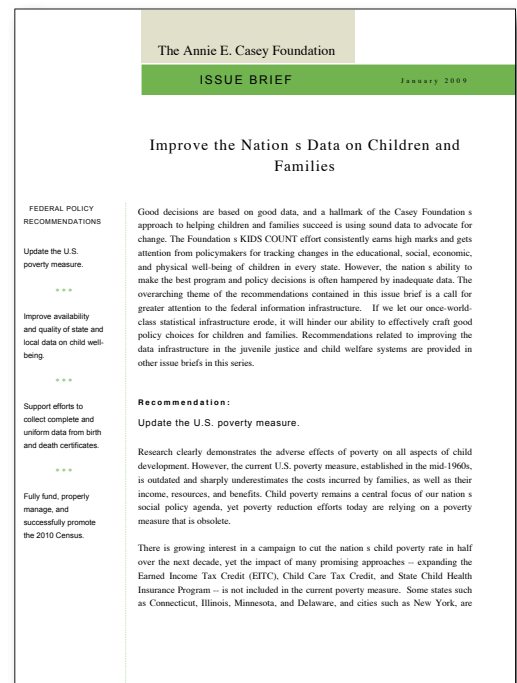
The Annie E. Casey Foundation has issued a set of policy briefs aimed at Obama administration officials, including one on data for children.

The brief includes four federal policy recommendations:

1. Update the U.S. poverty measure,
2. Improve availability and quality of state and local data on child well-being,
3. Support efforts to collect complete and uniform data from birth and death certificates, and
4. Fully fund, properly manage, and successfully promote the 2010 Census.

The complete "Improve the Nation's Data on Children and Families" brief is available at <http://www.aecf.org/~media/PublicationFiles/BriefDataDraft.pdf>

A similar study from Child Trends, "What Gets Measured Gets Done: High Priority Opportunities to Improve Our Nation's Capacity to Monitor Child and Youth Well-Being," is available at www.childtrends.org.



Publications and Online Resources *continued*

Report Examines Children in Africa

A new report by the African Child Policy Forum is the first systemic examination of expenditures and outcomes for children in all of the countries of the African continent.

The African Child Policy Forum is a pan-African policy and advocacy center on child rights. It was founded on the principle that putting children first on the public and political agenda and investing in their well-being are fundamental for bringing about lasting social and economic progress in Africa.

“The African Report on Child Well-Being,” can be obtained on CD by e-mailing www.africanchildforum.org. The publication is available in English and French.

Save the Children Report Gets Re-Analysis

A Save the Children UK report, “The Child Development Index: Holding Governments to Account for Children’s Wellbeing,” ranks the countries of the world on a three-item index: health, nutrition, and education. Japan, Spain, and Canada are the top three countries on the index, while Niger, Sierra Leone, and Somalia are at the bottom. The publication is available at www.savethechildren.org.uk/childindex.

Critics note that the index is based on only three measures (all at different scales) and that there are shortcomings in how those measures are combined into a single index. Achim Wolf, a student of Jonathan Bradshaw’s at York University in the UK, takes a careful look at what the index scores would be like if the three measures had been combined using more established techniques. He finds that the ranking would not look much different. His work is available at <http://www-users.york.ac.uk/~jrb1>.

KIDS COUNT in Mexico 2008 (La Infancia Cuenta en México 2008)

The fourth annual *KIDS COUNT in Mexico report (La Infancia Cuenta en México)* was released in December 2008 by Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México (Children’s Rights Network in Mexico). The report provides several measures related to the observance of children’s rights nationally and state by state.

The report was presented by Nashieli Ramírez, president of the Directive Council of the Network and co-author of the report; Laura Beavers, KIDS COUNT national coordinator for the Annie E. Casey Foundation; and Emilio Álvarez-Icaza, president of Mexico City’s Human Rights Commission. It incorporated input from from government agencies, media, civil society, and academics.

The Network produces regular series reports on children’s rights in Mexico City and along the northern border. They are available electronically at www.infanciacuenta.org.



Publications and Online Resources *continued*

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) website now features pages devoted to data sets on children, including national and international surveys.

To promote and strengthen research on children based on nationally representative survey data sets, UNICEF IRC consulted with experts in 2007 in two areas: cross-country surveys with child or family focus (jointly hosted with the OECD) and national household microsurvey instruments. The discussions explored how the Centre can stimulate further development of and access to such data sets, including through working with key partners such as the OECD and developing networks among data producers and users.

The new web pages provide researchers with basic information on key data and survey tools to enable their wider use, and to create a community of producers and users of data on children that can identify and bridge information gaps in important areas of child well-being.

ISCI encourages you to widely disseminate the link to the data sets on children and surveys in your region and your networks, as appropriate. We also welcome your comments.

For more information, go to

http://www.unicef-irc.org/datasets/data_sets.html.



WHO's The World Health Report 2008

The World Health Report, first published in 1995, is the World Health Organization's leading publication. Each year the report combines an expert assessment of global health, including statistics relating to all countries, with a focus on a specific subject. The main purpose of the report is to provide countries, donor agencies, international organizations, and others with the information they need to help them make policy and funding decisions. The report is also offered to a wider audience, from universities, teaching hospitals, and schools to journalists and the public at large—anyone, in fact, with a professional or personal interest in international health issues.

Why a renewal of primary health care? And why now more than ever? Globalization is putting the social cohesion of many countries under stress, and health systems are clearly not performing as well as they could and should. People are increasingly impatient with the inability of health services to deliver. Few would disagree that health systems need to respond better—and faster—to the challenges of a changing world. Primary health care can do that.

<http://www.who.int/whr/2008/en/>



Newsletters

In the last edition of Indicators newsletter, we mentioned several related newsletters that readers might be interested in. Below is a short synopsis of those newsletters with links.

OECD Newsletter on Measuring the Progress of Societies

To subscribe to this newsletter or obtain more information about the OECD project, visit www.oecd.org/oecdworldforum. Questions may be directed to The Editor, Progress@oecd.org.



Child Indicator

The most recent addition of the newsletter (Fall 2008) can be found online at http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2007_11_27_CIFall.pdf.



SINET

SINET is the official newsletter of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS). To submit material for the SINET newsletter send it to Dr. Ken Land at Duke University (kland@soc.duke.edu) who is the newsletter editor. The homepage for SINET is <http://www.soc.duke.edu/resources/sinet>.



Eurochild e-News Bulletin

Eurochild is a network of organizations and individuals who are working in and across Europe to contribute to the improvement of quality of life of children and young people based on the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The *Eurochild e-News Bulletin* is put out every few months and is available free of charge. While this newsletter is not primarily about data and indicators, some of the articles are related to those topics.

The latest issue and past issues are available at http://www.eurochild.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Enews_Bulletin/eNews_Bulletin2008/EUROCHILD_e-News_Bulletin_December_2008.pdf.

Information on Eurochild is at <http://www.eurochild.org/>.



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

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