



indicators

The official newsletter of the International Society for Child Indicators



December 2010

ISCI UPDATE

Word from Ireland: ISCI Doing Well

Dublin, Ireland provided the backdrop for ISCI's annual board meeting on September 2. Nine of our 12 board members attended to discuss successes and future plans. They shared a brief update on the organization:

MEMBERSHIP » ISCI membership is stable, with about 100 paying members in 2010 (a non-conference year). Thanks to member dues and small grants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Tisch Foundation, ISCI is also financially sound. Our modest operating funds are covered for 2010–2011. Dues remain the same for 2011 as they were for this year.

JOURNAL » *Child Indicators Research*, ISCI's journal, is doing very well. The journal receives more than 60 paper submissions per year, leading to a backlog of papers waiting for publication. To accommodate the backlog, we plan to feature 10 papers per issue in 2011.

NEWSLETTER » Each issue of *Indicators* is now sent to more than 900 people around the globe, and we feel it has helped "build the field" of child indicators. Within a few months, Bill O'Hare will be stepping down from his editing role, so we are looking for a new editor. This is a good opportunity to keep abreast of new developments in the field and expand

your network of colleagues. If you're interested, please contact Asher Ben-Arieh at benarieh@cc.huji.ac.il.

ISCI 2011 CONFERENCE » ISCI's next biennial conference is slated for July 2011 in beautiful York, England. Preparation for this exciting event is well underway. Abstracts are due January 31. Some 300 participants are expected at the conference.



ISCI's 3rd Conference
July 27–30
York, England

Indicators newsletter is now available in Spanish!
See childindicators.org

Indicators, the newsletter of ISCI, provides information on child indicators to an international audience of researchers, advocates, policymakers, and the media. To submit material, please see contact information on page 11.

Conferences

Mark your calendar now
for the 2011 ISCI Conference!

July 27–30 • York, England

ISCI's third biennial conference will be held at the University of York, England, July 27–30, 2011.

Mark your diaries and calendars!

The conference theme is "Children's Well-Being: The Research and Policy Challenges." A call for abstracts has been issued with a deadline of January 31, 2011. See our website for details and topics:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/conferences/ISCI2011/>

Abstracts due
January 31



York is well worth a visit. Founded by the Romans as Eboracum, it is where Constantine the Great was crowned emperor in AD 306. Later, as Jorvik, it was one of the largest Viking settlements. It is now a beautifully preserved, medieval walled city dominated by York Minster, one of the world's finest cathedrals.

See <http://www.visitork.org/> for information on what to see and do in York.

York also makes an excellent base for tours to the picturesque Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors. Visit these websites for details: <http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/> and <http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/>

The university campus is set on landscaped grounds at the edge of the city: <http://www.york.ac.uk/>

Accommodations are available in en suite rooms on campus or city hotels. York has excellent high-speed rail links to London, Newcastle, and Edinburgh. The nearest airports are Manchester and Leeds/Bradford.

Conferences *continued*

IV World Congress on Child and Adolescent Rights

Chance for ISCI to Connect with Latin America

The IV World Congress on Child and Adolescent Rights took place in Puerto Rico November 15–18. This renowned event drew some 1,000 participants from more than 25 countries.



The event, centered on the theme “The Best Interest of Children and Adolescents: Well-Being and Development in the New World Economic Order,” featured six topics: poverty, education, health, participation, identity, and violence. The main objective was to provide an academic, scientific, and professional forum for the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas, knowledge, and experiences around the human rights of children and adolescents.

The three previous World Congresses were held in Venezuela in 2003, Peru in 2005, and Spain in 2007. This year’s event was organized by Defensores PROCDN, a nonprofit volunteer-run organization promoting the rights of children in Puerto Rico.

ISCI was represented at the conference by board member William O’Hare, who made a presentation on the “The Worldwide Movement to Measure and Monitor the Well-Being of Children.” The presentation stressed the close relationship between the agendas of the Children’s Rights Movement and that of ISCI. The audience was largely from Latin America, so it gave us a chance to increase the visibility of ISCI in that area of the world.

For information, visit www.childrightscongress.org or write info@childrightscongress.org.

Beijing Gathering Aims to Bridge Disparities

Supported by UNICEF, senior representatives from 28 governments across the Asia Pacific region met November 4–6 in Beijing to discuss and explore opportunities for mutual cooperation in the promotion of child rights. Among other outcomes was the unanimous adoption of the **Beijing Declaration on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region**.



The so-called Beijing High Level Meeting built on a series of regional meetings on child rights that began in 1991. But this year’s meeting marked a more intensive effort for participating countries to share their experiences in seeking to strengthen child rights, and to establish effective mechanisms to support ongoing exchange and cooperation for the benefit of children across the Asia Pacific region.

More about this conference, including background papers and country panel presentations, can be found at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/china_56758.html.

Help ISCI Grow!

Please join ISCI if you are not already a member. If you are a member, **invite a colleague to join!**

For more information, contact Lori A. Bailey, ISCI Membership Coordinator, at lbaile2@clermson.edu or visit <http://www.childindicators.org/join.html>. You may join online or via regular mail.

Conferences *continued*

Moscow Conference Calls for Improved ECCE

Government ministers from 65 countries, along with UN representatives, development agencies, civic organizations and experts, gathered in Moscow September 27–29. Their mission? To assess progress toward the goal of expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education (ECCE), particularly for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.



Participants in the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education adopted the Moscow Framework of Action, which outlines a number of challenges that must be tackled to achieve ECCE goals. These include a lack of political commitment, inadequate public funding, low external support, and ineffective delivery of services. Poverty and cultural barriers in many parts of the world, including in occupied territories and conflict- and disaster-affected areas, further deny access to ECCE for millions of children.

The resolution of the congress can be found at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/world-conference-on-ecce/resolution/>.

Survey from Childwatch International

Deadline: December 10

ISCI members are invited to participate in a short (15-minute) survey on ethical research with children and young people. The survey deadline is December 10.

This global project is being conducted under the auspices of Childwatch International to identify the ethical issues and challenges in undertaking research with and for children and to identify and collate existing ethics guidelines and resources in use in different countries.

To complete the survey, go to:

<http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/edu/ccyp/Ethics/>

You are also welcome to pass this information and survey link on to colleagues.

ARACY Seminar:

'Developing Indicators for the Health and Well-Being of Children and Youth with Disabilities'

On November 24, a virtual seminar was presented by Professor Gwynnyth Llewellyn, dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, and director of the Australian Family and Disability Studies Research Collaboration.

Facilitated by Access Grid*, the seminar enabled a global discussion about the challenges and opportunities in investigating current data sets for children and young people with disabilities, given their absence in many data sets and the fact that they are highly variable worldwide. It also looked at gathering data on indicators not typically included in current data sets but of relevance to the lives of children and youth with disabilities.

Specifically, the presentation aimed to:

- draw on the literature review undertaken for the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) Seeding Grant 2009–2010, Health and Well-Being Indicators for Children and Youth with Disabilities, in which a possible set of indicators were identified using a human rights framework,
- discuss progress in investigating the potential of these indicators to determine health and well-being from existing data bases in several countries, and
- briefly present alternative approaches, primarily qualitative, that are being explored elsewhere.

For the slides from Professor Llewellyn's presentation, [click here](#).

* The Access Grid® facilitates group-to-group interactions with multimedia large-format displays, presentation and interactive environments. For information, see www.accessgrid.org.

Reports

KIDS COUNT Report Shows Progress Stalled

According to data released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in its 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book, overall improvements in child well-being that began in the mid-1990s stalled in the years just before the current economic downturn.



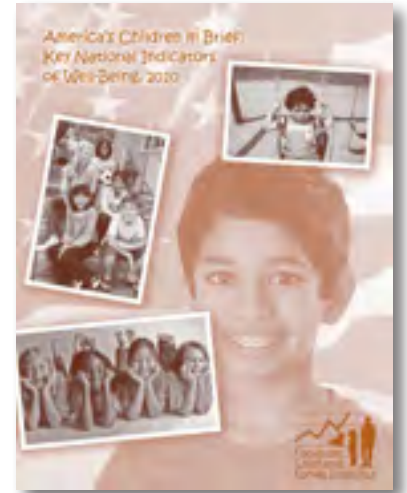
The 21st annual edition of the foundation's signature report shows that since 2000:

- **Five areas have improved:** the infant mortality rate, child death rate, teen death rate and teen birth rate, and the percentage of teens not in school and not high school graduates.
- **Three areas have worsened:** the percentage of babies born with low birthweight, the child poverty rate, and the percentage of children living in single-parent families.
- **Two areas are not comparable:** changes made to the American Community Survey's (ACS) 2008 questionnaire regarding employment affected the ability to track trends for the percent of teens not in school and not working, and the percentage of children in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment.

In addition to the 10 key measures tracked in the Data Book, the KIDS COUNT Data Center (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>) provides easy, online access to the latest child well-being data on hundreds of indicators by state, county, city, and school district. It serves as a comprehensive source of information for policymakers, advocates, members of the media, and others concerned with addressing the needs of children, families, and communities.

America's Children Reveals Positive Trends

America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2010, the annual report compiled by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, revealed some good news. Preterm births and adolescent births declined, eighth graders' math and reading scores increased, and more children had health insurance.



The Forum on Child and Family Statistics is a working group of 22 federal agencies that collect, analyze, and report data on issues related to children and families. The America's Children report groups the most recent federal statistics on children and youth under several domains: family and social environment, economic circumstances, health care, physical environment and safety, behavior, education, and health. The information is presented in a nontechnical, easy-to-use format aimed at stimulating discussion among data providers, policymakers, and members of the public.

All data updates and detailed statistical information accompanying this year's report can be found at <http://childstats.gov>. (Note that not all statistics are collected on an annual basis, so some data may be unchanged from last year's report.)

Reports *continued*

Annual Report Shows Recession's Effect on U.S. Children

The 2010 Foundation for Child Development's Child Well-Being Index (CWI) is the first report to offer comprehensive data on the impact of the so-called Great Recession on American children's quality of life.



The 2010 CWI finds that:

- The recession has had a huge impact on the well-being of children in 2010.
- The recession will wipe out virtually all progress for children since 1975 in the family economic well-being domain.
- The rate of children living in poverty in 2010 will be the highest in 20 years.
- The number of detached youth will increase in 2010.
- Risky behaviors will increase in 2010.
- Child obesity will continue to rise, bringing down the health domain.

2010 Data Sheet Focuses on Global Aging

The Population Reference Bureau released its 2010 World Population Data Sheet in July at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Global aging, the theme of this year's data sheet, was the highlight of presentations by Carl Haub, senior demographer and Conrad Taeuber Chair of Population Information; James Gribble, vice



president of International Programs; and Linda Jacobsen, vice president of Domestic Programs. The data sheet includes several measures that affect children like the infant mortality rate and the crude birth rate.

Go to <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Datasheets/2010/2010wpds.aspx> for:

- Key findings from the 2010 World Population Data Sheet
- A look at the 2010 World Population Clock
- A webcast of the July press briefing

New Report Focuses on Children in Argentina

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was approved in 1989 by the UN General Assembly and instituted as international law in 1990. The 193 countries that have ratified the Convention use the document to guide the development and implementation of policies and programs that best protect the rights of children and adolescents. In order to ensure the proper implementation of the Convention, advocates from around the world convene to discuss issues, solutions, and next steps.

In August 2010, the Foundation for Social Citizenship, the Parliamentary Forum for Children, and the Ministry of Social Development sponsored the South American Pre-Congress on Child and Adolescence Rights in Moron, Argentina. The event preceded the IV World Congress

on Child and Adolescent Rights held in November 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss challenges faced by children and youth in Argentina and to develop a framework, objectives, and guidelines for action to ensure laws put in place to protect the rights of children and adolescents are not only signed but implemented.

To learn more about outcomes from the meeting, read South American Congress on the Rights of Childhood and Adolescence at:

<http://www.precongresoinfancia.com/declaracion.html>

The report is in Spanish.

Reports *continued*

European Union Study Analyzes Poverty Levels and Challenges

A study on “Child Poverty and Child Well-Being in the European Union” was commissioned to produce 1) an in-depth empirical analysis of child poverty and the related key challenges for each member state, 2) an assessment of the effectiveness of policies to combat child poverty and promote social inclusion among children, and identification of policy mixes effective in tackling the specific factors underlying child poverty, and 3) recommendations for a limited set of indicators and breakdowns that are most relevant from a child perspective and that best reflect the multidimensional nature of child poverty and well-being in the European Union.



The report, released in January by the directorate-general for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission, identifies material and non-material dimensions of child well-being that are relevant to monitor. The material dimensions cover factors relating to household resources that a child has (or lacks) access to during his/her life and development, including indicators of income, material deprivation, housing, and the labor-market attachment of household members. The non-material dimensions cover both the resources a child has (or lacks) access to during his/her development and the outcomes at different stages of this development, including education, health, exposure to risk and risk behavior, social participation and relationships, the family environment, and the local environment.

Some main findings:

- The risk of poverty among children, in general, is higher than among the population as a whole in most of the member states. While children face the highest risk of poverty in the two newest member states (Bulgaria and Romania), the relative risk of poverty among children (as compared to the adult population) is highest in Hungary and the Czech Republic. By contrast, the risk of poverty among children is lower than for the population as a whole in Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Cyprus, Slovenia, and Finland.
- Following the methodology developed in the EU Task Force report, countries have been clustered according to their performance in relation to the risk of child poverty, so as to provide a means of benchmarking policies and outcomes and relating these to three key factors: labor-market exclusion, in-work poverty, and the impact of government transfers. As a result, four groups of countries were identified.

The European Union report can be found at:
http://www.tarki.hu/en/research/childpoverty/summary/childpoverty_summary_jan2010_short.pdf

ISCI 2011 Conference

University of York, England

July 27–30

Abstracts due January 31

Visit: <http://www.york.ac.uk/conferences/ISCI2011/>

Around the Industry

OECD Gets New Chief Statistician

Martine Durand has been named the new chief statistician of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). She replaces longtime data champion Enrico Giovannini, who returned to his native Italy.



UNICEF Head Launches *Facts for Life*

UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman has launched the latest edition of *Facts for Life*, a publication that provides essential, lifesaving information to on how to prevent child and maternal deaths, diseases, injuries, and violence.



This co-publication by UNICEF, WHO, WFP (United Nations World Food Programme), UNESCO, UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), UNAIDS, and the World Bank provides practical advice on pregnancy and childbirth; major childhood illnesses; child development; early learning; parenting; and care and support of children. The updated version contains a new chapter on Child Protection, which covers keeping children safe from violent and harmful behaviors and practices.

Now in its fourth iteration, *Facts for Life* has benefited millions of individuals and communities since it was first published in 1989. Some 15 million copies have been circulated worldwide in 215 languages.

The new edition is available in English, French, and Spanish. Download a PDF or plain text file at <http://www.factsforlifeglobal.org>.

Finnish Group Developing Dashboard of Indicators

A working group in Finland is developing a dashboard for indicators to measure child well-being. The dashboard is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and previous work done at Statistics Finland, the Office of the Ombudsman for Children in



Finland, and the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities. Representatives from all of these organizations are involved in the current effort.

Indicators in the report will include: material standard of living/welfare, health, school and learning skills, education and training, safe growth environment, participation in society/citizenship, and protection and support offered by society.

The report will be available soon at the website of the Ministry of Education and Culture's website, www.minedu.fi, but only in Finnish.

For more information, contact:

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<http://www.minedu.fi/policyprogramme>

Child Indicators Research Journal

To give members an idea of what readers are searching for in our online journal, we've included word counts as well as graphics showing our tag clouds and a breakdown by indices and indicators.

Counts for Top 14 Words in *Child Indicators Research* journal

Children (1,651) • **Child** (754) • **School** (576) • **Well-Being** (559) • **Data** (552) • **Indicators** (534) • **Health** (482) • **Research** (458) • **Social** (438) • **Development** (347) • **Parental** (289) • **Parents** (275) • **Domains** (252) • **Satisfaction** (249)

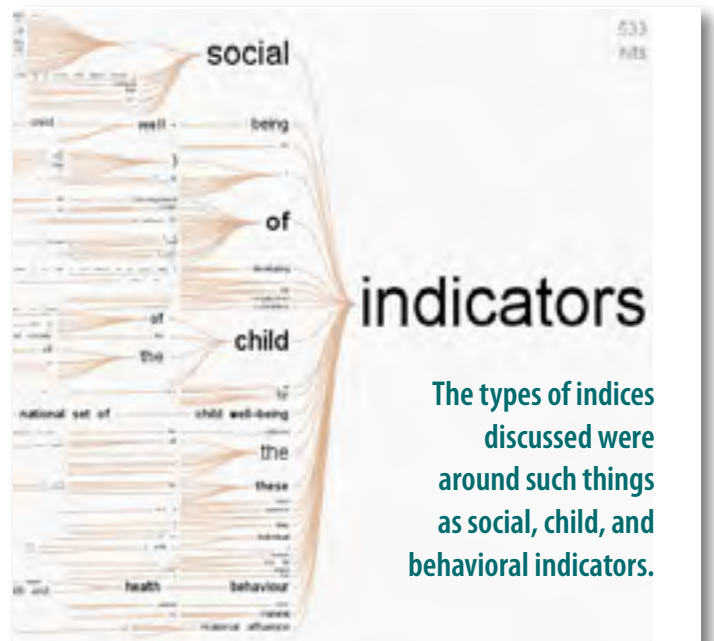
One Word Tag Cloud Showing Usage Frequency



Contextualizing How Indicators and Indices Were Used



The types of indices discussed were around such things as well-being, turbulence, fcd, and summary index.



The types of indices discussed were around such things as social, child, and behavioral indicators.

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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.