



indicators

The official newsletter of the International Society for Child Indicators



October 2006

News & Announcements

ISCI Partners with Springer Academic Publishers

ISCI and Springer Academic Publishers are partnering to offer ISCI members special benefits. ISCI members will enjoy:

- Reduced subscription rates for Springer journals and titles, including the *Social Indicators Research* journal and book series
- Springer sponsorship and participation in various ISCI meetings and conferences
- Access to a highly respected academic venue for ISCI conference proceedings and publications.

ISCI and Springer are also exploring the feasibility of establishing a new journal on child social indicators.

Comments and additional suggestions are welcome. Send comments to Asher Ben-Arieh (abenari@clemson.edu) or Bob Goerge (bobg@uchicago.edu).

and includes the Education for All Development Index, ranking 123 countries by their progress toward EFA goals.

The 2007 report, *Strong Foundations*, will focus on early childhood care and education.

Revised EU Index of Child Well-Being Available Soon

Although the Laeken Primary and Secondary Indicators of Social Exclusion were an important step by the European Union to create indicators of social exclusion, only two indicators related to children. In response to the lack of relevant information, and amid calls by the Luxembourg EU presidency to mainstream more children's indicators, researchers have developed an index of child well-being based on existing administrative and survey sources. **A revised version of the index is being published for the OECD countries by UNICEF as their next Innocenti Report Card.**

The EU index, which will be published in the *Journal of Social Indicators Research*, is based on 51 indicators organized into 23 domains and eight clusters, including material situation, health, housing, education, subjective well-being, risk and safety, children's relationships, and civic participation. The data are available at <http://www-users.york.ac.uk/~jrb1/> [more >](#)

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

This newsletter, published quarterly, is edited by William O'Hare, Senior Fellow at the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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Spotlight on International Monitoring Efforts

The Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2006: Literacy for Life

www.efareport.unesco.org

The *Global Monitoring Report*, published annually, chronicles international progress on the major goals of Education for All, signed by more than 160 countries in April 2000. The initiative seeks to provide basic education for all children, youth, and adults by 2015.

The 2006 report focuses on reaching the world's 771 million adults who lack literacy skills. The report analyzes progress toward universal primary education and gender parity, monitors efforts to scale up literacy programs,



Nordic Study Developing Cross-National Comparative Indicators on Children's Well-Being

Children and Young People's Living Conditions in the Nordic Countries

University researchers from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden are collaborating on a project to develop valid and robust indicators that can be used to compare youths' well-being and living conditions across the three countries. The project is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Progress to date includes an extensive review of child and youth-centered survey studies from the 1970s on. The researchers are also compiling administrative and qualitative indicators.

For more information, contact Elisabeth Backe-Hansen, (ebh@nova.no).

New Australian Study Underway on Child Well-Being

Australian researchers and child professionals are collaborating on a study examining how children and young people conceptualize their own well-being. The New South Wales Commission for Children and Young People and the Social Justice and Social Change Research Centre at the University of Western Sydney, Australia, are joining forces to identify key well-being themes among children and young people, which are expected to inform the future development of indicators in areas important and meaningful to children and young people. The indicators will also be used as a resource in developing policies to improve the lives of children and young people.

For further information, contact Jan Mason (jan.mason@uws.edu.au) or Toby Fattore (toby.fattore@kids.nsw.gov.au).

Chapin Hall Center for Children Appoints New Director

Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago has named Dr. Matthew W. Stagner its new director, effective September 1, 2006. A nationally recognized expert on public policies affecting children and families, Stagner most recently served as director of the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC. His large body of research includes work on children aging out of foster care, programs that support healthy marriages, and effective delivery of social services. Stagner was instrumental in starting the annual federal publication *America's Children*, which uses key statistical indicators to track the well-being of children in the United States.

Stagner will succeed Mark E. Courtney, who has served as director of Chapin Hall since 2001 and is stepping down to devote more time to research. Courtney will continue to work as a faculty associate at Chapin Hall and as the McCormick Tribune Professor at the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

Child Trends Appoints New President

Child Trends has named a new president—Carol Emig. Emig, to assume the post this fall, is a public policy expert specializing in communicating research and policy issues. She most recently served as the executive director of the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care. Prior to her work with the Commission, Emig spearheaded public relations and communications for Child Trends. As director for Public Information and Policy, she bridged the worlds of research and policy. As vice president for External Relations, she was a member of Child Trends' senior management team.

Emig's other professional experience includes policy work on the state and federal level, including as deputy director of the National Commission on Children, senior associate at the Center for the Study of Social Policy, director of a state-based children's advocacy organization, and research assistant to First Lady Rosalynn Carter. ■

New Publications of Note

UN Study on Violence against Children

The United Nations recently released its 2006 global study on violence against children, which offers an in-depth profile of the prevalence, nature, and causes of violence against children. It also provides recommendations for effective remedies and preventive and rehabilitative measures to protect children from violence.

The study is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which emphasizes children's rights to physical and personal integrity, and outlines states' obligations to protect children from physical and psychological violence. Of particular interest to ISCI members is a specific recommendation to all countries to develop and implement systematic national data collection and research (par. 107).

For more information: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/study.htm>

Download report at www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/study/SGSVAC.pdf

New Report on Well-Being of Children in Korea

Key Child Indicators of Korea: 2006

The first national-level child indicators report in Korea was recently published by the Institute of Social Welfare Research at Seoul National University. ISCI member Bong



Joo Lee, associate professor of social welfare at Seoul National University, headed up the project, which was funded by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in Korea.

The report *Key Child Indicators of Korea: 2006* is available from bongjee@snu.ac.kr.

2006 KIDS COUNT Data Book

www.kidscount.org

KIDS COUNT, the annual report of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, ranks U.S. states on 10 key measures of child well-being. The project has reported data annually since 1990. The 2006 edition also includes several background measures, such as the number of young children in family-based child care in each state.

The 2006 report is online at www.kidscount.org. Free copies may be ordered

from the website. The website also provides more than 100 state-level measures on children and provides easy-to-use tools for generating custom reports, including rankings, graphs, and maps. Raw data are also available.

New Report on Children Living on Mexico's Northern Border

A Snapshot of Children Living on Mexico's Northern Border (La Infancia Cuenta en la Frontera Norte de México) compares conditions for children along Mexico's northern

[more >](#)

New Publications of Note *continued*

border with children elsewhere in the country. Although children in the northern border region enjoy several advantages over children elsewhere in Mexico, the region falls short in several critical areas of child well-being.

The spring 2006 report, produced by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en Mexico, complements a 2005 report that focuses on children living on the southwestern border of United States. Both reports hope to raise awareness about the well-being of children in this complex region.

The report is available at www.infanciacuenta.org

New Report from South Africa

South African Child Gauge 2005

The Children's Institute at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, released a *South African Child Gauge 2005*, which provides key indicators of child well-being nationally and by province. The report is the first in a planned annual series.

Modeled after KIDS COUNT, by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the *Gauge* provides statistical data on several key indicators of child well-being, as well as essays and narrative.

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Children Speak Out in Pakistan

The Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization released the inaugural issue of *Working Children Newsletter* (Haal Ahwal), a newsletter written by working children, street children, and trafficked children.

The children are raising their voices in a quest for adults, parents, employers, community, and other stakeholders to respect their rights and safeguard their interests. The children have distributed the newsletter at work sites and have translated its contents in group meetings for those who cannot read.

For more information, contact:

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Join Today!

Visit www.childindicators.org

ISCI Inaugural Conference

Child Indicators: Diverse Approaches to a Shared Goal

June 26–28, 2007

Chicago, Illinois

Call for papers, workshops, and posters:
www.childindicators.org



In June 2007, ISCI will hold its first international conference on child indicators.

Organized by ISCI and hosted by the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, the conference will explore how child indicators can be used to improve the development and well-being of the world's children.

Topics to be addressed include:

- Theory and conceptual frameworks of child indicators
- Measurement, data, and methods
- Publicizing results
- Advocacy using child indicators
- Developing policy from child indicators
- Children's participation in the development and implementation of indicators
- Cultural variations in child indicators
- Child indicators across borders
- Information technology and child indicators

Call for Papers

We invite you to submit proposals for conference presentations. Proposed papers on the above themes are encouraged, but we will consider papers on other child indicator topics as well. We are also accepting proposals for 90-minute workshops with a focus on methodological or practice issues in the development and use of child indicators. Finally, we are inviting proposals for posters. Poster presentations are primarily designed to highlight innovative child indicator methods, research reports, and/or emerging indicator issues.

For submission guidelines, visit our website at www.childindicators.org

Proposals must be submitted by November 30, 2006.

- Proposals must be e-mailed. No faxes, please. If unable to e-mail, authors may send proposals by regular mail.
- Send e-mail proposals as a Microsoft Word attachment. If sending via regular mail, include a computer disc with a Word file.

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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