



indicators

The official newsletter of the International Society for Child Indicators



October 2007

News & Announcements



Research Journal to Debut in March 2008

ISCI's new journal, *Child Indicators Research (CIR)*, was recently launched by Springer publishers. We are currently accepting papers, and the initial response is extremely encouraging. Please visit www.springer.com/12187 to

learn more about our new and

exciting peer-reviewed journal. And look for the first issue in March 2008. We hope you will find the journal a strong venue for your work, and we encourage you to submit papers online at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/isci>

Inaugural ISCI Conference a Resounding Success

ISCI held its first conference **June 26–28, 2007**, in **Chicago**, with more than 200 individuals from 22 countries attending. Hosted by Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, the conference significantly exceeded our original projection of 80–100 attendees. Nearly 100 papers were presented with daily plenary sessions covering important international child indicators issues.

Robert Goerge, Asher Ben-Arieh, and Ivar Frønes opened the conference with three presentations that offered a broad overview of the field. Goerge, co-chair of ISCI and a research fellow at Chapin Hall Center for Children,

reviewed the changing child demographics in the host city, Chicago. Ben-Arieh, co-chair of ISCI and senior lecturer

in the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work, Hebrew University, Israel, profiled recent advances in child indicators and explained the origins of ISCI. Frønes, professor of sociology and human geography at Oslo University, Norway, provided a rich overview of the dynamics of childhood.

Bong Joo Lee, associate professor in the Department of Social Welfare, Seoul National University, South Korea, launched the second day's plenary with a discussion of the societal factors contributing to child maltreatment, with a

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ISCI Is Growing!

ISCI is almost halfway to its membership drive goal of adding 200 new members by March 2008! Joining ISCI not only helps support the important work of advancing the development and use of child indicators, it also provides members with important benefits and tools.

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.

Indicators, the newsletter of ISCI, shares 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.

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Conference presentations available at www.childindicators.org

Recent and Upcoming Conferences



Conference to Cover Child Indicators

The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) will hold a conference **December 6–8, 2007**, in **San Diego, California**. Papers and presentations will cover a wide range of topics, including child indicators.

For more information, see www.isqols.org/.

Conference Discusses Children's Rights in EU Policy

Eurochild and the European Children's Network (EURONET) jointly organized an event at the European Parliament in **Brussels, Belgium**, on **October 9, 2007**. The program focused on children's rights. Representatives of the European Commission, the Fundamental Rights Agency, and the Council of Europe discussed policies supporting children's rights—those that already exist and what is missing in the European Union. The Scottish Commissioner on Children's Rights, EURONET, and Eurochild members offered examples of best practices, and the Women's Lobby discussed their experience of gender mainstreaming.

Eurochild is an active network of organizations and individuals working in and across Europe to improve the quality of life of children and young people. EURONET is a coalition of networks and organizations campaigning for the interests and rights of children. Work in both organizations is framed by the principles enshrined in the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child.

More information is available at www.europeanchildretnetwork.eu/.



Russian Conference Spotlights Infant Well-Being

The National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and St. Petersburg State University will host a conference, "Improving the Life and Development of Infants in Families and Baby Homes: New Approaches, Experience, Prospects" in **St. Petersburg, Russia, October 21–22, 2007**.

Rising child abandonment, high rates of illness among infants, and the lack of interdisciplinary prevention programs in the Russian Federation are taking a toll on children and society. A key aim of state social policies is to support families, reduce the number of children in baby homes and orphanages, and to connect orphans with families. This conference will present survey results from a five-year practical research program in St. Petersburg that has proved highly effective in assisting this population and building family-like environments for children. The presentations will help create a platform to discuss the experience of organizing aid for infants living in families and baby homes in Russia.

The conference will be conducted in Russian, with limited translation to English available. There is no fee for attending the conference, but registration is required and attendance is limited.

For more information, contact Anna Danilina, +7 495 956 14 00 or peterburg2007@aro.ru, or visit www.aro.ru/index.php?aro=46&lg=2&new=418.

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Recent and Upcoming Conferences *continued*



Building Emotional Competencies Focus of Scottish Conference

Scotland's School of Emotional Literacy will hold its third national conference on **November 13, 2007**, in **Edinburgh**. "Meeting the Four Capacities and Making Every Child Matter: An Emotionally Literate Approach" will offer a forum for a broad range of professionals in children's services to come together and share best practices. Dr. Elizabeth Morris will share the latest neuropsychological research findings and illustrate how an understanding of this can be used practically with groups of children.

For more information, see
www.schoolofemotional-literacy.com.



Istanbul Conference Looks at Child Indicators

The second Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge, and Policy was held **June 27–30, 2007**, in **Istanbul, Turkey**. Nearly 1,000 participants from more than 100 countries attended the forum, entitled "Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies." Among the many distinguished speakers were Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD; Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey; Ann Veneman,

Executive Director of UNICEF; and Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization.

Intended to serve as a catalyst to "a global conversation about what progress means," the forum's sessions focused on economic, social, environmental, and institutional dimensions of societal progress, and the role that different sectors can play in fostering this progress.

The session "Indicators of Our Future: The World's Children" showcased several ongoing child indicator projects, including the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT project, DEVInfo and ChildInfo at UNICEF, and the Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour of the International Labor Organization. Presenters shared their latest research and highlighted the use of online interactive data systems to advance policymaking.

More information is available at www.oecd.org.

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focus on the role of neighborhood poverty. Jan Mason, a professor with the Social Justice, Social Change Research Center in Western Sydney, Australia, and Toby Fattore, with the Commission for Children and Young People in Sydney, Australia, followed with a presentation on how best to gain children's input on their own well-being.

The final plenary included a presentation by Jonathon Bradshaw from York University in the United Kingdom on the latest UNICEF Child Well-Being Report Card. David Parker, Deputy Director of the Innocenti Research Center, Italy, presented "Governments' Response to the UNICEF Report Card."

The entire set of conference presentations is available at www.childindicators.org.

The new *Child Indicators Research* journal, published by Springer, was also unveiled at the conference, and participants were invited to submit papers. See article on page 1. A tentative decision was made in the final plenary to hold the next conference in Australia in 2009.

Projects and Publications of Note

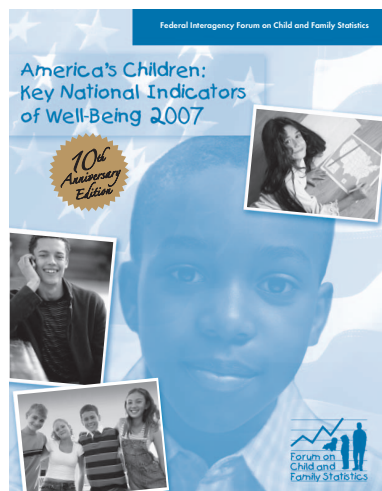
New America's Children Report Released

On July 14, 2007, the federal interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics released its 10th annual America's Children's report.

America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2007 is a compendium of indicators—drawn from the most reliable official statistics—that highlights the promises and difficulties confronting U.S. youth.

The report presents 38 key indicators on important aspects of children's lives over time. It is divided into seven sections that cover family and social environment, economic circumstances, health care, physical environment and safety, behavior, education, and health. Recommendations for new indicators are featured, including child maltreatment, oral health, drinking water quality, blood lead levels, child and adolescent injury and mortality, sexual activity, college enrollment, and asthma. The report also offers guidelines for presenting data involving race and ethnicity with greater consistency and continuity.

For more information and to download a free copy, go to www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/index.asp.

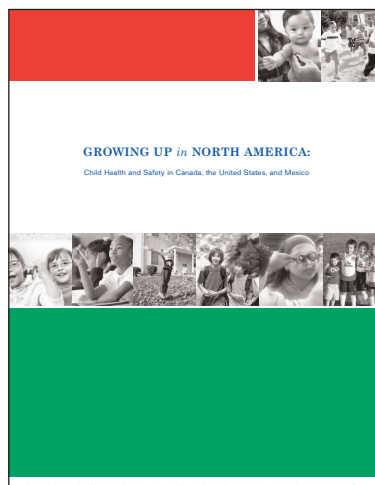


Iceland, and OECD countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Israel. Other countries are regularly added. The target audience is journalists, policymakers, public officials and their staffs, public and voluntary sector leaders, and policy scholars and researchers.

The website is built around four major categories:

- Comparative policies about child, youth, and families
- Country profiles (23 advanced industrialized countries and 12 less-developed countries)
- Context data and cross-national comparative tables
- Social indicators, including health, education, poverty, and youth.

The clearinghouse is available at www.childpolicyintl.org.



Clearinghouse Facilitates Policy Comparison

The Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth, and Family Policies serves as a single source of comparison and information on various countries' child, youth, and family policies. Launched in 2000 by the Institute for Child and Family Policy at Columbia University in New York, the clearinghouse allows users to compare and assess the policies and programs within the countries of the European Union (EU) plus Norway and

OECD Family Database Now Online

The OECD Family Database, which brings together cross-national indicators on family policies and outcomes, is now available online.

The initial phase of indicators presents updated information building on the OECD Babies and Bosses series on the reconciliation of work and family life, including indicators on maternal employment, the nature and extent of child

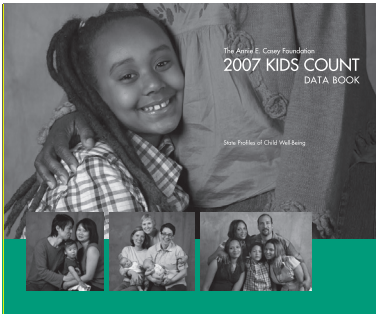
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care participation, and public support and information on parental leave policies. Other initial indicators have been drawn from various OECD sources such as the OECD social expenditure database, benefits and wage reports, labor force statistics, and the OECD education database, as well as databases maintained by other (international) organizations.

The database is organized by four general areas: family structure; the labor market position of families; public policies toward families and children; and child outcomes. The 2007 research pays particular attention to areas that are presently “data poor” on a cross-national basis—for example, participation in afterschool care, family-friendly workplace practices, and the use of paid and unpaid parental leave.

Typical information includes relevant definitions and methodology, comparability and data issues, information on sources, and, where relevant, the raw data or descriptive information across countries. Time series, where available, can also be accessed.

For more information and to access the database, go to www.oecd.org/els/social/family.



2007 KIDS COUNT

The Annie E. Casey Foundation recently released its 2007 KIDS COUNT Data Book. The report, which has been released annually since 1990, provides child well-being data for each U.S. state and ranks states on the basis of 10 key indicators of well-being. This year’s report features an essay on the importance of moving children from foster care to permanent homes.

The report is available at www.kidscount.org.

Youth Indicators of Macao

In September 2001, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau of Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government commissioned the “Macao Youth Indicators Profile Project.” The University of Macao, which is leading the research efforts, issued its first report in 2002, reporting on data collected in 10 areas and the development of 80 indicators. A task force followed in 2003 to monitor and advise the three phases of the research project, to be completed in 2004, 2005, and 2006. The project will enable the public to obtain the most current information on Macao youth aged 13–19 and to help inform and propose future youth policies.

For further information, contact Hong Wai Man, 853-3972-622 or waimhong@dsej.gov.mo, or Fong Chi Wa, 853-3972-625 or cwfong@dsej.gov.mo.

Growing Up in North America

The Children of North America project released its latest report, *Growing Up in North America: Child Health and Safety in Canada, United States and Mexico*, in April 2007. The report focuses on key indicators of health and safety in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, including obesity, respiratory illness, chemical exposure, mental health, and cancer. The report finds that all three countries share many of the same trends, such as increasing childhood obesity and rising rates of respiratory illness.

The Children of North America project is a joint effort of the Annie E. Casey Foundation in the United States, the Canadian Council on Social Development, and Red por los Derechos de la Infancia (Children’s Rights Network) in Mexico.

The report is available at www.childreninnorthamerica.org.

Join Today!

Visit www.childindicators.org

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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