



indicators

The official newsletter of the International Society for Child Indicators



May 2006

The Inaugural ISCI Conference

In June 2007, ISCI will host 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
- Child indicators as measures of present or future child well-being
- Dissemination of child indicators
- Advocacy using child indicators
- Policy development using child indicators
- Children's participation in the development and implementation of indicators
- Child indicators with cultural variations
- 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 also 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. We are also 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 31, 2006. Notification letters will be mailed to presenters in January 2007. ■



ISCI Inaugural Conference

Child Indicators: Diverse Approaches to a Shared Goal

June 26–28, 2007

Chicago, Illinois

Call for papers, workshops, and posters

Welcome to the first issue of *Indicators*, the ISCI newsletter. *Indicators*, published quarterly, will share information on child indicators among an international audience of researchers, advocates, policymakers, and the media.

The International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) works to improve the well-being of the world's children. The ISCI is developing a network of individuals dedicated to 1) improving measures, data resources, and the rigorous analysis of data, 2) exploring theoretical issues, 3) and disseminating information about the status of children.

ISCI is also working to build the capacity of the field, especially in those countries in the initial stages of producing child well-being indicators. The ISCI also seeks to identify and develop ways to bridge research and practice by working to disseminate and apply indicators to policy and practice.

For more information on ISCI, and for details on joining, please visit our website at www.childindicators.org.

New Publications of Note

Several new publications may be of interest to readers, including 2006 data from the Population Bureau on the status of youth worldwide, and a new book that illustrates how to use child indicators to inform policy. In addition, a new online journal promises speedy reviews and publication, and KIDS COUNT expands to Mexico. Several other recent publications also focus on child well-being in Mexico, as well as Canada and the United States.

World Youth Data Sheet

The U.S. Population Reference Bureau has released The World's Youth 2006 Data Sheet featuring systematic data on adolescents and young adults in most countries. Data can be found on:

- Population
- Education
- Work
- Marriage and fertility
- Health behaviors and use of health services

The data sheet is part of the Population Reference Bureau's BRIDGE (Bringing Information to Decisionmakers for Global Effectiveness) program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Each data sheet is \$4.50 (free to audiences in developing countries). The information is also available on the PRB website (www.prb.org). For more information email popref@prb.org or write to:

The Population Reference Bureau
1875 Connecticut Avenue NW
Suite 520
Washington, DC 20009
(Phone 202-483-1100)

New Book on Child Indicators

Springer Press recently released *Indicators of Children's Well-Being: Understanding Their Role, Usage and Policy Influence*, edited by Asher Ben-Arieh and Robert M. Goerge. The book is part of the series, *International Social Indicators Research Series*.

The book explores how the use of social indicators affects child and family policy, and the role of indicators as an effective tool for social change. The book combines methodological issues with conceptual issues and actual experience. *Indicators of Children's*

Well-Being is available through www.springer.com, or P.O. Box 17, 3300 AA Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

New Journal: Survey Research Methods

The European Survey Research Association (ESRA) recently launched *Survey Research Methods*, the association's free, online, open access journal. The publishers promise a fast review and publication process, with papers published within three months of submission. The first issue is scheduled for summer 2006.

The journal's editors are Peter Lynn, of the University of Essex, UK, and Rainer Schnell, of the University of Konstanz, Germany. The journal welcomes submissions in English, and between 4,000 and 15,000 words.

For further information, see <http://esra.sqp.nl/esra/journal/>.

Papers for consideration should be submitted by email, preferably as PDF or Word documents, to SurveyResearchMethods@uni-konstanz.de.

Call for Papers

The journal is currently inviting papers that discuss methodological issues related to survey research. Topics of particular interest include survey design, sample design, question and questionnaire design, data collection, nonresponse, data capture, data processing, coding and editing, measurement errors, imputation, weighting and survey data analysis methods.

Briefing Highlights Child Well-Being in North America

The Children in North America Project recently hosted a briefing in Washington, DC, to highlight a new report on state of child well-being in North America. *Growing Up in North America: Child Well-Being in Canada, the United States & Mexico* was produced by the Canadian Council on Social Development, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México. The

first in a series, the report examines the opportunities and challenges children face in an era of globalization.

The Children in North America Project aims to highlight the condition and well-being of children and youth in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Through a series of indicator reports, the project hopes to build a better understanding of how children are faring, the opportunities and challenges they face in the future, and the value of measuring and monitoring child well-being.

For more information, see www.childreninnorthamerica.org.

KIDS COUNT in México (La Infancia Cuenta en México)

The first KIDS COUNT in México report (La Infancia Cuenta en México) was issued in November 2005 by Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México. Modeled after the *KIDS COUNT Data Book* produced annually by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in the United States, the report provides several measures of child well-being nationally and state by state. The report will be updated in fall 2006. The report is available electronically at www.derechosinfancia.org.mx.

Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Report on Children

The CEC issued its latest report, *Children's Health and the Environment in North America*, in January 2006. The report includes data on asthma and respiratory diseases, lead and other chemicals, and waterborne diseases in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. The report is available on the CEC website at www.ccc.org.

The Progress of Canadian Children

In April 2006, the Canadian Council on Social Development issued the seventh annual, *Progress of Canada's Children and Youth, 2006*. The publication uses a variety of statistical indicators to monitor the overall well-being and progress of young people in Canada. The full report and a series of fact sheets are available on the organization's website at www.ccsd.ca/pccy/2006. ■



Upcoming Conferences of Interest

Two upcoming conferences this summer may be of interest to ISCI members.

- > On July 17–20, 2006, Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa, will host the seventh **Conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies**. Its theme will be “Prospects for the Quality of Life in the New Millennium.” More information can be found at www.ru.ac.za/isqols2006 or contact:

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- > Also in July, the International Sociological Association will host its **Sixteenth World Congress** in Durbin, South Africa. For more information visit www.ucm.es/info/isa/.

The event is scheduled for July 23–29, 2006.

ISCI Steering Committee

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Kristin Moore,

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The Annie E. Casey Foundation, USA

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