



indicators

The official newsletter of the International Society for Child Indicators



January 2009

A Message from Our Co-Chairs

Dear Colleagues:

This past year, the International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) has grown and developed considerably. For quite some time now, indicators have been a major tool for monitoring the well-being of children for national governments, states and provinces, local governments, and youth programs. However, efforts have been ad hoc and varied in scope, focus, and quality. We are proud to chair an organization that is helping to define the field, develop standards, foster collaborative research, enhance dissemination, and encourage publication.

ISCI is strongly committed to involving members from across the globe, to encouraging rigorous methods of research, to enhancing both basic and methodological research, and to the dissemination and application of indicators to policy and practice.

ISCI has exciting plans for 2009, including:

- A **special issue** on indicators of children's well-being at the local level, to be published in the *Child Indicators Research Journal* with some of the prominent researchers in the field (see www.springer.com/12187 for details).
- The launch of a **special book series**, "Children Well-Being: Research and Indicators"
- Our **second international conference**, to be held in Australia

Membership dues for 2009 are only US\$75, with discounts for students and members from developing countries. Membership includes a free subscription to the *Child Indicators Research Journal* and the ISCI newsletter; discounts from our publisher, Springer; and a substantially reduced rate for our international conference as well other events.

For more information and to join ISCI, visit our website, www.childindicators.org. Please fax, e-mail, or send by postal mail your membership form.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Asher Ben-Arieh and Bob Goerge
ISCI Co-Chairs

ISCI News

ISCI CONFERENCE: November 2009

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 be held 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.

Calls for abstracts for contributed papers for the ISCI conference and the symposium will be publicized in the near future.

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Indicators, the newsletter of ISCI, provides 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.

To submit material, please see contact information on page 8.

ISCI News *continued*

Fees (if paid before August 28, 2009):

ISCI Conference:

Members, AU\$370 • Non-members, AU\$450

Pre-Conference Symposium:

ISCI Conference registrants, Free •
Members not attending ISCI Conference,
AU\$170 • Non-members, AU\$200

To register or for more information, write
ISCI_Conference_09@uws.edu.au.

ISCI 2008 Board Meeting

ISCI's board met in October 2008 in Barcelona, Spain, hosted by board member Prof. Silvia Carasco at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Eight board members were joined by a representative from the University of Western Sydney (hosts of the 2009 ISCI Conference) and Enrico Giovaninni, chief statistician of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Following is a summary of the meeting:

- The board approved **ISCI's budget** and financial plan for the next two years. Annual dues were set at US\$75 for Level A countries, and discounts for developing countries and students were kept proportionate to the 2008 rates.
- An overview of our **Child Indicators Research (CIR) Journal** was presented, and board members were

updated on the journal progress and paper flow, both being very promising. In 2009, ISCI will launch its **book series**, "Child Well-Being: Research and Indicators." The first title is expected to be published this fall.

- A decision was made to launch a **recruitment campaign** for members, and the goal was set at 250 paying members by the end of 2009.
- The board was briefed on plans for the **2009 ISCI Conference** in Sydney. Board members expressed great appreciation for the work of the local organizing committee and agreed that we are on track to a great and stimulating conference.
- Special attention was given to future **collaboration with the OECD**, and the participation of Enrico Giovaninni enabled us to build some specific plans. The board also approved collaboration with OECD and others in developing a WIKI-CHILD. Pending available resources, the board supported ISCI being the professional child-oriented partner in this project, as well as the basis for the professional community needed to run the project.
- After a short discussion, the board supported the effort to **continue our collaboration** with UNICEF, Child Watch International (CWI), and the International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS)—as well as to explore possibilities for collaboration with other international organizations.
- Finally, the board decided that the **2011 ISCI Conference** will be in Europe, and encouraged board members and others to explore possible venues so the location can be announced at this fall's conference.

Conferences

Building Safe, Humane, and Responsive Communities for Children and Families

March 30–April 1, 2009 • Westin Poinsett, Greenville, SC, USA

The first annual symposium is co-sponsored by Clemson University's Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life, the American Orthopsychiatric Association, the International Family Therapy Association, and the International Society for Child Indicators.

The deadline for papers is January 30, 2009.
Details are at www.familySYMPOSIUM.com.



Conferences *continued*

Children and the European Union: Legal, Research and Political Perspectives

April 20–22, 2009 • University of Liverpool, England

The Centre for the Study of the Child, the Family and the Law at the Liverpool Law School will host a three-day international conference on children and the EU. This will be the first event of its kind to bring together international, EU, and domestic policy-makers, NGOs, practitioners, academics, and young people in a joint endeavor to critically discuss the EU's emerging children's rights agenda.

Further details, including registration information and a draft conference program, are available at <http://www.childwatch.uio.no/events/conferences/university-of-liverpool-children-and-eu-2009.html>.



International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies Conference

July 19–23, 2009 • Florence, Italy

ISQOLS announces its 9th international conference, to be held in July in Italy. The deadline for paper submission is January 31, 2009 and the deadline for early registration is April 30, 2009.

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>.

Publications and Online Resources

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

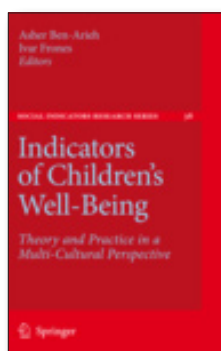
of and access to such data sets, including through working with key partners such as the OECD and developing networks among data producers and users.

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.

For more information, go to http://www.unicef-irc.org/datasets/data_sets.html.

Indicators of Children's Well-Being

The original articles presented in this 2008 volume represent both a set of analyses of families, peers, schooling, communities and the broader social and economic environment of childhood, and an illustration of how the use of indicators enhances understanding of children's risks and well-being. Covering a broad range of topics, from the theorizing of children's well-being to the development of measures at local and national levels, the book also outlines pivotal methodological and conceptual issues. A distinguished,



international group of researchers provides insights into the dynamics of children's well-being, using indicators as a means to confront new phenomena as well as to bridge data and theory.

For more information, see <http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/quality+of+life+research/book/978-1-4020-9303-6>.

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 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.

New Report from the Children of North America Project

In April 2008, a publication entitled *Growing Up in North America: The Economic Well-Being of Children in Canada, the United States and Mexico* was released. The report focuses on key indicators of economic security across the three countries of North America, including income and poverty, food insecurity, housing affordability, and access to health care. The report finds that the countries share many of the same trends, such as large disparities among groups and growing numbers of families saying they are not satisfied with their economic situation.

The report is available at www.childreninnorthamerica.org. 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 (CCSD), and Red por los Derechos de la Infancia (Children's Rights Network) in Mexico.

Publications and Online Resources *continued*

Global Monitoring Report 2008

Millennium Development Goals and the Environment— Agenda for Inclusive and Sustainable Development

Global Monitoring Report 2008, the fifth in an annual series, is essential reading for those who wish to follow the global development agenda and debate in 2008. The year marks the midpoint toward the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is also an important year to work toward a consensus on how the world is going to respond to the challenge of climate change, building on the foundation laid at the Bali climate change conference in December 2007.

The *Global Monitoring Report* spans this agenda. It provides a comprehensive assessment of progress toward the MDGs and related policies and actions. It addresses the challenge of climate change and environmental sustainability and assesses its implications for development.

The report presents a mixed picture, one of both significant progress and formidable challenges. The first MDG, reducing extreme poverty by half, is likely to be met at the global level, thanks to a remarkable surge in global economic growth over the past decade. But on current trends, the human development MDGs are unlikely to be met. Prospects are gravest for the goals of reducing child and maternal mortality, but shortfalls are also likely in the primary school completion, nutrition, and sanitation MDGs. The potential effects of climate change compound the challenge of achieving the development goals and sustaining progress.

The report's messages are clear: Urgent action is needed to help the world get back on track to achieve the MDGs—and to combat climate change that threatens the well-being of all countries, particularly poor countries and poor people.

<http://www.unesco.org/en/education/efareport/reports/2008-mid-term-review/>

The State of the World's Children

The State of the World's Children 2008 assesses the state of child survival and primary health care for mothers, newborns, and children today. These issues serve as sensitive barometers of a country's development and well-being and as evidence of its priorities and values. Investing in the health of children and their mothers is a human rights imperative and one of the surest ways for a country to set its course toward a better future.

For more information, go to

<http://www.unicef.org/sowc08/report/report.php>.

New Report on Child and Youth Well-Being in Australia

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) *Report Card on the Wellbeing of Young Australians* presents a summary of the well-being of Australia's young people. It provides an international perspective and sets a baseline for future monitoring.

The Report Card has eight domains on the health and well-being of young Australians:

- Material well-being
- Health and safety
- Education, training, and employment
- Peer and family relationships
- Behaviors and risks
- Subjective well-being
- Participation
- Environment

The report compares the Australian average, the Indigenous Australian average, and international or OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) performance. It shows that despite economic prosperity, Australian children do not perform as well as modern society would like to think.

To view this report, go to

<http://www.aracy.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/Projects/ARACYReportCard/default.htm>.



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Visit www.childindicators.org

Publications and Online Resources *continued*

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/>

Children's Perspectives on Economic Adversity: A Review of the Literature

This April 2008 UNICEF IRC paper, authored by Gerry Redmond, reviews some of the recent qualitative literature on children's perspectives on economic disadvantage. The idea of asking people who experience disadvantage about their own situations is still a relatively new one in the social sciences, and the idea of asking children about their own perceptions of economic and social disadvantage is even more recent.

Nine analyses, all published since 1998, and all of them involving in-depth interviews or group work with children

ages 5 to 17, are examined in detail. Most of these studies develop frameworks based on the “new sociology of childhood,” which emphasizes the social construction of childhood and children's agency in the context of child-adult relations. The nine studies cover issues related to economic disadvantage, including exclusion from activities and peer groups at school and in the community; perceptions of “poor” and “affluent” children; participation in organized activities outside school; methods of coping with financial hardship; support for parents in coping and in seeking and keeping employment; and aspirations for future careers and lives.

http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/article.php?id_article=91

2009 Education For All Global Monitoring Report

This report from Childwatch International Research Network tracks progress annually toward the Education for All (EFA) goals and offers a comprehensive overview of the state of education in the world today. It provides national and international policy-makers with the analysis of complex issues, lessons learned, and recommendations to provide equal opportunities in learning for all children, youth, and adults.



This seventh edition of the EFA Global Monitoring Report offers a warning to governments, donors, and the international community: If current trends continue, universal primary education will not be achieved by 2015. Too many children are receiving an education of such poor quality that they leave school without basic literacy and numeracy skills. Finally, deep and persistent disparities based on wealth, gender, location, ethnicity, and other markers for disadvantage are acting as a major barrier to progress in education. If the world's governments are serious about Education for All, they must get more serious about tackling inequality.

<http://www.childwatch.uio.no/publications/research-reports/2009-global-inequality-monitoring-report.html>

Other Newsletters

Following are reviews of three other indicator-related newsletters that ISCI members may be interested in.

Measuring the Progress of Societies

The newest newsletter in this area is from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). *Measuring the Progress of Societies* newsletter moves OECD activity from an informal set of notes sent out periodically to a more formal collection of information sent out regularly. It is linked to the OECD's broader efforts to promote the collection and use of indicators of societal progress around the world.

The first issue, published in March 2008, contains articles on the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, Measuring and Fostering the Progress of African Societies, and the Third International Conference on Gross National Happiness, as well as short notes on other topics.

For further information, contact The Editor, Newsletter at progress@oecd.org. To subscribe to the newsletter or obtain more information about the OECD project, visit www.oecd.org/oecdworldforum.

The Child Indicator

The Child Indicator covers major developments within the child and youth social indicators field. It aims to keep those who measure and monitor the well-being of children up to date on developments in the field. The newsletter has been produced three times a year since 1999 by Child Trends through a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Each issue contains a mix of articles on domestic and international topics, recent publications, and other developments.

It is produced electronically only and sent to several thousand subscribers free of charge. The most recent edition of the newsletter (Fall 2008) can be found at

http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2008_11_08_CI_Fall2008.pdf.

To subscribe to *The Child Indicator* or see back issues, go to the Child Trends website, www.childtrends.org.

SINET

SINET (Social Indicators Network News) is the official newsletter of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS), offering a "review of social reports and research on social indicators, social trends, and the quality of life." *SINET* focuses on a variety of indicator topics, including:

- Children, Youth, and Education,
- Health and Aging,
- General Social and Cultural Trends,
- Marketing/Quality of Life Research,
- Social Forecasting/Futurology
- Subjective Well-being and the Quality of Life, and
- International

Subscribers and network participants are invited to report news of their social indicator activity, research, and policy developments to the editor for publication. To submit material for the *SINET* newsletter, send it to the editor, Dr. Ken Land, at Duke University, kland@soc.duke.edu. See <http://www.soc.duke.edu/resources/sinet> for more information.

SINET is published three times a year (February, Summer, and November) for the global social indicators community, with a hard copy mailed to several hundred ISQOLS members and subscribers. Back issues of the newsletter are available free of charge on the ISQOLS website. To join ISQOLS or to subscribe to its newsletter, contact ISQOLS, <http://www.isqols.org/>. Subscriptions are on a calendar-year basis, and rates are US\$26 for libraries/institutions, US\$18 for individuals in the U.S. and Canada, and US\$20 for all others.

Eurochild e-News Bulletin

Eurochild is a network of organizations and individuals who are working 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* comes out every month 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 December 2008 issue is available at http://www.eurochild.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Enews_Bulletin/eNews_Bulletin2008/EUROCHILD_e-News_Bulletin_December_2008.pdf. Past issues can be found at <http://www.eurochild.org/?id=122>.

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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