



# indicators

The official newsletter of the International Society for Child Indicators



September 2009

## ISCI News

Look for  
conference and  
pre-conference  
programs soon at

<http://www.isci09.com/>

### JOIN US FOR ISCI'S 2009 CONFERENCE

#### 'Counting Children In! Child Indicators: Research, Theory, Policy and Practice'

November 4–5, 2009

Pre-Conference Symposium » November 3

ISCI's second conference, to be hosted by the Social Justice and Social Change Research Centre (SJSC), University of Western Sydney, is shaping up to be an exciting event. Make your plans now to attend!

The November 4–5 conference—in conjunction with the SJSC Symposium "Children as Experts in Their Own Lives: Child Inclusive Research" on November 3—promises to be truly global. The two forums have attracted abstract submissions from countries around the world, including



Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Cuba, India, Korea, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the U.S., Norway, and Uganda.

The ISCI Conference will feature a number of short keynote presentations on children rights and child indicators, as well as on issues of theory, measurement and diversity relevant to developing and applying indicators. Keynote speakers are from Australia, France, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, and the U.S.

The SJSC Symposium program will focus on research by children and researching with children. It will include a presentation from a class of children at a Sydney primary school, a keynote presentation from Professor Mary Kellett of the UK, on children as researchers, and a panel of respondents to the keynote paper. Concurrent paper sessions, workshops, and panels from researchers, policymakers, and practitioners coming from diverse perspectives and countries ensure that the conference and symposium will be both informative and dynamic.

Social events include a welcome reception and a conference dinner. At the dinner, to be held in a historical building at Parramatta, a new interactive online source for child well-being research and data, Wikichild, will be launched. These events provide additional opportunities for conference registrants to network and exchange ideas with others who share similar goals and interests around the well-being of children.

### NEW Book Series from ISCI >>

ISCI is launching a new book series published by Springer. Look for the first book, to be released in conjunction with the 2009 ISCI Conference in Western Sydney.

This unique and impressive collection is an outstanding tribute to Alfred J. Kahn, one of the most influential researchers on child welfare in the 20th century. The book provides an exceptional opportunity to "experience" the history of the past 50 years of child welfare as well as its current status and future. It takes the readers through the movement, from a deficit-oriented policy to a developmental model, from a targeted and selective strategy to a universal approach, and from child welfare to child well-being. Written by renowned experts, the chapters are organized into five clusters. The first one includes Al Kahn's last written contribution to the field and looks at how children and families have changed over time as has the research on their well-being. The next two clusters focus on the traditional child welfare system and on different theoretical perspectives. The fourth and fifth clusters focus on economic support for child and family well-being and a discussion of current child well-being issues.



**Indicators**, the newsletter of ISCI, provides information on child indicators with an international audience of researchers, advocates, policymakers, and the media. To submit material, please see contact information on page 7.

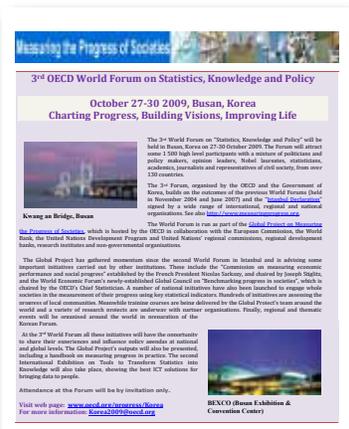
# Conferences

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### Organization 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.



This is an invitation-only conference but several ISCI representatives will be there, including Asher Ben-Arieh and Bill O'Hare.

For more information, go to <http://dd4d.net/Downloads/Busan-World-Forum.pdf>.

### XVII World Congress of Sociology

July 2010 • Gothenburg, Sweden

The World Congress of Sociology and the International Sociological Association will hold a conference next July which will feature a session on childhood indicators. It will be a joint session between Social Indicators and Sociology of Childhood. The co-organizers of the session are Heinz-Herbert Noll ([Heinz-herbert.noll@gesis.org](mailto:Heinz-herbert.noll@gesis.org)) and Doris Buhler-Neiderberger ([bueheler@uniwuppertal.de](mailto:bueheler@uniwuppertal.de)).

A detailed call for papers and more information about the conference can be found at <http://www.isa-Sociology.org/congress2010/rc/rd55.htm>.

## RECENT CONFERENCES

### Child Well-Being Expert Consultation

Co-organized by UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, OECD, and the European Commission

For three days in May, 72 experts from 22 countries and international organizations met in Paris to discuss indicators to assess child well-being from an international perspective. Attendees included 17 OECD experts, four from UNICEF, two from the European Commission, nine from universities around the world, 23 from ministries or national statistics institutions, and 17 from international NGOs and other organizations.



The May 25–27 agenda, which featured nine presentation sessions, a group discussion, and a summary session, is available at [http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_34819\\_42534358\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,3343,en_2649_34819_42534358_1_1_1_1,00.html).

The expert presentations were extremely interesting, and debates at the end of each session were enriching—though differences of opinion were clear.

According to OECD experts, governments are investing huge amounts of money into their children and yet there are few indicators systems appropriate for evaluating the outcomes of such large investments.

Some presenters emphasized the need for helping governments identify and organize data collections that are useful for policymaking. For one Swedish expert, Prof. Janne Jonson, “satisfaction” measures, though evaluative, are not “reasonable political goals,” and “aspiration levels should not interfere in the measure of children’s lives.” He criticized

continued on next page »»





# Data Sources

## MEASURE DHS Provides National Data on Children's Health

**MEASURE DHS (Demographic and Health Surveys)** offers a number of valuable resources for researchers and others in the child indicators field. Following is an overview of the organization and its services.



Since 1984, MEASURE DHS has provided technical assistance to more than 240 surveys in over 85 countries, advancing global understanding of health and population trends in developing countries. Funded by the United

States Agency for International Development (USAID) and multiple other donors, the MEASURE DHS project has earned a worldwide reputation for collecting and disseminating accurate, nationally representative data on fertility, maternal and child health, malaria, HIV, and nutrition. (MEASURE stands for Monitoring and Evaluation to Assess and Use Results.)

Most DHS surveys collect information from 6,500 to 10,000 households including detailed data on children under age five. The DHS provides information on infant and child mortality, children's nutritional status, duration and frequency of breastfeeding, micronutrient intake, vaccination, prevalence and treatment of diarrhea, acute respiratory infection and fever, use of mosquito nets, school attendance, and orphanhood, and related topics, such as parental education and employment, that affect child health. Consistent sampling methods and standard questionnaires ensure that surveys are comparable across countries and over time within one country.

More recently, Service Provision Assessment (SPA) surveys have been carried out in eight countries. The SPA evaluates a nationally representative sample of health care facilities regarding the availability of medicines, equipment and supplies, water, electricity, and infection control, in-service training, and direct observation of provider-client interactions in child health and other services.

The MEASURE DHS Project works hard to make this valuable information widely available. Country reports, user-friendly key findings reports, and analytical studies are available at no charge on the project website ([www.measuredhs.com](http://www.measuredhs.com)). Website tool such as the

STATcompiler ([www.statcompiler.com](http://www.statcompiler.com)) and STATmapper ([www.statmapper.com](http://www.statmapper.com)) allow users to compare child health indicators in many countries and download customized maps and tables for reports and presentations. Researchers are invited to download survey data sets to carry out their own analyses.

Worldwide, policymakers, program managers, and international health agencies rely on DHS data to guide public health programs. In India, for example, Prime Minister Singh was so alarmed at the 2005–06 survey results on child anemia and stunting that he sent letters to the chief ministers in each of India's 29 states requiring them to take immediate measures to improve child nutrition. In Nigeria, projects funded by the British Department of International Development refocused their activities in response to DHS findings showing limited use of mosquito nets.

For more information on MEASURE DHS, go to [www.measuredhs.com](http://www.measuredhs.com).

## Multi-Country IPUMS Data Available from Minnesota Center

The Minnesota Population Center (MPC) offers several free data resources that are useful for studying children's well-being. Because all MPC datasets contain data on individuals and their households, they are ideal for multivariate analysis and creating custom tabulations.



The **Integrated Health Interview Series (IHIS)** includes National Health Interview Survey data from 1969 to 2006. The IHIS includes basic household demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, as well as detailed information on health conditions (such as asthma and birth weight), health care access and insurance coverage, and parents' opinions of a child's social and emotional strengths and difficulties.



continued on next page »»



## Key Websites for Information on Children

Following are some key websites that offer indicators information on children, including governmental and nongovernmental sources. We hope this will be the beginning of an ever-expanding list that we maintain on the ISCI website. Please feel free to send us information on additional sources.

### » UNICEF – State of the World’s Children

(English and Spanish)

[http://www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_42623.html](http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_42623.html)

### » United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

(Adopted in 1989)

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm>

### » UNICEF Monitoring Statistics

<http://www.unicef.org/statistics/index.html>

### » UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

<http://www.unicef-irc.org/>

### » Innocenti Research Centre Database

<http://www.unicef-irc.org/databases/>

### » Chapin Hall/University of Chicago Child Monitoring Project

<http://multinational-indicators.chapinhall.org/>

### » Children of North America

<http://www.childreninnorthamerica.org/>

### » International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI)

<http://www.childindicators.org/>

### » International Data Base at U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/>

## Selected Country Reports

### » Canadian Report

<http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2002/pcc02/index.htm>

### » South African Child Gauge Report

[www.ci.org.za/site/includes/content/general/gauge2007.html](http://www.ci.org.za/site/includes/content/general/gauge2007.html)

### » Kinderen in Tel Data Book (The Netherlands)

[www.kinderenintel.nl](http://www.kinderenintel.nl)

### » Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Ireland)

[www.omc.gov.ie](http://www.omc.gov.ie)

### » Mexico KIDS COUNT Report

La Infancia Cuenta in Mexico

[www.infancia cuenta.org](http://www.infancia cuenta.org)

## United States Reports

### » The Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT

[www.kidscount.org](http://www.kidscount.org)

### » Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics’ America’s Children

<http://childstats.gov>

### » Foundation for Child Development’s Child Well-Being Index

<http://www.soc.duke.edu/~cwi/>

### » Child Trends Data Bank

<http://www.childtrendsdata bank.org/>

### » Children’s Defense Fund

[http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/PageServer?pagename=policyareas\\_stateamericaschildren\\_2008](http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/PageServer?pagename=policyareas_stateamericaschildren_2008)

## ISCI Steering Committee

**Asher Ben-Arieh**, Co-chair

Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

**Robert M. Goerge**, Co-chair

Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, USA

**Jonathan Bradshaw**

Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York

**Silvia Carrasco**

Social Anthropology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

**Elizabeth Fernandez**

School of Social Sciences and International Studies University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

**Ivar Frones**

Department of Sociology, University of Oslo, Norway

**Bong Joo Lee**

Department of Social Welfare, Seoul National University, Korea

**Jan Mason**

Social Justice and Social Change Research Centre, University of Western Sydney, Australia

**Kristin Moore**

Child Trends, Washington, DC, USA

**William O'Hare**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, USA

**Gerardo Sauri**

The Children Rights Network, Mexico

**Editor**

William O'Hare

Senior Fellow, Annie E. Casey Foundation

Please send any material you would like to submit to *Indicators* to:

**Dr. William O'Hare**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

701 St. Paul Street

Baltimore, MD 21202

[wohare@aecf.org](mailto:wohare@aecf.org)

410-547-6600, ext. 2049

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](http://www.childindicators.org)