



THE NDACAN

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Family Life Development Center, College of Human Ecology, Cornell University

NSCAW Documents High Risk Level of Children in Child Welfare System

By Kathryn Dowd
Research Triangle Institute

The Children's Bureau of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has undertaken the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) to learn about the experiences of children and families who come in contact with the child welfare system. NSCAW gathered information associated with over 6,200 children from public child welfare agencies in a stratified random sample of 92 localities across the United States. The first national longitudinal study of its kind, NSCAW examines the characteristics, needs, experiences, and outcomes for these children and families. The study, authorized under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996,¹ provides information about crucial program, policy, and practice issues of concern to the Federal government, state and local governments, and child welfare agencies. Findings from the first two NSCAW reports are abstracted below.

Call for Datasets

The Archive is continually looking for datasets that would be valuable additions to its holdings. Criteria for selection include methodological rigor, scope, relevance and technical quality. If you have data or know of data that would be particularly beneficial to other child maltreatment researchers, please contact us.

One Year in Foster Care Report

The *One Year in Foster Care (OYFC) Wave 1 Data Analysis Report* focuses on a subset of 727 children who had been in foster care for one year when NSCAW began. The study explores important processes and outcomes related to the provision and experience of out-of-home care, including conventional and kinship foster care, group care, residential treatment, and other settings.

Children's age and race. OYFC children in the study range in age from infants to just over 15 years old:

- 24% are between 1 and 2 years old,
- 17% are between 3 and 5 years old,
- 32% are between 6 and 10 years old, and
- 27% are 11 years old and older.

African-American non-Hispanic children make up the largest group (45%), with white children comprising 31%, Hispanic children 17%, and children of other ethnicities 7%.

Type and multiplicity of abuse. Case-workers cited neglect as the most serious type of maltreatment for most OYFC children (60%). About half of these were classified as failure to provide, and the other half as failure to supervise. The most serious types of abuse for the rest were identified as:

- 10%, physical abuse;
- 8%, sexual abuse;
- 14%, emotional, moral/legal, or educational abuse, or abandonment; and
- 8% for reasons other than abuse or neglect (e.g., for mental health services or domestic violence).

Many OYFC children had experienced more than one type of abuse. Neglect was often concurrent with another type of abuse. Children who experienced sexual abuse as the most serious type of maltreatment were the most likely of any children to also experience other kinds of abuse.

Type of placement. One-quarter of OYFC children had gone home by the time of the interview. Among all children still in care, the distribution of placement settings was 58% in non-kin foster homes, 32% in kinship foster homes, and 9% in group homes. Non-kin foster homes were more common than other settings regardless of children's ages, ethnicities, or types of abuse, with kinship care being the second most common placement type. There was one exception: Hispanic children were placed in non-kin foster homes and kin care settings in nearly equal proportions.

Child health. More than one-quarter of the OYFC children have some type of lasting or recurring physical or mental health problem, according to their caregivers. Eight percent have asthma and four percent have severe allergies. Almost 4% reported a difficulty beginning prenatally or at birth. Two percent have a neurological, endocrine, or blood disorder, while 12% have some unspecified health problem.

Child development On standardized measures of cognitive capacities, language development, behavioral problems, and academic achievement, higher proportions of OYFC children

continued on page 4

Archive News

New NDACAN Staff

Holly Larrabee-Warner joined the Archive as its new Support and Acquisitions Specialist in December. Holly serves as the primary contact for both users of Archive data and contributors. In addition to a bachelor's degree in psychology, Holly holds a master's degree in health professions with a specialization in health services research. Prior to joining NDACAN, Holly provided research support and guidance to medical residents at United Health Services in Johnson City, NY. NDACAN is fortunate that Holly has brought her skills and experience to the Archive team.

Data Processing Enhancements

Increasingly, NDACAN's processing of contributed data involves custom

programming and data warehousing. Data are first imported into dedicated Access databases for analysis with in-house Visual Basic programs. Variables are then cleaned, anomalies are documented and the data are exported into a text file for distribution. The benefits include faster processing of cyclical data systems like AFCARS and NCANDS and more compatible distributable files. NDACAN provides data definition statements for importing the text file into popular statistical programs like SPSS, SAS, and Stata.

CMRL E-Mail List Information

Since 1993, NDACAN has operated the Child Maltreatment Research electronic mailing list (CMRL) to encourage information exchange and networking among researchers in the field of child abuse and neglect. It currently

has about 900 subscribers from all over the world and is carefully moderated for appropriate content.

The scope of the discussion includes all areas of child maltreatment research (e.g., epidemiology, etiology, prevention, consequences, intervention, and treatment) and the full range of research issues (e.g., measurement, instrumentation, statistical analysis, and ethics). The list is not open to discussions of program or clinical issues except as they relate to research. All postings to the CMRL mailing list since its inception are available for public viewing on the NDACAN Web site.

To subscribe to the CMRL, send the following line to listproc@cornell.edu after replacing FName and LName with your first and last names:

subscribe Child-Maltreatment-Research-L FName LName

Other Resources for Child Abuse and Neglect Researchers

The National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information

The Clearinghouse is a national resource center for professionals seeking information on the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Among other things, the Clearinghouse maintains a database of publications, audiovisual materials, services, programs, excerpts of state statutes, and ongoing research projects relevant to child maltreatment. The Clearinghouse is a service of the Children's Bureau.

Phone: 1-800-FYI-3366

E-Mail: nccanch@calib.com

Web site: www.calib.com/nccanch

CWLA National Data Analysis System

The Child Welfare League of America, in cooperation with state child welfare agencies, has created the nation's first comprehensive, interactive child welfare database, the National Data Analysis System (NDAS). The NDAS puts child welfare statistics at the fingertips of Internet users, creating customized tables and graphs and providing infor-

mation and links necessary to understand the data. Data are available in the areas of child abuse and neglect, adoption and foster care, fiscal expenditures, and child welfare administration.

Web site: ndas.cwla.org.

Child Trends DataBank

The Child Trends DataBank provides the latest trends on over 70 indicators of child and youth well-being. National estimates are provided and updated frequently. The indicators are presented with plain language summaries and cover the domains of health, social and emotional development, income and work, education, demographics, and family and community.

Web site: www.childtrendsdatabank.org

KIDS COUNT

KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the U.S. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and

national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children.

Web site: www.aecf.org/kidscount/

The Children's Bureau

The Children's Bureau is the oldest federal agency for children and is located within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families. The Bureau seeks to provide for the safety, permanency and well-being of children through leadership, support for necessary services, and productive partnerships with states, tribes and communities. The Bureau is a major funder of research examining the causes, treatment, and prevention of child maltreatment. The Web site provides a great deal of information regarding Bureau programs, federal laws, and major data collection efforts. *Child Maltreatment*, the *Child Welfare Outcomes Reports*, and other federal reports can be accessed from the site.

Web site: <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov>

New Datasets Available from NDACAN

Study Title: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Combined Aggregate File

Principal Investigator: Children's Bureau

NDACAN Dataset Number: 102

Description: The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Combined Aggregate File (CAF) dataset consists of State-specific data of all investigated reports of maltreatment to State child protective service agencies. The NCANDS is a federally-sponsored national data collection effort created for the purpose of tracking the volume and nature of child maltreatment reporting each year within the United States. The CAF is the State-level component of the NCANDS that replaced the Summary Data Component (SDC) beginning in the year 2000. The CAF is created by merging three different NCANDS data sources, the Child File, the Agency File, and the SDC, into a single dataset. NCANDS Case-level data are collected through the Child File data submission. States that submit a Child File also submit an Agency File, which collects State-level data for areas not covered in the Child File, such items as preventive services and screened-out referrals. Other States continued to submit NCANDS data using the SDC survey. Child File data are aggregated to the State-level by key variables and then combined with the data from the Agency file and the SDC to create the CAF. The number of children and families receiving preventive services, the number of reports and investigations of child abuse and neglect, the number of children who were the subjects of reports of abuse or neglect, the number of child victims of maltreatment, the number of child fatalities, the size of the State's CPS workforce, and other statistics are provided in the CAF. Data for from 2000 to 2002 are provided in a single data file. A variable crosswalk to the 1990-1999 SDC dataset is also provided.

Study Title: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Summary Data Component, 1990-1999

Principal Investigator: Children's Bureau

NDACAN Dataset Number: 098

Description: The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Summary Data Component

(SDC) dataset consists of State-specific data of all investigated reports of maltreatment to State child protective service agencies. The NCANDS is a federally-sponsored national data collection effort created for the purpose of tracking the volume and nature of child maltreatment reporting each year within the United States. The SDC is the State-level component of the NCANDS used from 1990-1999. There is also an NCANDS case-level component, known as the Detailed Case Data Component, but those data are not part of this collection. The SDC collects data aggregated at the State level through an annual survey. The survey asks each State to report the number of children and families receiving preventive services, the number of reports and investigations of child abuse and neglect, the number of children who were the subjects of reports of abuse or neglect, the number of child victims of maltreatment, the number of child fatalities, the size of the State's CPS workforce, and other statistics. Data for all years from 1990 to 1999 are provided in a single data file.

Study Title: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), 2002

Principal Investigator: Children's Bureau

NDACAN Dataset Number: 105

Description: The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) is a federally mandated data collection system intended to provide case specific information on all children covered by the protections of Title IV-B/E of the Social Security Act (Section 427). Under the final AFCARS' rule, states are required to collect data on all adopted children who are placed by the state's child welfare agency or by private agencies under contract with the public child welfare agency. In addition, states are required to collect data on all children in foster care for whom the state child welfare agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision.

AFCARS was designed to address policy development and program management issues at both the state and federal levels. The data are also useful for researchers interested in analyzing aspects of the United States' foster care and adoption programs. Tables and other reports summarizing the

AFCARS data are available from the Children's Bureau Web site.

AFCARS' reporting periods extend from October 1 to September 30 of the following year. The National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect distributes two data files for each fiscal year; one file contains adoption data and the other foster care data. Each adoption data file contains 45 elements that provide information on the adopted child's gender, race, birth date, ethnicity and prior relationship with the adoptive parents. The date the adoption was finalized, as well as dates parental rights were terminated, characteristics of birth and adoptive parents, and whether the child was placed from within the United States or from another country are also captured. The foster care data files contain 89 elements that provide information on child demographics including gender, birth date, race, and ethnicity. Information about the number of previous stays in foster care, service goals, availability for adoption, dates of removal and discharge, funding sources, and the biological and foster parents is also included in the foster care files.

Study Title: An Ecological Developmental Perspective on the Consequences of Child Maltreatment

Principal Investigator: Dante Cicchetti

NDACAN Dataset Number: 096

Description: Cicchetti, Lynch, and Manly used the ecological-transactional model of child development to inform a three-part investigation of the links among child maltreatment, environmental conditions, and developmental outcomes. In the first part of the research, the investigators examined the links between community violence, domestic violence, and poverty and the multiple dimensions of child maltreatment assessed by the investigators' classification system. In the second part of the research, the investigators examined the links between child maltreatment and various developmental outcomes. Finally, in accordance with the ecological-transactional perspective, the investigators examined how child maltreatment interacts with other environmental conditions and child factors to shape the path of children's de-

continued on page 8

NSCAW Documents High Risk Level of Children in Child Welfare System

continued from page 1

fall well below national norms than do children in the national samples. The youngest children in the OYFC group appear to be at particular risk: The cognitive domain of the Battelle Developmental Inventory (BDI) was used to assess cognitive development in children aged 3 years and younger. Twenty-eight percent of these children scored two standard deviations or more below the mean on the BDI, compared to less than 2% in the general population;

- The Bayley Infant Neurodevelopmental Screener (BINS) was used to assess the risk of developmental delay or neurological impairment in children aged 3 to 24 months. On the BINS, 56% of OYFC children under age 2 were classified “High Risk”, compared to 14% in the normative sample;

Borderline or clinical-level behavioral problems were reported on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) for 26% of 2- and 3-year olds;

- The Preschool Language Scale-3 (PLS-3) was used to measure language skills of children aged 5 years and younger. Thirteen percent of children ages 1-5 scored at least two standard deviations below the mean;

- Twice the number of children ages 3-5 were considered to have “low” social skills, measured by the Social Skills Rating Scale (SSRS), as expected in a general population (32% vs. 16%).

The performance of older children also was of concern:

- “Low” social skills were reported on the SSRS for 43% of children ages 6-10, and 39% of children ages 11 and up;

- High rates of borderline or clinical-level behavioral problems were noted on the caregiver, teacher, and youth self-report versions of the CBCL (47%, 28%, and 28%, respectively). Externalizing behaviors were of particular concern;

- More than three times as many OYFC children scored below two standard deviations on the Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test (K-BIT) than would be expected in the general population (7% vs. <2%);

- On the Woodcock-Werder-McGrew Mini-Battery of Achievement (MBA), 6% of the OYFC school-aged children scored more than 2 standard deviations below the mean in reading, and 12% in math; elevated rates of depression were

found on the CBCL, but not on the Children’s Depression Inventory.

In general, children in group care have lower social and cognitive development, whereas children in kin care have higher social and cognitive development. Children with a most serious abuse type of sexual maltreatment tend to fare worse than those with other abuse types.

Assessments indicate that large numbers of very young children who come into contact with the child welfare system are at high risk for compromised development.

Caregiver age and race. Current caregivers tend to be middle-aged or older; almost two-thirds (62%) were age 40 or older. In both kin-care and non-kin foster settings, the caregiver’s race generally matches the child’s race: 83% of African American children, 78% of white children, 47% of Hispanic children, and 30% of “other” race children are living with a caregiver of the same race.

Composition of household. The average number of household members in kin-care and non-kin foster homes together is 5.2. Non-kin foster homes have, on average, larger households than kinship care homes. This is because of the greater number of children in non-kin foster homes. About one-in-three children in non-kin foster homes lives in a household with five or more children, significantly more than in kin care settings.

Child Protective Services Report

The *Child Protective Services Analysis Report* provides information about the characteristics of children and families who came into contact with the child welfare system through an investigation by child protective services (CPS). The CPS sample (n = 5,501) includes children whose cases were closed after the investigation, and who remained at home; those who remained at home, but had a case opened to child welfare services; and those who were

removed from their homes as a result of the investigation.

Children’s age, gender, and race. The average age of children in the CPS sample is 7 years. Among these children:

- 19% are less than two years old;
- 20% are between the ages of 3 and 5;
- 36% are between the ages of 6 and 10; and
- 25% are 11 years old and older.

White children make up the largest group (47%) of children involved with the child welfare system, followed by African American children (28%) and Hispanic children (18%).

Living situation. At the time data were collected, the vast majority—89%—of children in the CPS sample were living at home with their permanent primary caregiver, with 35% receiving services and 65% not receiving services from child welfare. Four percent were in foster care, 5% were in kinship foster care arrangements, and 1% were in group care.²

Type and multiplicity of abuse. When asked about the most serious type of abuse reported during the investigation, child welfare workers said that nearly half (46%) came to their attention because of neglect. Of these, “failure to provide” was specified for about 40%, and “failure to supervise” for nearly 60%. The most serious types of abuse reported for the other children were identified as follows:

- 27%—physical abuse;
- 11%—sexual abuse;
- 11%—emotional, moral/legal, or educational abuse, or abandonment; and
- 5%—reasons other than abuse or neglect (e.g., for mental health services or domestic violence).

The most serious type of abuse differed significantly, depending on the child’s age and gender: children under the age of 2 were more likely to have been neglected and less likely to have been physically or sexually

continued on page 5

NSCAW Documents High Risk Level of Children in Child Welfare System

continued from page 4

abused; across age groups, males were more likely to be physically abused and females were more likely to have been sexually abused. Race and ethnicity were not associated with the type of abuse reported.

About three-fourths of the children were reported to have only one type of abuse, and one-fifth have some combination of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Among children with only one type of abuse, those who remain in the home are significantly more likely than children in out-of-home placements to have experienced physical abuse. Children reported to have two types of abuse are more likely to be in out-of-home placement.

Developmental indicators for infants and pre-school children. Standardized assessments indicate that large numbers of very young children who come into contact with the child welfare system are at high risk for compromised development. This is true for children who remain home, either with or without child welfare services, as well as for children who are placed outside the home.

- Fifty-three percent of all CPS children aged 3 to 24 months are classified by the BINS as having a high risk for developmental delay or neurological impairment.

- On the BDI, the mean T scores for the total cognitive domain for CPS children are close to one standard deviation under the normed mean, and 31% of all CPS children aged 3 and younger have a T score that is lower than two standard deviations below the normed mean.

- On the PLS-3, average scores for CPS children were below the normed mean but within one standard deviation, yet 14% of all CPS children aged 5 and younger have a total PLS-3 score that is lower than two standard deviations below the mean.

Cognitive and Achievement test scores. Among children ages 4 and older, cognitive and achievement test scores generally fell within the normal range, although at the lower end. Five percent scored at least two standard deviations below the mean on the K-BIT. MBA reading and math scores of children ages 6 and older tend to be at or

slightly below the mean, but 5% have a reading score and 12% a math score at least two standard deviations below the mean.

Social functioning. As measured by the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Skills Screener, about 30 percent of the children have low or moderately low scores for daily living skills, substantially more than the general population. Overall, as indicated by the SSRS, 38% are classified as having “fewer” social skills—twice the rate for the normative sample.

Psychosocial well-being. Children in the CPS sample are at least five times more likely than the normative sample to have problem behaviors, as indicated by reports from caregivers, teachers, or the young people themselves on the Achenbach scales. Caregiver reports of problem behaviors are significantly more likely for older children and those living in out-of-home settings. Depression, as assessed by the Children’s Depression Inventory, is more common for children in the child welfare system than for children in the general population (15% and 9%, respectively).

Caregiver demographics. The caregiver’s average age is 34; over half are between the ages of 25 and 44. Over half of the out-of-home caregivers are 45 years or older, compared with less than 10% of in-home caregivers; these older out-of-home caregivers are predominantly foster and kinship caregivers. Most are female (90%) and white (51%).

Household size. Across the study population, children involved with the CWS live in households with an average of 4.4 members (including themselves). Children in foster care live in households with an average of 5.5 members, and children live with relatives in foster care in households with an average of 4.9 members. The average number of children in households where the child remains at home is significantly less than the average number of children in out-of-home care. Again, this difference is accounted for largely in nonkinship foster homes, which have a significantly higher average number of children than do kinship care homes.

Child health status. Nearly all caregivers (94%) report that their children are in good, very good, or excellent health, but children involved with the child welfare system are three times more likely to be in fair or poor health than children in the general population. Over one-fourth (28%) of caregivers said their child has a chronic health problem. Among children in out-of-home care, 21% had visited an emergency department due to an illness or injury since the investigation began; over one-third (37%) of children remaining at home had done so during the preceding 12 months.

Child mental health. Overall, 11% of all children in the study are receiving outpatient mental health services for emotional, behavioral, learning, attention, or substance abuse problems, although a range of 37-44% scored in the borderline or clinical ranges on accepted measures of children’s mental health and behavioral and emotional functioning (the Parent, Teacher and Self Reports of the CBCL). Children in out-of-home settings are more likely to receive mental health services than those remaining at home. Among all children remaining at home, those receiving child welfare services and those not receiving services were equally likely to get mental health services, suggesting that CWS involvement does not appear to increase children’s access to mental health services.

Special education. Over one-fourth of caregivers said an education or health professional told them their child had learning problems, special needs, or developmental disabilities. Fifteen percent are receiving special education services. Children remaining at home are significantly less likely than those in out-of-home care to have been assessed for special education needs since the CWS investigation began.

¹ Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Sec. 429A, National Random Sample Study of Child Welfare (PL No. 104-193).

² The percentages of living arrangements outside the home do not total to 11 points due to rounding.

Forthcoming Datasets from NDACAN

Study Title: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), Child File, 2000 and 2001

NDACAN Dataset Number: 099 and 109 (each year is a separate dataset)

Principal Investigator: Children's Bureau

Description: The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Child File dataset consists of child-specific data of all investigated reports of maltreatment to State child protective service agencies. The NCANDS is a federally-sponsored national data collection effort created for the purpose of tracking the volume and nature of child maltreatment reporting each year within the United States.

The Child File is the case-level component of the NCANDS. There is also an NCANDS State-level component, known as the Agency File, but those data are not part of this collection. Child File data are collected annually through the voluntary participation of States. Participating States submit their data after going through a process in which the State's administrative system is mapped to the NCANDS data structure. Submitted data consist of all investigations or assessments of alleged child maltreatment that received a disposition in the reporting year. Records are provided at the level of each child on a report, also known as the report-child pair. Data elements include the demographics of children and their perpetrators, types of maltreatment, investigation or assessment dispositions,

risk factors, and services provided as a result of the investigation or assessment.

Study Title: National Evaluation of Family Preservation and Reunification Programs

NDACAN Dataset Number: 104

Principal Investigator: Westat, Chapin Hall Center for Children, and James Bell Associates

Description: These data were collected through a federally-funded evaluation of family preservation programs. These programs are intended to prevent the placement of children in foster care when it can be avoided. The evaluation focused on programs in four states. Three of the states employed the Homebuilders model, thought by many to be the most promising approach. The fourth site employed a broader, home-based family preservation service model.

The evaluation design was that of an experiment with families randomly assigned either to a family preservation program (the experimental group) or to other, "regular," services of the child welfare system (the control group). Information was collected through interviews with caseworkers and caretakers to examine caretakers' parenting practices, interaction with children, discipline, social networks, economic functioning, housing, abuse and neglect, psychological functioning, child well-being, and caseworker/caretaker interactions. These inter-

views were conducted with the investigating worker, caseworker, and caretaker of each family at the start of services; the caseworker and the caretaker at the conclusion of family preservation services and at a comparable point in time for families in the control group; and the caretaker one year after entry into the experiment.

After each in-person contact with families, experimental and control caseworkers completed a one-page form describing the services provided during the contact. Administrative data provided information on children's placements, reentries, and subsequent abuse and neglect allegations up to 18 months after entry into the experiment. Staff attitudes and characteristics were collected through a self-administered questionnaire. Throughout the project, discussions were held with personnel of the public agency and service provider agency to gather information about agency services, policies, staffing, training, and the context of services.

Study Title: Gallup Poll: Child Abuse Study, 1995

NDACAN Dataset Number: 106

Principal Investigator: Gallup Poll News Service

Description: This opinion study was designed to investigate how parents discipline their children and how parents themselves were raised. A nationwide random telephone survey of 1,000

continued on page 7

Research Published by NDACAN Data Users

Grogan-Kaylor, A. & Otis, M.D. (2003) The effect of childhood maltreatment on adult criminality: A tobit regression analysis. *Child Maltreatment* 8 (2), 129-137.

McCarroll, J. E., Ursano, R. J., Fan, Z., Newby, J. H., (2004) Comparison of U.S. army and civilian substantiated reports of child maltreatment. *Child Maltreatment* 9(1), 103-110.

Smith, B. D. (2003). After parental rights are terminated: Factors associated with exiting foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 25, 965-985.

Thompson, S.J., Maguin, E., Pollio, D.E. (2003). National and regional differences among runaway youth using federally funded crisis shelters. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 30(1), 1-17.

Thompson, S.J., Kost, K.A., Pollio, D.E. (2003). Examining risk factors to predict family reunification for runaway youth: Does ethnicity matter? *Family Relations*, 52(3), 296-305.

Vandivere, S., Chalk, R., and Moore, K. A. (Dec. 2003). *Children in Foster homes: How Are They Faring?* Child Trends Research Brief.

Summer Research Institute 2005

The next NDACAN Summer Research Institute (SRI) is scheduled for June 1 - June 5, 2005. Fourteen individuals will be selected from the pool of applicants. Except for the cost of travel, most expenses will be paid by NDACAN. Diversity scholarships will be available to pay the travel expenses of a small number of participants. To download or review the application, please visit the Archive Web site: www.ndacan.cornell.edu.

Forthcoming Datasets from NDACAN

continued from page 6

parents was conducted between August 15 and September 14, 1995. The survey assessed parental attitudes regarding methods of discipline; agreement on discipline; fights between partners; child rearing; and childhood experience of punishment, abuse between parents, and sexual abuse. The maximum margin of error for the survey was +3 percentage points.

Study Title: Longitudinal Studies of Child Abuse and Neglect (LONGSCAN), Assessments 0-6

Principal Investigator: Desmond Runyan, Ph. D.

NDACAN Dataset Number: 108

Description: LONGSCAN is a consortium of research studies operating under common by-laws and procedures. It was initiated in 1991 with grants from the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect to a coordinating center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and five data collection sites. Each site is conducting a separate and unique research project on the etiology and impact of child maltreatment. While each project can stand on its own merits, through the use of common assessment measures, similar data collection methods and schedules, and pooled analyses, LONGSCAN is a collaborative effort that is truly greater than the sum of its parts.

The goal of LONGSCAN is to follow the 1300+ children and their families until the children themselves become young adults. Comprehensive assessments of children, their parents, and their teachers have been completed at child ages 4, 6, and 8. Data collection at child ages 12, 14 and 16 is in progress. Maltreatment data are collected from multiple sources, including review of Child Protective Service records every two years. Yearly telephone interviews allow the sites to track families and assess yearly service utilization and important life events.

In addition to the specific focus of the individual studies, the coordinated LONGSCAN design permits a comprehensive exploration of many critical issues in child abuse and neglect on a combined sample of sufficient size for unprecedented statistical power and flexibility. Built into the LONGSCAN design is also the ability to replicate and extend findings across a variety of ethnic, social and economic subgroups.

The findings of LONGSCAN will provide a scientific basis for policy-making, program planning, and targeting

service delivery by increasing our understanding of the following:

- the child, family, and community factors which increase the risk for maltreatment in its different forms;

- the differential consequences of maltreatment, depending upon its timing, duration, severity, and nature, and upon the child's age and cultural environment;

- the child, family, and community factors (e.g., chronic exposure to violence, parental substance abuse) that increase the harm caused by different forms of maltreatment;

- the factors that increase the probability of positive child outcomes despite maltreatment and other adverse life circumstances;

- the strengths and weaknesses of various societal interventions such as child welfare programs, foster care, mental health services, parenting classes, etc. Some of the sites are involved in intervention research and evaluation of services, expediting the integration of research findings into policy and practice.

Study Title: National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-being, Waves 1-4

Principal Investigator: Research Triangle Institute

NDACAN Dataset#: 111

Description: The Administration on Children, Youth, and Families and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation have undertaken the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW). NSCAW makes available, for the first time, nationally representative longitudinal data drawn from first-hand reports of children and families or other caregivers who have had contact with the child welfare system. Data from service providers are also collected. NSCAW is the first national study to provide detailed information on the experiences of children and families with the child welfare system and to collect measures of well-being for this population.

The NSCAW is designed to address the following questions:

- What paths do children follow into and through the child welfare system?

- What factors affect investigation, services, placements, and length of involvement?

- What are the long- and short-term outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system in terms of safety, well-being, and permanence?

The target population for the NSCAW includes all children and families that enter the child welfare system. Two samples were drawn from the population in 92 participating county child welfare agencies throughout the nation. The CPS sample includes 5,501 children, who were between the ages of 0 and 14 years at the close of the investigation. All investigations for the sample were closed between October 1, 1999 and December 31, 2000. The second sample consists of an additional 727 children, who were in out-of-home care for about 12 months at the time of sampling. This second group, referred to as the One Year in Foster Care (OYFC) Sample, was selected to allow special analysis related to the experience of out-of-home care.

Waves 2, 3, and 4 take place 12, 18, and 36 months after the close of the investigation.

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The NDACAN staff are:

John Eckenrode, Ph.D.
Director

Elliott G. Smith, Ph.D.
Associate Director

Michael Dineen, M.A.
Coordinator of Technical Services

Holly Larrabee-Warner, M.S.H.P.
Support and Acquisitions Specialist

Andrés Arroyo
Administrative Assistant

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Edited by the Archive staff.
Layout by Andrés Arroyo.

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
Cornell University
Family Life Development Center
Beebe Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853

Phone: 607-255-7799
Fax: 607-255-8562
E-mail: NDACAN@cornell.edu
Web site: www.ndacan.cornell.edu



The mission of the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect is to facilitate the secondary analysis of research data relevant to the study of child abuse and neglect. By making data available to a larger number of researchers, NDACAN seeks to provide a relatively inexpensive and scientifically productive means for researchers to explore important issues in the child maltreatment field.

Special NSCAW Research Meeting Held at Cornell

The archive was pleased to host a special meeting focused on the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW; see lead article) from June 2-6. Occasionally the Archive has run such meetings instead of its regular Summer Research Institute as a way to focus attention on an important data set that has great potential for secondary analysis and at a time when such a meeting might be most useful in encouraging researchers to begin work with the data.

In attendance were 18 researchers selected through an application process, representing diverse fields of study, including social work, developmental

psychology, pediatrics, psychiatry, public health, sociology, and health policy. Expert faculty and staff from the NSCAW research team from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Research Triangle Institute were also in attendance and led the sessions on the first day related to NSCAW study design, measures, weighting and estimation, and data analysis. They included Rick Barth, Katy Dowd, Paul Biemer, Susan Kinsey, Sharon Christ, and Chris Wiesen. Sharon and Chris stayed on as statistical consultants for the remainder of the meeting which involved participants working on the NSCAW data in a computer lab.

This format worked quite well, as confirmed by evaluations received from participants at the end of the meeting. In comparing this meeting to other professional meetings they had attended, participants gave this meeting an average rating of 4.8 on a 5-point scale (poor to excellent). In what is becoming an annual tradition, the meeting coincided with the Ithaca Festival, a yearly celebration that features an eclectic opening parade, food, arts and crafts, and music.

For 2005 we will return to our regular Summer Research Institute format. If you are interested in applying please visit our website.

New Datasets from NDACAN

continued from page 3

development and their subsequent adaptation.

Three hundred children between 7 and 12 years of age were recruited to participate in this study. One hundred sixty-eight children (56% of the sample) had been identified as legally maltreated by the local department of social services and had their caregivers referred to study investigators by so-

cial service caseworkers. A demographically similar comparison group of 132 non-maltreated children was recruited from the roll of families receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

Both groups of children participated in week-long, 30 hour day camp sessions during the summers of 1995 and 1996. Measures of the children's interpersonal functioning, self-functioning,

cognitive functioning, and symptoms of distress were assessed through self, peer, and counselor ratings. Concurrently, primary caregivers were interviewed about community and home violence. One-year longitudinal data were obtained for 95% of the child participants. Follow-up measures were identical to those used during the first wave except that parent-report ratings were not obtained.