



THE ARCHIVE

UPDATA

Family Life Development Center, Cornell University

Fall 1990

INTRODUCING A NEW RESOURCE

The National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect is a centralized facility which acquires, processes, and preserves high quality data sets relevant to the study of child abuse and neglect. Funded by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect in the Fall of 1988, the major purpose of the Archive is to facilitate the secondary analysis of existing research data. Based on the premise that high quality data, once generated, should be fully and effectively exploited by as many researchers in the field as possible, the Archive makes available to a diverse audience existing high-quality data sets in machine-readable form, thereby increasing their utility. The Archive encourages researchers to ask new questions of existing data to extend our knowledge about the problem of child maltreatment.

The Archive is set up to: serve as a focal point for researchers in the field to locate each other, collaborate on projects, exchange information, and disseminate results of their research; increase access to and use of existing high quality empirical research related to child abuse and neglect, which in turn will increase the number of research studies being conducted, and therefore increase the visibility of child maltreatment research; contribute to the expansion of more sophisticated data analysis strategies and theory building; and lead to higher quality research being conducted in the field.

Where is the Archive located?

Operation of the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect is managed by staff of Cornell University's Family Life Development Center which has been conducting research, training and public service in the field of child abuse and neglect for the past 15 years.

The Archive is located within the facilities of the Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research (CISER), a university wide organization which promotes interdisciplinary programs of research in the social sciences at Cornell. As part of this function, the Institute operates

the CISER Data Archive which is a repository of computerized data files in the areas of demography, economics, psychology, sociology, and political science.

What does the Archive do?

In consultation with its Advisory Committee, made up of nationally recognized researchers in the field, the Archive identifies potential data sets for acquisition based on their methodological rigor, scope, relevance, and technical quality. Once acquired, data sets are transformed into standard formats and their documentation is improved.

Supporting materials are developed for each data set to instruct potential users as to its contents, special strengths, and limitations. The Archive staff provide technical assistance to users regarding particular data sets and materials.

Resources and Materials Available from the Archive:

★ List and description of the Archive's holdings

★ Individualized Instruction Manuals for each data set which provide:

- an overview of the study
- a description of the available machine-readable files and printed materials
- a report on the data set's completeness and consistency based on analyses performed by the Archive staff
- codebooks
- instruments
- references/publications resulting from the data set

★ Machine readable files. For each data set in the Archive, we will make available a tape with the raw data file and program statements to convert the raw data into a SAS or SPSS-X system file.

★ Supplemental printed materials. For users desiring hard-copy documents, we will make available a printed copy of the statistical software setup statements, the variable and value lists, and the frequencies and statistics for each data set. We will also provide a copy of the original instruments when available.

CURRENT HOLDINGS

The following ten data sets are currently on-line in the Archive and available for analysis and dissemination:

Bolton Jr., F.G. (1985) Maricopa County, Arizona Study of Child Maltreatment Risk Among Adolescent Mothers

This study examines whether the incidence of child maltreatment was higher among natural children born to adolescent mothers, compared to that obtained for children born to post-adolescent mothers. A random sample of 5,098 observations was drawn from the child maltreatment cases referred to the Maricopa County unit of child protective services in Arizona between 1/1/76 - 12/31/78.

Eckenrode, J. and Doris, J. (1985) Substantiation of Child Abuse and Neglect Reports

This study identifies factors that significantly increase or decrease the likelihood that a child maltreatment report will be substantiated once an investigation occurs. A specific concern of the study was to investigate the size and nature of the difference in substantiation rates for reports originating from professional sources mandated by law to report suspected cases of child maltreatment compared to reports from non-professional sources, such as relatives and neighbors. A representative sample of 796 sexual abuse, 198 physical abuse and 880 neglect reports were obtained from the New York State Child Abuse and Maltreatment Register. Types of data collected included background variables, such as sex and age of the subject child; the source of the report; actions that took place after the report was filed (e.g., court action), and the case determination.

Eckenrode, J. and Laird, M. (1989) Maltreatment and the Academic and Social Adjustment of School Children

A major goal of this study was to explore the extent to which child abuse and neglect are associated with deficits in school performance and social adjustment in the school setting. Data were derived from a population of 8600 enrolled public school children in a rural upstate New York community. A review of the State Central Register records showed that 1400 of the 8600 school children had indicated reports of abuse or neglect. Data were obtained for 500 abused and neglected youth and 500 matched controls (including achievement tests, grades, educational services, attendance, mobility, behavioral problems).

Lewis, I.A. (1985) Los Angeles Times Poll

This opinion study was designed to determine the prevalence of childhood sexual abuse among a national sample of adult men and women and to identify characteristics of victims and risk factors associated with childhood sexual victimization. The sampling frame included all residential telephones in the United States. 2629 men and women 18 years or older were contacted by telephone during an eight day period in July of 1985. Knowledge and attitudes about sexual abuse were ascertained and information was gathered about the respondents' personal life circumstances.

NCCAN (1980) National Study of The Incidence and Severity of Child Abuse and Neglect

Conducted by NCCAN and mandated by Congress, this study is the first large scale effort to assemble information, based on standardized definitions, about the scope and character of recognized child abuse and neglect in the United States. From findings obtained in a probability sample of 26 counties in 10 states, national estimates are derived of the numbers and char-

acteristics of abused and neglected children who: a) are referred to CPS agencies for treatment, b) are not referred to CPS but are known to other investigatory agencies which may handle abuse/neglect situations (e.g., police, court, public health depts, etc.) or c) are not known to either of the above but are identifiable from other community institutions, particularly schools and hospitals.

NCCAN (1988) Study of the National Incidence and Prevalence of Child Abuse and Neglect

The purpose of the second national incidence study was to assess the current national incidence of child abuse and neglect, and to determine how the severity, frequency, and character of child maltreatment changed since the first national incidence study. As a follow-up to the first national incidence study, this study followed essentially the same design.

Office of Human Development Services/ACYF (1989) Youth Information Form Data from Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

These data were gathered from federally funded runaway and homeless youth shelters during 1988-1989. Data were collected on over 40,000 youth who received services from runaway and homeless youth programs. The following types of information are included in the data set: demographic characteristics, youth and family presenting problems at intake (including history of abuse and neglect), and services provided by the shelter.

Straus, M. and Gelles, R. (1976) Physical Violence in American Families

This study was conducted in 1976 at the University of New Hampshire. 2134 respondents were interviewed in a nationwide sample of 960 males and 1183 females. The purpose of the study was to ascertain methods of conflict resolution within the family. Information was gathered regarding the following areas: resolution of conflicts between spouses and between parents and children, including detailed information on the development of conflicts resulting in violence, resolution of conflicts in respondent's childhood family, family power structure, marital closeness and stability, personality, and stress factors.

Straus, M. and Gelles, R. (1985) Physical Violence in American Families - A Resurvey

A representative national sample of 5000 families were studied with an emphasis on the psychological and medical consequences, and costs of intra-family violence, and help-seeking patterns.

Zuravin, Susan J. (1984-1985) Fertility and Contraception Among Low-Income Child Abusing and Neglecting Mothers in Baltimore, MD

This study examined fertility patterns and contraceptive behaviors of mothers who either neglect, physically abuse, or allow someone else to physically abuse their children. The 518 women in the sample were residents of Baltimore in January of 1984, received Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), were known to have at least one natural child 12 or under, and were not living with a legally wedded spouse. The sample was broken down into three groups: 118 women with one or more physically abused children, 119 women who were known to personally neglect one or more children, and 281 women who were not known to have any children who met study criteria for abuse or neglect.

ORDER FORM

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
Cornell University
Family Life Development Center
MVR Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853-4401
(607)255-7794
Fax: (607)255-8562

Fall 1990

Please send me the following Data Sets (\$75 for the first Data Set; \$25 for each additional Data Set in same order; \$15 for documentation only).

Eckenrode, J. and Doris, J. Substantiation of Child Abuse and Neglect Reports
 Tape & Documentation Documentation only

Eckenrode, J. and Laird, M. Maltreatment & the Academic & Social Adjustment of School Children
 Tape & Documentation Documentation only

Lewis, I.A. Los Angeles Times Poll
 Tape & Documentation Documentation only

NCCAN National Study of the Incidence and Severity of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-1)
 Tape & Documentation Documentation only

NCCAN Study of the National Incidence and Prevalence of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-2)
 Tape & Documentation Documentation only

OHDS/ACYF Youth Information Form Data from Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs
 Tape & Documentation Documentation only

Straus, M. and Gelles, R. Physical Violence in American Families
 Tape & Documentation Documentation only

Straus, M. and Gelles, R. Physical Violence in American Families: A Re-survey
 Tape & Documentation Documentation only

Order the Bolton and Zuravin data sets directly from the Data Archive on Adolescent Pregnancy and Pregnancy Prevention (DAAPPP), Sociometrics Corporation, 170 State Street, Suite 260, Los Altos, CA 94922-2812 (415) 949-3282

ORDERED BY (Name, Address, and Telephone Number):

Please keep me on your mailing list

Special Research Meeting

Although its primary function is to preserve and disseminate data, the Archive also serves as a mechanism to bring researchers together and facilitate networking activities. In light of this mission, the Archive sponsored a Special Research Meeting for an invited group of scholars who have been conducting important research in the area of child abuse and neglect. The meeting was held at Cornell University, June 1-3 1990, and focused on one of the data sets currently in the Archive, the Second National Incidence Study (NIS-2). About 15 researchers attended the two-day meeting during which time they shared results and discussed methodological issues and other concerns related to secondary data analysis. One of the major objectives of the meeting was to develop strategies to facilitate the utilization and dissemination of NIS-2. The Archive is currently developing a supplemental instruction manual for NIS-2 which will help researchers work with this highly complex but rich data set. Further information about the meeting can be obtained from the Archive.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deborah Daro, DSW

National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse

Byron Egeland, Ph. D.

University of Minnesota

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.

Family Violence Research Laboratory, University of New Hampshire

Jim Garbarino, Ph. D.

Erikson Institute

Eli Newberger, M.D.

Boston Children's Hospital

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

John Eckenrode, Ph.D., Principal Investigator

Jane Powers, Ph.D., Project Director

John Doris, Ph.D., Director Family Life Development Center

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Cornell University

Family Life Development Center

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