

THE NDACAN

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Family Life Development Center, New York State College of Human Ecology, Cornell University

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) Description and Information

By the NSCAW Research Group

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PL 104-193) authorized the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to conduct a longitudinal study intended to answer a range of fundamental questions about the outcomes for abused and neglected children and their involvement in the child welfare system. The resulting study, named the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being, or NSCAW, was designed by a federal steering committee at DHHS with consultation from a wide range of child development and child welfare experts to address crucial program, policy, and practice issues of concern the federal, state, and local governments, and child welfare agencies. NSCAW is the first national study of child welfare to collect data from children and families, and the first to relate child and family well-being to family characteristics, experience with the child welfare system, community environment, and other factors. Other studies have been national in scope but have involved sampled agency files or obtained information from professionals, and have not surveyed children or families. Data from the NSCAW baseline is now available through NDACAN licensing

agreements with researchers.

NSCAW examines the interplay among the history and characteristics of children and families, their experiences with the child welfare system, other concurrent life experiences, and outcomes. The study brings to bear perspectives from child welfare, child development, and other fields to focus on children's well-being, including their health and physical well-being, social functioning, academic achievement, mental health, and behavioral adjustment. These factors are placed in the context of developmental stage, prior experience, caregiver behavior, social services use, and community environment. By drawing on these different perspectives, the study aspires to provide new understandings of how family, child, community, and service factors affect children's well-being, and to provide the

foundation for improving policies, programs, and practices. Key questions that the study intends to answer include the following: Who are the children and families that come into contact with the child welfare system? What pathways and services do children and families experience while in the child welfare system? What are the shorter and longer term outcomes for these children and families?

The NSCAW cohort 6,231 children, ages birth to 14 (at the time of sampling), who had contact with the child welfare system within a fifteen-month period which began in October, 1999. These children were selected from two groups: 5,504 interviewed from those entering the system during the reference period (October 1999 - December 2000), and 727 from among children who had

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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.

Archive News

New Staff Hired

NDACAN welcomes Sarah Johnson as its new Coordinator of Technical Services. Sarah holds a Master's degree in developmental psychology and will work with the Coordinator of Data Services to process newly acquired

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datasets, update dataset documentation, and provide technical assistance to clients. The Archive also welcomes Veronica Banks as its new Coordinator of Data Services. Veronica holds a Master's degree in public health and has provided editing and data management support at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan and, most recently, at the Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center at Cornell University. Veronica replaces former Coordinator of Data Services Anne Heberger, M.S.W., who moved to Canada to pursue her career goals.

NDACAN Online Services Upcoming Enhancements

This year will see a new look for the NDACAN Web site (www.ndacan.cornell.edu) that incorporates navigation buttons and a cleaner layout. In addition, the Web site will include timely announcements and updates relevant to the field, enhanced search capabilities, and online training modules.

CMR-L Mailing List Update and Information

Since 1993, NDACAN has operated the Child Maltreatment Research electronic mailing list (CMR-L) to facilitate information exchange and networking

among researchers in the field of child abuse and neglect. It currently has over 1,000 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. There is no fee for joining or using the Child Maltreatment Research list. To subscribe, send an e-mail message from the address that will receive the postings to lyris@cornell.edu containing only the following line:

`subscribe Child-Maltreatment-Research-L Fname Lname`

Replace Fname and Lname with your first and last names. To unsubscribe from the list, send an e-mail message from the address to be removed to lyris@cornell.edu containing only the following line:

`unsubscribe Child-Maltreatment-Research-L`

All postings to the CMR-L mailing list since its inception are available for viewing on our Web site: www.ndacan.cornell.edu.

Summer Research Institute 2002

The next NDACAN Summer Research Institute has been scheduled for May 28 - June 2, 2002. Twelve applicants will be selected on a competitive basis and participants generally represent a wide variety of disciplines (e.g., psychology, medicine, epidemiology, social work). Applications for the 2002 Summer Research Institute will be available in October 2001. To download or review the application and information about scholarship possibilities, please visit our Web site (www.ndacan.cornell.edu) or e-mail your request to NDACAN@cornell.edu in October 2001.

Children's Bureau Online Reports and Publications

The Children's Bureau (CB) is the oldest federal agency for children and is located within the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families. It is responsible for assisting states in the delivery of child welfare services - services designed to protect children and strengthen families. The agency provides grants to states, tribes and communities to operate a range of child welfare services including child protective services (child abuse and neglect), family preservation and support, foster care, adoption and independent living.

In addition, the agency makes major investments in staff training, technology and innovative programs.

The Children's Bureau Web site (www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/index.htm) makes important publications and reports available to researchers online in HTML and PDF (Portable Document Format). Files in PDF require a free utility called Adobe Acrobat Reader available from www.adobe.com. NDACAN has found the following two publications useful for general U.S. child maltreatment information:

Child Maltreatment 1999 - Reports from the States to the National Child

Abuse and Neglect Data Systems

National statistics on child abuse and neglect (4/2001)

HTML: www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm99/index.htm

PDF: www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm99/cm99.pdf

Child Welfare Outcomes 1998 - Annual Report

This is the first in a series of annual reports required by the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) (09/2000)

HTML: www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cwo98/index.html

PDF: www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cwo98/ChildWelfare1998.PDF

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) Description and Information

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been in out-of-home placement for about 12 months at the time of sampling. These 6,231 children were selected from 92 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) in 97 counties nationwide. The sample of investigated/assessed cases includes both cases that receive ongoing services and cases that are not receiving services, either because they were not substantiated or because it was determined that services were not required.

This sample design required oversampling of infants (in order to ensure that we would have enough cases going through to permanency planning), sexual abuse cases (in order to ensure that we would have enough cases to have the statistical power to analyze this kind of abuse alone), and cases receiving ongoing services after investigation (to ensure adequate power to understand the process of services). The age of children at investigation was capped at 14 years of age to increase the likelihood that youth could be located - a task made more difficult when youth emancipate. This approach allows for generation of national estimates for the full population of children and families entering the system, with power to consider key subgroups of the child welfare population. In response to the mandate in the authorizing legislation, the sample was also designed to calculate state-level esti-

mates for the eight states with the largest numbers of CPS cases.

Both children who remain in the system and those who leave the system will be followed for the full study period. The current overall study design provides for:

- baseline face-to-face interviews or assessments with children, their parents or other permanent caregivers, nonparent adult caregivers if applicable (e.g., foster parents and custodial kin caregivers), teachers (for school-aged children), and child welfare investigators
- interim interviews at 12 months after the close of the investigation or assessment, focused on the services received since the baseline interview. With the current caregiver, these interviews are primarily conducted by telephone, although families that cannot be contacted by phone are interviewed in person, and include a brief child well-being measure. This round also includes interviews with services caseworker, conducted in person.
- another round of face-to-face interviews or assessments with children, their parents or other permanent caregivers, nonparent adult caregivers if applicable (e.g., foster parents and custodial kin caregivers), teachers (for school-aged children), and child welfare workers at 18 months after the close of the investigation or assess-

ment

The project team is beginning to analyze the baseline data, and reports on the foster care sample component will be available in Fall, 2001 and on the CPS sample component in early Spring, 2002. A Methodology Report will also be released in Spring, 2002.

The National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being was undertaken under a contract funded and administered by the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The study has been conducted through collaboration among staff at the Research Triangle Institute (RTI), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), Caliber Associates (Caliber), and the University of California at Berkeley (UCB). The ACYF project officer is Mary Bruce Webb. Co-Principal Investigators are Richard P. Barth (UNC School of Social Work), Desmond Runyan (UNC Social Medicine Department), and Paul P. Biemer (RTI).

Questions about obtaining NSCAW data can be directed to Elliott Smith, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect Project Manager, egs1@cornell.edu. Please direct general questions to Kathryn Dowd, NSCAW project director (kld@rti.org, (919-541-6262)).

Summer Research Institute 2001 Report

Each year NDACAN sponsors a Summer Research Institute (SRI) on the Cornell University campus for child maltreatment researchers. During the Institute participants analyze a NDACAN dataset with the support of NDACAN staff and statistical consultants from the University's Office of Statistical Consulting. One of the Institute's goals is to facilitate completion and publication of a medium-term, secondary data analysis project by combining hands-on experience and classroom instruction.

During their five days on the Cornell campus, participants work with their chosen dataset during morning and afternoon computing sessions. Statistical consultants are available for one-on-one consultation at these times. In addition, participants attend lectures describing statistical methods and various Cornell faculty research projects. Throughout their stay they have a chance to network with each other and with Cornell staff

and faculty.

To insure a diverse group of participants, NDACAN awarded travel fellowships to two minority researchers and one graduate student this year. The 12 individuals selected to attend the 2001 SRI represented such varied fields as pediatrics, social work, psychology, and law. Their research interests included child abuse and neglect among Native Americans, the foster care experience of children with disabilities, perpetrator characteristics in cases of severe abuse or fatality, and contextual factors that influence the relationship between maltreatment and children's adjustment in school.

2001 SRI participants consistently rated their experience as productive and enjoyable. They particularly enjoyed two of this year's presentations, Karen Grace-Martin's Statistical Workshop on Logistic Regression and John Eckenrode's Findings of the Prenatal/Early Infancy Project: An Adolescent Fol-

low-Up. Those working with the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) appreciated the technical assistance of Jeff Johnson from Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc., who also provided the most recent NCANDS data.

This year's Institute coincided with the Ithaca Festival, a yearly celebration of life in Ithaca that features a parade, music, arts and crafts, and international foods. Participants enjoyed the festivities, and the 2002 SRI is scheduled to again coincide with the Festival. Next year will be the tenth SRI. Over the years NDACAN has hosted more than 100 researchers at the event, a number of whom have been able to contribute to the maltreatment literature as a result of the accelerated start they got during the SRI. If you are interested in learning more about the SRI, please visit our Web site (www.ndacan.cornell.edu).

New Datasets Available from NDACAN

Longitudinal Studies of Child Abuse and Neglect (LONGSCAN), Assessments 0-4

NDACAN Dataset Number: 87

Principal Investigator: LONGSCAN Consortium

Description: The Longitudinal Studies of Child Abuse and Neglect (LONGSCAN) is a set of five coordinated research projects using ecological-developmental theory to examine the antecedents and consequences of child maltreatment. Study samples were selected to vary systematically by level of risk; participants range from a community sample with no identified risk beyond low-income status to a group of children removed from their homes for maltreatment and placed in foster care. Participants also vary by level of social service involvement. Participants at one site were the subjects of social service reports prior to a finding in their case; at another site, children whose maltreatment was confirmed and whose families were referred for family intervention were enrolled. While each study focuses on a different high-risk population, they all share a prospective design and a core set of common measures.

The study sites are in four primarily urban locations and one statewide location. All children were enrolled in

their first four years of life. They will be followed into adulthood with extensive interviews of the children and their caregivers scheduled at 4, 6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 years of age. Beginning at age 6 data will also be collected from the children's teachers. Brief yearly contacts with the caregivers will occur between major data collection points to assess yearly service utilization and important life events. Periodically, Child Protective Services case narratives and Central Registry records will be reviewed. Data collection from multiple informants will measure outcome variables as well as intervening variables that may influence the link between risk status and income. Assessments 0-4 data include the results of instruments administered during visits 0 through 4. The visit number roughly corresponds to the child's age at the time the assessment was administered.

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-being (NSCAW)

NDACAN Dataset Number: 92

Principal Investigator: Runyan, D.; Barth, R.; Biemer, P.

Description: (*Adapted from 1998 Annual Report Summary*)

In 1996, Congress directed the Secretary of the Department of Health and Hu-

man Services to conduct a national study of children who are at risk of abuse or neglect or are in the child welfare system. The Congress directed that the study follow children over time; collect data on the types of abuse or neglect involved, agency contracts and services, out-of-home placements; and yield reliable state-level data. The Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF) has undertaken the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW). The study is designed to address crucial program, policy, and practice issues of concern to federal, state, and local governments, and child welfare agencies. It is the first national study of child welfare to collect data from children and families, and the first to relate child and family well-being to family characteristics, experience with the child welfare system, community environment, and other factors. NSCAW will collect and analyze nationally representative longitudinal data from first-hand reports from children, parents, and other caregivers, as well as reports from caseworkers and teachers. Children are sampled and serve as the unit of analysis. Other respondents are eligible due to their relationship

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Forthcoming Datasets from NDACAN

National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, Detailed Case Data Component (NCANDS), 1998
NDACAN Dataset Number: 89
Funding Agency: Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Description: The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) is a voluntary national data collection and analysis system created in response to the requirements of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. The NCANDS consists of two parts: the Summary Data Component (SDC), a compilation of key aggregate child abuse and neglect statistics from all states, including data on reports, investigations, victims, and perpetrators; and the Detailed Case Data component (DCDC), a compilation of automated case-level data, facilitating analysis of the relationships among key variables related to child abuse and neglect. The NCANDS DCDC contains case-level

information on substantiated and unsubstantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, Detailed Case Data Component (NCANDS), 1999
NDACAN Dataset Number: 90
Funding Agency: Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Description: *See description for NCANDS 1998.*

Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System (AFCARS), 1999

NDACAN Dataset Number: 91
Funding Agency: Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Description: The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) is the first federally mandated data collection system intended to provide case specific information on

all children covered by the protections of Title IV-B of the Social Security Act (Section 427). Under the final AFCARS rules, states are required to collect case specific data on all children in foster care for whom the state child welfare agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision. States are also required to collect data on all adopted children who were placed by the state child welfare agency or by private agencies under contract with the public child welfare agency. In addition, they are encouraged to report private adoptions that are finalized in the state. The AFCARS data is designed to address policy development and program management issues at both the state and federal levels. It is also useful for researchers interested in analyzing aspects of the United States' foster care and adoption programs. Tables summarizing the AFCARS data are available from the Children's Bureau home page on the World Wide Web.
August 31, 2001

New Datasets Available from NDACAN

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with one or more sampled children. 9,400 children (aged 0-14) from the child protective services (CPS) sample; 1,100 children in the long-term foster care. Number of completed CPS interviews is 5,504 and LTFC interviews is 727.

Decision-making in Child Protective Services: A Study of Effectiveness, Phase I, 1997

NDACAN Dataset Number: 83

Principal Investigator: English, D.

Description: Investigators in the Office of Children's Administration Research in the Department of Social and Health Services of Washington State compared child protective services (CPS) referrals that were substantiated to those classified as inconclusive or unsubstantiated. The primary objectives of their study, the Child Protective Services Decision-Making Study, were to examine the decision-making criteria used by CPS workers and to assess the effectiveness of criteria associated with major CPS decisions. Factors influencing decisions and subsequent outcomes for families such as re-referral, recurrence, and placement were examined.

The analytic dataset was drawn from all CPS referrals accepted for investigation between July 1, 1994 and June 30, 1995. All cases in the set met the following criteria: summary referrals were

completed by September 30, 1995; duplicate referrals were removed; length of service was less than 240 days; overall risk rating as well as some risk variables were present; cases did not have a review or transfer status; and cases had a single type of abuse. Of the 41,652 calls CPS accepted for investigation during the target year, 12,978 met criteria for inclusion in the dataset.

In addition to abuse history and demographic data, the file contains the results of a risk assessment performed using a 37-item Risk Factor Matrix. The Matrix includes assessments in the following domains: child characteristics; severity of abuse or neglect; chronicity; caretaker characteristics; caretaker relationship; social and economic factors; and perpetrator access.

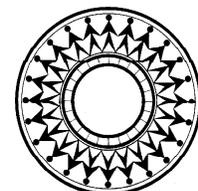
Parenting Among Women Sexually Abused in Childhood

NDACAN Dataset Number: 85

Principal Investigator: Benedict, M.

Description: Funded by the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, this study examined the direct and indirect impacts of childhood sexual abuse on maternal attitudes, perceptions, and behavior. The study's participants were a subset of 357 primiparous women interviewed at 28 to 32 week's gestation between the fall of 1990 and early 1992. At the time of

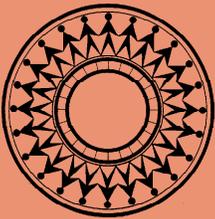
the initial interview, almost 35% of the women reported sexual abuse before age 18. In 1995 and 1996, 265 women, 74% of the original sample, were re-interviewed when their children were between two and four years old. In this sample 40% of the respondents had been identified as sexually abused in the first study. In the follow-up interview variables measuring parenting outcomes included: child-rearing competence, satisfaction, and efficacy; parenting stress; discipline practices; and family functioning. Variables measuring possible mediating factors between a history of sexual abuse and parenting practices included: education, occupation, income, family structure; current physical and mental health parameters, particularly depressive symptomatology; perceived current stresses unrelated to parenting; current family violence or sexual victimization; and parental sense of mastery. The data file distributed for this study contains 265 cases and 556 variables.



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**The 2002 Summer Research Institute is scheduled for May 28 - June 2, 2002.
Applications will be available in early October.**



The mission of the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) 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.

Other Resources for Child Abuse and Neglect Researchers

The National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Infor- mation

The Clearinghouse is a service of the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect and provides a national resource center for professionals seeking information on the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Their contact information is: National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information, P.O. Box 1182, Washington, DC 20013
Phone: 1-800-FYI-3366
E-Mail: nccanch@calib.com
Web site: www.calib.com/nccanch

The Child Abuse Prevention Net- work

The Child Abuse Prevention Network (Web site: child-abuse.com) is an online resource center for professionals in the field of child abuse and neglect. The Network provides tools to support the identi-

fication, investigation, treatment, adjudication, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

National Resource Center for In- formation Technology in Child Welfare (NRC-ITCW)

The mission of NRC-ITCW is to assist state, local, and tribal child welfare agencies and the courts to improve outcomes for children and families through the use of information technology. This online resource assists front line workers, supervisors, and administrators in child welfare, as well as judges and court administrative personnel, in using technology and information to inform policy and practice in child welfare. NRC-ITCW also supports states and courts in meeting the requirements of the Adoption and Safe Families Act and other federal mandates. Web site: www.nrcitcw.org.

National Data Analysis System (NDAS)

The Child Welfare League of America, in cooperation with the state child welfare agencies, has collected the nation's first comprehensive, interactive child welfare database: the National Data Analysis System (NDAS). The NDAS harnesses technology to promote effective integration of research, policy, and practice. The NDAS puts child welfare statistics at the fingertips of Internet users, creating customized tables and graphs and providing information and links necessary to understand the data. Web site: <http://ndas.cwla.org>.

