



THE NDACAN

UPDATE

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

2004 NCANDS Child File: Most Comprehensive to Date

The Archive began distributing the 2004 Child File from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) earlier this summer. These data represent the most complete set of child protective services data ever released to the research community.

The geographic coverage of the 2004 dataset is unprecedented. Forty-four states and the District of Columbia are included. Unlike previous years, all states that submitted Child File data to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are included in the research dataset.

The dataset contains case-level data for every child abuse and neglect investigation concluded during the federal fiscal year. As a re-

sult of the more complete coverage and the detailed nature of the case records, the analysis file is quite large, containing over three million records.

Data elements in the Child File include information regarding characteristics of the report and the investigated child, the nature of the alleged maltreatment, the risk factors associated with the child and the caregiver, post-investigation services provided to the family, the demographic characteristics of the perpetrators and their level of involvement with each type of maltreatment.

In the past, permission to archive the Child File data was granted on a state-by-state basis. As a result, fewer than half of the submitting

states were included in the dataset that the Archive released to researchers.

However, with input from state representatives and members of the NCANDS Technical Team, the Archive developed a data release plan that was approved by the NCANDS state representatives at their annual technical assistance meeting in 2004. It was agreed that the plan would take effect with the data that was submitted for 2004.

The plan balances the researcher's need for complete and detailed case level data while also protecting the confidentiality of the individuals within the Child File. The Archive has made tar-

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NCANDS Child File Data Package Now Includes a Sample File

Users who have used NCANDS in the past will notice that an additional data file has been included in the 2004 package. The file is called, with a nod to poetry, "Sample2004.dat." This file contains a stratified systematic sample of the data in the full file (Child2004_v1.dat). The sample file has the same format and structure as the full data file; it just has fewer records. There are 10,447 records in the sample file, compared to 3,134,026 records in the full data file.

Now that many more states are contributing to NCANDS -which is a good thing- the size of the file is now such that it has become time consuming to load and run analyses in statistical software packages. The purpose of the sample file is to provide researchers with a smaller set of data that they can use it to inspect the data and develop and test their programs. When they are satisfied with their code syntax, they can (and should) run it on the main dataset.

The sample file is a valid sample of the original, so any peculiarities in the data, such as inconsistencies across states or counties in what data they provide, will be apparent. Researchers can use the sample to explore the data, running frequencies and cross-tabs and such. Proportions found in the sample should hold for the whole data set. We wanted around 10,000 records in the sample, because we thought that size would be large enough to provide reasonable estimates, while still being small enough to run tests quickly.

The sample data is provided only for your convenience. It should not be used for final analyses, counts, or to produce any other results that will appear in reports.

Archive News

Product Changes: User's Guides and Data

To meet increased user demand, NDACAN will no longer distribute paper copies of its dataset user guides. All documentation will be provided in electronic format with the data on CD or DVD. Through this change, the Archive will reduce waste and expedite order processing. All user guides are available for free download on the NDACAN Web site.

Many of NDACAN's older datasets are distributed in SPSS Portable and SAS Transport formats. The Archive is in the process of moving these datasets to our current method of distribution: text data files with SPSS and SAS import statements. This change will preserve future compatibility of the data and ease transition as contemporary statistical software changes.

CMRL Electronic Mailing List

NDACAN operates 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. Visit the NDACAN Web site to get subscribing instructions or to browse all past CMRL postings: www.ndacan.cornell.edu.

Summer Research Institute (SRI)

The NDACAN Summer Research Institute (SRI) is a sponsored research session held on annually on the Cornell University campus in Ithaca, NY. Researchers choose a dataset in the Archive to analyze before and during the SRI. At the Institute, participants spend lab time with Archive staff available to advise and assist. Daily lectures highlight relevant analysis methods and showcase results from selected child welfare studies. The goals of the SRI are to facilitate research work that will yield publications in the literature and to enable researcher networking and collaboration.

Update Going Electronic

This is our last printed *Update* newsletter. From now on *The NDACAN Update* will be distributed electronically through e-mail and on the Archive Web site. Future issues will be more frequent but shorter in length. If you have suggestions for content or would like to contribute an article, please e-mail us: NDACAN@cornell.edu.

Recent Publications Using Data at NDACAN

Gibbs, Deborah A., Richard Barth, Barbara T. Dalberth, Judith Wildfire, Stephanie R. Hawkins, & Shelly Harris (2004). Termination of parental rights for older foster children: Exploring practice and policy issues. Report prepared by RTI International for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Children and Families; Administration on Children, Youth and Families; Children's Bureau. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
[AFCARS]

Guo, S., Barth, R., et al (2006) Propensity Score Matching Strategies for Evaluating Substance Abuse Services for Child Welfare Clients. *Children and Youth Services Review* 28: 357-383.
[NSCAW]

Libby, A. M., Orton, H. D., et al. (April 2006) Alcohol, drug, and mental health specialty treatment services and race/ethnicity: A national study of children and families involved with child welfare.

American Journal of Public Health 96(4).
[NSCAW]

Mitchell, L. B., (2005) Family structure and use of corporal punishment by low income mothers. School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley.
[LONGSCAN]

Wertheimer, R., A. Atienza, of Child Trends (2006) Vulnerable Youth: Recent Trends; A report to the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
[NCANDS]

New Datasets Available from NDACAN

Study Title: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS); Child File 2004

Principal Investigator: Children's Bureau

NDACAN Dataset Number: 119

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 annual national data collection effort created for the purpose of tracking the volume and nature of child maltreatment reporting. 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. States participate on a voluntary basis and 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: Longitudinal Studies of Child Abuse and Neglect (LONGSCAN) Assessments 0-9

Principal Investigator:

LONGSCAN Consortium

NDACAN Dataset Number: 121

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, 16, and 18 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 in-

creasing 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 Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Combined Aggregate File, CAF Federal Fiscal Year 2004

Principal Investigator: Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

NDACAN Dataset Number: 120

Description: The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Combined Aggregate File (CAF) dataset 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

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Forthcoming Datasets from NDACAN

Study Title: Social Relationships of Physically Abused Schoolchildren

NDACAN Dataset Number: 112

Principal Investigator: Salzinger, S.

Description: This study examined the social relationships and behavior of physically abused schoolchildren. Its emphasis on peer relationships was based on the fact that abused children's basic socializing and support system — their relationship with family — was expected to be damaged and give rise to internalizing and externalizing problems. Their peer networks therefore were expected to play a disproportionate role in their adaptive functioning in many domains of development. Family relationships, operating through social learning and social cognitive processes, were expected to influence children's social behavior, giving rise to aggressive and antisocial behavior. Such behavior was hypothesized to raise the risk for lowered social status with peers which in turn was expected to lead to internalizing and externalizing problem behaviors. For abused children who managed to establish good relationships with peers, such relationships might mitigate the effects of abuse on later functioning.

The sample consisted of 100 physically abused urban schoolchildren (65 boys, 35 girls) ages 9-12 years and in grades 4-6, and 100 non-abused classmates case-matched for gender, age, and, as

closely as possible, for race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. Control subjects were screened for abuse by interviews with their caretakers about the handling of disputes among household members, and by scanning the Abuse Register to ascertain that their names did not appear during the 4 years we were recruiting abuse cases.

Abused children were recruited from confirmed cases of physical abuse in consecutive entries onto the Abuse Register from 1992 to 1996. Children who were sexually abused were excluded, but children who were neglected as well as physically abused were not. The first 100 families meeting study criteria and agreeing to participate were enrolled. Practically all the children were of minority status.

Sociometric assessments were carried out in the 100 classrooms of the abuse/control pairs to determine subjects' sociometric status among same-gender classmates; interviews were conducted with the children about their friends and understanding of social relationships; interviews were conducted with their parents about family and household demographics, family stressful life events, mental health of the child's major caretaker, and intra-family relationships; classmates rated the children's prosocial and antisocial behavior; and teachers and parents rated children's problem behavior.

The study proposed an ecological model that designated family stress as the principal exogenous factor, with effects on outcome mediated through caretaker distress, partner violence, and physical child abuse. Outcomes included parent-, teacher- and peer-rated child behavior. Results were consistent with the hypothesis that partner violence and caretaker distress, both associated with family stress, increase the risk for child abuse and thereby raise the child's risk for problem behaviors.

Study Title: Adolescent Outcome of Physically Abused School Children

NDACAN Dataset Number: 117

Principal Investigator: Salzinger, S.

Description: This study is designed to assess the outcomes in mid to late adolescence of preadolescent physically abused and matched non-maltreated children who are currently being studied at ages 9-12 years. The outcome domains to be assessed are (1) Global adjustment, and the more specific domains of (2) Mental health, (3) Academic functioning, (4) Risk behavior, (5) Aggression/Delinquency, and (6) Personal relationships. For each, the path from pre-adolescent physical abuse to adolescent outcome is examined with respect to a va-

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New Datasets Available from NDACAN

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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. A variable crosswalk to the 1990-1999 SDC dataset is provided. Please note: In 2003, States began submitting their data according to the Federal Fis-

cal Year (October 1, 2002 - September 30, 2003) rather than the calendar year.

Study Title: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), 2004

NDACAN Dataset Number: 123

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Forthcoming Datasets from NDACAN

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riety of mediating factors hypothesized to protect against or exacerbate the effects of the abuse. These mediators, chosen on the basis of the previous studies of abused children and on other data in the child development literature, are all measured prior to adolescence. They are conceptualized as individual (e.g., the child's mental health, social behavior, social understanding), transactional (e.g., social status among peers, attachment, parenting), and contextual (e.g., family adversity, maternal psychopathology). Each of the models is retested as well with pre-adolescent exposure to family violence and community violence added to child abuse (as the causal variable). The children that are being proposed for study when they are adolescents consist of 100-confirmed cases of physical abuse recruited from the NYC Child Welfare Administrator Register and 100 non-maltreated classmates matched case by case for gender, age, ethnicity, and SES. They are being assessed now in preadolescence by means of classroom sociometry and peer behavior ratings, by individual child interviews, by teacher and parent ratings of behavior, and by parent interviews and questionnaires on family demographics, adversity, family conflict, including domestic violence, and on parenting discipline practices. The proposed assessments of outcome, as close as possible to age 17, will be carried out by means of adolescent interviews and questionnaires, teacher and parent interviews and questionnaires, and an interview and questionnaire administered to a best friend of each adolescent. Not all abused children have poor outcomes, but as a group, they are demonstrably at risk. The study's main purpose is to identify some important factors influencing the path from abuse to outcome and thereby to target possible points where intervention in childhood might avert some of abuse's costly individual

and societal consequences.

Study Title: Child Neglect - Cross Sector Service Paths and Outcomes (CSSPO)

NDACAN Dataset Number: 116

Principal Investigator: Jonson-Reid, M.

Description: Despite consensus about the need to coordinate services for neglected children and their families due to the co-morbidity of neglect with other social problems, we lack even a basic understanding of the cross-sector service patterns of this population. CSSPO will address this knowledge gap through a large-scale longitudinal analysis of cross-sector utilization by neglected children and their families which is linked to outcomes at the family (e.g. family reunification, etc.) and child (e.g. death, incarceration) levels. Using administrative data drawn from education, health, juvenile justice and social service, agencies, this accelerated panel study compares the cross sector service paths and outcomes of children in families receiving AFDC and reported to child welfare agencies for (1) neglect (n=4,880), (2) physical abuse (n=1,394), (3) sexual abuse (n=358); and, (4) more than one type of maltreatment (n=1,242). These groups will be compared to a matched group of children in families receiving AFDC in 1993, but not reported to child welfare agencies (n=8,000) Within each sample group, children aged birth to 12 years will be grouped into four age cohorts (birth to 3 years, 3 to 6 years, 6 to 9 years, and 9 to 11 years) and followed for eight years (1993-2001). The accelerated panel designs allows for the statistical analysis of 19 years of development in only eight years. This proposal addresses several gaps in the research as identified by the current RFA, combining a focus on service delivery with consideration of consequences (our outcomes) related to neglect. The

study will examine: (1) Cross-sector service use consideration of consequences (our outcomes) related to neglect. The study will examine: (1) Cross-sector service use consideration of consequences (our outcomes) related to neglect. The study will examine: (1) Cross-sector service use (sequence, frequency, co-occurrence & duration) in the five study groups. (2) The relationship of service patterns to later child and adolescent outcomes (e.g. mortality, foster care entry, entry into Special Education, etc.). (3) The later child and adolescent outcomes (e.g. mortality, foster care entry, entry into Special Education, etc.) (3) The association between positive family outcomes in child welfare and income maintenance programs (e.g. employment reunification, etc.) with child and adolescent outcomes. Analyses will be conducted within an ecodevelopmental framework, examining the influence of neglect while controlling for child, family, service sector use and community level factors.

Study Title: Factors that Influence the Decision Not to Substantiate a CPS Referral

NDACAN Dataset Number: 107

Principal Investigator: English, D.

Description: The State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services will examine the characteristics of child protective services (CPS) referrals that are more likely to be unsubstantiated compared to referrals classified as inconclusive (indicated) or substantiated. The objectives of the study are to 1) identify the factors that influence the decision not to substantiate a CPS referral; 2) identify the characteristics of CPS referrals that are more likely to be unsubstantiated or inconclusive compared to those that will be substantiated; and 3) determine if families reported to CPS but un-

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substantiated differ significantly in their potential for abuse, subsequent re-referral, and perceptions of the impact of CPS investigations from families reported and found indicated or unsubstantiated. The study will include analysis of administrative data, as well as interviews with a sample of 200 CPs caseworkers and 300 families that have been referred to CPS.

Study Title: Study of Father's Involvement In Permanency Placement Planning And Child Welfare Casework

NDACAN Dataset Number: 122

Principal Investigators: Malm, K., Geen, R., Triplett, R.

Description: Most foster children are not living with their fathers at the time they are removed from

their homes. While in foster care these children may experience even less contact with their nonresident fathers. This study examined child welfare practices with respect to identifying, locating, and involving fathers of children in foster care including whether child support resources were used. Local agency caseworkers were interviewed by phone about nearly 2,000 foster children in four study states. The study found that nonresident fathers are not often involved in case planning and nearly half were never contacted by the child welfare agency.

The study was conducted in four states, Arizona, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Tennessee, using three methods of data collection-interviews with child welfare administrators, case-level data collection through interviews with caseworkers, and data linkage between child welfare and child support systems. We interviewed local agency caseworkers about particular cases between October 2004 and February 2005 to examine front-line practices related to nonresident fathers. Cases were selected from among children who had been in foster care for at least 3 months but no more than 36 months. Children in the sample were all in foster care for the first

time (first placement episode), and the child welfare agency's records indicated that each of the children's biological fathers were alive but not living in the home from which the child was removed. Additionally, only one child per mother was eligible for the study.

Data on 1,958 eligible cases (83% response rate) were collected through telephone interviews with 1,222 caseworkers. The nonresident fathers of the children sampled represent a varied group. While most caseworkers, at the time of the interview, knew the identity of the fathers of children in the study's sample (88%), paternity had not yet been established for over one-third of the total sample's children (37%). A comparison with mothers found that demographic characteristics of identified nonresident fathers are similar to those of the resident mothers though fathers are slightly older (36 vs. 32 years old, on average) and more likely to have been married at some point. As expected, caseworkers appear to know less about nonresident fathers. The percent of "don't know" responses is much higher for nonresident fathers than for similar questions about resident mothers.

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geted modifications to the Child File that eliminate users' ability to deduce the identity of individuals in the file. For example, a handful of variables, including the child's date of birth, are dropped from the dataset. Also, geographic information for child fatalities and children from small counties are masked, and the report date is rounded to one of two days during the month.

In addition to modifying the data, the Archive has instituted a new data licensing procedure. Researchers apply to use the Child

File data, describing their research purposes and developing a data protection plan. As a part of their application, researchers show that their research has been authorized by the human subjects review board at their institution, and all users with access to the data must agree to the terms of the data license. The license is also signed by a representative of the researcher's institution.

With these measures in place, researchers have access to the most comprehensive set of child maltreatment data ever released.

Other Resources for Child Abuse and Neglect Researchers

Child Welfare Information Gateway

Formerly the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information and the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse, Child Welfare Information Gateway provides access to information and resources to help protect children and strengthen families. A service of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

www.childwelfare.gov

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 information 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.

<http://ndas.cwla.org>

ChildStats

The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics (the Forum) is a collection of 20 Federal government agencies involved in research and activities related to children and families. The Forum's annual report, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being*, summarizes national indicators of child well-being and monitors changes in these indicators over time.

www.childstats.gov

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 which cover the domains of health, social and emotional development, income and work, education, demographics, and family and community.

www.childtrendsdatabank.org

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.

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/

Chapin Hall Center for Children

Centered at the University of Chicago, the Chapin Hall Center studies and reports on economic programs for youth and families, child welfare services, community resources for child and youth development, community development strategies, and education. Chapin Hall has three publication series: *Chapin Hall Reports* lay the conceptual foundation for innovative

thinking and action in child, family, and community policy or present results from large-scale documentation and evaluation projects; *Chapin Hall Discussion Papers* are timely and topical treatments of subjects on Chapin Hall's research agenda; *Chapin Hall Working Papers* provide access to early work in a line of inquiry and research designed for a highly targeted audience. All Chapin Hall publications are distributed in printed form and most are also available electronically free of charge.

www.chapinhall.org

Crimes Against Children Research Center (CCRC)

Based at the University of New Hampshire, CCRC provides research and statistics to the public, policy makers, law enforcement personnel, and other child welfare practitioners. CCRC is concerned with research about the nature of crimes including child abduction, homicide, rape, assault, and physical and sexual abuse as well as their impact.

www.unh.edu/ccrc/

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.

www.aecf.org/kidscount/

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. Please contact us if you have data or know of data that would be particularly beneficial to other child maltreatment researchers.

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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.

New Datasets Available from NDACAN

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Principal Investigator: Children's Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services

Description: The AFCARS, or Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, is a federal data collection effort that provides child-specific information on all children covered by the protections of Title IV-B and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. On an annual basis, all states submit data to the U.S. Children's Bureau, concerning each child in foster care and each child who has been adopted under the authority of the state's child welfare agency. The AFCARS databases have been 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.

The Archive distributes two data files for each federal fiscal year since 1995, one file containing the adoption data and the other the foster care data. The adoption file contains 45 data elements concerning the adopted child's gender, race, birth date, ethnicity and prior relationship with the adoptive parents. The date the adoption was finalized, 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 file contains 89 elements providing 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.

Summer Research Institute 2007

The next NDACAN Summer Research Institute (SRI) is scheduled for May 30 - June 3, 2007. Applications are due January 15, 2007 and twelve to fifteen individuals will be selected. 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.