

The Child Indicator

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Edited by:
Brett Brown
Sharon Vandivere

Written by:
Brett Brown
Susan Jekielek
Erik Michelsen
Juliet Scarpa
Berkeley Smith
Sharon Vandivere

Designed by:
Fanette Jones and
Chris Mazzatenta

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Using the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey to Illuminate Child Well-Being

Kerri L. Rivers and Mark Mather, Population Reference Bureau

In early 2002, the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) and the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) will publish a special report on children. The report will present changes from 1990 to 2000 for the nation, 50 states, and the District of Columbia for several risk factors including children in poverty, children in working poor families, children living with a householder who is a high school dropout, and children without secure parental employment. The report will show 1990 census data and 2000 data from a special survey, the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey (C2SS).

In 2000, the Census Bureau conducted the C2SS, a nationwide survey of approximately 700,000 households in 1,203 counties. The C2SS program collected data similar to those available from the Census long form (i.e., social, economic, and housing data) using the American Community Survey (ACS) questionnaire. The C2SS program was implemented during 2000 to compare the results for states and selected communities with those from the Census long form, as well as to determine the operational feasibility of conducting the ACS at the same time as the decennial census. The purpose of the ACS is to provide communities with reliable, annual estimates that can be used to administer programs, distribute funds, and to monitor social, demographic,

and economic trends. Such local-area data currently are collected once every 10 years in the long form of the decennial census.

Data users and the general public can benefit immediately from the C2SS. The Census Bureau recently released state-level data from the C2SS – several months in advance of the 2000 Census long form data. In November 2001, the Census Bureau released additional C2SS data for cities and counties with 250,000 or more people. A second supplementary survey for 2001 (SS01) is currently underway and a third survey (SS02) will be conducted in 2002. Combined, these three datasets will provide a comprehensive look at social and economic change in states and large cities during 2000-2002.

It is important to note that C2SS data are experimental. This is the first time the Census Bureau has conducted a survey of this magnitude outside of the decennial census program, and it is “a necessary and important first step in exploring a redesigned short-form only census in 2010.” (Statement made by Kathleen Cooper, the Commerce Department's under secretary for economic affairs in an August 6, 2001 press release.) Because of differences in the questionnaires and methodologies, the C2SS yields different results than the

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Statement of Purpose

The goal of **The Child Indicator** is to communicate major developments within each sector of the child and youth indicators field to the larger community of interested users, researchers, and data developers on a regular basis. Each issue includes articles on projects and programs using child and youth indicators at the national, state, and community levels, with occasional reports on international projects. In addition, we

feature new developments in scientific research and data development, as well as useful resources including publications, web sites, and listservs. By promoting the efficient sharing of knowledge, ideas, and resources, **The Child Indicator** seeks to advance understanding within the child and youth indicators community and to make all its members more effective in their work.

State Scene

Census 2000 supplementary Survey, continued from page 1

2000 decennial census. One methodological difference between the two surveys is that the 2000 census included people in group quarters, whereas the C2SS collected data from those living in households only. Another methodological difference is that the 2000 census collected data from people as of one day – April 1, 2000. The C2SS, on the other hand, was conducted throughout the calendar year. When 2000 Census long form data are released in 2002, they are expected to differ from the social and economic data available from the C2SS.

That being said, from a data user's standpoint, the C2SS and ACS programs have many advantages. They provide timely data from a well-trusted source that are comparable over time and across geographic areas. Many organizations that currently rely on administrative records will be able to use the ACS to compare the status of children in their communities with surrounding jurisdictions, their state, or the nation as a whole. The C2SS surveyed 700,000 households, which is more than ten times the sample of the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). If Congress approves funding for the ACS program, the survey will be administered nationwide in 2003 to approximately 3 million households annually.

The Census Bureau has published 107 "core" tables from the C2SS, including data on age, gender, poverty status, family type, participation in school lunch programs, school enrollment, care-giving by grandparents, and fertility rates for teens between 15 and 19 years of age. Data are currently available for states, and data for sub-state areas (250,000+ population) were released on November 20, 2001. The Census

Bureau also plans to produce a Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) on CD-ROM, which will allow data users to produce custom tabulations with the C2SS data. For instance, the PUMS file could be used to determine the number of children whose families are in poverty and are not receiving cash assistance. The PUMS data are scheduled to be released sometime in 2002.

If the ACS gets funded by Congress, the 2000 C2SS data may become the baseline for future trend data. The Population Reference Bureau and Annie E. Casey Foundation decided to take advantage of this resource and take an in-depth look at how children at risk have fared from 1990 to 2000. The goal is to provide the KIDS COUNT network and other child advocates with the latest data available on child well-being and also to demonstrate the usefulness of the ACS program. The report is scheduled to be published in January/February 2002.

For a more detailed description of the ACS, please refer to volume 1, issue 1 of *The Child Indicator* (available online at www.childtrends.org) or visit www.census.gov/acs/www. Information about the C2SS and data tables are available on the Census Bureau's website at <http://www.census.gov/c2ss/www/Products/index.htm> or <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

For information on the upcoming report being prepared by PRB and AECF, contact Mark Mather at mmather@prb.org.

Micro-level Census Data Available for Analysis through IPUMS



If you have ever found yourself limited by existing tabulations of census data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau—and if you have some facility in analyzing micro-data—you will find IPUMS to be a great resource. Analysts at the Minnesota Population Center (MPC) of the University of Minnesota created the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) in 1997. The system currently consists of individual- and household-level data from decennial censuses from 1850 to 1990, extensive documentation and an on-line data-extraction tool for those who want to analyze their own data using SAS, SPSS, Stata, or some other statistical software, or the choice of two user-friendly tabulation tools for those who don't.

The MPC plans to add the 1 percent sample of the 2000 Census data to the IPUMS three to four weeks after its release by the U.S. Census Bureau. As soon as the sample is released, the MPC will post an expected "IPUMS inclusion date" on the "news" page of their website (<http://www.ipums.umn.edu/usa/news.html>). Interested users should start checking the website in the second half of 2002.

The IPUMS includes almost all the data gathered in the original census enumerations. The main exception is that, due to confidentiality rules established in 1940, information such as names or addresses that could be used to identify specific individuals or households is not available to the public. Pre-1940 samples do include residential addresses, but starting in 1940, only places with more than 100,000 individuals (or more than 250,000 in 1960 and 1970) are identified. Estimates can be produced at the city or state level using IPUMS data.

IPUMS includes data on:

- n fertility
- n marriage
- n immigration
- n internal migration
- n labor-force participation
- n occupational structure
- n education
- n ethnicity
- n household composition.

The IPUMS website points out that although later census years tend to include a broader range of variables than earlier years, the variables included in the earlier censuses often include more detail or more categories than later years.

In the past, creating tables of historical trend data was difficult because different years of data were available in inconsistent formats. One of the greatest benefits of IPUMS is that each sample of data has a similar record layout, coding scheme, and documentation for 13 consecutive censuses. For example, although no two censuses include exactly the same variables, IPUMS uses the same variable names where possible and stores the raw data for a particular variable in the same spot in the file from year to year. IPUMS analysts created two versions of many variables: a general code, serving as a "lowest common denominator" representing categories of data available in every sample, and a detail code that allows categories within the variable to differ across samples so that the highest level of detail is also retained.

An on-line data dictionary shows which variables are available for which years. Users can click on a link to get a variable description, which includes the population universe for each year, an explanation of the variable with notes on comparability from year to year, and special user notes (denoted by a little bomb with a burning fuse!) that alert you to potential problems you may encounter. A second link will take you to a screen showing codes and frequencies for the variable for each sample.

Additionally, a single on-line data extraction system allows you to extract data simultaneously for multiple years of data. To extract the data, you need to register on the IPUMS website. The

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Neighborhood Change Database (NCDB)

Peter Tatian, The Urban Institute

The Urban Institute and Geolytics, Inc. are producing a new data resource that will enable policy makers, community organizations, and researchers to examine and analyze changes that have occurred in U.S. neighborhoods over the past three decades. The Neighborhood Change Database (NCDB) will combine tract-level data from the 1970 – 2000 decennial censuses into one easy-to-use product. It will be the only source of publicly available census data with variables and tract boundaries that are consistently defined across census years. The effort is being supported with funds from the Rockefeller Foundation. The NCDB is intended to be user-friendly to a wide variety of audiences. The first NCDB data are expected to be made available by the end of 2001.

The NCDB builds upon a previous Urban Institute effort called the Under Class Database (UDB), which was initially created in 1989. The UDB contains social, demographic, economic, and housing data for census tracts in the United States from the 1970, 1980, and 1990 censuses.

The NCDB will combine data from the UDB with new information from Census 2000. A standard set of indicators will be provided for each of the 65,232 census tracts in the United States. Census tracts are locally-determined geographic units, ranging in size from 2,500 to 8,000 persons. Tracts are meant to approximate “neighborhoods” by capturing a group of residents with similar population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions. Tracts can be used by themselves as units of analysis, or as the building blocks to create larger neighborhood areas.

It is envisioned that the NCDB will serve any number of useful purposes for those interested in the well-being of neighborhoods and communities. For instance, it will be possible to measure changes in the concentration of poverty in neighborhoods over time, along with other measures of family risk, such as single-parent families and unemployment. The NCDB can be used to study patterns of racial and ethnic segregation in cities and metropolitan areas. Or, it can be a source of data for neighborhood “report cards” or to help identify areas for service delivery or targeted interventions.

To be able to make accurate comparisons of neighborhoods over time, one must adjust for the way tract boundaries get redefined. Using GIS technology and taking advantage of Geolytics’ access to geographic boundary files for previous censuses, a methodology has been developed to “remap” earlier data to a

standardized set of 2000 census tract boundaries. As a result, the NCDB will be able to provide data that will make it possible to compare neighborhood conditions consistently across time. Furthermore, each tract will be identified according to the city, county, and metropolitan area in which it is located. Like tracts, the definitions of these areas also change from time to time, making comparisons across years difficult. The NCDB will therefore allow consistent analysis of data for these larger geographies, too.

The NCDB is being designed to be easy to use by a variety of audiences. NCDB data products will be released on CD-ROM using Geolytics’ proprietary data compression and mapping technology. The data can be accessed using the menu-driven, user-friendly mapping and analysis software included on the same CD-ROM, or the data can be extracted for use in external database, mapping, and analysis packages. Pricing for the NCDB products will include significant discounts for community-based nonprofit organizations.

The NCDB will have two separate releases, corresponding to the release of Census 2000 short and long form data. The Preliminary NCDB will be based on the “short form” data. This version will include only the basic population and housing characteristics (race, ethnicity, age, household and family type, housing tenure) from the short form questions answered by all households for the 1970 – 2000 decennial censuses.

The Final NCDB will be based on the complete set of “long form” questions that were asked of about one out of every six households in the census. These data include additional detailed population, household, and housing characteristics, including income, poverty status, education level, employment, housing costs, immigration, and other variables of interest for research, social policy, and community building.

Based on the Census Bureau’s current plans for the release of Census 2000 data products, the Preliminary NCDB is expected to be available in December 2001 and the Final NCDB in July 2003. These dates are subject to change, however, depending on the actual release of Census 2000 data.

The NCDB project is co-directed by Peter Tatian and Tom Kingsley at the Urban Institute. For more information, please contact them at nnip@ui.urban.org.

The Children's Health Survey (CHS) is a new survey from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) that will provide health data about children at the state level. Children's health is broadly defined for this survey, allowing for the inclusion of a variety of indicators of well-being in addition to common measures of physical health. Researchers are currently recommending child well-being measures for the survey, which will be fielded in 2003.

The CHS will consist of a core survey with additional age-specific modules. The survey uses standard questions, most taken from other existing surveys for early childhood, middle childhood, or adolescence. Data collection will take one year, after which a public use data file will be available for anyone to analyze. The areas covered by the CHS will include the following:

- n Health and Functional Status
Including: perceived health, presence of a special health care need, emotional and behavioral health, oral health, height and weight, maternal and paternal health habits, and maternal and paternal health status.
- n Health Insurance
- n Health Care Access and Utilization
- n Usual Source of Care, Presence of a Personal Doctor or Nurse, and Medical Home
- n Family Functioning and Family Concerns
Including indicators such as: family cohesiveness, time spent with child, and family stress.
- n Neighborhood and Community Characteristics
- n Demographics and Socio-Economic Status

In order to provide state and local data, the survey will be conducted using the State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey (SLAITS) mechanism, which uses the sampling frame of the National Immunization Survey (NIS). To conduct the NIS, the NCHS screens one million households each year. The CHS survey will take advantage of this pre-existing sampling framework to reach two thousand households in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Using the same sampling framework for more than one survey can lead to a valuable expansion of the federal data system at a relatively low cost.

For further information, please contact:

Paul Newacheck
Professor of Health Policy
Institute for Health Policy Studies
University of California, San Francisco
3333 California Street
Suite 265
San Francisco, CA 94118
Phone: 415-476-3896
Fax: 415-476-0705
Email: pauln@itsa.ucsf.edu

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IPUMS website walks you through a series of steps to select your sample and variables. Finally, IPUMS notifies you by e-mail when your extract is ready for download. You then download the data in ASCII format, a codebook for the variables you selected, and code to convert the raw data to a format useable by your statistical software.

Two features of the extract system make the database particularly useful for researchers. First, extracts are available in three or more sample densities: "tiny" samples of approximately 2,100 randomly selected households, useful for testing new syntax statements; "small" samples of 21,000 households provide a reasonable number of cases to quickly assess whether or not a research question can be answered from these data; "regular" samples of 1-in-100 cases are sufficient for most research questions; and, finally, "large" 5-in-100 samples available in the more recent censuses enable you to examine small subpopulations. Secondly, recent

enhancements to the IPUMS extract system now provide users with their own extract summary page which retains a record of all extract requests submitted by a particular user. Users can download data, codebook and command files for their recent extracts here. This page also allows you to review, revise, and resubmit your old requests to generate a modified extract.

For further information, or to access the data, visit:

<http://www.ipums.umn.edu/usa/index.html>
Historical Census Project
Minnesota Population Center
University of Minnesota
537 Heller Hall
271 19th Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: 612-624-5818
Fax: 612-626-8375
e-mail: ipums@pop.umn.edu

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is new survey that aims to measure how well young adults approaching the end of compulsory schooling are prepared to meet the challenges of today's society. The assessment is forward-looking, focusing on young people's ability to use their knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges. More than a quarter of a million students, representing almost 17 million 15-year-olds enrolled in the schools of the 32 participating countries, were assessed in 2000. Another 13 countries will administer the same assessment in 2002 and future surveys are planned for 2003, 2006, and 2009. An international report of the findings of PISA 2000, as well as a CD-ROM with micro-level data, will be released by the OECD in December 2001.

PISA is administered to 15-year-old students and covers reading, mathematics, and scientific literacy with an emphasis on the mastery of processes, the understanding of concepts, and the ability to function in various situations within each domain. An additional survey to provide school background information is completed by school principals. The questions in the assessments do not ask for specific information, rather they present real-life problems that require the application of skills and knowledge learned in school and "beyond the school gates."

PISA Assessment Domains

Reading Literacy

- n Reading different types of text: continuous prose (descriptive, narrative) and documents representing different structures
- n Reading tasks: retrieving information, interpretation, reflection
- n Reading texts for different situations: instructions, personal interest, work requirements

Mathematical Literacy

- n Carrying out procedures: reproduction, definitions, and computations
- n Making connections: connections and integration for problem solving
- n Mathematical thinking, generalization, and insight

Scientific Literacy

- n Scientific Process: recognizing scientifically investigable questions, evidence needed for scientific inquiry, drawing conclusions
- n Scientific Concepts: drawn from biology, chemistry, and physics- energy, nutrition, adaptation, conservation, etc.
- n Situations: problem solving for individuals, communities, the world

The PISA website (<http://www.pisa.oecd.org/>) provides further information about the types of questions posed to students through an interactive sample assessment that allows viewers to take a short sample test that includes questions in all three domains.

Each round of PISA will also have a couple of one-time only modules as well as an in-depth survey covering literacy in one of the domains. PISA 2000 and PISA Plus 2001 include an assessment of student self-concept that focuses on motivations and attitudes as well as an in-depth survey of reading literacy. The results for these sections will be included in the international report and microdata release in December. The PISA 2003 will include a section focusing on problem solving skills, an in-depth survey of mathematical literacy, and possibly the addition of a longitudinal school-to-work transition survey.

In addition to the December report, each participating country will publish a report focusing on their population. Additionally, the OECD will publish a series of thematic reports. For PISA 2000, the reports will focus on the following topics: social background and student achievement; engagement and motivation; meeting the needs of low and high achieving students; school factors related to quality and equity; an international profile of reading literacy; and gender differences in achievement. These reports will be published in 2002.

PISA is coordinated and funded by the OECD, an organization whose member countries support democratic government and market economies. Member countries collaborated to design and implement

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Research Takes

New Work to Improve Indicators on Disabled Children and Youth

Traditionally, the focus of disability research has been on the elderly, not on children. Yet many reasons exist for expanding our knowledge about children with disabilities, and new work is currently taking place to do so.

One annual report that does include indicators of children's health status and activity limitations is America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, published annually by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics (see vol. 1, iss. 1 of *The Child Indicator* for more on America's Children). However, Dennis Hogan of Brown University, a disability researcher, believes that disability should be treated not only as an indicator of current well-being, but also as a measure associated with future well-being.

In the America's Children report, the Forum often examines indicators of well-being separately for groups of children that are considered to be at-risk for poor developmental outcomes. These subgroups include racial and ethnic minorities, poor children, children in single-parent families, and children whose parents haven't completed high school. It does not, however, offer separate estimates of well-being by disability status. Disability is associated with living with single parents, poorer family environments and less safe home environments—all factors associated with developmental risk. Thus, tracking the way outcomes differ among children with and without disabilities is important.

Dr. Hogan and other researchers would also like to know how children with disabilities can develop well. What is positive development for children with disabilities?

Indicators of child disability are also important for social science research. For example, Dr. Hogan notes that having a disability or having a child with a disability could be a barrier to work for parents receiving welfare, yet welfare surveys often don't ask about disability. Also, having a child with disability is a risk for divorce, so disability can be an important measure in studies of families.

To address the gaps in availability of disability data, Dr. Hogan is working with the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Family and Child Well-being Research Network, the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Education (ASPE), and the Forum. He is leading a group of eight or nine researchers—primarily volunteers—from various organizations in evaluating and making recommendations about disability indicators. This team is trying to catalog every measure of children's disability that has appeared in social surveys since 1995—this includes about 24 surveys. Their goal is to identify and improve the most effective measures.

Dr. Hogan and his colleagues are also working on quantitative analyses of how many questions are needed in order to identify disability, using the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). In fact, they are finding that surveys can sometimes use fewer questions than they currently do to identify disability.

Dr. Hogan is also planning a handbook on the survey measurement of child disability, which will be released in about a year. In addition to descriptions of measures that researchers can use to gauge disability, the book will also include discussion of what methods have been used to measure disability, why it is important to measure disability, and why it is important for medical professionals to use survey data. Additionally, he is developing a web site with useful information on disability indicators.

For further information, contact:

Professor Dennis Hogan
Brown University
Population Studies and Training Center
112 George Street, Box 1916
Providence, RI 02912
Tel: 401-863-2668
Fax: 401-863-3351
Dennis_Hogan@brown.edu

International Scene continued from page 6

this survey; the competency areas reflect the policy interests of OECD members. Researchers from all member countries were involved in the development of PISA instruments and will continue to be involved in the analysis of PISA data. PISA implementation is coordinated through an international consortium, with Westat (<http://www.westat.com/>) in charge of implementation in the United States.

Due to increased interest from non-member countries after the first wave of PISA, OECD is organizing a second round of PISA. This round — PISA Plus — will be fielded in 11 countries. The two surveys are identical, but the three-year cycle for PISA Plus will be offset from the PISA survey by one year, with the first round of interviews for PISA Plus taking place in 2001.

Countries Participating

PISA: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil*, Canada, China*, Czech republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia*, Luxembourg, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation*, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States *Participated but are not OECD members.

PISA Plus: Albania, Argentina, Bulgaria, Chile, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Lithuania, Peru, Romania, Thailand.

Contact Information:

Andreas Schleicher, Deputy Head
DEELSA Statistics and Indicators Division
2 rue Andre-Pascal
75775 Paris Codex 16
France
Fax: (33-1) 4910 4276
Email: Andreas.Schleicher@oecd.org

Website:

<http://www.pisa.oecd.org/>
- gives detailed information about PISA
<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/>
- NCES website, has PISA USA information

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The Child Indicator

4301 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Suite 100

Washington, DC 20008

Phone: 202-362-5580

Fax: 202-362-5533

Email: childindicator@childtrends.org

Website: www.childtrends.org/ci