NATIONAL DATA ARCHIVE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

THE ARCHIVE

UPDATA

Family Life Development Center, Cornell University Summer 1991

NEW RESOURCES FOR CHILD MALTREATMENT RESEARCHERS

★*A User's Guide for the Second National Incidence Study*

The **National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect** has recently published a User's Guide for researchers who want to conduct secondary data analyses with the "Study of National Incidence and Prevalence of Child Abuse and Neglect: 1988," also called the Second National Incidence Study (NIS-2). Mandated by Congress in 1984, the purpose of NIS-2 was to assess the most recent national prevalence of child abuse and neglect, and to determine how the severity, frequency, and character of child maltreatment changed since 1980 when the first national incidence study was completed. It was also hoped that NIS-2 would provide researchers with an accessible and usable source of data in the area of child maltreatment. But since its release as a public-use data set in December of 1987, NIS-2 has had extremely limited dissemination and utilization. Very few copies of the data tape have been purchased; an even smaller number of people have actually worked with the data, primarily because of its complexity.

In June of 1990, the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect convened a group of researchers, all of whom had either worked with NIS-2 or had conducted other large-scale incidence studies on child abuse and neglect. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a set of strategies to facilitate the dissemination and use of the NIS-2 data. The *User's Guide* developed by the Archive is a direct outgrowth of that meeting. Participants agreed that an instruction manual for NIS-2 was necessary to guide users through this very complex survey data set in a relatively straightforward and understandable manner. The manual is intended to supplement, rather than replace other published materials on NIS-2, such as the *Study Findings*, *Report on Data Collection*, and the *Report on Data Processing and Analysis* which are available from the Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (PO Box 1182, Washington, DC 20013, 703–821–2086). The overriding emphasis of the *User's Guide* is on data analysis. It is intended for researchers who want to know how to work with the NIS-2 data for the purpose of calculating national estimates and hypothesis testing. We hope that the *User's Guide* will encourage a wider group of researchers to work with this valuable, but under-utilized data set.

The *NIS-2 User's Guide* provides step-by-step instructions and presents examples of annotated SAS programs and data output that demonstrate how to:

- access the NIS-2 data set
- analyze the data set correctly
- use the Statistical Analysis System (SAS) on mainframe computers to analyze the data
- obtain national total and rate estimates, their standard errors, and their confidence intervals
- test for a difference between the means and proportions of 2 subgroups
- conduct a weighted contingency table analysis and weighted logistic regression analysis that take into account the design effect and the complex multi-clustering data structure
- work with specialized software, the WESVAR and WESLOG programs, in order to conduct univariate and multivariate analyses, including the specific program statements needed to perform significance tests and confidence intervals
- interpret output.

To receive a free copy of the *NIS-2 User's Guide*, contact the Archive (see enclosed order form).

★*Tests and Scales for Use in Child Maltreatment Research*

Identification of instruments (i.e., tests, scales, indexes) to measure variables is a time consuming and often difficult task facing child abuse and neglect researchers. Thousands of instruments exist in the social science literature that can be used in child maltreatment research. Most researchers have the time to review only a small portion of this literature; the measures they find in their own searches are often inadequate or inappropriate. In response to this need, **Dr. Murray Straus, Dr. David Finkelhor** and **Barbara Wauchope** of the Family Research Laboratory at the University of New Hampshire are building a collection of well-known,

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Tests and Scales for Use in Child Maltreatment Research

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little-known or under-utilized instruments, accompanying manuals and other materials concerning measurement instruments that will be made available to researchers in the child maltreatment field.

Over the last two years the "Status of Measurement Development in the Study of Child Abuse and Neglect" project, funded by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, has been developing a system to collect, classify, and organize information on measures that produce quantifiable scores. In addition to establishing a hard-copy library of such instruments, project staff have created a computer-based set of documents that will provide investigators with a single, easily-accessible source of information on a large group of instruments that have been used or have the potential to be used in child abuse and neglect studies. The first versions of these documents are expected to be available on computer disk for distribution to researchers this fall.

The **Annotated Bibliography** describes empirical studies of child maltreatment that use instruments to measure social science variables (medical instruments are not included). Data for the Bibliography come from detailed searches of six journals that specialize in family violence research, covering issues published from 1970 through 1989. In addition to standard bibliographic information, the Annotated Bibliography briefly describes each instrument that was used by the study authors, including author and title of the instrument, original source, content area measured by the instrument, unit of study, source of data and application of the instrument in the study. Researchers who are interested in knowing how other child maltreatment researchers have used a specific instrument, or what instruments have been used for specific studies or types of studies will find the Annotated Bibliography useful.

The **Instrument Library** is a collection of approximately 400 detailed abstracts describing each instrument identified in the Annotated Bibliography. These abstracts will be available for all the instruments identified in the Annotated Bibliography and will eventually summarize other instruments in the Instrument Library as well. Each abstract contains the following information: author, title, content area, variables measured, age range, number of items, sample items, minutes to administer, reliability, and validity. The abstract also describes the availability of other forms, references to further information on reliability, validity, and studies using the instrument.

Both documents have been written with WordPerfect 5.1 and can easily be searched using key words. Researchers who identify specific instruments in the documents that are of interest, may request copies of instruments from the project's Instrument Library. If the Library has the instrument, a copy will be sent for the cost of copying and mailing; otherwise, the project can refer the researcher to appropriate sources.

The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect Clearinghouse is interested in distributing the disks and accompanying manuals for the project. Both the **Annotated Bibliography** and **Instrument Abstracts** will be periodically updated as more literature is searched, and more instruments are identified, abstracted, and added to the Instrument Library. Inquiries concerning the project can be directed to Dr. Murray Straus (tel: 603-862-2594), Family Research Laboratory, Horton Social Science Center, Room 126, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824.

Reaffirming Our Roots
The Ninth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect
September 14-17, 1991
Denver, Colorado

Two events focusing on the Second National Incidence Study will be held at the Ninth National Conference in Denver: a pre-conference skill seminar and a panel of research presentations.

★ SKILL SEMINAR:
"Working with the Second National Incidence Study"
Saturday, September 14, 1991
1:00-5:00 PM

The purpose of this intensive skill seminar is to familiarize researchers with the Second National Incidence Study (NIS-2) and teach them how to conduct secondary analyses with the NIS-2 data. Participants will learn how to access the NIS-2 data, understand the coding scheme and idiosyncrasies in the data, use the weighting scheme to obtain national estimates, generate descriptive statistics, and conduct multivariate analyses. The presenters will describe the limitations of the data set (i.e. point out what kinds of questions these data can not answer) and suggest the best use of these data. Additionally, there will be an opportunity for participants to ask particular questions, such as, "How do I find perpetrators of sexual abuse?"

The seminar will be jointly led by staff from Westat, Inc., Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D. (NIS-2 Project Director) and Keith Rust, Ph.D. (NIS-2 Statistician and Methodologist) and the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect.

★ WORKSHOP:
"Findings from the Second National Incidence Study"
Monday, September 16, 1991
10:30 AM-12:00 PM

This session will include presentations from four groups of researchers who have conducted secondary analyses with the NIS-2 data. After a brief overview which describes the background to the study and its overall design and methodology, the four presentations will address the following substantive areas:

- CPS awareness of child maltreatment
- Reporting patterns of child maltreatment
- Demographic predictors of maltreatment
- The relationship between gender, age, and type of maltreatment

For additional conference information contact Conference Headquarters:
Ninth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect
The American Humane Association
P.O. Box 1266
Denver Colorado 80201-1266
303-792-9900

ORDER FORM

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Summer 1991

____ Please add me to the Archive's mailing list

____ Please send me the following free material:

____ The Preparation of Data Sets for Analysis and Dissemination: Technical Guidelines for Machine-Readable Data

____ A User's Guide for the Second National Incidence Study

____ A Description of Data Sets available from the Archive

Please send me the following Data Sets and the accompanying documentation ($75 for the first Data Set; $25 for each additional Data Set)

____ Study of National Incidence and Prevalence of Child Abuse and Neglect - 1988 (NIS-2)

____ National Study of the Incidence and Severity of Child Abuse and Neglect - 1980 (NIS-1)

Tape Specifications:

Storage media (check one)
____ 1600 BPI 9-track tape
____ 6250 BPI 9-track tape
____ 3480 tape cartridge

Label (check one)
____ Standard IBM
____ No label

Code convention (check one)
____ EBCDIC
____ ASCII

ORDERED BY :

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS: (include number, street, city, State, and ZIP code)

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(Make check payable to Cornell University. Purchaser agrees that acquired data will be used for scientific research or statistical purposes only)

Now available from the Archive

★ ***The Preparation of Data Sets for Analysis and Dissemination: Technical Standards for Machine-Readable Data***

This document was developed by the Archive in response to one of the most common obstacles to sharing social science research data, namely, the problem of poorly documented and maintained data. It is intended as a guide to all researchers whose projects result in machine-readable data, to help them maintain and preserve their own data. The technical requirements for formatting and documenting machine readable data files are set forth, and standards and procedures for data processing are described. These guidelines should not only assist investigators use their own data, but also will enable other researchers to understand and work with the data. Topics included in the document include: tape recording standards, data types, confidentiality, file organization, standardization of data codes, abstract construction, documentation, and codebook development. Data sharing will be facilitated in the field of child abuse and neglect if researchers prepare their data and follow these guidelines in the early stages of the research process.

Copies of this document are available free of charge from the Archive (see attached order form).

★ ***New data set now available from the Inter-university Consortium of Political and Social Research (ICPSR)***

CATHY SPATZ WIDOM "Child Abuse, Neglect, and Violent Criminal Behavior in a Midwest Metropolitan Area of the United States, 1967-1988" (ICPSR 9480)

These data examine the relationships between childhood abuse and/or neglect and later criminal and violent criminal behavior. In particular, the data focus on whether being a victim of violence and or neglect in early childhood leads to being a criminal offender in adolescence or early adulthood. The purpose of the project was to identify a large sample of substantiated and validated cases of child abuse and neglect from approximately 20 years ago, to establish a matched control group of nonabused children, and to determine the extent to which these individuals and matched control group subsequently engaged in delinquent and criminal and violent criminal behavior. The sample includes 908 cases of victims of abuse and neglect and 667 matched control cases. Adult and juvenile criminal histories of both groups are compared with one another.

For more information about the data set contact:
Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
PO Box 1248
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248
313-763-5010

★Call for data sets!

The Archive is constantly on the look out for data sets which would be worthwhile additions to the holdings. Criteria for selection is based on the data set's methodological rigor, scope, relevance, and technical quality. If you have data or know of data which would be particularly beneficial to other researchers, please let us know.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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