

DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Vol. 3, No. 2

September, 1998

WELCOME TO OUR FIFTH NEWSLETTER

Many exciting events related to the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth are currently underway. This issue of "Developments" is dedicated to telling you all about them.

THE NLSCY WINS AN AWARD!

We have some great news to share. The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth has received an award!



The Psychology Foundation of Canada, a national organization, is honouring Human Resources Development Canada with the **Contribution to Knowledge Award**. This prestigious award recognizes HRDC for the development of the NLSCY and for the survey's invaluable contribution to knowledge in parenting and child development. We are very pleased to have received public recognition from a professional organization.

Our director, Allen Zeesman, will be accepting the award October 26, 1998, in Toronto, on behalf of the entire NLSCY team, past and present, public servants and researchers, HRDC and Statistics Canada.



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RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS

INVESTING IN CHILDREN: A NATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE, 1998

Human Resources Development Canada is presenting results of important NLSCY data at its forthcoming conference, **Investing in Children: A National Research Conference, 1998**. The objectives of the conference are:

- ▶ to showcase exciting new Canadian research on children and families, by leading academics and researchers, and
- ▶ to invite discussion on the application of these findings to policies and practices.

Of special interest is an international panel presenting child outcome research from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. Also, don't miss the chance to hear **Sylvia Ann Hewlett**, author of the best-seller, *When the Bough Breaks: The Cost of Neglecting Our Children* and **Emmy Werner**, author of the ground-breaker, *Overcoming the Odds: High Risk Children from Birth to Adulthood*.

As people involved in related fields of study we want your ideas! The various workshop discussions will give you the opportunity to provide input on the application of federal research in your field. Your input and views will be consolidated into post-conference workshop reports.

Workshop topics will include:

- ▶ parenting and work
- ▶ family structure
- ▶ school
- ▶ community influences
- ▶ child health
- ▶ vulnerable populations
- ▶ childhood experiences
- ▶ problem behaviour

As a reader of our newsletter, you will automatically receive the preliminary conference program and registration form by mail. In addition, the program is available on the conference web site which will be updated frequently with new information. Following the conference, the site will include the research papers - so make sure you bookmark it! Hard copies of the research papers will also be available following the conference through Nancy Zalman at HRDC (for order information please refer to the last page of this newsletter).

Don't miss this opportunity! The conference will be held at the Château Laurier Hotel in Ottawa on **October 27-29, 1998**, and will be conducted in English and French. For more information, contact Donald Wilson (Tel: 819-994-4458, Fax: 819-994-2480, E-mail: donald.wilson@spg.org) or refer to the conference web site at: www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/arb/conferences/nlscyconf/

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THE PROGRESS OF CANADA'S CHILDREN, 1998

A national organization, the Canadian Council on Social Development, relies heavily on NLSCY data to report on various child development issues in their annual publication. Issues of this publication, *The Progress of Canada's Children*, have been published for 1996 and 1997.

The next issue of *The Progress of Canada's Children* will be available in early December. Here is a sampling of the articles to be published in the upcoming 1998 issue:

- ▶ A Profile of Northern Children and Youth
- ▶ Differences Among Children Living in Lone Parent Families
- ▶ Custody and Canadian Children: What are the Patterns?

For more information on this publication, please contact:
Canadian Council on Social Development
441 MacLaren Street, 4th Floor
Ottawa, ON, K2P 2H3
Tel: 613-236-8977
Fax: 613-236-2750
E-mail: council@ccsd.ca
Web site: www.ccsd.ca

READINESS TO LEARN

Learning plays an important role in an individual's life, starting from birth and continuing into adulthood in both formal and informal settings. Work is being done to explore the role of the NLSCY in providing data on children's readiness to learn. Our framework for readiness to learn looks at learning outcomes in terms of total child development, in the context of the child's life experiences and social interactions (please refer to the next page of this newsletter).

In a workshop to be held this month, a small select group of Canadian and international experts on measures of readiness to learn will share their experiences with measures and advise us on the choice of survey instruments for the NLSCY.



FRAMEWORK FOR READINESS TO LEARN

What life experiences bring to the child	What the child brings to learning				Learning Outcomes		
	Physical health and motor development	Emotional health	Social knowledge and competence	Language skills	Cognitive development	Learning processes	General knowledge
Environment (community) Family (parents and siblings) Peers Preschool and School (including deficits)	Physical health: <i>Growth</i> <i>Fitness</i> <i>Maturation</i> <i>Wellness/illness</i> Physical development: <i>Gross motor skills</i> <i>Fine motor skills</i> <i>Sensorimotor skills</i> (including delays)	Emotional maturity Self confidence Curiosity and eagerness to try new experiences (including disorders)	Social knowledge: <i>Respect for authority</i> Competence: <i>Self control</i> <i>Co-operative skills</i> <i>Socially acceptable behaviour</i> (including difficulties)	Receptive skills Expressive skills Language comprehension (including delays and difficulties)	Memory Numeracy and Math skills Logic Abstract/representational thinking Imagination Creativity (including learning disabilities)	Learning attitudes <i>Openness to learning</i> <i>Task persistence</i> Meta-cognitive processes: <i>Seeking sources of information</i> <i>Sorting information</i> <i>Organising and analysing information</i> <i>Reflection and interpretation</i> <i>Sharing information</i> Learning potential: <i>Use of questions</i> <i>Comparisons, evaluations of options</i> <i>Cause and effect</i> <i>Problem solving</i> <i>Application to new/unrelated situations</i> Learning styles: <i>Aural, visual, text, action</i>	General knowledge: <i>Knowledge of other people and the world as a foundation for historic, geographic, scientific and technical knowledge</i>

Age appropriate data will be collected at ages one, three, five, seven and nine.

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A YARDSTICK FOR CAPC!

The Community Action Program for Children (CAPC), a Health Canada initiative intended to ensure that children have a healthy start in life, is using data from the NLSCY for its evaluation. This is another example of how the survey can be useful - by serving as a yardstick or comparison for more specific studies.

NLSCY data will be compared to data drawn from a longitudinal study of a representative sample of CAPC participants.

These participants were asked questions similar to the NLSCY on topics such as parenting, behaviour, neighbourhood, etc. The NLSCY is used as a comparison group to measure the impact of the program on participating children and parents.

CAPC is jointly managed with provinces and territories, and funds community groups to establish and deliver services that address the developmental needs of children from birth to age six who live in conditions of risk.

Among other things, the evaluation looks at the impact of CAPC as a national program on the health and social development of children and their families.

For more information on CAPC, contact:

Sharon Gribbon

Tel: 613-952-5955

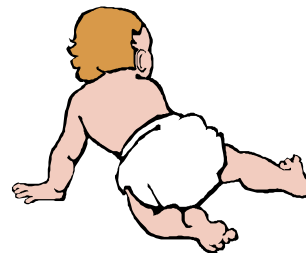
Fax: 613-954-8255

E-mail: sharon.gribbon@hc-sc.gc.ca

NLSCY AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

A presentation on the NLSCY has been included at the Joint International Association of Survey Statisticians and International Association for Official Statistics Conference. The conference will be held in early September in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

In a workshop entitled *Monitoring Goals for Children*, Satya Brink, HRDC, will present a paper on the Research Program for the NLSCY. She will explain how the longitudinal approach taken links the survey and the research program in a unique way. The life course perspective taken for evidence-based policy drives the way in which the longitudinal data is collected. This presentation is included along with other presentations on studies from UNICEF and Mexico, which draw on research focusing on children. Sylvie Michaud, the NLSCY Project Manager at Statistics Canada, will be a discussant at the session.



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Here's our Schedule of Upcoming Research Developments"

HRDC

- ▶ Sept. 1-4, 1998 - NLSCY presentation at the conference in Aguascalientes, Mexico
- ▶ Sept. 4, 1998 - Readiness to Learn Workshop
- ▶ Oct. 27-29, 1998 - "Investing in Children: A National Research Conference, 1998" to be held at the Château Laurier Hotel in Ottawa
- ▶ Nov. 1998 - NLSCY conference research papers available
- ▶ Winter/Spring 1999 - NLSCY conference workshop reports available

OTHER

- ▶ Dec. 1998 - The Canadian Council on Social Development 1998 edition of *The Progress of Canada's Children*
- ▶ 1999 - CAPC Impact Evaluation report

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SURVEY DEVELOPMENTS

CYCLE 1 DATA RELEASE

All of the Cycle 1 data is now out! With the release of the data on family and custody history and marital status, plus the North file (Yukon and the Northwest Territories), the release of Cycle 1 data is officially complete.

Here are some of the newspaper headlines from the release:

- ▶ "Fathers' support missing, study says"
The Globe and Mail, June 3, 1998
- ▶ "Divorce hitting children younger"
The Toronto Star, June 3, 1998
- ▶ "Divorces taking toll: More young kids experiencing family breakup"
The Montreal Gazette, June 3, 1998

For more details on the final data release for Cycle 1, consult the June 2, 1998 issue of Statistics Canada's *The Daily* at:

www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/980602/d980602.htm. *The Daily* article was based on Nicole Marcil-Gratton's paper, *Growing Up with Mom and Dad? The Intricate Family Life Courses of Canadian Children*. This paper was released on August 12, 1998 and is available from Statistics Canada (for order information please refer to the last page of this newsletter).

CYCLE 2 DATA RELEASE

In conjunction with our conference, the first data from Cycle 2 will be released. Please see the chart below for the topics to be released from the parent interview. Watch for *The Daily* article on the first data from Cycle 2, available on October 28, 1998.



First Data release from the Parent Interview of Cycle 2!

PARENT INFORMATION:

- ▶ Demographic
- ▶ People in the Household
- ▶ Family Functioning
- ▶ Socio-Demographic
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Labour Force
- ▶ Income
- ▶ Health

CHILD INFORMATION:

- ▶ Health
- ▶ Perinatal
- ▶ Temperament
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Behaviour
- ▶ Motor and Social Development
- ▶ Social Relationships
- ▶ Parenting
- ▶ Socio-Demographic

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WE'RE READY FOR CYCLE 3

Along with ongoing improvements to the survey, we have made some important additions to the Cycle 3 questionnaires. All of our youth questionnaires will ask new questions on these topics:

- ▶ father/child relationship
- ▶ mother/child relationship
- ▶ computer and Internet access

As mentioned in the previous issue of "Developments", the older youth will be asked more detail on these topics:

- ▶ discrimination and victimization
- ▶ peer relationships and sexuality
- ▶ school engagement

We will also be sending additional questionnaires to the youth's math and language arts teachers. We are all set to go and are excited about data collection beginning this fall.

CYCLE 4

For Cycle 4, the oldest youth involved in the survey will be 16-17 years old! Work has begun on researching various adolescent issues to update the questionnaires for our maturing sample. Content development for Cycle 4 will begin this Fall, working towards collection in the Fall 2000.



Here's our Schedule of Upcoming Data Collection and Release:

CYCLE 2

- ▶ Fall 1998 - first longitudinal data available

CYCLE 3

- ▶ Fall 1998 - nation-wide collection of data begins
- ▶ Spring 1999 - completion of data collection

CYCLE 4

- ▶ Fall 1998 - content development begins
- ▶ Fall 2000 - nation-wide collection of data begins





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ORDER INFORMATION

- ▶ For hard copies of the **Investing in Children: A National Research Conference, 1998** research papers (available following the conference), or for *Applied Research Bulletins* contact: Nancy Zalman
Tel: 819-994-3304
Fax: 819-953-8584
E-mail: nancy.zalman@spg.org
- ▶ For a copy of Nicole Marcil-Gratton's paper, *Growing Up with Mom and Dad? The Intricate Family Life Courses of Canadian Children* (89-566-XIE), please refer to the Statistics Canada web site, www.statcan.ca, or contact: Yvan Clermont
Tel: 613-951-3326
Fax: 613-951-7333
E-mail: cleryva@statcan.ca
- ▶ Copies of *Growing Up in Canada*, a book of research articles based on Cycle 1 data, may be purchased for \$25 from local authorized agents and other community bookstores, Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centres or from: Statistics Canada
Tel: 613-951-7277
Fax: 613-951-1584
E-mail: order@statcan.ca

THE NLSCY PROJECT TEAM

In order to manage the growing NLSCY project, we have increased the team at HRDC. Along with the existing members, Allen Zeesman, Satya Brink, Susan McKellar, Liz Nieman, Cindy Cook, Louise Blanchard and the two co-op students, Julia Fuchs and Lisa Milis, we have a few newcomers. We would like to offer a warm welcome to Tony Haddad, Sarah Connor and to our group of incoming students. The NLSCY Team also includes those who work with us on the project at Statistics Canada.

“Developments” is produced by the Applied Research Branch, Human Resources Development Canada. The following publications are available:

- ▶ Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 questionnaires (also available on the Internet at: www.statcan.ca:80/english/freepub/89F00XIE/free.htm)
- ▶ additional copies of the newsletters

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Cette publication est également disponible en français sous le titre “Développements”.



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We're moving!

In early October, our group is moving to Ottawa to the Norono Building on Laurier Avenue. If you would like to contact us, please use e-mail as our phone and fax numbers will be changing at some point in October.