Collection of Longitudinal Studies about Child Development

The Academy for Professional Parenting conducts research about bio-psychosocial health. The Longitudinal studies are especially interesting. We have established the following compilation in order to provide an overview of longitudinal studies that are still in progress throughout the world and those that have already been concluded.

The term bio-psychosocial health has only been used more frequently in recent years; in older studies, the subject was in part expressed with concepts such as „emotional well-being“ or „emotional stability“, even though these are not to be seen as complex as bio-psychosocial health. Besides the „large“ studies in the first selection, there are also several studies with more specific questions and several intervention programs, besides literature reviews that deal with the subject „child“.

This overview can only present a small selection given the great amount of data that is available. The results of the listed studies do not necessarily represent the point of view of the Academy for Professional Parenting.
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BROAD LONGITUDINAL STUDIES

1 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY) – Child Supplement

Nationality USA
Sponsors U.S. Department of Labor (http://www.bls.gov/)
National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD)
http://www.nichd.nih.gov/
Investigators Ohio State University, Center for Human Resource Research
http://www.chrr.ohio-state.edu/
University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center
http://www.norc.uchicago.edu/
Begin 1986
Status Ongoing
Sample Children of the mothers in the NLSY79
Total interviewed: 7467 (2002)
administered biennially
nationally representative sample
Questions Mothers:
  • educational attainment, training investments, employment
    history, income and assets, welfare receipts, child-care
    costs, insurance coverage, health conditions, workplace
    injuries, alcohol and substance abuse, sexual activity, and
    marital and fertility histories
Children:
  • children’s growth, cognitive ability, temperament, motor
    and social development, behavior problems, self-
    competence, school progress, and the quality of their home
    environment
Summary The NLSY79 is a multipurpose survey of more than 12,600
individuals who were 14-21 when sampled and have been
interviewed since 1979. The design and content of the NLSY79
enable users to study the social, economic and demographic
experiences of the respondents and their families over nearly a
20-year period. CHRR at The Ohio State University and NORC at
the University of Chicago are responsible for the design,
collection, and distribution of the NLSY79 data and
documentation.

The Children of the NLSY79 data set profiles the development
and achievement of the children of the mothers in the NLSY79.
Sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, with support from NICHD, the NLSY79 Child & Young Adult (YA) data collection is an outgrowth of the National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth/79 Cohort.

Started in 1986 and repeated biennially, the NLSY79 Child/YA uses **mother reported and direct assessment to gauge the children's growth, abilities, problems, school progress, and home environment.**

Starting in 1994, children 15 and older have been interviewed, much like their mothers, on schooling, employment, training, family experiences, health, and attitudes. The Child/YA sample ranges in age from birth to middle twenties and contains significant numbers of black, Hispanic and (through 1990) economically disadvantaged white respondents.

Retrieved Jan. 26, 2007 from the Ohio State University Homepage
http://www.chrr.ohio-state.edu/nls-info/nlscya/overview.html

**Direct Links**
- http://www.chrr.ohio-state.edu/nls-info/nlscya/
- http://nber.org/~kling/surveys/NLSY79-CH.html

**Literature**
- http://www.chrr.ohio-state.edu/nls-info/nlscya/nls_docs_all_cohorts.html
2 NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development (SECCYD)

Nationality  USA
Sponsors  National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD)
http://www.nichd.nih.gov/
Investigators  Steering Committee Chair
Willard W. Hartup, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota
Investigators:
http://www.nichd.nih.gov/research/supported/seccyd/investigators.cfm

Begin  1991
Status  Ongoing
Sample  About 1,000 children and their families at 10 locations across the United States

Questions
• Variety, stability, and changes in children's non-maternal child care experiences over time, including the child's age when first placed in child care, and the quantity and quality of care
• Demographic and family characteristics associated with different patterns of child care use;
• Comparing the development of children who were cared for primarily by their mothers to those who spent much of their time in non-maternal care;
• ...
• How family characteristics (such as parents’ emotional sensitivity, the quality of the home environment, parents’ education, parents’ psychological adjustment, and parents’ attitudes and beliefs) are related to development for children who do and do not experience child care.

Summary  The NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development (SECCYD) is a comprehensive longitudinal study initiated by the NICHD to answer questions about the relationships between child care experiences, child care characteristics, and children's developmental outcomes.

After a thorough scientific review of the Study concepts, the NICHD selected a research team, located at universities across the United States and at the NICHD, that together has provided multiple perspectives on and interests in child care research. This team of researchers has worked cooperatively to design and implement the Study and, in 1991, enrolled a very diverse sample of children and their families at 10 locations across the United
States.
Retrieved Jan. 26, 2007 from the NICHD Homepage
http://www.nichd.nih.gov/research/supported/seccyd/overview.cfm

Direct Links
http://secc.rti.org/
http://www.nichd.nih.gov/research/supported/seccyd.cfm

Literature
- http://www.nichd.nih.gov/od/secc/pubs.htm
- Publications http://secc.rti.org/publications.cfm
- Newest NICHD Booklet (2006)
- Child Care and Child Development (The Guilford Press, 2004)
  http://www.guilfordpress.co.uk/book.asp?ID=1593851383
3 Minnesota Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (MLSPC)

Nationality USA, State of Minnesota
Sponsors University of Minnesota
Investigators University of Minnesota, Institute of Child Development
http://education.umn.edu/ICD/
Begin 1975
Status Ongoing
Sample 267 high-risk first-time mothers in their third trimester of pregnancy, Minneapolis and Hennepin County, Minnesota
Questions • To trace the course of individual development and
  • to understand factors that guide it toward good outcomes or poor outcomes
Summary The Minnesota Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children began in 1975 and is currently in its 28th year. It is focusing on social relationship experiences: how people think about their experiences, risk and protective factors, and issues of continuity and change. The overarching goal of the project has been to trace the course of individual development and to understand factors that guide it toward good outcomes or poor outcomes. Therefore, we have studied how people develop at different points in their lives and across diverse setting (e.g., school, home, social relationships).

Beginning in 1975, we recruited a sample of 267 first-time mothers in their third trimester of pregnancy through the Minneapolis Public Health Department and Hennepin County Medical Center. Wide-ranging assessments of the mother’s characteristics, circumstances, parent expectations, and prenatal care were carried out when mothers were recruited into the study. We continued to assess mothers and children after the birth of the child. In infancy, assessments of parents, children’s temperament, and observations of parent-child interactions were carried out at birth (days 1-3), 3, 6 (twice), and 12 (twice) months. Thereafter assessments were conducted every 6 months until age 2 1/2, yearly through the 3rd grade, three times between 9 (link to findings from Infancy to Childhood) and 13, and at ages 16, 17 ½, 19 (link to findings from adolescence), 23, 26, and 28 (link to findings from young adulthood). Currently, we are assessing adaptation when the participants are in their late 20s, to link adaptation during this period of development to earlier assessments from infancy forward and to identify factors that account for stability and change across development.

Retrieved Jan. 28, 2007 from the ICD Homepage
http://education.umn.edu/ICD/Parent-Child/PCPOverview.html
Direct Links  •  http://education.umn.edu/ICD/Parent-Child/

Literature  •  Publications http://education.umn.edu/icd/Parent-Child/PCPPublic.html
•  Books
  The Development of the Person : The Minnesota Study of Risk and Adaptation from Birth to Adulthood (The Guilford Press, 2005)
  http://www.guilford.com/cgi-bin/cartscript.cgi?page=pr/sroufe.htm&dir=pp/dp&cart_id=540963.18029

Results  The findings from this longitudinal study have been used to develop STEEP, a preventative intervention program for high risk parents and their infants.
http://www.education.umn.edu/CEED/coursesandtrainings/trainings/steepsib.htm
4 Panel Study of Income Dynamics, Child Development Supplement (PSID-CDS)

Nationality USA
Sponsors A number of government agencies, foundations, and other organizations
http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/Guide/Sponsorship.html
Investigators University of Michigan, Research Center for Group Dynamics in ISR, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, New York University
Begin PSID 1968, CDS 1997
Status Ongoing
Sample 2,705 PSID families with children 0-12
• Randomly selected up to two children per family
• Successfully interviewed 2,394 families about 3,563 Target Children
Questions PSID: The dynamic process of early human capital formation
CDS: developmental outcomes including
• physical health,
• emotional well-being,
• intellectual and academic achievement, and
• social relationships with family and peers
Summary The Child Development Supplement (CDS) is one research component of the PSID, a longitudinal study of a representative sample of U.S. individuals and the families in which they reside. Since 1968, the PSID has collected data on family composition changes, housing and food expenditures, marriage and fertility histories, employment, income, time spent in housework, health, consumption, wealth, pensions and savings, and philanthropic giving.

In 1997, the PSID supplemented its core data collection with additional information on PSID parents and their 0-12 year-old children. The objective of this study is to provide researchers with a comprehensive, nationally representative, and longitudinal data base of children and their families with which to study the dynamic process of early human capital formation.

CDS collects: (a) reliable, age-graded assessments of the cognitive, behavioral, and health status of the sample children/youth, obtained from the primary caregiver, a secondary caregiver, an absent parent, the teacher, the school administrator, and the sample children/youth themselves; (b) a
comprehensive accounting of parental and caregiver time inputs to children/youth as well as other aspects of the way children and adolescents spend their time; (c) teacher-reported time use in elementary and preschool programs; and (d) other-than-time use measures of other resources for example, the learning environment in the home, teacher and administrator reports of school resources, school resources obtained from U.S. Department of Education and middle/high school course catalogs, and decennial-census-based measurement of neighborhood resources. The data sets from the Child Development Supplement are released to the public as soon as they are cleaned and documented.

Retrieved Jan. 28, 2007 from the PSID Homepage
http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/CDS/ResearchDesign.html
Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B)

Nationality: USA

Sponsors: Collaboration of many federal agencies
http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/BirthMultidisciplinary.asp

Investigators: Chapman, Chris; Germino-Hausken, Elvira; Mulligan, Gail M.; Park, Jennifer; Tice, Peter

Begin: 2001

Status: Ongoing

Sample: A nationally representative sample of 14,000 children born in the year 2001 (diverse socioeconomic and racial/ethnic backgrounds)

Questions:
- physical, cognitive, social and emotional development
- attachment
- early health care and nutrition
- language acquisition
- cognitive and social functioning across the home, school, and child care environments

Summary: The Early Childhood Longitudinal Study is designed to provide decisionmakers, researchers, child care providers, teachers, and parents with detailed information about children's early life experiences. The birth cohort of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (ECLS-B) looks at children's health, development, care, and education during the formative years from birth through kindergarten entry.

Information is collected from children, their families, their teachers, and their schools all across the United States. Unique to this study is the inclusion of fathers; fathers are asked directly about their children and their involvement with them.

From a national perspective, there is little information about young children's development, health, early care and education from birth through kindergarten entry. This research is in response to an increased public awareness of the importance of children's early experiences to their later school success.

Retrieved Jan. 31, 2007 from the ECLS Homepage
http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/birth.asp

Direct Links:
- http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/

Literature:
6 The National Children’s Study

Nationality USA

Sponsors U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Begin 2007?

Status in its late planning stages, funding not secured

Sample 100,000 children, nationally representative sample

Questions
- Natural and man-made environment factors
- Biological and chemical factors
- Physical surroundings
- Social factors
- Behavioral influences and outcomes
- Genetics
- Cultural and family influences and differences
- Geographic locations

Summary The National Children’s Study is designed to be a rich information resource available for answering questions related to children’s health and development and would form the basis of child health guidance, interventions, and policy for generations to come. Retrieved Feb. 2, 2007 from http://nationalchildrensstudy.gov/

Direct Links http://nationalchildrensstudy.gov/
Simmons Longitudinal Study – Adaptation & Development Across the Life Span (SLS)

Nationality USA (Boston)
Sponsors National Institute of Mental Health
Investigators Helen Reinherz, Simmons College School of Social Work
Begin 1976
Status Ongoing
Sample Every child who entered kindergarten in the fall of 1977 in one public school district in a Northeastern town in the U.S (nearly 400).

Study goals
- identifying behavioral, health, and family factors that identify preschool youth at risk for poor academic performance and adjustment in the early school years
- acquiring knowledge about the development and course of behavior and emotional problems and advancing knowledge about the processes leading to good or poor mental health
- providing findings for programs of prevention and intervention that can be implemented by multiple caregivers: parents, educators, social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and other health care providers

Summary The Simmons Longitudinal Study (SLS) is based at the Simmons College School of Social Work. The research project, which began in 1976, is one of the longest continuously running community studies in the U.S. and is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Helen Reinherz has led the SLS in the role of director (principal investigator) for the length of the project. Over the past 30 years study researchers have followed one group of people as they've grown from five-year-old children entering kindergarten to adults starting their own lives and families. Respondents and their family members were interviewed at important life stages in order to follow their adaptation and development across the life span.

Retrieved Feb. 4, 2007 from the SLS Homepage http://www.simmons.edu/ssw/sls/

Direct Links • http://www.simmons.edu/ssw/sls/

Literature • http://www.simmons.edu/ssw/sls/publications.shtml
Nationality: USA (Indiana and Tennessee)

Sponsors:
- NIMH (National Institute of Mental Health)
  http://www.nimh.nih.gov/
- NICHD (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
  http://www.nichd.nih.gov/

Investigators: Auburn University, Indiana University, and Duke University

Begin: 1987, second cohort 1988

Status: Ongoing

Sample: 585 participants (evenly split by gender) from three geographic sites: Bloomington, Indiana; Nashville, Tennessee; and Knoxville, Tennessee. 100 of the participants are African-American, and most of the rest are European-American, reflecting the corresponding population percentages of these regions of the country.

Questions:
- Child adjustment in various settings and temperamental and personality dimensions
- Child social information processing and latent knowledge characteristics
- The family's general functioning and the parents' approaches to socializing the child
- Child's exposure to abuse by caregivers, to major stressors, and to aggressive and deviant peers
- Child's experiences in non-parental care, including early childhood day care and middle-childhood before- and after-school care

Summary:
The Child Development Project (CDP) is a multi-site, longitudinal research program aimed at learning more about the processes involved in child and adolescent development. The study emphasizes research on social, emotional and scholastic development of children and adolescents as well as how various family, peer, school and neighborhood factors impact development.

Retrieved Feb. 4, 2007 from the CDP Homepage
http://www.cdp.auburn.edu/

Direct Links:
- http://www.cdp.auburn.edu/

Literature:
- http://www.cdp.auburn.edu/
- http://www.indiana.edu/~batessdl/cdp_pubs.html
### Longitudinal Studies of Child Abuse and Neglect

**Nationality**  USA  
**Sponsors**  National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect  
**Investigators**  University of North Carolina and five satellite sites  
**Begin**  1990  
**Status**  Ongoing  
**Sample**  1354 children (4 years)  
**Questions**  
- The etiology and impact of child maltreatment  
**Summary**  
LONGSCAN is a consortium of research studies operating under common by-laws and procedures. It was initiated in 1990 with grants from the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect through a coordinating center at the University of North Carolina and five satellite sites. Each site is conducting a separate and unique research project on the etiology and impact of child maltreatment. While each project can stand alone 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.

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 design is also the ability to replicate and extend findings across a variety of ethnic, social and economic subgroups.

The goal of LONGSCAN is to follow the children and their families until the children themselves become young adults. Comprehensive assessments of children, their parents, and their teachers are scheduled to occur at child ages 4, 6, 8, 12, 14, 16, and 18. Maltreatment data is collected from multiple sources, including record reviews, at least every two years. Yearly telephone interviews allow the sites to track families and assess yearly service utilization and life events.

Retrieved February 5, 2007 from the UNC Homepage  
http://www.iprc.unc.edu/longscan/  

**Direct Links**  
http://www.iprc.unc.edu/longscan/  
**Literature**  
10  The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FF)

Nationality  USA (New Jersey, Columbia)
Sponsors  Government Agencies and Foundations
http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/funders.asp

Investigators  Princeton University’s Center for Research on Child Wellbeing (CRCW) and Center for Health and Wellbeing, and Columbia University's Social Indicators Survey Center and The National Center for Children and Families (NCCF).

Begin  1998
Status  Ongoing, three-year-wave data already available
Sample  nearly 5,000 children born in the US between 1998 and 2000 to unmarried couples

Questions  • What are the conditions and capabilities of unmarried parents, especially fathers?
• What is the nature of the relationships between unmarried parents?
• How do children born into these families fare?; and
• How do policies and environmental conditions affect families and children?

Summary  ...The Study consists of interviews with both mothers and fathers at birth and again when children are ages one, three and five, plus in-home assessments of children and their home environments at ages three and five. The parent interviews collect information on attitudes, relationships, parenting behavior, demographic characteristics, health (mental and physical), economic and employment status, neighborhood characteristics, and program participation. The in-home interview collects information on children’s cognitive and emotional development, health, and home environment.

Several collaborative studies provide additional information on parents’ medical, employment and incarceration histories, religion, child care and early childhood education....

Retrieved February 9, 2007 from the homepage of Princeton University’s Center for Research on Child Wellbeing (CRCW)
http://crcw.princeton.edu/ff.asp

Direct Links  • http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/index.asp
• http://crcw.princeton.edu/ff.asp

Literature  http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/ffpubs.asp
**The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY)**

**Nationality**  CAN  
**Sponsors**  Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC)  
**Investigators**  Statistics Canada  
**Begin**  1994  
**Status**  Ongoing (Active)  
**Sample**  26,000 children from 0-11 years  
**Questions**  The study is designed to collect information about factors influencing a child’s social, emotional and behavioural development and to monitor the impact of these factors on the child's development over time.  
Topics:  
- health of children,  
- information on their physical development  
- learning and behaviour  
- data on their social environment (family, friends, schools and communities)  

**Summary**  The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) was developed with the objective of collecting data to identify risk factors for Canadian children, thereby improving society’s understanding of the important process of child development. It is expected that information from the NLSCY will provide strategic insight for the formulation of more effective programs and policies for children at risk.  
...  
While the immediate objective of the NLSCY is to create a database on child development and risk factors to guide future policy and programs, the downstream social implications of carrying out the NLSCY are to reduce the long term costs to society. Information resulting from the NLSCY will create a new base of knowledge. New knowledge will hopefully result in various preventive actions to increase the health and well-being of children and youth. This will in turn result in cost savings and clear societal benefits by reducing, among other things, sickness (and therefore visits to the doctor and hospitalization), and the frequency of delinquent behaviour (and thus the institutionalization of troubled teenagers)....  
Retrieved February 13, 2007 from the HRDC homepage  

**Direct Links**  www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/4450.htm

**Literature**  Book series:  
http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=89-599-M
Results

J. Douglas Willms (2002) summarizes the evidence from the first round of data collection in this way: The results ... suggest that children whose mothers are at home are at increased risk of displaying cognitive difficulties during the early years, but this diminishes after their children enter school ... There are no apparent effects of either working or not working outside the home on children’s behaviour outcomes. Willms, J.D. (Ed). (2002). Vulnerable children. Edmonton, AB: University of Alberta Press.

The same data from the NLSCY has been analyzed by two economists from the University of Quebec at Montreal using different techniques. They concluded that: ...the most important predictors of cognitive scores, behavioural scores, and schooling achievements were the child’s personal characteristics as well as maternal and family characteristics and not marginal variations in income or work decisions. ...Two of the important findings are positive. First parental work and maternal non-employment do not have statistically significant effects on cognitive outcomes of 4 to 5 year old children. Second, even if maternal full-time work is associated with higher levels of negative behavioural outcomes. . . of 4 to 11 year old children, these negative effects are small relative to the effects of other covariates.

12 Québec Longitudinal Study of Child Development (QLSCD)

Nationality CAN
Investigators Institut de la statistique du Québec
http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca
Begin 1998
Sample 2,120 Québec infants born in Quebec in 1997-1998
Questions
• sociodemographic characteristics
• nature of the birthing process,
• health and social adaptation of the parents,
• family and couple relations,
• parent-infant relations, parenting practices
• characteristics of the 5-month old (sleep, diet, oral hygiene, temperament, and motor, cognitive and social development)

Summary The Québec Longitudinal Study of Child Development (QLSCD) was designed with the express intent of furthering our knowledge of child development. Its main objective has been to identify factors that, coming into play during early childhood, affect the social adjustment and academic performance of young Quebeckers.

... So far, the data collected during this first phase (1998-2002) have enabled researchers to evaluate the influence of particular milieus (family, child care and the broader social environment) on various aspects of well-being. For instance, quite a few studies dealing with health, development (motor, social and cognitive), behaviour, diet, sleep, the family and economic environment, use of child care, etc., have already been performed....

Retrieved February 14, from the QLSCD homepage http://www.jesuisjeserai.stat.gouv.qc.ca/etude_an.htm

Direct Links http://www.jesuisjeserai.stat.gouv.qc.ca/default_an.htm

Literature http://www.jesuisjeserai.stat.gouv.qc.ca/publications_an.htm
13 Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)

Nationality AUS

Sponsors Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Investigators A large consortium led by the Australian Institute of Family Studies

Begin 2003

Status Ongoing

Sample two cohorts:
• a minimum of 5000 children aged less than 12 months, selected in 2003, and followed at least every two years until they reach 6–7 years of age in 2009; and
• a minimum of 5000 children aged 4–5 years when selected in 2003, and also followed at least every two years until they reach the age of 11–12 years of age in 2009.

Questions The study will address the following seven broad questions:
• How well are Australian children doing on a number of key developmental outcomes?
• What are the pathway markers, early indicators, or constellations of behaviours that are related to different child outcomes?
• How are child outcomes interlinked with their wider circumstances and environment?
• In what ways do features of children’s environment (such as families, communities, and institutions) impact on child outcomes?
• What helps maintain an effective pathway, or change one that is not promising?
• How is a child’s potential maximised to achieve positive outcomes for children, their families and society?
• What role can the government play in achieving these outcomes?

Summary The study adopts a holistic approach to child development, being concerned with outcomes across multiple domains of development. The theoretical framework in which the study is grounded is an ecological model of development, originating from Bronfenbrenner (1979). The family, school, community and broader society, as well as the child’s own attributes, are seen to contribute to the child’s development in complex interacting ways over time. Reciprocal interactions between children and their environment are key influences on children’s development.
Within this ecological framework, LSAC will take a "developmental pathways" approach, with an emphasis on "trajectories". This perspective seeks to identify the factors that determine pathways through life to good and poor outcomes, and factors that influence changes in these pathways, especially at crucial transition points such as entry into child care or school settings. By identifying early indicators that children are embarking on disadvantageous pathways, and the factors that divert children away from these pathways, interventions can be designed to help change children’s course through life.

Retrieved February 14, 2007 from the LSAC discussion paper no.1


14 Life Chances Study

Nationality AUS
Investigators The Brotherhood of St. Laurence
Begin 1990
Status Ongoing
Sample 167 children born 1990

Questions
• to examine over an extended period of time the life opportunities and life outcomes of a small group of Australian children, including the influences of social, economic and environmental factors on children's lives
• to compare the lives of children in families on low incomes with those in more affluent circumstances
• to contribute to the development of government and community interventions to improve the lives of Australian children, particularly those in disadvantaged circumstances.

Summary The Life Chances study is a unique longitudinal study commenced by the Brotherhood of St Laurence in 1990 to explore the impacts of family income and associated factors for children over time. The study began with 167 children born in inner Melbourne in 1990 and has followed them and their families over the years as many moved away from the inner suburbs. The families are very diverse, including high and low-income families and a range of ethnic groups.


15 Australian Temperament Project

Nationality  AUS
Sponsors  Australian Institute of Family Studies
Begin  1982
Status  Data collection completed
Sample  2443 families from urban and rural areas of the state of Victoria, Australia
Questions  
• the contribution of temperament to a child's emotional, behavioural and school adjustment;
• the impact of family and environmental factors, together with child characteristics, on emotional and behavioural adjustment;
• the factors and processes involved in the progression of childhood behaviour problems (e.g. aggression, hyperactivity, anxiety) to adolescent and adult adjustment difficulties (e.g. antisocial behaviour, substance use, depression);
• genetic influences on temperament and behaviour;
• the development of healthy, socially competent functioning;
• the development of civic mindedness and social responsibility;
• the transition to young adulthood: pathways to occupational and educational participation, the development of interpersonal relationships, and family formation.

Summary  The Australian Temperament Project (ATP) is a longitudinal study of the psychosocial development of a large and representative sample of Australian children born in the state of Victoria, Australia between September 1982 and January 1983. The study aims to trace the pathways to psychosocial adjustment and maladjustment across the lifespan, and to investigate the contribution of personal, family and environmental factors to development and wellbeing. A major theme throughout has been the influence of an individual's temperament on his/her emotional and behavioural adjustment.


Mater-University of Queensland Study of Pregnancy (MUSP)

Nationality: AUS

Investigators: The University of Queensland, Mater Misericordiae Hospital

Begin: 1981-1983

Status: Ongoing

Sample: 8,556 pregnant women

Questions:

- Maternal demographics - age, education, employment, marital status, income
- Maternal lifestyle - cigarette and alcohol consumption, pre-pregnancy physical activity
- Maternal mental health and dyadic adjustment - depression, anxiety, stress, life events, marital conflict
- Maternal child rearing - attitudes to newborns, mother-child interactions, parenting and discipline style
- Maternal health
- Pregnancy outcomes
- Child health
- Child behaviour

Summary: The Mater Misericordiae Mothers' Hospital-University of Queensland Study of Pregnancy began as a prospective study of 8,556 pregnant women interviewed after their first clinic visit. The initial phase of data collection commenced in 1981. Later phases have collected data on both mother and child at post-birth, six months, five years and fourteen/fifteen year follow-ups. The follow-up for the twenty-one year old children and their mothers commenced in April 2002.

The project continues to study the health and general well-being of mothers and their children with the aim of improving the quality of care received from medical and social agencies. Initial and progressive stages were developed to focus on physical and emotional well-being, social behaviour patterning, and predictors of juvenile and adult behaviour.

Aims and objectives:

- To study the social and psychological factors in obstetric outcomes
- To study the determinants of child health and well-being
- To study the causes of child behaviour problems
- To study mental and physical inequalities in child health
- To monitor maternal mental health and physical health over time

Retrieved February 16, 2007 from the University of Queensland, School of Social Science homepage

Direct Links  http://www.ansoc.uq.edu.au/?page=15531
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>ZL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>The CHDS has been supported by research grants from the Health Research Council of New Zealand, the National Child Health Research Foundation, the Canterbury Medical Research Foundation and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigators</td>
<td>Christchurch School of Medicine &amp; Health Sciences, Otago University <a href="http://www.chmeds.ac.nz/index.htm">http://www.chmeds.ac.nz/index.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begin</td>
<td>1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample</td>
<td>1,265 children born in the Christchurch (New Zealand) urban region during mid 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>• health, education and life progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>The Christchurch Health and Development Study (CHDS) has now been in existence for more than a quarter of a century. During this time we have followed the health, education and life progress of a group of 1,265 children born in the Christchurch (New Zealand) urban region during mid 1977. This cohort has now been studied from infancy into childhood, adolescence and adulthood. The data gathered over the course of the study now comprises some 50 million characters of information describing the life history of this cohort. The Study has published over 230 scientific papers, books and book chapters describing the 25 year life history of the CHDS cohort. Retrieved February 16, 2007 from:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Direct Links [http://www.chmeds.ac.nz/research/chds/](http://www.chmeds.ac.nz/research/chds/)

Literature [http://www.chmeds.ac.nz/research/chds/publications.htm](http://www.chmeds.ac.nz/research/chds/publications.htm)
18 Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study (DMHDS)

Nationality ZL
Investigators Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health & Development Research Unit
Begin 1972
Status Ongoing
Sample 1,000 babies
Questions • studies in the psychosocial, behavioural medicine and biomedical research areas

Summary The Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health & Development Research Unit conducts the long-running cohort study of approximately 1,000 babies born in Dunedin in 1972-73. The Study members have been assessed at birth, at age three, then every two years up to age 15, and again at age 18, 21 and 26 years. The age 32 assessments (2003-2005) have recently been completed, and included a broad range of studies in the psychosocial, behavioural medicine and biomedical research areas.


Direct Links http://dunedinstudy.otago.ac.nz/index.html

Literature http://dunedinstudy.otago.ac.nz/publications2.html
19  European Longitudinal Study of Pregnancy and Childhood (ELSPAC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>International (EU)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initiator</td>
<td>WHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigators</td>
<td>11 centres in the participating countries (Great Britain, Isle of Man, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, Ukraine, partly Croatia and Estonia and in the beginning also Spain and Greece)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begin</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample</td>
<td>About 40.000 children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Background**

In the early 1980s, the WHO Regional Office for Europe included in its programme of support, the epidemiological investigation of factors influencing child health and development. The main reason for this was that there was insufficient knowledge available to develop effective disease prevention strategies in early life, particularly in relation to behavioural, environmental and social factors.

... an invitation to join the study was sent by WHO (EURO) to the appropriate government departments of all the countries of Europe. As a result of this letter and the efforts of the Bristol centre, 14 centres located in 9 countries embarked on the ELSPAC study. Currently there are 11 centres still continuing to gather data in 6 countries.

The major part of the co-ordination and development work is carried out in Bristol at the Institute of Child Health (University of Bristol), which acts as a central survey office (CSO). The Institute was also designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology, with the main focus of work on ELSPAC.

Retrieved February 17, 2007, from the ELSPAC Homepage Bristol http://www.alspac.bris.ac.uk/elspac/protocol/chapters/E_protocol_chapone.htm

**Study aims**

The aim of the study is to detect biologic, psychologic, social factors as well as factors of external environment, which are connected with survival and health of the fetus, suckling and child. It is possible to compare results with the data from researches form other participating countries. The other aim of the study is to find out bio-psycho-social determinants of the child’s development from conception till the end of school age, considering the family (life style, environment, care, relationships among family members...
and so on) and personalities of mother and father. The last but not least aim is to try to find the connections between bio-psycho-social determinants and genesis and development of health disorders of fetus, newborn and child.

Retrieved February 17, 2007, from the ELSPAC Brno Homepage
http://www.med.muni.cz/elspac/Pages/index_nen.html
For a detailed description of research objectives see also
http://www.alspac.bris.ac.uk/elspac/protocol/chapters/E_protocol_chapone.htm

Direct Links
University of Bristol
http://www.alspac.bris.ac.uk/elspac/index.shtml
Masaryk University, Brno
http://www.med.muni.cz/elspac/Pages/index_en.html

Literature
http://www.alspac.bris.ac.uk/elspac/protocol/chapters/e_protocol_chaptwelve.htm
20 Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC)

Nationality UK
Funding http://www.alspac.bris.ac.uk/protocol/Section12.shtml
Investigators University of Bristol
http://www.alspac.bris.ac.uk/welcome/whoarewe.shtml
Begin 1991
Status Ongoing
Sample 14,541 pregnant women with an estimated date of delivery between 1 April 1991 and 31 December 1992

Background „In consequence of a meeting convened by WHO (Europe) in July 1985 in Moscow, a decision was made to design and develop a longitudinal survey strategy that could be used to determine what the current problems in child health and development are, and how they may be prevented. On the basis of this a multicentre study was designed, the European Longitudinal Study of Pregnancy & Childhood (ELSPAC). The Avon Longitudinal Study of Pregnancy & Childhood (ALSPAC) has built onto, and substantially extended, the European project.
...
ALSPAC has the long-term aim of following the children into adulthood and thus will be set to answer questions related to prenatal and postnatal factors associated, for example, with schizophrenia, delinquency, reproductive failure on the one hand, and realisation of full educational potential, health and happiness on the other.”

Questions „Study aims are
• To determine which biological, environmental, social, psychological and psychosocial factors are associated with the survival and optimal health and development of the fetus, infant and child, and the ways in which causal relationships might vary with the genetic composition of mother and/or child.
• To identify the complex ways in which environmental features may be associated with the optimal development, health and well-being of the child, will involve a study of the ways in which genes and the environment interact. A child’s ability to meet environmental and social challenges is influenced by genetic variation, but the interactions are complex. Genetic susceptibility or resistance to common disorders is likely to be bestowed by one or more genetic polymorphisms, the impact of which will change as various environmental and developmental stresses on the child
change. ALSPAC was specifically designed to analyse this interplay between genes and environment with respect to important relatively common health outcomes.

...“
Retrieved February 17, 2007, from the ALSPAC Homepage
http://www.alspac.bris.ac.uk/protocol/section1.htm

Direct Links  http://www.alspac.bris.ac.uk/welcome/index.shtml

Literature  http://www.alspac.bris.ac.uk/pub/index.shtml
21  National Child Development Study (NCDS)

Nationality  UK

Investigators  The National Children's Bureau, the Social Statistics Research Unit, City University, the Centre for Longitudinal Studies

Begin  1958

Status  Ongoing

Sample  17,634 babies born between 3rd and 9th March, 1958

Questions  The NCDS, conducted by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies at the Institute of Education in London, is a continuing longitudinal study which is seeking to follow the lives of all those living in Great Britain who were born between 3rd and 9th March, 1958. The aim of the study is to improve understanding of the factors affecting human development over the whole lifespan.

Retrieved February 16, 2007, from the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) Homepage
http://www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/access/ncds/

Summary  The NCDS has gathered data from respondents on child development from birth to early adolescence, child care, medical care, health, physical statistics, school readiness, home environment, educational progress, parental involvement, cognitive and social growth, family relationships, economic activity, income, training and housing.

Retrieved February 16, 2007, from the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) Homepage
http://www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/access/ncds/

Direct Links  http://www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/access/ncds/

Literature  http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/studies.asp?section=000100020003
22 Millennium Cohort Study (MCS)

Nationality UK
Sponsors Economic and Social Research Council ESRC (http://www.esrc.ac.uk)
Investigators A consortium headed by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies (http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/)
Begin 2000
Status Ongoing
Sample nearly 19,000 babies born from 2000 to 2002
Questions The main objectives of the survey are:
• to provide a basis for comparing patterns of development with the preceding cohorts (the National Child Development Study and the 1970 British Cohort Study)
• to collect information on previously neglected topics, such as fathers' involvement in children's care and development
• to focus on parents as the most immediate elements of the children's 'background'
• to emphasize intergenerational links including those back to the parents' own childhood
• to investigate the wider social ecology of the family
• to provide control cases for the national evaluation of 'Sure Start' (a government programme intended to alleviate child poverty and social exclusion)
• to provide samples of adequate size to analyse and compare the smaller countries of the United Kingdom

Retrieved February 16, 2007, from the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) Homepage http://www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/access/mcs/faq.asp

Summary The ESRC-funded MCS offers large-scale information about the new century’s babies, and the families who are bringing them up, for the four countries of the United Kingdom. Its first sweep, carried out during 2001-2002 laid the foundations for a major new longitudinal research resource. The MCS follows the lives of a sample of nearly 19,000 babies born between 1 September 2000 and 31 August 2001 in England and Wales, and between 22 November 2000 and 11 January 2002 in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Information has been collected from parents when the children were aged nine months and at around three years of age. The sample design allowed for disproportionate representation of families living in areas of child poverty, in the smaller countries of the UK and in areas with high ethnic minority populations in England. The first survey recorded the
circumstances of pregnancy and birth, as well as those of the all-important early months of life, and the social and economic background of the family into which the children have been born. The main objectives of the second survey were to chart continuity and change in the child's family and parenting environment, to assess key aspects of the child's physical, cognitive, social and emotional development and to maximize longitudinal potential for predicting and explaining future development.

The study's broad objective is to create a new multi-purpose longitudinal dataset, describing the diversity of backgrounds from which children born in the new century are setting out on life.

Retrieved February 16, 2007, from the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) Homepage
http://www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/access/mcs/

Direct Links  http://www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/access/mcs/

Literature  http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/studies.asp?section=000100020001
23 Family Development in the Course of Life

Nationality A

Investigators B. Rollett, H. Werneck, Universität Wien

Begin 1990

Status Ongoing

Sample 175 Families

Questions Die Bedingungen für günstige und riskante Kindesentwicklung

Study goals Ziel des Längsschnittsprojektes „Familienentwicklung im Lebenslauf (FIL)“ ist es, die individuelle Entwicklung von Kindern und ihren Familien in einer Zeit gesellschaftlicher Veränderungen umfassend zu untersuchen und bis zum Erwachsenenalter des Untersuchungskindes zu begleiten und auf diese Weise Informationen über günstige und riskante Entwicklungen und ihre Bedingungen zu gewinnen.

Direct Links http://epsy15.psy.univie.ac.at/FIL/FIL-Infos_t6.htm

Swiss Etiological Study of Adjustment and Mental Health (SESAM)

Nationality: CH

Sponsors: SNF (Program NFS/NCCR)
http://www.snf.ch/de/rep/nat/nat_ccr.asp

Investigators: University of Basel, University of Zurich, International Team
http://www.sesamswiss.ch/ueber-sesam/organisation/

Begin: 2007

Status: Starting

Sample: 3'000 children from the 20th week of pregnancy to age 20

Aims: To identify and understand the pre-disease pathways leading to the development of mental disorders and maladjustment.

Summary: SESAM aims to open the door to a decisive breakthrough in understanding the development of mental health and adjustment to the social, psychological, and biological environments in which we live. Mental health has become a vital issue in Swiss society. The enormous costs of health care as well as the massive individual impact in terms of suffering and disability make it imperative to understand the pre-disease pathways leading to the development of mental disorders and maladjustment. sesam will focus on the complex multi-directional interactions of psychosocial and genetic-biological variables across time and between generations, by combining longitudinal, cross-sectional, and experimental approaches in a coherent interdisciplinary strategy. ...

Retrieved February 21, 2007, from
http://www.research-projects.unizh.ch/p6844.htm

Direct Links: http://www.sesamswiss.ch/
Mannheim Study of Risk Children

Nationality D
Sponsors DFG
Investigators M. H. Schmidt, M. Laucht, G. Esser (Universität Potsdam)
Begin 1986
Status Ongoing
Sample 384 children
Questions Identify risk and protective factors for various developmental outcomes
Background: The follow-up of risk groups is considered the “via regia” of the developmental epidemiology of mental disorders.
Objective: To follow the development of children born with different risks and to identify risk and protective factors for various developmental outcomes, as well as to analyze the mechanisms underlying heterogeneous courses.
Method: In a prospective longitudinal study (with assessments at 3 months, 2, 4 ½, 8, and 11 years) the onset and course of developmental and behavioral disorders in 384 children was investigated. Organic (obstetric complications) and psychosocial risks (family adversity) were varied in a two-factorial design.
Results: The negative impact of early risk factors persisted into school age. While organic complications were associated with to disturbances in motor and cognitive development, the adverse effects of psychosocial adversity pertained to cognitive and social-emotional functioning. Both risks contributed additively to outcome.
Conclusions: Early risk factors have specific and long-term sequelae. Children with multiple risks exhibit the most unfavourable development.
Links http://www.zi-mannheim.de/259.html
Literature Related Topic: father-toddler interaction
This study examines the associations between the father-toddler interaction and behavioral problems of children aged 2–8 years. P. Trautmann-Villalba, M. Laucht, M. H. Schmidt, Interaktion zwischen Kleinkindern und ihren Vätern - Unterschiedliche
Israel

26 Haifa Study of Early Child Care

Nationality       IL
Investigators     University of Haifa, Israel
Status            Ongoing
Sample            758 children
Questions         child-care effects on infant attachments
Study goals       The purpose of the Haifa Study of Early Child Care was to explore the quality of daycare by examining interactions between caregivers and young children. It recruited a large-scale sample (N = 758) that represented the full SES spectrum in Israel, to examine the unique contribution of various child-care-related correlates to infant attachment.

Literature


27 The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce: A 25 Year Landmark Study

Nationality USA (California)

Sponsors School of Social Welfare at the University of California at Berkeley

Investigators Judith S. Wallerstein, Julia M. Lewis, Sandra Blakeslee

Begin Early 1970's

Status Completed

Sample 131 children whose parents divorced in the early '70s

Questions The effects of divorce on children and their parents

Summary Twenty-five years ago, when the impact of divorce on children was not well understood, Wallerstein began what has now become the largest study on the subject, and this book presents the psychologist's startling findings. By tracking approximately 100 children as they forge their lives as adults, she has found that contrary to the popular belief that kids would bounce back after the initial pain of their parents' split, children of divorce often continue to suffer well into adulthood. Their pain plays out in their relationships, their work lives and their confidence about parenting themselves. Wallerstein argues that although the situation is dire, there is hope to be found at the end of good counseling and healing. Unfortunately, in her desire to communicate a lot in a highly accessible format, Wallerstein verges on oversimplification at times. Nonetheless, hers is an important contribution to our understanding of what is a central social problem.

Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.
Retrieved February 8, 2007, from the Amazon homepage
http://www.amazon.com/dp/0786886161

Literature
THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF DIVORCE ON CHILDREN. A First Report From a 25-Year Study
http://www.amazon.com/dp/0786886161
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>28</strong></th>
<th><strong>For Better or For Worse: Divorce Reconsidered</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nationality</strong></td>
<td>USA (Virginia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investigators</strong></td>
<td>E. Mavis Hetherington, University of Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample</strong></td>
<td>2,500 children over three decades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary</strong></td>
<td>University of Virginia psychology professor Hetherington and writer Kelly offer a &quot;primer&quot; on the &quot;postnuclear family experience.&quot; After studying more than 1,400 families and 2,500 children over three decades, Hetherington sees divorce as part of a series of &quot;interconnected transitions&quot; in life rather than a one-time event. While destructive in the short-term, divorce can also be positive, creating new opportunities for long-term personal growth. ....</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.
Retrieved February 22, from the Amazon homepage
http://www.amazon.com/dp/0393324133

| **Literature** | For Better or For Worse: Divorce Reconsidered; E. Mavis Hetherington (Author), John Kelly (Author), W. W. Norton & Company; Reprint edition (February 2003) |
Families after Divorce

Nationality  German

Sponsors  DFG Bonn (http://www.dfg.de)

Investigators  Anneke Napp-Peters, Erika Spiegel, TU Hamburg-Harburg


Status  Completed

Sample  269 children

Aims  To systematically and continuously comprise change processes within families after divorce and expand our knowledge about post-divorce families and their social environment.

Summary  In a longitudinal study, Anneke Napp-Peters has followed 150 divorce families with 269 children in selected North German communities for 12 years beginning in 1980-1981. She interviewed children, mothers and fathers and new life partners about their experiences and attitudes.

The results of her research show that the prevailing opinion that a divorce represents a temporary crisis, which after some time disappears by itself, is wrong. Children suffer for years, all too often an entire lifetime, in a divorce where one parent was excluded.


Literature  Anneke Napp-Peters, Familien nach der Scheidung Verlag Antje Kustmann, München 1995, ISBN 3-88897-159-4
Family relationships after separation and divorce: Changing processes in mothers, fathers and children

Nationality: German
Sponsors: University of Cologne
Investigators: Ulrich Schmidt-Denter, Wolfgang Beelmann
Duration: 1990 - 1993
Status: Three waves completed, continuation intended
Sample: 60 separated families (Nordrhein-Westfalen)
Questions:
• An inquiry into the changes in family relationships after a separation/divorce using a systemic approach?
• Under what conditions is an adjustment to a post divorce situation most likely to succeed or fail (the central “success criteria” is the preservation of the well-being of the child/children)?
Results (selected):
• The family as a social system is not coming to an end; it is (selected) restructuring itself. Contacts and bonds are changing, but they do remain intact in a certain way. That affects the family substructures in different ways.
• Children, on the other hand, clearly deviate much less frequently in their estimation of the norm-values for an intact family. In contrast to their parents, they generally retain the notion of the old nuclear family.
• Adults have a more positive opinion of their child rearing abilities than what the children feel. A preference for the child of the same gender has been found.
• Children experience the mother as the continuing and important emotional bonding figure. There are changes in the relationship with the father, who, by his leaving visibly demonstrates the separation, and, who is no longer readily available. The feelings of disappointment and anger, which are tied to the separation are, for the most part, not admitted by the children.
• There is also a more intensive relationship between siblings.
• The symptom load among separation children clearly lies above normal levels. It also shows clearly positive changes in the course of time.


Direct Links: http://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/psych/entwicklung/forschung/scheidung/
31 Love relations in early adulthood

Nationality  German
Sponsors     Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
Investigators Anna Sidor
Status       Completed
Sample       83 young adults

Questions
• Aspects of partnership such as intimacy capability, depth of relationship, communication, emotional closeness or ability to deal with conflicts.

Results
• Within the framework of a longitudinal study, 83 healthy and chronically sick (Diabetes Type 1) young adults were studied in regards to their ability to be intimate in the relationship, bonding with parents and the partner, partnership quality and identity development.
• It was shown that healthy women had a higher degree of intimacy capability than healthy men, who often displayed a superficial “pseudo-intimate” intimacy model. Young men who were in a partnership displayed a greater ability to be intimate than single men.
• Another result of the study is that healthy women are clearly more capable of deep, intimate relationships than diabetics. The latter more frequently displayed a superficial, “pseudo-intimate” relationship model. With men, however, this chronic illness was of no significance in regard to their ability to be intimate.
• There was a connection between secure parental bonding and a high degree of intimacy ability. Furthermore, there was a connection between a dependent-entangled intimacy type and a fearful-ambivalent bonding in the partnership.


Literature
Anna Sidor, Schriften zur Entwicklungspsychologie, Bd. 6, Hamburg 2005, ISBN 3-8300-1718-9
32 Fathers and children. Longitudinal studies about parental care

Nationality German
Sponsors University of Regensburg
Investigators Heinz Kindler
Status Completed
Sample Families from the first to the sixteenth year of a child’s life
Questions • The importance of father-child relationship for social and emotional development.

Abstract The question about the role of fathers in the development of their children is of equal concern to researchers, family politics, social workers and parents. The answers that Heinz Kindler provides on the subject in the study in hand are based on two worldwide unique longitudinal studies in Germany. Families were scientifically followed, while their children grew from age one to sixteen years of age, and they were observed and interviewed several times. The apparent importance of the father-child relationship for social and emotional development was then subjected to a separate analysis. The central point of this investigation was the bonding relevant aspect of the behavior of the fathers’ ability to motivate their children to explore their abilities and the world around them or to unnecessarily limit such explorations. The results of the statistical analyses substantiate the long-term influence of the quality of the fathers’ play on child development. In a separate section, the author also shows that the extent of the father-child contact depends, in its effects, on such qualitative aspects of the relationship. (DJI/Sd).

German Text Retrieved February 20 from http://www.fachportalpaedagogik.de/fis_bildung/fis_form.html

Life course social roles and women’s health in mid-life: causation or selection?

Nationality: UK

Sponsors: University College London, MRC National Survey of Health and Development London

Investigators: Anne McMunn, Mel Bartley, Rebecca Hardy and Diana Kuh

Status: Completed

Sample: 1171 Women from a national British cohort born in 1946

Study Objective: To investigate whether relations between social roles and health are explained by health selection into employment and parenthood by examining the influence of early health on relations between long term social role histories and health in mid-life.

Main results: Women who occupied multiple roles over the long term reported relatively good health at age 54 and this was not explained by early health. Women with weak long term ties to the labour market were more likely to be obese at age 53. Examination of body mass index (BMI) from age 15 showed that long term homemakers were larger than other women from age 26, but their mean BMI increased significantly more with age than that of other women.

Conclusions: Relations between social roles and health were generally not explained by health selection into employment and parenthood, although some health selection may occur for obesity.

Retrieved February 20, 2007, from
http://jech.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/short/60/6/484

Direct Links
http://jech.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/short/60/6/484

Literature
Life course social roles and women’s health in mid-life: causation or selection? Anne McMunn, Mel Bartley, Rebecca Hardy and Diana Kuh, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health 2006;60:484-489

Article:
http://www.irishhealth.com/index.html?level=4&id=9513
Reduced Incidence of Parenting Inadequacy Following Rooming-in

Nationality       USA
Investigators     Department of Pediatrics of Vanderbilt University Medical School Nashville General Hospital, the Department of Psychology of George Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt, and the Social and Behavioral Research Branch of the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, Nashville, Tennessee

Begin            Published 1980
Status           Completed
Sample           143 low-income mother-infant pairs
Questions        • effects of rooming-in on parenting adequacy

Abstract         Low-income mother-infant pairs were randomly assigned to rooming-in (N = 143) or to routine (N = 158) postpartum contact to determine whether rooming-in affects subsequent adequacy in parenting. At mean age 17 months, two rooming-in and ten control children had experienced inadequate parenting. One rooming-in and eight control children were hospitalized for these problems. One rooming-in and five control families were reported to Protective Services for mistreatment of the study child; five control and no rooming-in children were in the care of adults other than their parents at the time of data analysis. In this study, rooming-in correlated with fewer subsequent cases of parenting inadequacy. Retrieved February 9, 2007 from the PEDIATRICS homepage:

Literature       Reduced Incidence of Parenting Inadequacy Following Rooming-in Susan O’Connor MD1, Peter M. Vietze PhD1, Kathryn B. Sherrod PhD1, Howard M. Sandler PhD1, and William A. Altemeier III MD1, PEDIATRICS Vol. 66 No. 2 August 1980, pp. 176-182 http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/66/2/176 Cited in http://www.amazon.com/dp/020162673X
Mode of Delivery and Other Maternal Factors Influence the Acquisition of Streptococcus mutans in Infants

Nationality: USA (Cleveland, Ohio)

Investigators: New York University, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Begin Publication: 2005

Status: Completed

Sample: 156 mother-infant pairs from the last third of pregnancy to the fourth birthday of the children

Questions: We hypothesized that several maternal factors, including the mode of delivery, influence the initial acquisition of S. mutans in infants.

Abstract: S. mutans plays a key role in dental caries. The extent to which perinatal events influence the acquisition of S. mutans is unclear. We hypothesized that several maternal factors, including the mode of delivery, influence the initial acquisition of S. mutans in infants. A prospective cohort study was conducted in 156 mother-infant pairs. The study found that maternal gestational age (p = 0.04), S. mutans level (p = 0.02), caries score (p = 0.02), sexually transmitted disease (STD) infection experience (p = 0.01), and family income (p = 0.03) had significant effects on the acquisition of S. mutans. Among infants who became infected, those delivered by Caesarean section acquired S. mutans 11.7 mos earlier than did vaginally delivered infants (p = 0.038). C-section infants harbored a single genotype of S. mutans that was identical to that of their mothers (100% fidelity). Analysis of the data demonstrated the possible perinatal influences on infants’ acquisition of a member of the cariogenic microbiota, and its potential effect on caries outcome.

Abstract retrieved February 8, 2007 from the Journal of Dental Research homepage:

Literature: "Mode of Delivery and Other Maternal Factors Influence the Acquisition of Streptococcus mutans in Infants", Journal of Dental Research, 09/2005
http://jdr.iadrjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/84/9/806

Meduniqa:
http://www.meduniqa.at/2041.0.html
Outcomes in Young Adulthood for Very-Low-Birth-Weight Infants

Nationality  USA (Cleveland, Ohio)
Investigators  Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, Kent State University
Begin  1977
Status  Completed 1999
Sample  242 survivors among very-low-birth-weight infants born between 1977 and 1979 (mean birth weight, 1179 g; mean gestational age at birth, 29.7 weeks), 233 controls who had normal birth weights
Questions  • level of education  
• cognitive and academic achievement  
• rates of chronic illness and  
• risk-taking behavior at 20 years of age.
Abstract  Fewer very-low-birth-weight young adults than normal-birth-weight young adults had graduated from high school (74 percent vs. 83 percent, \( P=0.04 \)). Very-low-birth-weight men, but not women, were significantly less likely than normal-birth-weight controls to be enrolled in postsecondary study (30 percent vs. 53 percent, \( P=0.002 \)). Very-low-birth-weight participants had a lower mean IQ (87 vs. 92) and lower academic achievement scores (\( P<0.001 \) for both comparisons). They had higher rates of neurosensory impairments (10 percent vs. <1 percent, \( P<0.001 \)) and subnormal height (10 percent vs. 5 percent, \( P=0.04 \)). The very-low-birth-weight group reported less alcohol and drug use and had lower rates of pregnancy than normal-birth-weight controls; these differences persisted when comparisons were restricted to the participants without neurosensory impairment.
Conclusions: Educational disadvantage associated with very low birth weight persists into early adulthood.
Abstract retrieved February 7, 2007 from The New England Journal of Medicine homepage:

http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/346/3/149
Bedsharing – the Children of the Families Lifestyles Project

Nationality USA (California)
Sponsors Carnegie Corporation, the United States Public Health Service, W.T. Grant Foundation, and the University of California Los Angeles.
Investigators University of California Los Angeles
Begin 1975
Status Completed
Sample 205 California-born children
Questions whether bedsharing with parents would lead to
• psychosexually troubled relationships later in childhood and adolescence,
• behavior problems and
• difficulties in peer and intimate relationships, or
• early childhood sleep problems
Summary Routine parent–child bedsharing before 6 years of age appears to have no major impact on a child’s subsequent development or behavior.
At age 6, there was no obvious relationship between bedsharing score and behavioral maturity, emotional maturity, mood and affect, or creativity. Nor was there evidence that bedsharing had a negative or positive effect on a child's sexual fantasies, concerns or preoccupations.
At age 18, the amount of time a child had spent in the "family bed" had no significant impact on his or her ability to relate to parents, adults in general, other family members or peers. Nor was there evidence of a link between bedsharing history and a child’s likelihood of using alcohol, tobacco or hard drugs; having problems with self-acceptance or considering suicide; engaging in vandalism, fights or serious crimes; being sexually active; or having either positive or negative sexual experiences.

If anything, the investigators note, their data indicate small but widespread benefits to children where bedsharing is "part of a wider set of pronatural child-rearing practices and framed by humanistic/egalitarian values," as opposed to a reflection of an underlying pathology such as sexual abuse.
Text retrieved February 6, 2007 from the CFAH homepage http://www.cfah.org/hbns/newsrelease/bedsharing8-14-02.cfm

Direct Links http://www.cfah.org/hbns/newsrelease/bedsharing8-14-02.cfm

Literature Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics 23(4)
38 Risk of suicide in twins: 51 year follow up study

Nationality DK

Investigators Cecilia Tomassini, Centre for Population Studies, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London
Knud Juel, National Institute of Public Health, Copenhagen
Niels V Holm, Axel Skytthe, Kaare Christensen, Danish Twin Registry, Institute of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark, Odense

Status Completed

Sample 21,653 same sex twins born from 1870 to 1930 (Danish twin registry) and established date and cause of death from 1943 to 1993 (Danish registry of causes of death)

Questions Strong family ties and commitments are known to be important in the prevention of suicide. The study investigated whether the suicide rate in twins was different to that in the general population.

Summary Twins had a substantially lower suicide rate compared with the general population. The suicide risk for twins was consistently lower for both men and women in all six 10 year birth cohorts.

Full text available: http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/reprint/327/7411/373
INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

39 Program – Families and Schools Together (FAST), FAST Babies

Nationality  USA (Wisconsin)
Sponsors  http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/fast/links/index.htm#FASTFunders
Investigators  Wisconsin Center for Education Research in the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
Begin  1988
Status  Ongoing
Sample  Permanent recruitment
Questions  FAST systematically applies research on family stress theory, family systems theory, social ecological theory, and community development strategies to achieve its four goals:
- Enhanced family functioning
- Prevention of school failure by the targeted child
- Prevention of substance abuse by the child and other family members
- Reduced stress from daily life situations for parents and children

Summary  Families & Schools Together (FAST) is a multifamily group intervention designed to build protective factors for children and empower parents to be the primary prevention agents for their own children. Although developed by Dr. Lynn McDonald in 1988 for at-risk youth and their families, FAST is now offered as a universal model to children, ages 3 through 18. It became an evidence-based model in 2002.
FAST Babies is a research based, family support, multifamily group prevention program for infants (0-3). The activities fit the developmental needs of the infant, the new young mother, the new father, and the grandmother while building relationships.
Since its beginnings in Madison, Wisconsin, the FAST program is now implemented regularly nationally in 45 U.S. states and internationally in five countries (Canada, Germany, Australia, Austria, and Russia).
FAST has been identified as a science-based SAMHSA model program to prevent substance abuse and mental health problem (Schincke, 2003) and best practice family strengthening model program to prevent juvenile delinquency. http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/fast/
http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/fast/models/babies.htm

Direct Links  Wisconsin http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/FAST/
Germany http://univis.unisiegen.de/formbot/dsc_3Danew_2Fpande_26dir_3Dvereine_2Farbeit_26ref_3Dpande

Literature  http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/FAST/research/index.html
The Carolina Abecedarian Project

Nationality  USA (California)
Sponsors    See „Acknowledgements“ http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~abc/
Investigators FPG Child Development Institute (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
Begin       1972
Status      Ongoing
Sample      111 infants (53 from the intervention group and 51 controls)
Program     • The Abecedarian project was a carefully controlled scientific study of the potential benefits of early childhood education for poor children.
            • Children from low-income families received full-time, high-quality educational intervention in a childcare setting from infancy through age 5.
            • Each child had an individualized prescription of educational activities.
            • Educational activities consisted of "games" incorporated into the child's day.
            • Activities focused on social, emotional, and cognitive areas of development but gave particular emphasis to language.
            • Children's progress was monitored over time with follow-up studies conducted at ages 12, 15, and 21.
            • The young adult findings demonstrate that important, long-lasting benefits were associated with the early childhood program.

Major Findings
• Children who participated in the early intervention program had higher cognitive test scores from the toddler years to age 21.
• Academic achievement in both reading and math was higher from the primary grades through young adulthood.
• Intervention children completed more years of education and were more likely to attend a four-year college.
• Intervention children were older, on average, when their first child was born.
• The cognitive and academic benefits from this program are stronger than for most other early childhood programs.
• Enhanced language development appears to have been instrumental in raising cognitive test scores.
• Mothers whose children participated in the program achieved higher educational and employment status than mothers whose children were not in the program. These results were especially pronounced for teen mothers.
Direct Links
Text Retrieved on February 23, 2007 from the FPG Homepage
http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~abc/

Literature
• http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~abc/publications.cfm
• Leonard N. Masse, W. Steven Barnett, National Institute for Early Education Research:
  A Benefit Cost Analysis of the Abecedarian Early Childhood Intervention
  http://nieer.org/resources/research/AbecedarianStudy.pdf
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<td><strong>Summary</strong></td>
<td>The findings from the Minnesota longitudinal study have been used to develop STEEP, a preventative intervention program for high risk parents and their infants. Developed in 1986 by Drs. Byron Egeland and Martha Farrell Erickson, STEEP™ reaches out to parents even before their first child is born. STEEP™ works on the premise that a secure attachment between parent and infant establishes ongoing patterns of healthy interaction. A secure parent-child attachment lays the foundation for later competence and well-being.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.education.umn.edu/CEED/coursesandtrainings/trainings/steepsib.htm">http://www.education.umn.edu/CEED/coursesandtrainings/trainings/steepsib.htm</a></td>
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| Investigators| Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hantel-Quitmann  
Prof. Dr. Gerhard Süß  
Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Hamburg  
Fachbereich Sozialpädagogik |
| Status       | Ongoing |
| Summary      | The research project "Early help for children and their families" looks at the support of the mother-child relationship (from pregnancy until the child is two years old) in so-called high risk families, so that the children do not have to be removed from their families. The early intervention programme "STEEP" (Steps Toward Effective, Enjoyable Parenting), developed by the University of Minnesota, has been introduced in Hamburg and Potsdam. In close cooperation with a current research project in Minneapolis Hamburg University of Applied Sciences and the Fachhochschule Potsdam are testing the effectiveness of this programme. It is also being supported by the Hamburg Ministry for Family and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 21, 2007 from the Hamburg University of Applied Science Homepage  
http://www.haw-hamburg.de/index.php?id=7094 |
| Direct Links | http://www.haw-hamburg.de/index.php?id=7094  
http://www.hantel-quitmann.de/fruehe_hilfe.htm (in German language) |
LITERATURE-REVIEWS

(brief selection)

1. Dr. Peter S. Cook

Book:
Early Childcare - Infants and Nations at Risk, Dr. Peter S. Cook, News Weekly Books (1996)
ISBN: 0646292994

Dr Peter S. Cook assesses and presents the reader with valuable information regarding early child care. From looking at the biological link between mothers and their children to the research into the outcomes of early child care, Dr. Cook offers a reasonable critique, which is valuable to parents, politicians and child care workers. ‘This ...book should be dropped like leaflets all over the country to get past the ubiquitous network of the now entrenched daycare propagandists and reach the parents of tomorrow who have never heard the whole story.’ (Dr. Elliot Barker- President of the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children).

More Articles: The Peter S. Cook Library
http://www.naturalchild.org/peter_cook/

2. Why Love Matters

Book: „ Why Love Matters: How Affection Shapes a Baby's Brain“
(http://www.whylovematters.com/)

3. Quality by design: What do we know about quality in early learning and child care, and what do we think?

A literature review
Martha Friendly, Gillian Doherty and Jane Beach
www.childcarequality.ca/wdocs/QbD_LiteratureReview.pdf

4. Literature Review on Parent-Child Connectedness

Implications for Research, Interventions, And Positive Impacts on Adolescent Health
Nicole Lezin, MPPM; Lori A. Roller, MSW, MPH; Steve Bean, MAT; Julie Taylor, BA
ETR Associates © 2004
This literature review was made possible with funding from the Annie E.
5. **Studying and Tracking Early Child Development from a Health Perspective: A Review of Available Data Sources**

Brett Brown and Martha Zaslow, Child Trends, and Michael Weitzman, Center for Child Health Research, February, 2006

26 national surveys and administrative data sources are assessed for their collective ability to support research and for their adequacy as sources of descriptive social indicator data.

6. **Australian and New Zealand birth cohort studies: Breadth, quality and contributions**

JM Nicholson and LA Rempel
A systematic review was undertaken of 13 birth cohort studies. Data were collected from published papers and questionnaires administered to study investigators.

7. **Review of New Zealand Longitudinal Studies**

Michelle Poland, Jaimie Legge, May 2005
www.familiescommission.govt.nz/download/Longitudinal-studies.pdf

8. **Born Unwanted**

http://www.svss-uspda.ch/de/facts/kind.htm

**Literature on children unwanted at birth:**
Amendt G., Schwarz M. "Das Leben unerwünschter Kinder", Fischer, 1992
Binder H. "Die uneheliche Mutterschaft", Bern, 1941
Forssmann H., Thuwe I. "120 children born after application for therapeutic
Haenel T. "Suizidgefahr: Ein Mensch braucht Hilfe", SÄZ 73: 1137-1140, 1992
Höök K. "Refused abortion. A follow-up study of 249 women whose applications were refused", Acta Psych Scand suppl. 168, 1963
Myhrman A. "The Northern Finland Cohort, 1966-82. A Follow-up of children unwanted at birth", in: David et al., 1988
Pare CMB, Raven H. "Psychiatric sequelae to therapeutic abortion", Lancet 1: 635-38, 1970
Stamm H. "Probleme des legalen Abort in der Schweiz", Ars medici, 1974

9. Fact and Fantasy: Eight Myths About Early Childhood Education and Care

Gordon Cleveland and Michael Krashinsky
Childcare Resource and Research Unit
Centre for Urban and Community Studies
University of Toronto
ISBN 1-896051-25-1
www.childcarecanada.org
2003
„This paper examines eight myths often used to argue against public support for early childhood education and care. Its main objective is to respond to these eight myths, to subject them and associated research to critical scrutiny, and to respond in a popular fashion. Research evidence and logic are combined to provide a readable, economically-oriented critique to these frequently heard assertions. “
Download: http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/other/FF/index.html
## Non-Governmental Organizations

(brief selection)

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<td><strong>The National Children’s Bureau</strong></td>
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