

THE ARCHIVE

UPDATA

Family Life Development Center, Cornell University

Fall 1992

FEDERAL AWARD GRANTED!

We are pleased to announce that we were awarded a three-year grant from the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect to continue the development and operation of the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. During the next phase of the project, we plan to continue building a strong collection of machine-readable data sets, add new services, and attract a wider constituency of Archive users. While the core holdings of the Archive will continue to emphasize issues related to child abuse and neglect, we will also gradually add data sets which focus on closely related topics. For example, we have recently added a new data set, the *National Youth Survey* (see description

below). While this data set does not focus directly on child abuse and neglect, it does contain information on parental disciplinary practices which can be related to the risk of subsequent behavioral problems and substance use during adolescence. We are also looking at studies that have focused on children and youth at risk for the development of behavioral disorders associated with exposure to a variety of childhood stressors other than maltreatment, such as parental divorce or psychopathology. Since the social and psychological processes influencing the development of these children are likely to be similar to those affecting maltreated children, the inclusion of such data sets represents a logi-

cal extension of the Archive's current holdings. Adding such data to the Archive should also serve to broaden the user base of the Archive to include persons more generally concerned with the welfare of children exposed to a variety of childhood stressors.

The Archive also plans to offer additional services to meet the growing needs of researchers in the field of child abuse and neglect. In this issue of the *Udata*, we describe some of the new services that will begin during the upcoming year. The Archive staff is always eager to hear your ideas on ways to better meet your data needs and to receive possible suggestions for data acquisitions.

Mission Statement

The National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect exists to serve the data needs of scholars and practitioners who are concerned about the maltreatment of children. The Archive is a centralized facility that acquires, processes, preserves, and disseminates high quality data sets relevant to the study of child abuse and neglect. The major purpose of the Archive is to facilitate the secondary analysis of existing research data.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Elaine Walker (1987) Effects of Parental Psychopathology and Maltreatment on Child Behavior

This study examines the effects of parental psychiatric disorder and maltreatment on child behavior. The investigators looked at the direct and interactive effects of parental psychiatric status (e.g., schizophrenic, psychiatric control, and normal control), maltreatment, and other familial factors on the behavior of 121 boys and girls. The focus was on aggression and social withdrawal, the dimensions of child behavior most consistently cited as correlates of parental maltreatment and parental psychiatric disturbance. The study addressed two questions: 1) Are there specific links between the risk factors examined here and childhood aggressiveness and social withdrawal? 2) What is the nature of the relationship between risk factors and changes in behavior over a one year period?

These data will be available on mainframe computer tapes and tape cartridges, as well as floppy diskettes for IBM-PC and Macintosh computers. Contact the Archive for further information.

Delbert Elliott (1976 and 1980) National Youth Survey

This survey is a longitudinal study of delinquent behavior, alcohol and drug use, and problem related substance use. It provides data on the prevalence and the incidence of problem behavior; geographical distribution; patterns and styles of delinquent behavior and drug use and factors associated with their change over time. Data were collected on the demographic and socioeconomic status of respondents, disruptive events in the home, neighborhood problems, parental aspirations for youths, labelling, integration of family and peer contexts, attitudes toward deviance in adults and juveniles, parental discipline, and community involvement. Although the Archive has obtained only two waves of these data (the first and last), five waves of data were actually collected, all of which can be obtained from the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan. Contact ICPSR at 313-763-5010, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

NEW METHODS OF DISSEMINATING DATA

Last March we conducted a survey of our users both to find out how the Archive products have been used and to examine the computing needs of child maltreatment researchers. We were particularly interested in learning what computing environments these researchers use and the types of media on which they can receive data. We found that nearly every user is able to receive data on floppy diskettes (97%) while far fewer can receive data on reel tapes (37%) or tape cartridges (20%). Additionally, over half (54%) of our users reported that they can receive data via electronic transfer on computer networks.

These findings have strengthened the Archive's existing commitment to disseminating data via electronic transfer and on microcomputer floppy disks. Currently, the following six data sets are available on diskettes:

- ★ Los Angeles Times Poll (Lewis)
- ★ 1975 National Family Violence Survey (Straus and Gelles)
- ★ Physical Violence in American Families — A Resurvey (Straus and Gelles)
- ★ Substantiation of Child Abuse and Neglect Reports (Eckenrode and Doris)
- ★ Maltreatment and the Academic and Social Adjustment of School Children (Eckenrode and Laird)
- ★ Youth Information Form (OHDS/ACYF)

For more information about these data sets and how to order them contact the Archive.

We have also taken preliminary steps to develop the Archive's capacity to transmit data files electronically over INTERNET or BITNET using electronic mail. With this system users could access data files on a public access file

server at Cornell. The server would have a read-me file describing the available data files. Another read-me file would give instructions for transferring the files. Data could be provided in a variety of formats, such as SPSS export, SAS transport, or ASCII files. These formats would enable users to work with the data on either a mainframe or microcomputer and to use software of their choice, such as SAS or SPSS. There are several advantages to this system:

- 1) data are accessible almost immediately;
- 2) virtually no Archive staff time is required to process orders;
- 3) data can be accessed 24 hours a day;
- 4) there is essentially no cost to the user.

In the upcoming months, we will report on our progress in developing this new capacity for users of the Archive.

CORNELL SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

JULY 19-23, 1993

In July of 1993, we will sponsor the first annual Summer Research Institute of the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect which will be held at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. This one-week Institute will provide opportunities for scholars, researchers, and graduate students to come to the Cornell campus to work with data sets in the Archive. These training sessions will involve "hands-on" experiences as well as classroom instruction in research methods, statistics, and secondary data analysis. The classes will be taught by members of the Cornell faculty or a visiting scholar, such as one

of the Principal Investigators of a data set in the Archive.

We are seeking to recruit approximately ten participants. Room, board, materials, and tuition will be covered by the Archive. Participants will be responsible for their own travel costs. Participants will be selected based on their background, interests, and plan of work as outlined in a one-page statement required for all applicants.

During the week of training, there will be workshops on methodology, statistics, data management, and data analysis. There will be computing labs for

"hands on" opportunities to work with data sets. By the end of the training, participants will have worked with the data, identified research questions, outlined an analysis strategy, and run some preliminary analyses. Ideally, after the Institute, participants will return home and write up their results, that would ultimately culminate in a journal article or conference presentation.

If you would like more information about the Summer Research Institute, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the Archive.



ORDER FORM Fall 1992

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
Cornell University
Family Life Development Center
G20 MVR Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853-4401

Telephone: 607-255-7794, FAX: 607-255-8562

— Send me more information about

— The Summer Research Institute

— A Description of the Archive's Current Holdings

— Send me a free copy of *The Preparation of Data Sets for Analysis and Dissemination: Technical Guidelines for Machine-Readable Data*

— Add me to the Archive's mailing list

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (if available): _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS: (include number, street, city, state, and zip code):

NEW DATA ANALYSIS AND CONSULTATION SERVICE

Do you have a specific research question that could be answered with data in the Archive? Do you need help developing an analysis strategy or conducting analyses of data in the Archive? In an attempt to make data more accessible to people who lack computing resources or data analysis expertise, the Archive staff will begin offering a consultation service that will help plan or perform analyses of data that are held in the Archive. Many individuals have research questions and could use

data in their work, but lack the time, skills, or resources to conduct data analyses. Whether you need simple frequencies of variables in a particular data set, or more complex multivariate analyses, you can now contact the Archive and obtain statistical consultation. This service is available on a fee-per-hour basis. For more information or a free estimate of your data analysis request, contact the Archive at 607-255-7794.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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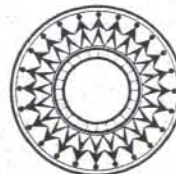
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