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Research Team

- Principal Investigators
  - Ronald Angel, *Univ. of Texas*
  - Linda Burton, *Duke*
  - P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, *Northwestern*
  - Andrew Cherlin, *Johns Hopkins*
  - Robert Moffitt, *Johns Hopkins*
  - William Julius Wilson, *Harvard*

- Associate Investigators
  - Rebekah Levine Coley, *Boston College*
  - Brenda Lohman, *Iowa State University*
  - James Quane, *Harvard*
  - David Ribar, *UNC-Greensboro*

- Study Director
  - Paula Fomby, *Johns Hopkins*
Goals of Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996

- To limit dependency of low-income families on the government
- To promote employment and financial self-sufficiency
- To reduce births outside of marriage
- To promote marriage

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Key Aspects of Federal Guidelines
- Devolves Responsibility to the States
- End of Entitlements
- Time Limit of 5 Years
- Work Requirements after 2 Years
- Teenage Mothers Must Live with a Parent
- Sanctions
Proponents’ Views

*Reforms Would:*
- Increase family income
- Model disciplined work behavior
- Better structure family routines
- Provide the most reliable pathway out of poverty

Opponents’ Views

*Reforms Would:*
- Reduce time mothers and children spend together
- Increase parental stress
- Decrease responsive parenting
- Move children into low quality childcare or unsupervised settings
- Drive families deeper into poverty
Key Characteristics of the Three-City Study

- Locally focused: low income neighborhoods in Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio
- Broad definition of welfare-eligible population
- Extensive information on children
- Interdisciplinary
- Multi-method

Three Waves of Survey Data

- **Wave 1, 1999**
  - 90% of 40,000 households screened
  - 2402 children and mothers interviewed and assessed for 2.5 hours (82% completion rate)
  - Total response rate: 74%
  - Half of children 0-4 years of age, half 10-14 years of age

- **Wave 2, 2000-2001**
  - 88% of families participated in Wave 2
Three Waves of Survey Data

- Wave 3, February 2005 – January 2006:
  - 84 percent wave 2 to wave 3 response rate
- Of all children and families interviewed at wave 1, 80 percent were interviewed at wave 3 (n= 1,944)

The Embedded Developmental Study (EDS)

- All children age 2-4 at wave 1 and their caregivers, fathers, and child care providers.
  - 85 percent response rate. (N=626)
  - Includes videotaped observations of quality of mothering and of child’s emotional regulation.
  - Includes observational rating of child care setting.
- Reinterviewed at wave 2
  - 88 percent of caregivers reinterviewed. (N=589)
  - 82 percent of children videotaped. (N=551)
- No EDS at wave 3.
Survey: TANF Receipt at Wave 1

(At wave 3: 12 percent receiving TANF)

Survey: Race/Ethnicity

African-American  Non-Hisp. White  Mexican Origin  Puerto Rican  Other Hispanic  Total Hispanic

24%  9%  47%  13%  10%
Supplementary studies in progress

- Three-City Teacher Survey (TCTS)
- Administrative records study

- A file with this information will be available for restricted public use at the ICPSR data enclave as of July 1, 2008.

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Key findings

**Science** March 7, 2003


- In general, leaving TANF or entering employment did not change children’s well-being much between Waves 1 and 2.
- We conducted Wave 3 in 2005 to see the long-term picture.
- Analysis of three-wave child-outcome paper in progress.
Examples of other articles


Outline

- Purpose of the Three-City Study
- Design
- Unique properties
- Description of components
  - Surveys with caregivers and focal children
  - Embedded Developmental Study
  - Ethnography
- Examples of research using Three-City Study data
Purpose of the Three-City Study

- To evaluate the well-being of low-income families in the post-welfare reform era
  - Focus on children during key developmental stages
- Multidisciplinary approach
Purpose of the Three-City Study

- To evaluate the well-being of low-income families in the post-welfare reform era
  - Focus on children during key developmental stages
  - Multidisciplinary approach
  - Focus on 3 cities: Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio
    - Capture regional and ethnic diversity
    - Look at local implementation and local effects of welfare reform
    - Conduct in-depth, in-person interviews and observations

Purpose of the Three-City Study

- To complement contemporaneous studies of the effects of welfare reform
  - Longitudinal (6 years), non-experimental
  - Includes families not on welfare
  - Focus is on children rather than on household heads or family units
  - Multi-method (quantitative, qualitative, observation)
Study design – selecting 3 cities

- **Boston**
  - Historically liberal state government
  - Welfare system in MA operated under a waiver since 1995 – time limit=24 months out of every 60, no lifetime limit; work (20+ hrs/wk) required after 60 days.
  - Child poverty rate in Boston=28.3% in 1996 (national rate=20.8%)
  - 29% African-American, 11% Hispanic (Puerto Rican and Dominican)

- **Chicago**
  - Historically moderate state government
  - Adopted requirements of PRWORA in 1997: 5-year state time limit, with workers exempted; family cap; sanctions for failure to comply
  - Child poverty rate=25.8% in 1996
  - 39% African-American, 19% Hispanic (Mexican, Central American, Puerto Rican)
Study design – selecting 3 cities

- San Antonio
  - TX has historically limited state government involvement, low benefits
  - Operated under a waiver between 1995 & 2002. 5-year lifetime limit on benefits for adults.
  - San Antonio poverty rate=nearly 30% in 1996
  - 7% black, 55% Hispanic (any race; Mexican ethnicity, mostly U.S.-born)

Study design – Selecting Participants

- Unit of analysis: Children age 0-4 or 10-14 at wave 1 (1999) who reside with a female caregiver
- 1990 Census blocks were stratified by race/ethnicity. Sample drawn from blocks where at least 20% of households were in poverty.
- Stratified sample:
  - Children’s ages
  - Family income: <100% of FPL, 100-199% of FPL, >=200% of FPL
  - Caregiver’s marital status
  - Household head’s race/ethnicity (White, African-American, or Hispanic, any race)
  - Social service receipt: Medicaid and/or Food Stamps
Study design – Selecting Participants

- Resulting sample:
  - N=2458 (N on public use file=2402)
  - 74% response rate
  - 38% of respondents on TANF at wave 1
  - 8% white, 42% African-American, 47% Hispanic, any race (about 20% of sample foreign-born)
  - 73% below FPL
  - 68% female-headed households

Unique Properties of the 3-City Study

- Focus on children
- Longitudinal design
- Sample includes both TANF recipients and non-recipients
- In-person interviews
- Combination of research methods and perspectives
- Study sample is representative of children living in low-income households in low-income neighborhoods in 3 U.S. cities
Study Design - Components

- Includes three components
  - In-person surveys with caregivers and focal children
  - Embedded Developmental Study
    - Mothers
    - Child care providers
    - Fathers
  - Ethnography
    - Disability
    - Neighborhood

Study Design - Disciplinary Perspectives

- Sociology (Ronald J. Angel, Andrew J. Cherlin)
- Psychology & Human Development (P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, Rebekah Levine Coley, Linda Burton, Brenda Lohman)
- Economics (Robert Moffitt, David Ribar)
- Neighborhood Ecology (William Julius Wilson, James Quane)
Wave 1 (3/99-9/99) Survey Content

- Caregiver interview
  - Demographics (household roster, race/ethnicity for caregiver, focal child, and spouse, nativity, religiosity)
  - Education and Training
  - Labor force participation, including 2-year calendar
  - Family background
  - Self-esteem
  - Networks
  - Housing

- Neighborhoods
- Family routines
- Home environment
- Child positive behaviors
- Child Behavior Checklist
- Challenges to parenting
- Parenting style
- Time use, including child care data
- Father involvement
- Financial strain
- Welfare participation, including 2-year calendar for FS, Medicaid, and TANF and histories for WIC, SSI
Wave 1 Survey Content, continued

- Caregiver interview
  - Income
  - Health & Disability
  - Brief Symptom Inventory
  - Home environment (Interviewer Obs.)
  - A-CASI:
    - Illegal behaviors
    - Domestic violence
- Focal child interview
  - Physical measurements
  - Ages & Stages (0-2)
  - Woodcock-Johnson (word-recognition & applied problems, 2-14)
  - 10-14 only:
    - Schooling
    - Brief Symptom Inventory
  - A-CASI:
    - Child-mother relationship scale
    - Mother-child activities
    - Parental monitoring
    - Father involvement
    - Father-child relationship
    - Delinquency
    - Sex and Pregnancy

Examples of research using data from 3-City Study surveys, wave 1

- Noncompliance and sanctions among TANF recipients (Cherlin, Bogen, Quane and Burton 2002)
- Nonfinancial factors (sanctions, work requirements, and diversions) in TANF entry and exit (Moffitt 2003)
- Service use by U.S.-born children of immigrants (Fomby and Cherlin 2004)
- Experience of domestic violence among Hispanic subgroups (Friás and Angel 2005)
Wave 2 – Survey

- Conducted September 2000-June 2001 (about 16 months after wave 1 interview)
- Response rate=88%, N=2158 children
- Survey followed children and caregivers, interviewed new (N=63) and separated (N=56) caregivers
- Telephone interviews w/out-of-area respondents
- Collected welfare and labor force histories for period since wave 1 interview
- Added Peer Associations module to adolescent interview

Wave 3 - Survey

- Reasons to conduct a third wave (2005-2006)
  - Post-boom cycle in the economy
  - Post-5-year time limits
  - Explore long-term effects of welfare reform
  - Includes whole spectrum of childhood and the entrance to early adulthood
Wave 3 – New survey content

- Union and fertility history
  - All marriages and cohabitations (NSFG design)
  - All live births
- Attitudes about men and relationships
  - Questions developed based on results of ethnography
- Expanded schooling section
  - Children and parents describe involvement with school and child’s social experience of school in greater detail

Wave 3 – New survey content

- Focal child interview
  - Middle childhood (age<=12)
  - Adolescent Demographics
  - Youth Romantic Relationships
  - Youth Work and Welfare
- Separated caregivers respond to CBCL where they have seen focal child within last 6 months
Wave 3 – Supplements to Study

- Three-City Teacher Study
  - Teachers of focal children at wave 3 are contacted and asked to participate in a web-based survey
  - Focuses on focal child as a student, school environment
  - School Records
- Administrative Records Study
  - 75% of wave 3 caregivers provided SSN
  - Use SSN to obtain:
    - state records on use of TANF and Food Stamps
    - UI reports (quarterly earnings)
    - Public housing records (from HUD)

The sample at wave 3

- 1,944 focal children participating (Response rate=80%)
- 82 new caregivers and 221 separated caregivers
- 114 focal children living independently
The sample at wave 3

- 12% of continuing/new caregivers on TANF (compared to 38% at wave 1)
- 56% of continuing/new caregivers are employed (compared to 41% at wave 1)
- Preliminary analyses indicate only modest attrition bias


- 215 families spread across 3 cities (sample is not drawn from survey sample)
- Sample mirrors survey sample in terms of race/ethnicity, welfare status, and family structure
- Families include a child aged 2-4
- Focus on parents, child, child care provider, siblings and parents’ social network
- Includes a sample of disabled children
Ethnography, continued

- Sample recruited from neighborhood agencies in block groups from which survey sample was drawn
- Recruited families referred other families in neighborhood not connected to local agencies
- Participant observation and semi-structured interviews monthly for 1st 18 months, then follow-up visits every 6 months for 2 years

Research combining ethnography and survey

- Experience of physical and sexual abuse affects women’s later union formation and union stability (Cherlin, Burton, Hurt & Purvin 2004)
- Wave 3 survey questions about women’s reasons for not entering a relationship developed from this multi-method analysis
Women’s attitudes toward relationships, men, and marriage

- Eight items developed, including:
  - It's better not to be in a steady relationship until your kids are older.
  - I'm too busy right now to think about having a steady relationship.
  - I need some distance from romantic relationships right now.
  - I've gotten hurt too many times to be in another steady relationship.
- Desire for relationship scale alpha=.78
- Subscale alpha=.82

Embedded Developmental Study (EDS)

- Goal: To capture depth and breadth of information regarding young children’s primary caregivers and contexts, using multiple methods and multiple reporters.
- Focus: All children aged 2-4 years from main survey sample.
EDS Subparts Wave 1 & 2

- Additional caregiver interview
- Videotaped assessments of caregiver-child interactions
- Interview with primary nonmaternal care provider
- Structured observations of primary care
- Interview with biological father (wave 1 only)

EDS Caregiver Interview

- Child care: history, extent, cost, quality accessibility, reliability
- Father and grandmother involvement
- Caregiver-child activities
- Role strain
- Caregiver-partner relationship quality
- Child Temperament (EASI)
- Response rate: 85% (N=626)
EDS Videotaped Assessments

- Structured Interactions
  - Warm-up block play
  - Puzzle Task: Caregiver’s behavioral responsiveness, emotional responsiveness, and negative affect; Child’s negative affect, persistence, compliance; C-C connectedness
  - Self Regulation Tasks: Child’s inhibitory control and self regulation
  - N=587

EDS Child Care Interviews

- Conducted if child in nonmaternal care ≥10 hrs/wk
- Caregiver characteristics
- Setting characteristics
- Child behavior problems (CBCL)
- Child positive behaviors
- Child school readiness
- Response rate=70% (N=249)
EDS Child Care Observations

- Developmental quality of environment (ECERS/FDCERS): space, personal care, language, activities, interaction, structure
- Provider sensitivity (Arnett)

- N=248

EDS Father Interview

- Parenting: father involvement, parenting style, father-child activities
- Functioning: psychological distress, parenting stress, illegal activities
- Demographics: employment, income, education, etc
- Relationship with focal child’s mother
- Child’s behavior: CBCL, positive behaviors
- Response rate= 75% Res; 37% Nonres Contact (N=272)
Examples of EDS Research

- Low-income families’ child care experiences (Coley, Li-Grining, & Chase Lansdale 2006)
- Child care quality and children’s development (Votruba-Drzal, Coley, & Chase-Lansdale 2004)
- Father and mother reports of father involvement (Coley & Morris 2002)
- Predictors of paternal involvement (Coley & Hernandez, 2006)
- Preschoolers’ effortful control (Li-Grining, 2007)

Wave 3 Three-City Teacher Survey (TCTS)

- Assessed school success and teacher/school characteristics for all children in 3-City Study.
  - Web-based survey of primary teacher
  - Collection of administrative records
TCTS Teacher Survey

- Student behavior
- Academic performance
- Social skills
- Peer relations
- School connectedness
- Behavior problems
- Student-teacher relationship
- Parent involvement
- School environment
- Teacher background
- Multicultural attitudes

TCTS Administrative Records

- Grades
- Standardized test scores
- Attendance
- Disciplinary actions taken
Public use data

- Wave 1 and Wave 2 Survey and EDS
  - Available through Sociometrics, www.socio.com
  - Searchable data file
  - Codebook includes complete documentation of all created variables
  - Available on CD free of charge to institutional members; otherwise available for purchase

- Wave 3 Survey will be publicly available in Summer 2007
  - General use data available through Sociometrics
  - Restricted use data with Census tract and block group numbers will be available through ICPSR

Public use data

- Census tract and block group numbers available for all 3 waves through ICPSR in Fall 2007

- Wave 3 supplementary studies will be available in Summer 2008 (approximately) as enclave data available to researchers on-site at ICPSR
Research topics of interest – Child care

- In communities/states that made high quality child care/preschool a part of welfare reform see better outcomes for children?
  - Other questions: how does the home/child care/preschool environment influence children’s cognitive and language development?
  - How common are multiple child care arrangements and/or instability in child care arrangements?

Research topics of interest – Parent-child relationships

- Marital processes and child well-being
- Effect of mother’s stress on reports of child behavior (using reports from multiple sources)
- Relationship between parental sensitivity and child factors on self-regulation and achievement
Research methods of interest – Longitudinal analysis

- Longitudinal analysis
  - Predictors of school outcomes
  - How parenting style and home environment affect children over time (and reciprocal effects)

More information on the web

- http://www.threecitystudy.jhu.edu or http://web.jhu.edu/threecitystudy
Contact information

- Paula Fomby, pfomby@jhu.edu

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- Federal agencies:
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  - Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning & Evaluation
  - Administration on Developmental Disabilities
  - Administration for Children and Families
  - Social Security Administration
  - National Institute of Mental Health
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