

**Don't let the name of the study fool you—** the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development focuses on more than just child care. It also includes detailed information about the family environment, such as assessments of parental characteristics, descriptions of parenting practices, and evaluations of children's developmental status in the cognitive, language, achievement, social-emotional, and health areas. The stringent requirements for data collectors and data collection processes in this Study have resulted in highly accurate and reliable data.

If you have research questions that relate to child development and health, the Phase I and Phase II data sets from the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development might have the answers. In addition, follow-up data through fifth grade (Phase III) will be released as soon as it is analyzed.

If you already have specific research ideas that could be tested using the Phase I or Phase II data sets, you may benefit from special hands-on training about using these data. Starting in summer 2003, the American Psychological Association (APA) will offer such training, with funding support from the NICHD. For more information about these Advanced Training Institutes, please visit [www.apa.org/science/ati-info.html](http://www.apa.org/science/ati-info.html).



## What can you do with the Phase I and Phase II data sets?

A better question might be what *can't* you do with them!

For more information about the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development and for instructions about accessing the data sets, check out the Study's Web sites, at [www.nichd.nih.gov/od/secc/index.htm](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/od/secc/index.htm), or at <http://secc.rti.org>. These sites provide a complete description of the instruments used to collect the data, an approximate timeline of the data collections, and other general information about the Study. The sites also describe how you can apply to use the data sets. Bonnie Knoke, the project data coordinator, at 919-541-7075, or at [knoke@rti.org](mailto:knoke@rti.org), can provide additional information.

**For more information** about the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development, contact the NICHD project scientist/scientific coordinator for the Study, Sarah L. Friedman, Ph.D., at 301-435-6946, or via email at [friedmas@mail.nih.gov](mailto:friedmas@mail.nih.gov).

To learn more about the NICHD, contact the NICHD Information Resource Center, at 1-800-370-2943.



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It's About  
Child Care..

and so much more!

NICHD STUDY OF EARLY CHILD CARE  
AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
Phase 1 and Phase II Data Sets



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Public Health Service  
National Institutes of Health

# It's About Child Care... and so much more!

The NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development, started by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and 10 research universities in 1991, is one of the most comprehensive studies of children and the contexts of their development conducted to date. The amount of detailed data in this Study, collected through direct observation, testing, interviews, and questionnaires, is unparalleled. The Study has followed 1,364 families since their infants' birth in 1991, and will continue to follow them through to 2004, and possibly beyond that time, to provide high-quality, well-maintained data.

In 2000, the NICHD released the Study's Phase I data set, which provides information from the infants' birth to age three, to allow other qualified researchers to benefit from this rich data source. The Phase II data set, which includes information about participants through first grade, was released in November 2002. Using these data, researchers in the Study Network and affiliated investigators have published 49 papers about child care and about the effects of family and child care on different aspects of child psychological development and physical health. Additional papers on similar and other topics are currently in press, submitted for publication, or under review.

Now that the Study data sets are widely available, a new generation of researchers can pose their own questions, and can use these data sets to conduct their own inquiries.

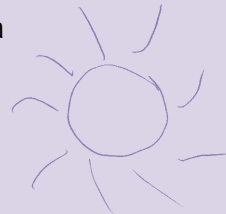
## The NICHD Study's Phase I and Phase II data sets offer:

- Observational and test data from more than 1,200 children at 1-, 6-, 15-, 24-, 36-, and 54-months of age, and through first grade
- Participants who are geographically, economically, and ethnically diverse
- Results from 10 data collection sites around the United States
- Data collection that occurred during visits to three different environments: the children's homes; their child care arrangements, kindergartens, and schools; and mother-child sessions at the affiliated university laboratories
- Uniformly trained and certified data collectors, who underwent proficiency evaluation during the data collection period to ensure high-quality results
- Follow-up telephone interview data, collected three-to-six months apart
- Age-appropriate assessments of the social-emotional, linguistic, and cognitive achievements and health development of the children
- Multiple measurement strategies, including observation, standardized tests, written questionnaires, and personal interviews
- Reliable, centralized coding methods
- Complete documentation

Those interested in the data sets may include psychologists, sociologists, economists, statisticians, educators, physician scientists, researchers, advocates, policy makers—anyone who works with, on behalf of, or in association with children from birth to age seven.

## Among the types of data featured in the Phase I and Phase II data sets are:

- Demographic Data
- Family Data
- Maternal and Paternal Data
- Child Care Data
- Care Giver Data
- Child Social and Emotional Outcome Data
- Child Language Development Data
- Child Cognitive Data
- Child School Readiness Data
- Child Achievement Data in Reading and Math
- Growth and Health Data
- Observational Data
- Test Data
- Face-to-Face and Phone Interview Data
- Questionnaire Data
- Longitudinal Data



The data sets allow users to conduct novel and unique data analyses, using any number of variables. The following documentation is also available: descriptions of instruments used to gather the information; information about how the summary variables were computed; the psychometric properties of variables; and a full data dictionary, linking variables, data groups, data collections, and form numbers.

