

**Summary report of a joint Israeli-Canadian research workshop at The Halbert
Centre for Canadian Studies**

Innovative indicators of children's well being: Implications for social policy

Introduction:

Child indicators, as social indicators that monitor the well-being of children, aim to inform policy makers in an accurate and broad way about the state of children. These monitoring efforts are especially important as children are one of the most vulnerable population groups and are not self-represented. While recent years witnessed developments in social reporting of children's well-being, there are still many gaps of knowledge and lack of indicators in specific domains of children's life. These gaps calls for new and novel indicators that will better measure children life and will help inform policy makers in more relevant, effective and accurate way.

The workshop

The workshop brought together leading researchers in the field of child indicators from Canada and Israel. The researches came from academic institutes such as the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia, as well as other research institute as the Brookdale Institute and government related offices such as the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics and BC Ministry of Health.

During the three days workshop the researches dealt with child indicators from many different angels. Theoretical and methodological issues were discussed, the state of the field in both Israel and British Colombia at Canada was reviewed, and participants' current studies were shared. The workshop allowed the participants to be exposed to parts of the most advanced research being done today at national and international levels, bring up discussions about various theoretical and practical issue and many ideas for possible cooperation in the future.

Presentations

The Current Status of Child Indicators Field

Review on the recent changes and shifts in the field of child well-being indicators in light findings of a recent child reports analyzes *Prof. Asher Ben-Arieh – Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

Child Indicators in Canada and British Columbia

Identifying child health and well-being indicators in British Columbia *Mr. Michael Egilson - Child Health Indicators Project Lead, British Columbia Ministry of Health*

Measuring injury matters: injury Indicators for Canadian children and youth

Dr. Ian Pike - Director, BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit, Asst. Prof I Pediatrics, UBC, Clinical Investigator I CFRI

Child Indicators in Israel

Monitoring the state of the child in Israel - The state of the child in Israel reports along the years *Ms. Hanita Kosher- Israel National Council for the Child*

Child statistics and administrative data in Israel *Ms. Edna Shimoni - Israel Central Bureau of Statistics*

Surveying youth through Israel's new Longitudinal survey of households *Mr. Tom Caplan and Oriya Chadmifar - Israel Central Bureau of Statistics*

The prevalence and needs of children at risk: Community-wide Identification through the national program for children at risk

Ms. Talia Hasin, Engelberg Center for Children and Youth, The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute

Ecological framework for the selection of indicators of child health and well-being

Can an ecological framework guide the selection of child health and well-being? *Prof. Bonnie Leadbeater –University of Victoria, British Columbia*

What do children need to flourish? Psychological needs and well-being *Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria*

Measuring youth's social exclusion in the context of consumption culture *Ms. Daphna Gross-Manos- Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

Moving beyond a measure of physical activity: Considering the importance of children's physical literacy as an indicator of child health and well-being *Ms. Ashley Stewart-Tufescu, PhD (candidate), Applied Health Sciences, University of Manitoba & Faculty, Early Childhood Education, School of Health Sciences & Community Services, Red River College, Winnipeg, MB*

Research initiatives for cooperation:

- **Children's worlds - International Survey of Children's Well-Being** - The questionnaire that is used should include at list 80% of the original questionnaire and should be distributed to 1000 children in the same age of 8, 10 or 12. Accomplishing this task you would be among the first to have excess to the general data base (that others will have excess only 1-2 year afterwards).
- **Implementing and studying WITS** - Programs that bring together schools, families and communities to help elementary school children deal with bullying and peer victimization.
- **Victoria Healthy Youth Survey** - Cohort study following a sample of about 600 young adults from the age of 18. Starting 10 years ago the study is now in its fifth wave. Other data bases dealing with the same ages can be compared. The questionnaire can be used (was already sent separately).
- **High risk population project.**
- **Web portal** – injury indicators dashboard, injury atlas.
- **Burden of injury project** - how injuries affect children and their families? at the BC children's hospital.
- **Pediatric trauma system project** - aims to evaluate the current Canadian Pediatric Trauma Systems and determine the impact that best practices are having on traumatically injured children.
- **HBSC** - Health Behavior of School-Aged Children.
- **After-school play spaces** - project proposes to use photo-mapping methodology to understand the relationship between children's health, safety and play place.

List of Participants

Asher Ben-Arieh, *Prof., The Hebrew University, Director, The Haruv Institute, Editor in Chief, Child Indicators Research (CIR), Co-Chair, International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI)*

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Aya Almog, *The Hebrew University*

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Edna Shimoni, *Israel Central Bureau of Statistics*

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