LONGITUDINAL & EARLY CHILDHOOD DATASETS

by

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Workshop on the Impact of Mobility and Change
on the Lives of Young Children, Schools, and Neighborhoods

National Research Council and Institute of Medicine
Washington, D.C., June 29-30, 2009
New Research with Three, Large, Nationally-Representative, Longitudinal, Early Childhood Datasets

ECLS-K, NLSY, PSID

- Key Design Features
- Mobility measures
- Child outcome measures
- Measures of other causal factors
- Research issues and questions
- New data needed for mobility research
- Strengths and limitations
Slide 3.
Key Design Features: ECLS-K

- Sample: Kindergarten class of 1998-1999
- Sample: ECLS-K:11...Class of 2010-11
- Data collection for
  - ... Kindergarten (twice)
  - ... 1\textsuperscript{st} grade (twice)
  - ... 3\textsuperscript{rd} grade (once)
  - ... 5\textsuperscript{th} grade (once)
  - ... 8\textsuperscript{th} grade (once)
Sample: NLSY-Women...ages 14-21 in 1979

Sample: NLSY-Children...born to these women

Data collection...
... annually 1979-1994, then biennially (1986 for the children)

Mother’s data collection focuses on
... employment, education, training
... fertility, health, attitudes
... marriage & cohabitation
... mobility
... crime
Sample: PSID-Families in 1968 (intergenerational)

Sample: PSID-Child Development Supplement … children ages 0-12 in 1997

Data collection…

Family data collection focuses on … income, employment … expenditures, housing … program participation
Residential address & school attended...

- ECLS-K .......... 7 points in time (5 grades)
- ECLS-K:11 .......... planning stage
- NLSY ............. 11 points in time, and counting
- PSID .............. 6 points in time (3 for child data), and counting

Plus “reason for move”:

- If school change (ECLS-K)
- Residence change (NLSY, PSID)
Between-waves data for...

- Number of moves (ECLS-K, NLSY, PSID)
- Number of schools attended (NLSY)
- Residential history (PSID) with
  - dates of moves
  - mailing addresses
Age range of “children” during data collection:

- ECLS-K... 5-13
- NLSY...... 0-30s, *and counting*
- PSID....... 0-22, *and counting*

Number of years from beginning to end of data collection for individual children:

- ECLS-K... 9 years
- NLSY...... 1 to 21 years, *and counting*
- PSID....... 11 years, *and counting*
Slide 9.

CHILD MEASURES

- Child Care…esp. NLYS, PSID
- Early Education…PSID data from … teacher, including curriculum time use
- Cognitive, math, reading
- Socioemotional, behavioral
- Physical measures, health
- TV, computer use
- Time Diary (PSID)
- Peers (esp. PSID)
Slide 10.
CHILD MEASURES:
TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

NLYS and PSID

- Educational attainment
- Employment
- Income
- Family formation
MEASURES OF OTHER CAUSAL FACTORS (1)

- Parent interview
  - demographics, family circumstances
  - home environment
  - parent-child interaction

- Teacher/Principal interviews
  - classroom environment
  - school climate
  - student profile
MEASURES OF OTHER CAUSAL FACTORS (2)

● School Data
  ... NCES Common Core of Data
  ... NCES Private School Survey

● Neighborhood Data
  ... Census tract
Beyond “Does mobility matter?”
...Focus on process... “How?” and “Why?”

- PreK and early school years
  ... as a study focus
  ... as a context for later mobility

- Multiple outcomes

- Changing ecological conditions
  ... family composition
  ... parent employment
  ... family interaction
  ... school context and processes
  ... neighborhood context
Beyond “Does mobility matter?”
…To focus on specific groups…
● Race-ethnic
● Immigrant families, language
● SES
AND
● their school and neighborhood contexts
Beyond “Number of Moves”

- Longitudinal analyses at multiple time points
- Inter-wave residential histories
- Inter-wave schools attended histories
Strengths

- Nationally representative
- Longitudinal (many time points)
- Many variables measured for
  - ... children
  - ... schools
  - ... families
  - ... neighborhoods
- Designs allow for sophisticated modeling
Limitations

- Two-year measurement intervals
- Small samples for many specific race-ethnic and immigrant groups
- Need to augment with additional approaches
  - qualitative/ethnographic
  - comparative case studies
  - place-based experiments
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