

A Quarterly Review of Social Reports and Research on Social Indicators, Social Trends, and the Quality-of-Life.
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Newsletter of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies

COMPARING THE 50 U.S. STATES BASED ON IMPROVEMENT IN CHILD WELL-BEING DURING THE 1990S

By William P. O'Hare, Annie E. Casey Foundation and Vicki L. Lamb, Duke University

Each year since 1990, the Annie E Casey Foundation has released a *KIDS COUNT Data Book* (see the announcement for the 2004 volume elsewhere in this issue) assessing child well-being in each state based on 10 key statistical indicators. Table 1 describes the 10 KIDS COUNT indicators.

Table 1

KIDS COUNT Indicators
Child Deaths, ages 1-14
Teen Births, ages 15-17
Teen Deaths, ages 15-19
Infant Mortality
Non-secure Employment
Idle Teens
Child Poverty
High School Dropouts
Low Birth Weight
Single Parent

The 10 KIDS COUNT measures possess three important attributes: (1) They reflect several important areas of a child's well-being including health, material well-being, educational attainment, behavioral concerns, and social relationships. (2) The indicators reflect experiences across a range of developmental stages—from birth through early adulthood. (3) They are consistently measured over time, permitting legitimate comparisons across states. The detailed criteria used to select KIDS COUNT indicators are spelled out each year in the annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book*. While the indicators represent a combination of negative outcomes and risk factors, the fact that all the indicators reflect problems facilitates interpretation. For each indicator, a lower value

signifies a better child outcome for a state. However, this property is inverted for the construction of a composite index so that higher values indicate better outcomes. The indicators are all derived from federal government statistical agencies, and represent the best available state-level data on child well-being. Measures based on analysis of the 12-month Current Population Survey (CPS) and the March CPS—Nonsecure Parental Employment, Single Parent, Idle Teens, and High School Dropouts—are averaged over three years to increase sample size and reduce estimation error.

Except for the child poverty measure, each of the 10 measures in our KIDS COUNT Index is reported annually since 1990. The Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) child poverty data used in the KIDS COUNT Data Book are available for only seven of the 11 years—1990, 1994, and 1996 to 2000. The 1995 child poverty figure was estimated by averaging the 1994 and 1996 values; and child poverty values for 1991, 1992, and 1993 used in this analysis were derived by interpolating from the 1990 and 1994 values.

(Continued on next page.)

Editor's Note: Beginning with the November 2003 issue, SINET periodically publishes descriptive essays on the structure and content of several major quality-of-life/well-being indices that have been developed and are maintained by various research groups. The November 2003 issue contained an overview essay on the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index by Robert A. Cummins and associates. The February 2004 issue contained a report on recent trends in the well-being of children and youth in the United States as indicated by the Child Well-Being Index developed by Kenneth C. Land, Vicki L. Lamb, and Sarah O. Meadows of Duke University. This issue contains a review essay on a recent paper by William P. O'Hare and Vicki L. Lamb that follows up on the Land, Lamb, and Meadows essay with the computation of corresponding composite child well-being indices for each of the 50 U.S. states for the 1990s. The intent of these essays is to provide the authors an opportunity to present the essentials of their indices and the trends they measure over time and among population segments together with a number of references to other publications of scientific papers and technical reports. It is hoped that this will serve to help us all to be better informed concerning major efforts worldwide to measure one aspect or another of the quality of life. Ideas for additional essays, and additional contributions from ISQOLS members, are welcome.

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Cross-Section and Longitudinal Comparisons

Each year, states are compared with each other in the cross-section and ranked based on the most recent data available. This paper uses the KIDS COUNT data from 1990 to 2000 to assess improvements in child well-being in each state during the 1990s. The states are then ranked on the basis of improvements during the decade.

It is important to understand that improvement in child well-being is quite different than the level of child well-being in a state. When states are simply ranked against each other at a point in time, it is not clear whether child well-being is improving or deteriorating collectively or for any given state.

For each year from 1990 to 2000, we created a state composite index of child well-being based on the 10 KIDS COUNT indicators using methodology developed by Land and Associates (see the review essay by Land, Lamb, and Meadows in the February 2004 issue of *SINET*) for their Child Well-Being Index (CWI). The movement of this index over time indicates if child well-being is improving or deteriorating. Details on the data used, methods of index construction, and numerical values of the index for each state are available in O'Hare and Lamb (2004), the working paper on which this summary report is based.

Results

Between 1990 and 2000, the KIDS COUNT child well-being index (KC-CWI) showed a 14 percent improvement in child well-being in the country as a whole, but this masks significant variation across states. The overall change in the composite index value for each state is shown in Table 2, where states are ranked based on the change in the composite index between 1990 and 2000, with rank 1 reflecting the most improvement.

The vast majority of states (46 out of 50) showed improvement in child well-being during the 1990s. California exhibited the biggest improvement during the 1990s (up 23 percent), followed closely by Maryland and New Jersey (up 21 percent each). Two states (Kansas and North Dakota) showed no change, and two states (Nebraska, and Wisconsin) experienced slight declines in overall child well-being during the 1990s.

(Continued on next page.)

Table 2. States Ranked Based on Overall Change in Child Well-Being 1990 to 2000

Percent Change in KCCWI 1990-2000		
Rank	State	
	US Average	114
1	California	123
2	Maryland	121
2	New Jersey	121
4	Michigan	119
4	Minnesota	119
6	Florida	118
6	Illinois	118
8	Massachusetts	116
8	Indiana	116
8	Georgia	116
8	New York	116
12	Nevada	115
12	Washington	115
12	Connecticut	115
15	Utah	114
15	Pennsylvania	114
15	Virginia	114
18	Oklahoma	113
18	Missouri	113
18	Alabama	113
21	New Hampshire	112
21	Louisiana	112
23	Texas	111
23	Kentucky	111
23	Tennessee	111
26	Colorado	110
26	North Carolina	110
28	Idaho	109
28	Ohio	109
28	Wyoming	109
28	South Dakota	109
28	Mississippi	109
33	South Carolina	108
34	Vermont	107
34	Arkansas	107
34	Alaska	107
37	Iowa	106
37	Maine	106
37	Arizona	106
37	Rhode Island	106
41	West Virginia	105
41	Hawaii	105
41	New Mexico	105
44	Delaware	104
44	Oregon	104
46	Montana	101
47	Kansas	100
47	North Dakota	100
49	Nebraska	99
50	Wisconsin	98
Not Ranked	DC	122

(Continued from previous page.)

The following panel highlights the contrast between cross-section comparisons based on the KIDS COUNT data for the most recent year available (2000) and by improvements in the composite child well-being index for the decade from 1990 to 2000. It shows the best and worst five states on both of these comparisons. It is not surprising that the ranking of states based on improvements in child well-being during the 1990s is quite different than the ranking based on 2000 data. However, it is noteworthy that New Jersey and Minnesota experienced exceptional improvements during the 1990s and were in the top five states based on 2000 data. On the other hand, none of the states that had the least improvement during the 1990s were in the bottom five based on 2000 data.

<u>Best Five States Based On:</u>		<u>Worst Five States Based On:</u>	
<u>2000Data</u>	<u>Change 1990-2000</u>	<u>2000 Data</u>	<u>Change 1990-2000</u>
Minnesota	California	Mississippi	Wisconsin
New Hampshire	Maryland	Louisiana	Nebraska
Utah	New Jersey	Alabama	North Dakota
New Jersey	Michigan	Arkansas	Kansas
Iowa	Minnesota	New Mexico	Montana

Our full working paper (O’Hare and Lamb, 2004) includes further comparisons of the states with respect to improvements in child well-being in the first and second halves of the 1990-2000 decade.

Conclusion

We used the ten indicators regularly reported in the KIDS COUNT Data Book to recreate a composite index of child well-being for each of the 50 states for the years 1990 to 2000. The majority of the states showed improvement in child well-being between 1990 and 2000, but there was extensive variation in changes during the 1990s. Three states improved by more than 20 percent, but two states showed no improvement, and two showed slight declines.

As with the national trends, most of the state-level improvements were in the second half of the 1990s. Falling unemployment rates during the 1990s are associated with improvement in child outcomes. We found no strong regional patterns for the states that improved the most, but the five states that performed the worst are all located in the Great Plains or upper Midwest. States with larger minority populations tended to exhibit more improvements over the period than those with smaller minority populations. We also found greater improvements in child well-being among states with more generous or integrated state policies regarding support for low income families.

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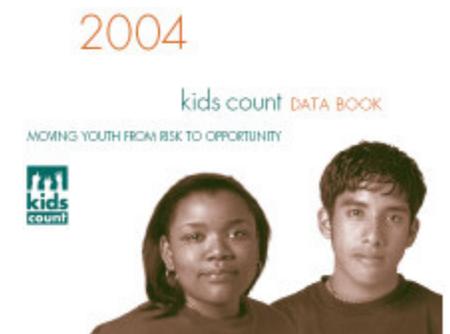
Land, Kenneth C., Vicki L. Lamb, and Sarah O. Meadows. 2004. “The Child Well-Being Index: An Overview of an Index of Recent Trends in the Well-Being of America’s Children.” *SINET: Social Indicators Network News*, Number 77 (February).

O’Hare, William P. and Vicki L. Lamb. 2004. “Ranking States Based on Improvement in Child Well-Being During the 1990s.” A KIDS COUNT Working Paper, July 2004, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD.

**2004 KIDS COUNT
Data Book**

KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, released the 2004 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* on June 11. The *Data Book* features 10 key measures of child well-being that it has used to track the well-being of children since 1990. The data are used to provide state profiles of child well-being and to rank the states. This edition also includes several background measures including the share of kids in each state living in various kinds of distressed neighborhoods. The book also includes an essay by Casey President Douglas W. Nelson, “The High Cost of Being Poor: Another Perspective on Helping Low-Income Families Get By and Get Ahead,” which examines a number ways in which the poor pay more. The new report may be viewed online at www.kidscount.org. Also, free copies may be ordered on the web site or by phoning Casey publications at 410-223-2890.

The KIDS COUNT Project at the Casey Foundation recently released two new *KIDS COUNT Pocket Guides* based on the 2000 Census. The first *Pocket Guide, African-American Children: State-Level Measures of Child Well-Being From the 2000 Census*, provides state-level data on child well-being for Blacks and Non-Hispanic whites. The second *Pocket Guide, called Latino Children: State-Level Measures of Child Well-Being From the 2000 Census*, contrasts Latinos and Non-Hispanic whites in each state. The new reports may be viewed or downloaded online at www.kidscount.org. Also, free copies may be ordered on the web site or by phoning Casey publications at 410-223-2890.



Do Market Forces Alone Propel Economic Expansion?

A New Book by Richard A. Easterlin

Shouldn't each of us assess his or her discipline for its contributions and its unanswered questions, its monotonic outlook, its narcissistic single factor explanations, and look at the insights from disciplines other than our own? This is the posture Richard A. Easterlin assumes in *The Reluctant Economist: Perspectives on Economics, Economic History and Demographics* (Cambridge, \$75.00).

What would our titles be? — The Aggressive Marketer, exploring ways to get them to buy, or The Introspective Psychologist, delving into the dynamics of temperament, mood, and thought processes, or The Shy Sociologist, troubled by lack of support for sound theories?

Dick Easterlin reviews his formative years, when he tried several endeavors and finally selected economics, and never regretted it. He reviews his own intellectual history, the contribution various experiences, such as reviewing abstracts of economic dissertations, made to it. Behavior, he once concluded, is not the result of deliberate choice, as some economic theory proposed.

He is the editor of *Happiness in Economics* (2002), the author or coauthor of *Growth Triumphant: the 21st Century in Historical Perspective* (1996), *The Fertility Revolution* (1985), *Birth and Fortune: The Impact of Numbers on Personal Welfare* (1980 and 2nd ed. 1997), and *Population, Labor Force and Long Swings in Economic Growth: The American Experience* (1968). He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, past president of the Population Association of America and Economic History Association, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His institution is the University of Southern California.

Economic Growth

Over the past few centuries we have been led to think economic growth will bound forward forever. But, will growth bring with it the values we seek? Does more of everything give us happiness? At some point, he says, we need to translate the benefits of higher productivity into increased leisure, greater family interaction, more communal benefits, etc.

Touching upon a subject germane to the current Middle-East crisis, one chapter asks, Why Isn't the Whole World Devel-

oped? To answer, Dick draws upon his knowledge of economic history. One drawback to more uniform worldwide progress has been the slowness of some cultures to adapt formal education. Some have not adopted newer production methods. Politics and ideology have affected the rate of formal educational expansion. "Since World War II, modern educational systems have been established almost everywhere, the diffusion of modern technology has notably accelerated, and the growing worldwide disparity in living levels has slowed markedly." (p. 73)

Kuznet cycles have characterized economic growth. Urbanization of population has been a result. Human and physical capital are involved. The economics of such waves of growth should be examined for developing countries in SE Asia and other areas.

The Mortality Revolution

After the Industrial Revolution came dramatic extension of the length of life, affecting medical improvements and public health developments. Economic growth played only a small part in it. In fact, the Mortality Revolution may have stimulated economic growth, by providing a healthier and longer-living labor force. Rapid technological change characterized both Revolutions.

Has economic growth been the basis for advances in the technology of disease control and biomedical research— both ingredients of improved mortality? Easterlin thinks not. He lists the innovations and scientific advances that have benefited the health of mankind and shows how technology and scientific methods have uncovered new knowledge that has advanced of health. After reviewing the boundless progress of medical technology, Easterlin finally admits that the capital accumulation and wealth resulting from economic development made possible investments in medical improvements. But it has not been the market; it has been "public intervention." He concludes: "Rather than a story of the success of free market institutions, the history of mortality is testimony of the critical need for collective action." (p. 138)

Demographic Analysis

In addition to being an economist,

Easterlin is a demographer. He combines demographic and economic analysis quite fruitfully.

After centuries of high fertility and high infant mortality, we've entered a phase of low fertility and low mortality. An economic theory of fertility involves the demand for children and the costs of fertility control. Easterlin adds a third consideration: the potential output of offspring and considerations of preference or taste. Involved in his analysis is nonmarital fertility, the transition from high to low fertility, and fluctuation in fertility before modern methods of control were available. While the demand-based economic theory of fertility holds little relevance generally, in modern circumstances in which fertility control is consciously exercised, the theory may apply. However, more study of the influences upon fertility decisions is needed.

The demographic transition holds a respected place in the dynamics of population change. From high fertility and mortality rates, mortality begins to decline and population growth results. Fertility rates then decline to adjust to a lower rate of demographic growth. Easterlin shows that this paradigm is modified in modern times by "public health programs, mass schooling, and economic development," as well as by shifting socio-economic status of childbearing couples and advances in birth control technology.

Fertility and the Environment

"Does Human Fertility Adjust to the Environment?" In a fascinating chapter Easterlin addresses this question with case studies of Mid-Western states. Intertwined are the dynamics of land use patterns, migration, costs of land, population density and growth, and changing fertility rates. "Thus, rapid population growth triggers economic mechanisms that induce fertility decline and the eventual adjustment of population size to the economic potential of an area."

The author then analyzes the influences on one of the most dramatic American demographic changes of the 20th Century, the baby boom and bust during 1940-80. The age structure of the population, the economic position of young males, female labor force participation—all partly

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affect fertility. Age structure and income played important roles in the fertility transition, he says.

Leaving fertility, Easterlin then turns to change in the educational production of business majors. Business school enrollments began increasing when the life goals of the young turned to making money. Preference for a business career later was negatively affected. The young lost interest in making money, were repelled by Wall Street scandals. Business school enrollment dropped. The drive of market forces was muted by other influences.

Why "Reluctant"?

So, we come to Easterlin's *The Reluctant Economist* title. Why reluctant? Because free market and associated economic forces do not tell the whole story. Government intervention, not free market forces alone, has influenced fertility and universal schooling and life expectancy. Easterlin pleads for a balanced view, taking a range of influences into account in explaining demographic and economic growth. He also sees a need for interdisciplinary academic programs that educate social science broadly.

Comment

One can only admire the honest intellectual effort and broad canvas of influences that the author has brought to his examination of fertility, life expectancy, demographic change and career preferences. These are hallmarks of a dedicated scholar and social scientist.

He briefly summarizes his recent studies of happiness and income, pointing out the constancy of the former in the face of dynamic change of the latter. One wishes that Easterlin had addressed objective QOL as well as happiness and intertwined it with fertility, longevity and the market. Are subjective and objective QOL enhanced by market forces that stimulate consumerism? It is perhaps a secondary question in the face of a world where one-third (two billion) of the world's people scrape by on less than two dollars a day. In the end, shouldn't each of us examine the utility of the single factor each discipline advances as **the** explanation? A broader social science would be the result. That's what Easterlin is asking. QOL researchers occupy an interdisciplinary position to follow Easterlin's lead.

~ Abbott L. Ferriss

DEVELOPING AN INDICATOR SYSTEM FOR THE UNITED STATES

The U. S. General Accounting Office established, in 2002, an office to develop a system of indicators for the U. S. Allen Lomax is Senior Analyst, Office of Strategic Issues, GAO.

In February 2003 a Key National Indicators Forum was held. A report of the Forum is now available: GAO in cooperation with the National Academies, *Forum on Key National Indicators: Assessing the Nation's Position and Progress*. Copies of the report may be obtained by phoning 202 512 6000. The U. S. General Accounting Office, 441 G St. NW, Room LM, Washington, DC 20548. Copies are \$2.00 each.

Information on the key indicators program may also be found at:

www.keyindicators.org

The Forum report includes a set of illustrative indicators by eight information areas, prepared "to facilitate a dialogue among forum's participants" by Dr. Martha Farnsworth Riche (pp. 46-48). The eight are Community, Crime/Public Safety, Ecology, Economic, Education, Governance, Health, and Social Support. Specific indicators or topics are listed under each information area. For example, the Community area lists ten items, such as homelessness, allocation of time, reported hate crimes, voting rates, and the like. The set of indicators is identified as USA Series 0.5.

Forum Report

The Forum Report has several sections useful to social indicator and QOL researchers, as follows:

Appendix IV: Selected Web Sites on Indicator Systems. Seven pages include lists of email addresses, under the headings of Multinational, National, Regional or Multistate, State, Local, Specialized Efforts (Children, Economy, Education, Elderly, Environment, Health, Background and Reference).

Appendix III: Selected Bibliography on Indicator Systems. Eleven pages of bibliographic items with brief description of each. For example, *Toward a Social Report* (1969) is described, as follows: "discusses how social reporting can im-

prove the nation's ability to chart its social progress and to promote more informed policy decisions." (p. 59). There are some omissions. The three Federal compendia of social indicators issued in the 1970's are not listed by title, and the work, *Recent Social Trends in the United States, 1960-1990* by Theodore Caplow, Howard M. Bahr, John Modell, and Bruce A. Chadwick (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1991), is omitted.

As to future development of the indicator system, the accompanying evolutionary sequence, developed by Dr. Martha Farnsworth Riche outlines the anticipated steps.

Comment

More recent information on the development of key indicators for the U.S. may be found at (www.keyindicators.org).

The Forum report gives the impression that the key indicators effort is topically oriented around "strategic issues." The effort has arisen from the GAO's relation to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, and other committees. Consequently, the approach to policy concerns is a logical outcome. Whether it is the framework conducive to development of sensitive and meaningful indicators remains a question. Our on-going system of economic indicators is based upon elaborate theories of how the economic system works, theories which led to the development of economic accounts and other data systems. Similarly, demographic and social theories are required for the development of key indicators.

Social indicator and QOL studies have distinguished objective and subjective indicators. The media for data assembly for each is an important consideration in devising indicator systems, because the periodicity of data collection, its generality, its reliability, etc., loom large in planning a key indicator system. While this consideration may fall into the "technical" category, it nevertheless is crucial. It does not appear to have been an important consideration by the Forum participants.

~ Abbott L. Ferriss

A HISTORICAL NOTE: SIR WILLIAM PETTY (1623-1687)

AND THE SCALE OF SALUBRITY

By Thomas E. Jordan

William Petty began life as a poor boy living in Romsey, Hampshire. He went to sea, and was abandoned in France by his ship's captain after he broke his leg. He prospered by trading and by giving lessons in English and in navigation. After gaining more education at the Jesuit college at Caen he studied medicine in Holland and in Paris. Subsequently, he obtained a medical degree from Oxford University in the early days of Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth.

Petty moved in the intellectual circles at Oxford and London. There, he was on good terms with Isaac Newton, Robert Hooke, and Robert Boyle. He joined them in exemplifying the New Learning advocated earlier by Francis Bacon.¹ He became a friend of the Cromwell family, and of Oliver's son, Henry, in particular. In a remarkable transition, one Petty himself found surprising, he developed good relations with the Restoration monarch, Charles II, and with his brother James, Duke of York and Lord High Admiral. James became King James II when his elder brother died in 1685.²

Petty's close relations with the Stuart brothers were facilitated by his charm, humor, and optimism.

Petty's accomplishments began in the Cromwellian peace in Ireland after the turmoil of the 1640s. He was called to Ireland as Physician to the army in 1652 and he promptly re-organized the medical service, realizing considerable savings through his efficiencies. Petty then bid successfully for the contract to survey forfeited lands in twenty-two counties. The goal was to establish a data bank of lands to be awarded as payment to Cromwell's soldiers, and to the investors known at the time as Adventurers. Payment was due to the men who had participated in Oliver Cromwell's brutal campaign in 1649.³ It was in Ireland that Petty began to ruminate about society in general; he wrote many essays on demographic, economic and other social themes which he chose not to publish and which in his later years filled fifty three chests. In the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries two of his descendants, through his daughter, published his biography, and his letters and papers. Petty was a friend of William Penn, and optioned land in Pennsylvania for which he designed a planta-

tion. He was not a Utopian reformer, and he did not, like some of his generation who had migrated to Massachusetts, seek to build a model community; he sought merely to create an efficient one.⁴

Around 1672, Petty wrote, *The Political Anatomy of Ireland*, in which we see his first quantitative approach to understanding a community.⁵ He saw that the age of a population could yield a useful metric:

"As to Longaevity, enquiry must be made into some good old

Register of (Suppose) 20 persons who all were born and buried in the same Parish, and having cast up the time which they all lived as one man, the Total divided by 20 is the life of each one with another; which compared with the like observation in several other places, will show the difference in Longaevity, due allowance being made for extraordinary contingencies, and Epidemical diseases happening respectively within the period of each observation."

To the twenty-first century mind, such comments have the ring of the self-evident. However, they illustrate how different were the sensibilities of the seventeenth century, and how far we have come from those days. The New Learning introduced empirical validity and utility to replace the heritage of Scholasticism and the invocation of ancient authority. Isaac Newton, for example, is a transitional figure in the history of thought. He was modern in his grasp of celestial mechanics, but felt it necessary to attribute the momentum of the planets to a push from the hand of the Deity. In that sense, one of the discriminations in empirical studies has been the slow, evolutionary expulsion of surplus meaning from descriptions of phenomena.

In 1674, Petty wrote his Discourse Concerning the Use of Duplicate Proportion.⁶ In it, Petty came closer to today's idiom concerning empirical, quantitative description of the quality of life:

I can produce the accompts of every Man, Woman, and Child within a certain Parish of above 330 Souls; all of which particular Ages being cast up, and added together, and the Sum divided by the whole Number of Souls, made the Q uotient between 15 and 16; Which I call (if it be constant or Uniform)

the Age of that Parish, or Numerical Index of Longaevity there. Many of which Indexes for several times and Places make a useful Scale of Salubrity for those places, and a better Judge of Ayers than the conjectural Notions commonly read and talked of. And such a Scale the King might as easily make for all his Dominions, as I did for this one Parish."

In this passage we see Petty's dissatisfaction with generalizations about circumstances of life, and the Ayers — environment — obtaining there. His *Scale of Salubrity* foretold our health indices, and the idea of using it in King Charles II's *Dominions* anticipates the geographical dispersion of the quality of life — variously defined. Petty was knighted in 1662 by Charles II, on the occasion of the *Instauration* of the Royal Society. Subsequently, he received a coat of arms from Ulster King of Arms for which he adopted as his Latin motto, *"By Weight, Measure, and Number, God Created All Things."*⁷

A study in Petty's idiom, a decade after the *Discourse*..., was the work of the astronomer, Edmund Halley. In 1693, he published his study of life expectancy in the German city of Breslau.⁸ This work resembles the 1662 monograph on the London *Bills of Mortality* published under the name of Captain John Graunt,⁹ but generally conceded to be largely Petty's work — recalling his reluctance to publish.¹⁰ Halley also invoked a second study by Petty, an essay in 1683 on the Bills of Mortality in Dublin. A feature of Halley's work was the application of logarithms, and the calculation of probabilities for annuities. The Baconian-Petty idiom lapsed after Halley's monograph, but re-appeared with vigor in the Utilitarian ideology of Edwin Chadwick in the nineteenth century. The work of Dr. William Farr is an example of the re-awakened sensibility.¹¹

Finally, we turn to one of Petty's contemporaries, the diplomat and his long-term correspondent, Sir Robert Southwell. He wrote to Petty shortly before Petty's death in 1687, that he was, *"The first man that ever brought Algebra into Human affairs."*¹²

(Continued on page 11.)

THE SOCIAL QUALITY INITIATIVE

The theory of social quality is both a scientific and a policy approach with which to assist citizens of Europe to cope with recent processes of transformation. It is explicitly oriented to citizens as interacting social beings, or in other words as social actors. The concept of social quality originated in a series of international expert meetings in Amsterdam on European economic and social processes. Most importantly, it was the unequal relationship between economic policy and social policy, and the increasing tendency for the former to define the content and scope of the latter that was identified as the main source of recent crises in European social policy in the 1990s. Social quality tries to provide an alternative approach with which to improve the coherence between different policy fields. This could only be realised when addressing the actual problems citizens in Europe have to cope with in daily life. This lack of coherence is due to a lack of common understanding of the discourse on ontological, epistemological and ideological questions. What is missing is a conceptually coherent theory with which to sustain a common scientific and policy approach (see: www.socialquality.org).

The theory gives an explicit meaning to the concept of 'the social'. The social does not exist as such but is the expression of constantly changing processes by which individuals realize themselves. It is the interdependence between self-realisation of individual people and the formation of collective identities. Furthermore this theory tries to determine the quality of 'the social'. Within the theory a distinction is made between (i) constitutional factors constituting individual people as social actors, (ii) conditional factors delivering opportunities of 'the social' and (iii) judgements about the nature of social quality. In the development of the theory up till now priority is given to the four conditional factors, namely socio-economic security, social cohesion, social inclusion and social empowerment.

For this Newsletter on social indicators, it is interesting to explain, that the social quality theory implies three types of measurement instruments. According to the theory the constitutional factors should be measured by the so-called 'profiles'. The conditional factors are measured by 'indicators' and for determining the final

judgement about social quality, 'criteria' are needed. Within the social quality theory, indicators measure the empirical facts about the role and outcomes of the conditional factors. They do not address the emotional and cognitive appreciation of individual people as social actors, therefore profiles will be needed. In order to make judgements about social quality we need citizens and experts developing criteria. The application of these three measurement instruments is called the methodological triangle. Thanks to a combination of three measurement instruments, the social quality concept of indicator differs from the mainstream interpretation. Indicators within this approach will be supplemented and interpreted in connection to profiles and criteria. Furthermore indicators of social quality should, because of this theoretical background, relate to aspects of the social.

There has been a core of scientists from all over Europe that started the elaboration of the social quality theory in the early 1990s. In 1997 the European Foundation on Social Quality was founded for coordinating the theory's development. Two studies were published, the first *The Social Quality of Europe* (1997) to present the preliminary ideas about the theory, the second *Social Quality: a Vision for Europe* elaborating the design of the theory. In the meantime, Kinston University in London started in co-operation with the Foundation, the *European Journal of Social Quality*. Four volumes and eight issues are published about different aspects of the theory, its measurement instruments, the confrontation with policy areas and public debates about central European issues www.Berghahnbooks.com

Thanks to the work done by 2001, the European Foundation on Social Quality received two grants from the European Commission to start two projects. One by DG Employment and Social Affairs focusing on the policy area of employment, and the other by DG Research concentrating on the creation of indicators for measuring the conditional factors of the social. In 2001, the Foundation started a European Network for developing these indicators funded by the EU's Fifth Framework Programme. This network consists of fourteen universities and two European NGOs

(EAPN and ISCW). It will present its outcomes in the third study on social quality and a volume of the European Journal on Social Quality at the end of 2004.

For additional information, contact the European Foundation on Social Quality, C/o Felix Meritis, Keizersgracht 324, 1016 EZ Amsterdam, phone ++31 20 6262321, fax ++31 206249368, EFSQ@felix.meritis.nl, www.socialquality.org

Gallup Adds Spirituality Measures to Periodic Survey

Responding to the recent surge of interest in religious matters, the Gallup Organization and the George H. Gallup International Institute added two items on spirituality to its June 2002 US survey. The two indicators were "inner commitment" and "outer commitment" to spirituality. Three-fourths of the sample of 1,500 adults reported faith to be a significant factor in their lives. Personal faith ("inner commitment") ranked higher than action based upon that faith ("outer commitment").

The Gallup Organization will include the items in future surveys in order to establish trends in spirituality.

The Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society, the University of Pennsylvania, co-sponsor of the study, also reported that four-fifths of Americans believe in absolute good and evil, that 85 percent said their lives have meaning because of their faith, and 68 percent report that they are "spiritually committed." Forty percent of respondents had had a religious experience that changed the direction of their lives.

The Gallup organization periodically reports on its surveys of religion in America, tracking changes in the characteristics of religious organizations.

~ Abbott L. Ferriss

Advancing Quality of Life in a Turbulent World



CALL FOR PAPERS

The 6th International Conference of ISQOLS will be held in Philadelphia from November 10-14, 2004. The conference theme—“Advancing Quality of Life in a Turbulent World”—builds on the content of both the Frankfurt & Girona conferences and, at the same time, will challenge delegates to consider positive steps that can be taken for advancing quality of life in rich and poor societies alike.

Consistent with ISQOLS’ tradition, the Philadelphia conference will be organized around a number of sub-themes, each of which will be focused on in a variety of papers, round tables, poster sessions and workshops:

- Day 1 Theme (November 11): The State of QOL in Various World Geopolitical Regions
- Day 2 Theme (November 12): Sectoral Issues Impacting QOL (including health, education, housing, etc.)
- Day 3 Theme (November 13): The QOL of Various Population Groups (including children & youth, the aged, women, etc.)

To date, some 50 separate tracks have been included in the conference program—ranging from “Measurement Issues in QOL Research”, to reports of the relationship between “Income and Happiness”, “QOL and Family Life”, “Sex, Intimacy and Quality of Life”, “Food, Beverage and Quality of Life”, among many others.

Unique to the Philadelphia conference will be a series of major reports on the state of QOL in various world regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin & North America, the Pacific & Oceania, as well as in the European and Central Asian “successor states” to the Former Soviet Union).

Also unique to the Philadelphia meeting will be the inclusion of QOL practitioners from various world regions.

A copy of the draft program for the conference, including the official “Call for Abstracts”, may be downloaded from the following website:

<http://caster.ssw.upenn.edu/~restes/ISQOLS/PHL2004CFA.doc>

In an effort to be as inclusive as possible, the conference planners are raising funds to provide “Registration Scholarships” (\$250) to delegates from low-income economies and to advanced doctoral students engaged in QOL research and practice. An effort also is being made to raise funds to help subsidize the registration costs of QOL practitioners who may need financial assistance in order to participate in the meeting.

A copy of the Conference Registration Form and Program Overview are included in this issue of SINET. All inquiries concerning the conference should be sent to the Conference Secretariat at the following address:

phl2004@attglobal.net

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM (PHL2004)*
The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS)
Advancing Quality of Life in a Turbulent Work
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA
 November 10-14, 2004

	Circle at least one choice under <u>each</u> required category	Current Members	Non- Members	Subtotal
1. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE (REQUIRED)				
	Full/Regular Conference Fee*	\$250.00	\$300.00	\$____.00
	Reduced Student/Retired Person Fee*	\$125.00	\$150.00	\$____.00
	Reduced Accompanying Persons Fee	\$90.00	\$100.00	\$____.00
2. PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP FEES (OPTIONAL)				
	Full Day (up to 5.0 hours, including lunch break) Workshop # _____	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$____.00
	Half Day (up to 3.0 hours, including lunch break) Workshop # _____	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$____.00
3. BANQUET FEES (OPTIONAL)—Thursday, November 11, 2004				
	With Payment of Full Conference Fee	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
	With Payment of Reduced Conference Fee	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$____.00
4. 2005 ISQOLS MEMBERSHIP (REQUIRED, EXCEPT FOR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS)				
	Regular Membership	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$____.00
	Lifetime Membership (includes current regular membership fee)	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$____.00
	Student/Retired Person Membership	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$____.00
5. MEETING SPACE & A-V EQUIPMENT SURCHARGES (REQUIRED)				
	Persons local to Philadelphia	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
	Visitors staying at the Radisson-Warwick Hotel	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
	Visitors not staying at the Radisson Hotel	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$____.00
6. SUBSCRIPTIONS TO ISQOLS PUBLICATIONS (OPTIONAL)				
	SINET: Social Indicators Network News (quarterly)	No Charge	\$18.00	\$____.00
	Journal of Happiness Studies (quarterly)	\$92.00	\$296.00	\$____.00
	Social Indicators Research (12 issues per year)	\$103.00	\$1,010.00	\$____.00
7. CONTRIBUTIONS (OPTIONAL)				
	To ISQOLS <i>Solidarity Fund</i> to financially assist colleagues from low-income countries to attend the conference	Note: Gifts to these Funds may include <i>cash</i> , <i>frequent flyer miles</i> for free air tickets, or <i>willingness to share a twin-bedded hotel room</i> at no cost to the designated delegate		\$____.00
	To ISQOLS <i>Student Travel Fund</i> to financially assist advanced graduate student to attend the conference			\$____.00
TOTALS				\$____.00

* The conference is fully self-financed, hence, all participants must cover their own costs for travel and registration. As possible, some reductions in the Conference Registration Fee may be possible for participants from low-income countries and for advanced graduate students. Request for full or partial Conference Registration Fee must be given in writing to the Conference Secretariat in care of Richard Estes, Conference Chair: phl2004@attglobal.net

Chair: phl2004@attglobal.net

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Full Name: _____

Name to Appear on Badge: _____

Organizational Affiliation: _____

Postal Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Office Phone and Fax: _____

Any Diet Restrictions: _____

PAYMENT: ___ Enclosed check or money order

___ Credit card: VISA _____ Master Card _____

Credit card number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Exact name on card: _____

Signature: _____

**Mail, e-mail (isqols@vt.edu), or fax (540.231.3076)
the completed registration form with your payment to:
International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS)
Department of Marketing, Pamplin College of Business
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0236, USA**

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE STUDIES

The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) was formed in the mid-1990s. The objectives of ISQOLS are: 1) to stimulate interdisciplinary research in quality-of-life (QOL) studies within the managerial (policy), behavioral, social, medical, and environmental sciences; 2) to provide an organization which all academic, business, nonprofit, and government researchers who are interested in QOL studies can coordinate their efforts to advance the knowledge base and to create positive social change; and 3) to encourage closer cooperation among scholars engaged in QOL research to develop better theory, methods, measures, and intervention programs. The year 2002 membership fees are US\$35 for regular members and \$25 for students or retired persons. Prof. M. JOSEPH SIRGY (Virginia Tech and State University) is Executive Director of ISQOLS. Anyone interested in knowing more about ISQOLS should contact Prof. Sirgy at the central office: International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies, Dept. of Marketing, Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0236; tel.: 540-231-5110; fax: 540-231-3076; e-mail: sirgy@vt.edu. The Society's homepage on the Internet also can be accessed at <http://www.cob.vt.edu/market/isqols/>.

Advancing Quality of Life in a Turbulent World 2004 Program At A Glance

	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:00	10:30	11:00	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30	2:00	3:00	3:30	4:00	5:00	5:30	6:00	7:00	8:00					
Wednesday Nov 10, 2004	Registration & Exhibit Area open																							
	Breakfast		Pre-Conference Workshops (W 1 - 5)																					
	Executive Committee Meeting & Luncheon								Interest Group Meetings (WIG 1-3)		Opening Plenary: #1: <i>Advancing QOL in a Turbulent World</i>				Presidential Reception									
Thursday Nov 11, 2004	Registration & Exhibit Area open																							
	Breakfast	Regional QOL Roundtables (TR 1-8)			Coffee Break	Poster Sessions on Regional and International QOL (TO 1-3)			Concurrent Panels on Regional QOL Issues (TP 1-8)			Concurrent Symposia on Comparative QOL Methodology (TS 1-3)			Coffee Break	Poster Sessions on Regional and International QOL (TO 4-6)			Concurrent Panels on Regional QOL Issues (TP 9-16)			Interest Group Meetings (TIG 4-6)		
Daily Theme: Geopolitical Issues in Advancing QOL		Plenary: #2 <i>International Challenges to Advancing QOL</i>				International Press Conference			No host lunch							Special Session with Alex Michalos on the <i>QOL Encyclopedia</i>			Awards Banquet					
Friday Nov 12, 2004	Registration & Exhibit Area open																							
	Breakfast	QOL Sectoral Roundtables (FR 9-16)		Coffee Break	Poster Sessions on Community QOL (FO 7-9)			Concurrent Papers on QOL in Selected Sectors (FP 17-24; FP49)			Interest Group Meetings (FIG 7-9)			Coffee Break	Concurrent Papers on the Role of "Civil Society" Stakeholders in Advancing QOL (FP 33-40)			Board of Directors Meeting						
Daily Theme: Advancing QOL in Selected Sectors		Plenary: #3 <i>Research-Practitioner Partnerships in Advancing QOL</i>																Cultural Evening: No host arts performance No host Chinese Banquet Home Hospitality						
Saturday Nov 13, 2004	Registration & Exhibit Area open																							
	Breakfast	Population QOL Roundtables (SR 17-24)		Coffee Break	Population-Focused Poster Sessions (SO 13-15)			Concurrent Papers on Population QOL Issues (SP 41-48)			Executive Committee Meeting & Luncheon			Interest Group Meetings (SIG 10-12)			No host lunch							
Daily Theme: Advancing QOL For Selected Populations								Closing Plenary: #4 <i>The Role of ISQOLS in Advancing QOL Nationally & Internationally</i>									Optional no host dinner							
Sunday Nov 14	Post-Conference Half-Day Tours (ST 1-8)																							
	Breakfast			Post Conference Full-Day Cultural & Community Tours (SUT 9-16)															Optional no host dinner					

(Continued from page 6.)

NOTES

1. Jordan, T. E. (2004). *A Copper Farthing...: William Petty (1623 – 1687)*. Unpublished manuscript.
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3. Fitzmaurice, E. (1895). (a) *The Life of Sir William Petty 1623 – 1687*. London. Murray. (b) See also, Prendergast, J. P. (1922). *The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland*. Dublin. Mellifont.
4. Bremer, F. (1992). To Live Exemplary Lives: Puritans and Puritan Communities as Lofty Lights. *Seventeenth Century*, 7, 27–39.
5. Petty, W. (1672). *The Political Anatomy of Ireland*. Shannon, Ireland. Irish University Press. (1970).
6. Hull, C. H. (1899). *The Economic Writings of Sir William Petty*. Two Volumes. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press.
7. Kargon, R. (1965). William Petty and

- Mechanical Philosophy. *Isis*, 56, 63 – 66.
8. Halley, E. (1693). An Estimate of the Degrees of Mortality of Mankind, Drawn from Curious Tables of the Births and Funerals at the City of Breslaw. *Philosophical Transactions*, 17, 596 – 610.
9. Graunt, J. (1662). *Natural and Political Observations Mentioned in a Following Index, and Made upon the Bills of Mortality*. London. Martin, Allestry, and Dycas.
10. Petty’s reluctance to publish was honored by his widow. As a result, his writings were not accessible until C. H. Hull published, *The Economic Writings of Sir William Petty*. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press, 1899. Petty’s corpus of essays was published by his descendant, the Marquis of Lansdowne, (1927). *The Petty Papers*. Two Volumes. London. Constable.
11. (a) Eyler, J. M. (1979). *Victorian Social*

Medicine: The Ideas and Methods of William Farr. Baltimore, MD. Johns Hopkins University Press. (b) See also, Jordan, T. E. (1993). *The Degeneracy Crisis and Victorian Youth*. Albany, NY. State University of New York Press.

12. Lansdowne. (1928). *The Petty – Southwell Correspondence 1676 – 1678*. London. Constable.

Editor’s Note: Thomas Jordan is working on a biography of William Petty. He sends this historical nugget concerning a seventeenth century reference to quality of life. Petty’s Index of Salubrity may be the earliest reference to a quantitative approach to the measurement of the quality of life.

SINET WORLD WIDE WEB

HOME PAGE

SINET has a homepage entry on the World Wide Web. It is located on the homepage of the Department of Sociology at Duke University and thus can be accessed by clicking on Department Publications on the address of that page, namely, <http://www.soc.duke.edu> or by typing in the full address <http://www.soc.duke.edu/dept/sinet/index.html>. The homepage for SINET contains a description of the Contents of the Current Issue as well as of Previous Issues. In addition, it has Subscription Information, Editorial Information, Issue-Related Links, and a link to the homepage of ISQOLS, the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies. The Issue-Related Links button has links to World Wide Web locations of data for the construction, study, and analysis of social and quality-of-life indicators that have been identified in previous issues of SINET. When you are surfing the Web, surf on in to our homepage.

SINET

Social Indicators Network News

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SINET

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