Child Development and Wellbeing and Maternal Parenting

Kate Bartkus
Audrey N. Beck

Center for Research on Child Wellbeing
Princeton University

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Data

- Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study
- Core: Baseline ($n = 4789$), Year 1 ($n = 4270$), Year 3 ($n = 4140$), Year 5 ($n = 4055$)
- In-Home, Year 3
  - Any ($n = 3288$)
  - Observed/Assessments ($n = 2581$)

- Exact $n$ varies by question of interest
Maternal Parenting
Quality of Parenting

- How do you feel about yourself as a mother to (CHILD)?
- (Y3: B1/B26, Y5: B1/B20A)
- Range: 1 – 4; “Excellent,” “Very Good,” “Good,” or “Not a Very Good” Mother
- Also asked of fathers
  - F4c2f at five-year
  - F3c1c at three-year
Separation from Child

- Series of questions asking about mother and child’s recent separations
- Descriptive information about separation:
  - # of times separated for more than week
  - # of days separated
  - Where child stayed and why
- Same at both three year and five year; one year includes 2 questions
- At year five, over 20% had separations of week or longer
# Child Care Arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age First in Care</th>
<th>One-Year</th>
<th>Three-Year</th>
<th>Five-Year*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B24</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of arrangements</th>
<th>B21, B23</th>
<th>B7, B7B</th>
<th>B9C</th>
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</thead>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours spent in child care</th>
<th>B21A, B22</th>
<th>B7A</th>
<th>B9B</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types</th>
<th>B25A, B25B</th>
<th>B8A/B8B</th>
<th>B10A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in child care</th>
<th>B28B</th>
<th>B13</th>
<th>*</th>
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</thead>
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|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details of Primary Child Care Arrangement</th>
<th>B26, B27, B28, B28A</th>
<th>B9, B10, B11, B12</th>
<th>B11, B12, B13, B14, B15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details of Care at Pre-schools, schools and centers</th>
<th>*</th>
<th>*</th>
<th>B8, B8A, B8B, B8C, B8D, B8E, B8F, B8G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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## Child Care Arrangements

### Reliability and Impact on Work Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>One-Year</th>
<th>Three-Year</th>
<th>Five-Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of times needed to make special arrangements</td>
<td>B35</td>
<td>B22</td>
<td>B17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of times missed work</td>
<td>B35A</td>
<td>B23</td>
<td>B18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had to quit job/school/activity</td>
<td>B35B</td>
<td>B24</td>
<td>B19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate arrangements when child is sick</td>
<td>B36</td>
<td>B25</td>
<td>B20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Maternal Parenting Stress

- Sum of four items measured at one year, three year, and five year core surveys
  - Being a parent is harder than I thought it would be
  - I feel trapped by my responsibilities as a parent
  - I find that taking care of my child is more work than pleasure
  - I often feel tired, worn out, or exhausted from raising a family

- Range: 0 – 12
- One year (B20A-D)
- Three year (B6A-D)
- Five year (B6A-D)
Maternal Parenting Stress

- Two items re: responding to child behaviors
- Twelve items in G Section of Three Year In-Home
- Questions address adjusting life for children:
  
  **Self-Sacrifice**
  - “Giving up more of life …than ever expected”
  - “Unable to do new and different things”

  **Satisfaction with Life**
  - “Feel alone and without friends”
  - “Less interested in people than you used to be”
  - “Enjoy things less than you used to”
  - “There are quite a few things that bother you about life”

*All on 5-point scale: strongly agree to strongly disagree*
Discipline/Conflict Tactics Items

- Mother-Reported items (from J series, In-Home 3)
- The response categories indicate the frequency of the act; including, never, once, twice, three to five times, six to ten times, eleven to twenty times and more than twenty times.
- These responses are recoded to the midpoint (0, 1, 2, 4, 8, 15, and 25) and then summed into subscales (see Strauss et al. 1998)
- Nonviolent discipline: giving the child something else to do, taking away privileges, explaining why they did something wrong and giving the child a time out
- Psychological aggression/discipline: shouting/ yelling/ screaming at the child, cursing/ swearing at the child, calling the child a name, threatening to spank, or threatening to kick the child out of the home
- Physical discipline: shaking, hitting, spanking, slapping and pinching the child
- Also available in Year 5
Additional Discipline Items

- Mother-Reported items: Core 1 (B19), 3 (B5) and 5 (B5)
- The mother was first asked “In the past month, have you spanked child because he/she was misbehaving or acting up?”
- If she responded yes, she was then asked how often she spanked the child (once or twice, a few times a month, a few times a week, or nearly every day).
- Also asked of mothers who do not live with the child half-time (B42, B33, B30)
Neglectful Behaviors

- Five Additional CTSPC Questions in Three-Year In-Home
- Same response categories as other CTSPC measures

J15. Had to leave your child home alone, even when you thought some adult should be with him/her
J16. Were so caught up with your own problems that you were not able to show or tell your child that you loved him/her
J17. Were not able to make sure your child got the food he/she needed
J18. Were not able to make sure your child got to a doctor or hospital when he/she needed it
J19. Were so drunk or high that you had a problem taking care of your child
Parental Time Investments

- Days per week (Year 5, B4 series):
  - Sing songs or nursery rhymes
  - Read stories
  - Tell stories
  - Play inside with toys such as blocks or legos
  - Tell child that you appreciated something he/she did
  - Play outside in the yard, park or playground
  - Take child on outing, such as shopping, or to a restaurant, church, museum, or special activity or event
  - Watch TV or a video together

- Also asked of fathers, and mothers who do not live with the child half-time (B26)

- Fluctuations between years on items that are included
In-Home Maternal Parenting

- Observed items (often dichotomized and summed to create subscales).
- Emotionally responsive subscale: mother talks with child two or more times during the visit, responds to the child’s questions orally, praises the child during the visit, voices positive feelings toward the child, kisses or hugs the child, tells the child a name of an object.
- Verbal/social subscale: whether the mother’s speech is audible, whether she initiates a verbal exchange with the observer, and whether she converses freely and easily during the visit.
In-Home Maternal Parenting

- **Literacy subscale:** includes items such as the types of toys the child has in the house, number of books in the house.
  - Examples include: About how many toys, if any, does (child) have that have pieces that fit together? About how many, if any, books do you have for the child?

- **Nonpunitive subscale:** mother does not shout, express annoyance, spank, scold or criticize, interfere or restrict.
  - More rare in nature.

- **Looking forward:** the vast majority of items are included in the Year 5 In-Home, but updated for the developmental stage of the child.
In-Home Maternal Parenting

- Rules and routines.
- Weekday and weekend time spent watching TV.
- Whether the child has a regular bedtime, bedtime routine and place to sleep.
- How often the family adhered to the regular bedtime, bedtime routine and sleeping place.
- Looking forward: included in the Year 5 In-Home.
Other Issues to Consider Regarding Maternal Parenting

- Section A questions in core surveys
  - Amount of time child lives with mother
    (Year-One: A3, Year-Three and Year-Five: A2)
  - Details on who (else) child lives with (incl. foster or adoptive parents)
    (Year-One: A4, A4A, A4B, A4C
    Year-Three: A3, A3A, A3B, A3B1, A3C, A3D
  - Frequency of time spent with child if not living together
    (Year-One: A4D, Year-Three and Year-Five: A3E)
Child Development and Wellbeing
Child’s Health and Wellbeing

- Child’s General Health Status Collected Across Waves
  - One-Year (B2/B37)
  - Three-Year (B2/B27)
  - Five-Year (B2/B21)

- Medical Care and Three-Year In-Home Questions and One-Year Core

Specific Measures Include:
- # of Well-Child Check-ups
- Usual/routine place for care
- Visits to doctor, ER, & overnight stays in hospital
- Illnesses and Medical Conditions
Child Behavioral Checklist Items

- Behavioral problems: Child Behavioral Checklist (0 = not at all true, 1 = somewhat true, 2 = very true)
- Anxiety/depression.
  - Examples: feelings are easily hurt, gets too upset when separated from parents.
- Withdrawal:
  - Examples: avoids looking others in the eye, doesn't answer when people talk to him/her.
- Aggression:
  - Examples: is defiant, demands must be met immediately.
- Can be combined into internalizing problems (anxiety/depression and withdrawal) and externalizing problems (aggression).
Other Child Behavior Items

- Six items in One-Year Follow-up
- Emotionality and Shyness sections of the EAS (Emotionality, Activity, and Sociability) Temperament Survey for Children
- B17A through B17F & B43A through B43F
- 5-point scale: “not at all like my child” (1) through “very much like my child” (5)
- Several usage notes in One-Year Scales Documentation
- Also in fathers (B16A-B16F & B37A-B37F)
Child’s Cognitive Development

- Verbal ability: Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test – R
- For Spanish Speaking Children: Test de Vocabulario en Imagenes Peabody
  - Only in Year 3 In-Home, by 5 all children take the PPVT
- Age standardized and raw scores available
- Debate about whether and how the PPVT and TVIP can be combined