



**Early Childhood Surveys at the National Center for Education Statistics:
Data User's Training Seminar on The Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies (ECLS) and
The National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES)**

**2008 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA)
Boston, Massachusetts**

Thursday, July 31, 2008, 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is sponsoring a 1-day training seminar at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA) on July 31, 2008 from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm in Boston, Massachusetts. This seminar will provide researchers an introduction to some of the most comprehensive early childhood education and care data resources in the nation, focusing on three nationally representative early childhood studies conducted by NCES: the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998–99 (ECLS-K), the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), and the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) early childhood components.

The ECLS-K provides descriptive information on children's status at entry to school, their transition into school, and their progression through eighth grade. The ECLS-B provides detailed information on children's early development, health, care, and education from birth through kindergarten entry. Oversamples offer a unique opportunity to analyze the early learning experiences of low and very low birth weight, twin, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Alaska Native children. The NHES early childhood surveys consist of multiple cross-sectional surveys focusing on children's early learning activities, school readiness, and nonparental child care and early education arrangements and allow analysts to study how these have changed since the early 1990s. The designs of these studies enable researchers to use data from more than one NCES study to examine early childhood issues. This seminar provides information on the range of topics covered by each study, the common measures used across the studies, and the limitations of each data source.

During the seminar, study design and technical issues relevant to data use are presented, and computer demonstrations of software that assists users in preparing data for analyses are provided. The overall goals of the seminar are to inform researchers about these studies and describe what the databases can offer separately and in complement with each other. The seminar also highlights technical issues researchers must recognize to correctly analyze these data.

Participants will receive binders that include hard copies of all slideshow presentations; handouts about the survey instruments; guides for using the ECB software; links to the NHES, ECLS-B, and ECLS-K websites; and tables providing information on sample sizes, weighting and variance estimation, and other technical issues related to the data. They will also receive the NHES and ECLS-K CD-ROMS, containing the public-use data files, ECB software, and electronic versions of the survey instruments and user's manuals.

For more information about the training seminar, please contact us at ecls@air.org. Registration for this course takes place as part of registration for the 2008 ASA Annual Meeting. When registering, the training seminar is an "add-on" option to the overall general conference registration. The website link to register for the 2008 ASA Annual Meeting is http://www.asanet.org/cs/2008_registration. The website link to the 2008 ASA Annual Meeting Program is http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/meetings/2008_preliminary_program.