



Families & Research at OPRE

National Academies of Science
The Science of Family Research Workshop
July 14, 2010

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Administration for Children & Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families

- Responsible for federal programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities.

Administration for Children and Families

Examples of Programs/Services

- Adoption & Foster Care
- Child Abuse & Neglect
- Child Care Subsidy Program
- Child Support
- Disabilities
- Head Start
- Strengthening Families/Healthy Marriage Initiative
- TANF
- Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation

The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) is the principal advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families. A central focus of OPRE's research and evaluation strategy is to develop reliable, credible information to inform program policy choices, particularly in major program areas such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Head Start, child care and child welfare.

Administration for Children and Families Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation

The Office provides guidance, analysis, technical assistance, and oversight to ACF programs on:

- strategic planning aimed at measurable results;
- performance measurement;
- research and evaluation methodologies;
- demonstration testing and model development;
- statistical, policy and program analysis;
- research synthesis and
- dissemination of research and demonstration findings

Objectives for NAS Workshop

1. Research relevant to low-income and vulnerable families
 - Measuring family processes associated with economic hardship (including family strengths)
 - Defining and measuring family hardship
2. Measuring family processes across diverse family structures, and links to child outcomes
(single parent families, step families, co-parenting in separated families, multiple partner fertility, extended families, immigrant families, step-families, etc.)
 - who are the key people in a child's life?
3. Children's Socio-emotional and Behavioral Outcomes (not just health)
4. Attention to age of child and culture
5. Culturally appropriate methodologies

Critical consideration about appropriate measurement and methodology in these domains could help guide our thinking/prioritizing/selection of methodologies in our evaluation and research projects.