ECLS-B Database Training Seminar Announcement

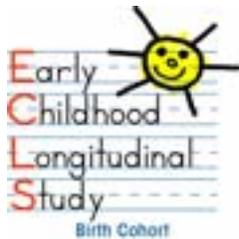**Using the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study,
Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) Database
for Research and Policy Discussion**

**January 20, 2010 through January 22, 2010
Washington, DC**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, will sponsor a 3-day advanced studies seminar on the use of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) database. The ECLS-B is designed to support research on a wide range of topics pertaining to young children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development and their health status across multiple contexts (e.g., home, child care, and kindergarten).

This seminar is open to advanced graduate students and faculty members from colleges and universities nationwide and to researchers, education practitioners, and policy analysts from federal, state, and local education and human services agencies and professional associations.

OVERVIEW

The ECLS-B is sponsored by NCES in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health; the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Administration for Children and Families; the National Center for Health Statistics; and several other federal agencies. It is the only nationally representative study providing detailed information on children's development, health, early care, and education from birth through kindergarten entry. Information from about 10,000 children and their families was collected at 9 months (2001), 2 years (2003), preschool (4 years; 2005), and kindergarten (2006 and 2007). The 2007 collection, conducted in Fall 2007, included only kindergartners who had not yet entered kindergarten at the time of the 2006 collection and children who were kindergartners in 2006-07 who repeated kindergarten in 2007-08. The children were sampled from birth certificates and represent diverse socioeconomic and racial/ethnic backgrounds. The study includes oversamples of very low and moderately low birth weight infants, twins, American Indian children, Chinese children, and other Asian and Pacific Islander children.

Examples of topics that can be studied with ECLS-B data include:

- children's early development in infancy and at critical points during the years leading up to and including their first experiences in school;
- the influence of health factors, including the mother's prenatal behavior and the prenatal care she received, on children's early growth and development;
- the prevalence rates of several health conditions (e.g., asthma) and practices (e.g., regular health care);
- children's child care experiences and the transition that occurs as young children go from being cared for exclusively by their parents to the care of other persons; and
- fathers' influence on their children's development, as evidenced by their role in early child care and child-rearing and through the activities that they engage in with the children.

For further information about ECLS-B, including the questionnaires and a list of available publications that can be downloaded or ordered, visit the study website (http://nces.ed.gov/ecls).

PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTCOME

The overall goal of the seminar is to provide researchers with opportunities to gain access to one of the most comprehensive data resources in the nation and to use the ECLS-B data in substantive research. The seminar will include both lecture and hands-on instruction. Specifically, the seminar will include the following topics and activities:

- an overview of ECLS-B design, instruments, and database;
- discussion of the methodological and technical issues relevant to ECLS-B data use;
- instruction and practice with ECLS-B 9-month, 2-year, preschool, and kindergarten data; and
- hands-on experience in conducting analyses of ECLS-B data.

It should be noted that this seminar does not provide formal instruction on advanced statistical methods and analyses.

Participants will use the seminar to refine their research plans. At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will present a preliminary analysis plan that uses ECLS-B data, including a clear statement of their research questions, a rationale for the analysis, analytic approach (specifications of population, variables, statistical techniques, etc.), and preliminary results. Complimentary copies of any papers and publications using ECLS-B data should be sent to NCES.

QUALIFICATIONS

Participants attending this seminar should have a solid understanding of statistical methods, be experienced in using personal computers, and be proficient in the use of SPSS, SAS, or Stata statistical software packages. Participants will be expected to know how to perform SPSS, SAS, or Stata procedures, including recoding data and running statistical analyses (e.g., frequency distributions, cross-tabulations, means, regression analyses). Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- significance of the proposed research and potential benefit from participation in the seminar;
- consistency of the proposed research agenda with the data available in the ECLS-B at 9 months, 2 years, preschool, and/or kindergarten;
- experience in health, social, behavioral, or educational research; and
- knowledge and skills in statistical analyses and the use of statistical computer packages. (Please see attached application form for specific questions pertaining to your level of experience.)

Researchers with grants to use ECLS-B data and graduate students planning to use the data for their dissertation research will be given special consideration.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SEMINAR

There is no fee to attend this seminar. NCES will provide training materials as well as computers for the hands-on practice. NCES also will pay for transportation, hotel accommodations, and a fixed per diem for meals and incidental expenses during the training seminar.

LOCATION

The seminar will be held in Washington, DC, Wednesday, January 20, 2010, through Friday, January 22, 2010. Accepted applicants will be sent information about both the meeting and lodging arrangements.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

If you are interested in attending the seminar, please complete and return:

1. The application form.
2. A copy of your resume or curriculum vitae. Applicants must have at least one year of data processing experience with SAS, SPSS, or Stata to be considered. This is a strict requirement.
3. A 1- to 2-page statement, clearly describing your research interests, how you plan to use ECLS-B data in your research, and how you would benefit from the seminar. Longer statements will not be reviewed.
4. A letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor if you are a graduate student.

Your statement should identify the substantive issues and research questions that you intend to study using ECLS-B data. It should clearly indicate why these issues and questions are important and why you believe ECLS-B is an appropriate data source. For example, you should identify the ECLS-B questionnaires and/or survey content areas on which your research will focus. Information regarding questionnaires and content areas is available at the study website (http://nces.ed.gov/ecls). The strongest applications also mention the analytic methods applicants plan to use. You should also indicate what you hope to learn during the seminar that will assist you in your research.

As in the past, we expect that the number of applicants for this seminar will far exceed the number of spaces available. Only complete applications will be considered, and a maximum of two applicants from the same organization or institution can be accepted. We encourage persons who have applied but were not selected in the past to reapply with revised submissions.

All applications should be received no later than **December 16, 2009**. Applications will be reviewed, and selected candidates will be informed by **December 29, 2009**. Selected candidates will receive the seminar agenda and information about travel arrangements.

Applications should be returned to: Patricia Jackson
                                           Synergy Enterprises, Inc.
                                           8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 1440
                                           Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Please contact Patricia Jackson through e-mail at pjackson@seiservices.com if you have any questions regarding this seminar.

NOTE: Applicants are allowed to attend no more than two NCES sponsored training seminars within a 6-year period. In order to provide training on the ECLS-B to as many researchers as possible, people who already have attended an NCES-sponsored 3-day ECLS-B training in Washington, DC will not be considered for participation.

APPLICATION
ECLS-B Database Training Seminar
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
U.S. Department of Education
January 20-22, 2010
Washington, DC

Dr.   Mr.   Ms.

NAME:

(please type or print clearly)

AFFILIATION:

TITLE/POSITION:

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE:

TELEPHONE: FAX:

E-MAIL:

Computer Statistical Software Experience:

PLEASE NOTE: All participants must have at least one year of SPSS, SAS, or Stata experience.

Level of experience

Software	Extensive (= proficient in aggregating, merging, recoding, weighting, and analysis)	Some (= familiar with recoding and many analysis procedures)	Very little (= simple descriptive procedures and recoding)	None
SPSS (Windows)				
SAS (Windows)				
Stata				
WesVar, SUDAAN, or AM				
Other (specify)				

Please answer the following:
1. Do you have experience merging files in SPSS, SAS, or Stata?   __ yes   __ no
2. Do you have experience recoding variable values in SPSS, SAS, or Stata?   __ yes   __ no
3. Have you used weights in your analysis using SPSS, SAS, or Stata?   __ yes   __ no
4. Have you run statistical analyses using WesVar, SUDAAN, or AM?   __ yes   __ no

Area of Research Interest:

Please attach a clearly written description of your research interest and how that can be furthered through the use of ECLS-B data (1–2 typewritten pages). Be as specific as possible. If you are a graduate student, a letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor must be included with your application. All applicants must include a copy of their resume or CV.

Complete applications should be submitted no later than **December 16, 2009.** Space is limited for this seminar. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be notified by **December 29, 2009**.

Applications should be returned to: Patricia Jackson
Synergy Enterprises, Inc.
8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 1440
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
E-Mail: pjackson@seiservices.com