

The Health and Well-Being of Women, Children, and Families



RTI International's Women, Children, and Families Research Program designs and conducts multidisciplinary research that improves the physical, social, and emotional well-being of women, children, and families. Key to our approach is an emphasis on research and evaluation of interventions that promise to improve the well-being of parents and their children.

RTI uses comprehensive research techniques to understand the issues that most affect women, children, and families. Our focus on researching and evaluating interventions aims to improve a range of outcomes—from child welfare, to family income and work support, to reproductive health—that have impacts across generations.

Child Welfare

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (ACF). RTI is leading nationally representative studies of children and families involved in the U.S. child welfare system. The first cohort involved over 6,000 children under the age of 15 who were followed for 5–7 years to assess their well-being and service utilization. Results answer fundamental questions about how to improve policy and practice for abused and neglected children.

Our clients include

- Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Department of Defense (DOD)
- Department of Education (ED)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)
- Office of Population Affairs (OPA)
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Spouse Abuse, Child Abuse, and Substance Abuse Among Army Families: Co-occurrence and Service Delivery Issues (DOD). This study investigates the occurrence of family violence, the role of alcohol, and the use of services by Army families. RTI analyzed case studies and findings from a Web-based survey to inform best practices for at-risk military families.

Early Childhood Development

Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ED). This study's objective is to increase understanding of children's early learning experiences, school readiness, and performance. RTI is following over 6,000 families with kindergarten-age children, collecting data from parents, children, and child care providers. Findings will be critical for informing early childhood education policies and practices.

Child Care Choices (ACF). This grant uses data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) to examine choice of early care and education experiences made by language-minority families for their children from infancy through school entry. Our analyses examine type of care and, for preschool children enrolled in center-based care, quality of care.

Emerging Issues in Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (CDC). This project examines the effectiveness of the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." campaign for increasing



awareness, behaviors, and knowledge related to autism and developmental milestones for both parents and physicians.

Family Stability and Support

Family Financial Stability Initiative (ACF). This study capitalizes on existing interactions between ACF programs and low-income families to foster family stability. The aim is to increase knowledge about financial education and asset-building strategies among the early childhood community of providers. Several pilot sites will test approaches for providing these services to families with young children.

Evaluation of the Community Healthy Marriage Initiatives (CHMIs) (ACF). This study aims to understand the implementation and impact of CHMIs in 20 sites nationwide. By using carefully selected, matched comparison communities and using two rounds of data collection, RTI is determining the effect of increased access to healthy relationship and marriage services on child and family well-being.

Evaluation of the Marriage and Family Strengthening Grants for Incarcerated and Reentering Fathers and their Partners (ASPE). In this multisite evaluation, RTI is conducting an implementation study of 13 MFS-IP grantees and a longitudinal impact evaluation of selected grantees to assess effects of interventions on outcomes like family stability and recidivism. The project also examines the means through which these programs may effectively improve family well-being.

Health Insurance for Low-Income Populations

Evaluation of Cancer Prevention and Treatment Demonstration (CMS). This study seeks to reduce racial and ethnic disparities among Medicare beneficiaries through the use of community health workers and similar providers who serve minority populations.

Evaluation of the Medicare Medical Home Demonstration Project (CMS). This project will examine the impact of the Medicare Medical Home Demonstration on beneficiaries, families, providers, and communities. The demonstration will test whether primary-care practices organized as patient-centered medical homes can provide targeted, accessible, continuous, and coordinated family-centered care to Medicare beneficiaries with chronic conditions.

Maternal and Child Health

Merck Childhood Asthma Network. RTI designed and developed a flagship domestic philanthropic initiative for the Merck Foundation centered around improving outcomes for children with asthma.

Family Outcomes Survey (Texas). This series of projects formally reviewed, tested, and updated the Family Outcomes Survey, an instrument designed to assess family-level outcomes from parents of young children with disabilities who are participating in early intervention programs.

Evidence-Based Report on Maternal Weight Gain (AHRQ). The effect of weight gain within versus outside recommended ranges on maternal and infant health is unclear in the context of increasing maternal obesity. This systematic review of the outcomes of maternal weight gain will help to inform the revisions of the Institute of Medicine maternal weight gain guidelines.

Reproductive and Sexual Health

Teens' Pre- and Post-Partum Health Risks and Use of Care: A Comprehensive Study (OPA). This grant uses data from the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System and from in-depth interviews with adolescent mothers to gain a comprehensive understanding of a wide range of adolescent maternal health behaviors.

Parents Speak Up National Campaign Evaluation (OPA). This evaluation measured the efficacy of the national abstinence campaign messages and materials through an online survey of the associated Web site and a process evaluation.

More Information

Anupa Bir, ScD, MPH
Program Director, Research on Women, Children, and Families
Phone: 781.434.1708
E-mail: abir@rti.org

RTI International
3040 Cornwallis Road, PO Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194 USA

RTI 6972 0410



RTI International is one of the world's leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. Our staff of more than 2,800 provides research and technical expertise to governments and businesses in more than 40 countries in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, advanced technology, international development, economic and social policy, energy and the environment, and laboratory and chemistry services. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

