

**Disadvantaged Young Children in Newark
WWS Policy Workshop
WWS 591g
Tuesdays, 1:30-4:30 pm
Wallace 290**

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Description of Class:

This workshop will examine the nature and causes of disadvantage among children, ages 0-5, living in Newark, NJ. In order to understand current conditions in Newark, the first six weeks of the workshop will focus broadly on policies and programs designed to provide/enhance (1) income security, (2) early childhood education (3) health and nutrition, (4) safe housing, and (5) family stability. Each class will cover the research that demonstrates the need for policy/programs in this particular area, best practices, and funding streams for programs. The second six weeks will be spent putting together a report for Newark's Mayor Cory Booker and Director of the Department of Child and Family Wellbeing Maria Vizcarrondo.

The report will focus on one of the four pillars that Mayor Booker outlined in his plan for the first 100 days of his administration – “Nurturing Families and Children.” As a first step, Mayor Booker appointed Maria Vizcarrondo as the Director of the newly formed Department of Child and Family Wellbeing. Ms. Vizcarrondo is charged with transforming the current Department of Health and Human Services into a more comprehensive department that will work with other government agencies and non-profits to better deliver services to children. The report will track the Booker Administration’s “Children’s Bill of Rights,” which calls for good homes, education, nutrition, healthcare, neighborhoods, and recreation.

This workshop is being offered in conjunction with the Center for Research on Child Wellbeing (CRCW) and its two main projects: the *Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study* and the *Future of Children* journal. The Fragile Families study is following a cohort of nearly 5,000 children born in large U.S. cities between 1998 and 2000, including Newark. The study over-samples births to unmarried couples and interviews both mothers and fathers at birth and again when children are ages one, three and five; the study also includes in-home assessments of children and their home environments at ages three and five. The parent interviews collect wealth of information that will be helpful in compiling the report for this workshop – both on Newark as well as comparative cities. *The Future of Children* is a joint project between WWS and the Brookings Institution that produces a biannual journal and supports a range of complementary outreach activities. Many of the readings for this workshop will be drawn from *Future of Children* publications.

Reading Materials Required: Articles posted on Blackboard and at websites noted below.

Recommended Reading:

Susan Clampet-Lundquist, Douglas S. Massey, “Neighborhood Effects on Economic Self-Sufficiency: A Reconsideration of the Moving To Opportunity Experiment”

Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies, “State of the Nation’s Housing 2007,” found at <http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/markets/son2007/index.htm>

Ron Haskins, Isabell Sawhill, eds., *The Future of Children, The Next Generation of Anti-Poverty Policies*, Vol. 17, No. 2 (Fall 2007), found at www.futureofchildren.org

James Heckman, “Policies to Foster Human Capital,” found at <http://www.ounceofprevention.org/downloads/publications/Fostering%20Human%20Capital.pdf>

Housing Policy Debate – A Quarterly Journal on Housing topics: Volumes published prior to April 2007 can be found at <http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hpd.shtml>

For newer volumes published after April 2007, contact Katrin Anacker at HousingPolicyDebate@vt.edu (new publisher is Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University).

John K. Igelhart, ed., *Health Affairs*, "Children's Health and Health Care," Vol. 26, No. 2, pages 314-444, (March/April 2007)

Lynn A. Karoly, M. Rebecca Kilburn, Jill S. Cannon, "Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise" RAND Corporation (2005), On-line book and two research briefs at <http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG341/>

Jeffrey Kling, Jens Ludwig, and Lawrence Katz. (2005). "Neighborhood effects on crime for female and male youth: Evidence from a randomized housing voucher experiment." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 120(1): 87-130.

Sara McLanahan, Elisabeth Donahue, Ron Haskins, eds., *The Future of Children, Marriage and Child Wellbeing*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (Fall 2005), found at www.futureofchildren.org

Lenna Nepomnyaschy and Irv Garfinkel, "Child Support Enforcement and Father's Contributions to their Nonmarital Children" Working Paper 2006-09-FF, found at <http://crew.princeton.edu/publications/publications.asp>

Charles J. Orlebeke, "The Evolution of Low-Income Housing Policy, 1949-1999, *Housing Policy Debate*, Vol. 11, Issue 2 (2000), found at http://www.knowledgeplex.org/kp/text_document_summary/scholarly_article/refiles/hpd_1102_orlebeke.pdf

Christina Paxson, Elisabeth Donahue, C. Tracy Orleans, Jeanne Ann Grisso, eds., *The Future of Children, Childhood Obesity*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (Spring 2006), found at www.futureofchildren.org

Cecilia Rouse, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Sara McLanahan, eds., *The Future of Children, School Readiness: Closing Racial and Ethnic Gaps*, Vol. 15, No. 1 (Spring 2005), found at www.futureofchildren.org

Isabell Sawhill, Sara McLanahan, eds., *The Future of Children, Opportunity in America*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (Fall 2006), found at www.futureofchildren.org

Rebecca M. Blank, "Evaluating Welfare Reform in the United States," *Journal of Economic Literature*, American Economic Association, Vol. 40(4), pages 1105-1166, December (2002)

Michael Stone, *Shelter Poverty: New Ideas on Housing Affordability* (June 1993)

U.S. Congress Budget Office, "Changes in the Economic Resources of Low-Income Households with Children, found at <http://www.cbo.gov/showdoc.cfm?index=8113&sequence=0&from=7>

Written Assignments:

Each student will write a 20-25 page paper focusing on a particular topic related to disadvantaged young children that is part of Mayor Booker's "Children's Bill of Rights." The paper will present the current status of children in Newark in this particular area, note effective programs that currently exist in other cities to address the problem, cover what Newark is currently doing and identify the barriers to success, and make policy recommendations for new ways that Newark can address the particular problem. In making policy recommendations, each paper will consider limits created by funding, bureaucratic/organization, politics, and lack of research. Each paper must include a two-page executive summary.

The group will then create a single report out of the individual papers, including an introduction. The group will present the report orally to the client in Newark. The final grade will consider class participation, individual work, and contribution to the group report and presentation.

Possible paper topics include (but are not limited to): increasing earnings; welfare to work; income support; early childhood education; child care, parenting; increasing father involvement; increasing two-parent families; improving quality and access to health care; community health centers, nutrition; improvements in communities and neighborhoods; and housing. The group report will be organized around Mayor Booker's "Children's Bill of Rights" which provides that children have a right to 1) nurturing and responsible parents; 2) safe homes, schools and neighborhoods that will preserve an individual's dignity, respect and freedom from discrimination; 3) good nutrition, decent permanent home, clean air and healthy drinking water; 4) accessible quality physical and behavioral healthcare; 5) age and developmentally appropriate care, guidance and education; 6) meaningful spiritual, cultural and recreational experiences.

Fall Break Site Visits

During the fall break, students will spend time doing site visits – researching the current state of programs in Newark and also looking at successful programs in other cities. The research done in the first part of the semester will inform where these site visits should take place. When looking for model programs in other cities, students should try to find interesting and innovative programs that target the issues covered in their individual papers. Ideally, these programs will be "best practices" that have been tested and evaluated. However, some programs may be so new and innovative that they are worth looking at even if they have not yet been tested.

Useful Websites

Census – Poverty Reports – <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html>

National Poverty Center – U. Michigan-- <http://www.npc.umich.edu/>

Institute for Research on Poverty - <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp/>
 Joint Center for Poverty Research – <http://www.jcpr.org/>
 Fragile Families Study – <http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/>
 Three Cities Study-- <http://www.jhu.edu/~welfare/>
 LA Neighborhood Study-- <http://www.lasurvey.rand.org/>
 The Urban Institute – New Federalism Project <http://newfederalism.urban.org>
 Center for Law and Social Policy- <http://www.clasp.org/>
 National Women’s Law Center – www.nwlc.org
 Center on Budget and Policy Priorities – www.cbpp.org
 Food Resource and Action Center (FRAC) – www.frac.org
 Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) – www.childrensdefense.org
 Families USA – <http://www.familiesusa.org/> (health care access)
 National Housing Conference – www.nhc.org
 Child Trends – www.childtrends.org
 Kids Count Project, Annie E. Casey Foundation, www.kidscount.org
 Voices for America’s Children -- www.voicesforamericaschildren.org
 National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, <http://www.nlc.org/IYEF/>
 U.S. Conference of Mayors, <http://www.usmayors.org/>
 Association for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) – www.acnj.org
 The Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey (statewide association of more than 250 affordable housing and community development corporations) -- <http://www.hcdnnj.org>
 U.S. Health and Human Services – www.hhs.gov (Department of Children and Families www.acf.hhs.gov)
 U.S. Department of Labor – www.dol.gov
 Pew Project on State Information -- www.stateline.org
 New Jersey Policy Perspective, www.njpp.org
 U. Chicago, Ounce of Prevention Fund, <http://www.ounceofprevention.org>

SYLLABUS

Class 1. September 18, 2007

- Lecture:** Trends in, and definitions of, child wellbeing
 Introducing Newark: Mayor Booker’s “Children’s Bill of Rights,”
 Current Strategies to Improve the Wellbeing of Newark’s Children
 Meeting our Client
- Guest:** Maria Vizcarrondo, Director of the Department of Child and Family Wellbeing
 Michelle DeKlyen, Princeton University and Member of Mayor Cory Booker’s Council on Family Success, Co-chair the Outcomes Subcommittee

Reading:

- James Heckman, “Skill formation and the economics of investing in disadvantaged children,” *Science*, 312: 1900-1902 (June 30, 2006)
- Lynn A. Karoly, M. Rebecca Kilburn, Jill S. Cannon, “Summary,” Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise, found at http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2005/RAND_MG341.sum.pdf
- Mayor Corey A. Booker, “The First 100 Days of Newark,” October (2006), found at <http://www.ci.newark.nj.us/100DayPlan/100DayPlan-results.pdf>
- “Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study Newark, NJ, Baseline Report,” August (2000), found at <http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/newark.asp>
- “Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study First Follow-Up Report,” Newark, NJ, (June 2005), found at <http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/newark.asp>
- Association for Children of New Jersey, “Newark KidsCount Report 2006,” [note: 2007 report might be out by September], at www.ncnj.org
- Newark Report Card: Vision Statements and Major Objectives

Class 2. September 25, 2007

Lecture: Childhood Disadvantage and Family: Parenting, Family Living Arrangements, Father Involvement

Guest: Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Columbia University

Reading:

- Sara McLanahan, “Diverging Destinies: How Children Fare Under the Second Demographic Transition,” *Demography*. 41(4): 607-627
- Sara McLanahan, Elisabeth Donahue, Ron Haskins, *The Future of Children, Marriage and Child Wellbeing*, “Introducing the Issue,” www.futureofchildren.org
- Rebecca Maynard and Paul Amato, “Reducing Nonmarital Births and Increasing Marriage to Reduce Poverty,” *The Future of Children, The Next Generation of Anti-Poverty Policies*, www.futureofchildren.org
- Frank Furstenberg and Paul Amato, “Point-CounterPoint of the New Marriage Proposal,” *Journal of Public Policy and Management*, ed. Sara McLanahan
- Jeanne-Brooks Gunn, Lisa Markman, “The Contribution of Parenting to Ethnic and Racial Gaps in School Readiness,” *The Future of Children: School Readiness: Closing Racial and Ethnic Gaps*, www.futureofchildren.org

Class 3. October 2, 2007

Lecture: Early Child Development: Early Education, Pre-School/Pre-K (Abbott Schools), Head Start and Childcare, Dependent Care Tax Credit

Guest: Ellen Frede (NJ Abbott system)

Reading:

- Cecilia Rouse, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Sara McLanahan, *The Future of Children*, School Readiness: Closing Racial and Ethnic Gaps, “Introducing the Issue,” www.futureofchildren.org
- W. Steve Barnett and Clive R. Belfield, “Early Childhood Development and Social Mobility,” *The Future of Children*, Opportunity in America, www.futureofchildren.org
- Greg J. Duncan, Jens Ludwig, Katherine Magnuson, “Reducing Poverty through Preschool Interventions,” *The Future of Children*, The Next Generation of Anti-Poverty Policies, www.futureofchildren.org
- National Women’s Law Center, “Making Care Less Taxing: Improving State Child and Dependent Care Tax Provisions (April 2006), at www.nwlc.org
- Greenbook, Section 9 (Child Care); Section 15 (Head Start) U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, Background Material and Data on the Programs within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means (2004) at <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/Documents.asp?section=813> [note: if 2006 Greenbook is out by September, use that one; sections stay the same]

Class 4. October 9, 2007

Lecture: Pediatric Health and Nutrition: WIC, Foodstamps, Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant (Title V), Medicaid, S-CHIP

Guest: Mary Coogan, Association for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ)

Reading:

- Anne Case and Christina Paxson, “Children’s Health and Social Mobility,” *The Future of Children*, Opportunity in America, www.futureofchildren.org
- Shiriki Kumanyika and Sonya Grier, “Targeting Interventions for Ethnic Minority and Low-Income Populations,” *The Future of Children*, Childhood Obesity, www.futureofchildren.org
- Janet Currie, “Health Disparities and Gaps in School Readiness,” *The Future of Children*, School Readiness: Closing Racial and Ethnic Gaps, www.futureofchildren.org
- Greenbook, Section 15 – Medicaid, S-Chip, Foodstamps, WIC, School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, Background Material and Data on the Programs within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means (2004) at <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/Documents.asp?section=813> [note: if 2006 Greenbook is out by September, use that one; sections stay the same]
- “Understanding Title V of the Social Security Act,” at [ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/mchb/titlevtoday/UnderstandingTitleV.pdf](http://ftp.hrsa.gov/mchb/titlevtoday/UnderstandingTitleV.pdf)

Class 5. October 16, 2007

Lecture: The Role of Neighborhoods and Housing in Perpetuating and Reducing Childhood Disadvantage; Plan site visits for break week; Section 8 Housing, Low Income Housing Tax Credit

Preparing for field visits over break

Guest: David Kinsey

Readings:

- Sharon Vandivere, et al. "How Housing Affects Child Well-Being," Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, Coral Gables, Florida, Fall 2006, 35 pages. www.fundersnetwork.org
- "Rethinking Local Affordable Housing Strategies: Lessons from 70 Years of Policy and Practice," Full Report, The Urban Institute and Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, December 2003, found at <http://www.brook.edu/es/urban/housingreview.htm>
- Susan J. Popkin, et al., "A Decade of HOPE VI: Research Findings and Policy Challenges," Urban Institute, May 18, 2004, found at <http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=411002>

Class 6. October 23, 2007

Lecture: Childhood Disadvantage and Income Security: Wages and Work, Welfare Programs, Child Support, EITC, Workforce Investment Act

Guest: Jon Shure, New Jersey Policy Perspective

Readings:

- Ron Haskins, Isabell Sawhill, *The Future of Children*, The Next Generation of Anti-Poverty Policies, "Introducing the Issue," www.futureofchildren.org
- Ron Haskins, "Fighting Poverty through Incentives and Work Mandates for Young Men," *The Future of Children* Policy Brief, www.futureofchildren.org
- Rebecca Blank, "Improving the Safety Net for Single Mothers Who Face Serious Barriers to Work," *The Future of Children*, The Next Generation of Anti-Poverty Policies, www.futureofchildren.org
- Jason Levitis, Nicholas Johnson, "Together, State Minimum Wages and State Earned Income Tax Credits Make Work Pay at www.cbpp.org
- Greenbook, Sections 7-8 (TANF, Child Support); Section 15 (Workforce Investment Act); U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, Background Material and Data on the Programs within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means (2004) at <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/Documents.asp?section=813> [note: if 2006 Greenbook is out by September, use that one; sections stay the same]

FALL BREAK

During the fall break, students are expected to conduct field research, in Newark and in comparative cities.

Class 7. November 6, 2007

Lecture: Newark Today, Part I – The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Improving Policies and Programs in Newark

Guests: Cecilia Zelkind, Association for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ)
Tom Blatner, Janus Solutions (consulting group working with Mayor Booker on reforming the government)
Mark Murphy, Fund for New Jersey
Stephanie Bush-Baskette, Director of the Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies at Rutgers-Newark [tentative]

Class 8. November 13, 2007

Lecture: Newark Today, Part II – The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Improving Policies and Programs in Newark

Guests: Margaret Woods, CEO of Independence: A Family of Services
Annette Strickland, Schuman Foundation
Charlie Venti, Nicholson Foundation
Joe Della Fave, Ironbound Community Development Organization

Class 9. November 20, 2007

Student Presentations (4 students)

Class 10. November 27, 2007

Student Presentations (4 students)

Class 11. December 4, 2007

Student Presentations (4 students)

Class 12: December 11, 2007

Plan for Final Report