International Poverty Solutions Collaborative
A Center for Innovation at The Ohio State University

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
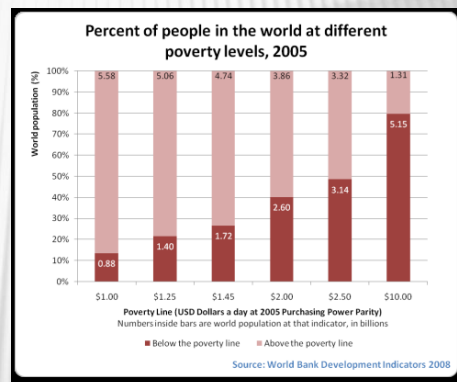COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN ECOLOGY

Designing an Indicator-based Profile for Evaluating and Identifying Poverty Solutions

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World Poverty

✖ In 2005, 1.4 billion people lived on less than $1.25 per day (extreme poverty).

✖ 16 percent of the world population (925 million people) were undernourished in 2010.

✖ In 2005, 1 billion children were living in poverty (1 in 2 children in the world).

✖ 22,000 children under the age of five die each day due to poverty.

✖ In 2008, the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of the 41 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (567 million people) was less than the wealth of the world's 7 richest people combined.

Percent of people in the world at different poverty levels, 2005

Poverty Line (USD Dollars a day at 2005 Purchasing Power Parity)
Numbers inside bars are world population at that indicator, in billions
■ Below the poverty line ■ Above the poverty line
Source: World Bank Development Indicators 2008

Poverty in the U.S.

* The 2010 poverty rate (15.1 percent) was the highest since 1993.

* In 2010, 22 percent children in the United States live in poverty.

* In 2009, 6.3 percent of people (new estimates say 1 in 15 people) in the U.S. lived in extreme poverty (below half of the poverty threshold) – a total of 19.0 million people. This was up from 5.7 percent in 2008.

* 50 million Americans – approximately one in six – did not have medical insurance in 2010.

* In 2010, 14.5 percent of households – approximately one in seven – were food insecure, the highest number ever recorded in the United States.
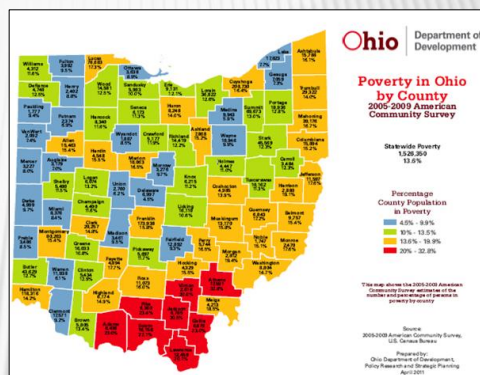

Sources: Coleman-Jensen, 2011; DeNavas et al., 2010; US Census, 1960-2011

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Poverty in Ohio

* In 2009, 15% of the people in Ohio (1.7 million) were poor; up from 10.6% in 1999.

  + 16 percent of Appalachian Ohio, a 32-county area, was poor; the poverty rate for the rest of Ohio was 13.1 percent.

  + 15 to 20 percent of the families of householders that worked less than full-time, year-round, were poor.
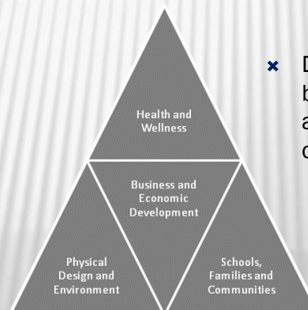

Source: Larrick, 2011

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Introducing the IPSC

- Launched in early 2010
- An interdisciplinary center for innovation at The Ohio State University
  - Building family, school, and community supports
  - Developing business and economic opportunities
  - Promoting health and well-being
  - Designing physical environments
  - Methodology core
- Comprised of over 80 team members from 14 different colleges; involving faculty, students, private sector partners and community members

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Methodology Core Mission: Evaluation and Core Indicators

- Identify and evaluate holistic, culturally relevant solutions WITH individuals, families, and communities facing poverty and its consequences.

URBAN

RURAL   INTERNATIONAL

holistic relationship based research

Health and Wellness

Business and Economic Development

Physical Design and Environment

Schools, Families and Communities

- Develop a set of core metrics to be used to evaluate efforts to ameliorate poverty across disciplines and geographies

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Process Model for Poverty Solutions Indicator Development

Problem or Issue
Design a core set of metrics that will serve as our basic yardstick for continuous evaluation of our interdisciplinary efforts to ameliorate poverty in each of our community labs.

Qualities needed for indicators:
•Represent multiple domains
•Actionable
•Meaningful to people in or near poverty
•Research-based, scientifically valid
•Useful across multiple disciplines
•Measurable in different settings and over time
•Includes community- or neighborhood-level as well as individual-level metrics, while avoiding ecological fallacy

Our current assets:
•Literature review of existing indicators, outcomes
•IPSC seed grants
•Methodology Core Work Group
•Poverty Solutions Indicators Consensus Group
•External partners – Kirwan Institute, community members/leaders

Desired Results (outputs, outcomes, and impact)
Outputs:
A core set of research-based metrics that capture effects of solutions for reducing poverty at an individual-level; an aggregate family/household/community-level; and an area- or region-level (representing the region/community, not an aggregate of the persons within that community)

Outcomes:
The capacity to track progress and identify what works and what does not work in efforts to reduce poverty at the micro, aggregate, and macro levels.

Impact
•Framework and indicators used in research by IPSC faculty and larger research and policy community
•IPSC research using indicators contributes to our understanding of what solutions work in alleviating poverty.

Strategies
•Review existing literature
•Survey poverty centers for previous work on indicators
•Core working group defines relevant domains and develops initial set of indicators
•A consensus group, consisting of researchers and community partners, reviews indicators and recommends best three for each domain in conceptual framework
•Working group revises initial set of domains/metrics
•Develop codebook containing rationale for each indicator that includes at minimum:
    •Name and description of indicator
    •Meaningfulness and Relevance
    •Protocol for how to obtain the measure
        •From whom and on what level is data collected (individual, aggregate, or community)?
        •Specific data records if available (where found)
    •Reliability, validity information
    •Complete citation for referencing
    •Corresponding MDG goal (option)
•Cyclical revision

BUILDING SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY

*See handout

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Approaches to Measurement of Poverty

* Absolute Poverty
* Relative Poverty
* Supplemental Poverty Index – US
* Others: Human-development index (HDI; country-level), multidimensional indices or measures, inequality (gini coefficients), etc.

* Larger Questions
  + How is poverty defined? **If we are going to measure it, we have to understand what we mean by it.**
  + Are there existing systems that can help us understand how to measure and track changes over time across different communities/locales?

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Conceptual Frameworks

- Basic Needs
  - (e.g., Cohen, 2010)
- Capabilities
  - (e.g., Cohen, 2010; Sen, 1993, 2002).
- Assets-Based Community Development
  - (e.g., Kretzmann et al., 2005)
- Participatory
  - (Reyes & Due, 2009).
- Quality of Life
  - (Berger-Schmitt 2001)

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Indicator Frameworks

- Millennium Development Goals (MDG) – United Nations (UN), 2000
- Missing Dimensions to Poverty – Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), 2007
- European System of Social Indicators (EUSI) – European Commission, 1999
- Australian Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage (OID) Framework – Council of Australian Government (COAG), 2002
- Maori Framework – Ottawa Workshop, Statistics of New Zealand, 1995 (UN, 2004)
- The Multidimensional Poverty Assessment Tool (MPAT) – The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations (UN), 2007
- Community Based Monitoring Systems (CBMS) – International Development Research Centre (IDRC), 2002
- National Neighborhood Indicators Project (NNIP) – Urban Institute, 1996
- Bristol Indicator Development – Bristol City Council, 2007

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Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

- Goal 5: Improve maternal health

- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

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Critiques of MDG Indicators

- Many MDGs suffer from lack of scientifically valid data. Often the subject matter is so immeasurable, or the measurements are so inadequate, that one cannot know the baseline condition before the MDGs, or know if the desired trend of improvement is actually occurring (Attaran 2005).

- The MDGs appear more driven by the availability of data than a concrete vision of what the global community wanted to achieve and measure (Langford 2010).

- MDG indicators do not encompass all fundamental dimensions of human development, human security, or human rights (Alkire 2007).

- The MDGs need to add a goal on reducing inequality within and between countries (Fukuda-Parr 2010).
  - Indicators might include income inequalities measured by a Gini coefficient; other gaps can be measured using life expectancy and under age 5 mortality.

- Negative human rights "externalities" have resulted from MDG targets (Langford 2010).
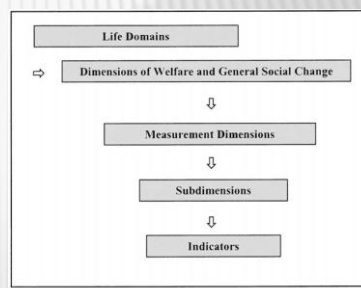
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Missing Dimensions to Poverty (OPHI)

✖ Five areas for which insufficient data exist (Alkire, 2007) and indicators/questions have been developed as supplements to the MDG:

+ Informal employment (Lugo, 2007)

+ Empowerment (Ibrahim & Alkire, 2007)

+ Safety from violence (Diprose, 2007)

+ The ability to go without shame (Reyles, 2007)

+ Psychological and subjective well-being (Samman, 2007)

http://www.ophi.org.uk/research/missing-dimensions/

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European System of Social Indicators (EUSI)

Life Domains
Population
Households and Families
Housing
Transport
Leisure/media/culture
Social and Political Participation and Integration
Education and Vocational Training
Labor Market and Working Conditions
Income/Standard of Living/Consumption Patterns
Health
Environment
Social Security
Public Safety and Crime
Total Living Situation

Life Domains
⇒ Dimensions of Welfare and General Social Change
⇓
Measurement Dimensions
⇓
Subdimensions
⇓
Indicators

Source: Berger-Schmitt, 2001

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European System of Social Indicators (EUSI)

Measurement dimensions	Subdimensions	Indicators
Unemployment and underemployment	Level of Unemployment	– Rate of total unemployment – Rate of total youth unemployment – Share of total unemployed in the working-age population – Persons seeking employment – Persons willing to work – Discouraged persons currently not in the labour force
	Duration of Unemployment	– Average duration of unemployment – Long-term unemployment – Short-term unemployment
	Subsistence of unemployed persons	– Benefit coverage rate
	Level of underemployment	– Preference for an increase of working hours – Involuntary part-time workers – Short-time workers – Visible/invisible underemployment

Figure 7. Subdimensions and indicators related to the measurement dimension "Unemployment and Underemployment" within the life domain "Labour Market and Working Conditions".

Source: Berger-Schmitt, 2001

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IPSC's Multi-dimensional Domains of Poverty Intervention

1. Family and Child Well-being
2. Education Through the Life Span
3. Health
4. Social Inclusion
5. Capabilities
6. Employment
7. Food
8. Housing
9. Safety
10. Economic Development
11. Community Resources
12. Transportation
13. Physical Infrastructure
14. Environmental Resources
15. Governance

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*Please refer to handout for domain definitions

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Next Steps...

- ✖ Identify 3 to 5 indicators for each dimension
  - ✚ Drawing from our literature review
  - ✚ Collaboration with external partners
    - ✖ Kirwan Institute for Race and Ethnicity
    - ✖ Researchers from Federal and State Poverty Centers
- ✖ Establish Codebook
  - ✚ Relevance, level of measure, protocol for obtaining, etc.
- ✖ Cyclical Revision
- ✖ Pilot and Revise
- ✖ We welcome any and all feedback!

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Visit IPSC's website for poverty resources, events, and more
http://poverty.osu.edu/

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THANK YOU!

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