Abstract for Proposed Submission to ISCI Conference, 2011

**Proposed Title:** Mobility and Children’s Well-Being

**Author:** David Murphey, Ph.D., Kristin A. Moore, Ph.D.

**Organization:** Child Trends

**Abstract**

Emotional and behavioral problems, poor physical health, and even higher mortality (including suicide) have been linked with a childhood history of frequent moves. Moves that result in a child’s changing schools may be particularly detrimental to children’s social as well as academic development. The recent U.S. housing crisis and economic recession have highlighted the vulnerability of many families to the loss of stable living conditions. Although not all moves are occasioned by economic problems, between 2008 and 2009 nearly 10 million U.S. children experienced a move.

The proposed research, using 2007 data from the National Survey of Children’s Health, will examine the relationships between experiencing multiple moves, and children’s well-being in the areas of mental health, emotional/behavioral problems, and difficulties in school. Analyses will identify thresholds at which frequent moving is particularly associated with diminished child well-being. Family income, parent education, race/ethnicity, and family structure will be used as control variables, and child age and sex will be included as covariates. These analyses will examine the appropriateness of using frequent moves as an indicator of children’s circumstances.

Contact:

David Murphey, Senior Research Scientist

Child Trends

4301 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 350

Washington, DC 20008

e-mail: [dmurphey@childtrends.org](mailto:dmurphey@childtrends.org)