

## **SOCIOMETRICS PROJECT NO. 28**

---

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARCHIVE ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN PHASE I**

The purpose of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I project was to determine the feasibility of establishing a data archive on the mental health of children. The feasibility of three kinds of products was to be tested:

- longitudinal behavioral data sets containing data on the status, causes, and consequences of children's mental health;
- assessment tools used to measure and evaluate mental health in children and youth; and
- specialized data analysis programs that are especially useful in carrying out sophisticated analyses of mental health data

In addition, a national advisory panel to guide the project in Phase II was constituted during Phase I. The advisory panel helped select the best and most useful longitudinal data sets to be included, and provided guidance on the selection of other products. The mental health archive was designed to meet several goals:

- advance innovations developed by Sociometrics to facilitate data sharing in the social sciences, extending them to the field of research on children's mental health;
- develop new archiving innovations by including two new types of machine-readable products in the archive—measurement instruments and specialized analysis programs;
- stimulate use of the best social research data sets on children's mental health, thus amortizing formidable data collection costs over a greater number of analyses, findings, and insights;
- encourage students exposed to these data sets in the course of their education to consider a career in mental health social research; and
- bring state-of-the-art technology and data into the hands of research departments and others.

When established, data and documentation, analysis programs, and assessment tools from the archive would be sold in microcomputer floppy diskette, CD-ROM, and mainframe tape formats. Each data set would be made available as a raw data file accompanied by User's Guide to the machine-readable files.

Sponsor: National Institute of Mental Health  
Small Business Innovation Research Program  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857  
(301) 443-3107

Grant No: 1 R43 MH48261 Project Officer: James Moynihan

Duration: 03/01/91—08/31/91 Budget: \$50,000

Staff: J.L. Peterson, S. Mizuno, T. Deser