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C O M M E N T S

## TAWG: The Next Generation

*By Annie Garber*

The CHRIS Technical Assistance Work Group (TAWG) Advisory Board has been instrumental in providing the user voice during the development of the CHRIS *Plus* program. This input is extremely valuable as we strive to make CHRIS the best case management tool for FDLRS centers and their affiliates. As we embark on a new journey, creating the next generation of CHRIS – CHRIS Gold, we want to ensure that all sites have the opportunity to provide input. To accomplish this, the current TAWG Advisory Board proposed that each center have

representation on the Advisory Board. Members will continue to include a diverse group of users including: Child Find Specialists, Child Find Data entry personnel, FDLRS Managers, and ESE Directors. If you are interested in being considered as a representative for your center or would like to nominate someone, please e-mail us at [chris.um@miami.edu](mailto:chris.um@miami.edu) or apply online at [www.chris.miami.edu/tawgappl.htm](http://www.chris.miami.edu/tawgappl.htm). Below are some testimonials from current TAWG Advisory Board members.

“I feel that my participation on the CHRIS TAWG Advisory Board has been a rewarding experience. It has been a genuine pleasure to be able to contribute recommendations toward the design of the CHRIS program and to have them accepted and put into effect. It’s a great group, and I’ve learned a tremendous amount about CHRIS and data management during my term on the Board. I recommend it very highly to anyone who has the opportunity to be part of the CHRIS TAWG Advisory Board.”

*Dana Wilcox  
FDLRS/Alpha*

“As a past TAWG member and active CHRIS user, what really impressed me was how CHRIS was created. The TAWG members are a diverse collection of users and their needs drive the design and development of the system.”

*Ruthie Rieder, FDLRS/Action*

“TAWG is valuable to me because it allows me to have a better understanding of the database and I appreciate being able to share and have input in the problem solving process.”

*Tracy Carter  
FDLRS/Heartland*

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# The MOVE to Citrix



By Olga Camacho

Within the next few months we will start the transition of all sites to a Citrix setup. Once this process is complete, all CHRIS users will access the CHRIS master database through Citrix. In preparation for this changeover the following modifications were made to the CHRIS *Plus* program:

- A program was created to facilitate the transfer of records from one county to another.
- The find procedures on all reports were modified to speed up the process.
- Warning messages were added to the timeline events to promote data entry consistency.
- The County of Birth field was updated to include the full list of counties in Florida.
- Appropriate changes were made to the program to maintain the capability to archive records.
- The Appointment, Action Needed and some Demographic reports were upgraded, allowing them to be generated without running the Nightly Update program.
- The User Permissions program was modified to accommodate a variety of access levels in the master database.



Additional program changes were made to ensure an easy transition to the Citrix system. Testing of the Citrix setup has already begun.

## TIMELINE REPORTING

When data were converted from CHRIS 2000 to CHRIS *Plus* a formula was used to create timelines from the existing data. The timelines created from converted data were not required to conform to the timeline rules. As such, the baseline for timeline reporting purposes was set at July 1, 2004. Any Transition or Screening events occurring before this date will not be included in timeline reports.



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**CHRIS Comments**  
Newsletter Schedule for 2004-2005  
August, November, February, May

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# Early Risk Factors for Emotional Problems in Preschool



By Dr. Christine Delgado and Sara Vagi



Birth certificate data were integrated with statewide CHRIS data in order to examine the relation of a variety of risk factors with Emotional Handicap (EH) or Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED). The distribution of risk factors for children diagnosed with EH/SED in preschool ( $n = 355$ ) was compared with that for all children born in Florida between 1/1/1994 and 12/31/1998, not including the children diagnosed with EH/SED ( $n = 958,813$ ).

Risk ratios and corresponding 95% confidence intervals are presented in Figure 1. Risk ratios demonstrate the increased risk to an individual when a risk factor is present compared to when it is

absent. A risk ratio of 1.0 indicates equal levels of risk for EH/SED between the groups being compared (e.g., premature vs. full-term). Risk ratios of 2.0 or more indicate double or greater risk and are considered of significant importance in health research. Risk ratios for which either confidence limit crosses or is equal to 1.0 are not considered meaningful because one cannot be confident that the presence of the risk factor truly elevated the risk for EH/SED.

Results indicated that none of the perinatal child factors studied were associated with increased risk for EH/SED. Maternal and paternal factors such as education of 12 or

fewer years, single marital status, low maternal age, and tobacco use during pregnancy were associated with an increased risk for EH/SED.

This study elucidates the important relation between EH/SED and environmental factors. While child factors such as low birth weight and prematurity are often identified as risk factors for disabilities, they do not appear to increase risk for children identified with EH/SED as preschoolers.

*Additional information on this study may be found on the CHRIS Website at [www.chris.miami.edu](http://www.chris.miami.edu).*

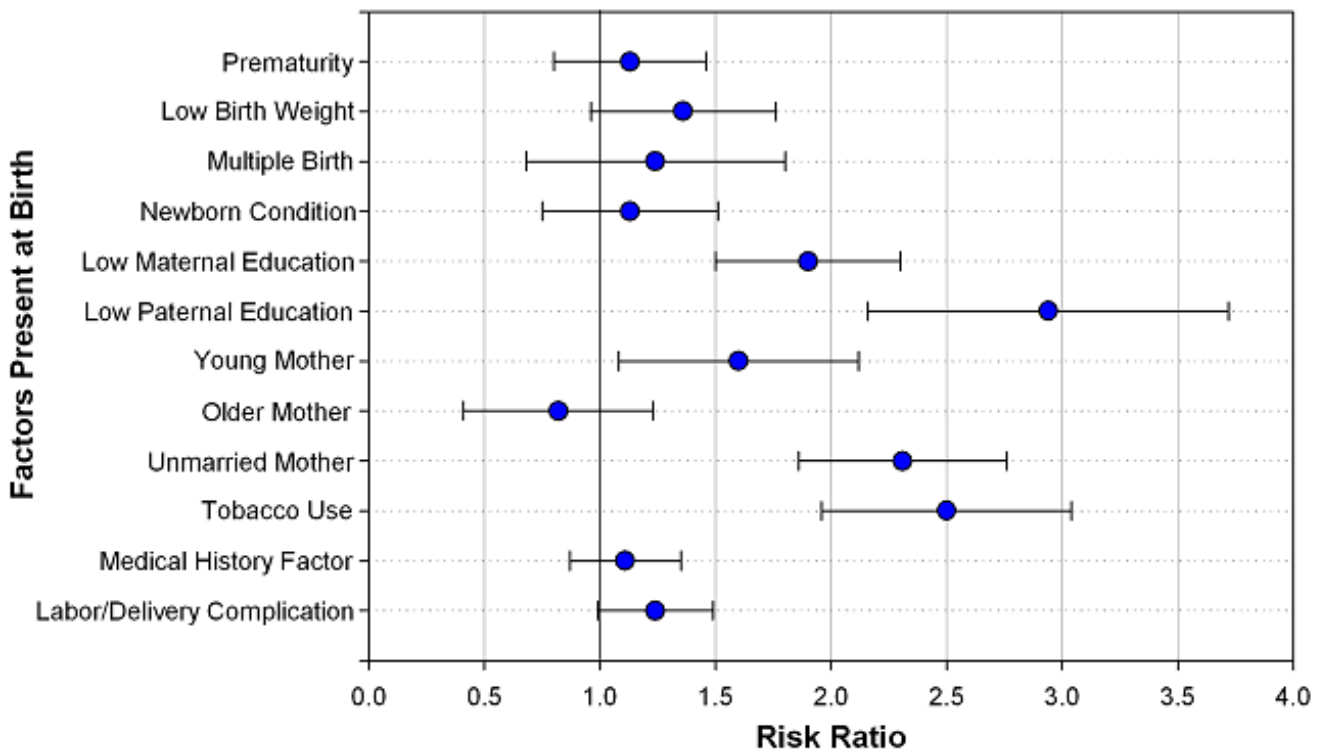


Figure 1. Risk ratios with 95% confidence intervals associated with factors present at birth on rates of EH/SED.



**UPDATE!**

## New CHRIS Team Member

I am Stacey Arnold, a freshman student at the University of Miami hired by the CHRIS project as the work-study assistant. Before moving to Miami, I lived in Cocoa Beach where I completed the International Baccalaureate Program. Currently, I am a Psychology and Pre-Law major at UM. In addition to working and studying, I am very involved on campus. As part of the team, I am learning to work with the CHRIS program through inputting data and other similar tasks. I answer the phones from time to time as well as take care of the quarterly

backup and newsletter mail-outs. In addition, I prepare materials for meetings and training sessions. While I have worked in offices before, I have never been introduced to a program like CHRIS. I am looking forward to learning about the CHRIS project as I work throughout the year and hope I can be a helpful addition to the staff.



## Save the Date



### **CHRIS Data Faciliator Meeting**

December 6-7  
Embassy Suites  
Orlando Airport

Register online at  
[www.chris.miami.edu](http://www.chris.miami.edu).



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