

# APCaPS Andhra Pradesh Children and Parents Study

Welcome to the first APCAPS newsletter. We hope you find it interesting and informative. As we now have a large number of people working on APCAPS across multiple time zones and institutions, we felt it important to share some of the work that we are doing and some key updates.

## Wellcome Trust Grant Proposal

We have just submitted a new proposal to the Wellcome Trust. If successful, it will allow APCAPS to grow considerably over the next five years. We are aiming to expand the cohort to include 60,000 participants across the villages, (as opposed to the current sample of 6944) and develop APCAPS into a unique, multidisciplinary cohort.

## Fieldwork & Data

The data from the third follow up (collected 2010-2012) is now ready for analysis, with the exception of a small number of variables which are going through some final cleaning checks. The final number of participants in the cohort is **6,944**, of which 1360 are index children, 4863 their family members and a further 721 other residents of the villages (please see the recently published cohort profile in International Journal of Epidemiology for more details). Analysis is underway in a number of areas, including diet, physical activity, anthropometry, genetics, bone health and many more.

The fieldwork team at the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) have recently completed the household survey, which collected information on all households in all 29 villages. We now have data on socio-demographics of all households, as well as anthropometrics on under 5s.

The survey has estimated the total population of all 29 villages is about 77,000. Analysis is already underway on under 5 anthropometry, verbal autopsies and migration with further papers planned in the coming months.

If you wish to see what data is available and what procedures we have in place for working with it, please contact the APCAPS Research Coordinators ([apcaps@iiph.org](mailto:apcaps@iiph.org)) for more information; they will be able to share a copy of the data dictionary with you and guide you through the process for beginning a collaboration.

## Study website

We have set up a new website for the study, [www.apcaps.lshtm.ac.uk](http://www.apcaps.lshtm.ac.uk). We will be adding more to it in the coming months, including information and updates on new and ongoing projects, publications, interesting research of relevance to APCAPS as well as photos from the study villages to give an idea of the APCAPS villages for those that have not visited. Please get in touch if you have any feedback, or have any suggestions of things you would like to see included.

## APCAPS Staff – New Members

In July, the APCAPS presence in India increased with the arrival of a new team at IIPH-Hyderabad. Chris Baker

and Arabella Hayter, (both Research Fellows) started work as Research Coordinators. Chitra Sharma joined IIPH-H in August, having just completed the Diploma in Public Health Management at IIPH-H this summer.

In October, Shelby Yamamoto joined LSHTM as Lecturer to work on APCAPS. She joins from Imperial, and has a background in environmental epidemiology.

John Gregson joined the study as a statistician based at LSHTM and comes for a background of medical statistics. Tina Sorensen, having completed the Nutrition for Global Health MSc at LSHTM started her PhD in September and will be looking at the impacts of agriculture on chronic disease risk in APCAPS.



## Ongoing projects 2013-2014

We have three main projects going on at the moment.

1. Environmental Profiling
2. Developing an urbanicity index
3. Intervention development

### 1. Environmental Profiling

It is known that the availability and accessibility of healthy lifestyle options may influence individual behavioural choices. However tools to assess these and understand how the built environment impact on health have not been developed in low and middle income countries. As the APCAPS villages are urbanising, we wish to capture these changes and quantify both the positive and negative aspect of urban living. We have mapped all non-residential places in the villages, and are beginning to map all the households using GPS machines. We will be combining this with observational studies and qualitative research to produce a new tool to assess the built environment. We will be piloting this shortly in March 2014 and aim to have all the villages assessed by June 2014.

### 2. Developing an urbanicity index

Traditional rural-urban dichotomies based on demographic characteristics don't work in LMIC settings. We need an agreed and reliable method of measuring the relative 'urbanicity' of a settlement at a given point in time. We are developing a new scale, based on individual level data and community level attributes to capture the more subtle differences evident at the lower end of the urban-rural spectrum, where villages are more homogenous. A final version of this scale will be available soon and will be used to test if there are any associations between urbanisation and a range of cardiovascular risk factors.

### 3. Intervention development

There is a need to decrease behavioural risk practices for CVD to ensure a 'healthy transition'. We are in the early stages of developing a novel complex intervention for primary prevention of CVD which will focus on the community environment. We will be conducting literature reviews, stakeholder

interviews as well as focus groups in the communities.

We ran a training session on 'An Introduction to Qualitative Research Skills' with the field team at NIN in September to equip them to carry out this work. We will be doing more extensive training as this project continues.

### Publications

For a full list of APCAPS publications (all of which are open access), please go to our website:

[www.apcaps.lshtm.ac.uk/publications/](http://www.apcaps.lshtm.ac.uk/publications/)

Notable recent publications include: Kinra S, Radhakrishna KV, Kuper H, et al.

#### Cohort Profile: Andhra Pradesh Children and Parents Study (APCAPS).

International Journal of Epidemiology 2013;1-8, doi: 10.1093/ije/dyt128

Kulkarni B, Kuper H, Taylor AE, Hills AP, Byrne NM, Taylor AE, et al.

**Development and validation of anthropometric prediction equations for estimation of lean body mass and appendicular lean soft tissue in Indian men and women.** J Applied Physiology 2013 115(8):1156-1162



### Contact

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