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SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

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# Defining study cohorts: A challenge of IDS research



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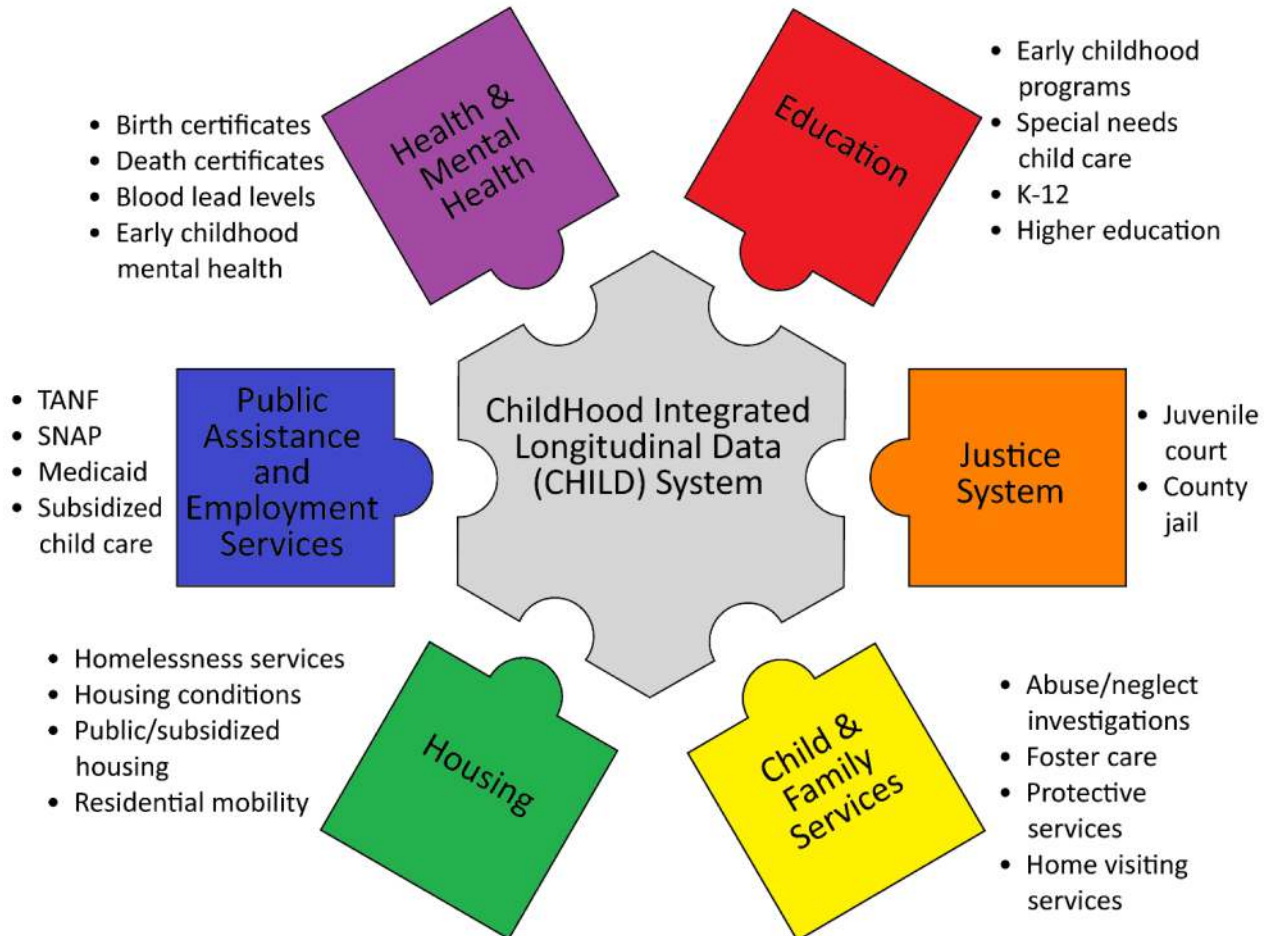
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# IDS studies of Juvenile Justice-Child Welfare found the concept of 'cohort' useful

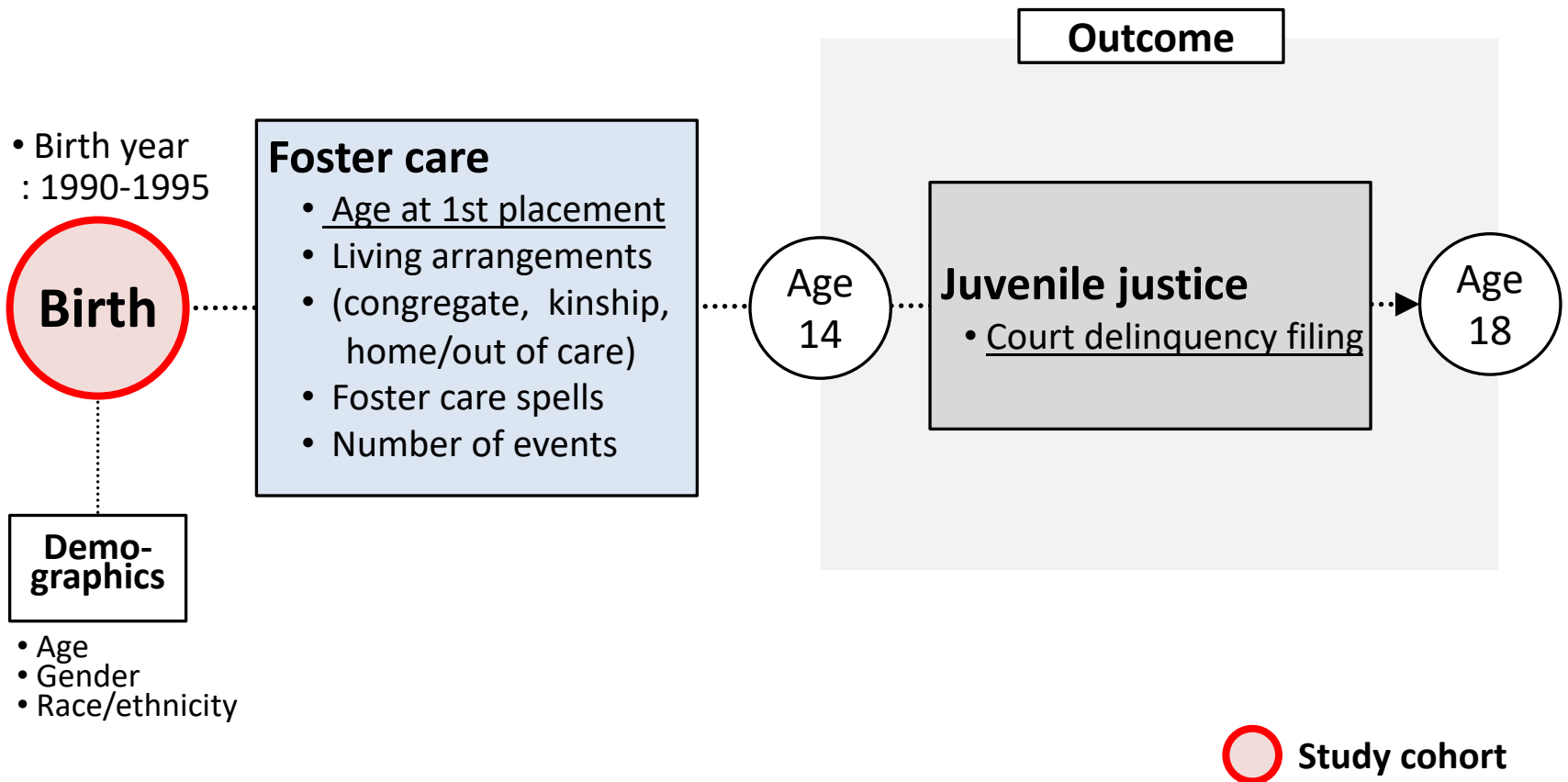
- Each used a different 'study population' based on policy or practice issue of interest
- Practical method of representing the 'population' using IDS records had to be specified.
- Details of age and time periods and eligibility criteria considered in refining method



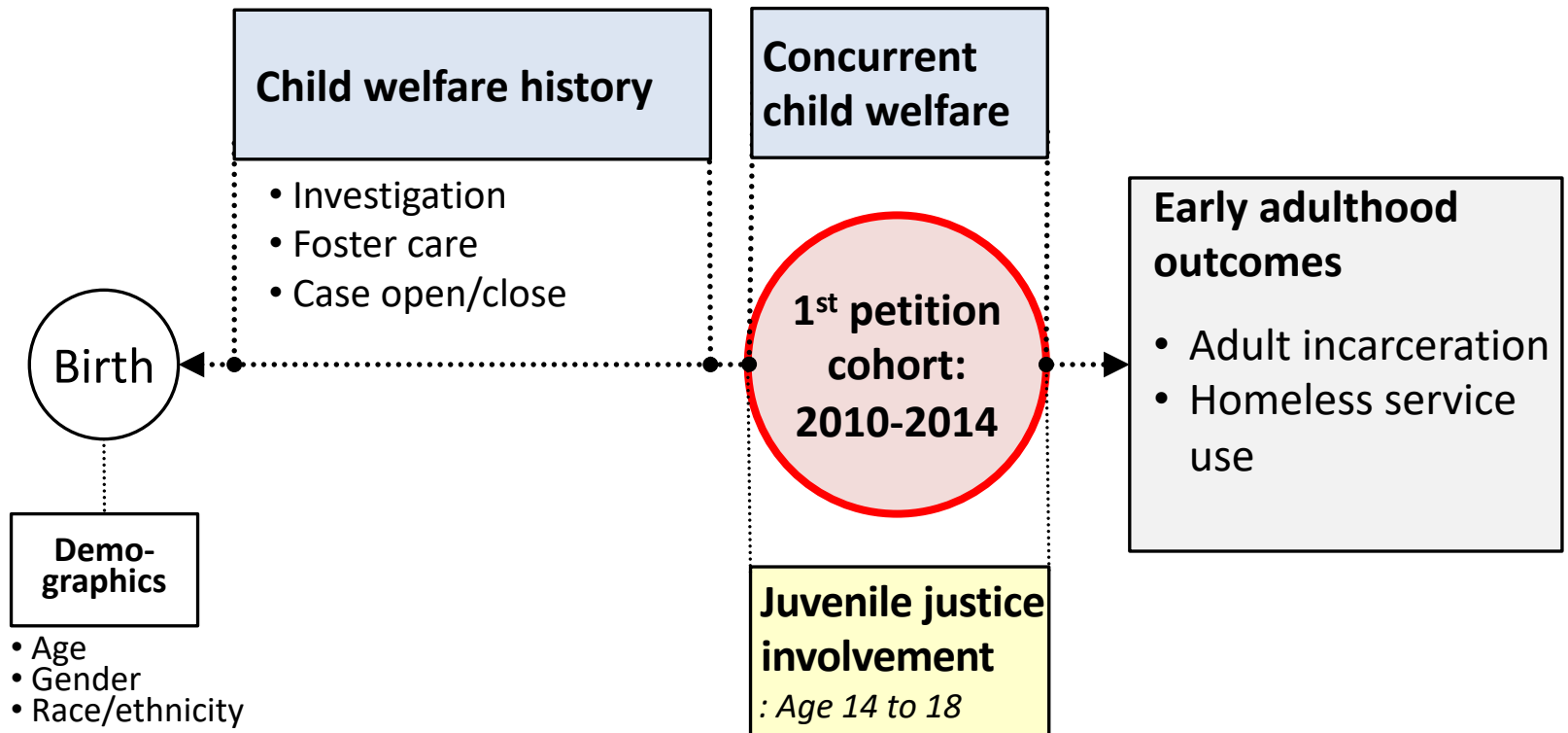
# ChildHood Integrated Longitudinal Data (CHILD) system



# (#1) BIRTH COHORT EX. From foster care to juvenile justice: Exploring characteristics of CROSS OVER youth in three cities (Prospective)

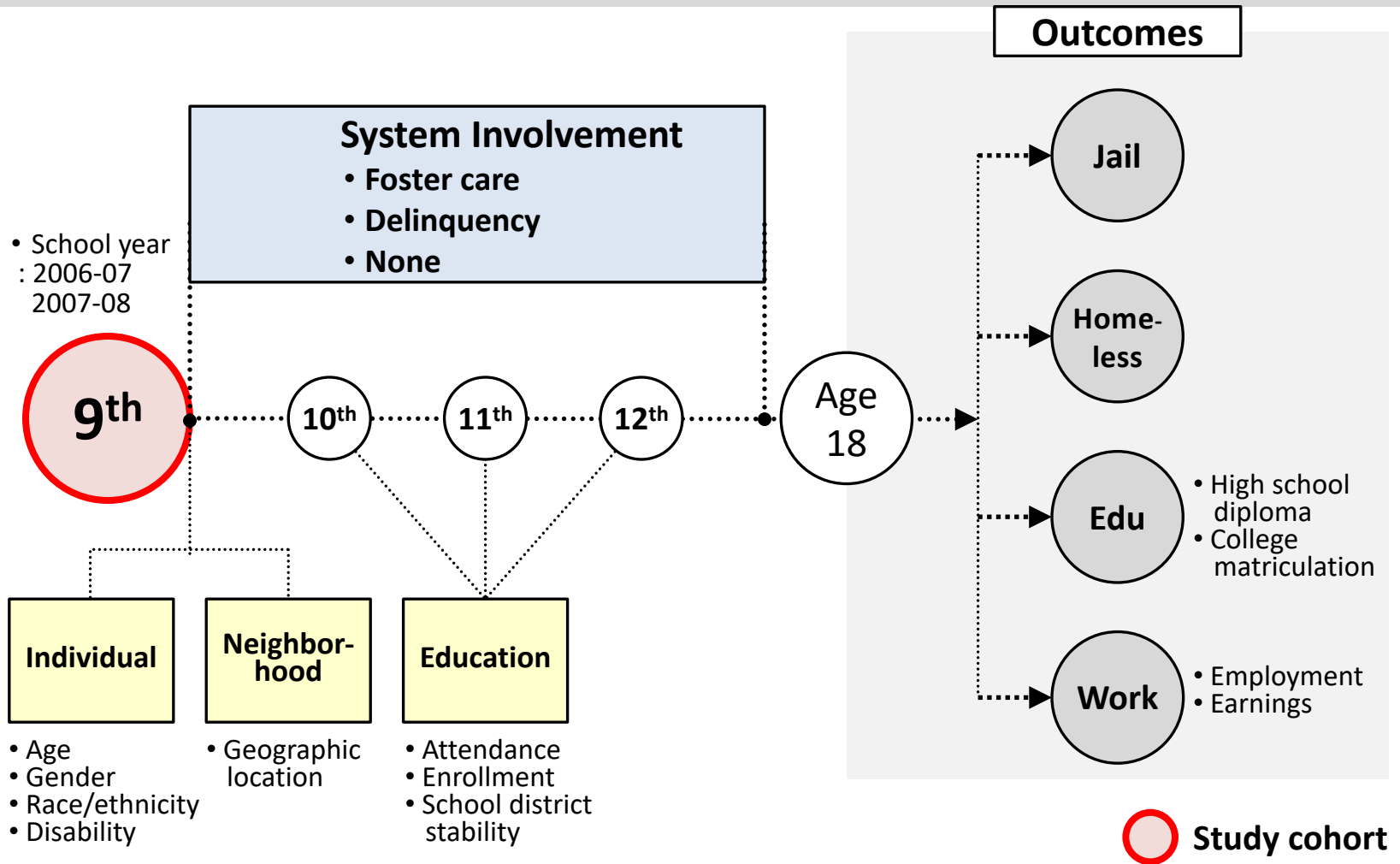


## (#2) ENTRY COHORT EX. 3-city OJJDP study of dual system youth : First petition cohort (Retrospective + Prospective)

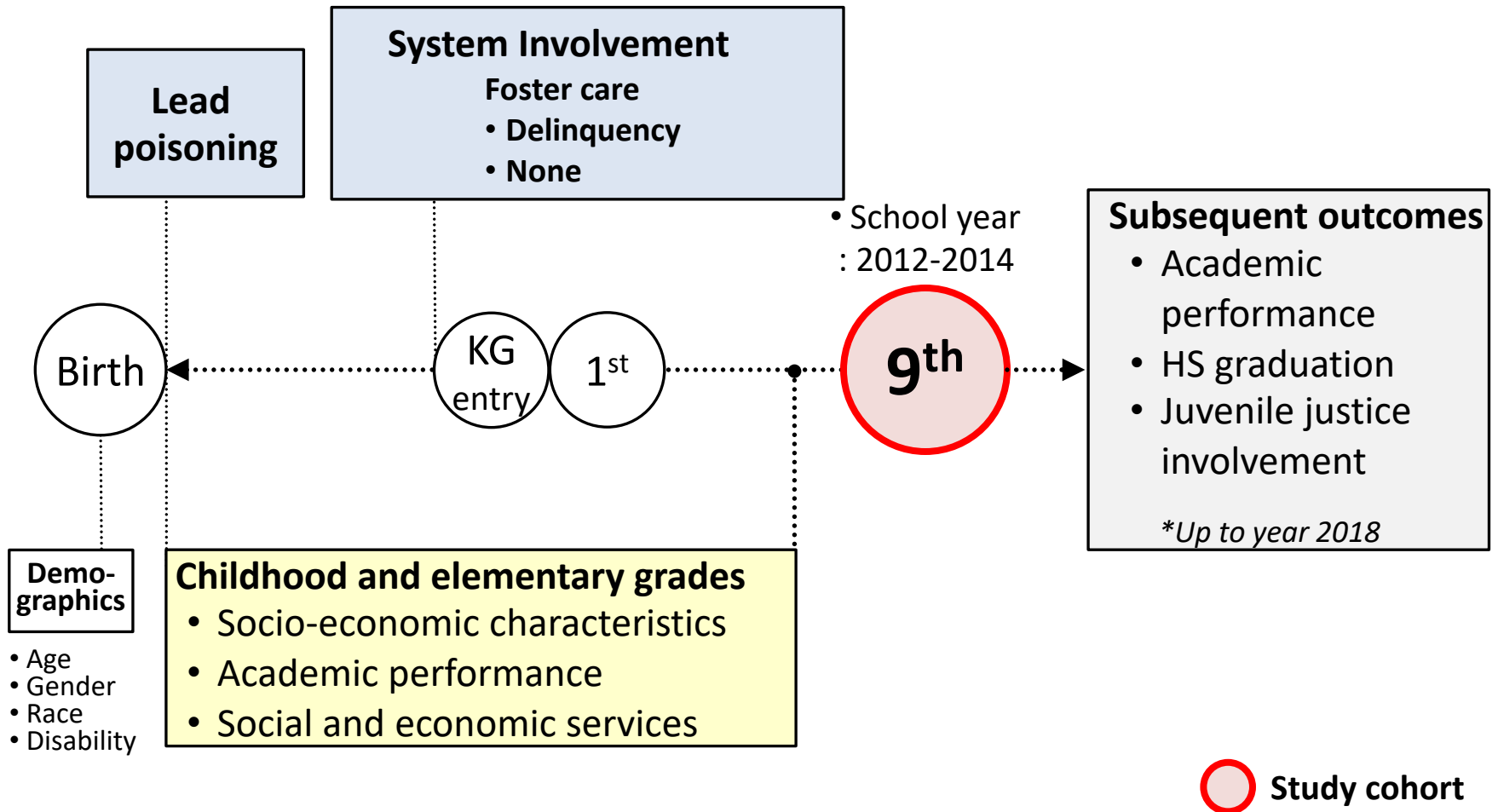


 Study cohort

# (#3) POPULATION COHORT EX: Cleveland study system involvement and early adult outcomes (9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort): Prospective study



# (#4) Cleveland early exposures and later outcomes (9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort): Population-based retrospective and prospective



# Implications

- Careful specification of the study population is essential to using IDS for research
- When the question is longitudinal, it is important to clearly identify criteria for the study cohorts
- In cross-site studies, variation in policies and practices creep into the data and need to be taken into account for comparability.





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***Thank you!***  
***Q / A***



## Contact Information

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## Resources

- Center on Urban Poverty & Community Development: <http://povertycenter.case.edu/>
- NEO CANDO: <http://neocando.case.edu/>