

**Selected Articles: Data in the News
June 8th, 2017 - Sept. 6th, 2017**

Prepared by *i.e.* communications for September 6th CWC Data Linkage Committee

[Math Isn't Biased, But Big Data Is.](#)

Forbes - August 30th, 2017

Put biased data into an unbiased equation and you get biased results. Those biased results may then influence [the courts](#), [child welfare systems](#) or your business. But Big Data is only partly to blame. The biggest source of bias in data analysis is and always will be people, both technical and business people, failing to admit that bias exists, failing to look for it, and failing to do anything constructive about it.

[New Research Links Increased Minimum Wage to Reduced Child Maltreatment](#)

The Chronicle of Social Change - August 29th, 2017

In looking for a connection between increasing income and child maltreatment rates, authors Kerri Raissian and Lindsey Rose Bullinger studied minimum wage increases in 44 states between 2004 and 2013. Raissian and Rose Bullinger weighed those states' maltreatment rates against changes in state and federal minimum wages using a mix of data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data. The study found that the 30 states that had exceeded the federal minimum wage by a dollar reflected a reduced risk of child welfare involvement.

[US: Budget Cuts to Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program Create Concern](#)

Mothering - August 28, 2017

The controversial cuts will continue to be a hot-topic. According to data from the CDC, teen pregnancy and childbirth cost taxpayers \$9.4 billion in 2010. Teen pregnancies create increased health care and foster care costs, as well as increased incarceration rates among children of teen parents.

[County disagrees with grand jury finding that it lacks data on foster care outcomes](#)

San Diego Union Tribune - August 28, 2017

The County of San Diego disagreed with some findings from a June grand jury report on the lack of data to measure foster care outcomes, and it said it would need to further analyze recommendations before agreeing to make changes, according to its official reply.

[Humboldt County foster care placement up; officials say caseload impacting services](#)

Eureka Times-Standard - August 25th, 2017

For the past two years, the rate of children being placed into foster care in Humboldt County after a report of child abuse or neglect is found to be true has been more than double that of the state average and the highest since at least 2000, according to state data. The large caseload has overburdened the many agencies involved in the foster care and child welfare system, which officials say is exacerbated by the combination of a lack of state funding and a high turnover rate of county social workers.

[Data essential to ensure students are prepared for college and careers](#)

Edsource - August 21st, 2017

California is fertile ground for data transparency and demonstrating how to best support its students, including the many historically underserved Latino K-12 students and the nearly 1.4 million English learners in California. The new [CA School Data Dashboard](#) is a major step in the right direction. As a state, we must continue to make significant investments to strengthen and accelerate the academic progress of all our students. Our future depends on it.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/21/nyregion/foster-care-nyc-jane-crow.html>

[Foster Care as Punishment? A Case of Biased Reporting by the New York Times](#)

Chronicle of Social Change - August 17th, 2017

There is no doubt that unnecessary removals of children by child welfare agencies have been a problem in New York and around the country for decades – perhaps as long as these agencies have existed. However, the New York Times biased and incomplete reporting makes articles like [“Foster Care as Punishment: The New Reality of ‘Jane Crow’](#),” almost useless to anyone who cares about improving the system.

[Beyond open data: Insights through analytics](#)

GCN - July 19th, 2017

Analytics are what allows government to use “data as a flashlight, not as a hammer,” according to “A Practical Guide to Analytics for Governments,” recently produced by the team at the SAS Institute and published by Wiley. The book looks at applications in, law enforcement transportation, public health, child welfare, prescription drug abuse, fraud prevention, and it methodically lays out both the depth of missed opportunities and the possible improvements.

[Failure of Public, Political Will Threatens Progress on Child Welfare, Casey warns](#)

Youth Today - June 14, 2017

Amid the charts and tables of this year’s Kids Count Data Book is a stark warning. The gains in children’s health, education and overall well-being since the last recession may be in jeopardy as “a huge failure of public and political will” saps support for policies that have helped produce those results, the nonprofit Annie E. Casey Foundation states in its annual compilation of child-welfare statistics.

[Why Understanding Racial Bias is Crucial for the Responsible Use of Predictive Analytics](#)

Chronicle of Social Change, June 9, 2017

As big data tools like predictive analytics become more prevalent, child-welfare agencies must grapple with implicit racial bias if they want to ensure that it does not cause harm, according to a new white paper published last month by the Kirwan Institute at Ohio State University.