

## “Data in the news”

June 15, 2014 – September 10, 2014

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

### California

#### **Gay Youths More Likely to Report Trouble in Foster Care, Study Finds**

Los Angeles Times – Hailey Branson-Potts - August 27, 2014

Gay foster youths are twice as likely to report being treated poorly by the foster care system than their straight counterparts, according to a new study of Los Angeles County's foster care system. They have more foster care placements, are more likely to be living in a group home and are three times more likely than straight youths to have been hospitalized for emotional reasons at some point in their lives. <http://www.latimes.com/local/countygovernment/la-me-lgbt-foster-youth-20140827-story.html>

**Full Report:** <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/safe-schools-and-youth/lafys-aug-2014/>

#### **Drugging Our Kids: Children in California’s Foster Care System are Prescribed Unproven, Risky Medications at Alarming Rates (Part 1 of a 5-Part Investigative Report) (Includes Video and Infographics)**

Bay Area News Group – Karen De Sa-August 26, 2014

A 10-month investigation found that nearly 1 out of every 4 adolescents in California’s foster care system is receiving these drugs — 3 times the rate for all adolescents nationwide. Over the last decade, almost 15 percent of the state’s foster children of all ages were prescribed the medications, known as psychotropics, part of a national treatment trend that is only beginning to receive broad scrutiny.

<http://webspecial.mercurynews.com/druggedkids/>

#### **Medication for foster children under new scrutiny in Los Angeles County, says Northridge doctor**

Los Angeles Daily News – Susan Abram - August 23, 2014

<http://www.dailynews.com/health/20140823/medication-for-foster-children-under-new-scrutiny-in-los-angeles-county-says-northridge-doctor>

Also: Pasadena foster child was taking 10 different medications:

<http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/health/20140823/pasadena-foster-child-was-taking-10-different-medications>

Also: Long Beach family told by county: Medicate foster kids or lose \$900 a month:

<http://www.presstelegram.com/general-news/20140823/long-beach-family-told-by-county-medicate-foster-kids-or-lose-900-a-month>

#### **Lawmakers call for end to reckless prescribing of psych meds to California foster kids**

Inside Bay Area News – Karen De Sa - August 26, 2014

An analysis of 10 years of Medi-Cal data showed psych meds accounted for 72 percent of spending on the 10 most expensive drug groups for foster children, topping \$226 million.

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/news/ci\\_26404895/lawmakers-call-end-reckless-prescribing-psych-meds-california](http://www.insidebayarea.com/news/ci_26404895/lawmakers-call-end-reckless-prescribing-psych-meds-california)

#### **Medical regulators to investigate risky psych drug prescribing to California foster youth**

Contra Coasta Times – Karen De Sa - August 27, 2014

For months, the state has adamantly refused to release data that this newspaper sought to expose which physicians are most responsible. Now, in response to a request from state Sen. Ted Lieu, California's medical board is investigating whether some doctors are "operating outside the reasonable standard of care."

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci\\_26419625/medical-regulators-investigate-risky-psych-drug-prescribing-california?source=rss](http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_26419625/medical-regulators-investigate-risky-psych-drug-prescribing-california?source=rss)

#### **California Ranks 40th in Children’s Well-Being**

KQED: The California Report – April Laissle – July 22, 2014

California is well behind almost every other state when it comes to caring for its kids, according to an annual report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and its Oakland-based partner, Children Now. The report looks at four indicators of children’s well-being: family stability, economic stability, health, and education. This year, California inched up one spot to 40th overall, but ranked 26th in the health category. <http://blogs.kqed.org/stateofhealth/2014/07/22/california-ranks-40th-in-childrens-well-being/>

**Complete Report:** [http://www.childrennow.org/uploads/documents/casey\\_data\\_book\\_2014.pdf](http://www.childrennow.org/uploads/documents/casey_data_book_2014.pdf)

#### **Number of Non-Minor Dependents Continues to Grow, Reaching 7,670 Youth**

John Burton Foundation Updates – July, 22, 2014

The Child Welfare Indicators Project at UC Berkeley has released the latest data on children and youth in California’s foster care and juvenile probation systems. According to the data, available through April 1, 2014, the number of non-minor dependents in California continues to rise, reaching a total of 7,670 on April 1, 2015. Of this total, 18 percent are from the juvenile probation system and the remaining 82 percent are from the child welfare system. As the total number of NMDs has increased, the number of 20 years-olds has experienced the highest level of growth, up from 274 NMDs on April 1, 2013 to 1,595 NMDs on April 1, 2014. This large cohort of 20 year-olds will be reaching age 21 in 2015, three years after extended foster care went into effect on January 1, 2012.

[http://johnburtonfoundation.org/images/Website/April\\_1\\_2014\\_Data\\_on\\_from\\_the.pdf](http://johnburtonfoundation.org/images/Website/April_1_2014_Data_on_from_the.pdf)

## National

### Children's Defense Fund

Child Watch -Marian Wright Edelman-September 5, 2014 (online column)

With a call to action, "We must not let any of our children remain invisible or go without the help they need to receive a quality education", this widely distributed column included reference to data in the *Invisible Achievement Gap, Parts One and Two* reports, released in CA in 2013 and 2014 and also highlighted specific programs in this state and across the nation that are making a difference for students from foster care. <http://www.childrensdefense.org/newsroom/child-watch-columns/child-watch-documents/invisible-achievement-gap.html>

### Nonprofit Shares Data About Troubled Teens With Researchers

The Chronicle of Philanthropy – Nicole Wallace – August 18, 2014

Researchers are gaining access to enormous amounts of data about teenagers who are struggling with depression, bullying, and other problems, thanks to Crisis Text Line, which has been operating for a year. The nonprofit is making available data about roughly 60,000 counseling sessions in the hope that academics, government officials, and other charities can help even more troubled young people. <http://philanthropy.com/article/Nonprofit-Shares-Data-About/148399/>

### Child Maltreatment May Actually Be Declining

Psychology Today – David Rettew, M.D. - August 11, 2014 (Journal)

To the surprise of many, the rate of victimization significantly dropped from 2003 to 2011 for slightly over half of the variables studied, including rates of bullying, assault victimization, sexual victimization, as well as youth perpetrating acts of violence and property crime against others. The overall rate of child maltreatment during this period dropped by 26 percent. Declines were also observed for the period between 2008 and 2011, although not as dramatically. For no variables did the rate significantly increase. Furthermore, most of the observed trends were widespread and did not pertain just to certain groups based on age, gender, or other demographic variables. <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/abcs-child-psychiatry/201408/child-maltreatment-may-actually-be-declining>

### Research On Differential Response

Children's Monitor - July 20, 2014 (electronic and online newsletter)

"In two of the three QIC-DR sites, the entire CPS system was impacted by the introduction of the new AR pathway. Most of the changes observed in Colorado's and Ohio's implementations of DR were not reserved for AR (alternate response) families, but rather the modifications became embedded into child welfare systems for all CPS families."

<http://childrensmonitor.wordpress.com/2014/07/20/research-on-differential-response/>

### In a Year, Child Protective Services Checked Up On 3.2 Million Children

The Atlantic – Conor Friedersdorf - July 22, 2014

Every year, the Department of Health and Human Services published statistics on the work of child protective service agencies in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. A summary of the report.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2014/07/in-a-year-child-protective-services-conducted-32-million-investigations/374809/>

**Full Report:** Child Maltreatment 2012: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2012.pdf>

### California schools focus on foster care youth

Los Angeles Daily News – Lisa Leff (AP) – July 14, 2014

California is embarking on a first-of-its-kind attempt to improve the academic lives of foster youth by giving schools more money to meet their special learning and emotional needs and holding educators and administrators accountable. A discussion of LCFE implementation and district responsibility.

<http://www.dailynews.com/social-affairs/20140713/foster-children-become-focus-of-california-schools>

### Systems Integration: Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice.

National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) - Fromknecht, Anne – 2014

Abstract: NCJJ conducted a semi-structured survey of the state-level efforts to coordinate information and practice during the winter of 2014. This four page publication presents the results through the lens of how centralized or decentralized the social service systems are in the respective states. The publication is part of a series previewing and supporting information provided in greater detail on the Juvenile Justice, Geography, Policy, Practice and Statistics website.

[http://www.ncjj.org/pdf/JJGPS%20StateScan/Systems%20Integration%20State%20Scan%202014\\_3.pdf](http://www.ncjj.org/pdf/JJGPS%20StateScan/Systems%20Integration%20State%20Scan%202014_3.pdf)