**Selected Articles: Data in the News**

**December 5th, 2016 – February 27, 2017**

**Prepared by *i.e.* communications for March 1, 2017 CWC Data Linkage Committee**

[Policy and Practice Changes Form Around National Strategy to Reduce Fatalities and Improve Child Safety](https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/opinion/policy-and-practice-changes-form-around-national-strategy-to-reduce-child-maltreatment-fatalities-and-improve-child-safety/25095)

Chronicle of Social Change - Feb. 24th, 2017

New federal activities include guidance on maternal depression screening and treatment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a Department of Justice-funded grant of $6 million approved for fiscal year 2017 to develop partnerships in support of a data-driven approach to prevent child fatalities (which is currently frozen), and a White House-hosted “Foster Care and Technology Hackathon” which identified strategies for breaking down barriers around information-sharing and real-time data sharing.

[Newswire: 'FosterTech' Magazine Explores Intersection of Foster Care and Technology](https://www.prlog.org/12622117-fostertech-magazine-explores-intersection-of-foster-care-and-technology.html)

Fostering Media Connections - Feb. 23rd, 2017

Fostering Media Connections released a special print magazine entitled [FosterTech](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06WW5JVZM/ref%3Dsr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1487894467&sr=8-1&keywords=fostertech), which describes a some of the most exciting and vexing applications of technology in child welfare. The magazine aims to create a base of knowledge for technologists, child welfare administrators, advocates, foster youth and social workers and to engage them in outlining technology's role in the field of child welfare.

[Why do more L.A. County black children end up in foster care? Experts clash over the reason](http://www.latimes.com/la-me-dcfs-monique-racial-bias-20170216-story.html)

Los Angeles Times - Feb. 16th, 2017

Black children account for eight out of 100 Los Angeles County children, yet they make up 28 out of 100 foster children, according to Department of Children and Family Services data. There are basically two theories, and the approach an agency takes to addressing the problem depends, at least in part, on which theory it accepts. One holds that social worker bias against black parents is to blame. The other argues that black children truly are victimized at higher rates.

[Guardino: Foster kids headed to poverty, pregnancy, prison–unless we help](http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/02/11/guardino-foster-kids-headed-to-poverty-pregnancy-prison-unless-we-help/)

San Jose Mercury News - Feb. 11th, 2017

Every day in Santa Clara County, 1,440 kids spend another day in our Foster Care system, the Silicon Valley [“Hack Foster Care”](http://www.hackfostercare.org/) summit seeks to address this. One area where improvement is necessary is getting new technology to foster care professionals. Santa Clara County the Department of Social Services needs technology and tools most of us take for granted, like tablets and speech recognition software. They need data analysis, machine learning, artificial intelligence, personal networking tools and matching technology.

[What's behind the three-year rise in federal child abuse numbers?](http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865672546/Federal-child-abuse-figures-rose-for-third-year-in-a-row-and-neglect-is-at-the-top-of-the-list.html)

Deseret News - Feb. 6th, 2017

Neglect tops the list of abuses that children endure, according to a new report that finds cases of abuse and neglect edged up for the third consecutive year during 2015. The [Child Maltreatment 2015 report by](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2015) the Administration on Children, Youth and Families noted 683,000 victims of child maltreatment or 9.2 victims per 1,000 children. The slight increase from 2014's 9.1 victims per 1,000 is concerning, experts said, because not all maltreatment is reported and in some cases abuse or neglect exists but there's not enough evidence to substantiate it, leading to the suspicion that the count is actually undercounted.

[Child protection agency misses hundreds of payments due to computer glitches](http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-child-agency-missed-payments-20170110-story.html)

Los Angeles Times - Jan. 29th, 2017

The problem stems from a new digital case file system implemented by the Department of Children and Family Services late last year, a conversion that county officials said was required by state law. About 500,000 cases had to be moved to the new system, according to DCFS officials. The missed payments come at a particularly sensitive time for DCFS as officials face a critical shortage in foster care beds.

[Introducing FosterPort: Resources for Transition Age Foster Youth](https://www.hiltonfoundation.org/news/183-introducing-fosterport-resources-for-transition-age-foster-youth?utm_source=Conrad+N.+Hilton+Foundation+MASTER+LIST&utm_campaign=4055382f92-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_01_19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9e9ebdd5e9-4055382f92-5876381)

Hilton Foundation - Jan. 23rd, 2017

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation has announced the creation and their support of [FosterPort](http://www.fosterport.org/), an easily accessible, highly curated online database that identifies and presents leading national experts, and cutting-edge programs and resources to support TAY in foster care.

[Child abuse, neglect data released](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/media/press/2017/child-abuse-neglect-data-released)

US Administration For Children and Families - Jan. 19th, 2017

New federal data on child abuse and neglect was released today by HHS' Administration for Children and Families, which analyzes data collected by state child protective services agencies. The report shows an increase from Fiscal Year 2014 to 2015 in three key metrics: numbers of referrals to CPS agencies alleging maltreatment (4.7 percent), number of referrals that CPS agencies accepted for investigation or alternative response (3.4 percent), and number of children who were the subject of an investigation or alternative response (3.0 percent).

[New report analyzes the financial cost of child abuse in SF](http://www.sfexaminer.com/new-report-analyzes-financial-cost-child-abuse-sf/)

SF Examiner - Jan. 14th, 2017

The report was created in collaboration with Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, and concludes that the total lifetime financial costs associated with one year of substantiated cases of child abuse in San Francisco is $301.6 million. The data was analyzed from 2015 records, where 5,500 reports of child abuse and 753 verified cases took place in San Francisco. In the larger Bay Area, there were nearly 58,000 reports — or one every 10 minutes.

[These Californians Are Using Data to Improve Public Health](http://www.govtech.com/health/These-Californians-Are-Using-Data-to-Improve-Public-Health.html)

GovTech - Jan. 12th, 2017

The California Health and Human Services (CHHS) Data Commons project, in partnership with the [California Health Care Foundation](http://www.chcf.org/), seeks to provide a digital town square of sorts that will connect a wide array of individuals to health data. As their work pushing forth a first-of-its-kind agile procurement and development of the state’s [child welfare system](https://18f.gsa.gov/2016/03/22/helping-california-buy-a-new-child-welfare-system/), and the creation of an [interactive Web app for asthma analytics](http://www.govtech.com/data/This-Week-in-Civic-Tech-4-Key-Takeaways-from-Code-for-Americas-2015-Summit.html) after hearing from the community about the need, indicates CHHS is leading the way when it comes to data and innovation in California.

[California Bets on Big Data to Predict Child Abuse](https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/news-2/california-bets-on-big-data-to-predict-child-abuse/23831)

Chronicle of Social Change - Jan. 10th, 2017

California has publicly declared its intention to pursue the use of so-called “predictive analytics” to foresee and presumably prevent child abuse. California Department of Social Services Deputy Director Greg Rose, who oversees the state’s foster care system, says that the state’s new predictive risk modeling project is designed to give social workers better information about past child welfare cases when they first field a call about child abuse and neglect.

[NYTD Reaches Same Conclusion as CalYOUTH: Youth in Extended Foster Care Do Better](http://thpplus.org/wp2/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/NTYD-DATA-BRIEF11.28-1.pdf)

John Burton Advocates for Youth - Jan. 3rd, 2017

The California Department of Social Services has released survey [findings](http://johnburtonfoundation.us3.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=c5c4648d6f7a56d317af47ea7&id=3806d06c1d&e=2c26383725) for the first cohort of foster youth who completed surveys as part of the National Youth in Transition [Database](http://johnburtonfoundation.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c5c4648d6f7a56d317af47ea7&id=50ad6d5774&e=2c26383725) (NYTD). Survey results indicate that foster youth continue to struggle to accomplish critical developmental tasks and have high rates of homelessness, substance abuse referral, incarceration, and having children. However, youth who remained in foster care reported higher rates of educational participation and access to health insurance and lower exposure to high risk outcomes, a finding that is consistent with Professor Mark Courtney’s CalYOUTH [Study](http://johnburtonfoundation.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c5c4648d6f7a56d317af47ea7&id=c77c47edef&e=2c26383725).

[Benefits and Challenges of the Agile Approach to Modernizing HHS Technology](http://www.govtech.com/opinion/Benefits-and-Challenges-of-the-Agile-Approach-to-Modernizing-HHS-Technology.html)

Government Technology - Dec. 27th, 2016

Driven largely by federal policy direction and financial incentives, the past several years have seen a wave of efforts to modernize state health and human services systems, some of which were built as long ago as the 1970s and '80s. The recent federal initiatives have spurred states to act on long-held visions for replacing outdated systems that support core safety-net programs with more efficient, streamlined, businesslike ones.

[4 Infrastructure Requirements for Any Big Data Initiative](http://www.fedtechmagazine.com/article/2016/12/4-infrastructure-requirements-any-big-data-initiative)

Fed Tech - Dec. 22nd, 2016

Proper storage, processing, analytics and networking are all necessary components to create a system that can handle fast growing amounts of data to for state and federal agencies.

[The Foster-Parent Recruitment Crisis in L.A. County by ZIP Code](https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/news-2/foster-parent-recruitment-crisis-l-county-zip-code/23551)

The Chronicle of Social Change - Dec. 21st, 2016

Newly available data from Los Angeles County’s Department of Children and Family Services shows that the county’s foster-parent recruitment crisis extends to most parts of the county. The number of foster homes (including both county foster homes and private foster family agency homes) has [dropped by 52 percent](http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/aboutus/factsheets.html) in the decade between 2005 and 2015.

# [1 In 3 Children Investigated For Abuse/Neglect By 18](http://publicnow.com/view/19CC347722F1DFB0B58477FF9565E18FDD082D0C)

Public Now - Dec. 20th, 2016

The first academic study to estimate the cumulative lifetime risk of a child maltreatment investigation, completed by researchers at the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis, reveals that 37 percent of U.S. children prior to their 18th birthday are the subject of an investigated child neglect and abuse report - and 53 percent of black children.

[HHS Now Able to Definitively Link More Foster Children to More Parental Substance Abuse](http://youthtoday.org/2016/12/hhs-now-able-to-definitively-link-more-foster-children-to-more-parental-substance-abuse/)

Youth Today - Dec. 15th, 2016

New data in a [recent](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport23.pdf) Health and Human Services report shows both that the number of youth in the foster care system has risen for three straight years, and that the main culprit is parental drug abuse. For the first time, information from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System broke down the reasons children were removed from their families.

[A Question of Outcomes](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/a_question_of_outcomes)

Stanford Social Innovation Review - Dec. 1st, 2016

Across the United States, government officials, social entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders, philanthropists, and impact investors talk about the need to pursue “positive outcomes”—results that make a genuine difference in beneficiaries’ lives. They talk about adopting models that are designed to focus attention on such outcomes: public-private partnerships, collective impact projects, pay-for-success (PFS) initiatives. And they talk about rigorously using data to track progress toward a given set of outcomes. But all of this talk presupposes that everyone agrees on the meaning of “positive outcome.” In fact, there is no single shared definition of that term.