

**Selected Articles: Data in the News
June 1st, 2016 - September 6th, 2016**

Prepared by *i.e.* communications for June 1 CWC Data Linkage Committee

[New Report Explores Debate between Family Preservation and Abuse Prevention](#)

CQ Press – Sept. 6th, 2016

In addition to current issues, the report discusses the ongoing debate about use of congregate care, referencing California's Continuum of Care [Reform](#) and [Assembly Bill 403](#). The report also presents viewpoints on the use of data or predictive analytics as a tool to drive decision-making about when an abuse complaint warrants investigation, or when children are at risk of entering the child welfare system. Some say the use of "big data" can be a valuable tool, while others are concerned about the potential for it to lead to child protection authorities disproportionately targeting low-income and minority residents. To read the report, follow this [LINK](#).

[How to help grandparents raising grandkids in an opioid crisis](#)

Christian Science Monitor – Sept. 2nd, 2016

[A yearlong study](#) of grandparents raising grandchildren and other types of kinship care produced for Georgia's state legislature found relatives are better able to "provide a safe, stable and nurturing home for children suffering from the trauma of parental separation and other hardships." Children in such care also have fewer behavioral problems in school and adjust to their new environments more successfully than peers in foster care. Increases of kinship caregivers in many states are often linked to increases in Opioid abuse and overdose deaths.

[California AG Harris Issues Educational Data-Sharing Guidelines for Foster Youth](#)

Chronicle of Social Change – Sept. 2nd, 2016

California Attorney General Kamala Harris issued guidelines aimed at supporting the educational success of foster youth through improved data sharing. The new [guidelines](#) outline how school districts, county offices of education and child welfare agencies should collaborate to share school records and provide information to ensure that foster youth are receiving appropriate services. Some county and local agencies in the state have not established protocols that could easily guide data-sharing between child-welfare and educational agencies, protocols that Harris suggests are important to helping foster youth succeed in school.

[Developing consistent and transparent kinship care policy and practice: State mandated, mediated, and independent care](#)

Children and Youth Services Review - Sept. 1st, 2016

To date, the large majority of the research literature on kinship care in the United States has focused on the similarities and differences between children and caregivers in "public" or "formal" vs. "private" or "informal" care. However, as our understanding of children's living arrangements in the homes of their relatives is becoming more complex, policies that promote consistency within care types should be recommended, as well as practices that make more transparent access across models and a research agenda to fill gaps in knowledge are discussed. The figures and examples presented within this article focus predominantly on kinship care in California, as data are more readily available from that state.

[State limits collection of social security numbers in schools](#)

Cabinet Report – Sept. 1st, 2016

The newly passed Assembly Bill 2097, which limits the sharing and collection of social security numbers and other student information, is a response to case earlier this year, Morgan Hill Concerned Parents

Association and Concerned Parents Association v. California Department of Education, in which plaintiffs were granted access to the records of approximately 10 million special education students because they alleged the CDE had failed to ensure children were receiving the services entitled to them. The decision resulted in an outcry from families concerned that the release of data could result in their children's information being compromised, opening them up to possible identity theft, and led to support of AB 2097.

[County turns to analytics to better protect at-risk children](#)

GCN – August 31st, 2016

New Hanover county hopes their new analytics system will reduce child fatalities as well as the number children in foster or group homes and residential treatment centers and increase the rate of permanent homes for children. This could help save DSS an estimated \$1 million a year.

Other states around the country have adopted similar solutions. Florida's Department of Children and Families uses SAS Analytics software to [improve](#) child welfare practices. [More recently](#), the Oklahoma Department of Human Services partnered with non-profit Eckerd Kids to analyze real-time child welfare data and identify high-risk cases.

[More Kids for Fewer Homes?](#)

The Chronicle for Social Change – August 26th, 2016

Recent federal data indicate that the foster child population has risen slightly over the past few years to just over 415,000 wards. During the same time, home placements appear to have declined. However it is hard to make this statement with complete certainty because we have no national or state data on the number or type of foster homes currently available. In trying to verify the problem of a foster home shortage and its extent, data can be hard to come by.

[Improved data on Latinos in the juvenile justice system could soon be available under bill sent to governor](#)

Los Angeles Times – August 23rd, 2016

AB 1998, authored by Assemblywoman [Nora Campos](#) (D-San Jose), would require the Board of State and Community Corrections to prepare guidelines for counties on how to separate data by race and ethnicity on juvenile cases, performance and outcomes. The bill sailed through the Assembly with a 73-0 vote, and now only requires the signature of Gov. Jerry Brown.

[State audit slams California's weak oversight of psych drugs for foster kids](#)

San Jose Mercury News – August 23rd, 2016

In the audit, State Auditor Elaine Howle called on California lawmakers to direct the state and counties to develop an effective oversight structure. She also advised requiring periodic evaluations of state data to identify doctors who may be inappropriately prescribing the powerful drugs. During fiscal year 2014-15, the report said, investigators found that nearly 12 percent of California's more than 79,000 foster children received almost 96,000 Medi-Cal paid prescriptions for psychotropic medications -- almost 10 prescriptions per child per year. Children not in foster care received these drugs at much lower rates.

[California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom Talks Transparency, Civic Tech, State IT Reforms](#)

Government Technology – August 22nd, 2016

In this interview Newsom highlights his vision for civic tech and how it can fix a few of California's more pressing pain points including California's child welfare management [system](#).

[Poor data collection leaves policy makers uninformed](#)

Cabinet Report – August 15th, 2016

After 85 percent of districts in Florida and Texas reported zero instances of bullying in the most recent Civil Rights Data Collection Survey, federal officials announced in early August that they were revisiting how data is being collected—a problem experts say has been long-standing and all too common. The department’s national survey of school climate factors, teacher quality and rigorous course access should help districts and state policymakers address apparent problem areas. When the data collected is not representative of reality, however, it cannot provide directions for school improvement.

[New CDC Data: LGB Teens Face Startling Rates of Violence, Bullying and Suicidality](#)

Human Rights Campaign – August 11th, 2016

Lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) teens are far more likely to experience violence and bullying, and attempt suicide, than their heterosexual peers, according to [new national data](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The data show just how deeply stigma and discrimination affect LGBTQ youth, how urgently they need their communities’ support and affirmation, and how far we have to go in protecting them.

[Taking Data Apart: Why a Data-Driven Approach Matters to Race Equity](#)

Annie E. Casey Foundation – August 8th, 2016

Identifying race equity problems can be challenging without the proper collection or use of data. The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s recent case study, [By the Numbers: Using Disaggregated Data to Inform Policies, Practices, and Decision-Making](#), shows how taking apart data and presenting the information in a new way can change the way statistics look and problem-solving strategies are made. Disaggregating data also helps in identifying the specifics of an established problem, as once data is disaggregated, presentation of data can change how people view the severity or salience of a problem.

[Data-Sharing Efforts Aim to Improve Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice Outcomes](#)

Government Technology – Aug. 4th, 2016

It can be difficult for child welfare workers to actually determine how many kids fit into descriptions of “crossover” or “dual-status” youth. Because the data from the two systems were long kept separate, held separately between local and state agencies, it was a struggle for child welfare workers and other non-profit workers in the field to know for sure what, exactly, a child was up against when they first encountered him or her.

[An Upstream Approach: Using Data-Driven Home Visiting to Prevent Child Abuse](#)

Chronicle of Social Change – August 2nd, 2016

In particular, data identifying heightened maltreatment risk for children born to young mothers who have experienced abuse themselves provides an opportunity to better target the counties like Los Angeles’ home visiting programs. While the county appears to be getting it right with pregnant foster youth, two premier home visiting programs do not triage their severely limited service capacity based on families at the highest statistical risk for abuse. If Los Angeles County were to do something new on this front, it would be following the lead of the federal [Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities](#).

[Data Sheet on Domestic Violence Services](#)

Children’s Bureau Express – August 1st, 2016

[Domestic Violence Services Provided by State and Tribal Grantees](#), a data report from the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), presents demographic information, including age, gender, and ethnicity, about these victims, as well as information about the kinds of supports and services accessed.

[Senators Propose Grant Program to Help Dual Status Youth](#)

Youth Today – July 14th, 2016

A proposed federal grant program aims to encourage cooperation between states' juvenile justice and child welfare agencies, to help youth who encounter both systems. The Childhood Outcomes Need New Efficient Community Teams (CONNECT) Act would authorize grants for collecting data on and developing policies to youth both in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

[California Ranks 36 Among U.S. States this Year in Child Well-Being](#)

Annie E. Casey Foundation – July 12th, 2016

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has released the 2016 Kids Count [Data Book](#) on State Trends in Child Well-Being. The report ranks states according to four domains to capture what children need most to thrive, and makes recommendations for how policymakers can ensure all children are prepared for the future. Nationally, children experienced gains in the Education and Health domains, but setbacks in the Economic Well-Being and Family and Community domains.

[Is Discipline Reform Really Helping Decrease School Violence?](#)

The Atlantic – June 28, 2016

A lack of hard data and conflicting views on safety measures make it difficult to assess whether school violence is in fact increasing—and whether those measures are actually effective. Some observers worry that the absence of concrete information and confusion over the amount of violence in schools are hindering efforts to reduce violence and bullying.

[New data shows 6.5 million U.S. students chronically absent](#)

Cabinet Report – June 8th, 2016

In a first of its kind survey, the U.S. Department of Education reported Tuesday that more than 6.5 million of the nation's K-12 students are chronically absent from class – about 13 percent of combined enrollments. The dataset also shows disparities in rates of absence between racial and socio-economic groups.

[New Data Shows The School-To-Prison Pipeline Starts As Early As Preschool](#)

Think Progress – June 7th, 2016

Black preschool children were 3.6 times more likely than white children to receive one or more out-of-school suspensions, according to new data from the U.S. Department of Education [collected](#) from all public school districts during the 2013-2014 school year. Though boys were more likely than girls to be suspended, black girls also had high rates of suspension.