

**Selected Articles: Data in the News**  
**September 7th, 2016 - December 5th, 2016**

**Prepared by *i.e.* communications for December 7th CWC Data Linkage Committee**

[New York Child Welfare Leader Takes Up Obama Legacy, Foster Care Hackathons](#)

Chronicle of Social Change - Nov. 28th, 2016

[Gladys Carrión](#), who leads New York City's Administration for Children's Services, created a hackathon similar to President Obama's [first foster care hackathon](#) earlier this year. In this interview Carrión describes her hopes for the New York hackathon, and her thoughts on how technology can serve the foster children and the youth she serves.

[Applying Safety Science to Child Welfare](#)

Chronicle of Social Change - Nov. 28th, 2016

In the history of Aviation safety, the creation of a public-private partnership for data-collection, sharing, and creation of proactive analysis systems, greatly benefited the safety of all passengers by identifying emerging systemic risks. Some officials believe the same could be done for child welfare systems in the US.

[Study: Kern mothers have highest rate of childhood trauma in state](#)

Bakersfield.com - Nov. 25th, 2016

According to data released in November 2016, mothers in Kern County have experienced more childhood trauma and hardship than mothers anywhere else in California. About 11.6 percent of Kern County mothers reported experiencing four or more hardships during their childhoods, roughly 4 percentage points higher than the state average.

[Commentary: Much better way to handle juvenile offenders](#) (Opinion)

East Bay Times - Nov. 22nd, 2016

In recent years new approaches from Contra Costa's probation department and health services are not only praiseworthy but should serve as a model for serving youth beyond the probation system. These programs capitalize on bringing more professionals into these services and using data sharing and collection to improve delivery of services.

[About 40 Percent Of Fresno County Children Living In Poverty](#)

California Healthline - Nov. 15th, 2016

About 40 percent of Fresno County children live in poverty, according to a Children Now report being released Tuesday, Nov. 15th. The report tracks child welfare and well-being in part by the number of children who are not living in communities of concentrated poverty. That number is 53 percent in Fresno County, ranking it last in the state. Those numbers are worse for minority students, with 38 percent of Fresno County's black children not living in communities of concentrated poverty, and 44 percent of Latino children not living in those communities.

[Notes from Wicked Problems: Big Data on Trauma, Solution-Based Casework, and More](#)

Social Justice Solutions - Nov. 9th, 2016

A project of the University North Carolina School of Social Work (UNC) and the Children's Home Society of America (CHSA), *Wicked Problems* is a running series of forums to identify, and hopefully help solve, the child welfare system's deepest challenges.

#### [CA's top cop offers guidance on protecting student data](#)

Cabinet Report - Nov. 8th, 2016

As technology use continues to expand and touch on nearly every aspect of the classroom experience, state leaders are again calling on schools to ensure student data remains private and secure.

#### [Schools need real-time data on students missing class](#) (Opinion)

Cabinet Report - Oct. 22nd, 2016

In her fourth annual report on K-12 attendance problems, Attorney General Kamala Harris noted that schools collectively lose about \$1 billion in state revenue each year because of students missing school. In the 2015-16 school year, her office estimated that, statewide, the chronic absentee rate was 7 percent—marginally higher than the 6 percent measured in 2012-13 when Harris began tracking school attendance.

#### [How Big Data can help save endangered kids](#)

New York Post - Oct. 18th, 2016

Just as insurance companies use algorithms to predict risk, there are ways to measure the risk for a child remaining in a home where there's evidence of abuse. For instance, Richard Gelles relates, social workers tend to underestimate the added risk of the presence of a mother's boyfriend in the home. He and other figures are calling for increased implementation of these systems. In the past six months, Los Angeles County (the largest child-welfare agency in the world) and Allegheny County in Pennsylvania have both started using this approach.

#### [Beyond Basketball: Ballmer Family Invests in Data-Driven Social Change](#)

Chronicle of Social Change - Oct. 5th 2016

Now ramping up their giving through Ballmer Group Philanthropy, the Ballmers joined [Blue Meridian Partners](#) earlier this year by pitching in the enormous sum of \$50 million. Blue Meridian, a capital aggregation collaboration focused on children and youth and led by the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, [aims](#) "to discover the most promising evidence-based programs and propel them to a scale that maximizes their impact."

#### [Finding common threads in school bullying proves elusive](#)

Cabinet Report - Oct. 5th, 2016

Data collected by YouthTruth from nearly 80,000 students across the country in grades 5 through 12 shows that while approximately 25 percent of students typically report being bullied, some schools can have rates as high as 59 percent or as low as 12 percent. Factors such as socioeconomic status or academic engagement, often closely associated with student behavior and outcomes, may not have the same influence.

#### [California Legislature Orders Juvenile Justice Data Overhaul](#)

Youth Today - Oct. 3rd, 2016

The newly-signed Assembly Bill 1998 will bring involved groups together to discuss guidelines counties should follow when collecting data about youth. Many see this as an important step in helping Latino communities, and others that are underrepresented in current data collection efforts.

### [Is U.S. Opioid Crisis Straining State Child Welfare Systems?](#)

Youth Today - Sept. 30th, 2016

National data linking the opioid epidemic to rising child removals is hard to come by because of the way child welfare agencies record foster care referrals. Partially due to variation among states in the way cases are classified, according to a SAMHSA official. Tracking the effects of Opioid addiction on the child-welfare system, presents a unique set of data-collection challenges.

### [As Child Welfare Agencies Turn to Data Analytics 'We Have to Be Really Careful'](#) (Opinion)

Route Fifty - Sept. 28th, 2016

State and local governments are increasingly turning to data analytics to guide decision making in areas ranging from [restaurant inspections](#) to [criminal justice](#). But using algorithms to assess child welfare is a newer frontier—one that is especially sensitive.

### [New State Guidance Clarifies: Data Sharing Doesn't Violate Privacy Rights](#)

John Burton Foundation - Sept. 27th, 2016

The Bureau of Children's Justice at the California Department of Justice, in collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE), and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), released [guidance](#) regarding data sharing between school districts, county offices of education, and child welfare agencies.

### [Tracking educational progress of California's foster children just a first step](#)

EdSource - Sept. 21st, 2016

The achievement gap for students in foster care is no longer invisible. Because of newly released data released by the state of California have a baseline. California can track educational progress for foster youth, measure the impact of our collective efforts to close the achievement gap between them and other students and calibrate those efforts to ensure foster youth are supported.

### [After boy's death, L.A. County supervisors to consider reevaluating tool that calculates child abuse risk](#)

LA Times - Sept. 19th, 2016

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, responding to the death of a severely malnourished boy who was [found dead in a closet](#) last month, is considering a revamp of the county program intended to measure children's risk of abuse.

### [California Department of Education Releases New Information to Help Students in Foster Care](#)

California Dept. of Education - Sept. 16th, 2016

The California Department of Education (CDE) released new information about the nearly 70,000 foster youth in the state's public schools as part of a coordinated effort to assist these vulnerable and academically at-risk students. This data release is a requirement from the California Department of Education to collect educational information from foster youth annually.

#### [State Announces New Education Data To Look At Foster Care](#)

KHTS - Sept. 16th, 2016

California's Department of Education announced new data this week meant to help in assisting foster care youth statewide in California's schools.

#### [California College Pathways Website For Students](#)

John Burton Foundation – September 15th, 2016

California College Pathways (CCP) has launched a brand new [college planning website](#) specifically for foster youth. The website is designed to be youth-friendly and contains information about college planning, matriculation, financial aid, housing and more. The student website also hosts a searchable [database](#) of foster youth support programs at colleges and universities across the state.

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

CQ Press – September 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](#).

#### [States With More Punitive Justice Systems Have Higher Predicted Rates Of Foster Care Entry](#)

Open Minds - Sept. 6th, 2016

States with more punitive criminal justice systems are likely to have higher than average rates of entry into foster care and greater use of institutional placement. Foster care entry rates in such states average 4.9 per 1,000 children, compared to a simulated national average of 4.1 per 1,000. Institutional placement rates average 64.9 per 1,000 children entering foster care, compared to a simulated national average of 55.4 per 1,000 children in foster care.