

Selected Articles: Data in the News

Dec 21, 2015 - Feb. 29, 2016

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

Kids Endangered By Predictive Analytics? Child Advocate Says Yes

Forbes - Feb 25, 2016

A recently released report from the National Coalition for Child Protection Reform(NCCPR) questions the use of predictive analytics in child welfare. The report asserts that recommendations for child protection practice under consideration by one federal commission would lead to unnecessary trauma for children and increase their risk of abuse.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/metabrown/2016/02/25/kids-endangered-by-predictive-analytics-child-advocate-says-yes/#5f43abc25081>

Years after the Great Recession began, America's children are finally emerging from its shadow, new report says

Phys.org - Feb 23, 2016

The newest results from the Duke Child Well-Being Index suggest the Great Recession cast a lingering shadow over child well-being for several years after it ended. The economic downturn lasted for 18 months, from December 2007 through June 2009, but the recession's effect on children continued from 2009 through 2012. Overall child well-being began showing improvement in 2013, six years after the recession started.

<http://phys.org/news/2016-02-years-great-recession-began-america.html#iCp>

Academic Medical Centers Get An F In Sharing Research Results

NPR – Feb 23, 2016

A study conducted by several top medical programs led by Yale and University of California, San Francisco, found that two-thirds of clinical trials led by scientists at many top academic institutions didn't share their results publicly within two years of the study's completion.

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/02/23/467712481/academic-medical-centers-get-an-f-in-sharing-research-results>

Why Are Child Welfare Advocates Sabotaging Data-Driven Efforts to Protect Children?

Chronicle for Social Change - Feb 22, 2016

New child-protection data sharing efforts such as L.A.'s AURA program, have encountered substantial opposition from a surprising number of advocates who worry that using data to assist with child welfare investigations would perpetuate racial discrimination, violate human rights, and ultimately cause more harm than good.

<https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/opinion/15852/15852>

Compared to Their Classmates, Kids of Color More like to Removed by Schools

Kids Count Data Center - Feb 12, 2016

Black and American Indian kids are more likely to be suspended and expelled from public school compared to their white, Latino and Asian classmates. Across the country, out-of-school suspension rates are highest for black students at 15%. In comparison, just 2% of Asian students, 4% of white students, and 6% of Latino students are suspended from public school. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/updates/show/110-kids-of-color-more-likely-removed-by-schools>

L.A. County Uses Data Analytics to Keep Kids Out of Jail

techwire.com - Feb 5, 2016

Between 2012 and 2014, the L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services screened children and teenagers to assess their risk of committing a crime and winding up in juvenile detention. The department used an actuarial tool to score children's risk based on factors associated with criminal behavior. For children identified as high risk, caseworkers connected them to specific services — drug treatment, additional schooling and therapy — intended to address problems that might lead to criminal behavior. The department also monitored a similar group of children identified as high risk who did not receive specialized response services. This method is similar to the data analysis tools, Netflix, Amazon, and other tech companies employ.

<http://www.techwire.net/news/la-county-uses-data-analytics-to-keep-kids-out-of-jail.html>

Boys Born Poor Face Higher Joblessness Than Girls

Wall Street Journal - Feb 2, 2016

A new paper led by Stanford economist Raj Chetty and Harvard's Nathaniel Hendren finds boys in the bottom quintile of the income distribution are less likely to work than girls, especially when raised by single parents.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2016/02/02/boys-born-poor-face-higher-joblessness-than-girls/>

Western states' open data project wins grant

State Scoop - Jan 28, 2016

The California State Library, along with Washington's state technology agency and the Nevada State Library will receive a \$470,000 award from the Knight Foundation for their open data efforts.

<http://statescoop.com/western-states-open-data-project-wins-grant>

New federal data shows nearly 3 percent rise in child abuse

CSN News – Jan 28, 2016

The number of U.S. children victimized by abuse and neglect increased by nearly 3 percent in the latest annual reporting period, according to new federal data. According to the report the estimated number of victimized children in the 2014 fiscal year was 702,208 — up from 682,307 in 2013.

<http://www.csnnews.com/news/article/new-federal-data-shows-nearly-3-percent-rise-child-abuse>

Victimized adolescents more at risk of thinking about suicide or attempting suicide at 15

Medical News Today – Jan 28, 2016

A new report states that adolescents chronically victimized during at least two school years, are about five times more at risk of thinking about suicide and 6 times more at risk of attempting suicide at 15 years compared to those who were never victimized.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/305765.php?tw>

Economic gains brings improvement in poverty rates

Cabinet Report - Jan 26th 2016

Approximately 44,000 school aged children in California will no longer be living in households considered low-income, according to the latest U.S. Census data, reflecting a positive shift that began nearly six years ago. While the number may seem impressive, the percentage decrease among children age five to 17 living in poverty between 2013 and 2014 actually fell just half of one percent leading some advocates to point out how much more still needs to be done.

<https://www.cabinetreport.com/human-resources/economic-gains-brings-improvement-in-poverty-rates>

Should Los Angeles County Predict Which Children Will Become Criminals?

Pacific Standard - Jan 21, 2016

A new report from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency looks into how the Los Angeles Delinquency Prevention Pilot Program functioned. It not only suggests that L.A. County's strategy was on the right path, but also that more government agencies should consider testing similar programs all over the country.

<http://www.psmag.com/politics-and-law/minority-report>

Life after foster care: How young adults are winding up on the streets

Angelus News - Jan. 14th 2016

A 71-page report by Human Rights Watch in 2010 found that the Golden State had 65,000 children and youth in the foster care system. Of that number, 4,000 aged out every year, with 5,300 young people, ending up homeless within the next five years. Los Angeles County has about 28,000 youth currently in foster care, with some 1,400 awaiting adoptive families. Nearly half — 12,000 to 15,000 — wind up living on the street.

<http://www.angelusnews.com/news/local/life-after-foster-care-how-young-adults-are-winding-up-on-the-streets-9840/#.Vq-UiRgrJaR>

CA's well-being report finds room for improvement

Cabinet Report— Jan. 7th, 2016

While California has succeed in getting health care to low-income students, it is still getting failing grades for access to health services, oral health, and mental and behavioral health services in its 2016 California Children's Report Card. The organization Children Now, which creates the report noted that California's nine million children receive some of the lowest quality government services – ranking 49th in economic well-being on a national survey conducted last year by the Casey Foundation.

<https://www.cabinetreport.com/politics-education/cas-well-being-report-finds-room-for-improvement>

Report: California Shortchanging its Children

Public News Service– Jan. 7th, 2016

Findings reported in the 2016 California Children's Report Card highlight the need for CA to do more to help kids who've been abused or neglected recover from trauma. The lowest grade California received, a D-minus, came in the category of childhood trauma because the state doesn't spend enough to properly assess or treat children in kindergarten through third grade who have mental health challenges.

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-01-07/childrens-issues/report-california-shortchanging-its-children/a49732-1>

The War on the Poor

The American Prospect - Dec 21, 2015

Many view the creation of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) in the 1990's as a failure today. For every 100 families in poverty in 1996, 68 received cash assistance. Now it's only 23 in 100. Today, less than 1 percent of our population (just 3.1 million people) receive TANF. Furthermore, because funding levels for the law have not been increased with inflation, the actual amounts of assistance are worth 30% less today than they were at the time of the law's passing.

<http://prospect.org/article/war-poor>