Selected Articles: Data in the News
March 2nd, 2017 - June 7th, 2017
Prepared by *i.e.* communications for December 7th CWC Data Linkage Committee

[10,000 New Yorkers. 2 Decades. A Data Trove About 'Everything.'](#)
New York Times - June 4th, 2017
In fall of 2017 a team of researchers will start recruiting 10,000 New Yorkers willing to open up their lives to researchers for the next two decades, if not longer. Researchers will follow every aspect of their lives, virtually all the time, to try to answer fundamental questions about why we make the decisions we make and how they affect our lives.

[Integrated Data Systems Are Key to 'Pay for Success' in Cuyahoga County, Ohio](#)
Digital Communities - May 30th, 2017
Partnering for Family Success, of Cuyahoga County, is the first county-level program in the United States to use a funding mechanism known as pay for success. Introduced in the United Kingdom in 2010, pay for success has attracted widespread interest as a way for governments to get upfront private and philanthropic dollars to run evidence-based programs. County-level data examining links from the homeless administration and the child welfare system was critical to designing, and financing this initiative.

[L.A. County, IBM to Develop Data Sharing Portal for Child Welfare Investigations](#)
Government Technology - May 24th, 2017
On May 2, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors [approved a project](#) that will develop an electronic portal for sharing data on alleged perpetrators and others within investigations of child abuse or neglect. The $850,000 project will be done through a work order under the county's master services agreement with IBM. The portal is an outgrowth of a data sharing protocol that several L.A. County departments agreed to in 2015.

[Dubious Arrests, Damaged Lives](#)
San Francisco Chronicle - May 18th, 2017
Data compiled by The Chronicle show more than 14,000 calls for service to police and sheriff's departments in 2015 and 2016 from California's 10 shelter campuses. The majority of those calls, some repeated for the same incident, sought help tracking down foster children who left without permission.

[Risky Business: A Child's Death in L.A. Elicits More Questions than Answers](#)
Chronicle of Social Change - May 9th, 2017
On May 4th, Los Angeles County's Office of Child Protection issued a [long-awaited report](#) addressing the issue of how to respond when risk assessment tools suggest that a child will be maltreated in the future, but is not currently in imminent. How to move forward with "[predictive risk modeling,](#)" has proved to be a challenge for LA, and a difficulty for child protection agencies across the country. On the one hand, better risk data offers systems the opportunity to target in-home services to the families who most need them, and on the other children left at home can end up in harm's and further exacerbate strains on Child Welfare services in the future.

[Substance Abuse During Pregnancy](#)
Guttmacher Institute, May 1, 2017
Data highlights explaining how many states consider substance use during pregnancy child abuse under child welfare statutes, an overview of reporting laws in each state, and other state policies on substance use during pregnancy.

[Data Update: Children's Behavioral Health Care Use in Medicaid](#)
Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc. - April 26th, 2017
National data-sharing partnerships have allowed the tracking of new data on the Medicaid child population. New data from these partnerships was released April 2017, and further full analysis is targeted for release in fall 2017, as part of CHCS' [ongoing Faces of Medicaid data analysis series](#) designed to uncover patterns of behavioral health service usage for children in Medicaid and to inform state Medicaid efforts to improve services for this population.

[Western States Face Spikes in Drug Use, Foster Care](#)
Chronicle of Social Change, April 25, 2017
In 2000, 18.5 percent of removals involved parental alcohol or drug use as a contributing factor, according to AFCARS data. By 2010, when exits from care started to slow, it was up to 28.4 percent.

[More California babies born addicted to drugs](#)
Sacramento Bee - April 14th, 2017
A growing number of California infants are born addicted to drugs, according to a Bee review of new state data. About 1,190 California newborns were diagnosed with drug withdrawal syndrome last year, up more than 50 percent from a decade earlier, according to hospital discharge data from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. That translates to about one addicted newborn for every 400 births.

[Big Data's Latest Brainstorm: Target Poor People and Make Parents Suspects If They Ask For Help](#)
Chronicle of Social Change - April 11th, 2017
Controversial software vendor SAS used past cases child welfare to test a secret, proprietary predictive analytics algorithm in Los Angeles. Now SAS is developing a [new approach](#) in Florida. Critics cite that this new program is designed to target poor people. It compares birth records to three other databases: child welfare system involvement, public assistance and "mothers who had been involved in the state's home visiting program."

[New Data Powers Progress for Teens, Also Creates Problems, Experts Say at Conference](#)
Juvenile Justice Information Exchange - April 7th, 2017
A two-day conference at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy brought together hundreds of experts for a series of discussions on how to get the most out of the new data. Panelists and attendees also spent hours examining barriers to progress and discussing ways they can be overcome.

[Managing the Flow: Predictive Analytics in Child Welfare](#)
Chronicle of Social Change - April 6th, 2017
Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services has spent nearly $2.2 Billion on a predictive analysis system it has yet to employ, even though the department's workers are increasingly overburdened. There are two similar but distinct currents of thought surrounding this technology. One is largely dominated by academics and public agency administrators, while the other is fueled by the big software and analytics firms.

[How Policymakers Prioritize Evidence-Based Programs Through Law](#)
Pew Charitable Trusts - April 3rd, 2017
This brief highlights laws in three states—Washington, Oregon, and Tennessee—mandating the use of evidence-based programs and practices, and documents each state's experience, the impact of these efforts, and lessons learned. The analysis found that the laws drove state agencies to develop baseline information on existing services provided, create new data systems to monitor program implementation and outcomes, and prioritize funding to programs backed by evidence.

[THP-PLUS Program Snapshot](#)
John Burton Advocates for Youth - April, 2017
A data snapshot of the THP-Plus Program in California.

[Data Suggest Proportion Of California Transition Age Foster Youth With A Mental Health Diagnosis Increased From 2003 To 2012](#)
Open Minds - March 26th, 2017
California foster care data suggests that between 2003 and 2012 an increasing proportion of 17-year-old youth in foster care had diagnosed mental health disorders. The proportion increased from 25% in 2003 to 50% in 2012.

[Silicon Valley Hacks Foster Care](#)
Chronicle of Social Change - March 1st, 2017
More than 200 people gathered to brainstorm how technology can be used to improve outcomes for youth in the foster system. Participants at the Hackathon worked in small groups to apply this method to issues around computer access, career preparation, health and education for youth, as well as foster family recruitment, training, and matching. There was also an opportunity to focus on legal hacks, and online resource platforms for youth, such as Think of Us' platform for youth, which is in development with Salesforce and Box.