

**Selected Articles: Data in the News
December 2, 2017 - February 28, 2018**

Prepared by i.e. communications for February 28 CWC Data Linkage Committee

What Kids' Trauma Looks Like Across the U.S.

The Atlantic - 02.27.18

Race, location, and income level can determine how often children experience violence and crisis.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2018/02/the-complicated-map-of-trauma-in-the-us/554336/>

Big Data to Show How Mixed Toxins Affect Children

TMC News - 02.27.18

Rice University wins NIH grant for tools that reveal environmental threats to large populations. The Rice team believes the tools it creates will be useful for researchers around the world who model environmental effects on people, especially those in communities that face such social stressors as deteriorating housing, inadequate access to health care, under-resourced schools, high unemployment, crime and poverty.

<http://www.tmc.edu/news/2018/02/big-data-show-mixed-toxins-affect-children/>

How the Number of Data Breaches is Soaring - In One Chart

Market Watch - 02.27.18

The number of significant breaches at U.S. businesses, government agencies, and other organizations topped 1,300 last year, versus fewer than 200 in 2005, according to the Identity Theft Resource Center, a U.S. nonprofit. Jefferies analysts used the center's figures to create the handy chart, and they put the graphic in a January note to clients.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/how-the-number-of-data-breaches-is-soaring-in-one-chart-2018-02-26>

How Cities Are Divided by Income, Mapped

City Lab - 02.27.18

Three types of visualizations show the stark economic disparities in U.S. cities.

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2018/02/how-cities-are-divided-by-income-in-3-maps/553898/>

Why You Should Not Trust Most Economic Data

Forbes - 02.22.18

Policymakers often rely on data created by outdated models that are based on past performance. Worse, that data is often some kind of third derivative model, with all sorts of assumptions that are quite a bit of ways removed from the actual data.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/oliviergarret/2018/02/22/why-you-should-not-trust-most-economic-data/#47f6daa0207b>

Where American Kids Are in Crisis

City Lab - 02.21.18

Kids repeatedly exposed to violence, homelessness, and addiction are more likely to carry the long-term effects into adulthood. A new report breaks down the geographic and racial distribution of this trauma.

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2018/02/where-american-kids-are-in-crisis/553682/>

Toward Data-Driven Education Systems: Insights Into Using Information to Measure Results and Manage Change

Brookings Institute - 02.20.18

Parents, teachers, policymakers, and school administrators need better tools to diagnose where and why learning gaps exist, and assess what strategies they can employ to turn things around. High-quality data and evidence are essential for both tasks.

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/toward-data-driven-education-systems-insights-into-using-information-to-measure-results-and-manage-change/>

Should Data Scientists Adhere to a Hippocratic Oath?

Wired - 02.8.18

Microsoft released a 151-page book last month on the effects of artificial intelligence on society that argued “it could make sense” to bind coders to a pledge like that taken by physicians to “first do no harm.” In San Francisco Tuesday, dozens of data scientists from tech companies, governments, and nonprofits gathered to start drafting an ethics code for their profession.

<https://www.wired.com/story/should-data-scientists-adhere-to-a-hippocratic-oath/>

The Algorithm That Can Resettle Refugees

City Lab - 02.9.18

More than 65 million people are living in a state of displacement, the highest level in human history. Only a small fraction are successfully resettled into permanent homes. Is there a digital fix for this very human crisis?

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2018/02/the-algorithm-that-can-resettle-refugees/552755/>

The Bleeding of Chicago

City Lab - 02.4.18

America’s third-largest city has built one of the world’s best trauma care systems. But that success might be obscuring the true scale of its gun violence.

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2018/02/the-bleeding-of-chicago/554141/>

Moving Americans Out of Poverty Will Take More Than Money

Citylab - 01.29.18

The [U.S. Partnership on Mobility from Poverty](#) formed a year and a half ago to develop new ideas for ways that governments and philanthropy can help the poor, including building support for the political voice and community role of the poor. Key to building that support is information. There’s plenty of data on poverty in America but precious little of it ends up in the hands of the those who desperately need it.

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2018/01/moving-americans-out-of-poverty-will-take-more-than-money/551246/>

Artificial Intelligence is Racist Yet Computer Algorithms are Deciding Who Goes To Prison

Newsweek - 01.24.18

“Risk assessment algorithms” are increasingly used across the US in many child welfare and criminal justice settings, such as when setting bail amounts. But researchers are deeply questioning these tools—sold as “objective”—now more than ever, with a new study released last week showing that a common risk assessment algorithm is just as accurate as a random person paid a dollar to guess whether or not someone will be a future risk.

<http://www.newsweek.com/ai-racist-yet-computer-algorithms-are-helping-decide-court-cases-789296>

Yes, the census should be tracking race and ethnicity (Opinion)

The Washington Post - 01.23.18

Removing questions regarding racial and ethnic self-identification from the decennial census would make it easier for us to ignore the social discrimination, health and economic disparities that persist in our nation.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/yes-the-census-should-be-tracking-race-and-ethnicity/2018/01/23/569bfa88-fc8b-11e7-ad8c-ecbb62019393_story.html

In Reporting on Kids Driven into Foster Care by Opioids, Lack of Data Becomes the Story

Center for Health Journalism - 01.19.18

Many states hit hard by the opioid crisis are also seeing a spike in foster care placements. Yet despite evidence of a serious problem, there’s no data on which drugs, exactly, are pushing kids into the system. In most cases, the broad designation of “substance abuse” is all that social workers log into state datasytems.

<https://www.centerforhealthjournalism.org/2018/01/18/reporting-kids-driven-foster-care-opioids-lack-data-becomes-story>

A Child Abuse Prediction Model Fails Poor Families

Wired - 01.15.18

Predictive models promise more effective resource allocation by mining data to infer future actions of individuals based on behavior of “similar” people in the past. These grand hopes rely on the premise that digital decision-making is inherently more transparent, accountable, and fair than human decision-making. But, as data scientist Cathy O’Neil has written, “models are opinions embedded in mathematics.”

<https://www.wired.com/story/excerpt-from-automating-inequality/>

Rand Predicts Greater Investment in Prevention and Kinship Care Would Make Child Welfare Better -- and Save Money

The Chronicle of Social Change - 01.12.18

Policymakers could improve outcomes for children and youth in foster care and save money at the same time by both increasing and improving child maltreatment prevention programs and kinship care, according to a new report from the RAND Corporation.

<https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/research-and-resources/rand-predicts-greater-investment-prevention-kinship-care-make-child-welfare-better-save-money/29371>

Can an Algorithm Tell When Kids Are in Danger?

The New York Times - 01.02.18

A detailed analysis of child welfare cases in Allegheny County, PA showed alarming trends in data analysis: 8 percent of the lowest-risk families were being screened into the child welfare system, while 27 percent of the highest-risk families were being screened out. Two researchers, Emily Putnam-Hornstein and Rhema Vaithianathan, have looked at dozens of data points and built an algorithm to analyze the county data.

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/02/magazine/can-an-algorithm-tell-when-kids-are-in-danger.html?_r=0

Using State Administrative Data to Identify Social Complexity Risk Factors for Children

Annals of Family Medicine - 01.01.18

This study tests the feasibility of using an integrated state agency administrative database to identify children's social complexity risk factors and examine their relationship to emergency department usage.

<http://www.annfammed.org/content/16/1/62/suppl/DC2>

The Digital Poorhouse

Harpers - 01.01.18

Forty years ago, nearly all the major decisions that shape our lives—mortgages, insurance, credit, or a government service—were made by human beings. Today, we have ceded much of that decision-making power to machines, and have seen this change in power leading to automated inequality by systems meant to safeguard the poor.

<https://harpers.org/archive/2018/01/the-digital-poorhouse/>

Principles for Predictive Analytics in Child Welfare

NCCD - 12.11.17

NCCD lays out its principles for product development, evaluation, and practice to use predictive analytics responsibly and successfully.

<http://www.nccdglobal.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Principles%20for%20Predictive%20Analytics%20in%20Child%20Welfare-1.pdf>

'Snapshot' tool simplifies search inside California's child welfare unit

State Scoop - 12.04.17

California has a new 'snapshot' tool for social workers that is expected to drastically cut time hunting for data and break down compatibility barriers between state systems. Snapshot gives

social workers a Google-like search bar that allows them to find information on residents' agency history all in one place.

<http://statescoop.com/snapshot-tool-simplifies-search-for-californias-child-welfare-unit>