Selected Articles: Data in the News
December 4, 2018 - March 4, 2019
Prepared by *i.e.* communications for the CWC Data Linkage Committee

Despite Federal Mandate, Just 16 States Track Educational Outcomes for Foster Youth
The Chronicle of Social Change, March 1, 2019
The Every Student Succeeds Act, mandated some changes to support students in foster care. This year all states are required to report how well students in foster care are performing on state tests and how many are graduating from high school. These data points are supposed to be shared publicly on states' annual report cards. But right now, only 16 states are sharing both of these data points.
https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/child-welfare-2/federal-legislation-says-state-report-cards-must-track-reading-and-math-scores-high-school-graduation-rates-for-youth-in-foster-care-only-16-do/33911

State-level data for understanding child welfare in the United States
Child Trends, February 26, 2019
State-level data for understanding child welfare in the United States is a comprehensive resource, including easy-to-use interactive features, that provides state and national data on child maltreatment, foster care, kinship caregiving, and adoption.
https://www.childtrends.org/publications/state-level-data-for-understanding-child-welfare-in-the-united-states

Income inequality is rising so fast our data can't keep up
Washington Post, February 21, 2019
Wages at the top of the income distribution continue to rise much more rapidly than wages for everyone else, according to an analysis of the latest federal data. Wages for the top 5% of earners increased by 25%, but the median increase for all earners was only 7%.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2019/02/21/income-inequality-is-rising-so-fast-our-data-cant-keep-up/

LGBTQ youth are flooding the child welfare system, but they're treated the worst
LGBTQ Nation, February 14, 2019
LGBTQ youth face poorer conditions in the child welfare system, even as more LGBTQ youth end up in the system than their non-LGBTQ counterparts, according to a new study published in Pediatrics.
https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2019/02/lgbtq-youth-flooding-child-welfare-system-theyre-treated-worst/

Study: Nearly 1 in 7 kids and teens have a mental health condition, half go untreated
CBS News, February 11, 2019
Half of children with a mental health condition in the United States go without treatment, according to a new study published Monday in the journal JAMA Pediatrics. The researchers analyzed data from the 2016 National Survey of Children's Health.
https://wqad.com/2019/02/11/study-nearly-1-in-7-kids-and-teens-have-a-mental-health-condition-half-go-untreated/

Closing the Connectivity Gap for SF's Homeless Youth
Government Technology, February 5, 2019
Larkin Street Youth Services, the San Francisco's largest nonprofit working to end youth homelessness has begun to offer wireless services, hoping to connect youth with online resources, even if they don't have a data plan.
http://www.govtech.com/health/Closing-the-Connectivity-Gap-for-SFs-Homeless-Youth.html

New "Strong Start Index" Designed to Help California's Children to Thrive and Succeed
California Forward, February 4, 2019
The California Strong Start Index, is a unique new tool that seeks to make better and smarter use of available data about children. First 5 Association of California, partner to the 2018 California Economic Summit, and Children's Data Network developed the Index to help policymakers, service providers and government agencies support children and families more effectively and to ensure that resources go where they are needed most.
http://cafwd.org/reporting/entry/new-strong-start-index-designed-to-help-californias-children-to-thrive-and-

The U.S. Foster Care System is Full of Poor Kids and Most Adults Are Too Poor To Adopt
Medium, February 3, 2019
The data behind poverty can be disheartening. For example, domestic abuse is higher in poor families. Drug use is higher in poor families. Early deaths of family members are higher in poor families. Those in poverty are more likely to resort to crime to survive, thereby increasing the chance of being caught and children being taken away.
https://medium.com/@ryanrichey/the-u-s-foster-care-system-is-full-of-poor-kids-and-most-adults-are-too-poor-to-adopt-4c4d0f1ca091

CHHS Secretary Attributes Success to Data Sharing, Focus on Customers
Techwire, January 18, 2019
California Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Wilkening writes: "Our work at CHHS is a proof of concept, designed to illustrate how government can be more transparent, responsive and client-centered. I would argue that this has been a successful proof of concept, but it also has presented lessons learned."
https://www.techwire.net/news/wilkening-attributes-chhs-success-to-data-sharing-focus-on-customers.html

Data Collection, Sharing Crucial in Developing School-justice Partnerships

The Juvenile Justice Information Exchange, January 16, 2019
A new report asserts that "poor data collection and management strategies" often hamper the effectiveness of school-justice partnerships aimed at disrupting the school-to-prison-pipeline.
https://jjie.org/2019/01/16/data-collection-sharing-crucial-in-developing-school-justice-partnerships/

Building CCWIS is as Easy as 1, 2, 3
The Chronicle of Social Change, January 15, 2019
There are three main expectations for states in building a new Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System: improve quality data collection, share such efforts and access to data across agencies, tailor the new technology systems to each state's unique needs.

https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/child-welfare-2/building-comprehensive-child-welfare-information-system

Study Points to Need for Support of Justice Involved Youth
Los Angeles Sentinel, January 10, 2019
The Children's Defense Fund-California recently released "Unhidden Figures: Examining the Characteristics of Justice Involved Youth in Los Angeles County," which according to author Betty Fang "was an attempt to centralize data."
https://lasentinel.net/study-points-to-need-for-support-of-justice-involved-youth.html

How Data-driven Strategies Can Improve Impact Investing Outcomes
Knowledge@Wharton, January 10, 2019
Data science is making inroads into impact investing, helping program designers and beneficiaries achieve a closer alignment between goals and strategies.
http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/how-data-driven-strategies-improve-impact-investing/

Helping Foster Youth Protect Against Identity Theft
Triple Pundit, January 2, 2019
Data estimates for the the number foster youth affected by identity theft by the age of 18 run as high as up to 50 percent. Foster youth are particularly vulnerable to identity and data theft, the consequences of which can have a lasting impact.
https://www.triplepundit.com/story/2019/helping-foster-youth-protect-against-identity-theft/82226

Doing What Works: Measure Success of Child Welfare Programs With Hard Data (Opinion)
The Chronicle of Social Change, December 21, 2018
Decades of hard data, from multiple studies covering hundreds of thousands of children and families, have helped to inform evidence-based practices that can improve outcomes. Despite current debates about what constitutes "evidence-based," new practices must include a rigorous clinical evaluation process, time frames and complete and transparent reporting of results – so they can be reviewed by government agencies and peer organizations.

https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/child-welfare-2/child-welfare-data-foundling-new-york/33188

Born on drugs: Babies from addicted moms are increasing at an alarming rate in California
The Orange County Register, December 27, 2018
Over the past decade alone, Medi-Cal has spent about $111 million on care for drug-exposed infants, according to data from the Department of Health Care Services. And while California's overall Child Welfare population has decreased almost 50 percent from 2000 and 2018, the number of infants — younger than one year — shot up more than 9 percent.
https://www.ocregister.com/2018/12/27/born-on-drugs-babies-from-addicted-moms-are-increasing-at-an-alarming-rate-in-california/

School Suspensions Continue Downward Trend in California, New Data Show
EdSource, December 11, 2018
The number of suspensions reported by California schools continue their steady decline, with about half as many students sent home for disciplinary reasons during the 2017-18 school year as had been at the beginning of the decade. But African-American students are still far likelier to be suspended than their white peers.
https://edsource.org/2018/school-suspensions-continue-downward-trend-in-california-new-data-show/605946

The misuse of data and research in child welfare: home visiting and infant removals in New York State
Child Welfare Monitor, December 11, 2018
The increasing importance placed on data and research has resulted in their frequent misuse. Overgeneralizing findings, attributing causality without evidence, and misusing evidence-based practice compilation, has become a too common practice.
https://childwelfaremonitor.org/2018/12/11/the-misuse-of-data-and-research-in-child-welfare-home-visiting-and-infant-removals-in-new-york-state/

The Program New York Says Helped Cut Newborn Removals to Foster Care
The Chronicle of Social Change, December 5, 2018
Sheltering Arms, one of 38 home visiting programs in the state's Healthy Families New York (HFNY) network that offer voluntary support to new and expecting mothers. State officials say HFNY is the primary reason why the number of newborns removed into foster care in the state has plummeted, with recent data showing a reduction of 33 percent from 2012 to 2016.
https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/child-welfare-2/the-program-new-york-says-helped-cut-newborn-removals-to-foster-care-in-half/32951

Major Data Release Set For Early 2019 as Recruitment Wraps up For Nations Largest Adolescent Brain-Study

Florida International University, December 3, 2018

The [ABCD Study](#) is a national landmark study on brain development and child health that could increase understanding of environmental, social, genetic, and other biological factors that affect brain and cognitive development. Findings could reveal factors that can enhance or disrupt a young person's life trajectory.

https://news.fiu.edu/2018/12/major-data-release-set-for-early-2019-as-recruitment-wraps-up-for-nations-largest-adolescent-brain-study/128440