Selected Articles: Data in the News
September 8 - December 4, 2018
Prepared by *i.e.* communications for the CWC Data Linkage Committee

California's Foster Youth Struggle in Transition to Adulthood, Report Finds
California Health Report - November 28, 2018
According to a new report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which draws together state and national data on foster youth transitioning to adulthood, California's transition age youth fare slightly better than the national average when it comes to finding a job and graduating from high school. But data shows that many foster youth aren't receiving the support they need to create stable lives once they leave foster care, and are less likely to receive a high school diploma or GED than their peers who haven't been in foster care.
http://www.calhealthreport.org/2018/11/28/californias-foster-youth-struggle-transition-adulthood-report-finds/

CHHS' New Data Dashboard Offers a Wealth of Data
Techwire - November 28, 2018
California's newly launched Health and Human Services Program Dashboard gathers participation data from seven different programs across four departments in an effort to provide a more comprehensive view of CHHS services.
https://www.techwire.net/news/chhs-new-data-dashboard-offers-wealth-of-data.html

Why America needs an Interstate Child Abuse and Neglect Registry
Child Welfare Monitor - November 28, 2018
The Adam Walsh Child Safety and Protection Act of 2006 required the Secretary of Health and Human Services to create a national registry of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect. Yet this registry was never created. Health and Human Services later downplayed the potential benefits of such a database in a study it released and suggested the registry would only be useful as a time-saving tool.
https://childwelfaremonitor.org/2018/11/27/why-america-needs-an-interstate-child-abuse-and-neglect-registry/

Foster Youth and Black Students are the Most Likely to be Suspended in School, New Data Show
San Diego Union-Tribune, November 20, 2018
Black students are more than twice as likely to be suspended as students overall in San Diego County, while foster youth are almost five times as likely to be suspended, according to a new batch of suspension data released by the state.
https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/sd-me-suspension-rates-20181120-story.html

Is the Government Really in Control of Its Algorithms?

Medium Technology - November 18, 2018
Just like the humans that designed them, algorithms and machine learning technologies carry biases wherever they go. Algorithm systems from Illinois to Los Angeles have been shut down due to unreliability or high rates of false positives, and even the system for the USDA food stamps program has shown evidence of racial bias. One solution to implicit bias is to have algorithms audited independently, a trend growing in the private sector.
https://medium.com/s/story/is-the-government-really-in-control-of-its-algorithms-6d5e1781bed2

Hundreds of Trafficked Girls, Thousands of Child Welfare Referrals
The Chronicle of Social Change - November 16, 2018
In Los Angeles, 85 percent of the youth picked up by law enforcement in sex trafficking raids have a history with child protective services, according to a new report that provides details on how the county serves exploited youth in the wake of new California laws. The data also indicates that exploited youth being served through the probation department are more often receiving specialized services than those being cared for through child welfare.
https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/csec/los-angeles-csec-report-child-welfare

The Importance of Sharing State and Local Child Welfare Data
The Chronicle of Social Change - November 15, 2018
The federal government is willing to pay up to half the bill for states that want to convert to a new Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System, designed to replace decades-old data exchange systems. Carole Hussey and Shell Culp, both of Public Consulting Group, discuss why these new systems are critical to the future of child welfare.
https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/top-stories/the-importance-of-sharing-state-local-child-welfare-data

California department does not maintain data on all foster care deaths
ABC 10 San Diego - November 15, 2018
An investigation has revealed that the California department responsible for the state's child welfare program does not maintain data regarding all deaths of children in foster care. The revelation is prompting calls for immediate action to child welfare services from some politicians.
https://www.10news.com/news/team-10/team-10-california-department-does-not-maintain-data-on-all-foster-care-deaths

As Foster Care Numbers Surge, Relative Caregivers Get Short Shrift
The Hill - November 8, 2018
Forty-four states saw an increase in relative placements from 2012 to 2016, according to federal data. In 23 of those states, more than half of all relative caregivers receive no assistance from state child welfare agencies.
https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/politics/415714-as-foster-care-numbers-surge-relative-caregivers-get-short

Foster Care Numbers Up for Fifth Straight Year, Federal Data Released Today Shows
The Chronicle of Social Change - November 8, 2018
The number of youth in foster care in America rose for a fifth consecutive year in 2017, according to a federal report released today. The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), draws foster care data from each state for its annual report.
https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/child-welfare-2/for-fifth-straight-year-u-s-foster-care-totals-were-up-in-2017/32717

OJJDP's New Direction Is Juvenile Justice Policymaking By Erasure
Juvenile Justice Information Exchange - October 29, 2018
The Trump administration's Department of Justice and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) have instituted policymaking changes that have alarmed advocates. These agencies are rolling back juvenile justice data collection, rescinding manuals on best practices, and changing policy language. Advocates see this as a red flag that will make it harder to understand how the juvenile justice system targets youth of color.
https://jjie.org/2018/10/29/ojjdps-new-direction-is-juvenile-justice-policymaking-by-erasure/

The New Sheriff In Human Trafficking Is Wielding Big Data
Forbes - October 11, 2018
Sherrie Caltagirone leads the Global Emancipation Network, a nonprofit organization that utilizes data to identify both human traffickers and victims. Caltagirone saw that long-running efforts to thwart trafficking needed an upgrade to keep up with traffickers, and her organization developed a system which identifies and tracks traffickers in response.
https://www.forbes.com/sites/devinthorpe/2018/10/11/the-new-sheriff-in-human-trafficking-is-wielding-big-data/#1c32fa017520

Data sharing and integration: Why it's worth it
NACo - September 16, 2018
When counties start to bring data pieces together, important connections are brought to light. For example, the capacity to share and link data across programs can increase access to high-quality early learning or home-visiting programs that can help a family cope with stress or trauma and avoid referral to the child welfare system. These practices may have an even greater impact if paired with convenient access to preventative medical care.
https://www.naco.org/articles/data-sharing-and-integration-why-it%E2%80%99s-worth-it

Helping States Reinvent Child Welfare Systems
Governing - September 11, 2018
The federal government published the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information Systems (CCWIS) rule in 2016. CCWIS is designed to give states the flexibility to design and implement a child welfare information system that meets their unique needs and give them an opportunity to rethink and redesign how they engage and serve families. Industry leaders have developed a

case management system and launched support websites and webinars to help inform states and the public about the new system.
http://www.governing.com/topics/health-human-services/Helping-States-Reinvent-Child-Welfare-Systems.html

Using Technology to Aid the Opioid Crisis' Innocent Victims
UNISYS - September 11, 2018
Today's technologies can help governments address the risks children and families face when affected by the Opioid Crisis. The possibilities start from the moment a caseworker identifies substance abuse as a problem. While technology is already used for monitoring the prescription and dissemination of opioids and to collect and analyze abuse and overdose data, there is much-untapped potential, including in areas of cyber-security and predictive analytics.
http://blogs.unisys.com/onpoint/using-technology-to-aid-the-opioid-crisis-innocent-victims/

Housing Help Can Be a Child Welfare Intervention
Youth Today - September 10, 2018
The Philadelphia Department of Human Services, recently took an innovative approach after seeing actionable data indicating that a lack of adequate and affordable housing was one driver of the length of time some kids spend in the child welfare system. Philadelphia has since launched an ambitious new initiative called Rapid Rehousing for Reunification to expedite reunification for families whose barrier is a lack of safe and affordable housing.
https://youthtoday.org/2018/09/housing-help-can-be-a-child-welfare-intervention/