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AISP Newsletter: February 2016

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AISP Network Sites in the News



[GovInnovator Interviews Erin Dalton, Allegheny County, to Discuss How the Use of IDS is Improving Human Services](#)

“Allegheny County, which includes Pittsburgh, is [recognized](#) as a [leader](#) in using data to improve the results of its human services programs. In particular, the county’s Department of Human Services (DHS) created its Data Warehouse in 1999. The initiative started by consolidating its own internal human services data relating to topics such as behavioral health, child welfare and homeless services. Over time, the warehouse expanded to include data from other county agencies as well as the Pittsburgh Public Schools.” Access the [full interview](#).

Additional Information

[ISD Scotland - Health and Social Care Data Integration and Intelligence Project](#)

[Ready by 21 National Meeting: March 29 - 31, 2016](#)

[NBER Working Paper Links Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Administrative Data](#)



“In "[Partners in Crime](#)," a new working paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research, economists Stephen Billings of the University of North Carolina Charlotte, Stephen Ross of the University of Connecticut at Storrs, and David Deming of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, linked school administrative data from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg public schools with Charlotte-Mecklenburg police arrest records.”

“They found concentrations of high-risk students living within a kilometer of each other don't necessarily increase arrests in that area—unless the students also are assigned to the same school.” Access the [NBER working paper](#).

The Center on Urban Poverty and
Community Development at



[Case Western Researchers Focus on Expanding Their Access to Academic Data Beyond Cleveland](#)

“Researchers at [Case Western Reserve University](#) are asking school districts outside of Cleveland to sign agreements to share academic data for individual students for their preschool research so suburban parents and school districts can know whether preschool matters a lot, or just a little, for their kids.”

“The academic data obtained from the school districts would go into the [ChildHood Integrated Longitudinal Data system \(CHILD\)](#) that Case and the county have been working on for several years.”

“The IDS already combines county records for birth certificates, publically-

subsidized child care, home visiting and early intervention, child abuse and neglect investigations, juvenile justice filings, welfare, food stamp and Medicaid participation into a single system.”

“This system allows county agencies to compare results of their aid across several agencies and investigate whether one service reduces the need for others.” Access the [full article](#).

[LA County Report Finds the County Spent Nearly \\$1 Billion on Social Services for Homeless People in 2015 by Evaluating Shared Data](#)



“The county’s Research and Evaluation Services Unit in the Chief Executive Office authored the [report](#) that analyzed the costs associated with providing services for single adults who are homeless. It is the first time the county has looked specifically at the cost of serving this population.”

“The report is part of a countywide focus on homelessness. For months county officials have been working alongside city leaders, advocates and service providers to come up with ways to reduce homelessness” and drafted [recommended strategies](#) to combat homelessness.

The report was done at the request of the county’s Homeless Initiative, which is directed by Phil Ansell. “These strategies address the complex factors associated with homelessness and the ways in which mainstream health, criminal justice and social services systems can work in tandem with the homeless services system to effectively combat homelessness,” Phil Ansell, the county’s Homeless Initiative Director, said in an interview. Access the complete [LA County report](#).

Administrative Data in the News

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL
Poverty Action Lab

TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO ACTION

J-PAL Creates Resources on How to Obtain and Use Nonpublic Administrative Data

“Administrative data are information collected, used, and stored primarily for administrative (i.e., operational), rather than research purposes. These data can be an excellent source of information for use in research and impact evaluation.”

“J-PAL North America has developed a [guide](#) that provides practical guidance on how to obtain and use nonpublic administrative data for a randomized evaluation. While many of the concepts in this guide are relevant across countries and contexts, certain sections are only applicable to research conducted in the United States.”

They have also created a [Catalog of Administrative Data Sets](#). “Specific requirements and processes for obtaining data vary by data source. To assist researchers in screening potential data sources, J-PAL North America has cataloged a number of key US data sets. The catalog documents procedures on how to access data based on information provided by the originating agencies.” Access the [complete article](#).

Pay for Success Programs are Demonstrating Importance in the Growing Movement of Evidence-based Policymaking, but Can They Survive – Administration Changes?

“Over the past two years, Congress has made pay for success an allowable use of funds in [education](#), [labor](#) and [transportation](#) legislation. A major unanswered question has been whether these funds will actually be tapped without the support of a central coordinating body, which the Government Accountability Office has suggested is needed.”

“Into this void has stepped a little-known initiative called the [Social Innovation Fund](#). During the past year, the program has been quietly [providing](#) funding for feasibility studies and technical assistance for dozens of early-stage projects across the country. While only some of them may reach fruition, the program is already filling the coordinating role that GAO and pay-for-success supporters in Congress and the administration have been calling for.”

“One recent Social Innovation Fund [project](#) is especially noteworthy because it is using the program's limited dollars to leverage a much larger pot of federal job training funds at the Labor Department. If successful, the effort could be a model for leveraging the other disparate pots of federal money that have been recently created by Congress.” Access the [full article](#).



[President Obama Releases Proposed Budget for 2017 Which Discusses Uses of Administrative Data](#)

President Obama's 2017 budget, Chapter 7, Building the Capacity to Produce and Use Evidence, discusses the importance of Administrative Data. Access Obama's complete [FY 2017 budget](#).

If you have any questions or comments or comments about the AISP Newsletter or AISP, please contact [Laura Kitson](#).

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