ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE

FOR SOCIAL POLICY

AISP Newsletter: January 2015

Administrative Data in the News

Getting Proactive in the Quest to Protect Student Data

The Department of Education's Kathleen Styles on the need for transparency in the shift toward data analytics in K–12 education.

"As Chief Privacy Officer for the U.S. Department of Education Kathleen Styles is the federal government's foremost authority on issues related to student data and privacy. A primary advisor to Secretary Arne Duncan, Styles heads up the ED's Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), a massive repository of guidance and information designed to help educators navigate the opportunities, and the potential pitfalls, of student data use."

"As schools look for opportunities to leverage data in the classroom, Styles talked with EdTech Focus on K-12 about the responsible collection of sensitive information, the need for transparency, and why it's important for every school system to establish guidelines for the responsible management, use and protection of valuable student data." Click here to read the full article.

Integrated data study shows that approximately 1 Million Unemployed Adults Will Lose SNAP Benefits in 2016 as State Waivers Expire: Affected Individuals Are Very Poor; Few Qualify for Other Help

"Roughly 1 million of the nation's poorest people will be cut off SNAP (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) over the course of 2016, due to the return in many areas of a three-month limit on SNAP benefits for unemployed adults aged 18-50 who aren't disabled or raising minor children." Click here to read the full article.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities used historical SNAP administrative data; data from USDA on historical trends in states' usage of waivers; and current county-level unemployment data to project that around 1 million of the poorest U.S. citizens will lose their food stamps if state waivers run out.

January 30, 2015.

Recap of the Best Data Visualization Tools from 2014

Check out VISUALOOP by Infogr.am for the best data visualization tools from 2014

Practical Advice on Preparing a Successful Proposal for the Low-Cost RCT Competition

The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy is hosting a Webinar on January 21, 2015 from 2:00-3:00 ET titled, "Practical Advice on Preparing a Successful Proposal for the Low-Cost RCT Competition. Please click here for more details.

Major Administrative Datasets of the U.S. Government — All in One Place

"An immense number of U.S. government agencies play a central role in the collection of a wide array of public data — vital statistics on health, transportation, commerce, finance, agriculture, and more."

"All this data gathering isn't inexpensive — the 13 agencies spend an estimated $3.7 billion annually on collection, processing and dissemination — but the benefits far outweigh the costs: In a 2014 report, the Commerce Department estimates that this information adds as much as $221 billion to the U.S. economy." Click here to read the full article.

Data Sharing and Analytics: Changing HHS For the Better

"In many states, IT planners in health and human services have sought ways to bridge the divide, gathering data from disparate sources across government to inform the public, drive better policy and improve social outcomes."

"As in many states, Missouri health information has resided in silos. Emergency room visits didn't get reported to home-care providers; primary-care doctors didn't necessarily share word of chronic conditions with other practitioners."

"All that is changing, as the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has begun a data-sharing project with the state's departments of Mental Health and Social Services." Click here to read the full article.

[U.S. Dept. of Education Releases for Public Feedback: A College Ratings Framework](#)

"The President directed the U.S. Department of Education to develop and publish a new college ratings system by the 2015-16 school year that would expand college opportunity by recognizing institutions that: excel at enrolling students from all backgrounds, focus on maintaining affordability, and succeed at helping all students graduate."

"This first version of college ratings will rely primarily on data from federal administrative data systems and data collections, including the [Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)](#), the [National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)](#), and earnings information." Click [here](#) to read the full article.

AISP in the news

[WA State: Washington Court and Recovery Enhancement System Outcome Evaluation](#)

"The Washington Court and Recovery Enhancement System (WA-CARES) provides recovery support services (RSS) to clients who access substance use disorder treatment through the drug court system. RSS aims to eliminate barriers to treatment success by providing services such as transportation and other basic needs like food and clothing to high risk clients."

"The Research and Data Analysis Division (RDA) of DSHS maintains a longitudinal, integrated client database (ICDB) containing over 10 years of detailed service risks, history, costs and outcomes. The ICDB measures in this report include: homelessness, employment and earnings, mental illness, Medicaid eligibility, basic food, substance use disorder treatment, convictions, and arrests." Click here to read the full article.

Camden, NJ Project Seeks Better Health and Safety Through Data-Sharing

"Soon, the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers will also be able to look at data from the criminal justice system, housing, and other public networks - information it hopes will lead the way to root causes of recurring problems."

"The coalition has made a mission of using data to tell stories about the population it serves, said Dawn Wiest, a senior research manager. To that end, it tapped Dennis Culhane, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Policy and Practice, to serve as a consultant."

"Culhane is in the midst of a nine-year project, funded by a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, that aims to show how integrated data systems can inform public policy and to help governments improve their systems." Click here to read full article.