



ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE
FOR SOCIAL POLICY

AISP Newsletter: July 2015

To view our newsletter online, please click [here](#).

AISP Network Sites in the News

[WA State Analyzes the 2013 National Youth in Transition Database Survey by Examining Outcomes Related to Education, Employment, Homelessness and Behavioral Health](#)



WA State's report, "An Analysis of the 2013 National Youth in Transition Database Survey for Washington State," "follows-up on an earlier National Youth in Transition Database survey of 19-year-old youth transitioning from foster care in Washington. Authors examine outcomes related to education, employment, and measures of stability among 370 youth who participated in the survey (88 percent eligible). We found 78 percent of respondents are no longer in foster care. Many youth report participating in education (53

Additional Information

RWJF Announces Funding Opportunity for Integrated Data Initiatives - The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recently issued information about a new initiative, [Data Across Sectors for Health \(DASH\): Empowering Communities Through Shared Data and Information](#). ([DASH](#))

percent), employment (30 percent), and job training (18 percent). Nine in ten youth have established close, supportive relationships with adults. The biggest reported challenge is housing instability, which was identified for 30 to 52 percent of respondents (depending on the question asked). Reported utilization of the behavioral health support system has dropped precipitously since two years ago, when the youth were 17 years of age and in foster care.” To access the full report, please click [here](#).

Administrative Data in the News



[The Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) Issues a Memorandum to Strongly Encourage Interagency Collaboration to Improve Statistical Activities](#)

OMB issued a memorandum for the “Heads of Selected Executive Departments and Agencies” on July 8, 2015 to encourage “the Federal statistical agencies and units, and their parent Departments, to build interagency collaboration that will help the Federal statistical community more effectively meet the information needs of the 21st century.” The memo specifically mentions sharing administrative data across agencies as one of the ways to achieve this goal. To access the full Memorandum, please click [here](#).

identifies and supports community collaborations and initiatives that have used shared data and information to increase their capacity for planning, implementing, and evaluating health improvement activities. RWJF will make six awards through DASH at up to \$200,000 per award. DASH Proposals are due July 29, by 3:00pm. Please click [here](#) for a full description of the CFP.



Government Technology Article Encourages Use of Integrated Administrative Data in Evaluating “Pay for Success” Initiatives

“Since PFS transactions came into the market three years ago, randomized control trials (RCTs) have been considered the ‘gold standard’ by which all deals should be evaluated. All other things being equal, RCTs are the most likely evaluation methodology to achieve strong causal validity; that is, they are best at determining the extent to which causality can be established between the intervention and the outcome (and/or impact) of interest.”

“Historically, RCTs have been time consuming and costly due to the need to collect supporting data, often through extensive surveys. However, an emerging trend is to use large administrative data sets — data that is collected for program administration or other operational purposes — to significantly lower the cost and improve the timeliness of low-cost RCTs. These low-cost RCTs provide a strong method for evaluation, while allowing for more widespread use, more transparency and the introduction of rapid cycle evaluations that can facilitate feedback for improved performance management. Low-cost RCTs address the cost barrier of traditional randomized trials by performing the assessment on existing programs, and evaluating outcomes with administrative data already in collection for the intervention.” To access the full article, please click [here](#).

GOVERNING
THE STATES AND LOCALITIES

[“The Causes, Costs and Consequences of Bad Government](#)

Data” article Provides Some Solutions to Improve Data Sharing

“At all levels of government right now, there's an intense focus on collecting information and using it to drive decision-making. Data analytics can be a powerful tool to help governments run more efficiently and effectively. But data analytics are only as good as the data itself.”

“In order for governments to address the issues of bad or nonexistent data, they need to understand the underlying causes of both.”

“In many states there is minimal sharing of data between technology systems that are run by separate agencies or even separate programs within the same agency.”

“Shouldn't the mental health department, for example, know what's happening to someone who is receiving mental health assistance within the Office of Aging and Adult Services? And vice versa?”

What are some of the solutions?

- “Provide better definitions of what computer fields mean, creating data inventories so that states know what information they have, building system controls to prevent inputting errors, making sure that workers who are inputting data are trained and supervised, and teaching managers to use the data they receive in reports from vendors.”
- “Creating or improving data governance”
- “Consider the whole range of agencies that can possibly use that information, beyond the single one that's actually collecting it.”

Please click [here](#) to access the full article.