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AISP Newsletter: June 2016
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AISP Network Sites in the News

[Claudia Coulton's Mission to Collect and Analyze Data has Become a Model for Academics and Nonprofits Around the Country](#)

The Center on Urban Poverty and
Community Development at



“For close to four decades, Coulton and her colleagues have amassed on-the-ground data and analytical studies to better inform policymakers. But they have done even more.”

“In the early 1990s, they were pioneers in transforming how information was compiled and analyzed—effectively helping to create Big Data before the term was popularized. Today, the center's free, public online system is used by governments, organizations and interested citizens to turn kaleidoscopes of millions of disparate factoids into crystal-clear patterns.”

Additional Information

[CALL FOR PAPERS: Education and Learning in the Context of Childhood Abuse, Neglect, and Related Stressors](#)



“Leading by example, Coulton has demonstrated how her profession can harness reams of information for the public good. “Data has changed the conversation,” she said.”

"In figuring out how to match community data and [anonymous] individual records to generate valuable insights without compromising privacy, Case Western Reserve University has been a leader," said Alaina Harkness, who, until recently, was a senior program officer at the MacArthur Foundation, which has supported Coulton's work. (Harkness now is a fellow with the Brookings Institution.) "Claudia is the model that we need: a translator who can bridge academics, practitioners and policymakers. She is a source of inspiration, grounded locally and globally influential." Access the [complete article](#).

[AISP Network Members Co-Authored Article in Children and Youth Services Review, “From Foster Care to Juvenile Justice” Offers Free Download Until July 28, 2016](#)

"From foster care to juvenile justice: Exploring characteristics of youth in three cities" an article co-authored by Claudia Coulton, David Crampton, Nina Lalich and researchers from Rutgers, University of Chicago, and the Department of Health and Human Services in New York, is available as a [free download](#) from Children and Youth Services Review until July 28, 2016. The three city study analyzed the rates that children involved in foster care cross over into the juvenile justice system, and the factors associated with that crossover. The project was sponsored by the Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy Network at the University of Pennsylvania.” Access the [free download](#).

Administrative Data in the News

[Kathy Stack Discusses the Role of Evidence in the Policymaking Process with the Centre for Public Impact](#)



“In her role as advisor for evidence-based innovation at OMB, Stack sought to help agencies use data and evidence to make better decisions. There was certainly no shortage of areas to focus on. After all, the federal government spends tens of billions annually on social programmes – many of which deliver results that are far from optimal.”

“Under the Obama administration, we designed a set of new programmes that authorised the largest grants for strategies and interventions which have the strongest evidence that they work – the safest bets, in other words,” she says. “But these new programme designs also allowed for some smaller grants for strategies that have promising evidence. We also ‘stole’ social impact bonds from our friends in the UK, and called them [‘Pay for Success’](#). These types of projects have taken off and are being implemented at the federal level, as well as the state and local level. And we have a number of programmes where we offer flexibility to states and localities on the condition that they conduct rigorous evaluation.”

“Clearly, this pattern of work is a tale of progress made, but Stack believes there is far more that can still be achieved – starting with harnessing the administrative data that lies, often hidden and quiet, in different corners of government. “There are all kinds of high-value datasets that sit in various agencies that are used to administer various programmes, but they tend to be locked up in their individual silos,” she says. “It often takes years to get data-sharing agreements in place for one ad hoc study, and I think people are recognising there is a gold mine there if we can create an infrastructure to support it. We want to be able to link data across programmes at different

levels of government, including looking at ways to include private sector data where appropriate.” Access the [complete article](#).

[Camden Coalition’s Dr. Brenner on Data and Social Determinants of Health](#)



Dr. Jeffrey Brenner, Camden Coalition’s founder and Executive Director, talks about the process of building their [Health Information Exchange](#) in this newly released report on using integrated data to address social determinants of health from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Access the [complete report](#).

[House Speaker Paul Ryan \(R-WI\) Announces the Launch of “A Better Way”](#)



“Our nation is on the wrong path. We can complain about it, but that won't change things. To get America back on track, we have to raise our gaze. We have to go bold. That's what A Better Way is about. It is a full slate of ideas to address some of the biggest challenges of our time. Developed with input from around the country, it looks past this president to what we can achieve in 2017 and beyond. It is our vision for a confident America, at home and abroad.”

Pages 19 – 22 discusses evidence-based policy making and the use of administrative data:

“Ensuring policymakers have access to high-quality administrative data is essential for evidence-based policymaking. There is already extensive administrative data, and tested protocols are in place to facilitate the merging of information and to ensure confidentiality. Yet agencies fail to share data with each other in ways that might improve program outcomes. Further, statutory

restrictions often prevent agencies from sharing data with researchers who may be able to help the federal government identify solutions. We should make information is available while ensuring that individuals privacy is protected.” Access the [complete plan](#).

“Mathematica Launches RCT-YES Software to Support Program Evaluation”



“Mathematica Policy Research has launched a new software tool that makes it easier and more cost-effective for public program leaders and decision makers to use research evidence to evaluate the impact of their programs. The free, user-friendly RCT-YESTM software supports sophisticated analysis and reporting of results from randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and other types of evaluation designs.”

“Mathematica developed RCT-YES for the [Institute of Education Sciences \(IES\)](#), under a contract from the institute’s [National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance](#), to support state education agencies and school districts. In addition to education, RCT-YES can be used across a range of public program settings.”

“RCT-YES has a simple interface, requires no programming, and offers rigorous data analysis capabilities based on [state-of-the-art statistical methods](#) developed for the software.” Access the [complete article](#).

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