



**ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE**  
FOR SOCIAL POLICY

## AISP Newsletter: May 2015

### AISP Network Sites in the News

[“Sharing Data Key to Improving Foster Care Outcomes” Article Highlights Allegheny County’s Use of Administrative Data to Improve Outcomes for Children and Youth in Foster Care](#)



Erin Dalton, Deputy Director for Allegheny County’s Department of Human Services (DHS), remarked that, by linking data across the child welfare and education systems, they “found that over half of the kids in Pittsburgh Public Schools have or have had some involvement in [DHS]. Over the last several years, the department has built tools that push data from the school systems to the DHS systems, allowing child welfare workers to see a student’s absences, GPA, standardized test scores, etc. They’ve also built alerts into the system to notify

### Additional Information

#### [The Laura and John Arnold Foundation](#)

Launches Evidence-Based Policy and Innovation Division in Washington, D.C.  
Click [here](#) for the full press release.

#### [WDQC](#)

is launching a series of short videos that highlight how states are using education

case workers if a child has three or more absences per week.”

“There are reasons for these large child-serving systems to be working together,” said Dalton. “There is a lot of cross-system involvement and also these are tens of thousands of kids – it’s not a small problem you can easily wrap your arms around. Within-school-year moves are really tough for kids in terms of absenteeism and lower GPA. But there are things the schools can do and there are things child services can do to minimize school disruptions – so it’s actionable if we are all on the same page.” Please click [here](#) to access the article.

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### [Research Using Linked Administrative Data Cited in Effort to Bridge Service Gap for Dually Involved Youth](#)

The Chronicle of Social Change cites [AISP co-Director Dennis Culhane’s 2011 study](#) on crossover youth in Los Angeles County to demonstrate the necessity of ensuring that this group receives appropriate social services. Culhane and colleagues linked administrative data from the child welfare and juvenile justice systems in order to observe the adult outcomes for youth involved in both systems, compared to youth involved in only one of these systems. Results from this study demonstrated that use of adult services was higher across the board for youth that exited from both dependent and delinquent care.

The Chronicle reports that California state legislators are currently working to amend a bill to make it easier for crossover youth to access extended foster care. Further, they note that The Children’s Law Center of California, the nonprofit law firm that represents all children in foster care in Los Angeles and Sacramento Counties, launched a grant-funded Crossover Advocacy and Resource Effort (CARE) pilot program in 2014 to make sure that dually

states are using education and workforce data to advance their skilled workforce and better align with industry demand – Please click [here](#) to access the first video.

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involved youth receive the services they need.

The evaluation of CARE's efforts depicts a picture of its crossover clients that is strikingly similar to what Culhane and other researchers found in looking at the county's larger crossover population. More than 50 percent of the youth are African-American and came under DCFS' supervision due to neglect. Two-thirds have a mental health diagnosis (such as ADHD, depressive disorder, mood disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, or PTSD), and 80 percent of youth had a substance use problem at the time of referral.

The original research by Culhane and colleagues was funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, which has also funded a replication study in New York City being conducted by the Center for Innovation and Data Intelligence, an AISP Network member.

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

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## Administrative Data in the News

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### Multiple Bills Seeking to Amend FERPA

The following officials have all recently introduced bills to amend FERPA regulations. Click on the below links to access more detailed information about each piece of proposed legislation:



- [Sen. David Vitter \(R-La.\)](#)
- [Sens. Orrin Hatch \(R-Utah\) and Ed Markey \(D-Mass.\)](#)
- [Reps. Jared Polis \(D-Colo.\) and Luke Messer \(R-Ind.\)](#)
- Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) is expected to introduce another bill on this subject soon.



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## [Learning More from the Data the Federal Government Already Collects](#)

### [“The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#)

[\(WIOA\)’s](#) proposed regulations encourage States to leverage their “administrative data” for maximum

effect. Administrative data are data that are already collected by government entities for program administration, regulatory, or law enforcement purposes. In this context, administrative data include, for example, participant enrollment information and State-held unemployment insurance (UI) records on employment and earnings. Being able to match these data is essential for States to reliably and cost-effectively generate accurate information about the employment outcomes that employment, education, and training programs achieve. It’s equally essential that States conduct these matches while protecting the privacy or confidentiality of these data, and that we ensure that personally identifiable, individual-level data are not disclosed to private entities without an individual’s consent. The proposed regulations provide clarity on the structures that States can use to do that: match participant enrollment information, including information from training providers, with State-held UI employment and earnings records while maintaining the privacy and confidentiality.” Click [here](#) to access the full article.

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## [New Study by Raj Chetty Finds Positive Impact of the Moving to Opportunity Experiment by Using Administrative Data](#)

“The Effects of Exposure to Better Neighborhoods on Children: New Evidence from the Moving to Opportunity



Experiment”



“The Moving to Opportunity (MTO) experiment offered randomly selected families living in high-poverty housing projects housing vouchers to move to lower-poverty neighborhoods. We present new evidence on the impacts of MTO on children's long-term outcomes using administrative data from tax returns.”

As a result, The New York Times developed a series of articles ([article 1](#); [article 2](#)) covering the new MTO evaluation results as well as place-based economic mobility more generally. They also created [an interactive map](#) that allows users to look at how the county a child grows up in affects their earnings as an adult.

Please click [here](#) for the full report.



[Corporation for National and Community Service \(CNCS\)'s Social Innovation Fund offers First Resource on Pay for Success Program](#)

**“State of the Pay for Success Field: Opportunities, Trends and Recommendations”** is the first resource released by the Social Innovation Fund, as part of its goal to enhance knowledge in the field and begin to test and address questions around the applicability and efficacy of Pay for Success.”

“The report offers compelling insight into the rapidly growing field of Pay for Success, common elements of PFS projects to date, opportunities for local and state governments and nonprofit service providers to learn from existing projects, and recommendations for the social sector to consider, in order to

spur even more growth in the field.” Please click [here](#) for the full report.

Many state-led Pay for Success programs are looking into the establishment of integrated data systems as part of their planning and evaluation efforts.

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[MDRC: One-Year Impact Findings from the Youth Villages Transitional Living Evaluation](#)



This study used linked administrative and survey data to evaluate YVLifeSet, a program in Tennessee “that offers individualized services to young people who are making the transition from foster care or juvenile justice custody to independent adulthood.” MDRC’s results showed that after one year, program participants saw increased earnings, reduced homelessness and material hardship, as well as improved outcomes related to health and safety. Please click [here](#) to access the full report.

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If you have any questions or comments, please contact Laura Kitson at [lckitson@sp2.upenn.edu](mailto:lckitson@sp2.upenn.edu)  
Visit us at [www.aisp.upenn.edu](http://www.aisp.upenn.edu)

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