



ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE

FOR SOCIAL POLICY

AISP Newsletter: September 2015

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Spotlight

Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy Launches New Website

After several months of reconstruction and redesign, the new AISP website can now be



Additional Information

**University of Wisconsin –
Madison to open Federal
Statistical Research Data
Center**

viewed at www.aisp.upenn.edu. If you have links to our old website, please view the new site to update your links or you can reach out to lckitson@sp2.upenn.edu for assistance.

AISP Network Sites in the News



[AISP Network's Partner in Charlotte, North Carolina, The Institute for Social Capital, Releases the ISC Codebook](#)

The [ISC Codebook](#) is a newly launched tool to help researchers better understand the data within the ISC Community Database. With 12 data deposits, representing over 44 data sharing agreements, the codebook provides in-depth information on the process of utilizing the ISC Community Database as well as the data it holds. Researchers can learn more about each data depositor, see which fields are available for request, review documentation about the complexities of each dataset, and learn how to request data for research projects. The codebook is designed to be updated continuously and informed by depositors, researchers and subject matter experts using the data. Please click [here](#) to access the ISC Codebook.

[Philadelphia Organizations Use Integrated Data to Examine Early Childhood Risks in Philadelphia](#)



“The [Data Management Office \(DMO\)](#) in the Deputy Mayor’s Office for Health

President Obama signed an [executive order](#) directing federal agencies to collaborate with the White House’s new Social and Behavioral Sciences Team to use insights from behavioral science research to better serve the American people. [New York Times Review](#) discusses, "[How do we really feel about Policy "nudges"?](#)"



and Opportunity partnered with the [Penn Child Research Center](#) at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education to create a data model that tracks evidence-based early risk experiences for children 0 to 5 years old. The DMO houses an innovative integrated data system (IDS) that links individual records across City agencies for approved operational and research purposes. This is made possible through data-sharing agreements and by maintaining strict confidentiality of all records in line with all federal and state privacy regulations." Please click [here](#) to access the full report.

Administrative Data in the News



[Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Creates an Integrated Longitudinal Dataset by Linking State-based](#)

[Administrative Data](#)

"Because individual administrative databases tend to be specific to particular agencies or programs, taken separately many of them are of modest use to researchers. For social scientists, the value of these databases increases dramatically when they are linked to each other. When databases are linked, researchers can associate individual or household characteristics with information regarding individual and household payments, collections, location, income sources, employment, education, and other indicators of performance. Databases formed by linking information from several administrative databases typically enable the relevant linked variables to be observed over time." Please click [here](#) to access the full report.

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Releases Working Paper on Education and Administrative Data



“Thanks to extraordinary and exponential improvements in data storage and computing capacities, it is now possible to collect, manage, and analyze data in magnitudes and in manners that would have been inconceivable just a short time ago. As the world has developed this remarkable capacity to store and analyze data, so have the world’s governments developed large-scale, comprehensive data files on tax programs, workforce information, benefit programs, health, and education. While these data are collected for purely administrative purposes, they represent remarkable new opportunities for expanding our knowledge. This chapter describes some of the benefits and challenges associated with the use of administrative data in education research. We also offer specific case studies of data that have been developed in both the Nordic countries and the United States, and offer an (incomplete) inventory of data sets used by social scientists to study education questions on every inhabited continent on earth.” Click [here](#) to access the full paper.



Data Quality Campaign Releases Summary Describing the Evolution of the National Conversation about Student Data Privacy

“Last year, growing state and district use of education data and increased public attention to the ways in which these data are collected, used, managed, and disclosed

sparked much conversation in statehouses around the country about the value of data and how they are protected. Student data (e.g., demographics, transcripts, attendance, test scores, outcomes, etc.) are an important tool for policymakers, educators, and families as they seek ways to support students and improve education experiences and pathways. Safeguarding data is a critical component of effective data use, and this complex and critical issue has continued to evolve over the last year. The student data privacy bills introduced in 2015 reflect both continued and newly developing student data privacy conversations in states and at the federal level.” Please click [here](#) to access the full summary.

[Building an Integrated Population Health Database \(iPHD\) for New Jersey](#)

“The iPHD is an integrated data system linking health data with other social administrative datasets while safeguarding the privacy and security of the data. The Center for State Health Policy (“CSHP”) at Rutgers University’s Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research would house the iPHD and allow access to authorized entities, such as policy-makers, researchers, certified local Medicaid accountable care organizations (ACOs), and other public support programs. The purpose of the iPHD is to facilitate research and the development of the most effective means for improving the health, safety, security, and well-being of New Jersey residents and the overall cost-efficiency of government programs.” Click [here](#) to access the iPHD for New Jersey White Paper and [here](#) to access the Draft Legislation for NJ (PDF).

National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families Issues a Brief on Integrated Data Systems to Support Services for Low-Income Hispanic Families



“Prior to the development of IDS, the wealth of information regarding individuals’ participation in health and social service programs typically was collected and analyzed separately by each specific program or agency. While such analyses can provide important information about families’ service use within that program/agency, it offers limited insight into families’ service use across multiple programs or agencies. For example, using only child care subsidy data, an examination of the patterns of child care subsidy use by Hispanic families would not necessarily take into account these families’ use of other types of public assistance programs (e.g., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, etc.). IDS bridge this gap and allows for a more comprehensive examination of factors related to service use by linking data and allowing for analyses to be conducted across multiple programs and/or agencies that support low-income families with young children.”

“This brief explores how IDS data may be an important and cost-efficient resource for better understanding public service use among low-income Hispanics in the United States. This understanding could, in turn, inform policies and practices aimed at this population.” Please click [here](#) to access the full report.



The Journal of the American Medical Association
Reports on Fusing Randomized Trials with Big

Data

“This Viewpoint proposes ways that electronic health records and other “big data” can be integrated with randomized trial designs to leverage the strengths of both for research inferences.”

“RCTs offer causal inference, and big data offers the potential for low-cost, high-volume, nuanced answers with immediate feedback. Rather than debate which is better, the greatest promise may come from fusing them.”
Please click [here](#) for the abstract.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Laura Kitson at lckitson@sp2.upenn.edu
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