



AISP Announcements



Congratulations to
AISP's John Fantuzzo
on his recent election to the
National Academy of Education!

Congratulations to AISP co-founder John Fantuzzo on his recent election to the *National Academy of Education (NAEd)*, an organization that focuses on advancing rigorous education research and its use in policy and practice.

Dr. Fantuzzo is an expert in the field of early childhood education as well as a pioneer in the use of linked administrative data to better understand and improve student experiences. He has devoted his career to improving the educational well-being of vulnerable children and will be an exceptional addition to the Academy.

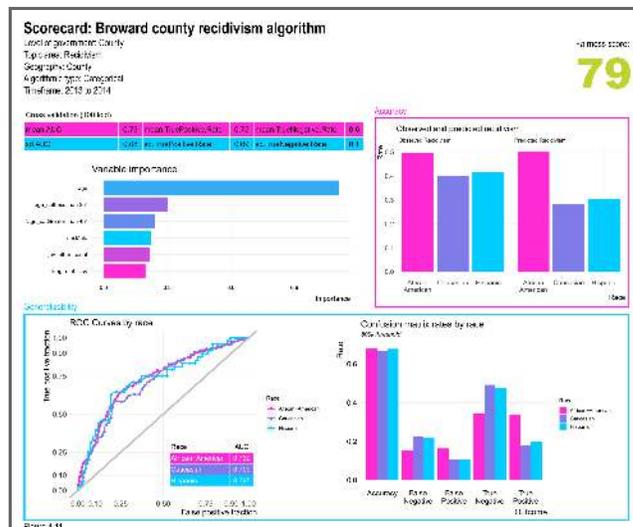
[Read more about Fantuzzo's exemplary contributions to the field here.](#)

[Read Dr. Fantuzzo's most recent research on early childhood and IDS here.](#)

New "Algorithmic fairness" primer from our partners at Urban Spatial

Pennsylvania's School of Design. Goldstein is a Data Science Fellow at Urban Spatial.

Research has revealed a persistent pattern of discrimination resulting from predictive tools used by governments; “when algorithms are trained on data from historically disenfranchised communities, including those subjected to systematic over-policing,” Steif explained in a recent blog post about the new publication, “their predictions may inevitably be biased.”



Steif and Goldstein created the primer to help government data scientists and policy makers evaluate their own algorithms for bias in an effort to alleviate the issue. Using case studies with code examples, readers can evaluate and improve the tools they currently use or plan to employ in the future. The authors also promote the concept of an open source repository of government algorithmic “scorecards” that would enable stakeholders to compare across use cases and code. By offering action steps and practical recommendations to improve the public-sector’s use of algorithms, the paper makes a significant contribution to promoting the equitable use of data in political and policy spaces.

[Access a short blog post on the work here.](#)
[Access the full paper and codebase here.](#)

AISP Network Sites

Wisconsin's Institute for Research on Poverty releases new research on early motherhood risk factors

A recent study from the University of Wisconsin-Madison assessed both the prevalence and risk factors for early motherhood among three different groups of youth: low-income, maltreated, and foster youth. This study differentiates itself from similar work by using administrative records from the Wisconsin Multi-Sample Person File (MSPF), the state’s integrated data system. The MSPF, which is housed at the [Institute for Research on Poverty](#), was utilized to consider the temporal relationship of birth and foster care (i.e., whether the births were conceived before, during, or after placement).

Through the MSPF, researchers linked administrative data across State-Administered Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), SNAP, TANF/cash welfare, Medicaid, child support orders, state prisons, and Department of Public Instruction to estimate the relative risk of early motherhood among the three groups. Findings showed that youth involved with Child Protective Services (CPS) and/or foster care were at significantly higher risk of early motherhood than low-income youth, which, the authors note, cannot be explained by a range of sociodemographic and

Perhaps more surprisingly, findings also indicate that, although young women involved with CPS and foster care are at high-risk for early motherhood, CPS and foster care are unlikely to be causal agents. The risk is greater *prior* to their placement rather than during or after these experiences. The study then posits that the programs may mitigate or reduce future risk. The “sustained protective effect” of foster care placement, however, only persists among youth who are adopted or achieve another form of permanency; this subgroup is half as likely to experience early motherhood compared to young women who are reunified with their biological family. The authors argue that these outcomes speak to the contrasts in financial resources and other supports offered to reunited biological families as compared to nonparental homes, such as foster or adoptive families—the policy and program implications of which could be significant.

The article ends with a substantial call for future research that replicates this analysis over longer observation periods and includes additional risk factors, such as family or neighborhood context.

[Read more about the study here.](#)

University of Miami highlights Miami-Dade County data integration efforts to study early childhood

Congratulations to University of Miami (UM) Researcher Rebecca Bulotsky Shearer and the rest of our [Cohort 2 Learning Community](#) team from Miami-Dade County on recent coverage of their efforts to integrate data to study early childhood access and Kindergarten readiness!

Data partners on the project include the Miami-Dade County [Children’s Trust](#), Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the [Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe](#), Head Start/Early Head Start, and local Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Early Intervention programs. UM’s Center for Computational Science also plays an important role in facilitating the data linkage so researchers can identify and track students across time and siloed programs.

Together, the team is working to leverage and institutionalize a data model originally created for a study funded by the U.S. Department of Education in 2014 so it can be used routinely to answer pressing policy questions and improve child outcomes in Miami-Dade County. As Shearer notes, “What’s important is that we’re developing relationships within the community to create the interventions that close the kindergarten-readiness gap.”

[Read the article here.](#)

IDS in the News

New blog post from ADRF Network on latest IJPDS issue

The most recent [Administrative Data Research Facility \(ADRF\)](#) blog highlights the [latest issue of](#)

from our [2nd annual ADRF Network Research Conference](#) in Washington, D.C. The conference was co-convened by AISP, the ADRF Network, and [Georgetown University's Massive Data Institute](#); IJPDS served as the official publisher.

[Read the blog post here.](#)

In Chronicle of Social Change, "Connecting Home Visiting, Early Care, and Education Will Benefit Families"

“

When these entities link early childhood data to state or local integrated data systems, it is easier for policymakers to answer critical policy questions about how families experience these services and whether children or families benefit from the services later in life.

”

Child Trends' deputy chief operating officer, Lauren Supple, and senior research scientist, Kelly Maxwell, recently published a column in the Chronicle for Social Change that's part of an ongoing series of posts highlighting commonalities across home visiting and early care and education. The authors demonstrate a need for better coordination across these specific programs—which too often operate in silos due to differing funding sources, administrative oversight, and being located across multiple agencies—to improve programs and services delivery for families and children. Supple and Maxwell outline steps to improve early childhood data linkage through a state or local IDS infrastructure. They

argue that, while the early care and education field has made gains in linking data across systems, there has been less progress in connecting to home visiting data. However, the authors point to five states that are currently working to successfully integrate early care and education data with home visiting data.

The authors also highlight the importance of state commitment to strengthening its workforce (e.g., home visitors, daycare workers, and pre-k teachers) through coordinated professional development opportunities across systems, as well as supporting activities that allow more direct connection between home visiting programs and early care and education programs so service can be better coordinated.

[Read the article here.](#)

[Access Child Trends' Guidelines for Developing Data Sharing Agreements to Use State Administrative Data for Early Care and Education Research here.](#)

Update on Nurse Family Partnership evaluation using linked administrative data

J-PAL Executive Director MaryAnn Bates highlighted the use of linked administrative data to enable government and private lenders to implement health care delivery innovations at the [Sorenson Impact Center's](#) Winter Innovation Summit earlier this month. Specifically, Bates highlighted an on-going initiative in South Carolina that leverages state administrative data to evaluate the impact of Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) programs on maternal and child health outcomes.

The study, which began in 2016, seeks to evaluate the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' innovative expansion of NFP over the course of four years. Researchers are



Government Human Services Contracting to support the building of stronger, results-focused partnerships between government, human service providers, and the community. [Click here to access the report.](#)



ICYMI: "The Art of Humanizing Social Systems" opinion piece

A pair of op-eds were recently published in the New York Times that examine "full frame" thinking in social services--a shift from isolated needs to a broad view that supports human well-being. [Click here to read.](#)



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