The 2016 Journal of Public Child Welfare
Special Issue Call for Papers on
Administrative/Big Data Sets and Child Welfare Research

DEADLINE: October 15, 2015

Administrative/big data systems can be a powerful tool in increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of public child welfare services. Every day, child welfare and social service agencies collect data about the children and families they serve. Agencies depend on this data to inform decision-making by personnel throughout the organization and to provide meaningful research and evaluation on program effectiveness.

Understanding, harnessing and using big data holds tremendous promise in creating transformative change in the social services. Data analytics and data mining can lead to a better understanding of what services work for specific populations (targeting and predictive modelling); provide a more nuanced understanding of service outcomes for the workforce and major stakeholders (transparency); and facilitate collaboration across existing service delivery programs to reduce duplication of services and allow for consumer access to services (efficiency).

The special issue on *Administrative/Big Data Sets and Child Welfare Research* would consist of methods, research and discussion related to administrative/big data sets and its impact on as well as implications for the field of child welfare. This call for papers solicits manuscripts reporting on original studies that illustrate framing the use and implications of administrative/big data sets research in effective child welfare administration, management, decision making, and practice:

An example list of topics we would solicit for the special issue include:

- Introduction to the use of Big Data in Child Welfare & Social Services Research (editors)
- Ethical, professional, and methods issues around the use of big data in child welfare services research
- Using big data in state and county level decision-making including data visualization and interpretation
- Developing data partnerships
- Empirical studies of child welfare outcomes using linked administrative data (i.e. workforce, juvenile justice, mental health, vital records, etc.)
- Public health impacts of big data
- Predictive modeling using big data in the social services
- Linking administrative data systems to facilitate collaboration

Submission guidelines and procedures:
- Provide a title page with author(s)' identifying information (name, degree, title, affiliation, mail and email addresses, phone number);
- Provide an abstract page of no more than 150 words;
- Format using APA 6th edition publication style and Microsoft Word;

- Do not exceed 25 double-spaced pages in length, including all tables, figures, and references;
- Submit online at **http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/wpcw**;
- Indicate **Administrative/Big Date Use and Implications for Child Welfare Special Issue**

All manuscripts will be reviewed using a double blind, peer review process, and authors will receive written reviews.   Please contact the Guest Editors with questions.

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