



Department of Community
and Human Services

YOUTH TOPICS NEWSLETTER

IN THE OCTOBER 14 EDITION:

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EVENTS

Unity Day (October 14)

In recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month, the Mayor's Campaign to End Bullying invites Alexandrians of all ages to wear green to show their support for a Bully-Free Alexandria. Social media users are also encouraged to hashtag posts and photos with #Green4BullyFree. Alexandria is hosting a series of [activities](#) during October to raise awareness about how to identify, respond to, and prevent bullying, including sports days, family nights, school and recreation activities, and a youth poster contest.

Titan Takeover Teen Night (October 14)

The *Keepit360 Club* of the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy and *Above the Influence Club* of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria are hosting an evening of fun activities from 7 – 10 p.m. at the William Ramsay Recreation Center (5650 Sanger Avenue) featuring basketball, video games, a candy station, gift card raffle, and giveaways. To attend, text "Titan" to 30644 or email [Kim Hurley](#).

Tough to Be a Teen (October 19)

The workshop on social-emotional wellness for middle school and high school families will share new tools and strategies that can be used to nurture the strengths of teens, bolster their self-esteem, and build resiliency. Scheduled for 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of Minnie Howard (3801 W. Braddock Road), a pizza dinner, childcare, and interpretation services will be provided with [registration](#).

Soil to Soul Fundraiser (October 20)

Jackson 20 and Monaco Alexandria will host a block party fundraiser benefitting the Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market SNAP/EBT Double Dollar Program. The evening will feature seasonal food from local farms and restaurants prepared by local chefs from Jackson 20, Vermillion, Ashiar, and Barba by Robert Weidmaier utilizing ingredients and produce available at the Old Town Farmers' Market. The event from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Monaco Hotel (480 King Street) will also feature live entertainment and a cash bar featuring a selection of Virginia wines and local beers. [Tickets](#) are \$35 per person; \$25 from each ticket sold will support the SNAP/EBT Double Dollar Program.

2016 Red Ribbon Week (October 23 – October 31)

Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention awareness campaign celebrated every October. Elementary students are invited to participate in a [poster](#) contest; middle and high school students are invited to participate in a [video](#) contest.

IMPACT Early Care & Education Forum (October 26)

The ACT for Alexandria forum will explore the critical issues facing Alexandria related to early care and education, and how the community can work collaboratively to address them. The [event](#) from 8:30 a.m. to Noon will be held at First Baptist Church of Alexandria (2932 King Street).

Beyond Poverty: Brain-Inspired Ways to Understand and Respond to Poverty (October 26)

A [workshop](#) from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in Baltimore will delve into the biological aspects of toxic stress and offer specific, immediately applicable tools for building an environment inspired by neurogenesis, which reverses the impact of toxic stress. The fee is \$149.

Volunteers are the Heart of Alexandria (October 26)

Celebrate the 2016 Volunteers of the Year: Kerry Donley, Maria Cabrera, Roy Gingrich, Day'Quon Henderson, Marco Johnson and the American Legion Post #24. The event takes place from 6 – 8:30 p.m. at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (600 Dulany Street) and will feature a silent auction and food from local restaurants. [Tickets](#) are \$20.

No Worries – Coping Strategies for Anxious Preschool and Elementary Children (October 26)

The workshop from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of Minnie Howard (3801 W. Braddock Road) will share practical tools and strategies that help children manage their anxiety and stress as well as change anxious thinking and build resilience. A pizza dinner, childcare, and interpretation are provided with [registration](#).

Meet the Employer: Interviewing From the Employer's Perspective featuring the City of Alexandria Fire Department (October 27)

An informational session hosted by the Workforce Development Center and presented by the Alexandria Fire Department is for all with an interest in finding out what it takes to begin a career in fire and rescue. The [event](#) will provide an inside look at what it takes and how to prepare.

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CAREERS/VOLUNTEERISM

Your Schools Need YOU! Join an Advisory Committee

The Alexandria City School Board has [openings](#) on the following advisory committees: Budget Advisory Committee, Athletic Hall of Fame Advisory Committee, Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee, School Health Advisory Board, Special Education Advisory Committee, and the Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee. [Learn](#) more about each committee, its members, its objectives and its past work.

College Scholarship Program

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation assists high-achieving low-income students reach their full potential through education and sponsors the largest undergraduate scholarship program in the country. Scholarship recipients are awarded as much as \$40,000 per year for four years to cover the cost of tuition, books, living expenses, and other fees. Up to forty spaces are available to high-achieving high school seniors with financial need who seek to attend the best four-year colleges and universities in the nation. In addition to financial support, the program offers an on-staff adviser to help students transition to college and maximize their campus experience, a network of scholars, and opportunities students might not otherwise have access to, including funding for internships, study abroad, and graduate study. [Applicants](#) must plan to graduate from a U.S. high school in the spring of 2017 and enroll in an accredited four-year college in the fall of 2017; earn a cumulative, unweighted G.P.A. of 3.5 or above; receive an SAT combined math and critical reading score of 1200 or above or an A.C.T. composite score of 26 or above; and demonstrate unmet financial need. Applications are due November 30.

Arts Scholarship Program

The Anthony Quinn Foundation supports the extracurricular study of the visual arts and design, performing arts, media arts, and/or literary arts by high school students. [Scholarships](#) of \$1,000 to \$2,500 and may be used for a recognized pre-college, summer, or afterschool arts education program. Applicants must be high school students with exceptional talent, a strong commitment to personal artistic growth, and a need for financial support. Applications must be received by November 28.

Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Awards

The ASCAP Foundation in partnership with the Herb Alpert Foundation is accepting applications for [awards](#) designed to encourage young jazz composers. A cash prize will be awarded that will be shared equally among the co-writers of each musical work or composition. Applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United

States or enrolled as a student with a student visa, and under the age of 30 as of December 31. Applications are due December 1.

Artist Fellowships

Lighthouse Works, a nonprofit arts organization, is accepting applications for its [fellowship program](#) on Fishers Island, New York. Fellowships are six weeks in length and occur year-round. Fellows are provided with housing, food, studio space, a \$250 travel allowance, and a stipend of \$1,500 to defray the costs of shipping materials, the purchase of art supplies, and other expenses incurred in making art in a remote location. While the program accepts artists working in a wide range of disciplines, it is best able to accommodate visual artists, writers, and musicians. Applications are due October 15.

Artist as Activist Fellowship

The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation is accepting applications for an annual program that provides up to \$100,000 over two years to artists in support of an ambitious creative work that tackles the theme of racial justice, with a particular focus on mass incarceration. U.S.-based artists and artist collectives seeking to work full-time on a project are encouraged to apply. [Fellowships](#) pay up to \$100,000 over a two-year period. An informational webinar on October 27 at 3 p.m. Applications are due December 5.

Roy Scrivner Memorial Research Grant

The [program](#) of the American Psychological Foundation encourages talented students to engage in LGBT family issues through basic or applied research; advance the understanding of problems faced by LGBT families, including those associated with cultural, racial, socioeconomic, and family structure diversity; advance the understanding of successful coping mechanisms, including sources of support and resilience for family members; and advance the understanding of clinical issues and interventions in the domain of LGBT. Applicants must be an advanced graduate student in good standing who is endorsed by a supervising professor and can demonstrate commitment to LGBT family issues, particularly through their dissertation research plans. A single grant of up to \$15,000 will be awarded annually. Applications are due November 1.

Minority Initiative Award

The [awards](#) by the American Physical Therapy Association recognize planned, comprehensive initiatives by physical therapy education programs that assist in the recruitment, admission, retention, and graduation of minority students and/or programs designed to sustain or increase the number of minority faculty recruited, employed, and retained over a period of at least three years. Recipients will receive an engraved plaque and a monetary award of \$2,500. Eligible programs include those that are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education and have been in operation for at least three years. Nominations are due December 1.

Runnerclick Sports & Academic Scholarship

Runnerclick is an online resource for runners that reviews the latest in running shoes and gear and offers pointers on how to successfully achieve a healthy and active lifestyle. The website is accepting essay submissions on the topic of “staying active through sports can be a very beneficial part of your life in many ways, for many different reasons.” Three \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded. [Submissions](#) are due April 30, 2017.

Graduate Coursework Scholarships

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics is accepting applications for its Mathematics Graduate Course Work Scholarships. [Grants](#) of up to \$3,200 will be awarded to individuals currently teaching at the middle school level to complete graduate coursework in mathematics, with a focus on appropriate mathematics content courses. Applicants must be a current (on or before October 14, 2016) Full Individual or E-Member of NCTM or teach at a school with a current (on or before October 14, 2016) NCTM Pre-K-8 school membership; have taught school mathematics at least three years; and plan to remain in the teaching profession. Applications are due November 4.

Congressional Fellowship Program

The American Psychological Association is inviting applications for its APA Congressional Fellowship Program. Through the [annual program](#), fellows spend a year working on the staff of a member of Congress or congressional committee. Activities may involve drafting legislation, conducting oversight work, assisting with congressional hearings and events, and/or preparing briefs and speeches. Fellows also attend a two-week orientation program on congressional and executive branch operations that provides them with guidance for the congressional placement process and participate in a yearlong seminar series focused on science and public policy issues. The APA fellowship is open to all full APA members, but the APF fellowship was created to support psychologists with a

background in developmental or clinical psychology and experience working directly with children. Stipends for fellowships range from \$75,000 to \$90,000, depending on the applicant's postdoctoral experience. In addition, the fellowship provides reimbursement for health insurance coverage and a \$3,750 stipend for professional development and relocation expenses during the fellowship year. Final selection of fellows will be made in the early spring of 2017. The deadline to apply is January 6, 2017.

Council on Foundations Leadership Development Program

The Career Pathways [program](#) seeks to increase the number of candidates from diverse backgrounds in the philanthropic leadership pipeline and to develop a cohort of leaders who are committed to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion within their own organizations and the broader philanthropic sector. Twenty-four selected candidates will participate in virtual and in-person learning, networking events, and career training. Applicants must be an employee of a grantmaking organization, foundation, or a philanthropic institution, and have at least five to seven years of mid- to senior-level experience. The deadline to apply is October 31.

U.S.-Japan Foundation Invites Applications for Leadership Program

The [program](#) seeks to develop a network of friendship, communication, and understanding among the next generation of leaders in the two countries. Over the course of two summers some forty young leaders are brought together to explore and discuss important topics of mutual interest. Candidates must hold U.S. or Japan citizenship, be between the ages of 28 and 42 (as of the first day of the 2017 conference), and have demonstrated leadership, achievement, and/or the potential for leadership in their respective fields. The Seventeenth Annual Conference will be held in Kyoto and Tokyo, July 23-30, 2017. Delegates who start the program in 2016 are expected to return for their second year at the 2017 conference. Applications are due January 9, 2017.

Weight of the State Call for Abstracts

Conference planners invite presenters and organizations engaged in strategies to increase access to healthy foods, end childhood hunger, and create healthier communities to submit [proposals](#) for consideration in developing the conference agenda. Proposed sessions should focus on developing, implementing and evaluating policy, systems, and environmental changes and highlight replicable strategies for communities throughout Virginia. The conference is scheduled for April 3-4 will take place in Richmond.

Alexandria Mentoring Partnership October Newsletter

Among the features in *Mentor Monthly* is an [article](#) about a new mentoring program – Parker-Gray Job Coaching.

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RESEARCH & RESOURCES

ACPS Welcomes New Director of School, Business and Community Partnerships

The [new](#) Office of School, Business and Community Partnerships, includes the FACE Center and all grant opportunities. As director, Huffman will provide leadership to ACPS partners, volunteers, grant supported activities, ACPS community funded facilities projects, and the Superintendent's Business Advisory Council.

School Board Votes to Implement New Boundaries in Fall 2018

The [decision](#) to push the implementation of redistricting to 2018 will ensure redistricting aligns with the opening of the new Patrick Henry School building and the retrofit of office space in order to create a new elementary school in the West End, both of which are scheduled to be ready in fall 2018. The pre-K center — potentially to be co-located within John Adams Elementary School — is also likely to open in 2018.

On-Time Graduation Rate Continues Trend of Closing the Gap

In data released by the state, T.C. Williams saw an [increase](#) across the board in on-time graduation rates for subgroups. The on-time graduation rate for Hispanic students, Black students, and students with disabilities jumped three percentage points over the previous year. Students from economically disadvantaged households increased their graduation rate by two percentage points, while white students increased their on-time graduation rate by one percentage point.

Meeting the Needs of All Students through a Multi-Tier Support System

ACPS is committed to ensuring that there are many ways to help children learn and that those who need additional supports are successful. The Multi-Tier System of Supports ([MTSS](#)) is a multi-step process of providing instruction and support to promote the academic and behavioral success of all children. The key components of MTSS are all children receive high-quality curriculum and instruction in the general education classroom; universal screenings are used to help identify students who may need more support or other types of instruction; teaching strategies or methods are research-based interventions that have been proven to be effective in helping children be more successful with academics or behavior; and progress monitoring is used as a way for teachers to take a snapshot of how children are doing on a specific skill.

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EDUCATION

Study Finds 10% of Virginia Schoolchildren are Chronically Absent

A study by the University of Virginia found that about 1 in 10 Virginia schoolchildren missed 18 days or more of school in the 2014-2015 school year. The [report](#) found one in six high-schoolers were chronically absent during the 2014-2015 school year. It also zeroed in on three school districts in Virginia – Petersburg City, Richmond and Norfolk – that have far more absences than the state average.

U.S. Secretary of Education Weighs In On Growing Home School Numbers

The National Center for Education Statistics estimates there are 1.8 million home-schooled students in the country, which was 3.4% of the overall K-12 student population in 2012 – about double the number of home schoolers ten years ago. Tracking the size of the population, however, is difficult due to wildly different reporting requirements from state to state. A reporter asked U.S. Secretary of Education John King what he thinks of the [recent uptick](#) in homeschooling.

Textbook Costs Hurt Student Achievement, Study Finds

Kristian L. Holden, a researcher for the Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research at the American Institutes for Research, found spending a little less than \$100 per student for new textbooks led to [significant improvements](#) in reading and math performance in some of California's poorest and lowest-performing elementary schools. "This definitely suggests that textbooks in the right situation can make a big difference," he said. "It's a two-part policy. You need to be able to identify where there are likely to be shortages, and have a system in place to address those shortages."

STEM 2026: A Vision for Innovation in STEM Education

The U.S. Department of Education, in collaboration with American Institutes of Research (AIR), convened a series of 1.5 day workshops that brought together invited experts and thought leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teaching and learning to share their ideas and recommendations for an innovative future of STEM education. A [report](#) synthesizes the key observations, considerations, and recommendations put forth by the workshop participants under the auspices of an aspirational vision for STEM education.

U.S. Supreme Court to Weigh Level of Benefit Required by Special Education Law

The [case](#) raises an important question that has divided federal appeals courts: What level of educational benefit must a child receive under his or her individualized education program, or IEP, to satisfy the demands of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act? The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit in Denver ruled last year in the case of a Colorado child with autism that because the child's public school IEP had provided him with "some educational benefit," the Douglas County district had provided a "free, appropriate public education" under the IDEA.

New Teachers Make Up a Significant Segment of Profession

According to an *Education Week* analysis of new data from the U.S. Department of Education's office for civil rights, 12% of all public school teachers nationally are in their [first or second year](#). In some states that figure is more than 15%.

St. Louis Teachers May Soon Find Affordable Housing by Living in a School

In an effort to keep teachers from migrating to suburban districts, St. Louis Public Schools sought proposals to turn school buildings into [affordable housing](#) for teachers. The first project is a 1920s red brick schoolhouse.

A Judge Gets Tough

Connecticut Superior Court Judge Thomas Moukawsher issued a sweeping order giving the state 180 days to overhaul a state school system that he said misspends billions of dollars and leaves wealthier students performing at the nation's highest levels and poor students at the bottom. The state has appealed, and the Connecticut Supreme Court is expected to hear its appeal later this year. An article features excerpts and takeaways from the opinion by the judge, which has been labeled "[damning](#)".

How Can Schools Counter Bias? Broward County Research Project Wants to Know

A new, community-wide [research project](#) in Fort Lauderdale hopes to find ways to counter the unconscious perceptions that may be undermining reform attempts. "Implicit bias exists in all of us, and we have to be courageous enough to confront it if we are going to meet our goals," said Robert Runcie, the superintendent of the Broward County, Fla., district, which encompasses Fort Lauderdale.

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YOUTH WELL-BEING

Early Care and Education

Yale Study Probes the Complexity of Bias in Preschool

Black children make up only 19% of the children enrolled in public preschool, but account for 47% of those suspended from preschool one or more times. A [study](#) by researchers at Yale suggests implicit bias – negative or positive feelings people are unaware that they hold—could be behind that disparity. But bias manifests itself in complex ways, according to the [study results](#)—with white teachers overlooking misbehavior in black students, perhaps because they may not have been expecting much better, and black teachers watching black boys particularly closely when expecting problems.

New York City Prekindergarten Diversity Subject of New Report

New York City has created tens of thousands of new prekindergarten spots as part of an initiative to bring full-day prekindergarten to every family that wants it. But a new [report](#) by the Century Foundation, a progressive think tank, found the city created classrooms that do not fully reflect the diversity of the city. The report is based on an analysis of the program's first year of expansion (universal prekindergarten in the city is now in its third school year). In the program's first year, in about one-sixth of all pre-K classrooms, more than 90% of students came from the same racial or ethnic group. In the city's kindergarten classrooms, one-eighth of the classrooms had the same level of racial and ethnic homogeneity.

Relationships Matter: Highlighting Best Practices in Early Child Care

About half of American infants and toddlers receive regular care outside the home, creating a pressing need to promote stable, nurturing relationships between children and caregivers. A newly published [research brief](#) aims to help policymakers and practitioners understand effective relationship-based practices that could improve care in Early Head Start and other centers serving infants and toddlers.

Early Childhood Social and Emotional Development: Advancing the Field of Measurement

A [special issue](#) of the *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology* highlights current approaches to measuring social and emotional development in early childhood and the major challenges associated with measuring it.

Using Linked Data to Improve Early Care and Education Programs

When programs link data about individual children and families with other agencies serving those children, it can improve the effectiveness of their program. Child Trends took part in a project called *Building Capacity to Use Linked Data*, which developed several short, easy-to-read [resources](#) to help program leaders link their data with other agencies and use the linked data to support quality improvement.

Study: Measuring Quality a Challenge in Early-Childhood Rating Systems

The Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grants, which were awarded to 20 states in 2011-13, encouraged winners to invest in a quality rating system for early-childhood programs. Even states that did not win the grant money went along with the program, says a report from Regional Educational Laboratory-Midwest. But in adopting these rating systems, states are [struggling](#) with how to create reliable ratings at a sustainable cost.

Health

Schools Embrace Proven Strategies to Promote Students' Healthy Eating

School nutrition directors responding to a nationally representative [survey](#) recommended giving students options and opportunities for input as a way of encouraging them to eat healthier foods, like fresh fruits and vegetables, at school. Salad bars, pre-sliced fruits, and creative approaches to developing new recipes were among the most popular strategies for respondents to a survey commissioned by the Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project—a joint initiative of the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Obesity Ranks as Second-Biggest Child-Health Concern Among Adults

Among the 2,100 adults surveyed for The C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health in May, [bullying](#) was the only health-related concern for children that outpaces obesity among U.S. adults. When responses were broken down by race and ethnicity, the poll unearthed differing opinions about the issue. Obesity, drug abuse, and bullying ranked among the top three child-health concerns for white and Hispanic adults, but obesity ranked sixth for black adults. Black adults ranked bullying (71%), racial inequities (61%), and school violence (61%) as their three biggest concerns. Racial inequities did not rank among the top 10 for either Hispanic or white adults. Only 17% of white adults labeled racial inequities as a "big concern."

Do Top Dogs Rule in Middle School? Evidence on Bullying, Safety, and Belonging

A Syracuse University economics professor and her colleagues found a [school's grade structure significantly affects its student hierarchy](#). As students move through grades they gain social power, becoming more likely to take on leadership positions and less likely to be bullied. There is evidence that separating students into a shorter 6-8 grade span in middle school intensifies bullying of lower-grade students and makes them feel less connected to school. When students move from 5th grade to 6th, they report higher rates of bullying, drops in math and reading achievement, more absenteeism, and less of a sense of connection to school.

Bullying Awareness & Prevention

Bullying is a serious problem that has far-reaching implications for the person being bullied as well as the bully. A [guide](#) provides information on what bullying is, how it impacts people, and where victims can get help.

Has Trump's Campaign Rhetoric Really Caused an Increase in School Bullying?

The nation's largest teachers' union launched a [campaign](#) to tie Donald Trump's "inflammatory rhetoric" to an increase in bullying in America's schools. The initiative by the National Education Association will include internet and direct mail components targeted at votes in key states.

New Effort to Promote Social-Emotional Learning in Schools

Helping schools figure out how to better teach social and emotional skills to students alongside traditional academic subjects will be the focus of a new, multiyear [endeavor](#) recently announced by the Aspen Institute. The aim of the National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development, which has members from all three sectors, is to "advance a new vision for what constitutes success in schools."

Mind-Body Therapies in Children and Youth

A [clinical report](#) published by the American Academy of Pediatrics outlines popular mind-body therapies for children and youth as well as examines the best available evidence for a variety of mind-body therapies and practices, including biofeedback, clinical hypnosis, guided imagery, meditation, and yoga.

Resources for Year-Round Youth Suicide Prevention

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people ages 13 to 24, behind unintentional injury. Staff of youth-serving agencies should be alert for signs that a young person may be depressed or having suicidal thoughts. Several [online resources](#), designed originally for educators and community members, provide good tools for frontline staff who serve youth in social service agencies.

Concussion Diagnoses Among Youth Nearly Doubled from 2010 to 2015

According to a new [report](#) from Blue Cross Blue Shield based on medical-claims data, concussion diagnoses increased by 71% from 2010 through 2015 among children between the ages of 10 and 19. Over that six-year span, nearly 940,000 Blue Cross Blue Shield members of all ages were diagnosed with concussions, with the steepest increase in diagnoses coming among those between 10 and 19 years old. In 2009, 8.9 children in that age range were diagnosed with concussions per 1,000 Blue Cross Blue Shield members. By 2015, that number had jumped up to

15.2. The greatest increase came between 2010 and 2013, which happens to coincide with when a number of states were passing youth-concussion legislation for the first time.

Thousands of U.S. Schools at Risk for PCB Contamination, Studies Find

An estimated 30% of K-12 students are [exposed](#) to unhealthy levels of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, through common building materials found in schools, according to a pair of reports released by the office of Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and the Environmental Working Group (a nonprofit environmental research organization based in Washington). At one time a material in the production of caulking, sealants, fluorescent lights and even paper, the chemicals could be in 30% to 50% of school buildings built between 1950 and the late 1970s. An estimated [13,000 to 26,000 schools could contain PCBs](#), according to some recent research by Robert Herrick, a senior lecturer on industrial hygiene at Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. As older building materials and lights age, PCBs can easily spread into the air and dust, paint and other building fixtures, and outside soil – and students breathe them in.

Is U.S. Opioid Crisis Straining State Child Welfare Systems?

In 2012, more than 2.1 million adults in the nation were abusing prescription opioid painkillers, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and an estimated 467,000 were addicted to heroin. Overdose deaths involving prescription opioids have quadrupled since 1999, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While this opioid crisis rages, the number of children in foster care has increased to more than 415,000 nationwide, the highest number since 2009. [Parental substance abuse](#) was cited as a reason for removal in about one-third of all cases.

Parenting/Mentoring

Who's Minding the Neighborhood? The Role of Adult Capacity in Keeping Young People on the Path to Graduation

The more adults in a community, the more young people stay on a path toward academic success, regardless of other factors that influence a young person's educational trajectory, according to new research released by the Center for Promise, the research institute of America's Promise Alliance. The [brief \(full report\)](#) supports in part the GradNation campaign to raise high school graduation rates to 90% by 2020. While there has been a steady improvement in the overall rate of youth leaving school, from a high of 14% in 1970 down to 6% in 2010, researchers have long noted substantial variation by state, city and neighborhood. Using Decennial Census data (1970-2010), Center for Promise researchers looked into reasons for the variation. Focused solely on metropolitan areas throughout the United States, researchers examined the ratio of adults (age 25+) to school-aged youth (age 6 to 17) in a zip code to understand whether the number of adults affects the "status dropout rate" or the number of young people who leave school before graduating. The researchers use a community's adult-to-youth ratio as a proxy for determining a community's "adult capacity." The study found for every seven more adults in a neighborhood, one fewer young person leaves school. Through a partnership with the nonprofit collaboration Community Commons, the adult-to-youth ratio can be [determined](#) by zip code.

Frequently Asked Questions From Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender. and Questioning (LGBTQ) Prospective Foster and Adoptive Parents

Although many agencies are welcoming to the LGBTQ community, LGBTQ foster and adoptive parents continue to face challenges related to adoption. A [factsheet](#) is designed to answer some of the initial questions LGBTQ prospective foster or adoptive parents may have in hopes of helping to better inform them during the first stage of the journey.

Finances and Budgets

Sprint to Connect 1M Students Under 'My Brother's Keeper'

The Sprint Corporation will [provide](#) students who cannot get on the internet at home with free tablets, smartphones and other mobile devices, and four years of service. President Obama launched the "My Brother's Keeper" initiative for minority males in 2014.

Child Poverty in America 2015

New [data](#) from the U.S. Census Bureau reveal there were 14.5 million poor children in the United States in 2015. Children of color comprise nearly 70% of poor children in America.

Giving to Women and Girls: Who Gives, and Why?

A new [report](#) by Indiana University-Perdue University Indianapolis reveals who gives to causes specific to women and girls, and how to engage these donors.

Black, Latino Youth Less Likely to Get Money from Folks

More young blacks and Latinos feel they cannot depend on family to help them with financial needs (from big-ticket items like college tuition to smaller expenses) than do whites or Asians, according to a new GenForward [poll](#). More than half of millennials overall say an unexpected bill of \$1,000 would cause them financial difficulty.

Financial Literacy: Helping Kids Know What to Do About Money

Financial education is not a panacea for poverty, said Nan Morrison, president and CEO of the Council for Economic Education, a nonprofit that trains educators and advocates for financial literacy. But [financial knowledge](#) is enormously important for young people, she said. They need these skills in order to make their dreams and possibilities come true.

Proposed Tax Credit Would Reward Employers Who Hire Former Foster Youth

Under the bipartisan [Improving Employment Outcomes for Foster Youth Act](#) (HR 5947, S 3409), employers could receive an annual tax credit for hiring former foster youth between ages 18 and 27. The goal is to broaden the pool of jobs available to former foster youth as they build independent lives. The bill would make foster youth an eligible population for the [Work Opportunity Tax Credit](#) (WOTC), which already includes groups such as veterans, former felons and recipients of some welfare programs.

Congress Leaves Without Final Action on Several Youth Services Priorities

Congress will not be back in session until after the election, leaving the fate of several proposals geared toward youth and families up [in the air](#). Lawmakers left town without acting on an overhaul of child welfare funding and updates to child nutrition and juvenile justice programs. While the House and Senate will return in mid-November for a lame duck session, lawmakers will have limited days to work through any remaining items on their agendas before the session ends.

Kids' Share 2016: Report on Federal Expenditures on Children Through 2015 and Future Projections

The Urban Institute and First Focus concluded total federal spending on children has been fairly flat over the past four years, in real dollars. In the future, overall federal spending is projected to increase substantially, but virtually none of the additional funds will be directed toward children. Thus, the shares of the economy and of the federal budget devoted to children are [scheduled to decline](#). Almost all the projected growth in federal spending is committed to retirement and health spending on adults, and to interest on the debt.

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WEBINARS

How to Reach and Engage with Hispanic Communities: A New Research-Informed Communication Guide (October 18, 2 – 3 p.m.)

The Child Trends Hispanic Institute, in collaboration with the Crimsonbridge Foundation, has assembled a new [guidebook](#), *Reaching and Engaging with Hispanic Communities: A Research-Informed Communication Guide*. It is designed to help service providers and educators build communication strategies to better serve Latino children and their families. A [webinar](#) based on the guide will share how to create an evidence-based, strategic communication plan with a clear series of steps: getting to know your audience, setting objectives, messaging, outreach strategy, tactical execution, and data collection.

Maximizing the Potential of Corporate Partnerships (October 20, 1 – 2:15 p.m.)

The [webinar](#) will discuss the benefits to mentoring programs of partnering with corporations. Panelists will share tools and resources related to building and managing relationships, assessing impact, and navigating challenges.

Practitioners Doing Research: How Can It Improve OST? (October 21, 1 – 1:30 p.m.)

The focus of the [webinar](#) is teacher inquiry and how it can improve program practice. OST practitioners who have been participating in the National Afterschool Matters Practitioner Fellowship will discuss how engaging in inquiry

has changed how they view themselves as practitioners, how they operate their programs, and how they provide services for youth. The cost is \$10.

Engaging Older Youth with Technology (November 3, 1 – 1:30 p.m.)

The [webinar](#) will share the theory behind engaging older and feature OST practitioners who have been using technology in their programs, such as youth creating radio podcasts. The cost is \$10.

Measuring Staff Engagement in OST Programs (December 6, 1 – 1:30 p.m.)

The [webinar](#) will present research findings from a study on an innovative approach to strengths-based professional development, *Simple Interactions*, which uses short video clips of staff engaged in positive interactions with youth. In addition, a manager from a large youth program will discuss the implementation of this model and the positive effects it had on the staff dynamic.

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