

# Exploring Child Well-being and School Success with Integrated Data

Thursday morning, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Integrated data systems (IDS) contain data from different government programs or agencies that are regularly merged at the individual level, enabling a more holistic understanding of public services. They can be used by service providers to improve case management for individuals or by analysts to inform policymaking, targeting, and program evaluation. With support from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, NNIP launched a cross-site project on IDS called *Connecting People to Place: Improving Communities through Integrated Data* in 2013. Six partners were selected and are implementing projects that bring together data from an IDS with their own neighborhood data holdings in order to address local and neighborhood policy issues: Baltimore, Cleveland, New York, Pinellas County, Pittsburgh, and Providence. Descriptions of all of these projects are included on the [cross-site project page](#) on the NNIP website.

***The purpose of this session is 1) to share early results from three projects focused on improving child well-being and school success and 2) to discuss general challenges and lessons learned on working with data from IDS.***

The session will begin with a short introduction by the moderator, Leah Hendey, on the cross-site project and IDS. Each partner will take 10 minutes to present their findings, share their plans for collaboration with community agencies, and discuss how the results might be used to improve interventions and policy related to children.

- Claudia Coulton, Case Western Reserve University
  - How does involvement in the juvenile justice and foster care systems affect early adult outcomes for 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohorts in Cleveland Metropolitan Schools?
- Joe Baldwin, Pinellas County
  - How do individual, family, school, and neighborhood factors affect student absenteeism over an elementary and middle school career?
- Sabina Deitrick, University of Pittsburgh
  - How do housing and neighborhood characteristics and involvement in human service systems impact chronic absenteeism in the Pittsburgh school district?

These presentations will be followed by 25 minutes of open discussion with the presenters to dive deeper into the results and give others an opportunity to share insights from their own work on these topics.

### **Questions for Discussion #1:**

- For other partners who have worked on chronic absenteeism or early adult outcomes:
  - Have you found any place-based factors that are related to absenteeism?
  - Have you found clustering by neighborhoods on these outcomes?
  - How did you engage with community organizations on place-based interventions?

During the last 30 minutes of the session, we'll shift to the topic of partners' experiences and general advice related to working with IDS, regardless of the topic area. Leah will begin with a couple questions for the panelists and then move to open discussion to learn how these partners became involved in IDS, the challenges in connecting NNIP partners to institutions hosting IDS or State Longitudinal Data Systems, and lessons from the barriers partners successfully overcame.

### **Questions for Discussion #2:**

- What is the value of IDS in your work? How do you think it helps you better address issues in low-income neighborhoods?
- How was the work of your organization evolved to include IDS? What are some first steps for other NNIP partners as they think about starting this type of work?
- Based on your experiences, what are the most important issues for organizations to consider before working with IDS?
- What have been some of challenges to data sharing for this project?
- How are you building ongoing support for this work and exploring data sharing agreements that go beyond this project?
- What lessons and stories about using integrated data from the cross-site project are most important for NNIP as a network to document and share broadly?

### **Unconference Session:**

We will also continue the discussion on integrated data systems in an unconference session at 2:45 this afternoon. As we plan our cross-site products and dissemination strategy – help us think about what would most help other NNIP partners considering this work and how to promote the use of neighborhood and place information in conjunction with IDS across the country.