

Family Strengthening & Alternative Care

A GLOBAL MONTHLY NEWS WRAP-UP & RESOURCES

This monthly wrap-up is intended to serve as a compendium of the latest developments in the area of family strengthening and alternative care. We hope you will find it useful and be able to use it in your day-to-day work on research, writing, and practice on child and youth care.

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GENERAL ALTERNATIVE CARE NEWS

INTERNATIONAL

- [Impact of the polycrisis: how do we protect and care for children?](#)
SOS Children's Villages highlights the urgent need for collaborative efforts to provide protection, support, and opportunities for children and families in crisis, ensuring their well-being and development. The organization calls for holistic solutions and global cooperation to address the complex challenges of polycrisis impacting children's lives.
- [‘Hi, Mom. I love you’: US man kidnapped as child in Pinochet’s Chile reunited with family](#)
The news article highlights a man who was kidnapped as a baby during Pinochet's regime in Chile, has been reunited with his family after decades of separation, bringing hope and closure to families of other disappeared victims as well.
- [9 foster children file class action lawsuit claiming DCS fails to keep kids safe, healthy](#)
A class action lawsuit has been filed on behalf of nine foster children against the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS), Governor Eric Holcomb, and DCS Director Eric Miller alleging that DCS failed in its duty to ensure the safety and well-being of foster children.
- [Credit union offers bank accounts for foster youth](#)
A credit union has introduced a program providing bank accounts for foster youth in Vermont, aiming to offer them financial stability and educational resources. Vermont State Employees Credit Union (VSECU) has collaborated with state agencies and non-profit organizations to develop this initiative.

ASIA

- [‘I’ll never know where I’m from’: plight of the adopted children of Bangladesh’s Birangona women](#)
The opinion piece addresses challenges for adopted children of Birangona women in Bangladesh, discussing identity struggles and societal stigma, while advocating for recognition and compassion to establish a sense of belonging.
- [Chinese Consulate Approves Project For Financial Support To Orphan Students Of Gwadar](#)
The Chinese Consulate Karachi approves a project to financially support orphan students in Gwadar with 350,000 RMB, focusing on providing school supplies and cash aid, while also collaborating on socio-economic development initiatives in the region.
- [PM Shehbaz announces auctioning all Toshakhana gifts to support orphan children](#)
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announces the auction of valuable gifts from Toshakhana to generate funds for orphan children's welfare, while also addressing achievements in restoring international relations and stabilizing the economy during his tenure.

INDIA

- [Mother of girl in foster care in Germany holds silent protest](#)
A mother from Delhi, whose daughter is in foster care in Germany, has staged a silent protest. She requested that her daughter be given the opportunity to commemorate India's 77th Independence Day alongside the Indian community and seeks the Indian government's intervention in repatriating her child.
- [Swanath Foundation organizes Workshop on Foster Care](#)
Swanath Foundation, India's pioneer in foster care based on research, has been active since 2019 across 15 states, signing an MoU with Maharashtra to spread awareness about foster care. The organization recently hosted a 2-day workshop attended by notable figures, including Cabinet Minister Aditi Tatkare, to train coordinators on foster care services.
- [Adult orphans get a helping hand from VAG Foundation](#)
The Vaibbhav Ashok Goel Foundation (VAGF) is addressing the challenges faced by adult orphans by establishing a residential rehabilitation facility in Pune, offering vocational training, education, and support for employability to empower and protect these individuals, with plans to expand such facilities across major cities in India.



NEW RESOURCES IN THE ALTERNATIVE CARE SPACE

PUBLICATIONS

- [Reporting child abuse and neglect](#)
The resource sheet published from Child Family Community Australia provides information to service providers and practitioners working in the child, family and community welfare sector on how to report suspected child abuse and neglect.
- [Risk & protective factors for youth substance use across family, peers, school, & leisure domains](#)
This new article published in the journal Children and Youth Service Review volume 151, emphasizes on the significance of considering multiple domains in prevention strategies and highlights the need for targeted interventions within peer and leisure contexts to curb adolescent substance use and investigates adolescent substance use and its corresponding risk and protective factors across different developmental domains.

STUDIES

- [Impact of a Father-Child, Community-Based Healthy Lifestyle Program: Qualitative Perspectives from the Family Unit](#)
A qualitative study investigating the Healthy Dads, Healthy Kids (HDHK) program's impact on City of Maitland families, gathering insights from fathers, mothers/partners, and children who participated in the HDHK trial. The study identifies three key themes: enhanced father-child relationships, adoption of new family habits, and improved father involvement and parenting practices, showing that positive changes by fathers and children benefit the entire family unit.
- [A Typology of Family Housing Insecurity: Impacts of Caregiver Depression and Substance Use](#)
The primary emphasis of this study is on housing instability within households of low-income families that have adolescents. It examines distinct subtypes of housing insecurity based on affordability and instability, finding a continuum of risk. Caregiver mental health, specifically substance use, significantly influences housing insecurity, with substance use increasing the likelihood of falling into the highest-risk category. The research highlights the diverse housing challenges families face and emphasizes the need to address caregiver mental health for maintaining family housing stability.
- [Helping Youth in Foster Care Develop Life Skills: Perspectives from Caregivers, Child Welfare Professionals, and Agency Representatives](#)
This new study delves into life skills development for youth in foster care, examining perspectives from Florida foster care agencies, child welfare professionals, and caregivers. Challenges like a lack of resources and staff turnover were consistent across all groups, while supports varied. Caregivers received limited system support, highlighting the need for increased training, funding, and attention to broader child welfare issues for successful independent living skill development among foster youth.

TOOLKITS

- [New online course: Supervision for children's wellbeing](#)
Supervisors will gain a structured approach through this course to collaborate with practitioners in enhancing their interaction with children and families, thereby facilitating impactful transformations in their lives.
- [Online Course: Child Protection Systems Strengthening: Approach, Benchmarks, and Interventions](#)
This new course offers an in-depth look into UNICEF's approach to child protection systems strengthening (CPSS), key interventions, and an assessment framework.



YOUNG VOICES THAT APPEAR IN THE MEDIA

- [Cycling Through Foster Care and Juvenile Detention](#)
The opinion piece discusses the unsettling cycle of youth moving from foster care to juvenile detention, emphasizing the dire need to break this harmful pattern. The author recounts personal experiences and points out how limited resources, lack of stability, and trauma contribute to this cycle.
- [Addressing the Overrepresentation of Native American Children in Foster Care](#)
The article addresses the concerning issue of the overrepresentation of Native American children in foster care emphasizing the need for culturally sensitive approaches, tribal involvement, and policy changes to address this issue and ensure the well-being of Native American children within the foster care system.
- [My experience of the foster care system](#)
In this blog, the youth speaks about the foster care system and how different placements have affected her relationship with her birth sister. She further highlights the barriers to education for children in care and how she overcame these odds and celebrates the person she has become.



OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS (JOBS, CONFERENCE ALERTS, CALL FOR ABSTRACTS)

- [Ensuring healthcare in out-of-home care: Identifying and responding to the health needs of children and young people on 5th September, 2023](#)
- [The 5th Biennial International Conference on Alternative Care for Children in Asia \(BICON\) on 6-7th September, 2023](#)
- [Webinar on Supporting children and young people bereaved by domestic homicide on 13th September, 2023](#)

THANK YOU FOR READING!

Write to us at icbjournal@udayancare.org for suggestions, feedback or content to be included.