

Child Trends. Access: <https://www.childtrends.org/>.

For the past 40 years, Child Trends has been a renowned research organization and a leading source of research and data on children in the United States. Child Trends has produced reports, analyses, recommendations, and communications that policymakers have used at the state, local, and federal levels to guide efforts to improve interventions and policies that benefit children and their families.

A plethora of credible information is available on the Child Trends website. Among the topics covered are “Juvenile Justice,” “Early Childhood,” “Poverty and Inequality,” and timely matters such as “Racial Equity” and “COVID-19.” Detailed topic pages include summaries, links to subtopics, access to the latest research, featured experts, and related projects. The researcher will find the information on these pages extremely valuable, including the connections to further knowledge and experts in the field. The Child Trends team comprises more than 200 experts, all listed with their credentials and contact information.

The main navigation offers access to “About Us,” which supplies general information about the organization, the board of directors, current job openings, news, funders and partners, research policies, and government contract information. There is also a section on the Early Childhood Data Collaborative (ECDC), which “supports state policymakers’ development and use of coordinated state early care and education (ECE) data systems.” This section contains additional data and publications that the user can search and browse. “Hispanic Institute” aims to deliver “timely and insightful research-based

information and guidance to improve outcomes for Latino children.” Links are provided to additional publications, people, projects, and blog posts related to this topic.

The site structure is well-categorized, consistent, and easy to navigate. An accessible button on this site changes the contrast and colors on the page, making it easier for people with visual impairments to view the site. The website’s contents can be searched, and the results can be refined by topic, publication type, publication year, authors, and state.

The Child Trends website is an excellent gateway to a variety of publications and data. Those concerned about the well-being of children and youth, particularly policymakers, advocates, scholars and researchers, professionals working in the field, and the general public, should make this website a priority.—*Colleen Lougen, SUNY-New Paltz, lougenc@newpaltz.edu*

Drug Policy Alliance. Access: <https://drugpolicy.org/>.

The Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) is a non-profit organization advocating for drug policy reforms in the United States. Since its founding in 1987, DPA has successfully advocated for policy reforms related to marijuana, criminal justice, and harm reduction. DPA’s website provides a wealth of information about drug policy issues, drug facts, resources for advocacy and action, and resources for education and treatment.

The DPA website is well-designed with information organized by issues, drug facts, advocacy and action, and resources. The “Issues” section is the website’s strength. This section contains background information on the history of drug policies and the war on drugs, stresses the importance of criminal justice and policy reform, provides resources about harm reduction and substance use disorder treatment, and more. The information is presented through simple infographics, short videos, and succinct text, distilling complex histories, laws, and poli-

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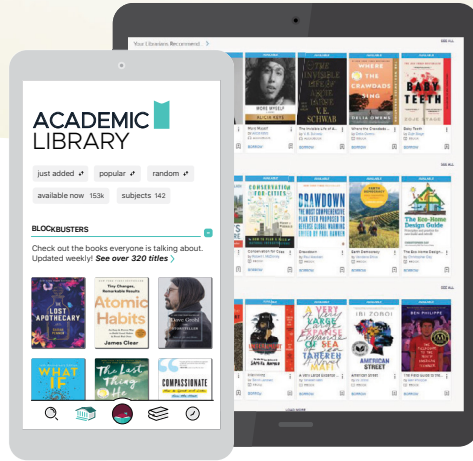
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cies. The page “Drug War Statistics” presents an infographic with data showing the need for drug policy reform, including incarceration rates for drug offenses by type of drug, a U.S. map highlighting states where marijuana is legal or decriminalized, a chart showing rapidly increasing rates of overdose deaths by drug, and statistics showing the financial impact of current drug policies. The “Drug Facts” section includes information and answers to common questions about specific drugs through a harm reduction approach. Drug fact sheets include extensive citations to research articles, policies, and reliable websites, though citations are notably not included in the drug fact sheet for marijuana. The “Resources” tab provides educational content, including tips for parents on talking to a teen about drugs, and “Safety First: Real Drug Education for Teens,” a free “harm reduction-based drug education curriculum for high school teachers . . . equipping teens to make safer choices about drug use.”

The DPS website provides clear and engaging information about the history of the war on drugs, current drug policies, and advocacy for drug policy reform. Comparing the drug facts from the DPA website, which focuses on reducing harm if using drugs, with the drug facts on the National Institute of Drug Abuse’s website, which focuses on outcomes or harms caused by use of specific drugs, would be an excellent exercise for students in discerning how drug policies influence approaches to drug-related health information.—*Emily Hamstra, Network of the National Library of Medicine, Pacific Northwest Region, ehamstra@uw.edu*

Organization of American States (OAS).

Access: <https://www.oas.org/en/>.

Founded in 1948, the Organization of American States (OAS) brings together the 35 sovereign nation-states in the Americas. Per its charter, its mission is to “achieve [for its member states] an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence.” Headquartered in Washington, D.C., OAS advances democracy, security, human rights, and economic growth through international

cooperation. The United States is its largest and most influential member.

Fully available in both English and Spanish (and to a lesser extent in French and Portuguese), the OAS website is packed with information about the organization and its work. The site’s top navigation bar contains eight tabs: “About the OAS,” “Topics,” “Strategic Partners,” “Member States,” “Media Center,” “Documents,” “Accountability,” and “Calendar.” The content delivered via these tabs predictably includes an events calendar, white papers and other official documents, budgetary and other internal documents, and photos and video of conferences and speeches. The “About” section describes OAS services, governance, history, “What We Do,” and “Who We Are.” Pages list OAS member states, permanent observers, and representatives as well as spin-off groups, such as the Young Americas Business Trust and the Pan American Development Foundation.

The website also offers a “Topics” directory with more than 60 menu items arranged alphabetically. Topics range from “Cyber Security” and “Intellectual Property” to “Refugees,” “Terrorism,” and “Violence against Women.” Clicking on any of these topics brings visitors to pages that list relevant OAS departments, programs, publications, and other resources. Clicking “Elections,” for example, brings up the OAS “Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation” with pages on OAS election monitoring missions, a directory of member states’ election commissions, pro-democracy proclamations from the multilateral Summits of the Americas, and more. Visitors can submit a simple web form to request information that they cannot find on the website.

The OAS website provides free access to documents, directories, and other resources that shed light on the organization’s structure and work, both historical and contemporary. While focused narrowly on OAS activities, the website is valuable for scholars, functionaries, and not-for-profit leaders working in the fields of public policy, security, economics, and international relations in the Americas.—*Michael Rodriguez, University of Connecticut, michael.a.rodriguez@uconn.edu* ↗