



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Reducing Harms to Boys and Young Men of Color from Criminal Justice System Involvement.

By Akiva Liberman, et al. Urban Institute. Feb. 2015. 34 p.

<http://www.urban.org/publications/2000095.html>

“Boys and young men of color are overrepresented in all aspects of the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems, at considerable cost to those involved, their families, and their communities. This overrepresentation is most acute for African Americans, although other communities of color are also affected. This paper reviews systemic, institutional, and community policies and practices that greatly impact the life chances of boys and young men of color. Policy and practice changes that would reduce criminal justice engagement and that would reduce the harms caused to communities of color from

criminal justice engagement are identified and suggestions are made for developing more evidence of effectiveness for initiatives in this area.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Why Do People Attend the Arts? National Endowment for the Arts. Jan. 12, 2015.

<http://arts.gov/news/2015/surprising-findings-three-new-nea-reports-arts>

“Three reports from the National Endowment for the Arts reveal new findings about the impact of arts and cultural industries on GDP (Gross Domestic Product), as well as how and why Americans participate in certain arts activities.... Arts and cultural spending has a ripple effect on the overall economy, boosting both commodities and jobs. For example, for every 100 jobs created from new demand for the arts, 62 additional jobs are also created.... Technology is a great enabler of arts creation and participation. In 2012, nearly three-quarters of American adults—about 167 million people—used electronic media to view or listen to art, and large proportions of adults used electronic media to create music or visual art.”

EDUCATION

Implementation Update: Reforming Transfer from CCC to CSU. Legislative Analyst’s Office. Jan. 2015. 28 p.

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2015/edu/reforming-transfer/reforming-transfer-020215.pdf>

“The state’s transfer reform is too recent to assess its effectiveness in a comprehensive way.” Even though both the CCC and CSU systems are making progress toward the Fall 2015 goals, “most students entering CCC are unfamiliar with the new degrees and many who earn a regular associate degree—which may qualify them for transfer but not provide guaranteed CSU admission and the 60-unit guarantee—believe they have earned an associate degree for transfer.”

EMPLOYMENT

From Hard Times to Better Times: College Majors, Unemployment, and Earnings. By Anthony P. Carnevale, et al. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. Feb. 2015. 52 p.

<https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/HardTimes2015-Report.pdf>

“Hard times are becoming better times for most college graduates, though how much better varies widely among college majors—and for Communications and Journalism majors, whose unemployment rates are still rising, better times have yet to arrive. Overall, however, unemployment rates among college graduates are declining. The earnings advantage they enjoy over high school diploma workers is holding up, though this is due in part to declining earnings among the latter group. But the recovery is far from complete. The national trend on earnings has been flat or slightly declining, and earnings among college graduates are no exception. A full recovery in the employment of college graduates, especially at the Bachelor’s degree level, may be as far off as 2017 and a full recovery in earnings may take longer.”

ENERGY

Advancing and Maximizing the Value of Energy Storage Technology: A California Roadmap. California ISO, et al. Dec. 2014. 24 p.

http://www.caiso.com/Documents/Advancing-MaximizingValueofEnergyStorageTechnology_CaliforniaRoadmap.pdf

Energy storage technology is beginning to revolutionize the electric system by enabling increased renewables integration, increasing grid optimization, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. While many organizations are testing energy storage technologies and systems, a comprehensive plan is needed to incorporate storage projects into the state's grid at scale. This roadmap identifies actions that can help create a path to a sound marketplace for energy storage resources. It focuses on expanding revenue opportunities, reducing costs of integrating and connecting to the grid, and streamlining and spelling out policies and processes to increase certainty. The current state is analyzed to identify needed actions, set priorities for next steps, and define the responsibilities of each organization to address the issues.

ENVIRONMENT

The Water We Drink, Part I: What is California Doing to Ensure Its Water is Safe?

By Michael Jarrid, et al. Senate Office of Research. Feb. 2015. 28 p.

<http://sor.senate.ca.gov/sites/sor.senate.ca.gov/files/FINAL%20draft%20Part%201%20Drinking%20Water.pdf>

The Senate Office of Research has released the first of two reports on drinking water in California. This report is an update of a 2011 report, which focuses on the water delivery system in the state and the measures taken to guarantee drinking water safety. In particular, the transition from oversight by the California Department of Public Health to the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water is detailed, as well as the regulatory process for establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels in drinking water.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

California's Future. By Sarah Bohn, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Feb. 2015. 60 p.

http://www.pplic.org/content/pubs/report/R_215BKR.pdf

While California is moving forward with reforms in many areas including health care, corrections and education, other issues such as housing, climate change, water management and infrastructure are competing for limited resources. This report highlights the state's long-term challenges in a number of public policy areas with the purpose of providing information critical for those making policy decisions—both policy makers and voters—that will impact the state's future.

HEALTH

Nanotechnology in Society: An Overview. By Christine Shearer, et al. California Research Bureau. Feb. 2015. 2 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/15/S-15-002.pdf>

"Nanotechnology refers to the manipulation of matter at the atomic or near-atomic scale. This allows for the deliberate engineering of materials and devices with specific properties that enable a range of new commercial, medical, and environmental applications (e.g., cancer treatments). This Short Subject

provides an introduction to nanotechnology, offers information about potential risk, and discusses its regulation in the United States and California.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Helping Families Involved in the Child Welfare System Achieve Housing Stability.

By Mary Cunningham, et al. Urban Institute. Feb. 2015. 114 p.

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/2000105-Helping-Families-Involved-in-the-Child-Welfare-System-Achieve-Housing-Stability.pdf>

“Since 1992, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded Family Unification Program (FUP) funding to more than 300 communities across the country. The program provides low-income families involved in the child welfare system with housing vouchers.” Some promising practices from eight sites that this brief reviewed “include loosening up PHA [public housing authority] screening criteria to ‘screen in’ families who have troubled backgrounds, providing housing search assistance and financial assistance for security deposits, and linking families to self-sufficiency programs.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***The 2014 Education Choice and Competition Index.* By Grover J. “Russ” Whitehurst, et al. Brookings. Feb. 4, 2015.**

http://www.brookings.edu/research/interactives/2015/ecci_2014

The Education Choice and Competition Index (ECCI) is “an interactive web application that scores large school districts based on thirteen categories of policy and practice. The intent of the ECCI is to create public awareness of the differences among districts in their support of school choice, provide a framework for efforts to improve choice and competition, and recognize leaders among school districts in the design and implementation of choice and competition systems.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Pocket Guide to Transportation 2015.* U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Jan. 2015. 64 p.**

<http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/bts/sites/rita.dot.gov.bts/files/Pocket%20Guide%202015.pdf>

“The Pocket Guide to Transportation is a compilation of statistics that provide key information and highlight major trends on the U.S. transportation system. Intended as a compact reference, it supports the Bureau of Transportation Statistics mission to create, manage, and share transportation statistical knowledge.” This report covers a wide range of transportation statistics having to do with infrastructure, moving people, moving goods, performance, economy, safety, and environment. Los Angeles (1.6 million) and Sacramento (1.1 million) made the top 10 in Amtrak passenger volume; Los Angeles (32.3 million) and San Francisco (21.7 million) made the top 10 in airport passenger volume.

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