



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

PACE Center for Girls evaluating: shows reduced recidivism

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Many Americans unfamiliar with libraries, available services

EDUCATION

Californians willing to extend Prop. 30 tax measure to support schools

EMPLOYMENT

Older adults able to work beyond traditional retirement

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Colorado case study: most methane leaks small, fixable

CA water funding options, cost pressures, funding challenges

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

3.75M hours of overtime in FY 2014 by state nurses, psych technicians

HEALTH

Workplace injuries 5x higher for healthcare workers

Newly-enrolled vets experience lengthy wait times for primary care

HUMAN SERVICES

National survey of homeless youth

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Statistical portrait of Hispanics in the United States

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Preventing Juvenile Justice Involvement for Young Women: An Introduction to an Evaluation of the PACE Center for Girls. By Megan Millenky, et al. MDRC. Jan. 2016. 12 p.

http://www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/Preventing_Juvenile_Justice_Involvement_2016.pdf

“Increasingly, girls are making up a larger proportion of those involved with the juvenile justice system. Although the juvenile confinement rate is declining, and juvenile arrest rates are slowing overall, girls are seeing less of an improvement than boys.... [F]rom 2001 to 2010 boys’ arrest rates decreased by 26.5%, while girls’ arrest rates decreased by only 15.5%. Yet the current juvenile justice system is not well positioned to meet the particular needs of girls, as most services are rooted in research based on the needs of boys.... One program that directly addresses this challenge is the PACE Center for Girls. This ‘gender-responsive’ program ... aims to prevent girls’ involvement in the juvenile justice system.” The

purpose of the PACE evaluation is to provide evidence that this gender-responsive program “affects important outcomes such as school success, delinquency, relationships, and mental health.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Libraries and Learning.* By Lee Rainie. Pew Research Center. Apr. 2016. 47 p.**
http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2016/04/PI_2016.04.07_Libraries-and-Learning_FINAL.pdf

“Most Americans believe libraries do a decent job of serving the education and learning needs of their communities and their own families.... Some 78% of adults say they have ever gone to a library, while 44% say they went to a library or bookmobile in the past 12 months....[However] notable shares of Americans do not know that libraries offer learning-related programs and materials such as e-book programs, online career and job-related resources, online GED or high-school equivalency classes, and programs about how to start a new business.”

EDUCATION

***Californians and Education.* By Mark Baldassarre, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Apr. 2016. 34 p.**
http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/survey/S_416MBS.pdf

A statewide survey of likely voters finds that many Californians feel that state funding of public schools is inadequate, with 62% willing to extend the Proposition 30 tax increases that support schools. There is also solid support for state funding of preschool, with 63% of adults surveyed stating they would use some of the state’s surplus to fund preschool.

EMPLOYMENT

***Health Capacity to Work at Older Ages: Evidence from the U.S.* By Courtney Coile, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. NBER Working Paper no. 21940. Jan. 2016. 50 p.**
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w21940.pdf>
(Available at the California State Library)

“Public programs that benefit older individuals, such as Social Security and Medicare, may be changed in the future in ways that reflect an expectation of longer work lives. But do older Americans have the health capacity to work longer? This paper explores this question by asking how much older individuals could work if they worked as much as those with the same mortality rate in the past or as much as their younger counterparts in similar health. Using both methods, we estimate that there is significant additional capacity to work at older ages.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***The Colorado Case Study on Methane Emissions: Conversations with the Oil and Gas Industry.* By Chris Keating. Keating Research, Inc. Apr. 10, 2016. 5 p.**
<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/558c5da5e4b0df58d72989de/t/57110da386db43c4be349dd8/1460735396217/Methane+Study.pdf>

“The study was based on 10 in-depth interviews with industry representatives from large and small oil and gas companies operating within the state, as well as with service providers conducting on-site methane emissions inspections. Among the study’s findings was that Colorado’s oil and gas industry has

conducted more than 1,100 site inspections, on average, at facilities over the past year.... Most of the study's respondents said that of the more than 800 methane leaks they reported, most were small and easily fixable—30% of the reported methane leaks were fixed on the spot, while another 66% were fixed within a few days.. Although 60% of the oil and gas representatives in the survey reported that they were paying a little more to reduce methane leaks, 70% of those surveyed reported that the benefits outweighed the associated costs. They also reported associated improvements to their workers' attention to detail and safety." (*The Durango Herald*, Apr. 16, 2016).

Options for Funding Water-Related Activities. Presented to the Senate Water and Natural Resources Committee. By Rachel Ehlers. Legislative Analyst's Office. Mar. 8, 2016. 7 p.
<http://www.lao.ca.gov/handouts/resources/2016/Options-Funding-Water-Related-Activities-030816.pdf>

This brief reviews existing funding for water-related activities, cost pressures and funding challenges, important considerations around water funding options, and identifies key legislative options to increase funding for water-related activities. State-level options include regulatory fees, polluter charges, a water use tax, a broad special tax, or an increase to General Fund spending levels. Local-level options include water related fees or differential water rates via constitutional amendment.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Time and Time Again: Overtime in State Facilities. Little Hoover Commission. Apr. 2016. 24 p.
<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/231/Report231.pdf>

"In this review, the Commission found the state is significantly out of sync with national data in its use of overtime. Overtime pay for the California nursing staff reviewed as part of this study is 18.2% of total pay, that's four times the percentage of pay for registered nurses and health care workers nationally." The Commission recommends the state reduce its dependence on all overtime and get a better handle on staffing needs in health care facilities.

HEALTH

Workplace Safety and Health: Additional Efforts Needed to Help Protect Health Care Workers from Workplace Violence. By Andrew Sherrill. Government Accountability Office. GAO-16-11. Mar. 2016. 69 p.
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-11>

"[W]orkers in health care facilities experience substantially higher estimated rates of nonfatal injury due to workplace violence compared to workers overall. However, the full extent of the problem and its associated costs are unknown. For example, in 2013, the most recent year that data were available, private-sector health care workers in in-patient facilities, such as hospitals, experienced workplace violence-related injuries requiring days off from work at an estimated rate at least five times higher than the rate for private-sector workers overall...." The GAO recommends providing workplace inspectors more information about sites where inspections take place, as well as the ability to follow up on hazard letters issued to employers.

VA Health Care: Actions Needed to Improve Newly Enrolled Veterans' Access to Primary Care. By Debra A. Draper. Government Accountability Office. GAO-16-328. Mar. 2016. 46 p.
<http://gao.gov/assets/680/675867.pdf>

"GAO found that not all newly enrolled veterans were able to access primary care from the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and others experienced wide variation in the amount of time they waited for care.... VHA's oversight of veterans' access to primary care is hindered, in part, by data weaknesses and the lack of a comprehensive scheduling policy. This is

inconsistent with federal internal control standards, which call for agencies to have reliable data and effective policies to achieve their objectives.” The GAO recommends that the VHA update its scheduling policy and monitor wait times.

HUMAN SERVICES

***Street Outreach Program: Data Collection Study Final Report.* Administration for Children and Families, Dept. of Health and Human Services. Apr. 2016. 100 p.**

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/data_collection_study_final_report_street_outreach_program.pdf

“More than half of homeless youth become homeless for the first time because they are asked to leave home by a parent or caregiver, and more than half say they have tried to stay at a shelter but it was full.” Findings include: “1) The average youth spent nearly two years living on the streets; 2) More than 60% were raped, beaten up, robbed, or otherwise assaulted; and 3) Nearly 30% of participants identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual, and nearly 7% identified as transgender.” (*Administration for Children & Families*, Apr.12, 2016).

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Statistical Portrait of Hispanics in the United States.* By Renee Stepler, et al. Pew Research Center. Apr. 19, 2016.**

<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2016/04/19/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states-key-charts/>

“There were 55.3 million Hispanics in the United States in 2014, comprising 17.3% of the total U.S. population. In 1980, with a population of 14.8 million, Hispanics made up just 6.5% of the total U.S. population.” Based on U.S. Census Data, the Pew Research Center has published a set of charts to further investigate this population, including nativity, share of U.S. population, and English proficiency.

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