



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***Special Status Report: Hate Crime in the United States: 20 State Compilation of Official Data.***  
By Brian Levin, et al. Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism, California State University, San Bernardino. Sep. 2016. 61 p.

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3110202-SPECIAL-STATUS-REPORT-v5-9-16-16.html>

“Hate crimes against American Muslims have soared to their highest levels since the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, according to data compiled by researchers, an increase apparently fueled by terrorist attacks in the United States and by divisive language on the campaign trail. The trend has alarmed hate crime scholars and law-enforcement officials, who have documented hundreds of attacks ... since the beginning of 2015. While the most current hate crime statistics from the F.B.I. are not expected until November, new data from researchers at California State University, San Bernardino found that hate crimes against American Muslims were up 78% over the course of 2015. Attacks on those perceived as Arabs rose even more sharply.” (*New York Times*, Sep. 17, 2016).

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Report on the Status of Women and Girls: Los Angeles.*** Mount St. Mary's University. Sep. 2016.  
<https://www.lamayor.org/report-status-women-girls-los-angeles>

The Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women has partnered with Mount Saint Mary's University to release the first report on the status of women and girls in Los Angeles. This five-part report covers Demographics, Leadership, Veterans, Education and Workforce Development, and Public Safety. "Women of color comprise 72% of Los Angeles' female population, with Latinas representing 48% of all women in the City.... Twenty-five percent of all L.A. women (25 years and older) do not have a high school degree, compared with 13% of U.S. women.... Thirty percent of all L.A. females under the age of 18 live in poverty. The L.A. poverty rate for single mothers raising children under the age of five is 49% — four times greater than the rate for married couples.... L.A. women's median earnings are \$25,557 versus \$30,399 for men, meaning women earn \$0.84 for every \$1.00 a man earns."

## EDUCATION

**"Charter High Schools' Effects on Long-Term Attainment and Earnings."** By Tim R. Sass, et al. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, vol. 35, no. 3 (Summer 2016) pp.683–706.  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pam.21913/epdf> (Available at the California State Library)

"This paper is the first to estimate charter schools' effects on earnings in adulthood, alongside effects on educational attainment. Using data from Florida, we first confirm previous research ... that students attending charter high schools are more likely to graduate from high school and enroll in college. We then examine two longer-term outcomes not previously studied in research on charter schools—college persistence and earnings. We find that students attending charter high schools are more likely to persist in college, and that in their mid-20s they experience higher earnings."

***Charter Schools and Labor Market Outcomes.*** By Will S. Dobbie, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. Aug. 2016. 78 p.  
<http://papers.nber.org/tmp/6402-w22502.pdf>

"We estimate the impact of charter schools on early-life labor market outcomes using administrative data from Texas. We find that, at the mean, charter schools have no impact on test scores and a negative impact on earnings. No Excuses charter schools increase test scores and four-year college enrollment, but have a small and statistically insignificant impact on earnings, while other types of charter schools decrease test scores, four-year college enrollment, and earnings. Moving to school-level estimates, we find that charter schools that decrease test scores also tend to decrease earnings, while charter schools that increase test scores have no discernible impact on earnings. In contrast, high school graduation effects are predictive of earnings effects throughout the distribution of school quality."

## EMPLOYMENT

***Youth Summer Jobs Programs: Aligning Ends and Means.*** By Marha Ross et al. Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings. July 2016. 51 p.  
<https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Summer-Jobs-Ross-7-12-16.pdf>

"Recent research finds that summer jobs programs have positive effects: reducing violence, incarceration, and mortality and improving academic outcomes. But a strong program does not automatically follow from good intentions. Program design and implementation carry the day and determine the results. Moreover, research has not yet conclusively linked summer jobs programs to improved employment outcomes; evaluations to date are silent on effective program design; and, in the absence of agreed-upon standards and best practices, there is no guarantee of quality."

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Climate Change: Frequently Asked Questions about the 2015 Paris Agreement.*** By Jane A. Leggett, et al. Congressional Research Service. Sep. 1, 2016. 32p.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44609.pdf>

“Experts broadly agree that stabilizing greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere to avoid dangerous GHG-induced climate change could be accomplished only with concerted efforts by all large emitting nations. Toward this purpose, delegations of 195 nations adopted the Paris Agreement (PA) on December 12, 2015. The PA outlines goals and a structure for international cooperation to slow climate change and mitigate its impacts over decades to come. “

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***California Public Utilities Commission: It Should Reform Its Rules to Increase Transparency and Accountability, and Its Contracting Practices Do Not Align With Requirements or Best Practices.*** California State Auditor. Sep. 22, 2016. 64 p.

<http://auditor.ca.gov/reports/2016-104/summary.html>

“This report draws the following conclusions: CPUC has not effectively guarded against the appearance of improper influence in its public decision making.... CPUC has failed to fully disclose important communications between commissioners and external parties.... [and] CPUC’s contracting activity has not been consistent with state requirements or best practices.... In addition, we reviewed the CPUC’s approval of sole-source contracts that energy utilities proposed, its response to California Public Records Act requests related to contracts, and potential conflicts of interest related to the CPUC’s and utilities’ contracts. In some of these areas, we found that the CPUC could improve its processes.”

## HEALTH

***Promises Still to Keep: A Second Look at the Mental Health Services Act.*** Little Hoover Commission. Sep. 2016. 34 p.

<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/233/report233.html>

In this report, a follow-up to its January 2015 study, the Commission recommends better accounting for \$2 billion in annual revenues and outcomes for Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act. “Important questions remain unanswered: Who oversees MHSA spending, where does the money go and is the Act achieving its goals? Furthermore, though the Act built-in a stakeholder process for spending plans, Californians do not yet have a clear path for participating in, or question, spending decisions. And though the Act promised opportunities to transform the way mental health services are delivered in California by funding new and innovative programs, the state does not offer counties meaningful ways to share lessons learned. The Commission offers recommendations on pages to come to help the state keep its 2004 promise to Californians.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***SNAP Caseload Declines Accelerated in Recent Months Return of Three-Month Time Limit a Factor in Many States.*** By Dorothy Rosenbaum, et al. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. July 29, 2016. 13 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/7-29-16fa.pdf>

“The number of people participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has declined by more than 4 million people, almost 9%, since peaking in December 2012, reflecting both an improving economy and the effects of the returning three-month time limit for unemployed childless adults.... [T]he number of SNAP recipients was lower in April 2016 than in April 2013 in more than 40 states.... In the remaining states, SNAP caseloads have fallen by less than 10% or have grown somewhat.... The share of the population now receiving SNAP in California and Pennsylvania is higher than in 2013 (by about 1% in California and 5% in Pennsylvania), though it started to decline in both states in recent months.”

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