Contents this week:

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**
- Hate crimes in CA decreased by 12.2% in 2014

**CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**
- Americans resigned to give up privacy to online marketers

**ECONOMY**
- Effects of Indian gaming on native nation economies

**EDUCATION**
- First generation students, condition of college and career readiness

**ENERGY**
- Brief offers guidance on EPA’s final clean power rule

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**
- High levels of contaminants in 20% of CA’s groundwater for drinking

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**
- Assessing the impact of California’s Latino and Asian American vote

**HUMAN SERVICES**
- Kids Data 2014: CA shows improved scores in overall child well-being

**TOOLS OF THE TRADE**
- Interactive maps of education funding in the United States

**VETERANS**
- VA’s plan to improve efficiency and healthcare

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**CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**


Published every year, this report provides statistics on hate crimes that occurred in California. “These statistics include the number of hate crime events, hate crime offenses, victims of hate crimes, and suspects of hate crimes.” According to this report, the number of hate crimes decreased by 12.2%, from 863 in 2013 to 758 in 2014. The total number of hate crime victims and suspects also decreased this past year.

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**CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**
“New Annenberg survey results indicate that marketers are misrepresenting a large majority of Americans by claiming that Americans give out information about themselves as a tradeoff for benefits they receive. To the contrary, the survey reveals most Americans do not believe that ‘data for discounts’ is a square deal…. Our findings, instead, support a new explanation: a majority of Americans are resigned to giving up their data—and that is why many appear to be engaging in tradeoffs…. By misrepresenting the American people and championing the tradeoff argument, marketers give policymakers false justifications for allowing the collection and use of all kinds of consumer data often in ways that the public find objectionable.”

ECONOMY


This report offers recommendations on what states can do to promote college readiness, particularly among first generation students. They point to signs of poor preparation for college, as measured by components of the ACT (American College Testing) assessment: “Approximately 9% of all 2014 ACT-tested first-generation high school graduates met all four of the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks indicating academic readiness for credit-bearing first-year college courses in English Composition, College Algebra, Biology, and the social sciences. At the same time, 18% of all 2014 ACT-tested first-generation high school graduates met only one Benchmark, and 52% met none.”
ENERGY


“This policy brief identifies key points to look for in the EPA's forthcoming final rule, including potential differences between the proposed and final versions…. [These points are]: changes in final state emissions targets; changes in interim targets glide path; treatment of new natural gas units; treatment of under-construction nuclear units; specific rules and flexibility on rate-to-mass conversion; submission deadlines for state plans; further guidance regarding multi-state trading options.”

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.est.5b00265

“Data from 11,000 public supply wells in 87 study areas were used to assess the quality of nearly all of the groundwater used for public supply in California. Two metrics were developed for quantifying groundwater quality: area with high concentrations (km² or proportion) and equivalent-population relying upon groundwater with high concentrations (number of people or proportion). Concentrations are considered high if they are above a human-health benchmark…. On a statewide-scale, about 20% of the groundwater used for public supply has high concentrations for one or more constituents (23% by area and 18% by equivalent-population).”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

http://explore.regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/ourwork/projects/ccep/ucdavisceppolicybrief10

This brief assesses the impact of these two groups in the 2014 election and its anticipated impact on the 2016 elections. It also examines disparities in voter participation at a granular level. Highlights include: only 17.3% of eligible Latinos and 18.4% of eligible Asian Americans voted in the 2014 general election; Latinos accounted for 39% of the state’s population yet made up only 15.4% of voters in 2014, while Asian Americans made up 13.3% of the state’s population and accounted for 7.4% voting in 2014; and counties in the San Joaquin Valley, Los Angeles and San Diego counties experience the lowest eligible turnout rates of eligible Latino and Asian American voters.
HUMAN SERVICES


“Since 1990, KIDS COUNT has ranked states annually on overall child well-being using an index of key indicators [on Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family and Community]…. The latest data show continued incremental improvement in educational achievement and child health and safety, as well as a record low level of teen births. After continuing to climb since 2008, child poverty finally decreased slightly in 2013.” California rankings in most domains have gone up from the previous year, having its overall child well-being ranked 38th from 40th. In particular, Health has shown a big increase rising to 14th from 26th.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE


“The project explores numerous datasets through interactive charts for all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. The idea behind the project is to take a historical look at how the economic and social conditions have changed for each state over time, and how those changes have impacted investment in education and student achievement. Each section explores specific data in chart form and offers context in related text.”

VETERANS


“The Department of Veterans Affairs has released a 50-page document, MyVA, outlining its improvement goals in the aftermath of last year’s internal report of doctored waiting lists that hid how long veterans waited for care. The document portrays a behemoth organization attempting, in the wake of cost controls and increased demand for services, to streamline services through such initiatives as a realignment into five regional districts, including a North Atlantic district, better access to services through improved staff training, and … better delivery of health care through hiring and coordination of services.” (Masslive.com, July 31, 2015).

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