CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT
Report finds over 75% increase in officers’ deaths from firearms

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY
Only 43% of low-income Californians able to access Internet at home

EDUCATION
States making an effort to recruit teachers for rural positions

EMPLOYMENT
Unemployment Insurance Program may not withstand an economic downturn

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
DOE plan aims for 50% growth in hydropower by 2050

HEALTH
Home dentist visits may improve children’s oral health

HUMAN SERVICES
Work requirements for safety net programs of questionable effectiveness

TOOLS OF THE TRADE
Mapping broadband and health access in America

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
CDC reviews fatal night crashes by 16- and 17-year-old drivers

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT


“The attacks on police in Dallas and Baton Rouge…. contributed to a grim tally this year. Through last week, 32 officers were shot and killed in the line of duty…. More than half of the officers fatally shot died in ambushes…. Overall, the memorial fund said that 67 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty through last week, up from 62 over the same period last year. The new report shows that 21 of these deaths were not ‘felonious incidents.’ Instead, they stemmed from car crashes, job-related illnesses and, in one case, an officer who drowned.” The report said that 32 officers were shot and killed this year compared to 18 in 2015, a 78% increase. In California, 3 officers were killed in 2016. (Washington Post, July 27, 2016).
CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY


“Most of the increase in broadband Internet connectivity is due to the growing popularity of mobile, smart phone devices. There has been a near doubling—from 8% to 14%—in the proportion of Californians who access the Internet at home only through a smart phone. While this is enabling more to get online, these users have more limited functionality when connecting to the Internet than those connecting from a desktop, laptop or tablet computer. In addition, some smart phone users face limitations in data access based on their monthly cell phone plans.”

EDUCATION


This response to a request for information summarizes recent state policies to address the shortage of teachers in rural areas. Some of the programs highlighted in this report are Colorado’s creation of an education coordinator position within its higher education agency, Mississippi’s loan repayment program and alternative licensing for teachers in a “shortage subject or geographic area,” and various forms of partnerships between universities and state education agencies—such as helping people in professional STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields transition to teaching, and recruiting teacher candidates from local areas.

EMPLOYMENT


“It’s the feds began raising federal payroll taxes on California employers to whittle down the UIF debt. The extra tax bite is now nearly $2 billion a year, and the debt is expected to drop to $1.3 billion by the end of 2017. However, that may be just in time for the next recession to strike. The Department of Employment Development says in a recent report, ‘The current financing structure leaves the UI Fund unable to self-correct and achieve a positive fund balance sufficient to withstand an economic downturn.’” *(Sacramento Bee, July 19, 2016)*

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT


“The Hydropower Vision analysis finds that U.S. hydropower could grow from 101 gigawatts (GW) of capacity to nearly 150 GW by 2050. Growth under this modeled scenario would result from a combination of 13 GW of new hydropower generation capacity (upgrades to existing plants, adding power at existing dams and canals, and limited development of new stream-reaches), and 36 GW of new pumped storage
capacity. If this level of growth is achieved, benefits such as a savings of $209 billion from avoided greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions could be realized, of which $185 billion would be attributable to operation of the existing hydropower fleet. Transformative technical innovations able to meet the co-objectives of environmental sustainability and low-carbon energy will be critical to enabling additional hydropower growth beyond these levels.”

HEALTH


“Early childhood home visiting programs, focused on the health and development of pregnant women and young children, can play a critical role in getting children off to a good start when it comes to oral health. Drawing from interviews with leaders in the home visiting and oral health communities and a literature review, this issue brief examines how oral health is incorporated into the early childhood home visiting models that serve the largest number of young children in California: Healthy Families America, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, Welcome Baby, and Early Head Start (home-based option).”

HUMAN SERVICES

[http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/6-6-16pov3.pdf](http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/6-6-16pov3.pdf)

“House Republicans will likely propose work requirements for safety net programs in their plan to address poverty, but the evidence indicates that such requirements do little to reduce poverty, and in some cases, push families deeper into it. The evidence from an array of rigorous evaluations, however, does not support the view that work requirements are highly effective, as their proponents often claim. Rather than instituting or expanding work requirements, policymakers should maintain a strong safety net that can help individuals and families weather hard times—and invest more in programs that help public benefit recipients build the skills and acquire the work experience they need to succeed in today’s labor market.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE


Broadband Health Double Burden Areas is “a web-based mapping tool that will enable and inform more efficient, data-driven decision making at the intersection of broadband and health. By allowing users to ask and answer questions about broadband and health at the county and census block levels, the tool provides critical data that can help drive broadband health policies and connected health solutions for this critical space. The mapping tool is an interactive experience, showing various aspects of connectivity and health for every state and county in the United States. Users can generate customized maps that display broadband access, adoption and speed data alongside various health measures (e.g., obesity, diabetes, disabilities and physician access) in urban and rural areas.”

Fatal crash risk is higher at night for all drivers, but especially for young, inexperienced drivers. To help address the increased crash risk for beginner teen drivers, 49 states and the District of Columbia include a night driving restriction (NDR) in their Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) system. NDRs have been shown to reduce crashes among newly licensed teens, with higher reductions associated with NDRs starting at 10:00 p.m. or earlier. However, in 23 states and the District of Columbia, NDRs begin at 12:00 a.m. or later, times when most teen drivers subject to GDL are not driving." This report shares state data regarding the proportion of drivers aged 16 or 17 years involved in fatal crashes at night.

About *Studies in the News* 

*Studies in the News* (SITN) is a service provided by the California Research Bureau (CRB), a division of the California State Library. CRB provides independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the Governor, Legislature, and State Constitutional Officers.

SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed weekly. Archived issues are available at http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/.

To add or remove your name from the SITN distribution list, or to update your e-mail address, please contact us at crb@library.ca.gov, or (916) 319-2691.

SITN is available as an RSS feed at http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/.