The California Research Bureau has released a report, “Programs and Projects Related to Mexico in California State Government – 2017 Update” [pdf link] that summarizes over 100 programs the state works with Mexico on related to issues of common interest and concern.

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**CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Most California Jurisdictions Show Declines in Property Crime During Justice Reform Era.*

“From 2010 to 2016, property crime rates fell more than 3 percent statewide despite the implementation of large-scale criminal justice reforms. For every major crime except vehicle theft, more California
jurisdictions reported decreases than increases in their crime rates from 2010 to 2016. For example, just 141 jurisdictions reported increased rates of burglary, while 367 jurisdictions showed decreases.” (Orange County Register, Nov. 2, 2017).

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY


“This report provides the first look at demographics, health, and health care access among transgender adults in California who participated in the 2015-2016 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). In California, about 92,000 (0.35 percent) adults ages 18 to 70 are transgender. Transgender adults are similar to cisgender adults in many ways but experience disparities in mental health, disability status, and health care access….. There are no statistically significant differences between transgender and cisgender adults in some demographic characteristics, such as education and U.S. citizenship, and in reports of various physical health conditions, such as diabetes and asthma. However, transgender adults appear more likely to be living with HIV.”

EDUCATION


This report “projects that enrollment in American postsecondary institutions will climb 15% from 2014 to 2025, with larger proportional increases among adult than traditional-age students, women than men, graduate students than undergraduates, and minority students than white students…. It projects the number of high school graduates to grow 5 percent from 2012-13 to 2025-26, compared to the 22% actual increase that occurred from 2000-01 to 2012-13. Postsecondary enrollment is projected to grow to 23.3 million from the 20.2 million that the department projects actual enrollment will have hit in 2014. (The latest final published data are from 2012-13.) The data show postsecondary enrollments having grown 32% from 2000 to 2014.” (Inside Higher Ed, Sep. 29, 2017).


This brief outlines state and federal action to alleviate teacher and principal shortages in rural communities (those most remote are defined as being 25 miles from an urban center). A number of states are developing “grown your own” programs—encouraging high schoolers and current college students in their own states to become teachers—by way of scholarships and special home loan programs. The federal government offers grants for teacher preparation programs and loan forgiveness for those working in rural schools or in Native American communities.
EMPLOYMENT


“This paper summarizes the literature on the dynamics of wages, turnover, and performance, and how increased wages and lower turnover effect security and public safety outcomes at airports.... Overall, the evidence indicates that higher wages leads to reduced turnover and better performance by employees, which in turn leads to a safer and more secure environment for both airport employees and the public.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT


“There has clearly been an alarming uptick in atmospheric methane in recent years, following a flattening of concentrations from 2000 to around 2007.... The new study found that a variety of guidelines introduced … in 2006 to estimate methane emissions needed to be updated. That’s because livestock are being bred to be larger than before (and are being fed more), and their manure is being managed differently—more often in huge ‘anaerobic’ waste lagoons that give off large volumes of methane. Once the study updated the methodology, it found that for 2011, global emissions were 8.4% higher from enteric fermentation and 36.7% higher from manure management.... The real question, though, is whether these changes are sufficient to account for rising atmospheric methane concentrations—something that the new study asserts.” *(Washington Post*, Sep. 29, 2017).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT


“Bernstein and [West] examine the ways that digital technology, mobile networks, and integrated solutions help officials in 17 global cities manage public safety and law enforcement.... Solutions such as CCTV cameras, police body cameras, integrated command centers using broadband trunking, social media safety alerts, and predictive data analysis show great promise as tools for law enforcement." The study recommends certain best practices for cities to utilize digital technology: increase budget for digital infrastructure investments, implement integrated command centers, encourage citizen participation with crowd-sourcing, use body and CCTV cameras to improve accountability, deploy data analytics, and balance security with privacy concerns.”

HEALTH

http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(17)32345-0.pdf

“Pollution is the largest environmental cause of disease and premature death in the world today. Diseases caused by pollution were responsible for an estimated 9 million premature deaths in 2015—
16% of all deaths worldwide—three times more deaths than from AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined and 15 times more than from all wars and other forms of violence. In the most severely affected countries, pollution-related disease is responsible for more than one death in four. Pollution disproportionately kills the poor and the vulnerable. Nearly 92% of pollution-related deaths occur in low-income and middle-income countries and, in countries at every income level, disease caused by pollution is most prevalent among minorities and the marginalised…. Despite its substantial effects on human health, the economy, and the environment, pollution has been neglected, especially in low-income and middle-income countries, and the health effects of pollution are underestimated in calculations of the global burden of disease.”

HUMAN SERVICES


“With 20.4% of state residents struggling to get by, California ranks first among the 50 states based on the SPM [Supplemental Poverty Measure]. California’s No. 1 ranking largely reflects the state’s high housing costs. Unlike the official poverty measure, the SPM accounts for differences in housing costs across the US, and when these costs are factored in, a much larger share of the state's population is living in poverty: 20.4% under the SPM, compared to 14.5% under the official measure. In fact, California’s poverty rate rises to the highest among the 50 states under the SPM, up from 16th highest under the official poverty measure.”

About the California Research Bureau

The California Research Bureau at the California State Library develops independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the executive and legislative branches. We provide policy research, 50-state reviews, academic and media summaries, data analysis and much more. To learn more about us or to make a request, or to subscribe to Studies in the News, contact crb@library.ca.gov, or call (916) 319-2691.