Studies in the News
California Research Bureau, California State Library
November 7, 2018

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT
Study: Reforms have improved CA corrections, but further steps needed

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY
Both rich and poor are leaving the Bay Area, but for different destinations

ECONOMY
How large cities drive economic growth, inequality

EDUCATION
Panel discussion: Keys to Latino student success

EMPLOYMENT
6 CA metro areas among nation’s 10 worst for unemployment rates

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
Scientists successfully treating Sierra Nevada streams damaged by toxic metals

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review: 2018 Budget Final Action Report

HEALTH
After 2015 CA vaccine bill: higher vaccine rates, more medical exemptions

HUMAN SERVICES
Youth homelessness in America similar in rural, urban counties

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT


“Lawmakers and voters in California have adopted a variety of significant reforms [that] have produced a number of important positive effects…. Three key challenges still confront state corrections in California: the state’s prison system is still operating at well above its capacity; spending on state corrections remains high; and there are still significant racial and ethnic disparities in California’s criminal justice system.”
CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

https://ternercenter.berkeley.edu/disparity-in-departure

“When people leave the Bay Area, where do they go?... \[W\]ealthy people tend to leave California, while the poor tend to stay in the Golden State. Many of the high-income households that left the Bay Area between 2010 and 2016 moved to other high-cost markets with dynamic economies, with New York, Seattle, Washington D.C. and Denver at the top of the list.... The report paints an entirely different picture for low-income people, especially poor black and Hispanic people.... They tended to move to affordable markets in the greater Sacramento and Central Valley regions. Lower-income movers were disproportionately black and Hispanic. Where they moved can be broken down by race: Black people tended to cluster around Sacramento, and Hispanics trended toward the Central Valley.” ([SF Gate](https://www.sfgate.com/), Oct. 5, 2018).

ECONOMY


“Inequality in the United States has an important spatial component. More-skilled workers tend to live in larger cities where they earn higher wages. Less-skilled workers make lower wages and do not experience similar gains even when they live in those cities. This dynamic implies that larger cities are also more unequal. These relationships appear to have become more pronounced as inequality has increased. The evidence points to externalities among high-skilled workers as a significant contributor to those patterns.”

EDUCATION

https://www.edexcelencia.org/research/publications/examining-life-outcomes-among-graduates-hispanic-serving-institutions (Free registration required)

“Leaders and individuals committed to the success of Latino students in higher education gathered for a collaborative panel discussion following the release of [the report]. Presentations and panelists expanded on the organizations' report findings, which revealed the significant impact that HSIs with intentional and supportive strategies play in preparing Latino students for the workforce, while also positively affecting their overall well-being..... Report findings highlighted several strategies that proved to be effective for increasing Latino achievement in higher education and opportunities to improve.” ([Diverse Issues in Higher Education](https://www.diversecampus.com/), Sep. 11, 2018).

EMPLOYMENT

“California’s labor force remained essentially unchanged, growing only 4,800 over the year ending September 2018, or 0.0% growth…. Considered by age, the prime working age groups in California (age 25-54 and 55-64) remain somewhat below their previous highs since 2000…. For the 12 months ending September 2018, lower wage industries accounted for under a third (30%) of new jobs, while middle class-blue collar jobs produced over a quarter (28%) as Construction levels remained higher compared to recent years…. of the 10 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) with the worst unemployment rates nationally, 6 are in California.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT


“An effort spanning more than two decades to restore a heavily polluted system of streams high in the Sierra Nevada of California has been declared a qualified success…. Leviathan, Aspen and Bryant creeks, once crystalline natural streams [have become polluted from] iron and other acidic, heavy metal pollutants released from the so-called Leviathan Mine, a badly scarred 250-acre open pit sulfur extraction site located about 25 miles southeast of Lake Tahoe…. But now, several miles of polluted stream are recovering and toxic flows are being abated” through the use of two treatment systems the researchers used to cleanse the snowmelt and rainfall runoff from the exposed soils of the mine. Eight miles of polluted stream are recovering and “toxic flows are no longer reaching the main stem of the East Carson River.” (The Current, Oct. 25, 2018).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT


“The budget package continues the Legislature’s ongoing commitment to California’s residents by strengthening the state’s investments in public programs and services. The Legislature continues to emphasize rebuilding state programs and services, which have still not recovered from the deep economic downturn….While making such valuable investments, the budget plan also increases the state’s reserve funds, including the creation of a Safety Net Reserve to ensure that programs relied upon more heavily during economic downturns have additional resources to mitigate against cuts and continue to support those in need.”

HEALTH


“Three years after California lawmakers passed a bill removing personal belief exemptions from childhood vaccination requirements, medical exemptions have risen…. [The study] examines how Senate Bill 277"
changed the vaccination landscape in the Golden State two years after it was implemented. The law requires children to receive vaccines before entering school or day cares, only allowing for medical exemptions. Researchers found that vaccination rates have increased among kindergarteners from 92.8% in the 2015-2016 school year to 95.1% in the 2017-2018 school year.” However, the rate of medical exemptions also increased, particularly in counties with high personal belief exemption rates. (Patch.com, Oct. 29, 2018).

HUMAN SERVICES


“[The study] found that 9.2% of young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 who reside in predominantly rural counties report experiencing homelessness in the last year, compared to 9.6% of their urban counterparts…. But the problem may be more ‘hidden’ in rural areas. Homeless youth in those communities are more likely to be staying with other people or sleeping outside than their urban counterparts, and are about half as likely to be staying in homeless shelters. That’s largely because youth shelter services don’t exist as much in rural places.” The study recommends “reexamining federal programs and funding to make sure that youth in every part of the country have access to help and support.” (Route Fifty, Oct. 24, 2018).

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 obtain a copy of reports featured here, contact crb@library.ca.gov, or call (916) 319-2691.

To subscribe to Studies in the News and view past issues, visit our website at http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/newsletters.