The California Research Bureau recently released “Employer Reporting of Nurse Practice Act Violations in California.” This report, as required by Senate Bill 799 (Hill, 2017), reviews the system through which the Board of Registered Nursing receives complaints about alleged Nursing Practice Act violations, comparing the non-mandatory system used in California with those of other states. It also reviews the barriers to reporting alleged violations that can occur, and provides policy options for the state to consider. Visit our website at https://www.library.ca.gov/Content/pdf/crb/reports/Employer_Reporting_Practices_for_Registered_Nurses_Jan_2019.pdf

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT


“Exposure to police violence is linked with poor mental health outcomes.” Survey respondents who had been exposed to police violence (directly or indirectly) … “have higher levels of suicide ideation (suicidal thoughts or actions).” … The responses showed high rates of police violence directed at “marginalized groups” … and showed “negative mental health outcomes in the short term.” (Pacific Standard, Nov. 21, 2018).

EDUCATION


“Student debt can have a chilling effect on entrepreneurship, according to a scant but budding body of research. People with student loans can have less money to invest in a new business and can find it harder to get financing from a bank. In addition, some would-be entrepreneurs may be hesitant to take on the risks of a new business when they have a monthly student loan bill to meet. After all, half of small businesses fail by their fifth year….A person with $30,000 in student loans is 11 percent less likely to start a business than a person who graduated debt-free.” (CNBC, Oct. 22, 2018).


An evaluation of North Carolina’s school resource officer (SRO) policy suggests that policymakers use caution: SROs are not the only solution for improving school safety. “Policy makers must be careful not to develop SROs policy based on racial and social economic status or solely on focusing events. Rather the policy community should focus on the complex nature of school safety and vulnerability, which may vary by school and context. Public policy that is directed only at school conditions will generate marginal results at best. Multi-pronged policies that address underlying issues that may be contributing to increased school violence may generate more palpable outcomes.”

EMPLOYMENT


“As expected by economic theory, we find evidence for a negative effect of occupational licensing on labor supply. Surprisingly, we find that these negative labor supply effects occur primarily for white workers. We find much weaker evidence of licensing having a negative labor supply effect for black women and black men. Moreover, although many licenses have additional requirements, we do not find strong evidence that these requirements further distort the labor supply decision of workers above and beyond the direct effect of the occupation being licensed.”
(Available from the California Research Bureau)

“When deciding whether to participate in programs designed to conserve energy during peak hours, consumers appear to rely more on their intuition about how much money they’re saving rather than on proof their bills are smaller, a new study has found. Actual savings for utility customers who participated in a program that encouraged thoughtful energy usage—things like running loads of laundry during non-peak times and turning off the air conditioning during peak evening hours—was real, but minimal…. Previous research has shown that customers in general have a poor understanding of their electricity use and bills and that disconnect is likely at play here.” (Ohio State News, Dec. 3, 2018).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT


“This analysis uses the Census Bureau’s most recent state population estimates and the FFIS grants database to rank states on their per capita receipt of federal grants in a host of areas…. Medicaid drives the results. While average Medicaid grants per capita grew 49% between FY 2012 and FY 2017, non-Medicaid grants grew 6.6%…. Health is the largest category, averaging $1,289 per capita. Federal grants average more than $100 per capita for income security and social services, education, and transportation.” California is one of the 10 states with the largest grant increases, driven by the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid expansion, between FY 2012 and FY 2017.


Data from:
- Government Finance Officers Association: http://www.gfoa.org/salt

Map of State and Local Tax Deduction by Congressional District: https://public.tableau.com/profile/qfoa#!/vizhome/StateandLocalTaxDeductionJuly10/Sheet1

“Eleven states received less in federal spending than they provided in tax payments. They include three of the 10 most populous: California, Illinois, and New York. Among them are several states with high personal incomes, which provide a lot of federal tax revenues while receiving the minimum federal matching rate for Medicaid, a program that has a big influence on spending outcomes…. Under the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) … a $10,000 cap was placed on the deduction for state and local property, income, and sales taxes (known as SALT) on federal personal income taxes…. [Nineteen] states and the District of Columbia had average SALT deductions exceeding the new $10,000 limit, including [California].”
HEALTH


“Two new studies suggest that rising autism rates might be connected at least in part to air pollution from traffic. They are not the first to show a link between exposure to pollutants during pregnancy and the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders. But both studies look at large populations and find a link with relatively low levels of pollutants…. In a study of 132,256 births in Vancouver, Canada … researchers detected an association between exposure to roadway pollution in utero and later diagnosis with autism…. The second study … found a link between pollution exposures during the first months of life and later diagnosis with autism. That study looked at more than 15,000 infants born between 1989 and 2013 in Denmark. Most of the 10 previous studies examining air pollution and autism, including one published earlier this year using data from Israel, found a similar connection.” (STAT, Nov. 19, 2018).

HUMAN SERVICES


“The results from this report’s analysis indicate a strong link between two years of free, high-quality preschool and significantly higher rates of maternal labor force participation and employment, at least among women with young children. These findings have implications for policymakers who may be weighing the costs and benefits of investing in universal, high-quality preschool. Among these are the short-term and long-term benefits to young families, the economic impact of greater labor force participation, the potential challenges that such an expansion may present for infant and toddler child care, and the risk of spurring urban gentrification as family-friendly policies induce some higher-income families to move into or stay within the city.” (Pacific Standard, Sep. 28, 2018).


This report asserts that declining child populations in higher-cost California counties could offset the per-child cost of universal childcare in other counties. “The think tank’s proposal has four core suggestions, including expanding transitional kindergarten to some 50,000 students and tying their attendance to the Proposition 98 funding guarantee. Prop. 98 allocates money for California schools adjusted on the basis of student enrollment. In recent years, enrollment has declined, leaving worries about a funding shortfall…. [I]ncluding more 4-year-olds would generate money for education and stave off the shortfall while allowing more students to find placements in high-quality programs.” (Fresno Bee, Jan. 8, 2019).
Even though the United States has four mobile network operators, it appears to be among one of the least competitive markets, according to market research published last month. “The US has the 5th highest gigabyte prices in smartphone plans and is the most expensive market in mobile broadband among the 41 EU28 & OECD countries.” This presentation, produced by a Finland management consultancy firm, compares 4G smartphone plan pricing in the United States and European countries from 2014 to the present.

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.

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