

## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***The Price of Prisons: What Incarceration Costs Taxpayers.*** By Christian Henrichson, et al. Vera Institute of Justice. Jan. 2012.

<http://www.vera.org/?q=pubs/price-prisons>

“State taxpayers pay, on average, 14% more on prisons than corrections department budgets reflect.... Among the 40 states that responded to a survey, the total fiscal year 2010 taxpayer cost of prisons was \$38.8 billion, \$5.4 billion more than in state corrections budgets for that year. When all costs are considered, the annual average taxpayer cost in these states was \$31,166 per inmate.”

**“Gang Homicides – Five U.S. Cities, 2003-2008.”** By Arlen Egley Jr., et al. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 61, no. 3 (Jan. 2012) pp. 46-51.

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6103a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm6103a2\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6103a2.htm?s_cid=mm6103a2_w)

In an analysis of National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) data for five cities, including Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Oakland, a higher proportion of gang homicides than other homicides involved young adults and adolescents, racial and ethnic minorities, and males. The proportion of gang homicides resulting from drug trade/use or with other crimes in progress was consistently low in the five cities, ranging from zero to 25%. Gang homicides were more likely to occur with firearms and in public places, which suggests that gang homicides are quick, retaliatory reactions to ongoing gang-related conflict.

## ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

***Economic Consequences of Software Piracy on California.* By Wallace Walrod. Orange County Business Council. Jan. 2012. 8 p.**

<http://www.ocbc.org/wp-content/uploads/Economic-Consequences-of-Software-Piracy-on-California.pdf>

“While the IT and computer software cluster is a large and growing driver of the California economy, software piracy in California cost software vendors an estimated \$1.36 billion, the highest of any state and higher than the national figure for 98 other countries. Lost revenues to a wider group of software distributors and service providers cost an additional \$3.88 billion, enough to hire nearly 16,000 tech workers. The lost state and local tax revenues in California would have been enough to hire more than 7,500 experienced police officers.”

***FY 2011 Per Capita Federal Spending on Major Grant Programs.* By Steven Pennington. Federal Funds Information for States. Budget Brief 12-01. Feb. 2, 2012.**

**Full Report. 6 p. (available to state employees or at the California State Library):**

<http://www.ffis.org/sites/ffis.org/files/private/publications/2012/BB12-01.pdf>

**Detailed Spending. (available to state employees or at the California State Library):**

<http://www.ffis.org/sites/ffis.org/files/private/client/2012/bb12-01.xlsx>

“Per capita federal spending is one measure for states seeking to assess how they fare in their fiscal relationship with the federal government. This report provides a per capita analysis of the 200+ federal grant-in-aid programs tracked by FFIS and included in its grants database. Per capita data are calculated for federal fiscal years (FYs) 2010 and 2011 using population estimates for July 2010 and July 2011, which were released by the Census Bureau in December 2011.”

## EDUCATION

***California Charter Oversight: Key Elements and Actual Costs.* By Rebecca E. Blanton. California Research Bureau. Jan. 2012. 226 p.**

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/CRBReports.html>

Charter schools in California are overseen by a variety of authorizers, including school districts, county offices of education, and the State Board of Education. Authorizers vary widely in the activities they perform and lack consistency in what they charge for oversight activities. However, authorizers commonly claim the maximum level of reimbursement without accounting for time or costs spent on oversight activities. This report explores best practices in charter authorizing and provides options for the legislature to improve charter school oversight.

***Comparing Funding for Charter Schools and Their School District Peers.* Legislative Analyst’s Office. Jan. 26, 2012. 16 p.**

<http://lao.ca.gov/laoapp/PubDetails.aspx?id=2554>

“The 1992 legislation that authorized charter schools in California created a funding model intended to provide charter schools with the same per-pupil operational funding as received by other schools in the same school district.... In this report, we assess whether operational funding received by charter schools and their school district peers is comparable. We (1) describe the funding models used for charter schools and school districts, (2) compare funding rates for the two groups, and (3) provide recommendations to simplify the funding system, maximize flexibility for both school types, and equalize funding rates for charter schools under the current funding system or under a fundamentally restructured system.”

***The State of Charter School Authorizing: 2011.* National Association of Charter School Authorizers. Jan. 2012. 32 p.**

[http://www.qualitycharters.org/images/stories/pdfs/publications/nacsa2011\\_state\\_of\\_charter\\_school\\_authoring.pdf](http://www.qualitycharters.org/images/stories/pdfs/publications/nacsa2011_state_of_charter_school_authoring.pdf)

This study presents the results of a national survey of charter school authorizers. Over 90% of authorizers nationwide are school districts and 86% of all authorizers oversee five schools or less. The authors find that over the past two years, the number of charter schools that closed at the time of reauthorization has declined. However, they cannot determine if this is a growing trend or a momentary fluctuation. The report includes a set of “essential practices” of superior authorizers.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

***Water Reuse: Potential for Expanding the Nation’s Water Supply through Reuse of Municipal Wastewater.* National Academy of Sciences. Jan. 2012. 200 p.**

Free download at: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=13303](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13303)

“Expanding water reuse – the use of treated wastewater for beneficial purposes including irrigation, industrial uses, and drinking water augmentation – could significantly increase the nation’s total available water resources. A portfolio of treatment options is available to mitigate water quality issues in reclaimed water, and new analysis suggests the risk of exposure to certain microbial and chemical contaminants from drinking reclaimed water does not appear to be any higher than the risk experienced in at least some current drinking water treatment systems, and may be orders of magnitude lower. Adjustments to the federal regulatory framework could enhance public health protection for both planned and unplanned (or de facto) reuse and increase public confidence in water reuse.”

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

**“Why Redistricting Commissions Aren’t Immune from Politics.” By Josh Goodman. *Stateline: State Policy and Politics* (Jan. 27, 2012). 6 p.**

<http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=627668>

“Colorado isn’t the only state in the latest round of redistricting where an independent commission intended to tamp down partisanship wound up sparking partisan fireworks anyway. Commission processes in Arizona, California and Idaho were also contentious and litigious. The lesson from these states seems to be that even when independent commissions take partisans out of redistricting, they can’t take out the partisanship. However ... many of the people who have served on independent commissions argue that, in some cases, it may be evidence that they have succeeded in crafting plans that didn’t serve elected officials’ self-interest.”

## **HOUSING**

***The End of the Segregated Century: Racial Separation in America’s Neighborhoods, 1890-2010.* By Edward Glaeser, et al. Manhattan Institute. Jan. 2012. 36 p.**

[http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/cr\\_66.pdf](http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/cr_66.pdf)

Segregated neighborhoods have been steadily declining since the 1960s. Along with changes in attitudes towards racial and ethnic groups, this change can be attributed to an extension of mortgage credit to minority populations, and the end of restrictive covenants that once added many barriers to home ownership.

## INSURANCE

***Lower-income Households and the Auto Insurance Marketplace: Challenges and Opportunities.***  
By Stephen Brobeck, et al. Consumer Federation of America. Jan. 30, 2012. 26 p.  
<http://www.consumerfed.org/news/450>

"State insurance commissioners have the ability to take steps [some are suggested in the report] that would equitably reduce auto insurance costs for responsible lower-income drivers, thus increasing access to car ownership and employment in a difficult economic environment." Low- and moderate-income households spent \$30 billion on auto insurance in 2010, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics survey data, compared to \$4 billion in auto financing and \$10 billion in payday consumer loans. In California, more than three-fifths of drivers from many lower-income communities are uninsured.

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