

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

2012-13 Budget: Refocusing CDCR After The 2011 Realignment. Legislative Analyst's Office. Feb. 2012. 32 p.

http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis/2012/crim_justice/cdcr-022312.pdf

"This report identifies the impacts of the realignment of adult offenders on CDCR's [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation] operations and facility needs, discusses whether realignment will enable the state to meet the prison population limit required by the federal court, as well as whether the change in the makeup of CDCR's inmate population following realignment will affect its housing, mental health, and medical facility needs. The report provides recommendations on how to better match CDCR facilities and programs with the remaining inmate population following the realignment."

ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

Worse Than the Great Depression: What Experts Are Missing About American Manufacturing Decline. By Robert D. Atkinson, et al. The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation. Mar. 19, 2012.

Executive Summary. 6 p.:

<http://www2.itif.org/2012-american-manufacturing-decline-exec-sum.pdf>

Full Report. 78 p.:

<http://www2.itif.org/2012-american-manufacturing-decline.pdf>

“In the 2000s, U.S. manufacturing suffered its worst performance in American history in terms of jobs. Not only did America lose 5.7 million manufacturing jobs, but the decline as a share of total manufacturing jobs (33%) exceeded the rate of loss in the Great Depression”....The reality is, [a] large share of manufacturing jobs was lost in the last decade...due to a failure of U.S. policy, not superior productivity. Regaining U.S. manufacturing competitiveness will create millions of higher-than-average-wage manufacturing jobs. The United States can restore manufacturing competitiveness and balance manufacturing goods trade within less than a decade if it adopts the right set of policies in what can be termed the ‘four T’s’ (tax, trade, talent, and technology).”

Regional and State Unemployment – 2011 Annual Averages. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. (UDSL-12-0371) Feb. 29, 2012. 12 p.

http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/srgune_02292012.pdf

In 2011, California recorded its lowest employment-to-population ratio (56%) since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began compiling its employment-population ratio series in 1976. This was despite the fact that the unemployment rate itself actually improved during the year (down 0.7 percentage points to 11.7%). California was one of five states to have recorded new series lows in 2011, along with Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and North Carolina. Virginia was the only state to record a statistically significant improvement in its employment ratio.

EDUCATION

U.S. Education Reform and National Security. By Joel I. Klein, et al. Council on Foreign Relations. Mar. 2012. 121 p.

<http://www.cfr.org/united-states/us-education-reform-national-security/p27618>

“The United States’ failure to educate its students leaves them unprepared to compete and threatens the country’s ability to thrive in a global economy and maintain its leadership role....The lack of preparedness poses threats on five national security fronts: economic growth and competitiveness, physical safety, intellectual property, U.S. global awareness, and U.S. unity and cohesion....Too many young people are not employable in an increasingly high-skilled and global economy, and too many are not qualified to join the military because they are physically unfit, have criminal records, or have an inadequate level of education.”

ENERGY

The Future of Nuclear Power After Fukushima. By Paul L. Joskow, et al. MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research. (Working Paper 2012-001) Feb. 2012. 32 p.

<http://web.mit.edu/ceepr/www/publications/workingpapers/2012-001.pdf>

This paper analyzes the impact of the Fukushima accident on the future of nuclear power around the world. The authors identify a relatively modest pre-Fukushima benchmark for growth in nuclear generation in the U.S. and other developed countries, focused on life extensions for many existing

reactors, modest updates of existing reactors as their licenses are extended, and modest levels of new construction. The majority of forecasted new construction is centered in China, Russia, the Former Soviet Union, India and South Korea. The authors argue that the accident at Fukushima will contribute to a modest reduction in the benchmark forecasts.

ENVIRONMENT

Addressing Nitrate in California's Drinking Water. By Thomas Harter, et al. Center for Watershed Sciences, University of California, Davis. Mar. 2012.

Full Report, 92 p:

<http://groundwaternitrate.ucdavis.edu/files/138956.pdf>

Executive Summary and Technical Reports:

<http://groundwaternitrate.ucdavis.edu/>

“Current funding programs cannot ensure safe drinking water in the Salinas Valley and Tulare Lake Basin. Small water system costs are high, and some of these systems already face chronic financial problems. Most current state funding for nitrate contamination problems is short term. Little funding is provided for regionalization and consolidation of drinking water systems. Policy options exist for long-term funding of safe drinking water, but all existing and potential options will require someone to bear the costs.”

Wasting Our Waterways 2012: Toxic Industrial Pollution and the Unfulfilled Promise of the Clean Water Act. By Rob Kerth, et al. Environment California Research & Policy Center. Mar. 23, 2012.

53 p.

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/sites/environment/files/reports/Wasting%20Our%20Waterways%20vCA.pdf>

“Industrial facilities continue to dump millions of pounds of toxic chemicals into America's rivers, streams, lakes and ocean waters each year – threatening both the environment and human health....The continued release of large volumes of toxic chemicals into the nation's waterways shows that the nation needs to do more to reduce the threat posed by toxic chemicals.” This report ranks the most polluted waterways in the nation, and lists the top pollutant-discharging facility in each state. The report suggests that states should strengthen enforcement of the Clean Water Act, require safer alternatives to the use of certain chemicals, and close legal loopholes.

HEALTH

Great Recession Accelerated Long-Term Decline of Employer Health Coverage. By Chapin White, et al. National Institute for Health Care Reform. Mar. 2012. 6 p.

http://www.nihcr.org/Employer_Coverage.pdf

“Between 2007 and 2010, the share of children and working-age adults in the United States with employer-sponsored health insurance dropped 10 percentage points from 63.6% to 53.5%....Even when employment rebounds to pre-recession levels, a return to previous levels of employer-sponsored health insurance is unlikely. Well before the start of the recession, a steady decline of employer health coverage was underway with fewer firms offering coverage and fewer workers taking up coverage – likely because of rising health care costs.”

HOUSING

Out of Reach 2012. By Elina Bravve, et al. National Low Income Housing Coalition. Mar. 2012. 249 p.

<http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/oor/2012-OOR.pdf>

The rental housing market has increased during the recession. Demand has been greatest among extremely low income earners, those who earn less than \$20,210 a year and can only afford \$505 a month on rent. However, despite this need, the supply of low-cost rental housing has been shrinking. California ranks number three in a list of most expensive states – requiring a “housing wage” of \$26.02 per hour to afford a two-bedroom Fair Market Rental home.

HUMAN SERVICES

TANF Child-Only Cases. By Olivia Golden, et al. The Urban Institute. Jan. 2012. 9 p.

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/other_resrch/tanf_ccdf/reports/child_only.pdf

“Fifty-nine percent of child-only TANF units include ineligible parents; children living with nonparental caregivers, usually grandparents, make up 41%. The intersection between TANF and child welfare policies is critical since evidence suggests that from one-third to one-half of children in nonparental child-only units have had some contact with child protective services. The subgroups of parental child-only TANF cases are distinct and point to the need for nonparental cases. The evidence suggests that TANF may face policy challenges quite similar to those faced by the child welfare system.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Estimating Workforce Development Needs for High-Speed Rail in California. By Peter J. Haas, et al. Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose State University. Mar. 2012. 176 p.

<http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu/PDFs/research/1027-california-high-speed-rail-workforce-needs.pdf>

“This study provides an assessment of the job creation and attendant education and training needs associated with the creation of the California High-Speed Rail (CHSR) network, scheduled to begin construction in September 2012....This report identifies vast training needs for the construction workforce and higher education needs for a managerial construction workforce. Finally, the report identifies an extremely limited existing capacity for training and educating the high-speed rail workforce in both California and in the U.S. generally.”

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