

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Efficacy of Managed Access Systems to Intercept Calls from Contraband Cell Phones in California Prisons. Council on Science and Technology. May 8, 2012. 79 p.

<http://www.ccst.us/publications/2012/2012cell.php>

“Contraband cell phones are being smuggled into California State Prisons in large numbers.... The risk of illegal activities being performed over these cell phones prompts the need for solutions and intervention approaches to be identified and deployed.” The study recommends exploring options that would mitigate contraband cell phones such as screening protocols and conducting thorough searches of all items, personnel and vehicles at prison entrances.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Census 2020: Additional Steps Are Needed to Build on Early Planning.* General Accountability Office. (GAO 12-626) May 17, 2012. 44 p.**

<http://gao.gov/assets/600/590939.pdf>

“The Census Bureau’s (Bureau) early planning and preparation efforts for the 2020 Census are consistent with most leading practices in each of the three management areas GAO reviewed.... At the same time, however, the amount of change-related activity the Bureau is considering as part of its reorganization of its decennial directorate may not be aligned with the resources the Bureau has allocated to plan, coordinate, and carry it out, and, as a result, the planned transformation efforts may not be sustainable or successful.... Furthermore, there has been little effective outreach to the Bureau’s congressional stakeholders about its reexamination of census processes and design, which could result in a lack of support on potentially complex or sensitive topics that can be crucial for creating a stable environment in which to prepare for a census.” (GAO)

ECONOMY

***Economic Mobility of the States.* The Economic Mobility Project, The Pew Center of the States. May 2012.**

Executive Summary. 3 p.:

[http://www.pewstates.org/uploadedFiles/PCS_Assets/2012/MobilityofStates_Summary\(1\).pdf](http://www.pewstates.org/uploadedFiles/PCS_Assets/2012/MobilityofStates_Summary(1).pdf)

Interactive Map:

<http://www.pewstates.org/research/data-visualizations/economic-mobility-of-the-states-interactive-85899381539>

This study analyzes Americans’ economic mobility at the state level in three ways. Absolute mobility measures average earnings growth over time, while relative mobility measures people’s rank on the earnings ladder relative to peers, and their movement up or down that ladder. States that ranked above the national average in at least two measures are considered “better” while those states that ranked below the national average in at least two measures are considered “worse.” States in the Mideast and New England ranked highest and those in the South ranked worse.

EDUCATION

***College Degree: Why Aren’t More People Making the Investment?* By Maria Canon, et al. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Apr. 2012. 6 p.**

http://www.stlouisfed.org/publications/pub_assets/pdf/re/2012/b/college_degrees.pdf

Even though a higher percentage of high school graduates are starting college today than 30 years ago, fewer are graduating. Research has shown many factors play into this, including the risk of not successfully finishing college and the risk of not getting a high-paying job even when college is completed. Added to this is the new reality of the current poor job market, where many college graduates are unemployed or under-employed. Given its high investment cost, some are finding there is a low incentive to attend college.

Arts Education in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools: 1999-2000 and 2009-10. By Basmat Parsad, et al. National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences. Apr. 2012. 126 p.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2012/2012014.pdf>

Arts education, including music, dance, visual arts and drama have all become less prominent in schools over the past decade. Music and visual arts are much more likely to be included in a school's curriculum than dance or drama. Music is the least likely of the arts to be cut from programming. Music programs were the most likely to employ specialists in the field while drama was the least likely. About a third of all arts programs collaborated with an entity or specialist outside the school.

ENERGY

Estimating Climate Change Effects on Installation Energy Use. By Ronald Filadelfo, et al. CNA. May 2012. 32 p.

http://www.cna.org/sites/default/files/research/Estimating_Climate_Change.pdf

"[Department of Defense] is now beginning to develop policies to ensure that climate change is properly accounted for in the department's [military] infrastructure planning process. Many aspects of installation infrastructure and management are subject to the effects of climate change. The challenge that is discussed most often is sea level rise and its obvious implications for coastal installations.... In this memo, we look at an obvious but seldom discussed implication of climate change for installation managers: rising temperatures and their implications for installation energy use."

ENVIRONMENT

Final Staff Draft Delta Plan. Delta Stewardship Council. May 14, 2012. 332 p.

<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan/current-draft-of-delta-plan>

"The final staff draft reflects the advice and recommendations of nearly 250 different organizations and individuals who offered more than 10,000 comments on the previous five drafts of the Delta Plan and the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report. The final staff draft provides a long-term, legally enforceable Delta Plan to further the achievement of the State's coequal goals of protecting and restoring the Delta ecosystem and providing a more reliable water supply for California."

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

United States v. Pleau. United States Court of Appeals for the First District. No. 11-1775. May 7, 2012. 44 p.

<http://www.ca1.uscourts.gov/pdf/opinions/11-1775EB-01A.pdf>

The issue in the case is whether the Federal Government can compel state compliance when requesting a prisoner custody transfer under an interstate compact. The state of Rhode Island, under the Interstate Agreement on Detainers, had denied the Federal Government's request under the same interstate compact to transfer the prisoner, from state control to federal control. The Federal Government then filed a writ of *habeas corpus* to prosecute the prisoner in federal court after he had been convicted and sentenced in state court. The Court of Appeals, in a 3-2 *en banc* decision, found that the Federal Government could indeed compel a state government to deliver up the prisoner. The dissenting judges argued that the majority's decision "snubs the rules applicable to the enforcement of interstate compacts as reiterated most recently by the Supreme Court."

HEALTH

“Growth Of Consumer-Directed Health Plans To One-Half Of All Employer-Sponsored Insurance Could Save \$57 Billion Annually.” By Amelia M. Haviland, et al. *Health Affairs*, vol. 31, no. 5. (2012) pp. 1009-1015.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/31/5/1009.full.pdf>

“This article projects the systemwide impact if consumer-directed plan enrollment grew from its current level of 13% to 50% of the total employer-sponsored enrollment. We believe that continued cost pressures, combined with the financial incentives in the Affordable Care Act, make the 50% level plausible over the coming decade. However, to give a broader picture of potential growth, we also illustrate potential savings at the 25% and 75% levels of enrollment.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Sexual Exploitation and Homeless Youth in California: What Policymakers Need to Know. By Shahera Hyatt, et al. California Homeless Youth Project. May 2012. 8 p.

<http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/SexualExploitedHomelessYouthIssueBrief.pdf>

“Few crimes are as unsettling to a community as the sexual victimization of a child, yet an estimated 300,000 youth are either victims or at risk of becoming victims of the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) each year. Sixty percent of these victimized children are homeless.... This issue brief establishes what is known about sexually exploited homeless youth and highlights significant pieces of legislation in California aimed at addressing the problem. Finally, the brief reviews efforts underway in Alameda County to implement a diversion program aimed at better protecting and serving sexually exploited minors.”

The SSI Program for Children: Time for Change? By Ron Haskins. *The Future of Children*. Spring 2012. 8 p.

http://www.futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/22_01_PolicyBrief.pdf

Poor families with eligible children may receive SSI to compensate them for disability-related expenses and lost work. Critics argue that families may not be spending cash assistance on disabled children and that there are incentives for families to remain on SSI long-term. Supporters of SSI argue that ending cash aid will impose more hardship on families with disabled children and that data support the position that families receiving SSI rightly qualify for it. Some reforms include devolving SSI program authority and funding to states, increasing funding for periodic disability reviews to validate ongoing eligibility, and increasing money spent on helping disabled children avoid long-term dependency. This policy brief is a companion piece to the current edition of *Children with Disabilities*, available at <http://www.futureofchildren.org/>.

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