

## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Hidden in Plain Sight: What Cost-of-Crime Research Can Tell Us About Investing in Policing.* By Paul Heaton. RAND. May 2012. 21 p.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional\\_papers/OP279.html](http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/OP279.html)

“Summarizing the existing high-quality academic research on the cost of crime and the effectiveness of police in preventing crime, this paper familiarizes policymakers and practitioners with current research on these issues and demonstrates how this research can be used to better understand the returns to investments in police. It demonstrates a method for comparing the costs of police personnel with the expected benefits generated by those police in terms of reduced crime. Applying the method to several real-world scenarios shows that these investments generate net social benefits. Returns on investments in police personnel are likely to be substantial.”

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Californians & Their Government.*** By Mark Baldassare, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. May 2012. 34 p.

[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/survey/S\\_512MBS.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/survey/S_512MBS.pdf)

“Majorities of Californians are willing to pay higher taxes for K–12 education (64%), higher education (57%), and health and human services (54%). Only 17% would pay higher taxes for prisons and corrections. Findings are similar among likely voters. When we asked a similar question in January about paying higher taxes to maintain current funding for the major budget areas, 72% said they would pay higher taxes for K–12 education. Findings for other spending areas were similar to today.”

## ECONOMY

***Value Added: America’s Manufacturing Future.*** By Michael Lind, et al. New America Foundation. Apr. 2012. 28 p.

[http://newamerica.net/publications/policy/value\\_added\\_americas\\_manufacturing\\_future](http://newamerica.net/publications/policy/value_added_americas_manufacturing_future)

“For the past 20 years, conventional wisdom has held that services would render American manufacturing obsolete. Yet thanks to a variety of factors, including rapid technological change, a changing manufacturing sector has emerged as one of the strongest sectors in an otherwise weak recovery. The report recommends a number of public policy strategies to sustain our nation’s competitive edge, including: R&D and technology diffusion; infrastructure and energy strategy; tax and regulatory reform and training workers for advanced manufacturing jobs.”

## EDUCATION

***Overview of Governor’s Child Care and Preschool Proposals.*** Legislative Analyst’s Office. May 21, 2012. 6 p.

[http://www.lao.ca.gov/handouts/education/2012/Overview\\_of\\_Governor%E2%80%99s\\_Child\\_Care\\_and\\_Preschool\\_Proposals\\_052112.pdf](http://www.lao.ca.gov/handouts/education/2012/Overview_of_Governor%E2%80%99s_Child_Care_and_Preschool_Proposals_052112.pdf)

In his 2012 budget, Governor Brown proposed cuts to state-supported child care and preschool. This report provides a simplified overview of the governor’s proposals. It has an easy-to-access chart on the policy changes, a bullet-point list of key changes in policies, and high-level summaries of budget numbers.

## EMPLOYMENT

***Short Hours, Long Hours: Hour Levels and Trends in the Retail Industry in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.*** By Françoise Carré, et al. W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. May 2012. 44 p.

[http://research.upjohn.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1200&context=up\\_workingpapers](http://research.upjohn.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1200&context=up_workingpapers)

“[I]nsufficient hours of work represent a chronic problem in the US retail sector and in other service work.” Over time, cost-reduction strategies found in the U.S. retail sector have negatively affected the number of hours worked. “The evidence strongly suggests that differences in labor market laws and other institutions help to explain short and shrinking hours of work in retail in the United States.” To improve employee outcomes, retail and other sectors might reduce differences in compensation and benefits for part and full-time employees and decrease store hours. Authors also suggest building on California and others states’ “reporting pay time” by implementing a daily as well as an hourly minimum wage.

## ENVIRONMENT

***2012 Delta Vision Report Card: An Evaluation of Efforts to Implement the Delta Vision Strategic Plan.*** Delta Vision Foundation. June 2012. 101 p.

[http://www.deltavisionfoundation.org/pdfs/2012\\_Delta\\_Vision\\_Report\\_Card\\_6-5-12.pdf](http://www.deltavisionfoundation.org/pdfs/2012_Delta_Vision_Report_Card_6-5-12.pdf)

California's top policy makers earned below-average marks on Delta progress this past year. "State decision-makers are making inroads on planning, but lagging on implementation of solutions to fix the beleaguered Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." This annual evaluation assigns letter grades to state and federal agencies, the Governor's administration, the Legislature, and other stakeholders. Grades reflect progress on implementing actions recommended in the 2008 *Delta Vision Strategic Plan*, and in achieving two co-equal goals of restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem and ensuring a reliable water supply for California.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***What Makes a Tax System 'Fair'?*** California Budget Project. May 2012. 4 p.

[http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2012/120530\\_Tax\\_Equity\\_BB.pdf](http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2012/120530_Tax_Equity_BB.pdf)

"The overall fairness of a tax system depends on the balance between the various taxes that make up the state's revenues.... Economists argue that decisions to provide special treatment should be made explicitly and reviewed periodically. Periodic evaluation provides an opportunity to assess whether such policies have achieved their policy goals or whether they have resulted in unintended – and potentially undesirable – consequences."

## HEALTH

***Are Healthy Foods Really More Expensive? It Depends on How You Measure the Price.*** By Andrea Carlson, et al. U.S. Department of Agriculture. May 2012. 50 p.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB96/EIB96.pdf>

A common explanation for America's consuming diets that do not meet Federal dietary guidelines is that healthier foods are more expensive than less healthy foods. Previous measures focus primarily on cost per calorie; as a result, high calorie junk foods appear substantially more affordable than low calorie vegetables. This study looks at three price metrics: the price per calorie, per edible gram, and per average portion size. "Regardless of the metric used, the analysis makes clear that it is not possible to conclude healthy foods are more expensive than less healthy foods. Much depends on the specific foods being compared."

## HOUSING

***Project 50: The Cost Effectiveness of the Permanent Supportive Housing Model in the Skid Row Section of Los Angeles County.*** By Manuel Moreno, et al. Research and Evaluation Services, County of Los Angeles, Chief Executive Office. June 2012. 31 p.

<http://zev.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/Project-50-Cost-Effectiveness-report-FINAL-6-6-12.pdf>

A permanent supportive housing model – one in which chronically homeless individuals are provided with housing as well as services and intensive case management – was successfully implemented in Los Angeles' Skid Row. Initial cost for the program was \$3.045 million, but the program yielded cost savings

of \$3.284 million over a two-year observation period. This program is a potential model for a more humane and cost-effective approach to chronic homelessness.

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Ownership Characteristics of Classifiable U.S. Exporting Firms*** is the first-ever report that “describes findings from the merging of two Census Bureau data products, the 2007 *Profile of U.S. Exporting Companies* (the Profile) and the 2007 *Survey of Business Owners* (SBO). The merged data ... provide new insights on the ownership and performance of U.S. exporting firms. This report focuses on the characteristics of ‘classifiable firms,’ businesses whose ownership is classifiable by their gender, ethnicity, race, and veteran status.” Visit <http://www.census.gov/econ/sbo/export07/>.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Competition and Illicit Quality***. By Victor Bennett, et al. Harvard Business School Technology & Operations Mgt. Unit (Working Paper No. 12-071). May 2012. 34 p.  
[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2005779&download=yes](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2005779&download=yes) (Available from the California State Library)

“In this paper, we demonstrate that competition can induce firms to increase quality for their customers in ways that are both illegal and socially costly.... When the government is unable to adequately monitor and enforce laws and regulations, competitive pressure can drive firms to match one another’s illicit strategies in a ‘race to the bottom.’” Using millions of vehicle emissions tests from more than 11,000 New York state smog test facilities, the authors show that “increased competition is associated with greater inspection leniency, a form of illicit quality that customers value but is illegal and socially costly. Firms with greater numbers of local competitors pass customers at considerably higher rates and are more likely to lose customers they fail to pass, suggesting that the alternatives that competition provides to customers intensify pressure to illegally provide leniency.”

### About *Studies in the News*

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