

## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

---

Contents this week:

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

Realignment impacts county jails

### **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

Supporting childrens' kinship families can save on intervention costs

### **ECONOMY**

Grassroots efforts to improve economic outlook for low-income families

### **EDUCATION**

Characteristics of second-generation college undergrads

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Racial differences, job tenure affect number of UI claims

### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

State Water Project reports on water delivery, projections

### **HEALTH**

Workers exposed to respirable silica during fracking operations

### **HOUSING**

Consumers face high title charges

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

More investigations called for in elder abuse cases

### **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

Principles may chart a path toward national LCFS policy

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Realignment Perspective: A First Look at Statewide Data Trends and Impacts.* Chief Probation Officers of California. July 2012. 6 p.

<http://www.cpoc.org/php/realign/dashboardinfo/CPOCbrief11.pdf>

This brief reviews the data and trends for split-sentencing, community-based supervision needs and costs to counties incurred during the first six months of Realignment. While the statewide estimates for number of prisoners released and costs are close to the projections made during the writing of the Realignment policies, counties are experiencing a wide range of impacts. Some counties, such as those in Central California, received 8% more offenders than projected while Bay Area counties received 5% less. The number of felons sentenced to split sentences, sentences involving some time in jail and some mandatory probation, has remained relatively stable over the last six months. However, the number of offenders being sentenced only to terms in county jail, rather than state prison or split sentencing, has decreased.

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Stepping Up For Kids: What Government and Communities Should Do To Support Kinship Families.*** The Annie E. Casey Foundation. June 2012. 20 p.

<http://www.aecf.org/KnowledgeCenter/Publications.aspx?pubguid={642BF3F2-9A85-4C6B-83C8-A30F5D928E4D}>

“Extended family members and close family friends care for more than 2.7 million children in this country, an increase of almost 18% over the past decade. The vast majority of these living arrangements are established informally within families.... With help, kinship caregivers have proven they can ensure that children are kept safe and healthy and are able to achieve their full potential. Smart investments in these caring families also save money. Their loving support enhances children’s development, preventing the need for more intrusive and expensive government interventions down the line.”

## ECONOMY

***Dreams Deferred: Opportunities, Challenges, and Solutions for California’s Low-Income Families to Build Financial Security.*** By Sunaena K. Chhatry, et al. EARN and Howard University Center on Race and Wealth. July 2012. 59 p.

<http://www.earn.org/static/uploads/files/EARNDreamsDeferredReport.pdf>

“For the overall health of a state the size of California, it is vital to ensure that the interests of some of the most vulnerable populations – low-income communities and communities of color – are not being left behind. Given the scale of problems in California, and because of the sheer complexity of the state’s political and economic landscape, this requires an energized and engaged grassroots constituency that can influence political decision-making.” This report compiles results from meetings held in 21 communities throughout the state and include constituent-based policy and practice recommendations focused on concerns of low-income families in California.

## EDUCATION

***New Americans in Postsecondary Education: A Profile of Immigrant and Second-Generation American Undergraduates.*** By Sondra Staklis, et al. National Center for Education Statistics. July 2012. 29 p.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2012/2012213.pdf>

Of all California undergraduates, 45% are either first- or second-generation immigrants. Nationally, over 70% of first- and second-generation students are Hispanic or Asian. Asian first- and second-generation undergraduates have higher percentages of the use of English in the home, as well as parents with a college education. Hispanic first- and second-generation students took fewer high-level math classes and proportionally more remedial math classes.

## EMPLOYMENT

***Racial and Ethnic Differences in Receipt of Unemployment Insurance Benefits During the Great Recession.*** By Austin Nichols, et al. Urban Institute. June 2012. 5 p.

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412596-Racial-and-Ethnic-Differences-in-Receipt-of-Unemployment-Insurance-Benefits-During-the-Great-Recession.pdf>

Since the beginning of the Great Recession in 2007, people of color made up a larger percentage of the unemployed, and they also were more likely to be unemployed for a longer period of time than white

people. Conversely, white people made up a larger percentage of the unemployed receiving unemployment insurance (UI). “Beyond racial and ethnic differences, several other factors affect UI receipt.” Job tenure, unemployment duration, and the nature of job separation are all significant factors in who receives UI. Government could “disseminate better information to workers who might not be aware of their eligibility for benefits ... [and] investigate the rates at which employers contest UI claims, to see if there is a racial gap in contestation.”

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

***The State Water Project: Final Delivery Reliability Report 2011.* California Department of Water Resources. June 2012. 106 p.**

[http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/swpreliability/FINAL2011DRR\\_DWR\\_Review\\_File-clean-6-25-12.pdf](http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/swpreliability/FINAL2011DRR_DWR_Review_File-clean-6-25-12.pdf)

This biannual report updates estimates of current (2011) and future (through 2031) State Water Project (SWP) deliveries, taking into account pumping restraints to protect Delta smelt, salmon, and other fish species; variations in precipitation; and impacts of climate change. It also presents a concise description of the historical events leading to the construction of the SWP, describes SWP's facilities and operations, and defines and explains the concept of water delivery reliability and the types of SWP water available to contractors.

## HEALTH

***Worker Exposure to Silica During Hydraulic Fracturing.* Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). June 2012. 7 p.**

[http://www.osha.gov/dts/hazardalerts/hydraulic\\_frac\\_hazard\\_alert.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/dts/hazardalerts/hydraulic_frac_hazard_alert.pdf)

“NIOSH's recent field studies show that workers may be exposed to dust with high levels of respirable crystalline silica during hydraulic fracturing.... Hydraulic fracturing sand contains up to 99% silica. Breathing silica can cause silicosis. Silicosis is a lung disease where lung tissue around trapped silica particles reacts, causing inflammation and scarring and reducing the lungs' ability to take in oxygen.... Silica can also cause lung cancer and has been linked to other diseases, such as tuberculosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and kidney and autoimmune disease.”

## HOUSING

***What Explains Variations in Title Charges? A Study of Five Large Markets.* By Robert Feinberg, et al. The Urban Institute. June 2012. 68 p.**

[http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/variation\\_in\\_title\\_2012\\_v4.pdf](http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/variation_in_title_2012_v4.pdf)

Title charges, or closing/settlement costs, can be a substantial burden to homebuyers and can vary greatly. An examination of a number of characteristics about buyers, housing units, neighborhoods, and the identities of the top title companies in five major markets, including Sacramento, CA, revealed that over 50% of the variation in total title charges remained unexplained. This unexplained variation might be a result of the characteristics of residences, house price differences, foreclosure risk, price discrimination against minorities and less-educated buyers, and settlement agent fees, as well as market segmentation and relationships between real estate and settlement agents. The findings suggest that consumers can benefit by shopping around for settlement services and that regulations could be placed to control title charges.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Operation Guardian Reports.*** By California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform. July 2012.  
Summary and Individual Reports: <http://www.canhr.org/operationguardians/>

Documented elder abuse about untreated sores, overmedication, overdose, filthy conditions, overbilling, and falsified services have led to little if any changes to nursing home care. California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR) requested and reviewed nursing home inspections done by California's Operation Guardians (OG), a project of the California Department of Justice Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse. CANHR recommends that OG should publish its reports, and along with the Department of Public Health (DPH), should conduct more investigations and follow-up on findings. DPH should prioritize investigations into OG reports that uncover health and safety hazards, and the Attorney General should prosecute staff, managers, and owners responsible for these conditions.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***National Low Carbon Fuel Standard: Policy Design Recommendations.*** By Sonia Yee, et al.  
Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California at Davis. Research Report UCD-ITS-RR-12-10. July 2012. 81 p.  
<http://nationalcfsproject.ucdavis.edu/files/pdf/2012-07-nlcfp-policy-design-recommendations.pdf>

"Since 2007, variations of a Low Carbon Fuel Standard policy have been adopted by California, the European Union (Fuel Quality Directive, FQD), and British Columbia (Renewable and Low-Carbon Fuel Requirement Regulation, RLCFRR). Other states in the United States have been exploring the adoption of an LCFS policy, including states in the Midwest and the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic region, and the states of Oregon and Washington." This report offers a set of "key policy design principles that chart a path toward developing a national LCFS policy" from a collaboration of researchers at six leading research institutions.

### **About *Studies in the News***

*Studies in the News* (SITN) is a service provided to the Legislature, the Governor's Office, and State Constitutional Officers by the California Research Bureau, a section of the California State Library.

- SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed periodically. Prior lists can be viewed at the California State Library's website at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb>.
- To update your e-mail address, or add/remove your name from the *Studies in the News* distribution list, please contact us at [crb@library.ca.gov](mailto:crb@library.ca.gov), or (916) 319-2691.
- *Studies in the News* is available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.