

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Adults with Behavioral Health Needs Under Correctional Supervision: A Shared Framework for Promoting Recovery and Reducing Recidivism. By Fred Osher, et al. Council of State Governments, Justice Center. Sep. 27, 2012. 82 p.

http://consensusproject.org/jc_publications/adults-with-behavioral-health-needs

“The report outlines the principles and practices of the corrections and behavioral health systems and a structure for state and local agencies to begin building truly collaborative responses. It dispels myths about the link between mental illness and violence, underscores that recovery and rehabilitation are possible, and calls for the reallocation of resources where they will be most efficient and effective.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2011. By Carmen DeNavas-Walt, et al. U.S. Census Bureau. Sep. 2012. 89 p.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p60-243.pdf>

“This report presents data on income, poverty, and health insurance coverage in the United States based on information collected in the 2012 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.” Results of the survey show that between 2010 and 2011, real median household income declined but the poverty rate was not statistically different. The percentage and number of people with health insurance increased between 2010 and 2011.

ECONOMY

Waiting for Recovery. By Alissa Anderson, et al. California Budget Project. Sep. 2012. 10 p.

http://www.cbpp.org/pdfs/2012/1209041_Labor_Day_PP.pdf

“It’s been more than three years since economists declared the Great Recession was over. Yet California and the nation continue to suffer from a severe job shortage, which means that millions of families whose economic well-being depends on a strong job market are still waiting for recovery.” This report looks at the state’s economy and reviews trends in employment and earnings for its residents.

EDUCATION

How Next-Generation Assessments Can Foster Success for California’s English Learners. By Robert Linqunti, et al. Policy Analysis for California Education. Aug. 7, 2012. 16 p.

http://www.stanford.edu/group/pace/PUBLICATIONS/PB/pace_pr_07.pdf

Language-minority students make up more than 40% of all California K-12 students. The authors assert there is currently an opportunity to implement new college- and career-ready standards to improve and restructure English Language Development (ELD) programs. “The state should address the correspondence between its ELD standards and its content standards strategically, to identify and prioritize aspects of the CCSS [Common Core State Standards] that maximize the potential for new assessments to attend to and measure language that is most relevant to academic content constructs. The next-generation academic content assessments now being developed ... must move toward gauging the use of academic language of *all* students and reporting on their performance.”

EMPLOYMENT

Education, Job Openings, and Unemployment in Metropolitan America. By Jonathan Rothwell. Brookings Institution. Aug. 2012. 33 p.

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Papers/2012/8/29%20education%20gap%20rothwell/29%20education%20gap%20rothwell.pdf>

“Advertised job openings in large metropolitan areas require more education than all existing jobs, and more education than the average adult has attained.... Metro areas vary considerably in the level of education required by job openings posted online.... Unemployment rates are 2 percentage points higher in large metro areas with a shortage of educated workers relative to demand and have been consistently higher since before the recession.... Metro areas with higher education gaps have experienced lower rates of job creation and job openings over the past few years.”

ENERGY

Can U.S. Carbon Emissions Keep Falling? By Eric D. Larson. Climate Center. Oct. 2, 2012. 18 p.
<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/report-can-us-carbon-emissions-keep-falling-15058>

“Recent declines in carbon emissions are the result of a combination of factors including the recession, increased natural gas production and the related decline in coal-fired electricity generation, continuing improvements in efficiencies of energy use, and growth in renewables, particularly wind power.... [T]he fall in emissions is likely to be neutralized or overtaken by growing population and incomes that will drive increased demand for energy-using appliances ... In the face of such growth and the 80% reliance of the U.S. on fossil fuels for energy today, modest improvements in energy efficiencies and expansions of lower carbon energy alternatives will not provide the level of change in the energy economy needed for carbon emissions to fall by 2050 to a level that most climate scientists believe is needed to avoid severe impacts of climate change.”

ENVIRONMENT

Reclaiming the Right of Way: A Toolkit for Creating and Implementing Parklets. By Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, et al. Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA. Sep. 2012. 173 p.
<http://www.its.ucla.edu/research/parklettoolkit.pdf>

“Parklet [micro-park] programs and projects are spreading quickly across the nation, from San Francisco to New York and other cities profiled in the toolkit. This decision-support toolkit is designed specifically to facilitate the development of parklet projects in the city of Los Angeles and encourage a parklet program that creates an institutionalized pathway for their installation. Despite the focus on Los Angeles, the program case studies, project guidelines, and other best practices presented in this toolkit are easily transferable to other communities across the nation.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

State of California Debt Affordability Report. State Treasurer’s Office. Oct. 2012. 36 p.
<http://capitolmr.com/UserFiles/File/20121002/2012%20Debt%20Affordability%20Report%20final.pdf>

“Our state’s workers, families, and communities continue to deal with the lingering effects of the deep national economic downturn. But there are signs better times may be ahead. California’s unemployment rate remains higher than the national rate, but in recent months the state has led the nation in creating new private sector jobs. Our housing market is still depressed, but it is beginning to show signs of recovery in most regions of the state. Consumer spending has begun to pick up. State and local government revenues, which suffered a sharp decline over the last five years, continue a slow recovery.”

HEALTH

“Vital Signs: Drinking and Driving Among High School Students Aged ≥ 16 Years – United States, 1991–2001.” By Ruth A. Shults, et al. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 61, no. 39 (Oct. 5, 2012) pp. 796-800.
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6139.pdf>

“CDC used data from the 1991–2011 national Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS) to describe the trend in drinking and driving among students aged ≥16 years, data from the 2011 national YRBS to describe selected subgroup differences, and data from 41 state YRBSs to examine drinking and driving by state....

The findings in this report indicate that substantial progress has been made during the past two decades to reduce drinking and driving among teens. However, the findings point to the need to further reduce teen access to alcohol and reduce opportunities to drink and drive.”

HOUSING

Foreclosure Prevention Report, Second Quarter 2012. By the Federal Housing Finance Agency. Sep. 2012. 48 p.

<http://www.fhfa.gov/webfiles/24547/2q12fprfinal.pdf>

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac completed more than 129,000 foreclosure prevention actions in the second quarter of 2012. Foreclosure starts, foreclosure sales and Real Estate-owned inventories have declined. The delinquent loan count has decreased by 11% year-to-date. However, in certain states, such as California, the number of loans that have been delinquent for one year or more has increased substantially over the past six months.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Breaking Down Silos Between Economic Development and Public Transportation: An Evaluation of Four States' Modest Efforts In Making Job Subsidies Location-Efficient. By Leigh McIlvaine, et al. Good Jobs First. Sep. 2012. 11 p.

http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/sites/default/files/docs/pdf/location_efficiency_memo.pdf

“This report is an update on the use of location efficiency policies in Illinois, New Jersey, Maryland, and California,” including California’s Infrastructure State Revolving Fund program at the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank. ‘Location efficiency’ refers to geographic coordination of workplace locations with employee residential locations and transit access. The report argues that “over the past few years, these programs have either been little used or deregulated to the extent that they can no longer be said to serve the goal of location efficiency. In all four cases, no evaluation of results on transit access, commuter choice or behavior, or land use pattern has ever been conducted.”

Traffic Safety Facts 2010: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Sep. 2012. 232 p.

<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811659.pdf>

This report “compiles 2010 motor vehicle traffic crash data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System. The report includes statistics about traffic crashes of all severities, from those that result in property damage to those that result in the loss of human life.” Traffic-related fatalities in California were 47.7% lower in 2010 than in 1990 (2,715 vs. 5,192) and the vehicle-mile weighted fatality rate has declined 73% since 1975, from 3.09 to 0.84 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. California’s 2010 fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles was the 7th lowest in the country. California’s observed seat belt usage rate of 96.2% was fourth highest in the country, well above the national average of 85%.

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