

## **Studies in the News**

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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

***The State of Human Trafficking in California.* Office of the Attorney General. Nov. 2012. 134 p.**  
<http://www.oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/pdfs/ht/human-trafficking-2012.pdf>

"Under current law, human trafficking involves controlling a person through force, fraud, or coercion for labor or services." From mid-2010 to mid-2012, California's human trafficking task forces identified 1,277 victims and made 1,798 arrests for human trafficking. Of the victims, 72% were American, dispelling the stereotype that trafficked victims are largely from foreign countries. Labor trafficking appears to be approximately 3.5 times more prevalent than sex trafficking. The report also includes a number of recommendations for reducing human trafficking in California.

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Estimating the Influence of Life Satisfaction and Positive Affect on Later Income Using Sibling Fixed-Effects.*** By Jan-Emmanuel De Neve, et al. The London School of Economics and Political Science. Nov. 2012. 31 p.

<http://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/dp1176.pdf>

“Much research has found that richer people tend to be happier. However, relatively little attention has been paid to whether happier individuals perform better financially in the first place. This possibility of reverse causality is arguably understudied. Using data from a large US representative panel we show that adolescents and young adults who report higher life satisfaction or positive affect grow up to earn significantly higher levels of income later in life.”

## ECONOMY

***The State of the States 2012: A Citizen’s Guide to the State of the States.*** The Institute of Politics at Harvard University, et al. Nov. 2012.

Full Report. 48 p.: [http://www.thestatesproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/Full\\_Report.pdf](http://www.thestatesproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/Full_Report.pdf)

Executive Summary. 20 p.: [http://www.thestatesproject.org/pdf/Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.thestatesproject.org/pdf/Executive_Summary.pdf)

“So how does California compare to other states in measures of economic, fiscal, educational and personal wellbeing? Not so well.... Overall, California ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> among the states in ...'best fundamentals', in which Virginia was No. 1 and Mississippi was No. 50. California is also 33<sup>rd</sup> in debt – both formal state and local government debt plus unfunded liabilities for pensions and retiree health care – as a percentage of the state’s overall economic output ... most of which is unfunded retiree benefit liability.” (*Sacramento Bee* Nov. 27, 2012).

## EDUCATION

***States Report New High School Graduation Rates Using More Accurate, Common Measures.*** U.S. Department of Education. Nov. 26, 2012. 2 p.

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/states-report-new-high-school-graduation-rates-using-more-accurate-common-measur>

The Department of Education released new data on high school graduation rates, using an improved and more accurate measure. “The transition to a common, adjusted four-year cohort graduation rate reflects states' efforts to create greater uniformity and transparency in reporting high school graduation data, and it meets the requirements of October 2008 federal regulations. A key goal of these regulations was to develop a graduation rate that provides parents, educators and community members with better information on their school's progress while allowing for meaningful comparisons of graduation rates across states and school districts. The new graduation rate measurement also accurately accounts for students who drop out or who do not earn a regular high school diploma.” California’s four-year adjusted graduation rate is 76%, which ranks 32 out of 51 states (50 states plus District of Columbia).

## ENERGY

***Terrorism and the Electric Power Delivery System.*** National Research Council. National Academies Press. 2012. 164 p.

Free download available at: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12050](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12050)

Executive Summary. 25 p.: [www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record\\_id=12050&type=pdfxsum](http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12050&type=pdfxsum)

“The electric power delivery system that carries electricity from large central generators to customers could be severely damaged by a small number of well-informed attackers. The system is inherently vulnerable because transmission lines may span hundreds of miles, and many key facilities are unguarded.... There are many technologies and strategies that could be employed to make the power system more robust in the face of terrorist attack ... [T]he best way to make needed changes affordable ... is through research.”

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Post-Election Analysis: The Growing Political Might of Ethnic Voters in the 2012 California Elections.*** The Field Poll. Nov. 19, 2012. 3 p.

<http://www.field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/RIs2435.pdf>

“Latinos, Asians, and African Americans collectively made up about 40% of the state voters in this election, roughly equivalent to their share of the state’s overall registered voter population. This means that turnout among the state’s ethnic voters was about equal to the turnout of their white non-Hispanic counterparts, a first in California election politics.”

## HEALTH

***State Estimates of Adolescent Cigarette Use and Perceptions of Risk from Smoking: 2009 and 2010.*** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Nov. 15, 2012. 7 p.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/2k12/NSDUH112/SR112StateEstAdolCigUse2012.pdf>

“Preventing adolescents from starting to smoke may be the most effective way to reduce the health and economic burden of tobacco-related disease in the future. In recent years, significant progress has been made in reducing adolescent smoking, but there is still much work left to be done.” California ranks as one of the states with the lowest adolescent smoking rates and highest in perceived risk from cigarette use. “State-level information about cigarette use and attitudes about smoking can provide States with vital data to monitor changes over time and to inform enforcement, educational, and prevention efforts.”

## HOUSING

***Taxation of Owner-Occupied and Rental Housing.*** By Larry Ozanne. Congressional Budget Office. Nov. 2012. 51 p.

[http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/11-2-2012-Taxation\\_of\\_Housing.pdf](http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/11-2-2012-Taxation_of_Housing.pdf)

“This paper illustrates how the different tax treatments of owner-occupied and rented houses affect the relative costs of owning and renting.... The tax advantages tend to make owning more advantageous than renting for higher-income households, but lower-income households can find renting cheaper than owning. The paper also illustrates how limiting or eliminating certain tax advantages would change the cost of owning relative to renting. While the precise comparisons are specific to the conditions detailed in the examples, their general implications are broadly applicable.”

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***International Profiles of Health Care Systems, 2012. The Commonwealth Fund. Nov. 2012. 112 p.***  
[http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Fund%20Report/2012/Nov/1645\\_Squires\\_intl\\_profiles\\_hlt\\_care\\_systems\\_2012.pdf](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Fund%20Report/2012/Nov/1645_Squires_intl_profiles_hlt_care_systems_2012.pdf)

“This publication presents overviews of the health care systems of Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Japan, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. Each overview covers health insurance, public and private financing, health system organization, quality of care, health disparities, efficiency and integration, care coordination, use of health information technology, use of evidence-based practice, cost containment, and recent reforms and innovations.... summary tables provide data on a number of key health system characteristics and performance indicators, including overall health care spending, hospital spending and utilization, health care access, patient safety, care coordination, chronic care management, disease prevention, capacity for quality improvement, and public views.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***ADA PARATRANSIT SERVICES: Demand Has Increased, But Little is Known about Compliance.***  
**By Government Accountability Office. Report GAO-13-17. Nov. 2012. 45 p.**  
<http://gao.gov/special.pubs/gao-13-18sp/>

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 requires public, fixed-route transit systems to provide paratransit service to disabled individuals that is comparable to services provided to those without disabilities. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is responsible for overseeing compliance with ADA requirements for paratransit services. According to FTA officials, only two or three of the 628 urbanized area fixed-route transit agencies eligible to be reviewed will be reviewed by FTA each year due to resource constraints. Of the 15 available reviews analyzed by GAO, all 15 had findings of non-compliance or recommendations relating to ADA paratransit services.

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