



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 13-109

March 6, 2013

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Racial changes to women's prison populations

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Most Californians favor policies that let immigrants stay

ECONOMY

A third of all fish in the U.S. market is mislabeled

EDUCATION

A look at public education finance reform

EMPLOYMENT

Bay-Delta restoration projected to create over 14k jobs

ENERGY

Best practices in energy efficiency

ENVIRONMENT

Fact sheets describe CA's clean energy programs and goals

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Governor's budget favored by most Californians

HEALTH

Demographic trends among CA's aging Latinos and Blacks

HOUSING

Projecting the changing landscape of CA's Central Valley

HUMAN SERVICES

SNAP usage continues to grow

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Sequestration: a 50-state budget impact overview

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

26% of drivers admit they text while driving

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Changing Racial Dynamics of Women's Incarceration. By Marc Mauer. The Sentencing Project. Feb. 2013. 26 p.

http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/rd_Changing%20Racial%20Dynamics%202013.pdf

"From 2000 to 2009 there was a dramatic shift in the racial composition of the women's prison population. In 2000, African American women were incarcerated at 6 times the rate of white women. By 2009, that disparity had dropped by half, to less than three times the white rate. The factors contributing to these changes include: sharply reduced incarceration of African American women for drug offenses in some states; declining rates of arrest of black women for violent, property, and drug offenses; and, cumulative social disadvantages that are increasingly affecting less educated white women. Recommendations for addressing these issues include conducting state-based analyses of racial disparity, enacting proactive racial impact statement legislation, and engaging practitioners in projects to reduce disparities in local jurisdictions."

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Near-Universal Support for Allowing Long-Time Undocumented Residents to Stay and Become Citizens Under Certain Conditions. The Field Poll. Feb. 22, 2013. 8 p.

<http://www.field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/RIs2439.pdf>

"Very large majorities of California voters now support enacting more permissive policies toward immigrants who have entered the country illegally. Nine in ten voters (90%) support allowing longtime undocumented residents to stay and be permitted to apply for citizenship if they have a job, learn English, and pay back taxes. This is the highest level of support for this proposal since the Field Poll began tracking this issue seven years ago."

ECONOMY

National Seafood Fraud Testing Results. By Kimberly Warner, et al. Oceana. Feb. 2013. 69 p.

http://oceana.org/sites/default/files/National_Seafood_Fraud_Testing_Results_FINAL.pdf

"Genetic testing of 1,215 fish taken from 674 retail outlets, grocery stores and sushi bars throughout the United States between 2010 and 2012 found that 33% of the samples had been mislabeled, according to U.S. Food and Drug Administration guidelines.... Misbranding food for financial gain is illegal under state and federal law, but in most cases there is no way for the consumer to know whether the fish is what the restaurant, fish market or grocery store claims it is. The [FDA] recognizes 1,700 marketable fish and publishes a guide of acceptable market names for certain species, but state and federal laws sometimes don't match up." (*San Francisco Chronicle*, Feb. 21, 2013).

EDUCATION

For Each and Every Child: A Strategy for Education Equity and Excellence. The Equity and Excellence Commission. Feb. 2, 2013.

Report 52 p.: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/eec/equity-excellence-commission-report.pdf>

Compendium Paper 65 p.: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/eec/equity-excellence-commission-report-compendium.pdf>

"With few exceptions, states continue to finance public education through methods that have no demonstrable link to the cost of delivering rigorous academic standards and that can produce high

achievement in all students, including but not limited to low-income students, English-language learners, students with disabilities, students in high poverty and students who live in remote schools and districts.... Accordingly, this commission believes the time has come for bold action by the states – and the federal government – to redesign and reform the funding of our nation’s public schools.”

EMPLOYMENT

Employment Impacts for Proposed Bay Delta Water Conveyance Facility and Habitat Restoration. The Brattle Group. Feb. 2013. 35 p.

<http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/BDCPPlanningProcess/KeyAnnouncements.aspx>

“The construction and planning, operations and maintenance, and the land acquisition share of the BDCP [Bay Delta Conservation Plan] habitat restoration measures will result in 14,865 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs during the first ten years of Plan implementation. The retirement of agricultural lands will result in a loss of 2,445 FTE jobs during the same period, for a net gain of 12,421 FTE jobs in the first 10 years of the Plan. The expected net employment impact of the restoration program over the entire 50-year period is 14,795 FTE jobs, which is equivalent to a gain of roughly 300 additional jobs in the region each year over the 50-year life of the Plan. In terms of labor income and job benefits, the habitat restoration component of the Plan alone will generate over a billion dollars in net employee compensation in the Delta region, even after accounting for the effects of agricultural land retirement.”

ENERGY

Energy 2030 Research Reports. Alliance Commission on National Energy Efficiency Policy. Jan. 2013. 247 p.

<http://ase.org/resources/ee-commission-report-summaries>

The Alliance Commission on National Energy Efficiency recently published “seven research reports that assess the current state of efficiency within the economy and review the best local, state, and national practices. These assessments will be used to support and provide the technical basis for the Commission’s efforts to develop a set of recommendations for doubling the nation’s energy productivity.” The reports address the following areas: history and business case of energy efficiency; energy productivity in American manufacturing; transportation, land use, and accessibility; residential and commercial buildings; power generation and smart grid; natural gas infrastructure; and systems integration.

ENVIRONMENT

Clean, Localized, Renewable Energy Can Power California: Factsheets on Distributed Generation Technologies. Environment California Research & Policy Center. Jan. 29, 2013. 15 p.

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/reports/cae/clean-localized-renewable-energy-can-power-california>

“Environment California Research & Policy Center prepared this series of factsheets to provide information about local energy technologies that are well-suited to help California reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and achieve a clean energy future. Each factsheet describes technologies that use energy from the sun, the wind, the earth, or plant matter to generate heat or electricity on or near the buildings and factories where we live and work. The factsheets also provide examples of how these technologies are already contributing to California’s clean energy goals. Finally, the factsheets provide recommendations for accelerating future clean energy progress.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government. Public Policy Institute of California. Jan. 2013. 35 p.

<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=1044>

“Strong majorities of Californians favor Governor Jerry Brown’s budget proposal and, specifically, his plan to direct extra money to school districts with more English Learner and lower-income students. Fewer – but still a majority of residents – back the governor’s plan to pay down the state’s debt and create a reserve, rather than restore funding for social services that has been cut in recent years.” (Press Release, Jan. 30, 2013).

HEALTH

California and Healthy Aging Series. By Tonya D. Lindsey, et al. California Research Bureau, California State Library. Feb. 2013. 8 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/CRBReports.html>

These overviews use the California Health Interview Survey to present information about health risk factors, economic security, and caregiving behaviors of California’s African Americans, Asian Pacific Islanders, Latinos, and Whites ages 50 and over. A significant portion of the older Californians from each race/ethnic group is overweight and suffers from issues related to economic security. These concerns are generally more common among those without a college education. And while 25% of those ages 50 and over report providing care to a family member or friend who has a long-term illness or disability, fewer than 5% report using respite care services.

HOUSING

A Home for Everyone: San Joaquin Valley Housing Preferences and Opportunities to 2050. By Arthur C. Nelson. Metropolitan Research Center, University of Utah. Jan. 2013. 80 p.

<http://www.councilofinfillbuilders.org/resources/PDFs/ValleyHousing.pdf>

Future demand for housing in the Central Valley will depart from the old model of building large, single-family home developments. Due to changing demographics, an aging population, and a desire for more walkable communities, there will be greater demand for apartments, condos and townhouses. Much of this growth can be accommodated with existing construction on newly-developed lands.

HUMAN SERVICES

Recent Data Show Continued Growth in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Use.

By Jessica A. Carson, et al. Carsey Institute. Jan. 2013. 4 p.

<http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/sites/carseyinstitute.unh.edu/files/publications/IB-Carson-Meub-SNAP-2013-web.pdf>

“This brief uses data from the American Community Survey to examine rates of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] receipt in 2011.... In 2011, 13% of all households reported receiving SNAP benefits. This represents an increase from 7.7% in 2007, reflecting both changes in need and policy. The highest rate of SNAP receipt was in central cities (16%), closely followed by rural areas (15.6%).... Single mothers had the highest rate of SNAP receipt, substantially higher than single fathers’ rates and three to four times as high as rates among married couples with children.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

NCSL Federal Budget Reduction Overview. National Conference of State Legislatures.
<http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/budget/federal-deficit-reduction-overview.aspx>

This link provides state legislatures and other stakeholders with “50-state summary table displaying the impact sequestration will have compared to FY2012 and FY2013 funding levels in the Federal Funds Information for States (FFIS) database. The chart exhibits the state-by-state impact of both the March 1 sequester and the March 27 sequester.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

2012 Traffic Safety Culture Index. AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Jan. 2013. 28 p.
<https://www.aaafoundation.org/sites/default/files/2012TrafficSafetyCultureIndex.pdf>

This study reports on the results of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety’s fifth annual national survey aimed at measuring attitudes toward traffic safety. Among key findings, the report states that 14% of respondents admit to having driven in the last year while at or near the legal limit for intoxication, including 2.1% who admitted to having done so within the last month. Additionally, 26% of respondents admit to having typed or sent an email or text message while driving in the last month, and 35% admitted to having read a text or email message while driving within the last month.

About Studies in the News

Studies in the News (SITN) is a service provided by the California Research Bureau (CRB), a division of the California State Library. CRB provides independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the Governor, Legislature and State Constitutional Officers.

- SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed weekly. Archived issues are available at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb>.
- To add or remove your name from the SITN distribution list, or to update your e-mail address, please contact us at crb@library.ca.gov, or (916) 319-2691.
- SITN is available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.