



## Studies in the News

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## **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

***Parents, Children, Libraries and Reading.*** By Carolyn Miller, et al. Pew Research Center.  
May 1, 2013. 92 p.

[http://libraries.pewinternet.org/files/legacy-pdf/PIP\\_Library\\_Services\\_Parents\\_PDF.pdf](http://libraries.pewinternet.org/files/legacy-pdf/PIP_Library_Services_Parents_PDF.pdf)

"The vast majority of parents of minor children - children younger than 18 - feel libraries are very important for their children.... Parents are more likely to want libraries to expand their offerings. Compared with other adults, parents are more likely to say that libraries should definitely offer more comfortable spaces (65% vs. 56%). This attitude might stem from the fact that parents visit the library more. Parents are also more likely than other adults to think libraries should definitely offer a broader

selection of e-books (62% vs. 49%) and definitely offer more interactive learning experiences (54% vs. 43%).”

## ECONOMY

***Grading Places: What Do the Business Climate Rankings Really Tell Us?* By Peter Fisher. Good Jobs First. May 2013. 88 p.**

<http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/sites/default/files/docs/pdf/gradingplaces.pdf>

This study reviews four of the most prominent business climate ratings of state tax systems and finds errors and flaws that lead to inconsistent findings and misleading results. “The underlying frame of these studies – that there is such thing as a state ‘business climate’ that can be measured and rated – is nonsensical. The needs of different businesses and facilities vary too widely.” This study seeks to add to the public dialogue about the optimal role of government in strengthening the private economy, to “focus on building a tax and budget system that is fair, modern – and relevant” to all.

***The Cornerstones of Economic Security for Resilient Workers: A Policy Framework for Shared Action.* By Doug Henton, et al. National Governors Association, Center for Best Practices. Apr. 2013. 40 p.**

[www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/2013/1304CornerstonesEconSecurityResilientWorkers.pdf](http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/2013/1304CornerstonesEconSecurityResilientWorkers.pdf)

Structural economic changes throughout the world require a workforce able to “build on its assets, preempt problems, rebound from setbacks, and take risks. Research and experience show that the most important assets for economic resilience are workers’ skills and adaptability, income and savings, health and wellness, and mutual support and social networks.” These four cornerstones are key to individuals navigating the economic environment successfully. The report identifies actions states can take with policy and institutional infrastructure to enhance these cornerstones and forge a new framework for economic security that will strengthen their competitiveness.

## EDUCATION

***The State of Preschool 2012: State Preschool Yearbook.* By W. Steven Barnett, et al. The National Institute for Early Education Research. Apr. 28, 2013. 157 p.**

<http://nieer.org/publications/state-preschool-2012>

“The 2011-2012 school year was the worst in a decade for progress in access to high-quality pre-K for America’s children. To some extent this reflects the effects on state governments of the worst economic downturn most living Americans have ever experienced. Yet, this is not the whole story. The 2011-2012 results also reflect the effects of long-term trends that predate the Great Recession.” This report includes state profiles of preschool programs for the past school year.

***Californians & Education: PPIC Statewide Survey.* Public Policy Institute of California. Apr. 2013. 36 p.**

[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/survey/S\\_413MBS.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/survey/S_413MBS.pdf)

“What is the most important goal of the K – 12 public education system? Californians are most likely to say that it is preparing students for college (35%), followed by preparing students for the workforce (16%), teaching students the basics (16%), teaching students life skills (15%), and preparing students to be good citizens (12%). Latinos (56%) and blacks (47%) are much more likely than whites (23%) or Asians (21%) to choose college preparation as the most important goal.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***Quality Employment for Women in the Green Economy: Industry, Occupation, and State-by-State Job Estimates.*** By Ariane Hegewisch et al. Institute for Women's Policy Research. Apr. 2013. 72 p.  
<http://www.iwpr.org/publications/pubs/quality-employment-for-women-in-the-green-economy-industry-occupation-and-state-by-state-job-estimates/>

"[This report] finds that women working in the green economy have higher earnings than other women and that the gender wage gap in green jobs is lower than in the economy overall. Women are, however, much less likely than men to work in green jobs and are particularly underrepresented in the occupations that are predicted to grow most strongly in the green sector. The report suggests that state and national workforce development policies need to explicitly address women's underrepresentation in green growth occupations to ensure that investment in the green economy equally benefits women's and men's economic prospects."

## ENERGY

***Status Review of California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard.*** By Sonia Yeh, et al. Institute of Transportation Studies. Spring 2013. 12 p.  
[http://www.its.ucdavis.edu/?page\\_id=10063&pub\\_id=1861](http://www.its.ucdavis.edu/?page_id=10063&pub_id=1861)

"The Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) is a performance-based regulation adopted in California in 2009 that requires regulated parties (e.g., oil producers and importers to California) to reduce the carbon intensity (CI) of their fuel mix by at least 10% by 2020.... This is the second in a series of periodic status reports of California's LCFS.... In 2012, low carbon fuels displaced roughly 1.06 billion gallons of gasoline and 45 million gasoline gallon equivalents (gge) of diesel (representing 6.2% of total gasoline and diesel fuel).... Since implementation, regulated parties have responded to the LCFS by lowering the CI of the California fuel pool. Continued LCFS compliance will require continued CI reductions."

## ENVIRONMENT

***Regulation of Hydraulic Fracturing in California: A Wastewater and Water Quality Perspective.*** By Michael Kiparsky, et al. UC Berkeley Center for Law, Energy & the Environment. Apr. 2013. 61 p.  
[http://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/ccelp/Wheeler\\_HydraulicFracturing\\_April2013.pdf](http://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/ccelp/Wheeler_HydraulicFracturing_April2013.pdf)

California currently lags behind other states in hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") regulations. Other states with ongoing fracking activity, such as Wyoming and Colorado, have established stronger safeguards and more stringent requirements. Hydraulic fracturing has the potential to contaminate ground and surface water, induce earthquakes, and impact air quality. This report argues for a number of changes to regulations and agency practices to increase public participation, improve inter-agency coordination, and establish better tracking of fracking waste.

## HEALTH

***Concentrations and Potential Health Risks of Metals in Lip Products.*** By Sa Liu, et al. Environmental Health Perspective. May 2, 2013. 26 p.  
<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1205518/>

This study analyzed common lipstick and lip gloss and discovered the presence of toxic metals. When ingested or absorbed daily, they can cause serious health problems. "Using acceptable daily intakes

derived from this study, average use of some lipsticks and lip glosses would result in excessive exposure to chromium, a carcinogen linked to stomach tumors. High use of these makeup products could result in potential overexposure to aluminum, cadmium and manganese as well. Over time, exposure to high concentrations of manganese has been linked to toxicity in the nervous system.” (*Berkeley Health Online*, May 2, 2013).

## HOUSING

***Estimating Racial Price Differentials in the Housing Market.* By Patrick Bayer, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. Revised Apr. 2013. 30 p.**

<http://papers.nber.org/tmp/96234-w18069.pdf>

A study of four metropolitan areas – Chicago, Baltimore/Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and San Francisco – found evidence of price differentials among black and Hispanic homebuyers. There was weak evidence for price differentials for black buyers in Los Angeles and San Francisco, where the estimated premiums are 1.1 - 1.2%. The estimated premiums for Hispanic buyers were fairly comparable in Chicago, Maryland, and San Francisco (around 2.5 - 3.0%), but only 1.2% in Los Angeles. The researchers were unable to determine if these price differentials were due to ethnicity, or to other factors in the home buying process.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Sustained and Coordinated Efforts Could Facilitate Data Sharing While Protecting Privacy.* General Accountability Office. GAO-13-106. Feb. 2013. 62 p.**

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-106>

State human services agencies that receive funds from federal programs must balance the requirement of sharing data with the need for privacy protections for their clients, many of whom receive service from multiple agencies. “This report examines (1) how selected states or localities have shared data across programs to improve the administration of human services, (2) challenges state and local human services agencies face in balancing privacy protections with greater data sharing, and (3) actions that the federal government could take to help address these challenges.”

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Commute Flows by County (2006-2010 American Community Survey).* California Department of Finance Demographic Research Unit.**

[http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/state\\_census\\_data\\_center/american\\_community\\_survey/view.php#Commute](http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/state_census_data_center/american_community_survey/view.php#Commute)

The Department of Finance provides data on the county-to-county commute flows by county of residence and workplace for the state of California, as well as a report detailing “county-level commuting flows – based on the 2006-2010 5-year ACS estimates – used in OMB’s 2013 metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area delineations.”

## About *Studies in the News*

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