



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Maryland v. King. U.S. Supreme Court. 12-207. June 3, 2013. 50 p.

http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/12pdf/12-207_d18e.pdf

"The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 Monday [June 3] that DNA swabs taken from people arrested but not convicted of a serious crime are a 'legitimate police procedure,' just like fingerprints and photographs, and

lawful under the Fourth Amendment. The decision affirmed laws in 29 states, including Maryland, which brought the case before the high court. The state's law had been struck down by the Maryland Court of Appeals in 2011." The majority opinion included Justices Anthony Kennedy, Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, Stephen Breyer, and Chief Justice John Roberts. The dissent, written by Justice Antonin Scalia, argued that the "current DNA collections system is overwhelmed and not equipped to handle the backlogs it already has." (*Stateline*, June 3, 2013).

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Modern Parenthood: Roles of Moms and Dads Converge as They Balance Work and Family.
By Kim Parker, et al. Pew Research Center. Mar. 14, 2013. 68 p.

http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2013/03/FINAL_modern_parenthood_03-2013.pdf

"The work lives of American men and women have become more similar since the 1960s, measured by time in both paid work for a job and unpaid work at home.... On the home front, fathers today spend more than twice as much time doing housework as they did in the 1960s (10 hours vs. four hours per week), and mothers have cut their housework time almost in half during the same period (18 hours vs. 32 hours per week).... Fathers have nearly tripled their time with their children (from 2.5 hours in 1965 to 7.3 hours per week in 2011). After a decline in the 1970s and '80s, mothers' time with their children has also increased, and today's mothers spend more time with their children than mothers did in the 1960s. Despite the increase in child care time among fathers, American mothers spend about twice as much time with their children as fathers do."

ECONOMY

Patent Assertion and U.S. Innovation. President's Council of Economic Advisers, et al. Executive Office of the President. June 2013. 17 p.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/patent_report.pdf

"[H]igh-tech patent litigation has reached unprecedented proportions.... This week, the White House released five executive orders and seven legislative recommendations to add transparency to the system and level the playing field for innovators. The executive orders require patents to name the real party-in-interest (as opposed to shell companies), call for stricter bounds on functional claims, limit the liability of end users, strengthen exclusion orders to ban the import of infringing products and begin a more extensive investigation of the current system." The report details the challenges posed and the necessity for action. (*SSTI Weekly Digest*, June 5, 2013).

EDUCATION

Educating the Student Body: Taking Physical Activity and Physical Education to School. National Institute of Medicine. May 2013. 385 p.

<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2013/Educating-the-Student-Body-Taking-Physical-Activity-and-Physical-Education-to-School.aspx> (Free guest registration required)

Report Brief. 4 p.: http://www.iom.edu/~media/Files/Report%20Files/2013/Educating-the-Student-Body/EducatingTheStudentBody_rb.pdf

More than half of K-12 students currently do not meet the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's guidelines for physical activity. For this reason, it is recommended that schools integrate at least 60 minutes per day of physical activity as part of the curriculum. In addition, schools should integrate physical activity into their after-school programs and track students' levels of physical activity more rigorously. Urban planners should consider renovating schools in existing neighborhoods near their students, instead of building new schools that require students to be transported by car or bus.

EMPLOYMENT

California Women and Employment: An Overview. By Sun Young Kim, et al. California Research Bureau. May 2013. 2 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/13/S-13-012.pdf>

This brief provides data on the employment situation for California women and the workforce. California is home to nearly 15 million women and girls ages 16 and over. During 2011, 52% of these women were employed and 7% were seeking employment. Though women and girls comprise 46% of the state's labor force, they earned 39% of the total personal income during 2011. Approximately 60% of working women were employed in occupations where the median income for women is below \$35,000.

ENERGY

Global Tracking Framework: Sustainable Energy For All (Vol. 3). World Bank. May 28, 2013. 289 p.

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2013/05/17765643/global-tracking-framework-vol-3-3-main-report>

The United Nations' Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative aims "to ensure universal access to modern energy services (including electricity and clean, modern cooking solutions), to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, and to double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.... This report provides an initial system for regular global reporting" and finds that "countries, international organizations, private sector and civil society need to more than double existing energy investments of \$409 billion" including "\$45 billion for electricity expansion, \$4.4 billion on modern cooking, \$394 billion in energy efficiency, and \$174 billion on renewable energy."

ENVIRONMENT

Interactive: Short-Lived Pollutants and Sea Level Rise. Climate Central. Apr. 14, 2013.

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/interactive-short-lived-pollutants-and-sea-level-rise-15864>

Although carbon dioxide is the leading cause of long-term climate change, many of the impacts of climate change cited in the popular media involve the impacts of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP). Four of these SLCPs – methane, tropospheric ozone, hydrofluorocarbons, and black carbon – were analyzed to see what effect mitigation would have on rising sea levels over the next century. The analysis found that mitigation of SLCPs would have a large immediate impact, both by 2050 and through 2100.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Fiscal Survey of States. By Michael Streepey, et al. National Governors Association and the National Association of State Budget Officers. June 12, 2013. 114 p.

<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/2013/FSS1306.PDF>

Many states will end the 2013 fiscal year with budget surpluses, but revenue collection growth is expected to slow in 2014. The promising 2013 budget gains were likely due to a one-time influx of revenue from taxpayers who shifted capital gains, dividends and personal income to calendar year 2012 to avoid potential tax increases in 2013. States may be faced with budget difficulties again in 2014.

HEALTH

“Black Patients More Likely Than Whites to Undergo Surgery at Low-Quality Hospitals in Segregated Regions.” By Justin Dimick, et al. *Health Affairs*, vol. 32 no. 6 (June 2013). 9 p.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/32/6/1046.full.pdf+html>

“Using national Medicare data for all patients who underwent one of three high-risk surgical procedures in 2005-08, we found that black patients actually tended to live closer to higher-quality hospitals than white patients did but were 25-58% more likely than whites to receive surgery at low-quality hospitals. Racial segregation was also a factor, with black patients in the most segregated areas 41-96% more likely than white patients to undergo surgery at low-quality hospitals.”

HOUSING

Housing Discrimination Against Ethnic and Racial Minorities 2012. By Margery Austin Turner, et al. U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. June 2013. 190 p.

http://www.huduser.org/portal/Publications/pdf/HUD-514_HDS2012.pdf

Blatant housing discrimination has declined since the Department of Housing and Urban Development began reporting on this problem in 1977. However, more subtle forms of discrimination persist. When contacting agents, African-American renters were informed of about 11% fewer available units than white renters were, and Asian-American and Hispanic renters were informed of about 10 and 12% fewer units, respectively. This study of 28 major metropolitan areas included three California locations: Orange County, San Diego and San Jose.

HUMAN SERVICES

Child Care Subsidies Critical for Low-Income Families Amid Rising Child Care Expenses.

By Kristin Smith, et al. Carsey Institute. May 20, 2013. 6 p.

http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/sites/carseyinstitute.unh.edu/files/publications/PB-Smith-Adams-Child-Care-Subsidies-web_0.pdf

“The high cost of child care is a barrier to employment among low-income families with young children. Child care subsidies are designed to support both parental employment and child development by lowering the cost of child care and making high-quality child care affordable to low-income families.” However, with cuts or reductions to the programs and an increase of child care expenses, poor and low income families shoulder a larger child care expense burden. “In 2011, families in poverty spent one-third of their incomes on child care ... a much higher proportion than families with greater economic resources, who spent 9%.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Integrating Environmental Sustainability into Airport Contracts: A Synthesis of Airport Practice.

By Zoe Haseman. Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences. Airport Cooperative Research Program Synthesis 42. May 31, 2013. 77 p.

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/acrp/acrp_syn_042.pdf

“As major users of diverse goods and services, airport operators have the opportunity to drive environmental sustainability performance improvements at airports through the integration of new language in contracts.... The airport contract types identified that provide the most opportunity to make a difference to an airport’s sustainability performance include design and construction contracts,

concessions and tenant lease agreements, and janitorial service contracts.... [T]he study identified specific contract language that can be inserted in these contract types to achieve the desired performance improvements. Example contract language is located in Appendix A of this synthesis.”

VETERANS

Uninsured Veterans and Family Members: State and National Estimates of Expanded Medicaid Eligibility Under the ACA. By Jennifer Haley, et al. Urban Institute. Mar. 2013. 9 p.
<http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/412775-Uninsured-Veterans-and-Family-Members.pdf>

“Analysis of the 2008–2010 American Community Survey (ACS) indicates that 535,000 uninsured veterans and 174,000 uninsured spouses of veterans – or four in 10 uninsured veterans and one in four uninsured spouses – have incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) and could qualify for Medicaid or new subsidies for coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Most of these uninsured – 414,000 veterans and 113,000 spouses – have incomes below 100 percent of FPL, and will therefore only have new coverage options under the ACA if their state expands Medicaid.” Of the approximately 106,800 California veterans who are uninsured, the report estimated that 37,000 had incomes below 100 percent of the FPL. An estimated, additional 47,500 spouses of California veterans are uninsured, including 8,900 with incomes below 100 percent of the FPL.

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