



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Comeback States: Reducing Youth Incarceration in the United States. By Sarah Bryer, et al. National Juvenile Justice Network & Texas Public Policy Foundation. June 28, 2013. 54 p.

http://www.njjn.org/uploads/digital-library/Comeback-States-Report_FINAL.pdf

"In 2000, a record-setting 108,802 youth were held in detention centers awaiting trial or confined by the courts in juvenile facilities in the United States. In a dramatic turnaround, by late-2010, the number of youth confined in state and county juvenile facilities had plummeted by 39% to 66,322. This reversal erased a 63% increase in the number of confined youth that began in 1985, when 66,762 youth were

confined – an increase driven by highly publicized increases in youth arrests, growing public concern about youth crime, and state juvenile justice policies favoring increased reliance on incarceration.” This report identified California as one of nine “comeback” states that, since 2001, adopted six policies explained in the report that encouraged “reductions on reliance on detention and incarceration.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

72% of Online Adults are Social Networking Site Users. By Joanna Brenner, et al. Pew Research Center. Aug. 2013. 15 p.

http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2013/PIP_Social_networking_sites_update.pdf

“As of May 2013, almost three quarters (72%) of online U.S. adults use social networking sites, up from 67% in late 2012.... Younger adults are especially avid adopters, but social networking continues to grow in popularity for older adults as well. Six out of ten internet users ages 50-64 are social networking site users, as are 43% of those ages 65 and older.” Twitter use specifically has more than doubled from 8% of online adults in 2010 to 18% in 2012. Significantly more people in younger age groups report using Twitter.

ECONOMY

Making Impact Annual Report 2012-2013. Compete: Council on Competitiveness. June 2013. 48 p.

http://www.compete.org/images/uploads/File/PDF%20Files/COC_2013%20Impact_Final.pdf

This report identifies key programmatic endeavors from the past year, as well as promising projected outcomes from the Council’s portfolio of programs dedicated to improving America’s economy. Topics cover programs and initiatives in energy, technology, manufacturing and policy impact.

EDUCATION

Looking Beyond Enrollment: The Causal Effect of Need-Based Grants on College Access, Persistence, and Graduation. By Benjamin Castleman, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. NBER Working Paper No. 19306. Aug. 2013. 52 p.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w19306>

Increasing needs-based student aid above the federal Pell Grant amounts increased enrollment and also raised the rate of continuing enrollment into the second year at public four-year universities. It also increased the probability of earning a bachelor’s degree in six years by 22%. The increased aid was \$1,300 annually (year 2000 dollars), and the increased enrollment and graduation effects were most pronounced for those students who were in the highest need category.

The Sequester’s Impact on Vulnerable Schools. By Jocelyn Bissonnette. National Association of Federally Impacted Schools. July 2013. 5 p.

http://media.wix.com/ugd/423d5a_6a031e30beb441ac15f3eb49d65c0401.pdf?dn=NAFIS2013Sequester_Report.pdf

This report addresses the effect of the FY 2013 sequester on the Federal Impact Aid program which provides funds to school districts with large numbers of federally-connected students (e.g. children living on tribal lands, children with parents in the military, etc.). “School districts absorbed the \$67 million sequester of Impact Aid by building it into their budgets months ahead of when the reductions were triggered on March 1, 2013. Feedback from these districts showed the most common effects of the five-percent across-the-board cut were deferred maintenance and technology purchases, elimination of instructional and noninstructional staff, increased class sizes, and reduced professional development.”

EMPLOYMENT

The Third Shift: Child Care Needs and Access for Working Mothers in Restaurants.
The Restaurant Opportunities Centers United. July 9, 2013. 28 p.
<http://rocunited.org/files/2013/07/ChildCare-Report-Final.pdf>

More than half of surveyed mothers reported that paying for child care was a concern. Results suggest that there are “three barriers to meeting their child care needs as working mothers in the restaurant industry. 1. Affordability of Child Care 2. Accessibility 3. Career Mobility. There are two compounding factors that make this situation unsustainable for working mothers in restaurants: 1. Lack of Paid Sick Days 2. Work/Life Imbalance.” Some of the recommendations included raising the minimum wage for tipped workers, employer subsidies, predictable scheduling, and using child care closer to home.

ENERGY

California Energy Efficiency: Lessons for the Rest of the World, or Not? By Arik Levinson.
National Bureau of Economic Research. NBER Working Paper No. 19123. June 2013. 39 p.
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w19123>

A new report tests and finds overblown the claim that the state’s tight energy conservation standards have saved billions of kilowatts of power and more than \$74 billion in reduced electricity bills since 1975. “California’s per-capita power use has remained flat, but ... the state’s energy conservation rules governing appliances and building construction had relatively little to do with it.” (*Sacramento Bee*, July 29, 2013).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

State Budget and Tax Actions: Preliminary Report. By William T. Pound. National Conference of State Legislatures. Aug. 2013. 15 p.
http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/fiscal/SBTA_PreliminaryReport_final.pdf

In 2013, the aggregate state general fund growth was at 5.5%. Year-end balances (year-end closing balances plus rainy day funds) were also 23% higher than the previous year. However, the 2014 forecast is not quite so rosy: general fund revenue is anticipated to grow at 1.3%, and year-end balances to fall by 11.6%, due to higher appropriations in Medicaid and higher education.

HEALTH

Half of California Voters Say Their Health Care Costs Increased This Year. The Field Poll.
Aug. 19, 2013. 19 p.
<http://www.field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/RIs2448.pdf>

“Half of the state’s voters (50%) say they are now paying more for health care than they were last year. The same proportion (50%) describes health care costs as being difficult to afford. Uninsured voters, low income residents, voters insured through Medi-Cal or through the individual market and those with children in their household are more likely than others to report difficulties in paying for their health care costs.... The poll finds 81% of voters saying Medicare is important to them and their families, and 58% say this about Medi-Cal. The latter proportion is up seven points from 51% who reported this in 2011.”

HOUSING

America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2012. By Jonathan Vespa, et al. Census Bureau. Aug. 2013. 34 p.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/p20-570.pdf>

“The goals of this report are to provide an updated picture of the composition of families and households and to describe trends in living arrangements in the United States. The report also describes how families and households have changed in recent years, notably during the latest economic recession, which lasted from 2007 - 2009.”

HUMAN SERVICES

A Disaster in the Making: Addressing the Vulnerability of Low-Income Communities to Extreme Weather. By Tracey Ross. Center for American Progress. Aug. 2013. 33 p.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/LowIncomeResilience-3.pdf>

“While it is impossible to predict all the ways an extreme weather event can disrupt a community, many of our disaster-resilience and recovery policies do not even account for the ongoing vulnerabilities that low-income households experience. Studies show that low-income people are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events due to their poor housing quality, poor environmental conditions, and economic instability.... By addressing the availability and quality of affordable housing, protecting communities against environment factors, and ensuring greater economic security, low-income communities will be better equipped to cope with an unforeseen crisis.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Does California Really Need Major Land Use and Transportation Changes to Meet Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets? By Thomas A. Rubin. Reason Foundation. July 3, 2013. 9 p.

<http://reason.org/studies/show/does-california-really-need-major>

“We have shown that the [Greenhouse Gas] emission reduction needed to meet California’s 2020 target is much smaller than some agencies believe. Unfortunately, this mistake is leading them to advocate far more significant changes to transportation and land use policy than are actually necessary on environmental grounds.... The latest data from the California ARB suggests that only a 4.7% GHG emissions reduction from 2010 is necessary to return to 1990 levels of GHG emissions. By revising the 1990 target to reflect updated GHG inventory methodology, that figure falls further, to 2.5% from 2010 levels.”

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