



## **Studies in the News**

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## CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***Hate Crime in California: 2012.* Attorney General's Office. Nov. 8, 2013. 32 p.**

<https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/cjsc/publications/hatecrimes/hc12/preface12.pdf>

Compared to 2011, hate crimes in California decreased 12.3%, from a total of 1,060 in 2011 to 930 in 2012. Hate crimes involving race, ethnicity, or national origin bias, sexual orientation bias, and religious bias decreased by 10.1%, 3.7%, and 27.9% respectively in 2012. This report includes statistics about hate crimes, the number of hate crime cases referred to prosecutors and tried in court, and hate crime statistics from the past ten years that, according to this report, places “these statistics in historical perspective by providing trend information on the number and types of hate crimes during the past ten years.”

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***The Global Gender Gap Report 2013.* The World Economic Forum. Oct. 23, 2013. 397 p.**

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GenderGap\\_Report\\_2013.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GenderGap_Report_2013.pdf)

“The Global Gender Gap Index, introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006, is a framework for capturing the magnitude and scope of gender-based disparities and tracking their progress. The Index benchmarks national gender gaps on economic, political, education and health criteria, and provides country rankings that allow for effective comparisons across regions and income groups, and over time.” The United States ranks 23 overall of the 136 countries indexed and had reached gender parity or close to it on the educational attainment and health and survival indices since 2006. However, the United States continues to show larger gender disparity on the economic participation index and very large disparity on the political empowerment index.

## ECONOMY

***Economic Insecurity in Children's Lives: Changes Over the Course of the Great Recession.***

**By Lisa Dubay, et al. The Urban Institute. Sep. 2013.**

**Full Report. 42 p.:** <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412900-Economic-Insecurity-in-Childrens-Lives.pdf>

**Fact Sheet. 6 p.:** <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412907-Economic-Insecurity-in-Childrens-Lives.pdf>

“Given the high stakes for children living in economically insecure families, it is important to document how many children are living in such circumstances, how economic insecurity has changed over the course of the Great Recession, and which children are most affected.... In 2010, fully 22% of children were living in poverty, 16% had a parent who was unemployed or who had received unemployment insurance in the past year, and 21% lived in families that were food insecure. Each of these indicators increased significantly from before the recession. Children were also more likely to live in rental housing, less likely to be living in owner-occupied housing, and more likely to be doubling up with other families. In addition to the overall increased economic insecurity that occurred with the Great Recession, the large disparities that existed before the recession were exacerbated.”

## EDUCATION

***Access to Effective Teaching for Disadvantaged Students.*** By Lauren Angelo, et al. Institute for Education Sciences. Nov. 2013. 133 p.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pubs/20144001/pdf/20144001.pdf>

“The U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences commissioned a study ... to examine access to effective teaching for disadvantaged students in 29 diverse school districts.... Disadvantaged students received less effective teaching, on average, than other students in the 29 study districts. Providing equal access to effective teaching for the two sets of students would reduce the gap in achievement between disadvantaged and nondisadvantaged students from 28 to 26 percentile points in ELA [English/language arts] and from 26 to 24 percentile points in math in a given year.... Unequal access to effective teaching was primarily the result of how teachers and students were spread across schools rather than how principals assigned teachers to students within schools.”

## ENERGY

***The 2013 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard.*** By Eric Mackres, et al. American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. Sep. 16, 2013. 261 p.

<http://aceee.org/research-report/e13g> (Free, registration required)

“This first edition of the City Energy Efficiency Scorecard ranks 34 of the most populous U.S. cities on their policies and other actions to advance energy efficiency. It puts these actions in context by also presenting data on energy consumption in these cities when possible. By considering both policies and energy performance, the City Scorecard reflects the current activities and historical legacies in each city, and as a result provides actionable information to policymakers and residents.... We provide examples throughout the Scorecard of best practice actions being taken by leading cities in various policy areas.” This Scorecard includes the following California cities: San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego, Riverside, San Jose, and Los Angeles.

## ENVIRONMENT

***Wind Energy For a Cleaner America II.*** By Jordan Schneider, et al. Environment California Research & Policy Center. Nov. 20, 2013. 34 p.

<http://environmentcaliforniacenter.org/reports/cac/wind-energy-cleaner-america-ii>

A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is a key environmental priority for California and the country. The use of wind energy displaces electricity generation from other sources, including fossil fuel-powered plants, which leads to lower overall greenhouse gas emissions. In 2012, wind energy reduced carbon dioxide emission by 84.7 million metric tons. Seventy-nine thousand six hundred metric tons of nitrogen oxide and 98,400 tons of sulfur dioxide emission were also reduced. Continued progress in wind energy production could lead to further reductions if current trends are maintained.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***How Cities Can Nurture Cultural Entrepreneurs.*** By Ann Markusen. University of Minnesota. Nov. 2013. 13 p.

[http://www.kauffman.org/~media/kauffman\\_org/research%20reports%20and%20covers/2013/11/how%20cities%20can%20nurture%20cultural%20entrepreneurs.pdf](http://www.kauffman.org/~media/kauffman_org/research%20reports%20and%20covers/2013/11/how%20cities%20can%20nurture%20cultural%20entrepreneurs.pdf)

“This policy brief summarizes reasons for and variations in new initiatives to spark cultural entrepreneurship, sampling bottom-up experiments and providing a menu of options for cities of all sizes and character. The brief also counsels city leaders to focus on what is distinctive about their cities, rather than replicating generic strategies elsewhere (e.g., large, expensive arts venues). Via references for further reading, it directs city leaders to various resources for exploring place-appropriate creative entrepreneurship policies.”

## HEALTH

***Prevalence of Obesity Among Adults: United States, 2011-2012.*** By Cynthia L. Ogden, et al. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Oct. 2013. 8 p.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db131.pdf>

“The health risks associated with obesity make reducing the high prevalence of obesity a public health priority. Previous publications have shown both racial and ethnic disparities in obesity prevalence and no change in the prevalence of obesity among adults since 2003-2004. National obesity prevalence estimates for non-Hispanic Asian persons are possible for the first time, using newly available data. This report presents national estimates of obesity among adults in the United States in 2011-2012, based on measured weight and height.”

## HOUSING

***No Place Like Home: Addressing Poverty and Homelessness in the United States.*** By Tracey Ross. Center for American Progress. Dec. 2013. 29 p.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/poverty/report/2013/12/05/80220/no-place-like-home/>

“Homelessness occurs for a variety of reasons, but it is clear that poverty, coupled with an ongoing affordable housing crisis, is a significant factor. This is not surprising, as income inequality has continued to widen since the Great Recession.... This report provides a summary of the state of homelessness and poverty in the United States; gives an overview of federal and local efforts to end homelessness; and offers recommendations for serving homeless individuals and families, increasing access to affordable housing, and addressing income inequality.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***SNAP Use Increased Slightly in 2012: In Struggling Economy, Both Traditional and New Populations Rely on SNAP to Avoid Hunger.*** By Jessica A. Carson. Carsey Institute. Nov. 5, 2013. 8 p.

[http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/sites/carseyinstitute.unh.edu/files/publications/IB-Carson-SNAP-2013-web\\_0.pdf](http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/sites/carseyinstitute.unh.edu/files/publications/IB-Carson-SNAP-2013-web_0.pdf)

“The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) is one particularly effective safety net program, reaching three-quarters of those who are eligible, generating \$1.70 in economic activity per \$1 increase in benefits.... SNAP benefits were distributed to 46.6 million people last year.... Nationwide, 13.6% of American households reported SNAP receipt in 2012, compared with 13% the previous year.... [A]s poor households shrank as a share of all SNAP households, the balance was increasingly comprised of near-poor households including those under 130% of the poverty line (\$30,268 for a family of four) between 2007 and 2012; elderly, disabled, or low-income populations since the recession.”

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Poverty Rates in the States.*** The Pew Charitable Trusts. Dec. 4, 2013.

<http://www.pewstates.org/research/data-visualizations/how-people-actually-experience-poverty-85899524016>

This link provides an interactive map displaying measures of poverty for U.S. states. “The Supplemental Poverty Measure is an attempt to capture how people actually experience poverty. The official federal poverty rate is based solely on income, with a single national income threshold for each household size.... Differences between the supplemental and official measures at the state level are largely driven by housing costs, which vary significantly based on geography. The difference between the two measures is greatest in California and New Jersey.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Aviation Security: TSA Should Limit Future Funding for Behavior Detection Activities.*** By Stephen M. Lord. Government Accountability Office. GAO-14-159. Nov. 2013. 99 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/658923.pdf>

“Available evidence does not support whether behavioral indicators, which are used in the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques (SPOT) program, can be used to identify persons who may pose a risk to aviation security. GAO reviewed four meta-analyses (reviews that analyze other studies and synthesize their findings) that included over 400 studies from the past 60 years and found that the human ability to accurately identify deceptive behavior based on behavioral indicators is the same as or slightly better than chance.”

## VETERANS

***Alleged Improper Opioid Prescription Renewal Practices: San Francisco VA Medical Center San Francisco, California. Healthcare Inspection.*** The VA Office of Inspector General Office of Healthcare Inspections. Report No. 13-00133-12. Nov. 7, 2013. 14 p.  
<http://www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-13-00133-12.pdf>

“Doctors at the San Francisco VA Medical Center regularly renewed prescriptions for highly addictive narcotic painkillers for veterans they had never seen.... The report also documented seven cases of opiate overdose among patients at the facility and determined doctors ‘did not consistently monitor patients for misuse’.... In its report on the San Francisco VA hospital and clinic, the agency’s inspector general reviewed 264 opiate prescription renewals and found that in 53% of cases, the doctor renewing the prescription had not seen the patient or talked to him or her over the telephone. Auditors also found that VA staff shredded documents used to track whether veterans were abusing opiates.” (*The Center for Investigative Reporting*, Dec. 2, 2013).

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