



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

California's 58 Crime Rates: Realignment and Crime in 2012. By Mike Males, et al.
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Jan. 2014. 9 p.

http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/CJCJ_2014_Realignment_Report.pdf

“Recent analysis by PPIC [Public Policy Institute of California] concludes that Realignment is responsible for an increase in California’s property crime rates, yet unrelated to increases in very serious violent crime (e.g. murder and rape). However, the PPIC report acknowledges some complications that challenge these findings.... The lack of a clear pattern ... indicates the perils of drawing hard conclusions about a single, albeit important, public policy change such as Realignment based on short-term crime trends. If Realignment brought more crime, counties with higher proportions of realigned individuals would have

experienced larger increases in crime in 2012, after Realignment's implementation. Moreover, this hypothesis would mean that systems with greater local management, as opposed to reliance on the state system, would have greater increases in crime. The data don't support either conclusion."

ECONOMY

***Working for the Few: Political Capture and Economic Inequality.* Oxfam International. Jan. 2014. 32 p.**

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/bp-working-for-few-political-capture-economic-inequality-200114-en.pdf>

"Almost half of the world's wealth is now owned by just 1% of the population, [and] ... seven out of ten people live in countries where economic inequality has increased in the last 30 years.... This massive concentration of economic resources in the hands of fewer people presents a significant threat to inclusive political and economic systems.... Left unchecked, political institutions become undermined." In this paper, Oxfam shows how extreme inequality is not inevitable, with examples of policies from around the world which have reduced inequality and developed more representative politics.

EDUCATION

***States Grapple with Autism's Rising Tide.* By Carol Kreck. Education Commission of the States. Feb. 2014. 8 p.**

www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/10/91/11101.pdf

"Autism Spectrum Disorders are the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States. In March 2013, the Centers for Disease Control estimated the prevalence of diagnosed ASD in 2011-12 to be one in 50 based on parent reports for children ages 6 to 17.... In recognizing the increasing needs of children affected by ASD, as well as the associated financial implications for local governments, some states are re-assessing their current systems of support and looking for better and more efficient ways to serve individuals with ASD and their families.... While some of these areas delve into federal or local policy spheres, this report is intended to aid state leaders by providing examples of state activity, national context and recent research findings."

EMPLOYMENT

***Show Us the Subsidized Jobs: An Evaluation of State Government Online Disclosure of Economic Development Subsidy Awards and Outcomes.* By Philip Mattera, et al. Good Jobs First. Jan. 2014. 46 p.**

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

"An analysis of major state economic development programs finds that nine out of ten states now disclose at least some data online about which companies are receiving job subsidies.... Forty-six states and the District of Columbia now provide online recipient disclosure for at least one key subsidy program.... The moves to disclosure in nine additional states ... have come about through legislation in some places, administrative action in others.... For the 246 programs as a whole, the average score is just 21 points out of 100.... Consistent with our previous state accountability report cards, the existence and quality of subsidy transparency follow no partisan pattern. There are 'red' and 'blue' states among both disclosure leaders and laggards." California's online disclosure score was 21 points.

ENERGY

Best Practices and Strategies for Improving Rail Energy Efficiency. Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Jan. 2014. 98 p.

<http://ntl.bts.gov/lib/51000/51000/51097/DOT-VNTSC-FRA-13-02.pdf>

“This study reviews and evaluates technology development opportunities, equipment upgrades, and best practices (BPs) of international and U.S. passenger and freight rail industry segments for improving energy efficiency (E2) performance and attaining environmental sustainability goals.... Based on a comprehensive literature review and on experts’ inputs, the report presents model corporate sustainability plans, rail equipment upgrade opportunities, system-wide BPs, and success stories that measurably improved E2 performance with environmental and economic benefits for all rail industry segments. Findings and recommendations are tailored to intercity and commuter passenger rail, as well as to freight rail carrier (Class I-III) needs and goals for improved, but cost-effective, E2 and environmental performance.”

ENVIRONMENT

Proposed First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan: Building on the Framework. California Air Resources Board. Feb. 10, 2014. 159 p.

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/document/updatescopingplan2013.htm>

The Air Resources Board has released its first proposed update to the AB 32 Scoping Plan. The Scoping Plan guides development and implementation of California's groundbreaking greenhouse gas emission reduction programs. The update also “lays out a set of new actions that will move the State farther along the path to a low-carbon, sustainable future.... Some of the actions are near-term, while others are focused on longer-term efforts that will provide major benefits well into the future.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Beyond Transparency: Open Data and the Future of Civic Innovation. Edited by Brett Goldstein, et al. Code for America. Oct. 2013. 302 p.
(Available at the California State Library)

This book is a collection of essays written by leaders in technology and government, which details their experiences in developing open data initiatives at various levels of government and within community groups. The book is meant to be “a resource for [and by] practitioners inside and outside government from the municipal chief information officer to the community organizer to the civic-minded entrepreneur.”

HEALTH

“Abortion Incidence and Service Availability in the United States, 2011.” By Rachel K. Jones, et al. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, vol. 46 no. 1 (Mar. 2014) 12 p.

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/psrh.46e0414.pdf>

California survey data. 2 p.: <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/sfaa/california.html>

The abortion rate in the United States has dropped to its lowest point in 40 years. “In 2011, an estimated 1.1 million abortions were performed in the United States; the abortion rate was 16.9 per 1,000 women aged 15-44, representing a drop of 13% since 2008.... Of the 106 new abortion restrictions implemented during the study period, few or none appeared to be related to state-level patterns in abortion rates or

number of providers.” California’s abortion rate fell from a rate of 44.3 abortions per 1,000 women in 1991 to 23 per 1,000 women in 2011.

HOUSING

How California’s Housing Market is Failing to Meet the Needs of Low-Income Families.
California Housing Partnership. Feb. 2014. 8 p.
<http://www.chpc.net/dnld/CHPCHousingNeedReport020814FINAL.pdf>

“California is showing increasing economic and fiscal strength with economic growth among the top five states in the nation and a budget that is in the black for the first time in a decade. Yet this good news is tempered by the growing severity of an age-old California problem: the private housing market is not providing an adequate number of homes affordable to low- and moderate-income households. The shortage is particularly acute in the rental housing market, typically the last resort for lower-income households, many of whom were forced out of single-family homes during the Great Recession and have little chance of becoming homeowners in the near future.”

HUMAN SERVICES

HIV & Youth Homelessness: Housing as Health Care. California Homeless Youth Project.
Feb. 2014. 6 p.
<http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/HIV&YouthHomelessnessFINAL.pdf>

“[A]ddressing housing instability for homeless youth would reduce the risks of contracting HIV by providing an environment to attend to health care needs, improve mental and physical health, and decrease engagement in HIV-risk behaviors.... Despite increased understanding of the virus among the broader population, individuals living with HIV continue to face discrimination in housing and employment, as well as in access to health services and social and community programs.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation Investments in Response to Economic Downturns. By Joseph R. Morris, et al.
Transportation Research Board. Jan. 2014. 126 p.
<http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/sr/sr312.pdf>

“The committee responsible for the study was asked to provide guidance on three related policy questions. First, if the federal government undertakes a future fiscal stimulus program, should transportation spending be part of the package? Second, if transportation is a part of a future stimulus package, how should the spending be structured and managed so as to optimize its stimulus impact? Finally, should practices of the established federal and state transportation programs be modified to make transportation spending more useful as an instrument for counteracting economic downturns?.... The committee’s conclusions concern the effectiveness of stimulus spending, the role of transportation in a stimulus program, and management of a transportation spending stimulus program.”

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