



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***Decriminalizing Indoor Prostitution: Implications for Sexual Violence and Public Health.* By Scott Cunningham, et al. NBER Working Paper 20281. National Bureau of Economic Research. July 2014. 55 p.**

<http://papers.nber.org/tmp/53101-w20281.pdf>

“Most governments in the world including the United States prohibit prostitution. Given these types of laws rarely change and are fairly uniform across regions, our knowledge about the impact of decriminalizing sex work is largely conjectural.... [A] Rhode Island District Court judge unexpectedly decriminalized indoor prostitution in 2003 to provide the first causal estimates of the impact of decriminalization on the composition of the sex market, rape offenses, and sexually transmitted infection outcomes.... Our synthetic control model finds 824 fewer reported offenses (31% decrease) and 1,035 fewer cases of female gonorrhea (39% decrease) from 2004 to 2009.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

America's Shifting Statehouse Press: Can New Players Compensate for Lost Legacy Reporters?
By Amy Mitchell, et al. Pew Research Center. July 2014. 41 p.

http://www.journalism.org/files/2014/07/Americas-Shifting-Statehouse-Press_full_report.pdf

"Within America's 50 state capitol buildings, 1,592 journalists inform the public about the actions and issues of state government.... Newspaper reporters constitute the largest segment of both the total statehouse news corps (38%) and the full-time group (43%). But the data indicate that their full-time numbers have fallen considerably in recent years.... Less than a third of U.S. newspapers assign any kind of reporter—full time or part time—to the statehouse.... About one-in-six (16%) of all the reporters in statehouses work for nontraditional outlets, such as digital-only sites and nonprofit organizations.... Two indicators of the size of a statehouse press corps are the population of the state and the length of its legislative sessions."

ECONOMY

California's Manufacturing Industries: Employment and Competitiveness in the 21st Century.
By Christine Cooper, et al. Institute for Applied Economics, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. June 2014. 64 p.

http://laedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/California_Manufacturing_2014.pdf

This report assesses the manufacturing industry in California from an employment and competitiveness perspective. It finds that while manufacturing employment has fallen in the last decade, output has increased. California is the largest contributor to U.S. manufacturing but its diverse economy makes it less dependent on the contribution of manufacturing to the state's economy than other states. The report provides an overview of manufacturing employment in California at the industry level for the past 10 years. The report also finds that California is competitive in both high and low technology industries.

EDUCATION

States Are Still Funding Higher Education Below Pre-Recession Levels. By Michael Mitchell, et al. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. May 1, 2014. 27 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4135>

Although California's spending on higher education is up 11.1% over last year, the state still needs to add nearly 16% to its budget to return to the funding level that higher education received before the recession. The State is currently spending \$1,373 less per student than it did before the recession. California college and university students are currently spending \$3,474 more per year for tuition than they did before the recession.

EMPLOYMENT

Still Searching: Job Vacancies and STEM Skills. By Jonathan Rothwell. Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings. July 2014. 44 p.

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2014/07/stem/job%20vacancies%20and%20stem%20skills.pdf>

"This report uses a unique database from the labor market information company Burning Glass and other sources to analyze the skill requirements and the advertisement duration time for millions of job openings.... These job openings data provide new evidence that, post-recession, STEM skills, particularly

those associated with high levels of educational attainment, are in high demand among employers. Meanwhile, job seekers possessing neither STEM knowledge nor higher education face extraordinary levels of competition for a scarce number of jobs. Governments at all levels, educators, training organizations, and civic leaders can utilize job vacancy data to better understand the opportunities available to workers and the specific skills required of them. Improving educational and training opportunities to acquire STEM knowledge should be part of any strategy to help unemployed or low-wage workers improve their earnings and employability.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Building State Rainy Day Funds: Policies to Harness Revenue Volatility, Stabilize Budgets and Strengthen Reserves. By Stephen Bailey, et al. Pew Charitable Trusts. July 2014. 44 p.
http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/Assets/2014/07/SFH_Rainy-Day-Fund-Deposit-Rules-Report_ARTREADY_v9.pdf

Rainy day funds operate best when states follow these best practices: create rules that connect when, how and how much to deposit into budget stabilization funds; tie budget stabilization fund deposits to observed volatility; and set the fund cap at a level which allows development of a strong financial cushion. California is unique in that the state may be tying the rainy day fund to a singular source of volatility: capital gains taxes. The state will vote on a constitutional amendment in November 2014 that sets aside money when capital gains taxes exceed 8% of general fund revenue.

HEALTH

“Emergency Department Visits by Adults for Psychiatric Medication Adverse Events.” By Lee M. Hampton, et al. *JAMA Psychiatry*. Published online ahead of publication, July 9, 2014. 9 p.
<http://archpsyc.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1885708>

“Bad reactions to psychiatric drugs result in nearly 90,000 emergency room visits each year by U.S. adults, with anti-anxiety medicines and sedatives among the most common culprits.... A drug used in some popular sleeping pills was among the most commonly involved sedatives, especially in adults aged 65 and older. Most of the visits were for troublesome side effects or accidental overdoses and almost 1 in 5 resulted in hospitalization. The results come from an analysis of 2009-2011 medical records from 63 hospitals that participate in a nationally representative government surveillance project.” (*Associated Press*, July 10).

HOUSING

“Housing Affordability and Investments in Children.” By Sandra J. Newman, et al. *Journal of Housing Economics*. Rev. June 2014. 12 p.
(Available at the California State Library)

“Despite the central importance of the housing cost burden measure and of housing affordability more generally to housing policy, research has not examined the effects of affordable housing on residents.... In this paper, we begin to address this question by focusing on the narrower topic of the role of affordable housing in the healthy development of lower-income children.” The authors find that housing affordability (at roughly 30% housing cost-to-income ratio) is one factor that influences children’s cognitive outcomes because parents tend to spend more time on child enrichment.

HUMAN SERVICES

Mother's Education and Children's Outcomes: How Dual-Generation Programs Offer Increased Opportunities for America's Families. By Donald J. Hernandez, et al. Foundation for Child Development. July 2014. 24 p.

<http://fcd-us.org/sites/default/files/Mothers%20Education%20and%20Childrens%20Outcomes%20FINAL.pdf>

“One in every eight children in the U.S. (12%) lives with a mother who has not graduated from high school. These children experience especially large disparities [in reading and math proficiency, school enrollment and completion, and overall health] compared to children whose mothers have a bachelor degree.... [T]he report identifies opportunities for federal, state, and local governments to take the lead or to collaborate with others to develop and implement dual-generation strategies for low-education, low-income families that could lead to improved academic and life outcomes for children, greater employment opportunities for mothers, and higher incomes for families who currently have the fewest resources and greatest needs.”

VETERANS

Audit of Post-9/11 G.I. Bill Monthly Housing Allowance and Book Stipend Payments. VA Office of Inspector General. July 11, 2014. 29 p.

<http://www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-13-01452-214.pdf>

“Nearly 80,000 veterans eligible for the new G.I. Bill saw their college terms disrupted last year because the VA was late distributing \$61 million in housing and book stipends, according to estimates.... Investigators extrapolated the figures in a review of 200 student cases where the VA was late paying out book and housing money to 18% of the veterans. Most of those delays were only a few weeks. But for 8% of the students, it took a month or longer to get money for housing or books, long enough to detrimentally impact their school year, investigators said.” (*USA Today*, July 11, 2014).

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