



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 15-103

January 21, 2015

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

41 states reconsider consequences of criminal convictions, 2009-2014

ECONOMY

Addressing American intergenerational economic mobility

EDUCATION

Post-graduate degrees increasingly important in the workplace

CA Local Control Funding Formula: five steps to implementation

EMPLOYMENT

HR solutions to an aging workforce, high retirement rates

ENERGY

Deep-well injection of fracking wastewater link to seismic activity

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

BSA investigation of CA state agency and employee improprieties

HEALTH

CDC: 22% of American middle & high school students use tobacco

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

CA county profiles of child abuse, ages 0-5

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Federal surface transportation infrastructure funding program assessment

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Relief in Sight? States Rethink the Collateral Consequences of Criminal Conviction, 2009-2014.

By Ram Subramanian, et al. Vera Institute of Justice. Dec. 2014. 62 p.

<http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/states-rethink-collateral-consequences-report-v4.pdf>

“From 2009 to 2014, forty-one states and the District of Columbia enacted 155 pieces of legislation to mitigate the burden of collateral consequences for people with certain criminal convictions. In reviewing this legislative activity, [we] found that states have pursued one or a combination of seven broad approaches to reform. They created or expanded expungement and sealing remedies; issued certificates of recovery; allowed for defense downgrades; built relief into the criminal justice process; ameliorated employment-related collateral consequences; improved access to information; and addressed discrete collateral consequences.... [T]his report aims to be a practical guide for states and localities looking to enact similar reforms.”

ECONOMY

“Inequality in Skills and the Great Gatsby Curve.” By Bhashkar Mazumder. *Chicago Fed Letter*, no. 330 (Nov. 10, 2014) 4 p.

http://www.chicagofed.org/digital_assets/publications/chicago_fed_letter/2015/cfl330.pdf

“This article presents evidence relating cross-country differences in intergenerational mobility to differences in inequality of skills. In recent years ... a growing body of evidence showing that intergenerational economic mobility is lower in the U.S. than in most other advanced economies.” The author examines whether intergenerational low mobility may reflect underlying differences in inequality of skills using data from the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) survey conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The survey took place between 2011 and 2012 and collected data on 166,000 adults between the ages of 16 and 65 in 24 OECD countries, including about 5,000 U.S. adults. The author suggests health and education policies are a good starting point to address this issue.

EDUCATION

“Higher Education, Wages, and Polarization.” By Rob Valletta. *FRBSF Economic Letter* (Jan. 12, 2015) 5 p.

<http://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/publications/economic-letter/2015/january/wages-education-college-labor-earnings-income/>

“The earnings gap between people with a college degree and those with no education beyond high school has been growing since the late 1970s. Since 2000, however, the gap has grown more for those who have earned a post-graduate degree as well. The divergence between workers with college degrees and those with graduate degrees may be one manifestation of rising labor market polarization, which benefits those earning the highest and the lowest wages relatively more than those in the middle of the wage distribution.”

California’s New School Planning and Accountability System. By Jody Martin. California Senate Office of Research. Jan. 2015. 30 p.

http://sor.senate.ca.gov/sites/sor.senate.ca.gov/files/SOR%20Report_CA%20New%20School%20Plannin%20and%20Accountability%20System.pdf

The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), passed by California lawmakers in 2013, is designed to hold local educational agencies responsible to “improve pupil outcomes with a focus on closing historic achievement gaps for educationally disadvantaged student groups.” This report focuses on the next steps in implementing these reforms and assessing student outcomes. The first section provides an overview of the main features of the LCFF. The second section highlights the need for future work in the areas of planning, evaluation, reporting, dissemination of performance data, and monitoring system implementation.

EMPLOYMENT

***Preparing for an Aging Workforce.* Society for Human Resource Management. Jan. 12, 2015. Full Report. 7 p.**

<http://www.shrm.org/Research/SurveyFindings/Documents/14-0765%20Executive%20Briefing%20Aging%20Workforce%20v4.pdf>

Aging Workforce Resource Survey Findings.

<http://www.shrm.org/research/surveyfindings/pages/aging-workforce-research-initiative.aspx>

“HR professionals will be at the forefront of their organizations’ efforts to meet the challenges and make the most of the opportunities accompanying an aging workforce.... The first step will be to learn as much as they can about how these demographic shifts are likely to affect their industry and organization.... Convincing workers to delay retirement and stay in the workforce will be one important way that HR professionals will help their organizations deal with skills shortages in the years ahead. They must also convince managers and organizational leaders to support them in these efforts.”

ENERGY

***Human-Induced Earthquakes from Deep-Well Injection: A Brief Overview.* By Peter Folger, et al. Congressional Research Service. Dec. 22, 2014. 26 p.**

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43836.pdf>

“The development of unconventional oil and natural gas resources using horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing (fracking) has created new demand for wastewater disposal wells that inject waste fluids into deep geologic strata. An increasing concern in the United States is that injection of these fluids may be responsible for increasing rates of seismic activity.... The relationship between earthquake activity and the timing of injection, the amount and rate of fluid injected, and other factors are still uncertain and are current research topics.... This report reviews the current scientific understanding of induced seismicity, primarily in the context of Class II oil and gas wastewater disposal wells. The report also outlines the regulatory framework for these injection wells, and identifies several federal and state initiatives responding to recent events of induced seismicity associated with Class II disposal.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Investigations of Improper Activities by State Agencies and Employees.* Bureau of State Audits. Dec. 2014. 57 p.**

<http://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/l2014-1.pdf>

“This report details 10 substantiated allegations involving several state departments. Through our investigations, we found theft of state funds, waste of public resources, improper headquarters designations and improper travel expenses, and incompatible activities. In one case, we determined that a manager at the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) embezzled more than \$3,500 in state funds that she received when she recycled surplus state property on behalf of the Water Board. In addition, the California Military Department (Military Department) failed to keep an accurate inventory of state property of its Camp Roberts training facility, which led to a loss of inventory valued at \$33,400.”

HEALTH

“Tobacco Use Among Middle and High School Students—United States, 2013.”

By Rene A. Arrazola, et al. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 63, no. 45 (Nov. 14, 2014) pp. 1021-1026.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6345.pdf>

“In 2013, 22.9% of high school students reported current use of a tobacco product, including 12.6% who reported current use of two or more tobacco products. Among all high school students, cigarettes (12.7%) and cigars (11.9%) were the most commonly reported tobacco products currently used, followed by smokeless tobacco (5.7%).... Despite recent reductions in tobacco use, the one in five high school students who reported current use of tobacco and the almost half who reported ever using a tobacco product remain at risk for nicotine dependence and the adverse health consequences of tobacco use.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Cumulative Risk of Child Protective Service Involvement before Age 5: A Population-Based Examination. By Emily Putnam-Hornstein, et al. Children’s Data Network. 2014.

<http://www.datanetwork.org/actionable-research/1002>

“Of the more than 500,000 children born in California each year, approximately 25,000 babies are reported for maltreatment during the first year of life—before they can walk, before they can talk. By age 5, the cumulative count of children reported grows to more than 80,000—or roughly 1 in 7 children born statewide.... [T]he cumulative rate of children who are born in our state and are later involved with the child protection system is roughly triple annual rates of children reported, substantiated, and placed in foster care.” The project website provides county profiles that show the degree of child protection involvement for children from birth through age 5.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

How We Pay for Transportation: the Life and Death of the Highway Trust Fund.

By Joshua L. Schank, et al. Eno Center for Transportation. Dec. 2014. 60 p.

<https://www.enotrans.org/wp-content/uploads/wpsc/downloadables/Highway-Trust-Fund2.pdf>

“The federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF), which provides grants to state and local transportation agencies for road and transit transportation projects, has faced regular funding shortfalls since 2008. This situation has created a state of perpetual uncertainty surrounding federal transportation funding.... The analysis in this report has three components. It begins with an overview of how the U.S. surface transportation program arrived at its current funding crisis, describing the recent history of funding shortfalls at the federal level and the attempts to remedy those shortfalls.... The next phase of the analysis provides a thorough account of the historical and political reasons why the current HTF structure—which was created to fund the construction of the Interstate Highway System on a cost-to-complete basis—persists despite recent failings.... The third part of the analysis explores a set of international case studies.”

About *Studies in the News*

Studies in the News (SITN) is a service provided by the California Research Bureau (CRB), a division of the California State Library. CRB provides independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the Governor, Legislature and State Constitutional Officers.

SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed weekly. Archived issues are available at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.

To add or remove your name from the SITN distribution list, or to update your e-mail address, please contact us at crb@library.ca.gov, or (916) 319-2691.

SITN is available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.