



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 15-105

February 4, 2015

Contents this week:

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Interim report: local data driven approaches to CJ reform

### **ECONOMY**

2014 best performing American cities creating & sustaining jobs

### **EDUCATION**

Latino educational achievements: 2004-2014

### **ENERGY**

Study: solar panels reduce urban heat islands

### **ENVIRONMENT**

New draft EIR on fracking in CA

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Californians optimistic, want to focus on jobs & economy

### **HEALTH**

ACA may reduce coverage gaps between whites, other racial/ethnic groups

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

Assessment tool to improve care coordination for CA seniors & disabled

### **TOOLS OF THE TRADE**

Outpatient prescription drug coverage 101

### **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

CA Hyperloop: a cheap, new mode of transport?

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*The Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Experiences from the Local Sites.* By Lindsey Cramer, et al. Urban Institute. Nov. 2014. 9 p.

<http://www.urban.org/publications/413283.html>

“Local governments across the U.S. are striving to improve public safety and optimize criminal justice investments. The Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) supports these efforts by convening justice system decision-makers to devise data-driven approaches to criminal justice reform that will generate savings that can be reinvested in evidence-based public safety strategies.... This brief summarizes interim findings on the activities of those sites, including major contributors to system costs and corrections populations, policy options to address those issues, and expectations for savings and investment of resources.” The three local JRI sites in California are: San Francisco City and County, Yolo County, and Santa Cruz County.

## ECONOMY

**2014 Best Performing Cities: Where America's Jobs are Created and Sustained.** By Ross DeVol, et al. Milken Institute. Jan. 2015. 58 p.

<http://assets1c.milkeninstitute.org/assets/Publication/ResearchReport/PDF/Milken-Institute-Best-Performing-Cities-Index-2014.pdf>

"The economy is back on track, jobs are being created, and things are generally looking up for most Americans. It's been a long struggle over the past several years since the recession officially ended, but things are finally starting to smooth out. Of course, that is true in some places more than others." This report "takes an in-depth look at the economic factors shaping our cities and towns, in an effort to find out what makes some areas more successful than others." (*The Wall Street Cheat Sheet*, Jan. 18, 2015).

## EDUCATION

**The Condition of Latinos in Education: 2015 Factbook.** By Deborah Santiago, et al. Excelencia in Education. Jan. 2015. 32 p.

<http://www.edexcelencia.org/research/2015-factbook>

Since 2004, the Latino population in the U.S. has grown from 13% to 17% of the population. With this population increase have come great strides in education. The high school completion rate has increased from 57% to 65%, college enrollment rates from 54% to 70%, and college completion (completing an associate degree or higher) from 17% to 22%. California leads the way with these achievements such as ranking first among the states with the number of undergraduate degrees conferred to Latinos.

## ENERGY

**"Solar Panels Reduce Both Global Warming and Urban Heat Island."** By Valery Masson, et al. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, vol. 2 (June 2014) pp. 1-10.

<http://journal.frontiersin.org/Journal/10.3389/fenvs.2014.00014/full>

"America is a nation of pavement. According to research conducted by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, most cities' surfaces are 35 to 50% composed of the stuff. And 40% of that pavement is parking lots. That has a large effect: Asphalt and concrete absorb the sun's energy, retaining heat—and contributing to the 'urban heat island effect' in which cities are hotter than the surrounding areas. So what if there were a way to cut down on that heat, cool down the cars that park in these lots, power up those parked cars that are electric vehicles (like Teslas), and generate a lot of energy to boot? It sounds great, and there is actually a technology that does all of this—solar carports." (*Washington Post*, Jan. 28, 2015).

## ENVIRONMENT

**SB4 Draft Environmental Impact Report.** California Department of Conservation. Jan. 2015.

[http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/SB4DEIR/Pages/SB4\\_DEIR\\_Home.aspx](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/SB4DEIR/Pages/SB4_DEIR_Home.aspx)

The California Department of Conservation has completed their draft environmental impact report (EIR) on hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"). This report looks at the likely impacts of future fracking operation under the new regulations put forward by the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR). The EIR finds that fracking will—among other things—likely have significant negative impacts on air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government.* Public Policy Institute of California. Jan. 2015. 36 p.**

[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/survey/S\\_115MBS.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/survey/S_115MBS.pdf)

This is the 65<sup>th</sup> in the *Californians and Their Government* series, periodically polling a sampling of residents on a number of social, economic and political issues that influence public policy preferences and ballot choices. Findings include: strong approval for Governor Brown and support for his proposed budget; majority believe K-12 education should have the highest priority when it comes to state government spending, and believe the top two issues for state leaders to focus on are jobs and the economy (19%) and education and schools (15%). The survey also provides historical comparisons to some of the issues, where available.

## HEALTH

***Racial/Ethnic Differences in Uninsured Rates under the ACA.* By Lisa Clemans-Cope, et al. Urban Institute. Dec. 2014. 58 p.**

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/2000046-Racial-Ethnic-Differences-in-Uninsurance-Rates-under-the-ACA.pdf>

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) with Medicaid expansion rates is currently in place in 27 states and the District of Columbia. Medicaid expansion is projected to substantially narrow the gap in insurance coverage between whites and all other racial/ethnic minorities except black adults, who disproportionately live in nonexpansion states. Under the ACA with full Medicaid expansion, this gap in coverage would be further reduced. This study is “the first state-level analysis to project coverage gains for detailed racial/ethnic groups and subgroups by origin (i.e., identity relating to family ancestry or birthplace) under the ACA.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***The Universal Assessment Tool: Improving Care for Recipients of Home-and Community-Based Services.* Legislative Analyst’s Office. Jan. 2015. 40 p.**

<http://lao.ca.gov/reports/2015/hhs/uat/uat-012215.pdf>

“The state provides services to low-income seniors and persons with disabilities (SPDs) to help these individuals remain in their own homes and communities rather than being placed in institutional care. Each of the state’s three main HCBS [Home- and Community-Based Services] programs rely on workers to determine eligibility and conduct an assessment to determine the amount and type of services that a consumer may need. Currently, clients who receive services from more than one HCBS program undergo multiple assessments that, in some cases, collect duplicative information.” LAO reviews the Universal Assessment Tool (UAT), authorized by the state legislature and implemented in 2012, which streamlines this process.

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Outpatient Prescription Drug Coverage 101.*** California Health Benefits Review Program.  
Dec. 18, 2014. 3 p.

[http://cms3.revize.com/revize/chbrp/other\\_publications/docs/Final\\_Rx\\_2\\_Pager\\_formatted\\_121814.pdf](http://cms3.revize.com/revize/chbrp/other_publications/docs/Final_Rx_2_Pager_formatted_121814.pdf)

“This resource has been prepared by the California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) as a tool for policymakers to help clarify and explain the common terms associated with prescription drug coverage and the general benefit design for coverage, both of which are often addressed in health policy legislation.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Hyperloop Alpha.*** By Hyperloop Transportation Technologies, Inc. Dec. 2014. 58 p.

[http://www.spacex.com/sites/spacex/files/hyperloop\\_alpha-20130812.pdf](http://www.spacex.com/sites/spacex/files/hyperloop_alpha-20130812.pdf)

“Existing conventional modes of transportation of people consists of four unique types: rail, road, water, and air. These modes of transport tend to be either relatively slow (e.g., road and water), expensive (e.g., air), or a combination of relatively slow and expensive (i.e., rail). Hyperloop is a new mode of transport that seeks to change this paradigm by being both fast and inexpensive for people and goods.... In this study, the initial route, preliminary design, and logistics of the Hyperloop transportation system have been derived. The system consists of capsules that travel between Los Angeles, California and San Francisco, California. The total one-way trip time is 35 minutes from county line to county line.”

### **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](mailto:crb@library.ca.gov), or (916) 319-2691.

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