



Studies in the News

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Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Crime in CA 2014: juvenile arrest rate decreased 9.6%

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

67% of young adults living independently

ECONOMY

Audit finds 25k overincome families live in HUD housing

EDUCATION

Setting expectations for CA's new standards-aligned testing

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Annual survey of public pensions in the U.S.

HEALTH

Study seeks to increase the number of black males in medicine

CA survey: 39% say health care costs increased over the past year

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Financing replacement & modernization of interstate highways

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Crime in California 2014. Office of the Attorney General. July 1, 2015. 76 p.

<http://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/cjsc/publications/candd/cd14/cd14.pdf>

"[This report] presents an overview of the criminal justice system in California. Current year statistics are presented for reported crimes, arrests, dispositions of adult felony arrests, adult probation ... citizens' complaints against police officers, domestic violence-related calls for assistance, and law enforcement officers killed or assaulted." Highlights in 2014 include: the homicide rate decreased 4.3% in 2014; aggravated assault rate increased 2.4% in 2014 (after a 6.9% decrease in 2013); the adult total arrest rate slightly increased 0.4%, but the juvenile total arrest rate decreased 9.6%; the total violent offense arrest rate increased 3.6%, whereas property arrest rates decreased 9.3%.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

More Millennials Living With Family Despite Improved Job Market. By Richard Fry. Pew Research Center. July 29, 2015. 21 p.

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2015/07/29/more-millennials-living-with-family-despite-improved-job-market/>

“In terms of sheer numbers, there are more young adults today than there were when the recession hit—the 18- to 34-year-old population has grown by nearly 3 million since 2007.... In the first third of 2015 about 42.2 million 18- to 34-year-olds lived independently of their families. In 2007, before the recession began, about 42.7 million adults in that age group lived independently.... The decline in the rate at which young adults are forming households from 2007 to 2015 has had a negative impact on the demand for the nation’s housing and, in turn, residential construction.”

ECONOMY

Overincome Families Residing in Public Housing Units. Office of Public and Indian Housing. July 21, 2015. 30 p.

<https://www.hudoig.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2015-PH-0002.pdf>

“Public housing authorities provided public housing assistance to as many as 25,226 families whose income exceeded HUD’s [Department of Housing and Urban Development’s] 2014 eligibility income limits. Of these 25,226 families, 17,761 had earned more than the qualifying amount for more than 1 year. HUD regulations require families to meet eligibility income limits only when they are admitted to the public housing program. The regulations do not limit the length of time that families may reside in public housing.... We recommend that HUD direct housing authorities to establish policies to reduce the number of overincome families in public housing.”

EDUCATION

2015 Results from New Student Tests to be Released. By Jody Martin. Senate Office of Research. Aug. 2015. 4 p.

<http://sor.senate.ca.gov/sites/sor.senate.ca.gov/files/Policy%20Matters%20Student%20Tests%20August%202015.pdf>

This brief provides an overview of what to expect when the California Department of Education releases new test results that align with the Common Core Standards. Policy makers and the general public should consider that the standards-aligned tests are more challenging than those of the past, and due to the dramatic changes in the tests, they cannot be compared to prior years’ testing results. Also, these results will not be part of the Academic Performance Index, which has been suspended for two years while the state develops a new accountability system.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

2014 Annual Survey of Public Pensions: State- and Locally-Administered Defined Benefit Data. Release Number: CB15-TPS.56. By Phillip Vidal. U. S. Census Bureau. July 2015.

Summary Report. 5 p.:

<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/econ/g14-aspp-sl.pdf>

All Data of State and Local Pension Systems. 260 p.:

<http://www.census.gov/govs/retire/>

“The Survey of Public Pensions, State-and Locally-Administered Defined Benefit Data provides revenues, expenditures, financial assets, and membership information for the defined benefit public pension systems. Data are shown for individual pension systems as well as at the national, state, and local level. There were 230 state-administered and 3,742 locally-administered defined benefit public pension systems, all of which are represented here. The 2014 survey covered fiscal years that ended between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 but does not reflect data for the entire calendar year of 2014.” This report provides information about the finances, including pension funds, of almost 90,000 state and local governments in the United States.

HEALTH

Altering the Course: Black Males in Medicine. Association of American Medical Colleges. July 30, 2015. 49 p.

<http://www.msm.edu/RSSFeedArticles/August2015/AAMCBlackMalesInMedicine.php>

Programs, scholarships and other efforts by the government and by medical colleges have increased diversity among physicians. However, data show that the number of black male doctors has remained relatively stagnant over the past few decades. In 1978, there were 1,410 black male applicants to medical school; in 2014, there were just 1,337. This report highlights eleven interviews with students, researchers, physicians and leaders to “explore factors that may contribute to low application rates, experiences along the career pathway, and the role of academic medicine in altering the course of black males in medicine.”

Results From the 2015 Cal Wellness—Field Health Policy Survey—Part 2. The Field Poll. Aug. 27, 2015. 6 p.

<http://www.field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/RIs2511.pdf>

“The poll finds that voters with insurance are generally well satisfied with their own individual health plans, with 86% describing themselves as satisfied and just 11% dissatisfied. However, paying for the costs of health care still remains a problem for many. About four in ten (39%) say the amount they and their family are paying for health care increased over the past year, and a similar proportion (42%) say it’s difficult for them to afford health care.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Truck-Friendly Tolls for 21st Century Interstates. By Robert W. Poole, Jr. Reason Foundation. July 2015. 39 p.

http://reason.org/files/interstate_tolling_trucking_industry.pdf

“This report begins with a vision of a second-generation Interstate highway system, capable of meeting the demands of the 21st century. It then reviews several possible ways to finance the replacement and modernization of existing Interstate corridors to serve future needs, especially those of the current and future trucking industry. In assessing a possible toll-financing approach, it reviews rapidly changing technology that could make 21st century tolling dramatically different from, and far more user-friendly

than, cash-based 20th century tolling. It also discusses an array of concerns that must be addressed to make this approach workable for America's trucking industry."

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