



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Adding Insult to Injury: The Criminalization of Homelessness and Its Effects on Youth.

By Shahera Hyatt, et al. California Homeless Youth Project. Sep. 2015. 16 p.

<http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/CriminalizationOfYouthHomelessness.pdf>

"This issue brief explores how criminalization affects California's homeless youth, considering the unintended consequences of the enforcement of 'quality of life' ordinances. This brief also presents solutions for state and local policymakers, service providers, and law enforcement to alleviate this strain on California's unaccompanied youth as they struggle to successfully enter adulthood and obtain stable housing." The U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development conducted a one-evening count of homeless people in California (Jan. 2013). According to the survey, 15,469 were unaccompanied youth,

2,144 were unaccompanied homeless children and youth under age 18, and 13,605 were young adults aged 18 to 24.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Financial Security for Future Retirees: California Scores 3 out of 10. National Institute on Retirement Security. July 20, 2015. 2 p.

http://www.nirsonline.org/storage/nirs/documents/Factsheets/CA_FSS.pdf

Report Portal: <http://www.nirsonline.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=892>

“California like every state faces challenges to the financial security of future retirees. The state’s low—3 out of 10—score on the Financial Security Scorecard means that near-retirees are likely to face financial insecurity in retirement. ... With only 2 out of 5 workers participating in a retirement plan at work and an average defined contribution (DC) account balance of \$23,381 ... increasing pension coverage and retirement savings is important, otherwise the percentage of older individuals living in poverty may increase beyond the 2012 level of 10.4%. Providing employment opportunities for older adults should also be a priority.”

ECONOMY

Tracking Graduates into the Workforce: Connecting Education and Labor Market Data.

By Garrett Groves, et al. National Governors Association. Aug. 2015. 20 p.

<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/2015/1508TrackingGraduates.pdf>

“The report provides a list of questions that governors should ask when examining the effectiveness of their states’ postsecondary education and training programs, and highlights three practices that draw on education and workforce data to help answer those questions.” The report consists of three case studies of states and regions and an evaluation of the transition between higher education programs and the workforce. The lessons learned from each evaluation are meant to inform legislators’ decisions about policy and resource allocation.

EDUCATION

A Crisis in Student Loans? How Changes in the Characteristics of Borrowers and in the Institutions They Attended Contributed to Rising Loan Defaults. By Adam Looney, et al.

Brookings Papers on Economic Activity. BPEA Conference Draft. Sep. 10-11, 2015. 77 p.

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/projects/bpea/fall-](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/projects/bpea/fall-2015_embargoed/conferencedraft_looneyyannelis_studentloandefaults.pdf)

[2015_embargoed/conferencedraft_looneyyannelis_studentloandefaults.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/projects/bpea/fall-2015_embargoed/conferencedraft_looneyyannelis_studentloandefaults.pdf)

“Most of the increase in default is associated with the rise in the number of borrowers at for-profit schools and, to a lesser extent, 2-year institutions and certain other non-selective institutions, whose students historically composed only a small share of borrowers. These non-traditional borrowers were drawn from lower income families, attended institutions with relatively weak educational outcomes, and experienced poor labor market outcomes after leaving school. In contrast, default rates among borrowers attending most 4-year public and non-profit private institutions and graduate borrowers—borrowers who represent the vast majority of the federal loan portfolio—have remained low, despite the severe recession and their relatively high loan balances. Their higher earnings, low rates of unemployment, and greater family resources appear to have enabled them to avoid adverse loan outcomes even during times of hardship.”

Key Considerations When Comparing California K-12 School Spending to Other States.

By Jonathan Kaplan. California Budget and Policy Center. Aug. 2015. 5 p.

http://calbudgetcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Key-Considerations-When-Comparing-California-K12-School-Spending-to-Other-States_Issue-Brief_08262015.pdf

“This Issue Brief examines different data sources that are used to evaluate California’s level of K-12 spending, reviews the advantages and disadvantages of each, and explains why the amount that California is reported to spend per K-12 student, as well as its ranking relative to other states, varies depending on the source of this information and how it is interpreted.”

EMPLOYMENT

“Harmful Workplace Experiences and Women’s Occupational Well-being: A Meta-Analysis.”

By Victor E. Sojo, et al. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*. Published online ahead of print Aug. 27, 2015. 31 p.

<http://pwq.sagepub.com/content/early/2015/08/21/0361684315599346.full>

This meta-analysis of 88 studies of over 70,000 women concludes “that more intense yet less frequent harmful experiences (e.g., sexual coercion and unwanted sexual attention) and less intense but more frequent harmful experiences (e.g., sexist organizational climate and gender harassment) had similar negative effects on women’s well-being. Harmful workplace experiences were independent from and as negative as job stressors in their impact on women’s occupational well-being. The power imbalance between the target and the perpetrator appeared as a potential factor to explain the type and impact of harmful workplace experiences affecting women’s occupational well-being.” The authors suggest organizational policy changes such as training and changing reporting structures.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

“Water Footprint of Hydraulic Fracturing.” By Andrew Kondash, et al. *Environmental Science & Technology Letters* (Sep. 16, 2015) 5 p.

http://sites.nicholas.duke.edu/avnervengosh/files/2011/08/Water-Footprint-of-Hydraulic-Fracturing_EST_Letters.pdf

“We evaluated the overall water footprint of hydraulic fracturing of unconventional shale gas and oil throughout the United States based on integrated data from multiple database sources. We show that between 2005 and 2014, unconventional shale gas and oil extraction used 708 billion liters and 232 billion liters of water, respectively. From 2012 to 2014, the annual water user rates were 116 billion liters per year for shale gas and 66 billion liters per year for unconventional oil. Integrated data from 6 to 10 years of operation yielded 803 billion liters of combined flowback and produced water from unconventional shale gas and oil formations. While the hydraulic fracturing revolution has increased water use and wastewater production in the United States, its water use and produced water intensity is lower than other energy extraction methods and represents only a fraction of total industrial water use nationwide.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Libraries at the Crossroads: The Public is Interested in New Services and Thinks Libraries are Important to Communities. By John Horrigan. Pew Research Center. Sep. 15, 2015. 52 p.

<http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/09/15/libraries-at-the-crossroads/>

“American libraries are buffeted by cross currents. Citizens believe that libraries are important community institutions and profess interest in libraries offering a range of new program possibilities. Yet, even as the public expresses interest in additional library services, there are signs that the share of Americans visiting

libraries has edged downward over the past three years.... Additionally, two-thirds of Americans (65%) ages 16 and older say that closing their local public library would have a major impact on their community.”

HEALTH

***Medi-Cal Versus Employer-Based Coverage: Comparing Access to Care.* By Tara Becker, et al. California HealthCare Foundation. July 2015. 86 p.**

<http://www.chcf.org/publications/2015/07/medical-access-compared>

This report compares access to care through Medi-Cal to employer-sponsored insurance, using 49 measures for nonelderly adults and 28 measures for children. “For California adults, 29 of the 45 measures showed significant gaps in access between Medi-Cal and ESI (employer-sponsored insurance). For example, Medi-Cal enrollees were twice as likely to not have a usual source of care other than the emergency room and three times as likely to have trouble finding a doctor. For children with Medi-Cal, only 6 of the 28 measures indicated gaps in access compared to ESI.” The analysis found that fewer healthcare measures were met in the Medi-Cal system, meaning that care was worse for Californians disproportionately represented in Medi-Cal.

HUMAN SERVICES

***Household Food Security in the United States in 2014.* By Alisha Coleman-Jensen, et al. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Sep. 2015. 43 p.**

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/1896841/err194.pdf>

“In 2014, 86.0% of U.S. households were food secure throughout the year. The remaining 14.0% (17.4 million households) were food insecure. Food-insecure households (those with low and very low food security) had difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all their members due to a lack of resources. The changes from 2013 (14.3%) and 2012 (14.5%) to 2014 were not statistically significant; however, the cumulative decline from 14.9% in 2011 was statistically significant.... Children were food insecure at times during the year in 9.4% of U.S. households with children (3.7 million households), essentially unchanged from 9.9% in 2013.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Broadband Opportunity Council Report and Recommendations.* U.S. Department of Commerce, et al. Aug. 20, 2015. 40 p.**

https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/broadband_opportunity_council_report_final.pdf

The White House’s Broadband Opportunity Council has released a new report on broadband access in the United States, which has been widely cited in the media because it recommends the classification of broadband as a “core utility,” emphasizing the importance of access for rural and low-income households. In addition, it recommends the creation and expansion of grant and loan programs to increase broadband access in disadvantaged communities.

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