



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***The Impact of an Aging Inmate Population on the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Dept. of Justice. Revised Feb. 2016. 72 p.***

<https://oig.justice.gov/reports/2015/e1505.pdf>

"In September 2013, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) incarcerated 164,566 federal inmates in 119 BOP-managed institutions. According to BOP data, inmates age 50 and older were the fastest growing segment of its inmate population, increasing 25% from 24,857 in fiscal year (FY) 2009 to 30,962 in FY 2013.... [W]e estimate that the BOP spent approximately \$881 million, or 19% of its total budget, to incarcerate aging inmates in FY 2013.... The OIG [Office of the Inspector General] found that aging inmates are more costly to incarcerate than their younger counterparts due to increased medical needs. We further found that limited institution staff and inadequate staff training affect the BOP's ability to address the needs of aging inmates."

## ECONOMY

***Comparing Credit Profiles of American Renters and Owners.*** By Wei Li, et al. Urban Institute. Mar. 2016. 43 p.

<http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/2000652-Comparing-Credit-Profiles-of-American-Renters-and-Owners.pdf>

This report explores the interaction between credit profiles and consumer choices. “Sixty-four million or 52% of all renters have credit scores below 650, generally not high enough to qualify for a mortgage. Many of the 15 million middle-aged renters with a past mortgage, particularly those in the four sand states (Arizona, California, Florida, and Nevada) and Colorado, appear to have been forced out of homeownership by financial troubles. Of the 96 million renters who have never had a mortgage, 42% have debt in collections.... Owners with no mortgage or a paid-off mortgage are on average older and have higher (credit) scores than consumers with a current mortgage.”

## EDUCATION

***The University of California: Its Admissions and Financial Decisions Have Disadvantaged California Resident Students.*** California State Auditor. Mar. 2016. 126 p.

<https://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2015-107.pdf>

“[O]ver the past several years, the university has failed to put the needs of residents first. In response to reduced state funding, it has made substantial efforts to enroll more nonresident students, who pay significantly more annual tuition and mandatory fees than resident students—\$37,000 compared to \$12,240 in academic year 2014-15. The results are stark: From academic years 2010–11 through 2014–15, total nonresident enrollment at the university increased by 82%, or 18,000 students, while resident enrollment decreased by 2,200 students, or 1%.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***Freidrichs, et al. v. California Teachers Association, et al.*** U.S. Supreme Court. No. 14-915. Mar. 29, 2016. 4 p.

<http://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/friedrichs-v-california-teachers-association/>

With a 4-4 split decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, a lower court decision on union practices remains in place. Unions may still collect union dues among non-members. The case entered on a teacher who claimed paying union dues violated her free speech rights since she did not support the union. “The one-sentence result ... will leave intact, but on an uncertain legal foundation, a system of ‘agency fees’ for non-union teachers in California—with the legal doubts for public workers’ unions across the nation probably lingering until a ninth Justice joins the Court at some point in the future.”

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers Basin Study.*** Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior. Mar. 2016. 142 p.

[http://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/bsp/docs/finalreport/sacramento-sj/Sacramento\\_SanJoaquin\\_SUMMARY.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/bsp/docs/finalreport/sacramento-sj/Sacramento_SanJoaquin_SUMMARY.pdf)

“The Central Valley and regions that depend on the Sierra Nevada and Coast Range mountains for water have been facing rising demands for water from rapidly increasing populations, changes in land use, and growing urban, agricultural and environmental demands. These demands already exceed the capacity of

the existing water management system to supply adequate water—especially in droughts like the one California is now experiencing. Future climate changes are likely to increase the challenges that have already occurred in the 20th century. This Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins Study (Basins Study) builds on previous climate impact assessments and addresses both the potential impacts of climate and socioeconomic changes and explores how these challenges might be addressed. “

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***California's Exclusive Electorate: Who Votes and Why It Matters.* By Mark Baldassare, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Mar. 2016. 24 p.**

[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R\\_316MBR.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_316MBR.pdf)

“The people who go to the polls in California are very different from those who don't; they vary widely across key demographic indicators such as race, age, education, homeownership, and income. They also have very different political attitudes and policy preferences. As California's population continues to expand and change, its voting rolls are not keeping pace and its voters have become unrepresentative of its population.” This report provides an overview of likely voters and nonvoters, the impact on policy making, ballot choices and elected officials, and public and private efforts to increase political participation.

## HEALTH

***Fixing Denti-Cal.* Little Hoover Commission. Apr. 2016. 68 p.**

<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/230/report230.html>

This report, written at the request of state lawmakers, examines California's Medicaid dental program. Denti-Cal serves 13 million Californians. “Overall, it appears that the current Denti-Cal system creates high levels of havoc in the lives of people it is supposed to help. The entire system needs a thorough reorientation to preventative care and earlier intervention.” Among the Commission's recommendations: conduct oversight hearings; ensure the state dental director has adequate authority to oversee the program; simplify the provider forms and put them online; and purge outdated regulations.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Discrimination against Transgender Women Seeking Access to Homeless Shelters.* By Caitlin Rooney, et al. Center for American Progress. Jan. 7, 2016. 5 p.**

<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/06113001/HomelessTransgender.pdf>

In a nonrandom sample of 100 homeless shelters across four states, researchers found that “[w]hile accessing homeless shelters is difficult for anyone, transgender women face particular issues and barriers that have yet to be addressed.... [A] minority of shelters was willing to properly accommodate transgender women. This willingness varied depending on state laws and shelter type.... States with LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender] protections were twice as likely to be willing to provide a test caller with appropriate shelter.” The report suggests Congress could consider passing the Equality Act, the Department of Housing and Urban Development could consider modifying its equal-access rule to allow shelters to ask questions regarding gender identity and sexual orientation.

### **About *Studies in the News***

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