



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Time-In-Cell: The ASCA-Liman 2014 National Survey of Administrative Segregation in Prison.
By Sarah Baumgartel, et al. The Liman Program, et al. Aug. 2015. 96 p.

<http://www.safealternativestosegregation.org/resources/view/time-in-cell-asca-liman>

"Prolonged isolation of individuals in jails and prisons is a grave problem drawing national attention and concern. Commitments to lessen the numbers of people in isolated settings and to reduce the degrees of isolation have emerged from across the political spectrum.... [I]n 2012 ... [w]e asked the directors of state and federal corrections systems to provide their policies governing administrative isolation, defined as removing a prisoner from general population to spend 22 to 23 hours a day in a cell for 30 days or more. [In the resulting 2013 report] we learned ... that the criteria for entry were broad." In the 2014 report, a survey of more than 130 questions was sent to prison directors "to understand the impact of these policies."

EDUCATION

***Measuring Up: Educational Improvement & Opportunity in 50 Cities.* By Michael DeArmond, et al. Center on Reinventing Public Education. Oct. 2015. 55 p.**

http://www.crpe.org/sites/default/files/measuringup_10.2015_final.pdf

A report of 50 urban public schools in 50 mid- and large-sized cities found that 1 in 4 students do not graduate from high school in four years, and that 40% of schools at the bottom 5% of their state remain in that position for three years running. Chula Vista, Oakland, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Ana and Stockton were among the 50 cities reviewed. The researchers looked at nine indicators to learn how students from city schools are faring, with an emphasis on race and poverty level. Oakland had 21.4% of its schools in the bottom 5% of the state in reading; 44.4% of those schools were stuck in the bottom range for three years. All other reported cities had 15% or less of their schools performing in the bottom 5% in reading.

EMPLOYMENT

***Fair Labor Standard Act: Worker Misclassification and the Hours and Earnings Effects of Expanded Coverage.* By Susann Rohwedder, et al. RAND Labor & Population. Aug. 2015. 47 p.**

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/working_papers/WR1100/WR1114/RAND_WR1114.pdf

“[W]e quantify the frequency that employers violate the U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act's overtime rules. Among employees paid by the hour who work over 40 hours in a week, 19.0% were paid less than the ‘time-and-a-half’ standard for overtime. Among salaried workers.... 11.5% did not actually meet the exemption criteria. [W]e estimate the effects of increasing the salary threshold for exemption. At the population mean for hours worked, we find no statistically significant effects on hours or earnings. However, workers above the 72nd percentile of the hours distribution would lose between 5 and 10 overtime hours per week.”

***Women in the Workplace 2015.* McKinsey and Company. Sep. 2015. 30 p.**

http://womenintheworkplace.com/ui/pdfs/Women_in_the_Workplace_2015.pdf?v=5

“Women are still underrepresented at every level in the corporate pipeline. Many people assume this is because women are leaving companies at higher rates than men or due to difficulties balancing work and family. However, our analysis tells a more complex story: women face greater barriers to advancement and a steeper path to senior leadership....” The report recommends inclusive policies to promote gender diversity. The survey included 118 companies, which opted into the study in response to invitations by McKinsey and Company.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Assessment of Undiscovered Continuous Oil and Gas Resources in the Monterey Formation, San Joaquin Basin Province, California, 2015.* By Marilyn E. Tennyson, et al. U.S. Geological Survey. Sep. 2015. 2 p.**

<http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/fs20153058>

This fact sheet encapsulates the reduced estimates of gas and oil resources in California's Monterey Formation. In 2011, the U.S. Energy Information Administration had estimated there were 13.7 billion barrels of potential recoverable oil; this study significantly changes that estimate, suggesting that there are only 21 million barrels of oil that may require enhanced recovery methods to extract oil and gas from the shale. While this report only looked at the San Joaquin basin, forthcoming analysis will cover the other three basins that comprise the formation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Rental Housing: Assistance Is Provided by Federal, State, and Local Programs, but There Is Incomplete Information on Collective Performance. GAO-15-645. Government Accountability Office. Sep. 15, 2015. 64 p.
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-645>

“GAO partnered with 25 state and local audit offices to design an audit plan that 6 participating audit offices conducted on rental assistance to low-income households. GAO assessed the completed results, reviewed documentation, and interviewed officials from HUD, Treasury, and IRS. GAO recommends that HUD ... work with states and localities to develop an approach for compiling and reporting on the collective performance of federal, state, and local rental assistance programs. HUD disagreed with the recommendations as originally drafted because it did not believe that it was addressed to the appropriate party. GAO agreed and modified the recommendation to direct it to HUD.”

HEALTH

2015 Employer Health Benefits Survey. Kaiser Family Foundation. Sep. 22, 2015.
<http://kff.org/health-costs/report/2015-employer-health-benefits-survey/>
Summary of findings. 10 p.: <http://files.kff.org/attachment/summary-of-findings-2015-employer-health-benefits-survey>

“This annual survey of employers provides a detailed look at trends in employer-sponsored health coverage including premiums, employee contributions, cost-sharing provisions, and employer opinions. The 2015 survey included almost 2,000 interviews with non-federal public and private firms.” Among the survey’s findings: “In 2015, the average annual premiums for employer-sponsored health insurance are \$6,251 for single coverage and \$17,545 for family coverage. Each rose 4% over the 2014 average premiums.... Workers in small firms have lower average contributions for single coverage than workers in large firms (\$899 vs. \$1,146), but higher average contributions for family coverage (\$5,904 vs. \$4,549).”

E-cigarettes: An Evidence Update. By A McNeill, et al. Public Health England. 2015. 113 p.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457102/E-cigarettes_an_evidence_update_A_report_commissioned_by_Public_Health_England_FINAL.pdf

This report updates and expands two previous reports produced for Public Health England. “In England, EC (e-cigarettes) first appeared on the market within the last 10 years and around 5% of the population report currently using them, the vast majority of these smokers or recent ex-smokers. Whilst there is some experimentation among never smokers, regular use among newer smokers is rare. *Cigarette* smoking among youth and adults has continued to decline and there is no current evidence in England that EC are renormalising smoking or increasing smoking uptake. Instead, the evidence reviewed in this report point in the direction of an association between greater uptake of EC and reduced smoking, with emerging evidence that EC can be effective cessation and reduction aids.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Child Poverty and Adult Success. By Caroline Ratcliffe. Urban Institute. Sep. 2015. 15 p.
<http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/2000369-Child-Poverty-and-Adult-Success.pdf>

“Children as a group are disproportionately poor: roughly one in five live in poverty compared with one in eight adults.... Following children from birth through age 17 shows a much greater prevalence of poverty than the annual figures would suggest. Four of every 10 children (38.8%) are poor for at least one year before they reach their 18th birthday. Black children fare much worse: fully three-quarters (75.4%) are

poor during childhood. The number for white children is substantial, yet considerably lower (30.1%).... [This research] highlights the importance of parental education and childhood residential stability and the potential benefits for persistently poor children of living in a multigenerational household.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program: Draft Updates to the AHSC Program Guidelines. California Strategic Growth Council. Sep. 17, 2015. 87 p.

http://www.sgc.ca.gov/docs/Draft_2015-

[16 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program Guidelines.pdf](http://www.sgc.ca.gov/docs/Draft_2015-16_Affordable_Housing_and_Sustainable_Communities_Program_Guidelines.pdf)

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) has released new draft Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Guidelines. These new guidelines are open to public review and comment through Friday, October 30, 2015. These revisions are based on feedback from the first year of SGC’s AHSC program, and are “intended to advance the goals and objectives of the AHSC Program by strengthening the connection between housing, transportation, and transit investments to further reduce vehicle miles travelled and greenhouse gas emissions while creating healthier, transit-oriented environments.”

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