



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

California State and County Governments Spend More Than \$20 Billion Annually on Incarceration and Responding to Crime. By Chris Hoene, et al. California Budget & Policy Center. Oct. 2016. 3 p.
http://calbudgetcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Fact-Sheet_State-and-County-Spending-Over-20B_10.25.16.pdf

This brief highlights spending on incarceration and crime-related activities at the county and state level. “Despite ... significant reforms, spending on incarceration and crime-related activities at the county and state level remains high. As of 2014-15, California’s state and county governments spent \$20.7 billion on incarceration and responding to crime.... Significantly reducing state and county spending ... will require continued implementation of recent reforms and going beyond recent changes in criminal justice policy.... Policy changes ... could include simplifying the state’s complex Penal Code in order to shorten prison sentences, providing state officials with new policy options for further reducing incarceration, and increasing the use of alternatives incarceration at the county level, particularly for youth.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Nonprofit Media Coverage of the Arts in California: Challenges and Opportunities.* California Arts Council. Nov. 2, 2016. 22 p.**

<http://arts.ca.gov/resources/pubmediareport.php>

The California Arts Council (CAC) is a state agency that invests public funds by providing art grants for nonprofit organizations. At a recent summit, CAC participants met to discuss “the current challenges and opportunities regarding nonprofit media coverage of the arts in California.” Participants found nonprofit media needs a need that corporate media does not provide. Audience data for public media is not easily quantified, and public events increase audience engagement. Funding for public media is challenging for organizations as well as for funders; partnerships and collaborations are complicated. Recommendations include developing new measures of success, varying grant sizes and fostering partnerships.

EDUCATION

***After Nearly a Decade, School Investments Still Way Down in Some States.* By Michael Leachman, et al. Center for Budget Policies and Priorities. Oct. 2016. 17 p.**

<http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/10-20-16sfp.pdf>

“At least 23 states will provide less ‘general’ or ‘formula’ funding —the primary form of state support for elementary and secondary schools—in the current school year (2017) than when the Great Recession took hold in 2008.... Eight states have cut general funding per student by about 10% or more over this period. Five of those eight—Arizona, Kansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin—enacted income tax rate cuts costing tens or hundreds of millions of dollars each year rather than restore education funding. Most states raised general funding per student this year, but 19 states imposed new cuts, even as the national economy continues to improve.” California’s spending is listed as 12.9% below 2008 levels. This figure is adjusted to reflect the state’s removal of adult education from Proposition 98 K-12 spending in 2016.

EMPLOYMENT

***2014 Report on Women’s Earnings in California State Civil Service Classifications.* California Department of Human Resources. Oct. 2016. 25 p.**

<http://www.calhr.ca.gov/Documents/ocr-women's-earnings-2014.pdf>

“While the number of women in state civil service has increased in a variety of occupations and the gender pay gap has been reduced since 1989, women are still underrepresented relative to their presence in the population, and female employees have not yet reached pay parity.” This report suggests recruitment and professional development strategies to recruit and promote women in civil service. “It is important that state agencies identify occupations where women are under-utilized, incorporate this data into their workforce plans and outline appropriate strategies to improve representation.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***The Energy-Water Nexus: A Plan for Collaboration Between the Department of Energy and Water Sector.* Water Research Foundation. Nov. 2016. 6 p.**

<http://www.waterrf.org/knowledge/energy-management/Documents/DOE-Plan-for-Collaboration.pdf>

This paper contains a set of research and policy recommendations to the Department of Energy from eight water sector associations. “The white paper provides (1) an overview of the water-energy nexus, (2) successful water-energy programs and partnerships, (3) policy and research gaps in the water-energy nexus, and (4) recommendations and next steps. The white paper was developed in response to a September 7 meeting between the water sector and the Honorable Ernest Moniz, Secretary of Energy, to discuss policy and research priorities.”

***California's Water.* By Ellen Hanak, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Oct. 2016. 50 p.**

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_1016WPCBKR.pdf

“Managing water remains one of the great challenges for California. Population growth, a shifting climate, and declining ecosystem health are putting pressure on the state’s water supply and flood management systems. New policies are needed to address these challenges. This briefing kit highlights some of the most pressing issues, including: climate change and water, the Colorado River, energy and water, managing droughts, paying for water, preparing for floods, protecting headwaters, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, storing water, water for cities, water for the environment, [and] water for farms.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Gross Domestic Product by Metropolitan Area, 2015.* Bureau of Economic Analysis (U.S. Department of Commerce). Sep. 20, 2016. 19 p.**

http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/regional/gdp_metro/2016/gdp_metro0916.htm

“The numbers show that economies of most major American metro areas have fully recovered, but many smaller cities are still struggling to shake off the lingering impact of the Great Recession. Of the 382 metro areas tracked ... some 292 saw their local economies grow last year. Among the largest local economies, San Jose, California, showed the strongest growth at 8.9 percent, led by the continued boom in information technology in the region.... The biggest lift for most cities came from growth in professional and business services, which added more than a percentage point to growth in 25 metropolitan areas.” (CNBC, Sep. 20, 2016).

HEALTH

“Fragranced Consumer Products: Exposures and Effects from Emissions.” By Anne Steinemann. *Air Quality, Atmosphere & Health.* Oct. 20, 2016. 6 p.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11869-016-0442-z>

“Fragranced consumer products, such as cleaning supplies, air fresheners, and personal care products, are a primary source of indoor air pollutants and personal exposure. Previous research indicates that fragranced products can trigger adverse health effects, with implications for workplaces and public places. This is the first study to examine the multiple dimensions of exposures related to fragranced products and effects in the US population.... Results from this study provide strong evidence that fragranced products can trigger adverse health effects in the general population. The study also indicates that reducing exposure to fragranced products, such as through fragrance-free policies, can provide cost-effective and relatively simple ways to reduce risks and improve air quality and health.”

HUMAN SERVICES

***Overall Declines in Child Poverty Mask Relatively Stable Rates Across States.* By Andrew Schaefer, et al. Carsey Research. Sep. 15, 2016. 4 p.**

<http://scholars.unh.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1281&context=carsey>

“Between 2014 and 2015, child poverty declined nationwide across rural areas, suburbs, and cities. As before, cities had the highest child poverty, followed closely by rural areas. Suburbs had the lowest rates. In 13 states, child poverty declined since 2014; only Mississippi saw an increase since 2014, and the remaining 36 states and the District of Columbia had stable rates.... New Hampshire child poverty was among the lowest nationwide, at 10.7%.” In California, child poverty declined (21.2%) since 2014, but it is higher than national average (20.7%). While child poverty in suburbs (-1.8) and cities (-1.4) are declined, it is slightly increased in rural areas (0.4) since 2014.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***State of Our Cities – Profiles of Education Performance Around the Nation.* George W. Bush Institute.**

<http://www.bushcenter.org/stateofourcities/>

“*State of Our Cities* addresses the critical need for access to reliable, usable city-level education data. This unique tool aggregates the best available city-level data from multiple sources in a single platform. Covering a range of important education topics and performance indicators, *State of Our Cities* enables users to view comprehensive profiles of the public education system in each of the 114 cities featured, and compare them side-by-side with other city profiles.”

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