



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

November 30, 2016

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

California's County Jails in the Era of Reform. By Ryken Grattet, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Sep. 2016. 12 p.

http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_quick.asp?i=1210

“Despite the growing importance of jails, little is known about the basic characteristics of jail populations. In this report, we analyze state and local data on individuals moving through county correctional systems.” The data is derived from 11 counties. The report finds that after three years under Realignment, drug and property crime offenders increased 55% and 40%, but one year after Proposition 47 passed this percentage decreased by 35% and 13% respectively. The demographic composition has remained relatively stable, but the share of prisoners aged 18-21 has dipped slightly, while the share of prisoners in their 30s has increased.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Social Media Causes Some Users to Rethink Their Views on an Issue. By Monica Anderson. Pew Research Center. Nov. 2016.

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/11/07/social-media-causes-some-users-to-rethink-their-views-on-an-issue/>

“Overall, 20% of social media users say they’ve modified their stance on a social or political issue because of material they saw on social media, and 17% say social media has helped to change their views about a specific political candidate.... Democrats—and liberal Democrats in particular—are a bit more likely than Republicans to say they have ever modified their views on a social or political issue, or on a particular political candidate, because of something they saw on social media.... Still, it is important to note...79% say they have never changed their views on a social or political issue—because of something they saw on social media.”

ECONOMY

The Economic Contribution of Unauthorized Workers: An Industry Analysis. By Ryan Edwards, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. Nov. 2016. 45 p.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w22834> (Available at the California State Library)

“[This report] offers the first detailed estimates of how a policy of mass deportation would affect specific industries.... If all undocumented workers were immediately removed from the country, Edwards and Ortega forecast a decline of 9% in agricultural production and declines of 8% in construction and leisure and hospitality over the long term. These are the industries most dependent on undocumented labor. Relative to the overall economy, however, the most important effect would be a decline in manufacturing output of \$74 billion over the long term, followed by somewhat more modest declines in wholesale and retail trade and financial activities.” (*Chicago Tribune*, Nov. 16, 2016).

EDUCATION

Workin’ 9 to 5: How School Schedules Make Life Harder for Working Parents. By Catherine Brown, et al. Center for American Progress. Oct. 2016. 91 p.

https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/30090826/working9to5_1016.pdf

“Schools should be responsive to the needs of both children and parents in their communities. A true, family-centered school is intentional about providing extended-day programs that keep children safe, offer

opportunities to grow and thrive, and support working families. Ideally, all schools should be open beyond traditional school hours. Unfortunately, this is not the case. School policies must evolve with the changing demographics of the nation and actively respond to the daily challenges and frustrations experienced by many working parents.... Expanded school schedules provide children with enriching opportunities to succeed while also recognizing the needs of the modern American family.”

EMPLOYMENT

***Assessing the Effect of the Affordable Care Act on Part-time Employment.* By Andreas Hornstein, et al. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. Oct. 2016. 6 p.**

https://www.richmondfed.org/publications/research/economic_brief/2016/eb_16-10

This report is an overview of research on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and whether passage of the ACA has led to increased use of part-time labor. “Although a strong theoretical argument can be made that the ACA employer mandate should increase the use of employees on a schedule of twenty-nine hours per week or less, empirical research so far has not unambiguously confirmed this prediction. With the exception of one study, survey data and econometric work have not found a large and statistically significant relationship between the mandate and part-time work.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Hazard Assessment of Chemical Additives Used in Oil Fields that Reuse Produced Water for Agricultural Irrigation, Livestock Watering, and Groundwater Recharge in The San Joaquin Valley of California: Preliminary Results.* By Seth. B.C. Shonkoff, et al. PSE Healthy Energy. Sep. 2016. 17 p.**

http://psehealthyenergy.org/data/Preliminary_Results_13267_Disclosures_FINAL.pdf

Oil-field produced water has been used to irrigate crops in the Central Valley since the mid-1990s. “Here we report the preliminary findings of our analysis of the chemical data disclosed in response to... orders from the CVRWQCB [Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board]. In this preliminary analysis, we provide the list of chemicals reported in the context of their acute mammalian and ecological toxicities, biodegradability, bioaccumulation potential, carcinogenicity, and whether chemicals are included on specific chemical priority lists. The purpose of this analysis is to identify potential chemicals of concern as a first step prior to more complete human health and environmental hazard and risk analyses.” Findings suggest that using oilfield wastewater to irrigate crops poses no significant threat, but more research is needed.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Can Property Taxes Reduce House Price Volatility? Evidence from U.S. Regions.* By Tigran Poghosyan. International Monetary Fund. Working Paper 16/216. Nov. 10, 2016. 26 p.**

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2016/wp16216.pdf>

Analysis of data on effective property tax rates from 2005-2014 at the state and metropolitan levels indicates a causal relationship between property tax rates and house price volatility. Increases in property tax rates reduce house price volatility. The results suggest that property taxation could be a useful policy tool to dampen house price volatility, which is an important factor in overall financial stability. Although there are problems to continually changing transaction taxes to counter housing cycles, other possibilities for reform are mentioned.

HEALTH

Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health. Department of Health and Human Services. Nov. 2016. 428 p.

<https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/>

Executive summary. 36 p.: <https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/executive-summary.pdf>

“A landmark report released Thursday by U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy places drug and alcohol addiction alongside smoking, AIDS and other public health crises of the past half-century, calling the current epidemic ‘a moral test for America.’... In 2015, the report notes, substance-abuse disorders affected 20.8 million people in the United States — as many as those with diabetes and 1½ times as many as those with cancer. Yet, Murthy said, only one in 10 people receives treatment.... In the same year, more than 27 million people said they had used illegal drugs or misused prescription drugs, and more than 66 million reported binge drinking in the previous month.” The report includes an overview of medicinal and recreational marijuana and the changing legal environment. (*Washington Post*, Nov. 17, 2016).

HUMAN SERVICES

“Community Engagement Compared With Technical Assistance to Disseminate Depression Care Among Low-Income, Minority Women: A Randomized Controlled Effectiveness Study” By Victoria K. Ngo, et al. *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 106, no. 10 (Oct. 2016) pp. 1833-1841. (Available at the California State Library)

“[P]overty and mental illness interact in a negative spiral, especially for low-income minority women, who are exposed to greater environmental stressors and have limited access to resources, which can increase the risk of depression morbidity and mortality.... [This study] compared a community engagement and planning participatory network (CEP) approach with a technical assistance approach (Resources for Services, or RS) and found that CEP, which supported the community in implementing a communitywide network for depression care, improved clients’ mental health quality of life and mental wellness.”

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