



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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EDUCATION

Connecting College Students to Alternative Sources of Support. By Lindsay Daugherty, et al.
RAND. Nov. 2016. 98 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1740.html

“Through offices located on community college campuses, Single Stop provides students with a range of free services, including screenings and applications for public benefit programs; tax services, financial counseling, and legal services; and case management with referrals to a wide variety of resources and support programs across the institution and community. This report presents an evaluation of the Single Stop program and its impact on students' postsecondary outcomes.... The analysis indicates that use of Single Stop was associated with improved postsecondary outcomes. The findings suggest that access to

alternative financial resources from government benefit programs alongside a network of institutional and community support programs can offer valuable support to college students.”

***Evaluation of CSU's Doctor of Nursing Practice Pilot Program.* By Paul Steenhausen. Legislative Analyst's Office. Jan. 4, 2017. 24 p.**

<http://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3521>

This paper analyzes the results of a pilot program enacted by 2010 California statute (AB 867, Nava). To fill an expected long-term shortage of nurses, California State University created a doctorate in nursing pilot program. However, the University of California already offers nursing doctorate programs. The nursing board and other experts have reported that the registered nurse labor market is already well-balanced and sufficient for decades to come. Universities are having trouble recruiting nursing faculty. Nursing programs have proliferated online. The LAO concludes that the pilot program should sunset in 2018.

EMPLOYMENT

***Women Lead Men on Key Workplace Engagement Measures.* Gallup. Nov. 16, 2016. 12 p.**

<http://www.gallup.com/businessjournal/197552/women-lead-men-key-workplace-engagement-measures.aspx>

“Gender diversity strengthens a company’s financial performance.... Women bring distinctive viewpoints, ideas and insights to the workplace, and diverse perspectives lead to superior performance at the business-unit level. Women bring another valuable advantage to their employers—higher levels of employee engagement. Engaged employees are involved in, enthusiastic about and committed to their work. These employees contribute to their organization positively. Gallup has found concrete links between employee engagement and crucial performance measures, including absenteeism, turnover rates, productivity and profit.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***The Local Economic and Welfare Consequences of Hydraulic Fracturing.* By Alexander W. Bartik, et al. Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago. Dec. 2016. 119 p.**

<https://epic.uchicago.edu/research/publications/local-economic-and-welfare-consequences-hydraulic-fracturing>

“The study concluded that communities receive, on average, more economic benefit than harm from local hydraulic fracturing operations.... On average, the study estimates, local hydraulic fracturing reduces a household’s quality of life by approximately \$1,000 to \$1,600 annually. However, these are offset by benefits that include a 10% increase in employment and 6% increases in average income and house prices. The researchers caution that each region may be affected differently due to wide variability in the size of oil and gas operations, but generally they believe that the study provides useful information to local and state leaders considering whether to permit oil and gas operations in their communities.” (*Sidley Shale and Hydraulic Fracturing Report*, Dec. 29, 2016).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

An Analysis of a Consumption Tax for California. By Fred Foldvary, et al. Center for California Studies. Dec. 2016. 87 p.

http://csus.edu/calst/frfp/consumption_tax_16.pdf

California could avoid making the tax system more regressive by further favoring consumption taxes over income taxes. Two recommendations to generate revenue are to implement a revenue-neutral modernization of the existing sales tax with a rate reduction to improve equity and efficiency, and to look beyond conventional consumption taxes to consider pollution and environmental resource consumption. If the legislature decides on using more consumption taxes, then a simple restructuring of the current system might be called for, including adding a savings incentive to the personal income tax, or a shift from the current sales tax to a formula approach consumption tax.

HEALTH

“Addendum Guidelines for the Prevention of Peanut Allergy in the United States: Report of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases–Sponsored Expert Panel.” By Alkis Togias, et al. *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, vol. 139, issue 1 (Jan. 2017) 16 p.

[http://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(16\)31222-2/fulltext](http://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(16)31222-2/fulltext)

Recent studies have found early introduction of peanuts significantly decreases the frequency of the development of peanut allergy among children at high risk for this allergy. (See below.) “[T]he National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases released formal, detailed guidelines for pediatricians and allergists.... The guidelines come at a terrifying time for new parents in terms of allergies. The number of American children with nut allergies has quadrupled in the past 13 years, and peanut allergies are now estimated to affect 2% of them. Most schools now ban foods with peanuts, and manufacturers are required to label whether food contains peanuts or was manufactured in a facility that processes them.” (*Washington Post*, Jan. 5, 2017).

“Randomized Trial of Peanut Consumption in Infants at Risk for Peanut Allergy.” By George Du Toit, et al. *New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 372 (Feb. 26, 2015) 10 p.

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1414850> (Available at the California State Library)

LEAP study overview: http://www.leapstudy.com/leap-study-results#.WG_mBX3rwZN

The 2015 LEAP study, cited in a recent *Washington Post* article, contributes to new federal guidelines on peanut consumption. “Over 600 children between 4 and 11 months of age at high risk for peanut allergy were randomized to either consume or avoid peanut until age 5 in order to compare the incidence of peanut allergy between the two groups.... Of the children who avoided peanut, 17% developed peanut allergy by the age of 5 years. Remarkably, only 3% of the children who were randomized to eating the peanut snack developed allergy by age 5. Therefore, in high-risk infants, sustained consumption of peanut beginning in the first 11 months of life was highly effective in preventing the development of peanut allergy.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Child Care: Access to Subsidies and Strategies to Manage Demand Vary Across States.

Government Accountability Office. GAO 17-60. Dec. 2016. 60 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/690/681652.pdf>

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is a federal funding source to states, providing child care subsidies to low-income parents. “[A]pproximately 8.6 million children under age 13 were estimated to be eligible for subsidies under ... CCDF program based on policies in their states, and about 1.5 million

received them.... Children who received child care subsidies differed across a variety of characteristics when compared to the eligible population in their state. In particular, subsidy-recipient children were more often age 2 to 4, in very low-income families, Black, and in single-headed households than the overall population of eligible children in their state.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

“US Traffic Fatalities, 1985–2014, and Their Relationship to Medical Marijuana Laws.” By Julian Santaella-Tenorio, et al. *American Journal of Public Health*. Online ahead of print. Dec 20, 2016. 7 p.

<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2016.303577>

Since 1996, 23 states and the District of Columbia have passed medical marijuana laws. One objection to such laws has been the impact increased use of cannabis could have on driver impairment, resulting in increased traffic accidents and fatalities. Using data from 1985 through 2014, this study examines the relationship between medical marijuana laws and the prevalence of traffic fatalities. Over the study period, states with medical marijuana laws were associated with reduced traffic fatalities. However, the effect was inconsistent across all the states with such laws, implying that local factors also play a role in the effectiveness of such laws.

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