



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Alarming Lack of Data on Latinos in the Criminal Justice System. By Sarah Eppler-Epstein, et al. Urban Institute. Dec. 14, 2016. 9 p.

<http://apps.urban.org/features/latino-criminal-justice-data/>

"A survey of state criminal justice data showed that 40 reported race (e.g., 'white,' 'black,' 'other') in their arrest records, but only 15 states reported ethnicity. Although Latinos are only one of many ethnic groups in the United States, the population is projected to be 28.6% Latino by 2060, and Latinos are the group most affected when states ignore ethnicity. Evidence shows that our criminal justice system has significant racial disparities. But without comprehensive data, policymakers, community members, and

advocates cannot know how mass incarceration affects Latinos specifically and ethnic disparities cannot be accurately tracked.” In the California criminal justice system, the only data tracked on Latinos is arrests.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Most Americans Favor Stricter Environmental Laws and Regulations.* By Kristen Bialik. Pew Research Center. Dec. 2016.**

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/12/14/most-americans-favor-stricter-environmental-laws-and-regulations/>

“A majority of U.S. adults (59%) say stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost, compared with roughly a third (34%) who say such regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy.... Younger adults and those with more education are more likely than older adults and those with less education to say stricter environmental laws are worth the cost.... Opinion also differs across party lines. Nearly eight-in-ten Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (78%) see stricter environmental laws as worth the cost, while a majority of Republicans and Republican leaners (58%) say stricter environmental regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy.”

ECONOMY

***The Fading American Dream: Trends in Absolute Income Mobility since 1940.* By Raj Chetty, et al. NBER Working Paper Series. Dec. 2016. 54 p.**

http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/papers/abs_mobility_paper.pdf

“A new study suggests the ‘American Dream’ is fading, citing research that shows 50% of people born in the 1980s make more income than their parents, compared to 92% of children who were born in the 1940s.... Most of the decline in absolute mobility is driven by the more unequal distribution of economic growth in recent decades rather than the slowdown in GDP growth rates.” Reduced income mobility means that profits from increases in productivity are not being shared as widely as before, contributing to a shrinking middle class in California. (*UPI*, Dec. 9, 2016).

EDUCATION

***50-State Comparison: Civic Education Policies.* By Hunter Railey, et al. Education Commission of the States. Dec. 2016.**

<http://www.ecs.org/citizenship-education-policies/>

Companion Report. 6 p.: <http://www.ecs.org/companion-report-50-state-comparison-civic-education/>

“[L]aws vary considerably from state to state in the degree to which statutes mandate civic learning goals, curriculum and assessment. Civic learning and engagement policies are typically incorporated into social studies or character education statutes. Some states have significant directives on civic and character education in state law, while others prefer to establish minimum guidelines and allow local school districts to develop and implement coursework and assessments. In its most robust form, state statute establishes educational goals and skills related to civic learning and engagement, requirements for coursework subjects and content, assessment and accountability systems, and instructional pedagogies.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Drought and Equity in California. By Laura Feinstein, et al. Pacific Institute. Jan. 2017. 80 p.
<http://pacinst.org/publication/drought-equity-california/>

“The report finds that during the state’s ongoing drought, water shortages and price hikes affected access to safe, affordable water for Californians, with substantial impacts on low-income families and communities burdened with environmental pollution. The report also examines the effects of a rapidly declining salmon population on commercial and tribal fishermen and finds that the decline and variability of salmon populations during droughts has impacted those dependent on the fish for income, food, and cultural traditions.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

How State Tax Policies Can Stop Increasing Inequality and Start Reducing It. By Elizabeth McNichol. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Dec. 15, 2016. 23 p.
<http://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/how-state-tax-policies-can-stop-increasing-inequality-and-start>

Since 1979, the top 1% of Americans saw a 141% increase in inflation-adjusted incomes, while incomes for the rest only rose 4%. The income inequality trends for California are worse: incomes for the top 1% of California households increased 148% while incomes for all other households actually fell 3%. Though national and global economic trends are outside state policymakers’ control, some state policies exacerbate the problem. For example, almost all states collect more taxes from middle- and lower-income families (thus reducing their after-tax incomes) than from high-income families. Six tax policies to reduce income inequality are recommended.

The Demographics of California Payday Lending: A Zip Code Analysis of Storefront Locations. California Department of Business Oversight. Dec. 7, 2016. 7 p.
http://www.dbo.ca.gov/Press/press_releases/2016/Zip%20Code%20Research%20Brief%2012-07-16.pdf

“California has almost 2,000 payday lending storefronts and new research confirms that the majority are concentrated in low-income neighborhoods with larger populations of single mothers as well as larger black and Latino populations than the statewide ratio.... Payday lending has long been criticized for charging high interest rates and fees on short-term loans—in 2015 the annual percentage rate on payday loans in California was, on average, 366%—and since most borrowers roll the loan into a new one instead of paying it off, they become less likely to emerge from the debt.” (CBS SF Bay Area, Dec. 16, 2016).

HEALTH

“Trends in Marijuana Use Among Pregnant and Nonpregnant Reproductive-Aged Women, 2002-2014.” By Qiana L. Brown, et al. *JAMA*. Online ahead of print. Dec. 19, 2016. 3 p.
<http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2594398>

“In aggregated 2007-2012 data, 3.9% of pregnant women and 7.6% of nonpregnant reproductive-aged women reported past-month marijuana use. Although the evidence is mixed, human and animal studies suggest that prenatal marijuana exposure may be associated with poor offspring outcomes (eg, low birth weight, impaired neurodevelopment). The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that pregnant women and women contemplating pregnancy be screened for and discouraged from using marijuana and other substances. Whether marijuana use has changed over time among pregnant and nonpregnant reproductive-aged women is unknown.”

Covered California Enrollment by Zip Code. California HealthCare Foundation. Dec. 2016.
<http://www.chcf.org/publications/2016/12/covered-ca-enrollment-map>

“In 2016, 1.4 million Californians bought insurance through Covered California, the health insurance marketplace established under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Repeal of the ACA would put this population's coverage at risk.” This new interactive map may be used to quickly and easily to “find out the number of Covered California enrollees in each zip code. (Note that this map doesn't reflect the number of Californians who received coverage through the expansion of Medi-Cal, also part of the ACA.)”

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