



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Black and White Officers See Many Key Aspects of Policing Differently. By John Gramlich. Pew Research. Jan. 12, 2017. 3 p.

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/12/black-and-white-officers-see-many-key-aspects-of-policing-differently/>

“Black and white police officers have strikingly different views on a number of important issues related to their jobs, including recent fatal encounters between law enforcement and black citizens and the protests that those encounters have sparked.... Black officers are about twice as likely as white officers (57% vs. 27%) to say that recent deaths of blacks during encounters with police are signs of a broader problem and not isolated incidents.... About seven-in-ten black officers (69%) say that the protests are motivated some or a great deal by a genuine desire to hold police officers accountable for their actions, compared with just 27% of white officers who hold this view.” Nearly 8,000 sworn officers working in departments of 100 offices or more were surveyed.

EDUCATION

The State(s) of Head Start. By W. Steven Barnett, et al. National Institute for Early Education Research. Dec. 2016. 478 p.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1Z2EA8z8nWnQm9DdkJCdkRQQ00/view>

This report finds there is a need for greater coordination between Head Start and state and local government agencies, for the sake of better outreach and funding. “Nationwide, the number of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in Head Start (supported by federal funding) decreased between 2007 and 2015. Enrollment of children under 3 more than doubled between 2007 and 2015. Head Start eligibility is based on the federal poverty level (FPL) with certain exceptions. As family incomes change during program enrollment, this is necessarily imperfect. Serving low-income children above the FPL should not be viewed as a program flaw. For this reason, coverage cannot be simply measured by the number of children served as a fraction of those in poverty.”

Better Together? State and Federal Funding For Student Financial Aid. By William R. Doyle, Education Commission of the States. Dec. 2016. 28 p.

http://www.ecs.org/ec-content/uploads/ECS_FundingReports_DoylePingel_8-1.pdf

“In this brief, we review some of the main goals of state student financial aid programs and provide a few examples of how these programs are organized. We also describe how state programs vary in terms of who benefits. We then discuss various possible designs for joint federal-state policymaking in this area and study their impact. We find that four proposed models come with tradeoffs that result in clear winners and losers among the stakeholders at the federal, state, institutional or student levels. This finding points to the need for further development in conversations surrounding a federalist approach to the provision of financial aid. We posit that these programs are likely to work best in combination rather than any single program being chosen as a ‘silver bullet.’”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

“Factors and Processes Affecting Delta Levee System Vulnerability.” By Steven J. Deverel, et al. *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, vol. 14, no. 4. Dec. 2016. 42 p.

<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/36t9s0mp#page-6>

“We appraised factors and processes related to human activities and high water, subsidence, and seismicity. Farming and drainage of peat soils caused subsidence, which contributed to levee internal failures. Subsidence rates decreased with time, but still contributed to levee instability. Modeling changes in seepage and static slope instability suggests an increased probability of failure with decreasing peat thickness.... Estimates of the consequences of future levee failure range up to multiple billions of dollars. Analysis of future risks will benefit from improved description of levee upgrades and strength as well as consideration of subsidence, the effects of climate change, and earthquake threats. Levee habitat ecosystem benefits in this highly altered system are few. Better recognition and coordination is needed among the creation of high-value habitat, levee needs, and costs and benefits of levee improvements and breaches.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

California's Future. By Sarah Bohn, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Jan. 2017. 46 p.

<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=895>

This multi-topic briefing kit summarizes the most important policy issues facing California today, including what the state has done and still needs to do. Issues include: climate change (impact of rising temperatures and sea levels), corrections (prison populations and crime rates), economy (labor market

conditions), health care (insurance coverage), higher education (supply/access and demand for skilled workers), housing (construction and house prices), K-12 education (funding and student performance), political landscape (voter registration and turnout), population (age, ethnicity and geography) and social safety net issues.

HEALTH

***The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: The Current State of Evidence and Recommendations for Research.* The National Academies Press. Jan. 2017. 440 p.**

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24625/the-health-effects-of-cannabis-and-cannabinoids-the-current-state>
(Free registration required)

“Significant changes have taken place in the policy landscape surrounding cannabis legalization, production, and use. During the past 20 years, 25 states and the District of Columbia have legalized cannabis and/or cannabidiol (a component of cannabis) for medical conditions or retail sales at the state level and 4 states have legalized both the medical and recreational use of cannabis. These landmark changes in policy have impacted cannabis use patterns and perceived levels of risk. However, despite this changing landscape, evidence regarding the short- and long-term health effects of cannabis use remains elusive.” This report “provides a research agenda—outlining gaps in current knowledge and opportunities for providing additional insight into these issues—that summarizes and prioritizes pressing research needs.”

HUMAN SERVICES

***Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates: 2015.* U.S. Census Bureau. Dec. 14, 2016. 12 p.**

<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/data/highlights/files/2015highlights.pdf>

Data Tables and Maps:

<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/data/highlights/2015.html>

The U.S. Census Bureau released the latest findings from Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates program that provides national income and poverty statistics at the county and school district level. Highlights include: 1) 14% of counties had an increase in median household income while 1.6 % of counties had a decrease from 2014 to 2015; and 2) 1.5% of counties had an increase in poverty rates while 7.8% of counties had a decrease from 2014 to 2015.

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