



## **Studies in the News**

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***Identifying the Needs and Challenges of Criminal Justice Agencies in Small, Rural, Tribal, and Border Areas.*** By Jessica Saunders, et al. RAND. Nov. 2016. 164 p.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR1479.html](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1479.html)

“SRTB (Small, Rural, Tribal, and Border) agencies face many public safety issues similar to those found in urban areas, including crimes imported from urban areas, such as gang activity and drug use.... (These) agencies also face unique challenges in addressing crime, including long travel distances for law enforcement response, community supervision appointments, and court attendance.... Moreover, because administrative staff sizes and budgets in SRTB agencies are typically small, training can be cost-prohibitive because of high travel expenses or the time required away from duty.” This report helps the Justice Innovation Center, created by the National Institute of Justice, to address these challenges by “identify(ing) relevant technology solutions that can address (these) challenges, and assess these technology solutions as they are implemented in real-world situations.”

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***U.S. and World Population Clock.*** United States Census Bureau. Dec. 2016.

<http://www.census.gov/popclock/>

“In January 2017, the United States is expected to experience one birth every 8 seconds and one death every 11 seconds. Meanwhile, net international migration is expected to add one person to the U.S. population every 33 seconds. The combination of births, deaths and net international migration will increase the U.S. population by one person every 16 seconds. The projected world population on Jan. 1, 2017, is 7,362,350,168, an increase of 77,849,375, or 1.07%, from New Year’s Day 2016.” (*Be Specific*, Dec. 28, 2016).

## EDUCATION

***Mobility Report Cards: The Role of Colleges in Intergenerational Mobility.*** By Raj Chetty, et al. The Equality of Opportunity Project. Jan. 2017. 94 p.

[http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/papers/coll\\_mrc\\_paper.pdf](http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/papers/coll_mrc_paper.pdf)

“Mid-tier public universities such as the City University of New York and California State colleges tend to have the highest rates of bottom-to-top quintile mobility. Elite private colleges, such as Ivy League universities, have the highest rates of upper-tail (e.g., bottom quintile to top 1%) mobility. Finally, between the 1980 and 1991 birth cohorts, the fraction of students from bottom-quintile families fell sharply at colleges with high rates of bottom-to-top- quintile mobility, and did not change substantially at elite private institutions. Although our descriptive analysis does not identify colleges’ causal effects on students’ outcomes, the publicly available statistics constructed here highlight colleges that deserve further study as potential engines of upward mobility.”

## EMPLOYMENT

**“Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Workforce Participation for People with Disabilities.”** By Jean P. Hall et al. *American Journal of Public Health* vol. 107 no. 2. (Feb. 2017) 3 p.  
<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2016.303543> (Available at the California State Library)

“Medicaid expansion under the ACA—which gave states the option to offer Medicaid to residents earning up to 138% of the poverty line—was actually associated with increased employment among people with disabilities. The study found 40% of people in Medicaid expansion states said they were unemployed because of their disability, while 48% of people in nonexpansion states were unemployed because of a disability.... ‘With Medicaid expansion, [people with disabilities] can now enter the workforce, increase earnings and maintain coverage,’ the study concludes.” (*Becker’s Hospital Review*, Dec. 28, 2016).

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Best Practices to Consider When Evaluating Water Conservation and Efficiency as an Alternative for Water Supply Expansion.*** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Dec. 2016. 63 p.  
[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/wc\\_best\\_practices\\_to\\_avoid\\_supply\\_expansion\\_2016\\_508.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/wc_best_practices_to_avoid_supply_expansion_2016_508.pdf)

“EPA has developed this best practices document to help water utilities and federal and state governments carry out assessments of the potential for future water conservation and efficiency savings to avoid or minimize the need for new water supply development. The document can also be used by a utility or a third party to conduct assessments of how the utility is managing its water resources from a technical, financial, and managerial perspective. The document consists of six major practices, with suggested metrics to guide evaluations of progress. No single metric is intended to serve as a stand-alone test. Instead, the combined information on water conservation and efficiency implementation, with emphasis on planned measures, can inform reviews of a project’s purpose and need, and analysis of alternatives.”

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***FI\$Cal Status Letter.*** California State Auditor. Jan. 5, 2017. 10 p.  
<https://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2016-039/index.html>

“A massive overhaul of the state’s accounting system launched in 2005 will take another two years and an extra \$237 million to finish.... [T]he implementation of the Financial Information System for California – commonly referred to as FI\$Cal – could be delayed further when the state’s largest departments start using it. So far, smaller outfits ... are having trouble meeting reporting deadlines with the new accounting program.... ‘If these delays continue and start to compound, the project team may find it necessary to extend the schedule yet another year’ ... potentially driving up its cost by another \$100 million.” (*Sacramento Bee*, Jan. 5, 2017).

## HEALTH

***Demographics of Disciplinary Action by the Medical Board of California (2003-2013).*** By Patrick Rogers. California Research Bureau. Jan. 2017. 31 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/17/MedicalBoardDemographicsJan17.pdf>

At the request of the Medical Board of California, the California Research Bureau conducted an advanced data analysis of Medical Board complaints, investigations and discipline between 2003 and 2013.

“Latino/a and Black physicians were both more likely to see those complaints escalate to investigations. Latino/a physicians were also more likely to see those investigations result in disciplinary outcomes. On the other hand, some other minority physicians—in particular Asian physicians—actually saw reduced likelihoods of receiving complaints, or of those complaints escalating to investigations.” While there is no evidence of specific racial bias in this observational study, the Medical Board says it will take the disparities highlighted in the CRB’s report seriously and conduct a follow-up investigation.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Improving California Children’s Participation in Nutrition Programs.*** By Caroline Danielson, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Dec. 2016. 14 p.

[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R\\_1216CDR.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_1216CDR.pdf)

“In California, enrollment varies widely across counties and across the main nutrition programs that serve children: CalFresh, popularly known as food stamps; the WIC program, which serves infants and preschool-age children; and school meals, which include lunch and often other meal.... We estimate that approximately 422,000 young children who are eligible for CalFresh are not participating (although nearly three-quarters of these children are participating in WIC), and 939,000 public school children eligible for CalFresh are not participating (although about two-thirds of these children are receiving free school meals).... To some extent, lower CalFresh enrollment is due to the program’s more restrictive eligibility requirements.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Joint Agency Staff Report on Assembly Bill 8: 2016 Assessment of Time and Cost Needed to Attain 100 Hydrogen Refueling Stations in California.*** By Jean Baronas, et al. California Energy Commission. Jan. 2017. 113 p.

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2017publications/CEC-600-2017-002/CEC-600-2017-002.pdf>

This report provides updated time and cost assessments for building out California’s hydrogen refueling infrastructure. Compared to the 6 stations that were open when then 2015 report was published, California has built 50 hydrogen refueling stations, and has plans for constructing 50 more. Assuming adequate funding, the report estimates that the 100-station goal should be met by 2024.

### ***About the California Research Bureau***

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