



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

February 15, 2017

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

High school graduates less likely to go to jail

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Survey: CA voters name immigration, jobs among top priorities

ECONOMY

Economists rethink assumptions in the wake of the Recession

EDUCATION

Estimated cost of debt-free CA college program: \$3.3 billion

Boosting math skills for Latino children

EMPLOYMENT

How existing businesses contribute to job growth

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Local governments may needlessly subsidize Amazon Prime warehouses

HEALTH

LA County women are healthier, but poverty, homelessness persist

HUMAN SERVICES

Challenges for older CA women in poverty

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

“Sentencing Outcomes in US District Courts: Can Offenders’ Educational Attainment Guard Against Prevalent Criminal Stereotypes?” By Travis W. Franklin. *Crime and Delinquency* vol. 63 no. 2 (2017) pp. 137-165.

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0011128715570627>

The research demonstrated that high school graduates are 10% less likely to be sent to prison than those who did not finish high school and, when sent to prison, their average sentence is 1.4% shorter. Additionally, those who were either Hispanic or Asian faced greater chance of being incarcerated than whites (24% and 38%) and males faced greater chance of imprisonment compared to females.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Californians and Their Government.* Public Policy Institute of California. Jan. 2017. 32 p.**
http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/survey/S_117MBS.pdf

“As California leaders consider their responses to Trump’s early action on immigration, the survey asked whether state and local governments should make their own policies and take actions—separate from the federal government—to protect the legal rights of undocumented immigrants in California. A solid majority of adults (65%) and 58% of likely voters favor state and local action. Opinion differs widely across political parties.... When Californians are asked to name the one issue facing the state that is most important for the governor and legislature to work on, immigration is tied with jobs and the economy as the top issue (14% adults, 13% likely voters). Last January, Californians said water and drought (17% adults, 18% likely voters) and jobs and the economy (16% adults, 19% likely voters) were most important.”

ECONOMY

***The Great Recession: A Macroeconomic Earthquake.* By Lawrence J. Christiano. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Feb. 2017. 8 p.**
<https://www.minneapolisfed.org/-/media/files/pubs/eppapers/17-1/the-great-recession-a-macroeconomic-earthquake.pdf>

“The Great Recession is having an enormous impact on macroeconomics.... The return of the dynamic version of the IS-LM model is revolutionary because that model is closely allied with the view that the economic system can sometimes become dysfunctional, necessitating some form of government intervention.... Before the Great Recession, there was a consensus among professional macroeconomists that dysfunction in the financial sector could safely be ignored by macroeconomic theory.... But the idea that financial markets could be ignored in macroeconomics died with the Great Recession.”

EDUCATION

***Creating a Debt-Free College Program.* By Jennifer Kuhn. Legislative Analyst’s Office. Jan. 2017. 24 p.**
<http://lao.ca.gov/reports/2017/3540/Debt-Free-College-013117.pdf>

This report considers design and cost of a “debt free college program” and finds that such a program would likely limit but not eliminate student loan debt. Furthermore, based on the assumption that the cost of a new program would be similar to current college costs and contributions, it would cost an estimated extra \$3.3 billion. This projected cost could be reduced by setting higher minimum unit requirements, imposing a time limit on aid and consolidating existing aid. The report also features several options for phasing in this program: initially paying only for tuition costs, prioritizing funding for students based on financial circumstances, and setting a fixed budget in the initial years of the program.

***Making Math Count More for Young Latino Children.* By David Murphey, et al. Child Trends Hispanic Institute. Feb. 2017. 46 p.**
<http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Early-Math-Report-2.8.pdf>

“After accounting for poverty, Latino and white children learn math at the same rate during kindergarten. But because, as a group, Latino children start behind their white peers, they remain behind in math by the spring of the kindergarten year.” To alleviate these problems, researchers recommend “broadening access to high-quality early care and education” that is “more responsive to needs of Latino families and children,” and promoting full-day kindergarten.

EMPLOYMENT

***How Does Business Dynamism Link to Productivity Growth?* By Huiyu Li. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Jan. 2017. 4 p.**

<http://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/publications/economic-letter/2017/january/business-dynamism-link-to-productivity-growth>

“Since the late 1970s, the U.S. economy has steadily become less dynamic. New business formation has declined, as has the number of jobs those new firms create relative to the rest of the economy. Both of these trends raise concerns for productivity growth. Counter to this concern, however, data on business entries and exits show that long-term trends in business dynamism do not match trends in productivity growth. In addition, the evidence suggests that existing firms contribute significantly to growth. In sum, focusing on the detrimental effects from fewer new businesses on aggregate productivity growth may undervalue the strong innovation that existing firms contribute to the economy.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Will Amazon Fool Us Twice?* By Thomas Cafcas, et al. Good Jobs First. Dec. 2016. 28 p.**

<http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/sites/default/files/docs/pdf/amazon-subsidies.pdf>

“[S]ince the start of 2015 alone, governments in two dozen places have committed at least \$241 million in subsidies to Amazon facilities: property tax abatements, tax increment financing (TIF) districts, infrastructure improvements, training grants, corporate income tax credits—even sales tax exemptions on building materials, machinery and equipment.... Market forces are driving the company to open where it does and to do so with haste.... Public officials must recognize ... that the prize on the bargaining table isn’t an Amazon facility: it’s more access to the local market for another aggressive retailer growing at the expense of existing retailers.”

HEALTH

***Health Indicators for Women in Los Angeles County.* Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Jan. 2017. 28 p.**

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/owh/docs/DataReport/2017-HealthIndicatorsforWomeninLACounty.pdf>

“[T]here is evidence of the significant gains made in the health of women over the past 3 years. The rate of women without health insurance has been cut by more than half, the percent of women unemployed and looking for work has decreased, less women report smoking cigarettes and mortality from leading causes of death such as coronary heart disease continues to decline. However, over half of women continue to live in poverty, and homelessness has increased dramatically. In addition, deep-rooted determinants of health such as discrimination, trauma and stress serve as significant factors underlying the ongoing health inequities identified for women in Los Angeles County.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Aging, Women and Poverty in California: We Must Do More. California Commission on Aging.
Nov. 2016. 36 p.

<http://www.justiceinaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/AWIP-Report-published-1-1.pdf>

“One in five Californian adults lives below the poverty line. Aging women, especially women of color, face a host of challenges that are the result of unequal pay, higher healthcare costs, and caregiving responsibilities” This policy paper summarizes the key issues discussed in *Aging, Women and Poverty in California* forum, the first statewide convening focused on older women in poverty through the lenses of retirement option, elder justice, food insecurity and health access. (*California Association of Food Banks*, Dec. 2, 2016).

About the California Research Bureau

The California Research Bureau at the California State Library develops independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the executive and legislative branches. We provide policy research, 50-state reviews, academic and media summaries, data analysis and much more. To learn more about us or to make a request, or to subscribe to *Studies in the News*, contact crb@library.ca.gov or call (916) 319-2691.

Studies in the News archived issues and RSS feed are available at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.