



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

March 1, 2017

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Shackled to Debt - Criminal Justice Financial Obligations and the Barriers to Re-entry They Create. By Karin D. Martin, et al. Harvard Kennedy School. Jan. 13, 2017. 26 p.

<https://www.hks.harvard.edu/programs/criminaljustice/research-publications/executive-sessions/escommunitycorrections/publications/shackled-to-debt>

A significant number of formerly incarcerated people face criminal justice financial obligations, such as fines, forfeiture of property, court fees, supervision fees, and restitution, all of which complicate life after incarceration. "Between bad credit ratings, loss of voting rights, wage garnishment and a whole host of other sanctions, the ripple effect of being unable to pay off criminal fines and fees can last decades. This only serves to reinforce and deepen the marginalization and isolation that the justice-involved face from mainstream social, economic, and political institutions." This report describes trends in assessment of these financial obligations, discusses historical context, and considers alternative models for the effective and fair deployment of restitution.

ECONOMY

Tracking and Stress-Testing U.S. Household Leverage. By Andreas Fuster, et al. Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Nov. 2016. 50 p.

https://www.newyorkfed.org/research/staff_reports/sr787.html

This report provides a look at the ratio of housing debt to housing values at the micro level. "The household sector remains vulnerable to severe house price declines, although the high level of creditworthiness among today's borrowers would serve to mitigate that effect." The banking system could withstand a loss of four years of increased value with serious delinquency only experienced in a few states, but declines seen in the Recession could lead to a national crisis. California's exposure is above average, but well below Florida, Nevada, and other states with the highest exposure.

EDUCATION

Addressing California's Growing Teacher Shortage: 2017 Update. By Desiree Carver-Thomas, et al. Learning Policy Institute. Feb. 2017. 31 p.

https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/product-files/Addressing_Californias_Growing_Teacher_Shortage_2017_Update_REPORT.pdf

"This report highlights the most recent data on California teacher workforce trends, based on data from California government sources. In short, we find that teacher demand continues to grow, but teacher supply is stagnant. Shortages are particularly acute in special education, math, and science, and in schools serving students of color, low-income students, and English Learners (ELs). We anticipate there will be an increasing need for bilingual education teachers due to the passage of Proposition 58 in the fall of 2016, which permits California districts to reinstate bilingual education programs. This report examines policy strategies for increasing teacher supply in all of these areas and in the locations where shortages are most severe."

EMPLOYMENT

LAEDC Releases Economic Forecast 2017–2018. By Christine Cooper, et al. LAEDC Institute for Applied Economics. Feb. 2017. 42 p.

http://laedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/LAEDC_2017-Forecast_20170222F.pdf

“The region has lost 89,000 manufacturing jobs since 2007. Those jobs paid an average annual wage of \$52,000. During that same period the county added 92,000 new jobs in the food service industry, but the average yearly pay for those jobs is just \$20,000.... Despite the challenges facing L.A. County ... the county’s average unemployment rate dipped to 5.1% in 2016, its lowest point since 2007.... The biggest jobs gains over the next two years are expected in health care and social assistance (31,390) and administrative and support services (22,810).” (*Los Angeles Daily News*, Feb. 22, 2017).

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

In Pursuit of Progress Toward a Resilient Delta. Delta Stewardship Council. Jan 2017. 36 p.

<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/2016-annual-report-0>

“The Delta paradox in a nutshell is this: how to provide both water supply reliability and ecosystem health in a system that has been severely altered over time and faces both old and emerging, and compounding challenges. There’s the need to have the right amount of water, at the right temperature, at the right time for various fish species.” In 2016, the state broke ground on several Delta ecosystem restoration projects. California WaterFix issued a final environmental report and entered the permitting stage. The state adopted rules to govern distribution of nearly \$3B in coming years, and advanced a strategy for state investment in Delta levees using a computer-based, interactive planning tool.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Special Report: U.S. Department of Homeland Security Executive Order Implementation Memoranda. The California Institute for Federal Policy Research. Feb. 2017. 4 p.

<http://www.calinst.org/pubs/SpecialReportDHSMemoranda.pdf>

On February 20, the Department of Homeland Security released two internal memoranda outlining the implementation of a recent executive order regarding illegal immigration in the United States. Toward the goal of implementation, the memoranda frequently cite the Immigration and Nationality Act. This brief describes the significant, actionable items in each memo.

Executive Order on Sanctuary Cities Raises Many Questions, Answers Few. By Marcia Howard. Federal Funds Information for States. Feb. 2, 2017. 2 p.

<http://www.ffis.org/node/4324> (Available from the California State Library)

The Jan. 25 presidential executive order, [Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States](#), directs government agencies “to employ all lawful means to enforce the immigration laws.” Provisions affecting state and local governments are: loss of federal funds for failure to comply with immigration laws, hiring of 10,000 new immigration officers, authorizing state and local law enforcement to function as immigration officers, and scheduled reports on incarcerated aliens (quarterly) and criminal activity by aliens (weekly). Questions remain regarding sanctuary jurisdictions, enforcement of sanctions by U.S. attorney general and process for compiling reports on alien criminal activity.

HEALTH

“Opioid-Prescribing Patterns of Emergency Physicians and Risk of Long-Term Use.” By Michael Barnett, et al. *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Online ahead of print. Feb. 2017. 11 p.
<http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMsa1610524>

Emergency visits data from a sample of nearly 400,000 patients show that those treated by physicians who tend to prescribe opioids frequently are 30% more likely to experience long-term opioid use in the 12 months after their emergency visits. Rates of opioid prescribing habits by doctors in the same emergency room also varied significantly (more than 3 times). On average, high-intensity prescribers dispensed narcotics during 24% of patient visits, whereas low-intensity prescribers called for them only 7.3% of the time. “These results suggest that an increased likelihood of receiving an opioid for even one encounter could drive clinically significant future long-term opioid use and potentially increased adverse outcomes among the elderly.”

HUMAN SERVICES

“Indebted Relationships: Child Support Arrears and Nonresident Fathers’ Involvement With Children.” By Kimberly J. Turner, et al. *Journal of Marriage and Family*. vol. 79, no. 1 (Feb. 2017) pp. 24-43.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jomf.12361/epdf>

“Millions of U.S. fathers don’t live with their children. A new study suggests those who are behind in child support see their children less often, work fewer weeks per year and are more likely to have children with multiple partners.... More than 30% of fathers owed back child support in amounts that averaged \$7,705.... Three factors may help explain the link between child support arrears and lower paternal involvement: the quality of the father’s relationship with the mother, the number of weeks he works per year and his mental health.” (*Journalist’s Resource*, Feb. 17, 2017).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Artificial Intelligence, Automation, and the Economy. Executive Office of the President. Dec. 20, 2016. 55 p.
<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/documents/Artificial-Intelligence-Automation-Economy.PDF>

“Researchers’ estimates on the scale of threatened jobs [by AI-driven automation] over the next decade or two range from 9 to 47%. For context, every 3 months about 6% of jobs in the economy are destroyed by shrinking or closing businesses, while a slightly larger percentage of jobs are added.... This report advocates strategies to educate and prepare new workers to enter the workforce, cushion workers who lose jobs, keep them attached to the labor force, and combat inequality.”

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