



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

March 22, 2017

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Comparing Apples to Oranges - Differences in Women's and Men's Incarceration and Sentencing Outcomes. By Kristin Butcher, et al. NBER Working Paper Series. Jan. 2017. 48 p.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w23079> (Available to .gov accounts or at the California State Library)

“The findings in this paper help shed light on the previous literature on female incarceration and its impacts. The fact that there is a substantial punishment gap between women and men, conditioning on all the observables of the case, suggests that women who are incarcerated are more negatively selected than the men who are incarcerated.” On average, the women studied were less likely to be incarcerated than men when convicted of similar crimes. Also, if incarcerated, they were sentenced to shorter time behind bars than men convicted of similar

crimes. Around 30% of the difference between men and women's sentence to be incarcerated cannot be explained by the observed criminal characteristics of offense and offender or even the judge.

ECONOMY

Measuring The Economic Impact Of Short-Termism. By Dominic Barton, et al. McKinsey Global Institute. Feb. 2017. 16 p.

<http://www.mckinsey.com/global-themes/long-term-capitalism/where-companies-with-a-long-term-view-outperform-their-peers>

"Companies we classify as 'long term' outperform their shorter-term peers on a range of key economic and financial metrics.... Cumulatively the earnings of long-term firms grew 36% more on average over this period than those of other firms, and their economic profit grew 81% more on average.... Although they started this period with slightly lower research-and-development spending, cumulatively by 2014, long-term companies on average spent almost 50% more on R&D than other companies."

EDUCATION

50-State Review: Tuition Assistance Programs for Foster Youth Pursuing Postsecondary Education. By Emily Parker, et al. Education Commission of the States. Mar. 2017. 8 p.

<http://www.ecs.org/ec-content/uploads/Tuition-Assistance-Programs-for-Foster-Youth-in-Postsecondary-Education.pdf>

"A 2016 Education Commission of the States special report, *Strengthening Policies for Foster Youth Postsecondary Attainment*, reviews how state policies can increase higher education access for foster youth and highlights states' autonomy to develop initiatives to best support this population. In an effort to provide ongoing support for state policymakers and education leaders, this 50-State Review expands on the mentioned report to focus specifically on state-based tuition assistance programs for foster youth. This comparison of various state tuition assistance programs can serve as a tool to better understand the supports for this vulnerable student population and provide a guidepost for possible policy redesign."

EMPLOYMENT

Children's Experience with Parental Employment Insecurity and Family Income Inequality. By Donald J. Hernandez, et al. Foundation for Child Development. Feb. 2017. 27 p.

https://www.fcd-us.org/assets/2017/02/F_FCD_HNDZ_EmploymentIncomeDisparitiesReport_FEB2017.pdf

"As Americans continue to struggle through the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression, a new Index of Parental Employment Insecurity is required to capture more fully the nature and extent of employment insecurity than the current official monthly unemployment rate metric.... Results indicate that children in middle-income and lower-income families already were experiencing high rates of parental employment insecurity and income inequality prior to the Great Recession in 2008.... The recession brought additional large increases in employment insecurity and income inequality for such families. By March 2015, middle-income and lower-income families still had not recovered to levels experienced in 2000, when median family income reached its historic peak."

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

“Seismic Constraints on the Architecture of the Newport-Inglewood/Rose Canyon Fault: Implications for the Length and Magnitude of Future Earthquake Ruptures.” By Valerie Sahakian, et al. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth*. Online ahead of print. Mar. 7, 2017. 21 p. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2016JB013467/epdf>

“[T]wo earthquake faults ... are actually a single system that could produce devastating temblors affecting Tijuana to the Los Angeles region.... If offshore segments ... ruptured, they could generate a magnitude 7.3 quake capable of damaging much of the Southern California coastline.... An earthquake on a land-based portion of the system could reach magnitude 7.4 and create similarly widespread harm.... ‘This system is mostly offshore but never more than four miles from the San Diego, Orange County and Los Angeles County coast. Even if you have a high 5- or low 6-magnitude earthquake, it can still have a major impact on those regions.’” ([San Diego Union Tribune](#), Mar. 7, 2017).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Ten Years Later: Progress Towards Expending the 2006 Bond Funds. By Helen Kerstein. Legislative Analyst’s Office. Jan. 3, 2017. <http://www.lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3519>

The \$42 billion in bonds approved by voters in 2006 was “the biggest single approval of bonds in state history.” The money—allocated for transportation, housing, K-12 and higher education, flood control and natural resources—was mostly meant to be spent within a decade. By November 2016, about \$36 billion (84%) of the authorized money had been expended, with differences among the bonds in spending pace (96% of Prop. 1D education bonds have been spent, but only 57% of Prop. 1E flood prevention bonds). Reasons for expenditure lag include challenges in coordinating with other entities, project size and complexity, and multiple funding allocations.

HEALTH

“Colorectal Cancer Incidence Patterns in the United States, 1974-2013.” By Rebecca Siegel, et al. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, vol. 109, no. 8 (Feb. 28, 2017) 6 p. <https://academic.oup.com/jnci/article/3053481/Colorectal-Cancer-Incidence-Patterns-in-the-United>

“[T]he age-specific risk of a CRC [colorectal cancer] diagnosis dropped for successive generations in the first half of the twentieth century, but escalated back to the level of those born in the late 1800s for current birth cohorts. As the proportion of rectal cancer diagnosed in adults younger than age 55 years has doubled in just two decades, adherence to guideline recommended screening initiation should be emphasized and initiation before age 50 years should be reconsidered. These results highlight the need for etiologic research to elucidate causes for the underlying increase in disease risk in young birth cohorts.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Poverty in California. By Sarah Bohn, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Feb. 2017. 2 p. http://ppic.org/main/publication_show.asp?i=261

According to PPIC’s California Poverty Measure, poverty is high in the state. “About one in five (19.3%) Californians were not in poverty [in 2014] but lived fairly close to the poverty line (up to one and a half times above it). All told, two-fifths (40.0%) of state residents were poor or near poor in 2014.” Safety net

programs, such as the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, the school lunch program, and CalWORKS, were found to have lowered the poverty rate by 1.0 to 1.3 points each. This brief also includes 2012-2014 poverty rates across California's counties.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

“Resistivity Imaging Reveals Complex Pattern of Saltwater Intrusion Along Monterey Coast.”
By Meredith Goebel, et al. *Journal of Hydrology*. Online ahead of print. Apr. 2017. 10 p.
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022169417301154>

“Researchers ... have transformed pulses of electrical current sent 1,000 feet underground into a picture of where seawater has infiltrated freshwater aquifers along the Monterey Bay coastline. The findings ... help explain factors controlling this phenomenon, called saltwater intrusion, and could help improve the groundwater models that local water managers use to make decisions about pumping groundwater to meet drinking or farming needs.... [R]emoving too much of that groundwater can change the fluid pressure of underground aquifers, drawing seawater into coastal aquifers and corrupting water supplies. Saltwater intrusion is often irreversible.” ([Stanford News](#), Mar. 13, 2017).

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