



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CalSTA intercity rail program calls for public comment

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***The Recidivists: New Report on Rates of Prosecutorial Misconduct.*** Fair Punishment Project. July 2017.

<http://fairpunishment.org/new-report-on-rates-of-prosecutorial-misconduct/>

From 2010 to 2015, dozens of convictions were tossed out of court on appeal because of prosecutorial misconduct. "A new study ... shows Southern California ranks high in reversals in which misconduct by a prosecutor played a factor.... Los Angeles County has the state's second worst record and Riverside County ranks fifth, while San Bernardino and San Diego counties are tied for ninth.... Prosecutorial misconduct can include withholding evidence from defense attorneys, misleading juries, participating in the presentation of false evidence by police and removing potential jurors on the basis of race." ([Orange County Register](#), July 28, 2017).

## EDUCATION

***Assessing Food Insecurity on Campus: A National Look at Food Insecurity among America's College Students.*** By Kristin Blagg, et al. Urban Institute. Aug. 2017. 15 p.

[http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/92331/assessing\\_food\\_insecurity\\_on\\_campus\\_1.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/92331/assessing_food_insecurity_on_campus_1.pdf)

"In this brief, we report nationally representative estimates of food insecurity among college students using data from the October and December Supplements to the Current Population Survey (CPS). We find that levels of food insecurity among households with students in four-year colleges and vocational education were 11.2 and 13.5% , respectively, in 2015—rates that are largely similar to national levels. However, households with students enrolled in two-year colleges were more likely to be food insecure in the period after the 2008 recession, with average rates of food insecurity of 21.2% during 2008-14. In 2015, the rate of food insecurity among households with two-year college students dropped to an estimated 13.3%."

***The State of Teacher Professional Learning: Results from a Nationwide Survey.*** Resources for Learning. June 2017. 17 p.

[https://us.corwin.com/sites/default/files/professional\\_learning\\_teacher\\_survey\\_2017.pdf](https://us.corwin.com/sites/default/files/professional_learning_teacher_survey_2017.pdf)

Approximately 6,300 teachers participated in a survey concerning professional development. Over 75% felt that they were not deeply involved in planning their own professional learning, and that little time is set aside for them to work on "applying new skills to the classroom." Out of this survey come three recommendations to improve teacher professional learning: 1) "provide opportunities for continuous, job-embedded professional learning," 2) "use a variety of sources to plan and assess professional learning," and 3) "include teachers in decision making about their own professional learning."

## EMPLOYMENT

***Struggles and Support: California's Homecare Employers.*** By Lucero Herrera, et al. UCLA Labor Center. May 2017. 72 p.

<https://www.labor.ucla.edu/publication/cahomecareemployers/>

"As of 2015, half a million Californians employed homecare workers." This nonrepresentative sample of homecare employers suggests that 61% "receive government support yet, for many, this support falls short of their needs. 1 in 5 homecare employers receiving government funding still have to pay for a portion of worker's wages. 39% of employers ... pay out-of-pocket for their care and almost a third do not have any financial recourse such as retirement, savings or long-term insurance. The lack of sufficient

funding and affordability impacts those providing the support. Almost half (48%) of home care employers pay low wages. Two thirds of employers would like to pay workers more but could not without further support such as additional government funding or tax breaks.”

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment.* By Mark Baldassare, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. July 2017. 32 p.**

<http://www.ppic.org/publication/ppic-statewide-survey-californians-and-the-environment-july-2017/>

“Strong majorities of California adults (72%) and likely voters (66%) favor the state law passed last year that requires the state to reduce emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by the year 2030. Overwhelming majorities of Democrats (84%) and independents (71%) and 42% of Republicans support the law. Majorities across the state’s regions and racial/ethnic groups are in favor. Half of Californians believe that the state’s actions to reduce global warming will result in more jobs in the future (22% fewer jobs, 19% no effect on jobs) Among likely voters, 49% say the result will be more jobs.... Most Californians (56%) say they have heard nothing about the (cap and trade) system.... After hearing a short description of the system, 56% of adults and 49% of likely voters are in favor—a high point for support since PPIC began asking about cap and trade in 2009.”

## HEALTH

**“The Affordable Care Act Reduced Socioeconomic Disparities In Health Care Access.” By Kevin Griffith, et al. *Health Affairs*, vol. 36 no. 8 (July 26, 2017) 8 p.**

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/early/2017/07/20/hlthaff.2017.0083>

Survey data shows improved health care access for individuals with lower socioeconomic strata in states that expanded Medicaid eligibility under the ACA, as well as those that did not, with greater gains in expansion states. “Disparities in access narrowed significantly under the ACA, with the gap in coverage between higher- and lower-income households falling by 46% in Medicaid expansion states and 23% in nonexpansion states. In spite of the substantial reduction in access gaps under the ACA, many Americans with household incomes under \$25,000 were still without coverage in 2015: 35% in nonexpansion states and 21% in expansion states.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Why Does Cash Welfare Depend on Where You Live? How and Why State TANF Programs Vary.* By Heather Hahn, et al. Urban Institute. June 2017. 52 p.**

[http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/90761/tanf\\_cash\\_welfare\\_final2\\_1.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/90761/tanf_cash_welfare_final2_1.pdf)

“The primary government program associated with cash welfare is Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which provides cash assistance to low-income families with children (childless adults are not eligible). TANF gives states broad flexibility to determine the mission, design, and benefits of their own programs. As a result, the cash support available to families and the conditions under which they can receive it largely depend on where they live. This report explores the variation in state TANF policies and factors that might explain these variations.... A larger share of African American people in a state’s population is generally associated with less generous and more restrictive policies.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***2018 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Guidelines, Discussion Draft. California Department of Transportation. Aug 4, 2017. 23 p.***

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/drrmt/docs/sptircp/2018ddguidelines.pdf>

The California Department of Transportation has recently released a discussion draft of the 2018 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Guidelines. This program provides capital improvement grants for the modernization of California intercity, commuter and urban rail systems, with the goal of reducing congestion and vehicle miles travelled in the state. As part of the program update, there will be two informal workshops on Aug 18<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles and August 21<sup>st</sup> in Sacramento. This will be followed by the release of a formal draft to the Legislature on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

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