



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

County probation struggles under corrections realignment

ECONOMY

Vehicle automation could displace as many as 3.8 million less-educated workers

EDUCATION

Later school start times may benefit CA's economy

EMPLOYMENT

CA clean energy apprenticeships: recruitment efforts help people of color

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

How did the Torrance refinery explosion affect the petroleum market?

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Yountville veterans home campus has room for improvement

HEALTH

CA experiencing a spike in medical exemptions from immunization

HUMAN SERVICES

How CalEITC expansion benefits over 1 million additional low-income working families

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Genome data may be personally identifiable, leading to privacy concerns

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Audit: Connected cars pose a risk to consumer privacy

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***California Probation in the Era of Reform.* By Viet Nguyen, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Aug. 2017. 20 p.**

<http://www.ppic.org/publication/california-probation-in-the-era-of-reform/>

California enacted public safety realignment in 2011. This shifted the management of lower-level felons from state prison and parole to county jail and probation, which in turn shifted county probation caseloads toward more serious offenders. PPIC's research has found that almost half of the people who started

probation supervision were booked into county jail within their first year. Though African Americans make up under 8% of the general population, they were nearly 23% of those entering probation supervision.

ECONOMY

The Employment Impact of Autonomous Vehicles. By David Beede, et al. U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Office of the Chief Economist. Aug. 11, 2017. 33 p.

http://www.esa.gov/sites/default/files/Employment%20Impact%20Autonomous%20Vehicles_0.pdf

"The focus of Beede, Powers, and Ingram is on jobs that involve a substantial amount of driving. They write: '... Motor vehicle operators are occupations for which driving vehicles to transport persons and goods is a primary activity, are more likely to be displaced by AVs [autonomous vehicles] than other driving-related occupations. In 2015, there were 3.8 million workers in these occupations. These workers were predominately male, older, less educated, and compensated less than the typical worker.'... When they break down these jobs by industry, I was interested to note that 'government' is the area where the greatest number of jobs will potentially be affected by driverless cars." (*Conversable Economist*, Aug. 16, 2017).

EDUCATION

Later School Start Times in the U.S.: An Economic Analysis. By Marco Hafner, et al. RAND. 2017. 57 p.

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2109.html

"The present study investigates the economic implications of later SST (school start time) by examining a policy experiment of a statewide shift in school start times to 8:30 a.m. and its subsequent economic effects.... The benefit–cost projections of this study suggest that delaying school start times is a cost-effective, population-level strategy that could have a significant impact on public health and the U.S. economy." For California, the researchers estimate that the state "would gain the most from a delay in SST to at least 8:30 a.m. For instance, after 2 years, it is predicted that California's GSP would be about \$1.1 billion larger compared to the status quo. This is predicted to increase to about \$17 billion after 15 years.

EMPLOYMENT

Diversity in California's Clean Energy Workforce: Access to Jobs for Disadvantaged Workers in Renewable Energy Construction. By Nikki Luke et al. UC Berkeley Labor Center. Aug. 31, 2017. 19 p.

<http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/diversity-in-californias-clean-energy-workforce/>

"In California, the construction of renewable energy power plants has primarily been carried out under ... project labor agreements, which entail the utilization of the state-certified apprenticeship system.... The share of people of color (all non-white categories) entering an apprenticeship in these three trades [electricians, iron-workers, and operators] reached 60% in 2017, compared to 56% for the state's workforce as a whole.... [G]ender diversity in these apprenticeships remains minimal, with women comprising 2% to 6% among the three trades.... [V]eterans [comprise] 9% of new electrical apprentices, 6% of new ironworkers, and 12% of new operators, compared with only 4% in the overall California workforce.... The positive outcomes we detail are due to recruitment efforts by unions in local communities and the location of the projects."

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Petroleum Market Advisory Committee Final Report, December 2014 to November 2016. By Severin Borenstein, et al. California Energy Commission. Aug. 2017. 41 p.

http://www.energy.ca.gov/business_meetings/2017_packets/2017-09-13/Item_01a.pdf

“This report summarizes the activities, discussions, and observations of the committee during the December 2014 to November 2016 time frame.... [T]he committee explored and discussed the events following the February 28, 2015, Torrance Refinery explosion, its influence on the petroleum market, and market participant response to the event. Of primary concern were the three gasoline price spikes that occurred in the first half of 2015 and several policy options were discussed to lessen California’s exposure to these types of events.... [T]he committee heard from several stakeholders within the gasoline market including government agencies, traders, retailers, distributors, environmental and consumer groups, news organizations, and market analysis firms. Refinery companies declined all requests for participation.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Transforming the Yountville Veterans Home Campus. Little Hoover Commission. Sep. 5, 2017. 44 p.

<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/report/transforming-yountville-veterans-home-campus>

This update to a March 2017 review of California’s \$306 million veterans homes program focuses on the 615-acre Yountville campus, which is the state’s largest facility and houses approximately 40% of veterans home residents. The range of amenities includes a resident-operated TV station, theater, baseball stadium and golf course. CalVet has spent more than \$80 million since 2005 on maintenance and repairs at Yountville, but public and fire safety risks persist. The Commission proposes strategies to respond to infrastructure issues and notes a misperception that use of the property was limited by a 1899 deed, which has created missed opportunities to transform the campus.

HEALTH

“Change in Medical Exemptions from Immunization in California after Elimination of Personal Belief Exemptions.” By Paul DeLamater, et al. *JAMA*, vol. 318, no. 9 (Sep. 5, 2017). 2 p.

<http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2652640> (Available at the California State Library)

“The statewide increase in the number of children with MEs [medical exemptions] in 2016 and the county-level correlation with past PBE [personal belief exemption] use suggest that some vaccine-hesitant parents may have successfully located physicians willing to exercise the broader discretion provided by SB 277 for granting MEs. If true, this practice would be inconsistent with the recommendation from the American Academy of Pediatrics to reserve MEs for children having contraindications. However, the study has limitations. Whether MEs were underused prior to 2016 (eg, children with contraindications having PBEs because they were easier to obtain) is unknown, as are the medical reasons for each ME.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Expanded CalEITC Is a Major Advance for Working Families. By Alissa Anderson. California Budget & Policy Center. Aug. 2017.

<http://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/expanded-caleitc-major-advance-working-families/>

“A ‘trailer bill’ included in the [2017-18] budget package significantly expands eligibility for California’s Earned Income Tax Credit, the CalEITC—a refundable state tax credit that helps people who earn little from their jobs to pay for basic necessities. Specifically, this bill 1) allows previously ineligible self-employed workers to qualify for the CalEITC and 2) raises the credit’s income eligibility limits so that workers higher up the income scale can qualify for it. These changes could extend the credit to well over 1 million *additional* low-income working families beginning in tax year 2017.... This report provides an in-depth look at what the expanded CalEITC means for low-earning Californians.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

***Identification of Individuals by Trait Prediction Using Whole-Genome Sequencing Data.* By Christoph Lippert, et al. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Early Edition. Sep. 2017. 6 p.**

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2017/08/29/1711125114.full>

“Genomes contain detailed information about vulnerability to diseases, established by comparing the genomes to the health status of the people they came from. Researchers for these projects don’t need to know individual identities. So they take out personally identifying information. But the new study indicates that comparing large numbers of genomes with individual physical characteristics allows re-identification. For example, obtaining an individual’s physical characteristics could allow identification of that person’s genome. That could contain information the person would rather keep private, such as disease status. Blood relatives could also have their status involuntarily revealed. And obtaining a genome could allow a precise physical description to be created, far more detailed and accurate than a police sketch of a suspect. Nefarious applications are possible if the information gets into the wrong hands.” ([San Diego Union-Tribune](#), Sep. 14, 2017).

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Vehicle Data Privacy: Industry and Federal Efforts Under Way, but NHTSA Needs to Define Its Role.* Government Accountability Office. GAO-17-656. Jul. 2017. 64 p.**

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/690/686284.pdf>

Drivers of vehicles that are connected to OnStar or other services may have their privacy compromised. Thirteen of 16 selected automakers in this GAO audit were found to share, collect and use data on the cars’ locations and operations. This report addresses the types of data collected, the automakers’ privacy policies, and the federal government’s role in securing privacy of data collected by connected vehicles. “[The] GAO recommends that NHTSA [the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration] define, document, and externally communicate its roles and responsibilities related to the privacy of data generated by and collected from vehicles.”

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