



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***Handgun Waiting Periods Reduce Gun Deaths.* By Michael Luca, et al. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Oct. 21, 2017. 4 p.**

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2017/10/11/1619896114.full.pdf>

This paper analyzes changes to handgun waiting periods in the United States between 1970 and 2014, and combines these changes with data on firearm-related deaths from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The result is a comprehensive estimate of the impact of waiting periods on gun deaths. "Waiting periods, which create a 'cooling off' period among buyers, significantly reduce the incidence of gun violence.... [W]aiting periods implemented during the Brady interim years resulted in a 17% reduction in gun homicides. This is equivalent to roughly 39 fewer homicides per year for the average state. There was also a 6% reduction in gun suicides."

## EDUCATION

***Good Jobs That Pay Without a BA: A State-by-State Analysis.*** By Anthony P. Carnevale, et al. Center on Education and the Workforce. Nov. 2017. 132 p.

<http://goodjobsdata.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Good-Jobs-States.pdf>

“The report sliced each state’s workforce into several groups depending on employees’ level of education and whether they are in a ‘good-paying’ job—which the authors define as \$35,000 or more [a year] for workers younger than 45 and \$45,000 [a year] who are older. Nationwide, about 30 million of the labor force’s 123 million workers don’t have a bachelor’s degree but are in good-paying jobs, said the report. In California, the best prospects for workers without a bachelor’s degree are in manufacturing, health services, financial activities, real estate, construction and the retail trade, the study found.” ([Edsource](#), Nov. 12, 2017).

## EMPLOYMENT

***Employment Projections: 2016-26 Technical Note.*** Bureau of Labor Statistics. Oct. 2017.

<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.tn.htm>

“A decade from now, the American economy could look much the way it does today—only more so. More dominated by the service sector amid the continued erosion of manufacturing jobs. More polarized in both earnings and geography. More tilted toward jobs that require at least a bachelor’s degree.... High-paying jobs in health care, computer science, and other fields heavy in math and science will grow quickly; so will low-paying jobs caring for older adults or waiting on tables. But continuing a decade-old trend, many job categories in the middle of the pay spectrum are growing slowly or disappearing.” ([New York Times](#), Oct. 24, 2017).

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Priorities for California’s Water.*** By Ellen Hanak, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Oct. 2017. 20 p.

<http://www.ppic.org/publication/priorities-for-californias-water/>

Videos available at [Priorities for California’s Water](#)

“This past year was a prime example of California’s highly variable climate—and a precursor of the types of extremes that are expected to become more common. After five years of drought exacerbated by record heat, 2017’s record rain and snow brought more challenges—stressing dams and levees, causing landslides, and adding fuel to fire-prone landscapes.... In this policy brief we outline issues that are front and center for managing California’s water supply and natural environment. We also suggest priorities for actions that would improve California’s water systems and better support the state’s residents, businesses, and ecosystems.” This brief was part of a PPIC Water Policy Center forum held on October 26, 2017.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***The Minimal Persuasive Effects of Campaign Contact in General Elections: Evidence from 49 Field Experiments.*** By Joshua Kalla, et al. *American Political Science Review*. 165 p.

[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3042867](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3042867)

“Especially in competitive races, huge amounts of money are invested in reaching voters through ads, phone banks, direct mail, and canvassing.... [T]he total effect of these efforts is zero, meaning that they have no impact on how voters vote.... The findings suggest that a lot of the time, energy, and money poured into traditional campaigning methods is wasted, and that the campaign operatives hawking tried-and-true tactics don’t have the evidence to back up their claims. It also casts doubt on the theory of the swing voter who can be persuaded with enough flyers, ad exposure, and conversations with earnest volunteers.” ([The Atlantic](#), Sep. 30, 2017).

## HEALTH

**“Contribution of Opioid-Involved Poisoning to the Change in Life Expectancy in the United States, 2000-2015”**. By Deborah Dowell, et al. *Journal of American Medical Association*, vol. 318 no. 11 (Sep. 19, 2017) 3 p. (Available at the California State Library)

<http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2654372>

“Between 2000 and 2015, life expectancy increased overall but drug-poisoning deaths contributed a loss of 0.28 years. This loss, mostly related to opioids, was similar in magnitude to losses from all the leading causes of death with increasing death rates during this period combined. Nearly all the life expectancy lost due to drug-poisoning deaths was unintentional and was therefore reflected in life lost to unintentional injury...The finding for the contribution of opioid-involved poisoning deaths to the change in life expectancy is likely an underestimate because the accuracy and completeness of information recorded on death certificates affect cause-specific death rates. A specific drug is not recorded in as many as 25% of drug-poisoning deaths, although this percentage has modestly declined since 2010.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

**Measuring CalWORKs Performance**. By Ryan Woolsey. Legislative Analyst’s Office. Sep. 6, 2017. 24 p.

<http://lao.ca.gov/publications/report/3702>

“The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program represents one of the state’s major efforts to assist low-income families with children.... In recent budget legislation, the Legislature established a framework for a new performance measurement system for CalWORKs, to be known as the CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review (Cal-OAR).... [The LAO believes] that Cal-OAR will significantly increase performance measurement in CalWORKs and has the potential to place greater emphasis on outcomes.” Several issues for consideration include aligning Cal-OAR performance measures with federal workforce programs, balancing state and federal priorities, and creating more uniform county data collection and reporting.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**The 2017 Deloitte State of Cognitive Survey**. Deloitte. Nov. 9, 2017. 25 p.

<https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/deloitte-analytics/articles/cognitive-technology-adoption-survey.html>

Business leaders in Deloitte’s 2017 survey were asked questions on the adoption of artificial intelligence, or “cognitive technologies,” and the resulting effect on the workforce. “A significant majority of respondents say they’ve either added jobs related to cognitive technologies or have experienced little or no job loss arising from their cognitive projects so far. They tend to expect this pattern to hold over the next three years as well, though with an uptick in the number who expect a moderate loss of jobs during that period. Survey respondents were split on the level of transformation that cognitive technologies will drive.”

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