



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

January 3, 2018

The California Research Bureau recently released [AB 60 Driver's Licenses: A Mandated Review of Instances of Discrimination](#), which is a statutorily required report that describes discriminatory incidents against holders of AB 60 driver's licenses. AB 60 (2013) allowed undocumented residents of California to apply for and receive driver's licenses since January 1, 2015. Because federal law required the AB 60 driving-only license to be distinguishable from standard driver's licenses, possession of an AB 60 license implies the undocumented status of the license holder. AB 60 thus contained provisions prohibiting discrimination against licensees and mandated a review of any such incidents.

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Concealed Carry Weapon Licenses. California State Auditor. Dec. 14, 2017. 88 p.*  
<http://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2017-101.pdf>

This audit report concerns concealed carry weapon license programs operated by county sheriff's departments. State law allows these departments to issue licenses upon "proof of an applicant's good moral character," along with good cause for a license, but does not further define good moral character or good cause. The audit found that Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego county sheriff's departments each have different rules for concealed carry permit issuance, but they do not follow them consistently. Even though this is the case, the audit found that there is no compelling reason to change state law which gives them broad discretion in issuing licenses because their inconsistent application of their own rules has not caused a "bad effect" thus far.

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Debt in America: An Interactive Map.* By Caroline Ratcliffe, et al. Urban Institute. Dec. 6, 2017.**  
<https://apps.urban.org/features/debt-interactive-map/>

This dashboard map shows the geography of debt in America at the national, state, and county levels and is derived from a random sample of de-identified, consumer-level records from a major credit bureau plus U.S. Census Bureau estimates. Compared to the national averages, California has smaller percentages of its residents with debt in collections (29% state vs. 33% national), lower median debt (\$1,400 state vs. \$1,450 national), and smaller share of population with medical debt in collections (13% state vs. 18% national). However, the median medical debt of Californians is higher (\$795 state vs. \$681 national).

## EDUCATION

***A Look at Latino Student Success: Identifying Top- and Bottom-Performing Institutions.* By Andrew H. Nichols. The Education Trust. Dec. 2017. 16 p.**  
<https://edtrust.org/resource/look-latino-student-success/>

"The report identifies 10 top-performing institutions that based on three-year averages have low completion gaps and higher graduation rates for Latinos than similar colleges. This list includes Whittier College, a private institution outside Los Angeles, and the University of South Florida – Main Campus, a public institution in Tampa, FL. At these institutions, over two-thirds of Latino students complete bachelor's degrees (71% at Whittier, 66% at USF), and Latino students graduate at even higher rates than White students at those institutions." ([Press release](#))

***New Evidence on School Choice and Racially Segregated Schools.* By Grover J. "Russ" Whitehurst. Education Next. Dec. 2017.**  
<http://educationnext.org/new-evidence-school-choice-racially-segregated-schools/>

The author raises the question of whether school districts which use zip code assignment of students to schools, compared to districts with "public school choice systems" are "more or less likely to have schools that over represent black students and under represent white students (or vice-versa) relative to the surrounding neighborhoods." The principal finding was that "a substantive positive correlation between how friendly districts are to school choice and the degree to which their high schools are racially imbalanced for blacks and whites. In districts with low school quality, a common application for all schools, and that provide transportation for students to schools of choice, high schools, on average, over enroll black students."

## EMPLOYMENT

***California's Homecare Crisis: Raising Wages is Key to the Solution.* By Sarah Thomason et al. UC Berkeley Labor Center. Nov, 7, 2017. 16 p.**  
<http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/californias-homecare-crisis/>

“California can address the state’s homecare crisis by raising the wages of publicly-funded workers, who provide the majority of care in the industry. Taking this step will prevent imminent industry shortages, ensuring that consumers continue to get the quality care that they deserve and preventing increases in the public cost of long-term care. Raising the wages of homecare workers would also have a significant impact on the lives of workers and their families, and would recognize the value and dignity of caregivers in our state.”

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

**“Land-Sparing Opportunities for Solar Energy Development in Agricultural Landscapes: A Case Study of the Great Central Valley, CA, United States.”** By Madison K. Hoffacker, et al.

*Environmental Science & Technology*, vol. 51 (Dec. 2017). 11 p.

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1021/acs.est.7b05110>

“[W]e evaluate the land sparing potential of solar energy development across four unconventional landcover types: the built environment, salt-affected land, contaminated land, and water reservoirs (as floatovoltaics), within the Great Central Valley (CV, CA) a globally significant agricultural region where land for food production, urban development, and conservation collide. Furthermore, we calculate the technical potential (TWh year<sup>-1</sup>) of these land sparing sites and test the degree to which projected electricity needs for the state of California can be met therein.”

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Evaluating Partisan Gerrymandering in Wisconsin.*** By Gregory Herschlag, et al. arXiv.org. Sep. 7, 2017. 10 p.

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1709.01596.pdf>

“A new paper ... paints a startling picture of the way the Wisconsin district map protects Republicans from risk.... When the overall Republican vote share in the state is 50% or more, ... the map behaves much like an unbiased one. But when the map is tested by an electorate that leans Democratic, its special features kick in, maintaining a healthy Republican majority against the popular headwind. To gain control of the State Assembly, the authors estimate, Wisconsin Democrats would have to beat Republicans by 8 to 10 points, a margin rarely achieved in statewide elections by either party in this evenly split state.” (*The New York Times*, Oct. 6, 2017).

## HEALTH

**“Contemporary Hormonal Contraception and the Risk of Breast Cancer.”** By Lina Morch, et al. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 377 no. 23 (Dec. 7, 2017) 12 p.

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1700732>

“Among 1.8 million women who were followed on average for 10.9 years (a total of 19.6 million person-years), 11,517 cases of breast cancer occurred. As compared with women who had never used hormonal contraception, the relative risk of breast cancer among all current and recent users of hormonal contraception was 1.20. This risk increased from 1.09 with less than 1 year of use to 1.38 with more than 10 years of use.... Women who currently or recently used the progestin-only intrauterine system also had a higher risk of breast cancer than women who had never used hormonal contraceptives. The overall absolute increase in breast cancers diagnosed among current and recent users of any hormonal contraceptive was 13 per 100,000 person-years, or approximately 1 extra breast cancer for every 7,690 women using hormonal contraception for 1 year.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Evidence on the Long-Term Effects of Home Visiting Programs: Laying the Groundwork for Long-Term Follow-Up in the Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation (MIHOPE).*** By Charles Michalopoulos, et al. MDRC. Sep. 2017. 20 p.

[https://www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/mihope\\_lt\\_long\\_term\\_evidence\\_brief\\_508\\_compliant-corrected.pdf](https://www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/mihope_lt_long_term_evidence_brief_508_compliant-corrected.pdf)

“Children from low-income families are more likely than those from higher-income families to have poor social, emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and health outcomes. One approach that has helped parents and their young children is home visiting, which provides information, resources, and support to expectant parents and families with young children. Established in 2010, the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program has expanded home visiting services across the country through federal grants to states, territories, and tribal entities.... A number of studies of home visiting have found benefits for families as children grow older, and some analyses have found that the programs’ long-term benefits exceed their costs.”

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

The California Research Bureau at the California State Library develops independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the executive and legislative branches. We provide policy research, 50-state reviews, academic and media summaries, data analysis and much more. To learn more about us or to make a request, or to subscribe to *Studies in the News*, contact [crb@library.ca.gov](mailto:crb@library.ca.gov), or call (916) 319-2691.

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