



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

“Decriminalizing Indoor Prostitution: Implications for Sexual Violence and Public Health.” By Scott Cunningham, et al. *The Review of Economic Studies*. Online ahead of print. Dec. 20, 2017. 33 p.

<https://academic.oup.com/restud/advance-article/doi/10.1093/restud/rdx065/4756165>

“Most governments in the world, including the U.S., prohibit sex work. Given these types of laws rarely change and are fairly uniform across regions, our knowledge about the impact of decriminalizing sex work is largely conjectural.” In Rhode Island, the wording of a 2003 court decision inadvertently led to the decriminalization of indoor sex work. Using crime arrest and public health data, researchers gathered data on reported rape offenses and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) during the years of decriminalization. The researchers found evidence that reported rape offenses decreased by 30%, and instances of certain STIs decreased by over 40%.

ECONOMY

Chinese Innovation: China's Technology Future and What It means for Silicon Valley. Bay Area Council Economic Institute. Nov. 2017. 60 p.

<http://www.bayareaeconomy.org/report/chinese-innovation/>

"The shift in China's economy from low-end manufacturing to the production of increasingly sophisticated goods and services raises a far-reaching question: Is China innovative? Since innovation is widely viewed as being critical to technological competitiveness, the answer has important implications for Silicon Valley and other US technology companies. Its significance extends not just to trade but to investment as well, as US companies continue to invest in China, and Chinese technology companies increasingly invest in the Bay Area and California.... As China's already considerable innovative capacity grows, this will present both challenges and opportunities for Bay Area/Silicon Valley companies."

EDUCATION

An Evaluation of CSU's Cross-Campus Online Education Program. Legislative Analyst's Office. Jan. 2018. 8 p.

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2018/3725/CSUs-Cross-Campus-Online-Education-Program.pdf>

"Virtually all CSU campuses offer online courses. Chapter 363 of 2013 (AB 386, Levine) requires CSU to improve students' access to online courses by creating a streamlined process whereby students can find, enroll in, and get credit for online coursework offered by any CSU campus. Chapter 363 also requires CSU to (1) adopt a systemwide definition of online education, (2) report biennially on certain enrollment and performance data related to online education, and (3) report on the feasibility of developing an online bachelor's degree completion program for students who started college but never obtained a degree. Chapter 82 of 2016 (AB 2908, Committee on Higher Education) requires our office to assess CSU's implementation of these requirements and report to the Legislature by January 1, 2018. This report fulfills that statutory requirement. The report has four main sections—(1) background on online education, (2) findings regarding CSU's implementation of Chapter 363, (3) an assessment of CSU's implementation, and (4) recommendations to improve implementation moving forward."

EMPLOYMENT

California's \$15 Minimum Wage and Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program Can Boost Young Low-Income Workers' Retirement Incomes by 50%. By Nari Rhee. UC Berkeley Labor Center. Dec. 2017. 21 p.

<http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/minimum-wage-and-secure-choice/>

"SB 1234 authorizes implementation of the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program (Secure Choice)—an automatic IRA that will be offered to about 7 million private-sector workers in California who are employed in businesses with five or more employees that do not sponsor their own pension or 401(k)-type plan.... This study examines the separate and combined impacts of the \$15 minimum wage policy and Secure Choice on the retirement income of California workers in the bottom half of the income distribution.... We find that California's \$15 minimum wage law and the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program combined will provide a substantial boost to the retirement incomes of low-income workers, through larger Social Security benefits and increased private retirement income."

HEALTH

“National Health Care Spending in 2016: Spending and Enrollment Growth Slow After Initial Coverage Expansions.” By Micah Hartman, et al. *Health Affairs*, vol. 37 no. 1 (Dec. 6, 2017) 11 p. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2017.1299>

“Total nominal US health care spending increased 4.3% and reached \$3.3 trillion in 2016. Per capita spending on health care increased by \$354, reaching \$10,348. The share of gross domestic product devoted to health care spending was 17.9% in 2016, up from 17.7% in 2015. Health spending growth decelerated in 2016 following faster growth in 2014 and 2015 associated with coverage expansions under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and strong retail prescription drug spending growth. In 2016 the slowdown was broadly based, as spending for the largest categories by payer and by service decelerated. Enrollment trends drove the slowdown in Medicaid and private health insurance spending growth in 2016, while slower per enrollee spending growth influenced Medicare spending. Furthermore, spending for retail prescription drugs slowed, partly as a result of lower spending for drugs used to treat hepatitis C, while slower use and intensity of services drove the slowdown in hospital care and physician and clinical services.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Supporting Young People Transitioning from Foster Care: Findings from a National Survey. By Gareth Fryar, et al. *Child Trends*. Nov. 2017. 54 p. <https://childtrends-ciw49tixgw5lbab.stackpathdns.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SYPTFC-Findings-from-a-National-Survey-11.3.17.pdf>

“This report summarizes key findings from the survey, which focused on services and supports provided by states to young people ages 18 and older who are transitioning from foster care to adulthood.... Although foster care is almost always available in some form to youth over age 18, three quarters of states report that most young people leave foster care before the maximum age permitted.... This is concerning because research has shown that young people who remain in care to age 21 are less likely to experience homelessness or become pregnant before age 21, and are more likely to be employed and attend college compared with those who leave care at age 18.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Crossing the Line: What Counts as Online Harassment? By Aaron Smith, et al. Pew Research Center. Jan. 4, 2018. 19 p. <http://www.pewinternet.org/2018/01/04/crossing-the-line-what-counts-as-online-harassment/>

“In an effort to examine more deeply where people ‘draw the line’ when it comes to online harassment, the Center conducted a survey in which respondents were presented with fictional scenarios depicting different types of escalating online interactions. The survey then asked them to indicate which specific elements of the story they considered to be harassment. Their answers indicate that Americans broadly agree that certain behaviors are beyond the pale. For instance, in various contexts most agree that online harassment occurs when people make direct personal threats against others. At the same time, the public is much more divided over whether or not other behaviors—such as sending unkind messages or publicly sharing a private conversation—constitute online harassment.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Restoring Internet Freedom. Federal Communications Commission. Jan. 4, 2018. 539 p. <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-releases-restoring-internet-freedom-order>

The Federal Communications Commission has published the text of their December 14th order that repealed “net neutrality” regulations. The previous regulations were implemented in 2015. The release includes the text of the ruling, as well as statements from all five commissioners.

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