



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

California's Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board Annual Report 2018. California's Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board. Jan. 1, 2018. 96 p.

<https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/ripa/ripa-board-report-2018.pdf>

"As the inaugural report of the RIPA [Racial and Identity Profiling] Board, this year's report provides baseline information about what is currently known about disparities in enforcement actions and the existing policies and practices to prevent bias and profiling, and outlines the agenda and vision for the future work of the Board." The report features results of a survey of state law enforcement agencies,

which examined how citizen complaints are received, counted, and handled. The survey also provides a deep dive into the specific policies, practices and initiatives aimed at improving law enforcement-community relations.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

American Views: Trust, Media and Democracy. Gallup/Knight Foundation. Jan. 15, 2018. 71 p.
<https://knightfoundation.org/reports/american-views-trust-media-and-democracy>

More than 8 in 10 U.S. adults believe news media is still critical to democracy, but more Americans (43% to 33%) have a negative rather than positive view of the news media. More Americans (58% to 38%) say it is harder to be well-informed because of the oversupply of sources available today. The spread of inaccurate news on the internet is considered a major problem by 73% of respondents, but internet news websites are second only to television news in popularity. One in four Americans admit to getting news from only one perspective, and 46% of adults claim to have views that rarely change. Partisanship highly influences trust in media and what is considered “fake news.”

ECONOMY

Frontier Culture: The Roots and Persistence of "Rugged Individualism" in the United States.
By S. Bazzi, et al. NBER. Nov, 2017. 78 p.
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w23997> (Available to .gov domain or from the California State Library)

“We show that frontier locations exhibited strikingly different demographics and a higher prevalence of individualism as reflected in name choices for children. We then identify a long-run effect whereby the initial culture of rugged individualism survived long after frontier conditions subsided. Today, counties that remained on the frontier for a longer period historically exhibit stronger opposition to government intervention in the form of redistribution, taxation and various regulations.”

EDUCATION

Funding Supplemental Services for Low-Income and First-Generation Students. By Jason Constantouros, et al. Legislative Analyst’s Office. Dec. 20, 2017. 12 p.
<http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2017/3724/Funding-Supplemental-Services-Low-First-122017.pdf>

“The report has two main parts. The first focuses on the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the second focuses on the state’s two public university systems—the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC). Within each part, we provide (1) an inventory of systemwide supplemental programs for low-income and first-generation students; (2) an assessment of the current approach for supporting these students; and (3) options for restructuring funding and support for these students, including the option of creating a weighted student formula.”

Rethinking English Learner Data: Illinois’ Plans Under the Every Student Succeeds Act. By Janie Tankard Carnock. New America. Jan. 2018. 20 p.
<http://na-production.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Rethinking-Data-IL.pdf>

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states have more flexibility in how they plan for English Learners (ELs) in their schools, while accountability issues have become more visible. Illinois’ state plan could be a good model for other states, as they create data systems for accountability. This report labels Illinois’ data systems for English learners under ESSA “an emerging bright spot,” and “national exemplar for its commitment to more longitudinal reporting on EL outcomes and its emphasis on academic growth

metrics for all students. The state also takes into account key developmental factors, ones that impact diverse EL growth trajectories” in the design of program indicators.

EMPLOYMENT

Changes Across Cohorts in Wage Returns to Schooling and Early Work Experiences. By Jared Ashworth, et al. NBER Working Papers Series 24160. Dec. 2017. 64. p.
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w24160> (Available to .gov domain or from the California State Library)

This study focuses exclusively on men in its analysis of income returns related to education and work experience. “The returns to a high school degree have increased slightly over [time], while the returns to a bachelor’s degree have declined since the late 1980s,” though college graduates still earn more. “[T]he authors argue, it’s a mistake to attribute college graduates’ higher wages exclusively to their schooling, rather than the work experience they gain while enrolled as scholars.... College jobs are often related to students’ area of academic focus, which can pay huge dividends after they graduate.... [S]tudents who complete internships or ‘cooperative’ education ... are much more likely to be hired after graduation than their peers who crack the books full time.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Energy Storage: Meeting California’s Climate and Energy Goals Through a Balanced Low-Carbon Grid. By Bushra Bataineh. Bay Area Council Economic Institute. Dec. 2017. 30 p.
<http://www.bayareaeconomy.org/report/energy-storage/>

“[This report] underscored the need for a smart grid that improves reliability and resilience, supports the increased generation and use of renewable power, integrates energy storage, and with that enables the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. As California pursues even more ambitious greenhouse gas and renewable energy targets, new challenges are emerging for the electric grid. In particular, the variable nature of renewable energy resources, which in large part depend on when the sun shines and the wind blows, requires increased attention as regulators and policy makers attempt to balance the grid and match power needs with available supply.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Effects of Rent Control Expansion on Tenants, Landlords, and Inequality: Evidence from San Francisco. By Rebecca Diamond, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. Nov. 29, 2017. 52 p.
<https://web.stanford.edu/~tmcquade/rentcontrol.pdf>

“Looking at a roughly 20-year span of proprietary rental and migration data, the study authors found that rent-controlled tenants age 40 or over saw average savings of nearly \$120,000 from rent control; by contrast, younger rent-controlled tenants only saved an average of \$40,000. That’s because younger households were more likely to move out of rent-controlled apartments because of various life milestones—a new job, a new family, buying a house in the suburbs, etc.... The Stanford study also found that rent controlled buildings were 10 percent more likely to be converted to a condominium or some other type of non-rental property, as landlords searched for ways to evade the law.” ([CALmatters](#), Jan. 2, 2018).

HEALTH

“Ibuprofen Alters Human Testicular Physiology to Produce a State of Compensated Hypogonadism.” By David Kristensen, et al. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, Early Edition (Jan. 8, 2018) 10 p.
<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2018/01/03/1715035115.abstract>

“Concern has been raised over declining male reproductive health in humans. Our study addresses this issue by extending data showing antiandrogen effects of analgesics and suggests that such compounds may be involved in adult male reproductive problems. Using a unique combination of a randomized, controlled clinical trial and ex vivo and in vitro approaches, we report a univocal depression of important aspects of testicular function, including testosterone production, after use of over-the-counter ibuprofen. The study shows that ibuprofen use results in selective transcriptional repression of endocrine cells in the human testis. This repression results in the elevation of the stimulatory pituitary hormones, resulting in a state of compensated hypogonadism, a disorder associated with adverse reproductive and physical health disorders.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Work Requirements in Housing Authorities: Experiences to Date and Knowledge Gaps. By Diane K. Levy, et al. Urban Institute. Jan. 12, 2018. 16 p.
<https://www.urban.org/research/publication/work-requirements-housing-authorities>

“To date, limited information is available about housing agencies’ use of work.... which models are best at meeting the stated goals of public housing agencies, what these approaches cost, and how work requirements are likely to affect the low- and very low-income households who are subject to them.... This brief begins to address these gaps by providing the first look at how Moving to Work (MTW) housing agencies ... have been implementing work requirements.”

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