

## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*The Effects of Prison Visitation on Offender Recidivism.* Minnesota Department of Corrections. Nov. 2011. 41 p.

<http://www.doc.state.mn.us/publications/documents/11-11MNPrisonVisitationStudy.pdf>

Visitation to inmates reduces recidivism by more than 25% in many cases. "Visits from siblings, in-laws, fathers, and clergy were the most beneficial in reducing the risk of recidivism, whereas visits from ex-spouses significantly increased the risk. The findings suggest that revising prison visitation policies to make them more 'visitor friendly' could yield public safety benefits by helping offenders establish a continuum of social support from prison to the community."

### **CULTURE & SOCIETY**

*The Economic Impact of Immigrant-Related Local Ordinances.* By Jason Marczak, et al. Americas Society. Oct. 2011. 28 p.

<http://www.as-coa.org/files/ASImmigrationWhitePaper.pdf>

This white paper “looks at 53 cities that officially implemented either restrictive (housing, employment, or English-only) or non-restrictive (sanctuary city) ordinances between 2006 and 2008 ... that were still being enforced through 2009.... Restrictive ordinances have a negative impact on the number of employees in a city when compared to cities that instead chose to enact non-restrictive ordinances.... [A]n average city with a restrictive ordinance has 0.18 times fewer expected number of employees than its non-restrictive counterpart. This paper shows—in a statistically significant manner—that non-restrictive city ordinances are better for a city’s overall jobs environment than restrictive ordinances.” (Council of the Americas, Oct. 20, 2011).

## **ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT**

**“The 8 Best Innovation Ideas from Around the World.”** By Ross Devol. *The Atlantic.com* (Nov. 19, 2011).

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2011/11/the-8-best-innovation-ideas-from-around-the-world/248695/>

“Innovation is a central element in promoting national economic performance, especially for the United States, which is at the technological frontier and can’t effectively adopt technology invented elsewhere to achieve growth.... Nations with the ability to innovate are better poised to nurture entrepreneurship, attract early-stage risk capital and sustain a diversified ecosystem that bolsters long-term economic growth.” The author lists ideas from around the world that can be implemented in the U.S. to jump-start growth.

***What Brain Drain? California Among the Best in U.S. at Retaining Skilled Workers.*** By I-Ling Shen, et al. Milken Institute. Oct. 2011. 46 p.

<http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/WhatBrainDrain.pdf> (Available with free site registration)

“Though the headwinds facing the California economy are real, research from the Milken Institute shows that the state’s attractiveness to those who power the leading edge of its economy remains remarkably intact. And the common perception that high-skilled workers are leaving in droves is not true.... After examining labor flows to and from all fifty states, [this report] found that—contrary to some popular misperceptions—between the years 2000-2009 California had the least annual ‘skill out-migration’ relative to the total of skilled residents.”

## **EDUCATION**

***Postsecondary Education: Student Outcomes Vary at For-Profit, Nonprofit, and Public Schools.*** United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). Dec. 2011. 97 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d12143.pdf>

For-profit school students generally have different outcomes in certificate, associate’s degree, and bachelor’s degree programs than nonprofit or public school students. These outcomes include graduation rates, pass rates on licensing exams, employment outcomes, and student loan default rates. On nine of the ten licensing exams reviewed, graduates of for-profit schools generally had lower pass rates over the 2008-2010 period. Low-income students at for-profit institutions had a higher certificate earning rate (36% to 6%) when compared to low-income students at public two-year colleges. For low-income students earning bachelor’s degrees, only 3% at for-profit colleges succeeded, while 49% of those at four-year public universities did so.

## ENERGY

***Ensuring America's Freedom of Movement: A National Security Imperative to Reduce U.S. Oil Dependence.*** CNA Military Advisory Board. Oct. 2011. 64 p.

<http://www.cna.org/sites/default/files/MAB4.pdf>

"As we raised questions about various aspects of America's economy, environment, security and global presence, the answers all sounded familiar. Over and over, we saw the obvious: America must fundamentally reconsider its national approach to energy.... It's rarely easy to change one's position on an issue—but that is what many of America's leaders must do.... Weaning America from oil in substantive ways will make us safer as a nation. We should not be swayed by the rising or falling prices of gasoline at the pump, which can too easily be manipulated by suppliers trying to deter our path toward energy security."

***Renewable Energy and the Public Trust Doctrine.*** By Alexandra B. Klass. University of Minnesota Law School, Legal Studies Research Paper Series, Research Paper No. 11-12. 2011. 37 p.

<http://ssrn.com/abstract=1789027>

"Both proponents and opponents of renewable energy projects have looked to the public trust doctrine to advance their goals.... Proponents of large-scale renewable energy projects point to the environmental and climate change benefits and argue that the use of public lands and large tracts of private lands are both in the public interest and consistent with the public trust doctrine.... Parties opposed to particular renewable energy projects have argued that their potential adverse impacts on endangered species, open space, aesthetic values, and pristine landscapes will result in a violation of the public trust doctrine."

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Broken Promise: The Need to Improve Economic Security for Veterans.*** U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee Chairman's Staff, Senator Bob Casey, Chairman. Nov. 11, 2011. 7 p.

[http://jec.senate.gov/public/?a=Files.Serve&File\\_id=628ca26b-7433-4fca-8f53-aa713eb3e756](http://jec.senate.gov/public/?a=Files.Serve&File_id=628ca26b-7433-4fca-8f53-aa713eb3e756)

"As the last troops leave Iraq ... and the United States continues to hand over responsibility to Afghan forces, a new chapter will begin for the uniformed men and women returning home. For many service members, returning home and transitioning into civilian life will be challenging.... Washington must remain committed to improving the economic livelihood of the men and women who turn in their uniforms and return to civilian life. This report examines the challenges of millions of veterans currently living in poverty and how Congress can help them to regain and maintain their economic footing."

***Intellectual Property: An Effective Policy Would Educate State Agencies and Take Into Account How Their Functions and Property Differ.*** California State Auditor. Nov. 2011. 65 p.

<http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2011-106.pdf>

"[T]he State has not enacted a statutory framework, nor has it implemented the recommendations made in the 2000 audit report or otherwise provided guidance to state agencies regarding the management and protection of intellectual property.... The four state control agencies we spoke to—the Department of Finance, the Department of General Services (General Services), the State Controller's Office, and the California Technology Agency—generally do not provide policies or guidance to other state agencies regarding the management and protection of intellectual property because they do not believe that they are responsible for providing this type of guidance."

## HEALTH

***Health at a Glance 2011: OECD Indicators.*** Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Nov. 2011. 204 p.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/6/28/49105858.pdf>

In 2009, the United States ranked 27<sup>th</sup> out of 34 industrialized countries in life expectancy, at 78.2 years. The U.S. has the highest obesity rate among adults, having risen from 15% in 1980 to 34% in 2008. The health spending share of GDP grew particularly rapidly in the United States, rising from about 5% in 1960 to over 17% in 2009. This is five percentage points more than in the next two highest countries, the Netherlands and France, which allocated 12% and 11.8%, respectively. Premature death from homicide for men in the U.S. is five times the average of all OECD countries.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Awareness of California's Paid Family Leave Program Remains Limited, Especially Among Those Who Would Benefit From It Most.*** By Eileen Appelbaum, et al. Center for Economic Policy and Research. Nov. 2011. 3 p.

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/pfl-2011-11.pdf>

Well under half (42.7%) of poll respondents had "seen, read, or heard" of the Paid Family Leave program created by a 2002 law, according to a recent California Field Poll. Awareness was substantially lower among key disadvantaged groups: those with lower household incomes, limited education, and renters. Among those who were aware of the program, almost a quarter (22.3%) did not know it could also be used to care for a seriously ill family member (as well as for bonding with a new child). Only 10.9% of those who were aware of the program had used the benefit.

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