

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CALPIA inmates have lower recidivism rates

CULTURE & SOCIETY

CA Native American population largest of all 50 states

DEMOGRAPHY

Cell phones, texting widespread throughout the world

ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

43% of all U.S. households are liquid-asset poor

Citing specific infractions improves CA worker safety

EDUCATION

States merge smaller school districts for cost savings

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Court approves map for redistricting

HEALTH

Number of uninsured in CA rose during Great Recession

HUMAN SERVICES

Foster youth benefit from transitional housing program

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Neighborhood crime levels affect transportation choices

Guidelines for writing congestion-pricing projects

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

California Prison Industry Authority: Report to the Legislature, Fiscal Year 2010-11. California Prison Industry Board. Feb. 2012. 60 p.

http://www.calpia.ca.gov/pdf/Public_Affairs/2012-Jan/CAPIA-Fiscal-2010-11.pdf

“CALPIA’s program goal is to produce trained inmates that have a job skill, good work habits, basic education, and job support in the community when they parole so they never return to prison. Many CALPIA inmates receive industry accredited certifications that employers require. CALPIA inmate programming reduces prison violence and makes communities safer by lowering the frequency of repeat criminal behavior....Over a three year period, beginning in FY 2006-07, CALPIA participants returned to prison on average 24 to 30% less often than inmates released from the CDCR general population, saving the General Fund millions in incarceration cost avoidance. Additionally, offenders who participate in CALPIA’s Career Technical Education (CTE) program are 89% less likely to return to prison.”

CULTURE & SOCIETY

The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2010. United States Census Bureau. Jan. 2012. 21 p.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-10.pdf>

“According to the 2010 Census, 5.2 million people in the United States identified as American Indian and Alaska Native, either alone or in combination with one or more other races.” This population grew by 27% from 2000 to 2010, in contrast to the total U.S. population, which grew by 9.7%. California’s population of Native Americans and Alaska Natives, alone or in combination with other races, was the largest of all 50 states. Los Angeles and San Diego ranked among the top ten places with the largest number of alone-or-in-combination American Indians/Alaska Natives, while Sacramento and Santa Rosa ranked among the top ten urban areas with the highest percentage of this population.

DEMOGRAPHY

Global Digital Communication: Texting, Social Networking Popular Worldwide. Pew Global Attitudes Project. Dec. 2011. 30 p.

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2011/12/Pew-Global-Attitudes-Technology-Report-FINAL-December-20-2011.pdf>

“Cell phones are owned by overwhelmingly large majorities of people in most major countries around the world, and they are used for more than just phone calls. In particular, text messaging is a global phenomenon – across the 21 countries surveyed, a median of 75% of cell phone owners say they text. Texting is widespread in both wealthy nations and the developing world....[S]ocial networking is popular in many nations around the globe.”

ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

Assets and Opportunity Scorecard: A Portrait of Financial Insecurity and Policies to Rebuild Prosperity in America. By Jennifer Brooks, et al. Corporation for Enterprise Development. Jan. 2012. 12 p.

http://assetsandopportunity.org/assets/2012_scorecard.pdf

“This report paints a bleak picture of rising asset poverty and diminishing financial security in the United States. Nationally, 27% of all households are asset poor, meaning they lack the savings or other assets to cover basic expenses for just three months if a layoff or other emergency leads to the loss of income. This number represents a 21% increase over the number of families living in asset poverty reported in the 2009-2010 *Scorecard*. Furthermore, this year’s *Scorecard* includes a measure for “liquid asset poverty” – which excludes assets like a home that can’t be easily converted to cash – and finds that 43% of households nationwide are liquid asset poor.”

An Evaluation of the California Injury and Illness Prevention Program. By John Mendeloff, et al. RAND Corporation Center for Health and Safety in the Workplace. Jan. 2012. 123 p.

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical_reports/2012/RAND_TR1190.pdf

“Every workplace safety inspection must assess compliance with the IIPP [Injury and Illness Prevention Program]. This report presents the results of an evaluation of the IIPP’s effects on worker injuries in California and should inform policy both in California and in the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) program....[E]nforcement of the IIPP appears to prevent injuries only when inspectors cite firms for violations of specific subsections of that standard. Eighty percent of the citations of the IIPP by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health program are for only a different section, the one that requires employers to have a written IIPP.”

EDUCATION

***The Promises and Perils of School District Consolidation.* Council of State Governments. Jan. 2012. 4 p.**

http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/system/files/2011SP/school_district_consolidation.pdf

“Legislatures and governors recently have given increased attention to school district consolidation. Facing mounting budget shortfalls and searching desperately for avenues to cut spending, some state leaders have examined possible savings by forcing smaller districts to close. The number of school districts varies widely from state to state....Legislatures in many states are considering whether merging smaller school districts would be a cost-effective way to cut costly overhead expenses and improve academic services. In many areas, however, there is fierce resistance to consolidation from parents who prefer small, community-based school systems.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Vandermost v. Bowen, et. al.* California Supreme Court S198387. Jan 27, 2012.**

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/S198387.PDF>

Last month the California Supreme Court unanimously decided that the state Senate district map certified by the Citizens Redistricting Commission should be used for statewide senate elections in 2012 even if a proposed ballot referendum gathers enough valid signatures to qualify for submission to voters. In the opinion authored by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, the court directed election officials to use the Citizens Redistricting Commission-approved state Senate map even if the referendum qualifies for the ballot. (*CA Courts News Release 1/27/2012*).

HEALTH

***The State of Health Insurance in California: Findings from the 2009 California Health Interview Survey.* By Shana Lavarreda, et al. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Feb. 2012. 114 p.**

<http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/shic2009report.pdf>

Hundreds of thousands of Californians lost health insurance coverage during the "Great Recession," due in large part to job loss. The number of Californians with medical debt grew by 400,000 between 2007 and 2009, to 2.6 million. Uninsured children and adults were significantly more likely to report not seeing a health care provider in the past year (41.8% of children and 49.9% of adults) than children and adults with employment-based insurance (8.3% and 13.4%, respectively).

HUMAN SERVICES

***Demographics and Outcomes of THP-Plus Participants: Implications for Extended Foster Care in California.* By Sara Kimberlin, et al. John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes. Jan. 2012. 27 p.**

http://www.thplus.org/pdfs/THP-Plus%20Policy%20Brief_January%202012.pdf

Foster youth who participated in California's Transitional Housing Placement Plus program (THP-Plus) experienced improvements in some significant areas such as income and educational status, and virtually all exited into stable housing. However, many participants who entered the program with major challenges such as homelessness, zero income, lack of high school credentials and parenting responsibilities continued to face serious self-sufficiency challenges upon exiting the program.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Neighborhood Crime and Travel Behavior: An Investigation of the Influence of Neighborhood Crime Rates on Mode Choice – Phase II. By Christopher E. Ferrell, et al. Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose State University. Jan. 2012. 104 p.

<http://transweb.sjsu.edu/PDFs/research/2802-Neighborhood-Crime-Travel-Mode-Behavior.pdf>

This study of transportation choice and crime in seven San Francisco Bay Area cities “finds that high crime neighborhoods tend to discourage residents from walking or riding a bicycle. When comparing a high crime to a lower crime neighborhood the odds of walking over choosing auto decrease by 17.25% for work trips and 61% for non-work trips. For transit access to work trips, the odds of choosing walk/bike to a transit station over auto decrease by 48.1%. Transit trips are affected by neighborhood crime levels in a similar way to auto trips, wherein high crime neighborhoods appear to encourage choosing transit. The odds of taking transit over choosing auto increase by 17.25% for work trips and 164% for non-work trips.”

Evaluation and Performance Measurement of Congestion Pricing Projects. By Benjamin G. Perez, et al. Transportation Research Board, National Academy of Sciences. Jan. 31, 2012. 166 p.

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_694.pdf

“This material is designed for practitioners involved in planning, design, and operation of congestion pricing projects or practitioners considering implementation of such projects....A research team led by Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc., developed case studies of 12 congestion-pricing projects. For each case study, the team summarizes the performance measures used to evaluate the results of the project. The results were used to develop guidelines that can be used by agencies to evaluate their congestion-pricing projects, enabling them to select appropriate performance measures for the goals of their own project, collect the right data, evaluate performance, and communicate results. The 12 case studies are included as appendices to the guidelines.”

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