

## **Studies in the News**

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*The Flow of Unaccompanied Children Through the Immigration System: A Resource for Practitioners, Policy Makers and Researchers.* By Olga Byrne, et al. Center on Immigration and Justice. Mar. 2012. 38 p.

<http://www.vera.org/download?file=3483/the-flow-of-unaccompanied-children-through-the-immigration-system.pdf>

"Unaccompanied children placed in immigration proceedings in the United States are likely to encounter a complex web of policies and practices [and] numerous government agencies" including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). "Key characteristics of this system include: most children referred by DHS or ORR (80%) are placed in a shelter setting – the least restrictive type of placement available within the ORR system; most children (75%) remain in the ORR system for one week to four months, with the average stay of 61 days; approximately 40% of children admitted into ORR custody are identified as eligible for legal relief."

## DEMOGRAPHY

***Californians and Their Government.*** By Mark Baldassare, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Mar. 2012. 35 p.

[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/survey/S\\_312MBS.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/survey/S_312MBS.pdf)

“Despite some positive signs in the state and national economies, an overwhelming majority of Californians continue to believe that the state is in an economic recession: 41% say it is in a serious recession, while 31% believe it is in a moderate recession and 9% a mild one....Still, the percentage believing the state is in a serious recession has declined nine points since last September...and 22 points since its peak in March 2009.”

## ECONOMY

**“Growing Toward the Future: Building Capacity for Local Economic Development.”** *Evidence Matters: Transforming Knowledge into Housing and Community Development Policy*, (Winter 2012).

<http://www.huduser.org/portal/periodicals/em/winter12/highlight1.html>

“This article explores the factors that make regions more resilient in the face of long-term decline or sudden shocks like natural disasters, and how they can build capacity to overcome such stresses.” Findings include: strong local government leadership, cross-sector partnerships, and inclusive community participation are critical to increasing regional capacity; and the federal Strong Cities, Strong Communities initiative promotes resilience by helping localities build capacity and maximize the effectiveness of federal funds.

***Kyser Center for Economic Research 2012-2013 Economic Forecast and Industry Outlook: California & Southern California Including the National & International Setting.*** By Robert Kleinhenz, et al. Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. Feb. 2012. 110 p.

[http://www.laedc.org/februaryforecast/pdf/forecastreport\\_online.pdf](http://www.laedc.org/februaryforecast/pdf/forecastreport_online.pdf)

Forecasts and analyses of the economies of the U.S., California and Southern California show the economic pulse will increase slowly over the next few years. Highlights include: state improvement is tied both to the nation and our trading partners; high-tech, tourism and international trade are the state's leading sectors; in Southern California, Orange County leads the regional economy in recovery and expansion.

## EDUCATION

***Accountability Pressure, Academic Standards, and Educational Triage.*** By Douglas Lee Lauen, et al. Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness. Spring 2012. 9 p.

<https://www.sree.org/conferences/2012s/program/downloads/abstracts/464.pdf>

School accountability requirements raise school-wide test scores, but may have the unintended consequence of “academic triage.” Academic triage is the practice of diverting resources to students near the pass/fail mark on accountability exams, away from students on the high- or low-performing ends of the spectrum. This process helps schools increase the number of students passing accountability exams, but may reduce the academic growth of very high- or very low-performing students. This study finds that academic triage does occur, to the detriment of high- and low-performing students.

***The Transformed Civil Rights Data Collection: Revealing New Truths About Our Nation's Schools.*** Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Education. Mar. 2012. 14 p.

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2012-data-summary.pdf>

Information collected on approximately 85% of the nation's students show that African-American and Hispanic students are 3.5 times more likely to be suspended and expelled from school than their white peers. "Teachers in elementary schools serving the most Hispanic and African-American students are paid, on average, \$2,250 less per year than their colleagues in the same district working at schools serving the fewest Hispanic and African-American students....Less than a third of high schools serving the most Hispanic and African-American students offer calculus and only 40% offer physics."

## EMPLOYMENT

***Small Firms, Employment, and Federal Policy.*** By Gregory Acs, et al. Congressional Budget Office. Mar. 2012. 10 p.

[http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/SmallFirms\\_0.pdf](http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/SmallFirms_0.pdf)

"Policymakers, analysts, and the public continue to express concern about the prospects for job creation. Although the most recent recession ended more than two years ago, the recovery has been slow, and the economy remains in a severe slump....This report examines the following questions: do small firms spur more job growth than large firms do; what happened to employment at small and large firms over the past few years; what are the advantages and disadvantages that varying policies by firm size could have for overall job growth; and how do federal laws and regulations affect small firms?"

## HEALTH

***State Considerations on Adopting Health Reform's "Basic Health" Option.*** By January Angeles. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Mar. 13, 2012. 10 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/files/3-13-12health.pdf>

"As states develop legislation this year to establish exchanges and plan for implementation of the ACA's [Affordable Care Act] coverage expansions and health insurance market reforms, they should consider whether or not to establish a Basic Health program. This paper describes the Basic Health option, the issues states should consider in determining whether to adopt it, and the issues on which states urgently need federal guidance in order to fully assess the option and whether it is appropriate for them."

## HOUSING

***Changing Attitudes, Changing Motives: The MetLife Study of How Aging Homeowners Use Reverse Mortgages.*** MetLife Mature Market Institute. Mar. 2012. 30 p.

<http://www.metlife.com/assets/cao/mmi/publications/studies/2012/studies/mmi-changing-attitudes-changing-motives.pdf>

The average age of homeowners seeking a reverse mortgage is lowering. Many of these people are using the reverse mortgage to pay off debt, and to ease the economic insecurity that has come with the recession. What was once considered a "last resort" financial source to pay off debts, reverse mortgages could become part of the retirement planning process for some whose savings and investments have been diminished during the recession.

***Demographic Challenges and Opportunities for U.S. Housing Markets.*** By Rolf Pendall, et al. The Urban Institute. Mar. 2012. 52 p.

<http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/40499%20Housing%20CX2.pdf>

The aging Baby Boomer population will face challenges in finding affordable, independent-living housing in the next 20 years. However, they will create a supply of housing for “Echo” Baby Boomers (a.k.a. Millennials – born in the 1990s) as they hand off their homes to the next generation. Much of this change depends on how quickly Millennials move into home ownership after struggling to enter the job market during the Great Recession.

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

***Cuts and Consequences: Key Facts about the CalWORKs Program in the Aftermath of the Great Recession.*** The California Budget Project. Feb. 2012. 47 p.

[http://www.cbp.org/documents/120224\\_CalWORKs\\_KeyFacts.pdf](http://www.cbp.org/documents/120224_CalWORKs_KeyFacts.pdf)

“As a result of the Great Recession, poverty has increased dramatically and California’s families face the toughest job market in decades. The recession hit single mothers and their children particularly hard and...women have not shared equally in the state’s modest job gains....The employment rate for California’s unmarried mothers...dropped by 10.4 percentage points, from a recent peak of 69.2% in 2007 to 58.8% in 2010.” The Governor’s proposal to cut state spending by \$985 million in 2012-13 by restructuring the CalWORKs Program implicitly assumes jobs are available for CalWORKs parents, even though California’s unemployment rate is projected to remain in the double digits for several years.

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