

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Working the Network: A Manager's Guide for Using Twitter in Government.* By Ines Mergel. IBM Center for the Business of Government. May 2012. 52 p.**

<http://www.businessofgovernment.org/sites/default/files/A%20Managers%20Guide%20for%20Using%20Twitter%20in%20Government.pdf>

"Government organizations that have not yet established a Twitter account can use this guide to learn the steps that they need to take to get up and running. For more advanced users, this guide offers advice on how to reap greater benefits from Twitter.... Both newcomers and old hands will learn how organizations across government are employing this important tool to help them accomplish their mission in new and innovative ways."

ECONOMY

Accelerating Innovation in the Bioscience Revolution: Proceedings and Recommendations from the September 2011 Milken Institute Lake Tahoe Retreat. The Milken Institute. Apr. 2012. 33 p.
http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/Accelerating_Innovation.pdf

The meeting brought together leaders in medicine, business and government to rethink the way research in this industry is conducted, risks are assessed and companies are structured, with a focus on addressing obstacles to innovation. To spur greater advances in medical research, a number of actionable policies were recommended, including: supporting public-private initiatives in this area; streamlining and modernizing the FDA's regulatory review process; and investing more resources in STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics] education programs.

The Economic Impact of the Affordable Care Act on California. Jon Haveman, et al. Bay Area Council Economic Institute. May 2012. 33 p.
<http://documents.bayareacouncil.org/acaeconimpact.pdf>

"This study concludes that the federal health care law would create almost 100,000 new jobs across California and boost economic output by \$4.4 billion, suggesting that a ruling by the Supreme Court striking down the Affordable Care Act may have a negative impact on the California economy." Further, it finds that the bulk of the new jobs created would be in Southern California, which would see its economy expand by \$3 billion as a result.

EDUCATION

Ensuring Latino Success in College and the Workforce. By Michelle Camacho Liu. National Conference of State Legislatures. Apr. 2012. 4 p.
<http://www.ncsl.org/documents/EDUC/EnsuringLatinoSuccess.pdf>

"Strategies to improve not only access to college but also success in graduating ... benefit all students, but particularly Latino students, who traditionally have fallen behind other populations in college enrollment and completion rates." Strategies that work include: informing all students and families about financial aid and support services in colleges; preserving need-based financial aid and work-study programs; learning from the successes of Hispanic-serving institutions; supporting community colleges as entry points for many Latino students; and simplifying transfer agreements between community colleges and four-year universities.

Raising the Bar, Building Capacity: Driving Improvement in California's Continuation High Schools. By Jorge Ruiz de Velasco, et al. California Alternative Education Research Project. May 2012. 24 p.
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/93233603/Continuation-School-Phase-II-Report>

California's continuation high schools too often fail to provide routes to graduation for students, instead serving as exit ramps from educational tracks. Recommendations for improving continuation school performance include: use a five or six-year graduation rate as a standard accountability measure for students completing their education in a continuation high school; require school districts to more clearly spell out procedures for identifying students and placing them in alternative schools in the district, including continuation schools; offer more targeted professional development for continuation school administrators and teachers; and bolster out-of-school support services for students at continuation schools through links with community resources, businesses and postsecondary institutions.

EMPLOYMENT

Unemployed Older Workers: Many Experience Challenges Regaining Employment and Face Reduced Retirement Security. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Apr. 2012. 90 p.
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/600/590408.pdf>

“As in prior recessions, smaller percentages of workers age 55 and over became unemployed.” However, depending on which measure of unemployment is used, 1.9 or 3.65 million older workers were underemployed and/or unemployed during December 2011. Those who are reemployed often suffer a decrease in pay and they may remain unemployed longer than younger workers. “To foster the employment of older workers, we recommend that the Secretary of Labor consider what strategies are needed to address the unique needs of older job seekers, in light of recent economic and technological changes.”

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

After the Storm: The Hidden Health Risks of Flooding in a Warming World. By Elizabeth Martin Perera, et al. Union of Concerned Scientists. Mar. 2012. 24 p.
http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/climate-change-and-flooding.pdf

“The number of heavy precipitation events has increased by more than 30% since 1900 in the U.S. – and the problem will likely grow worse ... leaving more and more Americans vulnerable to the immediate and lingering health impacts of flood events.” The top five health risks of extreme precipitation and flooding are identified as: drowning while attempting to drive through floodwaters; drinking contaminated tap water; exposure to bacteria and sewage in waterways; contact with sewage back-ups in residences; and exposure to toxic mold. These findings underscore the urgent need to protect against future health-related impacts.

HEALTH

Hidden in Plain Sight: California’s Paid Medi-Cal Caregivers Are Vulnerable. By Geoffrey J. Hoffman, et al. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Apr. 2012. 2 p.
<http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/caregiversfsapr2012.pdf>

An estimated six million caregivers provide services to individuals with disabilities or long-term illnesses in California. These caregivers, especially those paid through Medi-Cal, experience high rates of poverty and work instability, often lack health insurance, and have limited resources. As the population of individuals needing care increases, stabilizing the caregiver workforce becomes more important. Reducing funding for caregiver programs will likely add to the burdens facing caregivers.

HOUSING

The Shifting Nature of U.S. Housing Demand. By Louise Keely, et al. The Demand Institute. May 2012. 50 p.
<http://thedemandinstitute.com/sites/default/files/blog-uploads/tdihousingdemand.pdf>

The U.S. housing market is beginning to recover, but not like it has in the past. The recovery will take place in two phases: an initial phase of demand for properties that can be used as rentals, and a later phase marked by demand for smaller homes – corresponding to tighter consumer finances and caution about home ownership.

HUMAN SERVICES

The Federal Poverty Level Does Not Meet Data Needs of the California Legislature. By D. Imelda Padilla-Frausto, et al. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. May 2012. 8 p.

<http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/fplpbmay2012.pdf>

The Elder Index, Family Standard, and Supplemental Poverty Measure each measure poverty in ways that polled legislative respondents rank as important. However, instead of being familiar with these measures, most respondents (59.4%) are very or somewhat familiar with the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), a measure missing all of the characteristics of poverty prioritized by legislators. "The alternatives to the FPL described here offer policymakers a better and more accurate picture of who is economically insecure."

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Los Angeles Times 1881-1988

Researchers can place a person or event in historical context using *Los Angeles Times 1881-1988*, a full-image archive of the nation's largest metropolitan daily. Every page of every issue from 1881 to 1988 is included, with news stories, editorials, obituaries, opinion polls, photos, maps and more. State employees may access this database at <http://proxy.library.ca.gov/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/databases> using desktop IP recognition or a California State Library card. Walk-in visitors may use this resource at workstations in Room 100 of the California State Library at 900 N Street, Sacramento.

About Studies in the News

Studies in the News (SITN) is a service provided to the Legislature, the Governor's Office, and State Constitutional Officers by the California Research Bureau, a section of the California State Library.

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