

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

County Jails and the Affordable Care Act: Enrolling Eligible Individuals in Health Coverage.

By Anita Cardwell. *National Association of Counties*. Mar. 2012. 9 p.

http://www.naco.org/programs/csd/Documents/Health%20Reform%20Implementation/County-Jails-HealthCare_WebVersion.pdf

"In 2014 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will provide new health insurance coverage options for millions of individuals through an expansion of Medicaid eligibility and the establishment of state-based health insurance exchanges. This brief will examine ways that counties may be involved in eligibility determination and enrollment processes for these newly eligible individuals, focusing particularly on issues related to enrolling qualified individuals held in county jails as pre-adjudicated detainees and

inmates preparing to reenter the community. Specifically the brief will assess some of the potential issues and challenges county jail and human services staff may face in terms of enrollment procedures.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

“Measuring Annual Change in Household Wealth with the Consumer Expenditure Survey.”

By Jeffrey D. Lundy. *Monthly Labor Review*, vol. 135, no. 5 (May 2012) pp. 33-40.

<http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2012/05/art3full.pdf>

“The Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) tracks the value of assets and liabilities for a large rotating sample of American households. Unfortunately, researchers studying household wealth have largely neglected this resource, generally relying instead on aggregate statistics. While aggregate wealth statistics suggest individual household decisions, the CE potentially offers a more direct picture of how American households manage their finances.”

ECONOMY

The Department of the Interior’s Economic Contributions, Fiscal Year 2011. U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Policy Analysis. July 9, 2012.

Full Report. 225 p.:

<http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=308931>

California Fact Sheet. 1 p.:

<http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=308930>

U.S. Department of the Interior activities in California “contributed \$18.75 billion to California’s economy in 2011 and supported 117,170 jobs in fields ranging from energy and mineral development to tourism and outdoor recreation.” The report provides an overview of the department’s economic impact throughout the states through its activities in a number of areas including land and water management, energy and mineral development on public lands, tourism and outdoor recreation at national parks, support for American Indian tribal communities and scientific research and innovation. (*Capitol Morning Report*, July 10, 2012).

EDUCATION

Health Impact Assessment: National Nutrition Standards for Snacks and a la Carte Foods and Beverages Sold in Schools. Kids Safe & Healthful Food Project and Health Impact Project.

June 2012. 177 p.

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Health_impact_project/KS_HIA_FULL_Report_WEB.pdf

“Stronger school nutrition standards from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) could improve student health and provide a financial boon for school districts.... Under the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA), passed by Congress, the USDA is responsible for releasing a new set of national nutrition standards for schools.... More than two-thirds of the 300 research studies reviewed by the projects concluded that such restrictions can reduce childhood weight gain for some age groups – and thus reduce their risk for related chronic diseases. Enhanced nutrition standards could also lead to greater participation in school lunch programs, according to the HIA, because less healthy snack foods (usually purchased from vending machines) become unavailable.” (Dylan Scott, *Governing*, June 26, 2012).

ENERGY

Federal Efforts to Reduce the Cost of Capturing and Storing Carbon Dioxide. Congressional Budget Office. June 2012. 29 p.

<http://cbo.gov/publication/43357>

“One much-discussed option for reducing the nation’s carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions while preserving its ability to produce electricity at coal-fired power plants is to capture the CO₂ that is emitted when the coal is burned, compress it into a fluid, and then store it deep underground. That process – commonly called carbon capture and storage (CCS) – has not been widely adopted because any electricity generated by such plants would be much more expensive than electricity produced by conventional coal-burning plants. Since 2005, lawmakers have provided the Department of Energy with about \$6.9 billion to further develop CCS technology, demonstrate its commercial feasibility, and reduce the cost of electricity generated by CCS-equipped plants. This study examines those federal efforts.”

ENVIRONMENT

EPA’s Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) Rule and States. By Brydon Ross. The Council of State Governments. June 2012. 3 p.

<http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/system/files/matsruleandstates.pdf>

“The Environmental Protection Agency in December 2011 issued new stringent regulations called the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, or MATS, Rule to limit mercury emissions and other hazardous substances from fossil fuel power plants. The standards have been controversial because of industry concerns with costs and grid reliability. The EPA, however, contends the standards are reasonable, provide billions of dollars in public health benefits and will prevent thousands of premature deaths.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Fighting Production Flight: Improving California’s Filmed Entertainment Tax Credit Program.

By Kevin Klowden, et al. Milken Institute. June 2012. 32 p.

<http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/FightingProdFlight.pdf>

State and foreign governments are often able to lure film production away from California to “create high-paying jobs in a high-tech, high profile industry.” In response, the California Legislature passed the Film and Tax Credit Program in 2009, but limited it to a five-year program, with the final allocation for this program occurring July 2012. Despite overwhelming support to extend this program, there have been concerns about its impact and funding. The authors of this report see an “opportunity to assess the results of the first two years and examine how the program can be modified and adapted,” and recommend revising incentives.

HEALTH

Uninsured Veterans and Family Members: Who Are They and Where Do They Live? By Jennifer Haley, et al. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Urban Institute. May 2012. 17 p.

<http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/74428.quickstrike.veterans.052412.pdf>

One in ten of the nation’s 12.5 million non-elderly veterans have no health insurance and do not access Veterans Affairs health care. “Compared with insured veterans, uninsured veterans have served more recently, are younger, have lower levels of education, are less likely to be married, and are less connected to the labor force – all of which could contribute to lower access to employer-sponsored

coverage.” National health care implementation could increase coverage among the veteran population, yet many states are far behind in implementing exchanges, and nearly 40% of uninsured veterans and their families live in these states.

HOUSING

***Reverse Mortgages: Report to Congress.* Consumer Finance Protection Bureau. June 2012. 231 p.**
http://files.consumerfinance.gov/a/assets/documents/201206_cfpb_Reverse_Mortgage_Report.pdf

Today’s reverse mortgage borrowers are not using their loans to help pay for everyday expenses as often as borrowers tended to do in the past. In fiscal year 2011, nearly half the borrowers were under age 70, and 73% of these borrowers were taking their loan in one lump sum, creating risks for their future financial security. Greater enforcement and monitoring of this market is necessary to lessen the problems of fraud and obscure disclosure documents, which tend to be confusing to consumers.

HUMAN SERVICES

***Supplemental Security Income: Better Management Oversight Needed for Children’s Benefits.* Government Accountability Office. June 2012.**

Full Report 72 p.:

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/600/591872.pdf>

Highlights:

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/600/591873.pdf>

“GAO recommends that SSA [Social Security Administration] take steps to ensure needed information, such as secondary impairment data and school records, is consistently collected; make its CDR [continuing disability review] waiver process more transparent; and conduct additional childhood CDRs. SSA agreed with four recommendations and disagreed with one that the agency conduct additional childhood CDRs, citing resource constraints. The GAO recommendation acknowledges resource constraints, as discussed more fully within the report.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

10 Books That Will Change the Way You Think: Essential Readings Selected by Our Faculty.

RAND. 5 p.

<http://www.prgs.edu/faculty/ten-books.html>

RAND recently asked its faculty, “What books inspire you to train your sights on the most intractable problems of our time? To come up with innovative, persuasive, and enduring solutions? To ensure that no matter the topic, the problem is well formulated and the research approach is well designed and well executed?” The result is this list of ten classic books – perfect for summer reading.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***California High-speed Rail and Economic Development: Lessons from Japan.* By Jerry Nickelsburg, et al. UCLA Anderson Forecast. June 2012. 12 p.**

http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/documents/areas/ctr/forecast/UCLAForecast_June2012_HSR.pdf

This excerpt from the UCLA Anderson Forecast’s June 2012 Economic Forecast Book examines the case of the Japanese Shinkansen high-speed rail system for evidence that high-speed rail development

induces aggregate economic growth in an economy. The authors argue, “the evidence suggests high-speed rail simply moves jobs around the geography without creating significant new employment or economic activity. That is not to say that CHSR is not justified by population growth, pollution abatement, or other factors. However, the evidence from Japan is relatively clear. As an engine of economic growth in and of itself, CHSR will have only a marginal impact at best.”

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