

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***State-Level Estimates of Felon Disenfranchisement in the United States, 2010.* By Christopher Uggen, et al. The Sentencing Project. July 2012. 21 p.**

http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/fd_State_Level_Estimates_of_Felon_Disen_2010.pdf

This report “documents that by 2010 a record 5.85 million people were disenfranchised as a result of a felony conviction. The number of disenfranchised persons has increased dramatically along with the rise in criminal justice populations in recent decades, rising from an estimated 1.17 million in 1976 to 5.85 million today.... Of the total disenfranchised population, about 45% – 2.6 million people – have completed their sentences, but reside in one of the 11 states that disenfranchise people post-sentence. In addition, 1 of every 13 African Americans of voting age is disenfranchised, and in three states – Florida, Kentucky, and Virginia – the figure is one in five.” (The Sentencing Project).

ECONOMY

***Growing State Economies.* National Governors Association. July 2012.**

***Policy Framework.* By Joe Cortright, et al. 40 p.:**

<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/11HEINEMANFRAMEWORK.PDF>

***Twelve Actions.* By Erin Sparks, et al. 36 p.:**

<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/11HEINEMAN12ACTIONS.PDF>

“While taxes and regulations comprise the basic framework for state competitiveness, ample opportunity exists for other strategic interventions that can create a vibrant, entrepreneurial state economy.... The first report examines six factors that drive state competitiveness and the kinds of policies states use to encourage economic growth. A second report lays out 12 recommendations for state leaders, with examples from successful initiatives around the country.” (*SSTI Weekly Digest*, July 19, 2012).

***Report of the State Budget Crisis Task Force.* State Budget Crisis Task Force. July 2012.**

Full Report. 112 p.: <http://www.statebudgetcrisis.org/wpcms/wp-content/images/Report-of-the-State-Budget-Crisis-Task-Force-Full.pdf>

Summary. 28 p.: <http://www.statebudgetcrisis.org/wpcms/wp-content/images/Report-of-the-State-Budget-Crisis-Task-Force-Summary.pdf>

“The fiscal crisis for states will persist long after the economy rebounds as they confront rising health care costs, underfunded pensions, ignored infrastructure needs, eroding revenues and expected federal budget cuts.... The problems facing states are often masked by lax budget laws and opaque accounting practices.... The report focused on California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Texas and Virginia and found that all have relied on some gimmicks....” (*New York Times*, July 17, 2012).

EDUCATION

***Do Schools Challenge Our Students? What Student Surveys Tell Us About the State of Education in the United States.* By Ulrich Boser, et al. Center for American Progress. July 10, 2012. 36 p.**

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2012/07/pdf/state_of_education.pdf

Despite the stereotype of the overworked student struggling to keep up with piles of homework, most students report not being challenged in school. An analysis of multiple nationwide surveys of K-12 students reveals that 37% of students say their work is “too easy,” many students are not engaged in rigorous learning activities, and most students lack access to key science and technology learning opportunities. Black, Hispanic, and economically-disadvantaged students are more likely to report a lack of learning opportunities and less rigorous coursework than their White, Asian or more financially well-off peers.

***Science and Engineering Indicators 2012.* National Science Board, National Science Foundation. 2012. 591 p.**

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind12/pdf/seind12.pdf>

“The report presents information on science, mathematics, and engineering education at all levels; the scientific and engineering workforce; U.S. and international research and development performance; U.S. competitiveness in high technology; and public attitudes and understanding of science and engineering. A chapter on state-level science and engineering presents state comparisons on selected indicators.” California students rank in the bottom quartile of states for math and science proficiency at both the 4th grade and 8th grade levels, but in the top quartile for percentage of high school students taking Advanced Placement exams and scoring 3 or higher on AP exams.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Agricultural Adaptation to a Changing Climate: Economic and Environmental Implications Vary by U.S. Region. By Scott Malcolm, et al. US Department of Agriculture. ERR-136. July 2012. 84 p.
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/848748/err136.pdf>

"The extent to which ... [climate] changes present a risk to food supplies, farmer livelihoods, and rural communities depends in part on the direction, magnitude, and rate of such changes." Farmers have "considerable flexibility to adapt to changes in local weather, resource conditions, and price signals by adjusting crops, rotations, and production practices. Such adaptation ... can partially mitigate the impacts of climate change on national agricultural markets. Adaptive redistribution of production, however, may have significant implications for both regional land use and environmental quality."

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Challenge of Obtaining Voter Identification. By Keesha Gaskins, et al. Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. 2012. 40 p.
http://brennan.3cdn.net/773c569439b50452e0_kzm6bo516.pdf

"New laws in 10 states requiring voters to show IDs could present serious challenges to voters without financial resources and transportation, according to a report released Wednesday [July 18]. The study by the Brennan Center for Justice ... opposes the new laws, [and] found several obstacles that could keep voters from being able to cast ballots, including limited access to offices that issue the IDs required under the new measures." (*Washington Post*, July 17, 2012).

HEALTH

Nine Out of Ten Non-Elderly Californians Will Be Insured When the Affordable Care Act is Fully Implemented. By Ken Jacobs, et al. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and UC Berkeley Labor Center. June 2012. 8 p.
http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/calsim_Exchange1.pdf

By 2019, when the Patient Protection and Affordability Act (ACA) is fully implemented, nine out of ten Californians under the age of 65 will be enrolled in insurance plans. To maximize enrollment, researchers encourage policymakers to ensure strong outreach and simple enrollment. "Helping California's diverse population understand the different types of coverage available and the enrollment process should significantly boost enrollment rates and broaden the risk pool, which is essential to keeping down costs." While all California counties will experience increased coverage, California will still have between 3 million and 4 million people who are uninsured. "Of these, slightly more than 1 million will be ineligible for coverage due to their immigration status."

HOUSING

Paycheck to Paycheck 2012: Can Veterans Afford Housing in Your Community? By Laura Williams. Center for Housing Policy. July 2012. 5 p.
<http://www.nhc.org/media/files/PaycheckSummer2012Analysis.pdf>

Despite declines in home prices and a decrease in the income necessary for home ownership or rentals since the recession, veterans working in some of the main jobs available through the Department of

Labor's specialized training programs do not earn enough to afford to buy a median-priced home in many markets. Even with Veteran's Affairs loans, they spend more than half of their income on housing, and may have special housing needs due to military-related disabilities.

HUMAN SERVICES

***National Retirement Risk Index: How Much Longer Do We Need to Work?* By Alicia H. Munnell, et al. Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. June 2012. 7 p.**

http://crr.bc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/IB_12-12-508.pdf

This analysis uses a modified National Retirement Risk Index to answer the question, "At what age would the vast majority of households be ready to retire? ... Projected replacement rates are calculated not only for the generally assumed retirement age of 65, but also for every potential retirement age between 50 and 90.... The final section concludes that over 85% of households would be prepared to retire by age 70. Thus, many individuals will need to work longer than their parents did, but they will still be able to enjoy a reasonable period of retirement, especially as health and longevity continue to improve."

***Treatment for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Military and Veteran Populations: Initial Assessment.* By Committee on the Assessment of Ongoing Efforts in the Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Institute of Medicine. The National Academies Press. 2012. 415 p.**

Free download at: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13364

An estimated 13% to 20% of the 2.6 million U.S. military personnel deployed since 2001 will develop Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). To facilitate PTSD treatment in the coming years, the authors recommend that Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs collect data about PTSD treatment before, during, and after treatment; implement evidence-based methods for identifying and treating PTSD; continue researching prevention methods, treatments, and rehabilitative services; facilitate screening, diagnosis, treatments, and rehabilitative services by removing barriers to each; and identify and treat co-occurring mental health issues.

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