

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Closing the Gap: Using Criminal Justice and Public Health Data to Improve the Identification of Mental Illness. By Jim Parsons, et al. Vera Institute of Justice. July 2012. 58 p.

<http://www.vera.org/download?file=3544/closing-the-gap-report.pdf>

This study combined data from five public agencies in Washington, D.C. to better identify people with mental health needs. About 33% of people coming into contact with the criminal justice system had identified mental health needs in a partner agency. Most people coming into contact with the criminal justice system who had mental health needs had not been identified by other public health agencies. The authors suggest that by combining public health and criminal justice data, more people with mental health needs may be identified and the continuity of care improved.

L.A. Courthouse: Initial Project Justification is Outdated and Flawed. Government Accountability Office. GAO-12-968T. Aug. 17, 2012. 12 p.
<http://gao.gov/assets/600/593799.pdf>

“Because of delays and cost increases, the General Services Administration (GSA) canceled the authorized 41-courtroom Los Angeles (L.A.), California, courthouse project in 2006. Since then, GSA and the judiciary have been slow to agree upon how to proceed with the project, for which about \$366 million in appropriated funds remains available. In 2012, with the judiciary’s support, GSA issued a request for proposal for contractors to design and build a 24-courtroom, 32-chamber courthouse, which would be used in conjunction with 25 existing courtrooms in the Roybal Courthouse. However, this new plan will not address one of the principal justifications for the original project – that the L.A. Court be centralized at one site.” It is not clear if the L.A. courthouse project remains a high priority.

Update: Nine Months Into Realignment: California’s Prisoner Decline Continues, New Admissions Rise. By Mike Males. Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Aug. 15, 2012. 6 p.
http://www.cjcj.org/files/Realignment_update_Aug_15_2012.pdf

“[T]here has been a 39% overall reduction in new prison admissions as of June 30, 2012, and a drop of 26,480 in the prison population as of August 8, 2012, compared to October 1, 2011. Realignment was designed to redirect non-serious, non-violent, non-sex offenders from incarceration in state prison to the supervision of local jurisdictions. Within the first nine months of realignment, CDCR [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation] has already progressed two-thirds of the way toward the goal of reducing inmate populations by 40,000 by 2017.” However, researchers speculate that a continual steep reduction in prisoners will be difficult to maintain.

ECONOMY

Report to the President on Capturing Domestic Competitive Advantage in Advanced Manufacturing. Executive Office of the President, President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. July 2012. 70 p.
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast_amp_steering_committee_report_final_july_17_2012.pdf

“This blueprint is intended to serve as a national framework for the sustainable resurgence in advanced manufacturing in the United States.... The report outlines a set of 16 recommendations around three pillars – enabling innovation, securing the talent pipeline and improving the business climate. For a sustainable resurgence ... the report’s authors contend that government and industry must work together with a sustained focus, aligned interests and coordinated actions to adopt the report’s proposed recommendations.... The report also includes a review of the importance of advanced manufacturing on the U.S. economy, national security, innovation and global competitiveness.” (*SSTI Weekly Digest*, July 19, 2012).

EDUCATION

Beginning Teachers Are More Common in Rural, High-Poverty, and Racially Diverse Schools. By Douglas Gagnon, et al. The Carsey Institute, University of New Hampshire. Summer 2012. 6 p.
<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/IB-Gagnon-Mattingly-Beginning-Teachers.pdf>

Teaching is a skill that develops over time. New teachers have fewer experiences to draw upon for lesson planning, classroom management and creating assessment strategies, and are more likely to leave the profession than teachers with at least five years of experience. “Thus, employing a large percentage of

beginning teachers is costly both to a district and students.” This study finds that districts with high poverty rates, those located in rural areas, and schools with a large percentage of racial minorities are more likely to have beginning teachers in most classrooms, and incur higher hiring and teacher development expenses than schools with more established teaching staff.

EMPLOYMENT

***California Manufacturing Jobs in Demand.* CA Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division. July 2012. 39 p.**

<http://www.calmis.ca.gov/specialreports/CaliforniaManufacturingReport.pdf>

“Of the 281,461 job listings identified as manufacturing related, less than half ... were specific to engineering, logistics, and production activities. The remainder fell within occupations common across all industries, such as customer service representatives and executive secretaries.” As compared to the manufacturing jobs listed from October 2010 to February 2011, those listed for the same period during 2011-2012 showed that job listings in major manufacturing groups rose – production up 18.8%, logistics up 16.3%, and engineering up 8.6%. Employers are looking for supervisors and managers with more experience and formal education and people with skills in quality assurance, project management, setup, SQL, UNIX, CAD, and Solid Works.

ENERGY

***Renewables Portfolio Standard Quarterly Report: 1st and 2nd Quarter 2012.* California Public Utilities Commission. July 2012. 14 p.**

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/NR/rdonlyres/2060A18B-CB42-4B4B-A426-E3BDC01BDCA2/0/2012_Q1Q2_RPSReport.pdf

“On July 31, 2012, the CPUC issued its first/second quarter 2012 renewable energy progress report to the state Legislature, showing that the state’s utilities have met the goal of serving 20% of their electricity with renewable energy and are already on track to far surpass that goal in 2012.... The state’s investor-owned utilities served 20.6% of their electricity with renewable energy in 2011 (up from 17% in 2010). In 2011, Pacific Gas and Electric Company served 20.1% of its retail sales with renewable energy, Southern California Edison with 21.1%, and San Diego Gas & Electric with 20.8%.”

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

***California Hatchery Review Report.* By California Hatchery Scientific Review Group. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, et al. June 2012. 110 p.**

<http://cahatcheryreview.com/reports/>

“California needs to dramatically reform its fish hatcheries in order to maintain healthy salmon and steelhead populations.... The state lacks standard protocols to manage the 40 million salmon it produces each year at eight hatcheries. It also does not do enough field monitoring to fully understand the fate of all those fish. The hatcheries ... were built to atone for the spawning habitat eliminated by dams. But artificial breeding can also weaken the wild salmon that remain, making the entire population more vulnerable to environmental disruptions.... [T]he study proposes big changes to strengthen individual salmon runs and improve what managers know about them....” (*Sacramento Bee*, Aug. 7, 2012).

HOUSING

What Drives Consumers' Intentions to Own or Rent. By Li-Ning Huang, et al. Fannie Mae, Economic and Strategic Research. Aug. 2012. 6 p.

<http://www.fanniemae.com/resources/file/research/ownrent/pdf/own-rent-research-paper-2012.pdf>

Despite the number of foreclosures and loss of home values in the recession, home ownership still appeals to many Americans. Income, employment, marital status and a focus on the long-term benefits of home ownership are the leading demographic and "attitudinal" drivers in home buying. Developing resources that could help potential homebuyers understand these drivers in the process of purchasing a home could lead to better, more sound, home buying decisions.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Compilation of State Airport Authorizing Legislation. By Jodi L. Howick. Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, Airport Cooperative Research Program. July 2012. 108 p.

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/acrp/acrp_lrd_015.pdf

"The purpose of this digest is to present information that has been compiled, reviewed, and summarized pertaining to each state's airport-specific legislation, including laws establishing, developing, operating, expanding, and funding airports.... This digest seeks to provide policy-makers, airport operators, and other practitioners a convenient and synthesized resource of all states' airport-specific legislation."

On the Move: State Strategies for 21st Century Transportation Solutions. By Douglas Shinkle, et al. National Conference of State Legislatures. July 2012. 91 p.

<http://www.ncsl.org/documents/transportation/On-THE-MOVE.pdf>

"This report explores a wide array of innovative surface transportation reform laws, policies and programs that policymakers are considering or pursuing to take the nation's transportation system well into the 21st century. Particular focus is placed on policies that promote fiscal and environmental sustainability; facilitate affordable, safe and accessible transportation choices; and achieve shared benefits such as improved public health and economic development." The report includes a case study of California's AB 32.

About *Studies in the News*

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