

## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

---

Contents this week:

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Supportive housing can reduce recidivism for disabled prisoners

### **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

15% of U.S. households did not have enough food in 2011

### **ECONOMY**

Tracing U.S. economic woes to the growing gap between rich and poor

### **EDUCATION**

Examining the needs of English Learner students

### **EMPLOYMENT**

CA job growth has accelerated, but full recovery still a long way off

### **ENERGY**

Electric system resiliency in storms: an overview

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Extreme storms in CA linked to global warming

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

CA court examines the rules of interstate compacts

### **HEALTH**

HIV infection 8x more likely among blacks than white men

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

CA private rehab centers in need of greater state oversight

### **TOOLS OF THE TRADE**

Archive of CA ballot propositions

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***Supportive Housing for Returning Prisoners: Outcomes and Impacts of the Returning Home-Ohio Project.*** By Jocelyn Fontaine, et al. Urban Institute. Aug. 2012. 62 p.

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412632-Supportive-Housing-for-Returning-Prisoners.pdf>

“This evaluation of a supportive housing reentry pilot project, ‘Returning Home-Ohio,’ yielded positive outcomes for program participants. The pilot project, developed jointly by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the Corporation for Supportive Housing, was designed for disabled prisoners returning from state prison to five Ohio cities. A process, impact, and cost evaluation employing a quasi-experimental design with multiple data sources found that RHO participants were significantly less likely to be rearrested or reincarcerated within one year of release and significantly more likely to be delivered substance abuse and mental health services, relative to a comparison group.”

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Household Food Security in the United States in 2011.* By Alisha Coleman-Jensen, et al. U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Report ERR-141. Sep. 2012. 37 p.**  
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err141.aspx>

“An estimated 85.1% of American households were food secure throughout the entire year in 2011, meaning that they had access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. The remaining households (14.9%) were food insecure at least some time during the year, including 5.7% with very low food security.... The prevalence rate of very low food security increased from 5.4% in 2010, returning to the level observed in 2008 and 2009. The change in food insecurity overall (from 14.5% in 2010) was not statistically significant.”

## ECONOMY

***The Price of Inequality.* By Joseph Stiglitz. W. W. Norton. 2012. 448 p.**  
**(Available at the California State Library)**

“What’s wrong with the U.S. economy? Growth comes in fits and starts. Unemployment has been above 8% for 3 ½ years. Cutting taxes and interest rates hasn’t worked, at least not enough. To Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, the economy’s strange behavior can be traced to the growing gap between wealthy Americans and everyone else.... connect[ing] surging student loan debt, the real estate bubble and many of the country’s other problems to greater inequality.” (*Stockton Record*, August 13, 2012).

## EDUCATION

***California’s English Learner Students.* By Laura E. Hill. Public Policy Institute of California. Sep. 2012. 9 p.**  
[http://www.ppic.org/main/publication\\_quick.asp?i=1031](http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_quick.asp?i=1031)

“English Learner (EL) students in California’s schools are numerous and diverse, and they lag behind their native-English-speaking peers. Closing the achievement gap for EL students has been a long-standing goal for California educators, and there are some signs of success. Now that EL funding and curriculum issues are receiving a fresh level of scrutiny from decisionmakers in Sacramento, it is important to assess our understanding of this diverse group, highlight the opportunities to improve policies around demonstrating mastery of English, calibrate funding formulas involving EL students, and implement new curriculum standards thoughtfully.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***Waiting for Recovery. California Budget Project.* Sep. 2012. 10 p.**  
[http://cbp.org/pdfs/2012/1209041\\_Labor\\_Day\\_PP.pdf](http://cbp.org/pdfs/2012/1209041_Labor_Day_PP.pdf)

Though California is outpacing the U.S. overall in adding jobs in many private sector industries, it continues to lag in public sector employment. “The number of long-term unemployed remains near a record high.... Fewer than three out of five working-age Californians have jobs.... During the past year, men in California made stronger gains in employment than women.... Black Californians’ employment rate continued to decline during the past year, while employment rates increased for Latinos, whites, and Asians.”

## ENERGY

***Weather-Related Power Outages and Electric System Resiliency.*** By Richard J. Campbell. Congressional Research Service. Aug. 28, 2012. 18 p.  
<https://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R42696.pdf>

“High winds, especially when combined with precipitation from seasonal storms, can cause damage to electricity utility systems, resulting in service interruptions to large numbers of electricity customers.... Power delivery systems are most vulnerable to storms and extreme weather events. Improving the overall condition and efficiency of the power delivery system can only serve to improve the resiliency of the system, and help hasten recovery from weather-related outages. Ultimately, however, electric utilities are responsible for this infrastructure. They are in the business of selling electricity, and they cannot sell electricity if their power delivery systems are out of service.”

## ENVIRONMENT

***When It Rains, It Pours: Global Warming and the Increase in Extreme Precipitation from 1948 to 2011.*** By Travis Madsen, et al. Environment California Research & Policy Center. Summer 2012. 47 p.  
<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/sites/environment/files/reports/When%20It%20Rains,%20It%20Pours%20vCA.pdf>

Extreme rainstorms are happening more frequently in California since 1948. “[H]eavy downpours that used to happen once every 12 months on average now happen every 10.7 months on average statewide. Southern California and parts of the Central Valley are experiencing up to [a] 72% increase in the frequency of extreme storms with a 7% increase in the intensity of the storms as well. In other words, in the south, storms are happening more frequently and are bigger in size. Scientists have concluded that the rise in the frequency and severity of heavy rainstorms and snowstorms is linked to global warming.” (Environment California Press Release, Jul. 31, 2012).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***The Gillette Company et al., v. The Franchise Tax Board.*** Court of Appeal of the State of California, First Appellate District, Division Four. A130803. July 24, 2012.  
<http://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions/documents/A130803.PDF>

“A California court ruling is being hailed as a significant victory for states and the interstate compact mechanism. At issue in [this] case ... was California’s method of collecting and allocating tax dollars from companies that do business across state lines. More broadly, however, the case brought into question a state’s ability to unilaterally amend the terms of a compact it has joined. In a unanimous ruling ... California’s First District Court of Appeals concluded, ‘The compact is a binding, enforceable agreement that overrides conflicting state laws. A state’s decision to withdraw must be expressly stated in a new statute ... and must apply only to future tax years without attempting to increase past liability.’” Council of State Government’s *Capitol Ideas* (Aug. 2, 2012).

## HEALTH

***Back of the Line: The State of AIDS Among Black Gay Men in America.*** The Black AIDS Institute, July 20, 2012. 76 p.

<http://towleroad.typepad.com/files/back.pdf>

Black gay men in the U.S. have a 1 in 4 chance of being HIV+. The rate of new infections in that population is rising. This research reports that “Black gay men’s higher risk of HIV does not stem from higher levels of risk behavior. Rather, their disproportionate risk of HIV can be traced to their poor access to health services, a high prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases, and early patterns of sexual behavior among young gay men.” The second most likely population to develop HIV is black women. The report notes that the rates of infection among black men and women is roughly eight times that among white men, yet few if any government entities, at any level, track these populations.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Rogue Rehabs: State Failed to Police Drug and Alcohol Homes, with Deadly Results.*** By John Hill. California Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes. Sep. 4, 2012. 62 p.

[http://sooo.senate.ca.gov/sites/sooo.senate.ca.gov/files/Rogue%20Rehab%209\\_4\\_12.pdf](http://sooo.senate.ca.gov/sites/sooo.senate.ca.gov/files/Rogue%20Rehab%209_4_12.pdf)

While most California residential rehabs treat clients without incident, those in this report serve as cautionary tales to inform changes to existing law and future program oversight. The report reveals that there are “...troubling gaps in the Department of Alcohol and Drug Program’s regulation of residential programs: failure to pursue evidence of problems, slow responses to deaths and other serious incidents, and reluctance to use the full spectrum of its statutory powers to shut down programs that pose a danger to the public.” Further, it “documents widespread flouting of the state’s prohibition against residential programs providing medical care, exposing a striking mismatch between the department’s regulation and the industry’s prevalent practices.” Recommendations include more oversight, standardizing death investigations and lifting the ban on administering medical care.

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

### California Ballot Propositions

<http://library.uchastings.edu/library/guides/california-research/ca-ballot-pamphlets.html>

Public policy students and policymakers alike often need access to the original text of ballot propositions and initiatives. Images of California voter information guides from 1911 through June 2012 are available through the University of California Hastings College of the Law Library. These PDF files contain candidate statements and the full text of proposed propositions and initiatives.

### 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 division of the California State Library.

- SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed periodically. Prior lists can be viewed at the California State Library’s website at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb>.
- To update your e-mail address, or add/remove your name from the SITN distribution list, please contact us at [crb@library.ca.gov](mailto:crb@library.ca.gov), or (916) 319-2691.
- SITN is available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.