

## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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

***Using Administrative Data to Prioritize Jail Reentry Services: Findings from the Comprehensive Transition Planning Project.*** By Quig Wei, et al. Vera Institute of Justice. Oct. 2012. 8 p.

<http://www.vera.org/download?file=3593/CTPP-research%2520brief.pdf>

“The DOC [New York City Department of Corrections] sought a way to target social services and treatment toward those who most needed support to address problems that contributed to their involvement with the justice system.... Researchers used information that the DOC maintained in its administrative data systems to develop a tool to assess people’s risk of recidivism - the Service Priority Indicator (SPI). The SPI draws information on charge, age, and prior jail admissions to assign everyone entering the jail to one of five service priority levels. A validation of the SPI found that 84% of those in the highest service-priority category were re-incarcerated within a year of release compared to 24% of those at the lowest service-priority level. The DOC is currently using the SPI to inform its decisions about who gets reentry services, as it implements its new, innovative discharge planning process.”

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Younger Americans' Reading and Library Habits.*** By Kathryn Zickuhr, et al. Pew Research Center. Oct. 23, 2012. 57 p.

<http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2012/10/23/younger-americans-reading-and-library-habits/>

“More than eight in ten Americans between the ages of 16 and 29 read a book in the past year, and six in ten used their local public library. At the youngest end of the spectrum, high schoolers in their late teens (ages 16-17) and college-aged young adults (ages 18-24) are especially likely to have read a book or used the library in the past 12 months. And although their library usage patterns may often be influenced by the requirements of school assignments, their interest in the possibilities of mobile technology may also point the way toward opportunities of further engagement with libraries later in life.”

## ECONOMY

***Counting Up to Green: Assessing the Green Economy and Its Implications for Growth and Equity.*** By Ethan Pollack. Economic Policy Institute. Oct. 10, 2012. 18 p.

<http://www.epi.org/publication/bp349-assessing-the-green-economy/>

This study finds that industries with higher proportions of green jobs have higher job growth than does the overall economy. The author examines data from jobs in businesses that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources. Additional findings: states with greater green intensity generally fared better in the economic downturn; green jobs are accessible to workers without a college degree; and manufacturing plays a strong role in the green economy.

***The Evolving Role of Defined Contribution Plans in the Public Sector.*** By Paula Sanford, et al. Center for State and Local Government Excellence. Sep. 2012. 32 p.

<http://slge.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/The-Evolving-Role-of-Defined-Contribution-Plans.pdf>

“This report reviews the current and future role of defined contribution plans for state and local government employees and the governments that provide the retirement benefit. The change is being driven by several factors including flat government revenues, increased demand for services and economic uncertainties.... This report seeks to focus on the increasing role of defined contribution plans in state and local government and for employee retirement security.”

## EDUCATION

***The Office of Innovation and Improvement's Oversight and Monitoring of Charter School Program's Planning and Implementation Grants.*** Office of Inspector General, United States Department of Education. Sep. 2012. 47 p.

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/auditreports/fy2012/a02l0002.pdf>

This audit examined the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Implementation (OII). “We determined that OII did not effectively oversee and monitor the SEA [State Educational Agency] and non-SEA grants and did not have an adequate process to ensure SEAs effectively oversaw and monitored their subgrantees. Specifically, OII did not have an adequate corrective action plan process in place to ensure grantees corrected deficiencies noted in annual monitoring reports, did not have a risk-based approach for selecting non-SEA grantees for monitoring, and did not adequately review SEA and non-SEA grantees' fiscal activities.... The California SEA had unqualified reviewers performing onsite monitoring.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***Payroll Tax Cut and Emergency Unemployment Insurance Still Needed to Support the Recovery.*** By Chuck Marr, et al. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Oct. 16, 2012. 4 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/files/10-16-12tax.pdf>

“While the House and Senate have debated extending various tax provisions set to expire at the end of the year - most notably the income tax cuts first enacted in 2001 - neither party has proposed to extend the payroll tax cut, in part or in full.... [E]xtending it in 2013 would cost \$115 billion, and Zandi estimates this would boost the economy by \$100 billion - which means the payroll tax cut’s economic bang-for-the-buck is nearly twice that of the upper-income tax cuts.”

## ENERGY

***Energy-Water Nexus: Coordinated Federal Approach Needed to Better Manage Energy and Water Tradeoffs.*** U.S. Government Accountability Office. Sep. 2012. 38 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/650/648306.pdf>

“Water and energy are inextricably linked and mutually dependent, with each affecting the other’s availability.... A considerable amount of water is used to cool thermoelectric power plants, grow feedstocks and produce biofuels, and extract oil and natural gas. Some of these sources of energy may also negatively affect water quality. In addition, developing oil and gas resources can produce wastewater - known as “produced water” - that must be managed or treated. Conversely, significant amounts of energy are needed to extract, transport, treat, and use water in urban areas.”

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***California’s Youth Vote: Strength and Potential.*** By Mindy Romero. UC Davis Center for Regional Change. Oct. 2012. 4 p.

[http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/projects/ccep-policy-briefs/UCDavis\\_CCEP\\_Policy\\_Brief\\_2\\_Youth\\_For\\_Release.pdf](http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/projects/ccep-policy-briefs/UCDavis_CCEP_Policy_Brief_2_Youth_For_Release.pdf)

“[T]he California Civic Engagement Project recently examined the state’s voter registration rates for the 2002 through 2010 general elections. Utilizing actual voter registration records, we track the growth of the state’s registered youth population. Youth registration numbers have grown significantly over the past decade, outpacing general registration. Despite these gains, youth remain underrepresented in California’s electorate, with disparity greatest in regions with some of the poorest outcomes for youth. Removing barriers to youth registration within the voter registration system is critical to reducing these disparities.”

## HEALTH

***Monitoring Cancer Outcomes Across the Continuum.*** By Rebecca Anhang Price, et al. RAND. Oct. 2012. 85 p.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/TR1296.html#abstract](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR1296.html#abstract)

This report analyzes data regarding cancer-related outcomes among residents of the District of Columbia. Significant disparities in outcomes were found between black and white residents. “First, black District residents are more likely than white residents to be uninsured. Lack of insurance is associated with lower rates of routine cancer screening among asymptomatic patients and may delay care for patients experiencing early symptoms of cancer. In addition, the rate of smoking is significantly higher, and the

rate of exercise is significantly lower, among black District residents than among white residents.... Limitations in general access to health care, in primary and secondary prevention, and in access to cancer-related treatment all likely contribute to dramatically higher cancer incidence and mortality among black residents of the District than among white residents.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Pathways to the Middle Class: Balancing Personal and Public Responsibilities.* By Isabel V. Sawhill, et al. Center for Children and Families. Sep. 20, 2012. 20 p.**

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2012/09/20-pathways-middle-class-sawhill-winslip>

“Children born into middle-income families have a roughly equal chance of moving up or down once they become adults, but those born into rich or poor families have a high probability of remaining rich or poor as adults. The chance that a child born into a family in the top income quintile will end up in one of the top three quintiles by the time they are in their forties is 82%, while the chance for a child born into a family in the bottom quintile is only 30%. In short, a rich child in the U.S. is more than twice as likely as a poor child to end up in the middle class or above.”

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Civic Education: State and U.S. Congressional Legislation Database.* National Conference of State Legislatures.**

<http://www.ncsl.org/legislatures-elections/trust/civics-education-legislation-database.aspx>

“The NCSL Trust for Representative Democracy has developed a database for state legislation concerning civic education. This database is intended to capture state legislative efforts to address civic education-related issues and includes brief summaries of the legislation, bill number, status and the bill sponsor. Users can search the database by year, state, bill status and keyword. The database is a work in progress and, in general, will be updated on a bi-weekly basis.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Performance Analysis of the Protective Effects of Bicycle Helmets During Impact and Crush Tests in Pediatric Skull Models.* By Tobias A. Mattei, M.D., et al. Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics. Oct. 2, 2012. 8 p.**

<http://thejns.org/doi/pdf/10.3171/2012.8.PEDS12116>

“According to the US Centers for Disease Control, head injury is the most common cause of death and serious disability from bicycle crashes. The best protection offered to mitigate this injury is the bicycle helmet. However, few bicyclists wear helmets regularly, and children are less inclined to wear helmets than adults: national estimates of helmet use among children range from only 15% to 25%.” This study examined the performance of children’s bicycle helmets in the laboratory on cadaver skulls, finding that “wearing a helmet can substantially reduce (by up to 87%) the acceleration experienced by the skull during an impact and can aid the skull in resisting forces up to 470 pounds in a crush accident.” (*Science Daily*, Oct. 2, 2012).

## **About *Studies in the News***

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