

## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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

***Engaging Police in Immigrant Communities: Promising Practices from the Field.*** By Pradine Saint-Fort, et al. Vera Institute of Justice. Nov. 2012. 76 p.

<http://www.vera.org/pubs/engaging-police-immigrant-communities-promising-practices>

This report evaluates the promising practices of twenty programs designed to engage immigrant communities with police forces in their areas. Promising practices include: "hiring a civilian community liaison to get to the root cause of crime and underreporting in an immigrant community; making tactical Spanish language and cultural training part of police academy curriculum; partnering with social service and legal service organizations to form a law enforcement anti-human trafficking task force; engaging the services of a researcher from a local university to evaluate the effectiveness of immigrant-centered initiatives."

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Parents, Teens and Online Privacy.*** By Mary Madden, et al. Pew Research Center. Nov. 14, 2012. 29 p.

[http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2012/PIP\\_ParentsTeensAndPrivacy.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2012/PIP_ParentsTeensAndPrivacy.pdf)

“Most parents of teenagers are concerned about what their teenage children do online and how their behavior could be monitored by others. Some parents are taking steps to observe, discuss, and check up on their children’s digital footprints. A new survey of 802 parents and their teens shows that 81% of parents of online teens say they are concerned about how much information advertisers can learn about their child’s online behavior, with some 46% being ‘very’ concerned.”

## ECONOMY

***Mexican Migration Monitor.*** By Roberto Suro, et al. University of Southern California Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, et al. Oct. 2012.

<http://www.migrationmonitor.com/1-article/1/>

“Illegal immigration from Mexico reached historic lows during the recession but with the economy improving, the number of illegal immigrants entering the U.S. from Mexico is growing.... After four decades that brought 12 million people from Mexico to the U.S., people started heading back home and continued doing so from 2007 to 2011. It’s impossible to pinpoint the exact number of people crossing the southwest border with Mexico, but the study ... estimates that immigrants headed north in the first half of 2012 outnumbered those heading back for the first time since 2007.... [P]eople cited the weakening economy and increased enforcement measures for returning to, or staying in Mexico. (*USA Today*, Oct. 25, 2012).

## EDUCATION

***The Dynamics of State University Participation in State Medicaid Administration.*** By Robert Preston, et al. University of Massachusetts Medical School. Oct. 2012. 20 p.

<http://www.governing.com/blogs/view/gov-how-higher-education-could-save-medicaid.html>

“[I]t is common for state agencies other than the state Medicaid agency’s Medicaid office to participate in the administration of a state’s Medicaid program ...” There are several key benefits to engaging state universities in Medicare administration: cost savings accrued from faculty and students doing fiscal and policy analysis for the system instead of hired contractors; use of university contributions as State matching for federal contribution requirements; and easier access of university professors and student projects to subjects and data of Medicaid program participants where appropriate.

***Strategic Data Project Human Capital Diagnostic: Los Angeles Unified School District.*** Center for Education Policy Research. Nov. 2012. 20 p.

<http://www.edsource.org/today/wp-content/uploads/Teach-LAUSD rpt-111412.pdf>

“In Los Angeles Unified, novice teachers tend to be assigned students who are academically farther behind those assigned to experienced teachers. Before they depart, usually after only two years, Teach for America teachers have a bigger impact on students than that of other new teachers. And National Board Certified teachers significantly outperform other teachers in LAUSD.... Researchers found that the difference between a math teacher in the 75th percentile ... and a teacher in the 25th percentile was the roughly equivalent benefit to a student of having eight additional months of instruction in a calendar year.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***Stepping Up for Veterans Standing Down.* By Patrick Burns, et al. Economic Roundtable. Nov. 2012. 55 p.**

[http://www.economicrt.org/pub/veterans\\_study\\_2012/Stepping\\_Up\\_for\\_Veterans\\_Standing\\_Down.pdf](http://www.economicrt.org/pub/veterans_study_2012/Stepping_Up_for_Veterans_Standing_Down.pdf)

Los Angeles County is home to 17% of California's veterans. The United Way of Greater Los Angeles commissioned this report in an effort to gain understanding of the employment situation and quality of life for regional veterans. "Just under half of [these] veterans are in the labor force, with the remainder being older veterans having reached retirement age. The unemployment rate for veterans rose to 12% in 2010.... Ninety-four percent of veterans have health insurance coverage, compared to 73 for nonveteran adults."

## ENERGY

***Energy Efficiency and Energy Savings: A View from the Building Sector.* Economist Intelligence Unit. Oct. 2012. 31 p.**

[http://www.managementthinking.eiu.com/sites/default/files/downloads/EIU\\_GBPN\\_EnergyEfficiency\\_120921r3.pdf](http://www.managementthinking.eiu.com/sites/default/files/downloads/EIU_GBPN_EnergyEfficiency_120921r3.pdf)

A survey of 423 executives from the real estate and construction sectors finds that energy usage is a key factor in investment decisions and that many companies are replacing inefficient lighting, HVAC systems, and insulation. However, most are ill informed about the true costs of their energy consumption, sometimes underestimating the financial significance while overestimating the cost of constructing energy-efficient buildings. While 75% of respondents said that energy efficiency regulation is beneficial, most point to a lack of enforcement as the main obstacle to its implementation.

## ENVIRONMENT

***Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must be Avoided.* Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Climate Analytics for the World Bank. Nov. 2012. 106 p.**

<http://climatechange.worldbank.org/content/climate-change-report-warns-dramatically-warmer-world-century>

In a report commissioned by the World Bank, researchers warn that even if current emission-reduction pledges are met, current trends point to a 4°C (7.2°F) warmer world by 2100. Rising sea levels, heat waves, reduced agricultural yields and other extreme weather events will impact impoverished nations most strongly, undermining international development goals. The report notes that with additional sustained policy action, it may be possible to limit total warming to below 2°C (3.6°F), which is critical as that 2°C threshold has been identified as the point at which the risk of nonlinear "tipping point" effects starts to rise dramatically.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Employment Development Department: Its Unemployment Program Has Struggled to Effectively Serve California's Unemployed in the Face of Significant Workload and Fiscal Challenges.*** Bureau of State Audits. Nov. 13, 2012. 14 p.

<http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2012-501.pdf>

"The [2011 BSA] report included recommendations that the department [EDD] improve its services to the unemployed by enhancing its corrective action planning process and by using data from its new phone system to develop strategies and measurable goals related to reducing call volume, among other things.... [T]his follow-up review found that the department has not implemented some of the recommendations that will help it to serve California's unemployed more effectively."

## HEALTH

***Strategies for Curbing Health Insurance Costs For State Employees: Benefit Design, Wellness Programs, and Data Mining.*** By Jason Hsieh. National Governors Association. Oct. 2012. 9 p.

[http://www.nga.org/cms/home/news-room/news-releases/page\\_2012/col2-content/governors-look-for-ways-to-curb.html](http://www.nga.org/cms/home/news-room/news-releases/page_2012/col2-content/governors-look-for-ways-to-curb.html)

"With strained state budgets, governors face the challenge of doing more with less in all categories of state spending, including reigning in costs and finding ways to provide state employees with access to quality care at lower costs rather than simply raising premiums or cutting health benefits.... To improve the long-term value of health care expenditures and health outcomes for state employees, states can offer employees newly designed health benefit plans such as (1) high-deductible or consumer-driven health plans; (2) health plans designed to maximize the value of expenditures; and (3) health plans that offer tiered or limited provider networks."

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Social Security: Cost-of-Living Adjustments.*** By Gary Sidor. Congressional Research Service. Nov. 8, 2012. 6 p.

<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/94-803.pdf>

"To compensate for the effects of inflation, Social Security recipients received cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) through the legislative process sporadically from 1950 to 1974, and automatically through a trigger mechanism in all but two years from 1975 to 2012. No adjustment was made in 2010 and 2011. Benefits will be increased by 1.7% in 2013, after an increase of 3.6% in 2012. The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), updated monthly by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), is the measure that can trigger a change.... This report is updated annually."

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***NCSL State Legislative Infrastructure Priorities: 2012-2013.*** National Conference of State Legislatures. Oct. 2012. 9 p.

[http://www.ncsl.org/documents/transportation/Infrastructure\\_Priorities2012.pdf](http://www.ncsl.org/documents/transportation/Infrastructure_Priorities2012.pdf)

"For two weeks in the fall of 2012, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) surveyed state legislators throughout the country on infrastructure priorities in their states.... [I]nfrastructure is a major priority for states across the board, ranking third behind education and economic development.... Education was far and away the highest priority for state lawmakers, with almost 91% of lawmakers

ranking it as a top-three spending priority for the state, and no respondents ranking it sixth or last. By comparison, infrastructure was a top-three priority for almost 55% of legislators, right behind economic development with 57.5% amongst the top-three. Among other priorities, health care ranked fourth, followed by human services, criminal justice, and environment.”

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

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