



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Statewide Law Enforcement/Mental Health Efforts: Strategies to Support and Sustain Local Initiatives. By Melissa Reuland, et al. Council of State Governments Justice Center. Jan. 2013. 66 p.

https://www.bja.gov/Publications/CSG_StatewideLEMH.pdf

This report "highlights statewide initiatives for supporting local-level specialized policing responses (SPRs) for people with mental illnesses. SPRs are designed to help individuals in crisis connect to community-based treatment and supports, when appropriate, instead of becoming involved in the criminal

justice system.... [The report] examines how individual states have developed structures and standards to make police encounters with people with mental illnesses safer for all involved and to produce better mental health and criminal justice system outcomes." (Press Release, Jan. 8, 2013).

ECONOMY

Trends in Technology-Based Economic Development: Local, State and Federal Action in 2012. State Science and Technology Institute. Jan. 2013. 23 p.

<http://www.ssti.org/trends.pdf>

"Unlike last year's slate of sweeping new proposals and initiatives to reorganize economic development activities brought on by more than two dozen new governors in office, 2012 witnessed changes to state and regional tech-based initiatives on a smaller scale with states making more strategic investments. This pattern ... is typical, particularly in the 20 states with biennial budgets." The report catalogs the trends by eight themes: new commitments to technology-based economic development; commercializing research; investing in a skilled workforce and STEM initiatives; re-organization/branding; strategic and competitiveness plans; tax incentives; local and private activity on the rise; and federal efforts strengthened.

EDUCATION

Academic Spending Versus Athletic Spending: Who Wins? By Donna Desrochers. American Institutes for Research. Jan. 2013. 16 p.

http://www.deltacostproject.org/pdfs/DeltaCostAIR_AthleticAcademic_Spending_IssueBrief.pdf

"At public colleges and universities, Division I athletic programs were a \$6 billion enterprise in fiscal year (FY) 2010, with costs rapidly spiraling upward in recent years.... This brief highlights recent trends in athletic and academic spending at public Division I colleges and universities between 2005 and 2010, which show that [a]thletic departments spend far more per athlete than institutions spend to educate the average student — typically three to six times as much..."

EMPLOYMENT

The Bay Area: A Regional Economic Assessment. Bay Area Council Economic Institute. Oct. 2012. 76 p.

<http://www.bayareaeconomy.org/media/files/pdf/BAEconAssessment.pdf>

"The Bay Area's strengths are reflected in growth in household incomes and in growth in GDP per capita. The region's economy has increasingly specialized in sectors that generate significant value-added per employee, particularly Professional, Scientific, Technical Services, and Information.... This success, however, masks underlying issues that make the region less competitive than it could be. Despite the fall in home prices since the Great Recession, housing in the Bay Area is still extremely expensive compared to most of the country, and constraints on new construction contribute to unnaturally high prices.... The high cost of doing business in the Bay Area is another source of weakness. This is evidenced in a slower rate of new business formation in the region than elsewhere in the state, and is confirmed by the survey of business community members conducted for this study."

ENERGY

Evaluating the Benefits and Costs of Net Energy Metering in California. By R. Thomas Beach, et al. *Crossborder Energy*. Jan. 2013. 101 p.

<http://votesolar.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Crossborder-Energy-CA-Net-Metering-Cost-Benefit-Jan-2013-final.pdf>

“California is the nation’s leading market for the installation of solar PV [photovoltaic] generation to serve the on-site electric demands of homes, businesses, schools, and institutions. 1,400 megawatts (MW) of PV installations are now operating on the homes or businesses of 134,000 Californians. Net energy metering (NEM) is a core public policy that has enabled this success.... Recent changes in residential rate design and updated models of the costs which the utilities avoid when they accept NEM power exported to their grids show that NEM does not produce a cost shift to non-participating ratepayers; instead it creates a small net benefit on average across the IOUs’ [investor-owned utilities] residential markets.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The 2013-14 Budget: Overview of the Governor’s Budget. Legislative Analyst’s Office. Jan. 14, 2013. 40 p.

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/PubDetails.aspx?id=2681>

“The Governor’s proposed budget reflects the significant improvement in the state’s finances that our office identified in November. The state has now reached a point where its underlying expenditures and revenues are roughly in balance, meaning that – under our and the administration’s fiscal forecasts – state-supported program and service levels established in 2012-13 will generally continue ‘as is’ in 2013-14 and 2014-15.... [However,] there are still considerable risks to revenue estimates given the uncertainty surrounding federal fiscal policy and the volatility inherent in our revenue system ...”

HEALTH

Health Online 2013. By Suzannah Fox, et al. *Pew Research Center*. Jan. 15, 2013. 55 p.

<http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2013/Pew%20Internet%20Health%20Online%20report.pdf>

“Thirty-five percent of U.S. adults say that at one time or another they have gone online specifically to try to figure out what medical condition they or someone else might have.... Historically, people have always tried to answer their health questions at home and made personal choices about whether and when to consult a clinician. Many have now added the internet to their personal health toolbox, helping themselves and their loved ones better understand what might be ailing them. This study was not designed to determine whether the internet has had a good or bad influence on health care. It measures the scope, but not the outcome, of this activity.”

HOUSING

Residential Construction Trends in America's Metropolitan Regions: 2012 Edition. By Kevin Ramsey. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Sustainable Communities. Dec. 2012. 42 p.

http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/residential_construction_trends.pdf

In a study of 209 U.S. metropolitan areas, California cities such as San Jose, Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego were among the top ten large metropolitan areas with the greatest share of infill home construction from 2000-2009. In San Jose, nearly 80% of homes constructed are infill. Residential infill development has many potential benefits for the environment and for increasing home values and investment in rail transit. These findings invite further analysis of infill development's impact on housing policy — particularly for affordability and construction planning.

HUMAN SERVICES

America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being. Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. 2012. 22 p.

http://www.childstats.gov/pdf/ac2012/ac_12.pdf

“Each year since 1997, the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics has published a report on the well-being of children and families.... This report reveals that preterm births declined for the fourth straight year and that the adolescent birth rate declined. Average mathematics scores for 4th- and 8th-grade students increased, and the violent crime victimization rate among youth decreased. However, the percentage of children living in poverty increased, and the percentage of children with at least one parent employed full time, year round decreased.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

2013 Legislative Session Calendar. National Conference of State Legislators.

<http://www.ncsl.org/legislatures-elections/legislatures/session-calendar-2013.aspx>

NCSL maintains a U.S. map that shows state legislatures in session and adjourned, as well as those in special session and not yet convened. This is a handy chart for those who routinely keep track of the legislative process in other states.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

2012 Census of California Water Transit Services. By Richard M. Kos, et al. Mineta Transportation Institute Report. Dec. 2012. 84 p.

<http://transweb.sjsu.edu/PDFs/research/1133-california-water-transit-services-census-2012.pdf>

The U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics conducts a nationwide census of ferry boat operators for the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, with the assistance of state transportation agencies. “The research team compiled a spreadsheet and accompanying maps that include ferry boats, routes, and operators along with a number of related characteristics including ownership (public or private), daily trip counts, regulation of fares, terminal locations (street address and coordinates), boarding statistics, and route segment lengths. The spreadsheet contains fields that will allow it to be linked in a Geographic Information System to Caltrans Earth software for further analysis.” The report also includes some brief descriptions of expansion plans for certain ferry service providers.

About *Studies in the News*

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