



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

California's Criminal Justice System: A Primer (2013). Legislative Analyst's Office. Jan. 17, 2013. 78 p.

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/PubDetails.aspx?id=2682>

"This report includes key statistics on crime rates, adult and juvenile arrests, prosecutions in the criminal courts, and state and local corrections in California. Where possible, this information is provided through 2011, providing readers with a picture of the state's criminal justice system prior to the full implementation of the 2011 realignment, against which they can evaluate how the system changed following realignment

(such as in terms of crime rates, court caseloads, and correctional populations). This report also includes in-depth discussions of some of the most important criminal justice issues likely to face policymakers in coming years.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Coping with the Great Recession: Disparate Impacts on Economic Well-Being in Poor Neighborhoods. By Robert I. Lerman, et al. Urban Institute. Jan. 2013. 28 p.

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412728-Coping-with-the-Great-Recession.pdf>

“This study examines how residents of high- and low-poverty neighborhoods fared in terms of employment, wealth, and housing losses during the Great Recession, using the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. While residents of high-poverty neighborhoods did not experience different rates of change in employment, wages, or home equity losses than residents of low-poverty neighborhoods between 2007 and 2009, their position prior to the onset of the Great Recession exposed them to much higher absolute levels of economic insecurity. Further, the recession severely diminished wealth holdings of families in high-poverty neighborhoods and put them at an increased risk of foreclosure.”

ECONOMY

Best Performing Cities 2012: Where America’s Jobs are Created and Sustained. By Ross DeVol, et al. Milken Institute. Jan. 15, 2013.

Report. 53 p.: <http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/Best-Performing-Cities-Report-2012.pdf>

Data for each metro group: <http://bestcities.milkeninstitute.org/>

“In 2012 ... the regions that weathered the downturn best and are recovering fastest reveal a range of ideas and strategies for seizing opportunity and keeping risk at bay. Among this year’s key findings: San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, Calif., vaulted 50 spots from last year to lead our Best-Performing Large Cities index.” The increasing value of manufacturing and technology clusters are viewed as critical to a thriving economy.

EDUCATION

Math in a Child’s World: Policy and Practical Challenges in Preschool Mathematics. EdSource. Dec. 2012. 24 p.

<http://www.edsource.org/assets/files/publications/pub12-PreschoolMathFinal-v2.pdf>

“[R]esearch has found that mastery of early math concepts at a preschool level is a better predictor of later academic outcomes than literacy. Partly driven by these findings, increasing attention is being focused on improving math pedagogy at the preschool level.” California faces many challenges to increase and improve preschool math. These include: “the barriers imposed by ‘math anxiety’ among preschool teaching staff; linking the preschool experience with what awaits children in K-3 grades; the impact of the state’s budget crisis on the capacity of state agencies, education institutions and preschool programs to respond to these challenges.”

EMPLOYMENT

The Job Creation Shell Game: Ending the Wasteful Practice of Subsidizing Companies that Move Jobs from One State to the Other. By Greg Le Roy, et al. Good Jobs First. Jan. 2013. 69 p.

<http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/sites/default/files/docs/pdf/shellgame.pdf>

“With many states still grappling with high unemployment and depressed tax revenues, some have reverted to an economic development shell game: paying companies to jump state lines.... This interstate shell game is both wasteful and incredibly unfair to existing in-state employers, whose expansions and start-ups account for virtually all of the job-creation action.... [W]e recommend that states demonetize interstate job fraud. That is, the states need to stop subsidizing companies for existing jobs that are regarded as ‘new’ simply because their location has changed.... We also recommend that states end their business recruitment activities that are explicitly designed to pirate existing jobs from other states.”

ENERGY

Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2012: An Overview. International Renewable Energy Agency. Jan. 2013. 92 p.

http://www.irena.org/DocumentDownloads/Publications/Overview_Renewable%20Power%20Generation%20Costs%20in%202012.pdf

“Renewable power generation technologies now account for around half of all new power generation capacity additions worldwide. IRENA’s analysis of around 8,000 projects and range of literature sources shows that the rapid deployment of renewables, working in combination with the high learning rates for some technologies, has produced a virtuous circle that is leading to significant cost declines and is helping fuel a renewable revolution.... Renewable technologies are now the most economic solution for new capacity in an increasing number of countries and regions.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

California 2025: Planning for a Better Future. By Sarah Bohn, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Jan. 2013. 52 p.

<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=895>

“California is recovering slowly from the Great Recession. But it still faces a wide array of challenges, from health care reform, to climate change and water management, to public school funding and quality. Policymakers – including California’s voters – need more and better information about the future consequences of policy choices made today.” Policy areas covered include: budget, climate change, corrections, economy, education, health care, housing, population, water, and workforce.

Library Services in the Digital Age. By Kathryn Zickuhr, et al. Pew Internet and American Life Project. Jan. 22, 2013. 80 p.

<http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2013/01/22/Library-services/>

“[T]he rising popularity of e-books is helping transform Americans’ reading habits. In this changing landscape, public libraries are trying to adjust their services to these new realities while still serving the needs of patrons who rely on more traditional resources.... [A] new survey of Americans’ attitudes and expectations for public libraries ... finds that many library patrons are eager to see libraries’ digital services expand, yet also feel that print books remain important in the digital age.”

HEALTH

Psychotropic Medication Use Among Children in the Child Welfare System. By Wendy A. Walsh, et al. Carsey Institute. Fall 2012. 6 p.

<http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/sites/carseyinstitute.unh.edu/files/publications/IB-Walsh-Psychotropic-Medication-web.pdf>

“Children in the child welfare system are given psychotropic medication at rates approximately three times higher than children and adolescents in the general population.... [U]nderstanding psychotropic medication use in rural versus urban areas can help determine if some children disproportionately receive medical, rather than other, interventions in rural or urban areas and provide a better understanding of need, which can contribute to meaningful policy and resource allocation discussions.”

HOUSING

Getting on the Right Track: Improving Low-Income and Minority Access to Mortgage Credit after the Housing Bust. By William Apgar, et al. Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University. Dec. 2012. 81 p.

<http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/research/publications/getting-right-track-improving-low-income-and-minority-access-mortgage-credit>

The housing boom and bust brought about major changes in lending practices aimed at reining in subprime loans and high-risk mortgage products. To ensure that low-income and minority home buyers are not shut out of the opportunity to buy a home, these policy changes must be combined with a return to private capital mortgage financing, and an end to discriminatory lending practices.

HUMAN SERVICES

The 2012 Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness: Volume I of the 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. Jan. 10, 2013. 24 p.

https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/2012AHAR_PITestimates.pdf

“This annual point-in-time count aims to measure homelessness over the course of one night every January.... HUD reports [of] the results of the count show that there was a slight decline in homelessness in 2012 based on reports from over 3,000 cities and counties. This includes a 7% drop in homelessness among veterans and those experiencing long-term or chronic homelessness. On a single night in January 2012, ... 633,782 people were homeless. This is largely unchanged (-0.4%) from January 2011, and represents a reduction of 5.7% since 2007.... Five states accounted for nearly half of the nation’s population in 2012: California (20.7%), New York (11%), Florida (8.7%), Texas (5.4%), and Georgia (3.2%).” (*The HUDdle*. HUD Official Blog, Dec. 10, 2012).

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

August 2012 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Rose 2.6 Percent From August 2011. U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Nov. 2012. 8 p.

http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/sites/rita.dot.gov.bts/files/press_releases/2012/bts049_12/html/bts049_12.html

“Trade using surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners, Canada and Mexico, was 2.6% higher in August 2012 than in August 2011, totaling \$82.5 billion.... Adjusted for inflation and exchange rates, the August 2012 total was ... up

5.2% from August 2011.” California’s surface trade with Canada increased 21.0% (to \$3.06B) but its surface trade with Mexico decreased 3% (to \$4.75B) over August 2011.

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