



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Making the Transition: Rethinking Jail Re-Entry in Los Angeles County. By Talia Sandwick, et al. The Vera Institute. Feb. 2013. 130 p.

<http://www.vera.org/pubs/making-the-transition-rethinking-jail-reentry-in-los-angeles-county>

”Corrections agencies and community organizations are increasingly using reentry services as a way of supporting people who are released from jail. These interventions – such as job skills training, educational programming, housing assistance, and behavioral health treatment – aim to help people succeed in the community, diminish their likelihood of reoffending, and improve public safety. Research

shows that reentry supports are associated with lower rates of criminal activity and re-incarceration. However, implementing these programs in correctional settings – particularly in jails – is challenging.... The recommendations in this report address three general areas for improvement: reentry service delivery and engagement; operations and efficiency; and coordination. They build on the ongoing efforts of the LASD [Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department] and community-service providers to enhance supportive services for people leaving the jail and returning to their communities.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

The Sandwich Generation: Rising Financial Burdens for Middle-Aged Americans. By Kim Parker, et al. **Pew Social & Demographic Trends.** Jan. 30, 2013. 31 p.
<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/01/30/the-sandwich-generation>

This report documents the increase of pressure felt by middle-aged Americans caring for multiple generations of family members. “Who is the sandwich generation? Its members are mostly middle-aged: 71% of this group is ages 40 to 59. An additional 19% are younger than 40 and 10% are age 60 or older. Men and women are equally likely to be members of the sandwich generation.... Since 2005, many Baby Boomers have aged out of the sandwich generation, and today adults who are part of Generation X are more likely than Baby Boomers to find themselves in this situation: 42% of Gen Xers have parent age 65 or older and a dependent child, compared with 33% of Boomers.”

ECONOMY

California Business Roundtable Business Leader Survey. California Business Roundtable. Feb. 2013. 21 p.
<http://www.cbirt.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/CBRTBusinessLeaderSurvey-updated.pdf>

This statewide survey of over 1,100 large- and small-business leaders throughout California seeks perspectives on the state's jobs and business climate. According to the survey, 62% rate the state's economy worse than the rest of the country and 69% say it is harder to do business in California than in other states. Companies with operations in other states were more optimistic on the economy (54%) than “California only” companies (39%). The survey also revealed the three top suggestions to improve the state's overall economic climate: tax reform, government spending reform and litigation reform.

EDUCATION

Charter Schools: Guidance Needed for Military Base Schools on Startup and Operational Issues. Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-67. Feb. 5, 2013. 56 p.
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/651951.pdf>

A 2008 Department of Defense study recommended offering military families a public charter school option in areas with poorly-performing local schools. The GAO was asked by the U.S. House Appropriations Committee to examine the characteristics of and challenges for charter schools on military installations. The GAO identified eight charter schools located on domestic military bases (and one in development), including two in California (at Beale Air Force Base and Vandenberg Air Force Base). “Charter school officials cited several challenges to starting up and operating on military bases, such as using enrollment preferences for military-connected students, providing civilian access to schools, and obtaining facilities.”

EMPLOYMENT

***The Relationship Between SNAP and Work Among Low-income Households.* By Dorothy Rosenbaum. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Jan. 2013. 36 p.**

<http://www.cbpp.org/files/1-29-13fa.pdf>

“The number of SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] households that have earnings while participating in SNAP has been rising for more than a decade, and has more than tripled – from about 2 million in 2000 to about 6.4 million in 2011. The increase was especially pronounced during the recent deep recession, suggesting that many people have turned to SNAP because of under-employment – for example, when one wage-earner in a two-parent family lost a job, when a worker’s hours were cut, or when a worker turned to a lower-paying job after being laid off.”

ENVIRONMENT

***Effects of Climate Variability and Change on Forest Ecosystems: A Comprehensive Science Synthesis for the U.S. Forest Sector.* By James M. Vose, et al. Dept. of Agriculture, Pacific Northwest Research Station. Dec. 2012. 282 p.**

http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/effects_2012/effects_forest.htm

“The ability of forests to provide essential services, such as clean drinking water, outdoor recreation, and quality wildlife habitat, will change, especially as populations grow and demands for these services increase. The most rapidly visible and significant short-term effects on forest ecosystems will be caused by fire, insects, invasive species, and combinations of multiple stressors, often occurring with increased frequency and severity. Although some regions will be affected more than others, these disturbances are likely to change the structure and function of ecosystems across millions of acres over a short period of time with detrimental effects on forest resources.”

***Climate Change and Agriculture in the United States: Effects and Adaptation.* By Charles L. Walthall, et al. Dept. of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. Dec. 2012. 193 p.**

http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/effects_2012/effects_agriculture.htm

Over the next 25 years, climate change is anticipated to have a largely mixed impact on agriculture in the U.S. By mid-century, there are expected to be the following significant impacts on crops and livestock: Changing climate will influence crop production areas, forcing supporting infrastructure to displace crops along with shifting growing regions; increasing temperatures will impact the health of soils and available water supplies, and will likely increase weed-control costs; heat stress will negatively affect livestock production; and insects and diseases are expected increase with rising temperatures.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***State of the States 2013.* Pew Center on the States. 2013.**

<http://www.pewstates.org/projects/state-of-the-states-2013-329116>

“Stateline’s 13th annual State of the States report looks at key issues legislatures are debating this year, with a particular emphasis on the relationship between states and the federal government.” This report is divided into five issue areas: Politics, Budgets, Social Issues, Environment, and Health Care.

HEALTH

Tobacco Control State Highlights, 2012. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Jan. 2013.

http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/state_data/state_highlights/2012/sections/index.htm

California highlights. 8 p.

http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/state_data/state_highlights/2012/pdfs/states/california.pdf

“Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death in the United States.... Some states have significantly improved the health of their citizens by reducing smoking rates, thereby decreasing smoking-related diseases, deaths, and health care costs. Even in economically challenging times, states can make a significant difference in public health by employing high-impact, cost-effective tobacco control and prevention strategies as laid out in the World Health Organization’s ... strategic package of interventions proven to reduce tobacco use prevalence.”

HOUSING

“Implementation of the Fair Housing Act’s Discriminatory Effects Standard.” U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department. *Federal Register*, vol. 78, no. 32 (Feb. 15, 2013) p. 11460.

<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=discriminatoryeffectrule.pdf>

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that it is issuing a final rule “to formalize the national standard for determining whether a housing practice violates the Fair Housing Act as the result of discriminatory effect.” Under these disparate impact rules, plaintiffs can file discrimination claims without proving intent or the existence of a violation – they can now rely on statistical data that show how minority groups were treated in relation to others.

HUMAN SERVICES

World Family Map 2013: Mapping Family Change and Child Well-being Outcomes. Child Trends. Jan. 2013. 72 p.

<http://worldfamilymap.org/2013/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/WFM-2013-Final-lores-11513.pdf>

“The World Family Map Project seeks both to monitor the health of family life around the globe and to learn more about how family trends affect the well-being of children.... Fertility and marriage rates are falling in much of the world, especially in higher income regions. The percentage of children living in two-parent families is also falling, particularly in Europe, the Americas, and Oceania. Likewise, individualism is on the ascendancy, as is equality between the sexes, while family-centered values and adherence to traditional gender roles are losing ground in many regions. The global economic slowdown is also putting major pressures on family life, yet it is precisely in these times that strong families are needed to support optimal child and youth development.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

A Mission to Serve: State Activities to Help Military Veterans Access Transportation. By Jaime Rall, et al. National Conference of State Legislatures. Jan. 2013. 80 p.

http://www.ncsl.org/documents/transportation/NCSL_Mission_to_Serve_Veterans_Transportation_Report.pdf

“Many states are now working to ensure that every veteran – regardless of his or her geographical location, physical ability, financial constraints or other circumstances – has a dignified and dedicated means of transportation for everyday and special travel. In January 2013, NCSL produced an analysis of state activities that help military veterans access transportation, based on nationwide survey research.

The report summarizes ways in which states support veterans' transportation, including interagency coordination; funding; veterans' transportation programs; leadership; exemptions from fees, taxes, fares and tolls and more."

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