



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act: Jurisdictions Face Challenges to Implementing the Act, and Stakeholders Report Positive and Negative Effects. Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-211. Feb. 7, 2013. 56 p.

Report: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/652032.pdf>

Survey: <http://www.gao.gov/special.pubs/gao-13-234sp/>

An estimated 1 in every 5 girls and 1 in every 7 to 10 boys are sexually abused at some point. In 2006, Congress passed the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), which introduced new sex

offender registration standards for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and other U.S. territories and jurisdictions. For this study, GAO reviewed implementation reports from the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) and surveyed officials in the states and territories to determine to what degree SORNA had been implemented. GAO found that 19 of 37 jurisdictions that have submitted review packets to SMART (out of 56 possible respondents) have “substantially” implemented SORNA and that another 15 have implemented at least half of SORNA’s requirements. “GAO did not find any [studies] that evaluated the effects on public safety following SORNA implementation; stakeholders reported both positive and negative effects as a result of implementing the law.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Second-Generation Americans: A Portrait of the Adult Children of Immigrants.* Pew Research Center. Feb. 7, 2013. 130 p.**

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/02/07/second-generation-americans/>

“As the U.S. Congress gears up to consider immigration legislation, this new Pew Research report on second-generation Americans looks at the attitudes, values, life priorities, economic experiences, intergroup relations and identity markers of a group that will have a significant impact on the nation’s economy and politics for decades to come. Given current immigration trends and birth rates, virtually all (93%) of the growth of the nation’s working-age population between now and 2050 will be accounted for by immigrants and their U.S.-born children.... By then, the nation’s ‘immigrant stock’ ... could grow from 76 million now to more than 160 million, at which point it would comprise a record share (37%) of the U.S. population.”

ECONOMY

***Back from the Dead: State Estate Taxes After the Fiscal Cliff.* By Norton Francis. Urban-Brookings Tax Center, Urban Institute and Brookings Institution. Nov. 14, 2012. 26 p.**

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412694-Back-from-the-Dead.pdf>

“Shortly before the 112th Congress adjourned last week, members passed a sweeping deal to save the U.S. from hitting the fiscal cliff. Some of the revenue measures in the cliff deal may surprise state leaders, especially those with a focus on state estate taxes. One of the more widely publicized outcomes of the fiscal cliff deal was a compromise over the estate tax. The deal raised federal tax rate on inheritance from 35% to 40%, with the first \$5.25 million dollars exempted. Less publicized was the permanent elimination of an obscure federal tax credit that once generated billions for state budgets by siphoning off federal estate tax revenues.” (The Council of State Governments. *Capitol Ideas*. Jan. 10, 2013).

EDUCATION

***US Higher Education Outlook Negative in 2013.* By Eva Bogaty. Moody’s Investor Service. Jan. 16, 2013. 23 p.**

<http://www.marquette.edu/budget/>

Moody’s Investor Service has downgraded its prediction for elite research colleges and universities to match the negative rating the rest of the higher education sector has had since 2009. Factors include: increased student loan burden; the poor economy; falling perception of the reward of a college degree in the employment marketplace; and the increased cost of tuition and other college-related costs.

ENERGY

2012 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update. California Energy Commission. Feb. 13, 2013. 108 p.
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2012publications/CEC-100-2012-001/CEC-100-2012-001-CMF.pdf>

“Every two years, the California Energy Commission issues an *Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR)* that provides forecasts of energy supply and demand along with evaluations of the most current and pressing energy issues facing the state.... In the year following publication of the biennial *IEPR*, the Energy Commission publishes an energy policy review that provides updated information on topics raised in the biennial *IEPR*. The main element of this *2012 IEPR Update* is the Energy Commission’s Renewable Action Plan, which identifies actions to help California achieve its Renewables Portfolio Standard target of 33% renewables by 2020 and support potentially higher targets in the future.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Implementation of State Auditor’s Recommendations. Bureau of State Audits. Feb. 2013. 308 p.
<http://www.bsa.ca.gov/reports/summary/2013-406>

“This special report ... summarizes audits and investigations we issued from January 2011 through December 2012. This report includes the major findings and recommendations along with the corrective actions entities reportedly have taken to implement our recommendations.... To facilitate use of this report, we have included two tables ... that summarize the status of each entity’s implementation efforts by audit report.... This report includes another table ... that summarizes the monetary value associated with certain findings from reports we issued during the period January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2012.”

HEALTH

The 2013-14 Budget: Examining the State and County Roles in the Medi-Cal Expansion. Legislative Analyst’s Office. Feb. 20, 2013. 40 p.
<http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis/2013/health/ACA/medi-cal-expansion-021913.pdf>

“The expansion would likely have significant policy benefits, including improved health outcomes for the newly eligible Medi-Cal population. In the short term, fiscal savings to the state as a whole would far outweigh the nonfederal costs associated with providing health care to the expansion population. After a decade, when the enhanced federal matching rate is reduced from 100% to 90%, we estimate that overall savings to the state as a whole (state and local governments) would likely continue to outweigh costs.... We also find that the state is in a better position than the counties to effectively organize and coordinate the delivery of health services to the newly eligible population - potentially resulting in improved health outcomes and administrative efficiencies.”

Medi-Cal Expansion under the Affordable Care Act: Significant Increase in Coverage with Minimal Cost to the State. By Laurel Lucia, et al. UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education and UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Jan. 2013. 26 p.
http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/healthcare/medi-cal_expansion.shtml

“In early 2013, California legislators will consider bills to implement a key provision of the ACA that would expand Medi-Cal to low-income adults under age 65, including those without children living at home. Lawfully-present childless adults with income up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level and parents with income between 106% and 138% of the Federal Poverty Level will be newly eligible.... With the adoption of the Medi-Cal Expansion, we predict that ... [o]f the new Medi-Cal spending, 85% or more will be federally paid.”

HOUSING

“Patterns of Homeownership, Delinquency and Foreclosure among Youngest Baby Boomers.”
By Alison Aughinbaugh. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Beyond the Numbers: Special Studies and Research*, vol. 2, no. 2 (Feb. 2013). 9 p.

http://www.bls.gov/opub/btn/volume-2/pdf/patterns_of-homeownership.pdf

Patterns of homeownership vary greatly by race/ethnicity and education levels among baby boomers in the birth years of 1957-1964, from the years 1988 to 2008. In 2008, homeownership rose to 80% for the non-Black, non-Hispanic population in this group, whereas Black homeownership was at 60%, and Hispanic homeownership was at 50%. Those who completed college also showed higher levels of homeownership. Rates of foreclosure and delinquency fell along similar lines as homeownership.

HUMAN SERVICES

Prosperity Threatened: Perspectives on Childhood Poverty in California. By Rey Fuentes, et al. The Center for the Next Generation. Jan. 6, 2013. 41 p.

http://www.tcng.org/files/Prosperity_Threatened_Final.pdf

“[O]ur analysis of the latest Census Bureau data found that childhood poverty is endemic among California’s fastest-growing demographic segment – Hispanics – with nearly one in three Hispanic children in California living at or below the poverty line. The report contrasted these statistics with poverty data on seniors—of whom fewer than 1 in 10 live in poverty.... The report further found a correlation between education levels and childhood poverty rates; counties with the highest number of parents with college degrees also enjoy the lowest levels of childhood poverty; the inverse was also true.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

America’s Economy Mobile Application (U.S. Census Bureau)

<http://www.census.gov/mobile/>

“Take the pulse of the U.S. economy straight from your phone. The America’s Economy app provides real-time updates for 16 key economic indicators released from the U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Bureau of Economic Analysis. Key economic measures on employment, manufacturing, international trade, retail sales, and residential construction and sales allow those who follow the U.S. economy to be the first to see whether the indicator has gone up or down since the previous report, and trends over time.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

2012 Annual Urban Mobility Report. By David Schrank, et al. Texas A&M Transportation Institute. Dec. 2012. 70 p.

<http://d2dtl5nnlpr0r.cloudfront.net/tti.tamu.edu/documents/mobility-report-2012.pdf>

This year’s edition of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute’s annual report introduces a new measure of carbon dioxide emissions attributable to traffic congestion – estimated at 56 billion pounds, or roughly 380 pounds per automobile commuter. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana and San Francisco-Oakland ranked as the second- and third-most congested, large urban areas in the nation, respectively. The report estimated the per-commuter annual costs of congestion delays at \$1,300 for Los Angeles and \$1,266 for the Bay Area.

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