



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Sexual Abuse of Children with Disabilities: A National Snapshot. By Nancy Smith, et al. Vera Institute of Justice. Mar. 27, 2013. 12 p.

<http://www.vera.org/pubs/sexual-abuse-of-children-with-disabilities-national-snapshot>

Children with disabilities who are sexually abused are far less likely to receive victim services and other supports that are available to other victims. This may be due to a variety of factors including barriers to reporting and a lack of appropriate resources tailored to meet their needs. The Center on Victimization and Safety conducted a roundtable discussion with stakeholders to discuss critical gaps and opportunities in meeting the needs of these children. This report describes the findings of this project.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Americans Favor Limiting Sale of Unhealthy Food in Schools. By Lydia Saad, et al. Gallup. Mar. 12, 2013. 1 p.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/161318/americans-favor-limiting-sale-unhealthy-food-schools.aspx>

“Two-thirds of Americans say, if given the opportunity, they would vote for a law that limits food sold in public schools to food that meets standards for high nutritional value. Three-quarters of parents with children currently enrolled in public school and nearly two-thirds of nonpublic school parents favor this proposal.” The survey also found that the majority of respondents would not favor a law that prohibits junk food brought to school in children’s lunch boxes. While respondents did not believe a school junk food sale ban would solve the problem of childhood obesity, they felt it would help at least somewhat.

ECONOMY

The Economic Impact of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration in the United States. By Darryl Jenkins, et al. AUVSI: Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International. Mar. 2013. 40 p.

http://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/AUVSI/958c920a-7f9b-4ad2-9807-f9a4e95d1ef1/UploadedImages/New_Economic%20Report%202013%20Full.pdf

“California has the most to gain in terms of jobs and economic development when unmanned aircraft are allowed to operate in U.S. airspace.... The growth trajectory of innovation favors the state as military spending on drones decreases and commercial applications, such as firefighting and police uses, increases and universities incorporate creating new technology and uses for drones into their curricula.... As unmanned aircraft are integrated into national airspace, California could see more than 12,000 jobs associated with the industry by 2017.... Southern California is home to many manufacturers of drones and suppliers of components used on the places.” (*San Fernando Valley Business Journal*, Mar. 27, 2013).

EDUCATION

Recent Deep State Higher Education Cuts May Harm Students and the Economy for Years to Come. By Phil Oliff, et al. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Mar. 19, 2013. 21 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/files/3-19-13sfp.pdf>

California has increased tuition at its four-year public universities by nearly \$4,000 (over 70%) since 2008. This parallels decrease in per-student spending of nearly 30% in the same period. With the current higher education levels sought by employers, these price increases exacerbate the challenges facing both those looking for jobs and those offering them by making desired levels of education harder to attain.

EMPLOYMENT

Green Goods and Services Summary. U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mar. 19, 2013. 5 p.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/gggqcew.nr0.htm>

“In 2011, the percentage of total employment associated with the production of Green Goods and Services (GGS) increased by 0.1 percentage point to 2.6%.... The number of GGS jobs increased by 157,746 to 3,401,279. GGS employment accounted for 2.3% of private sector jobs and 4.2% of public

sector jobs in 2011. The private sector had 2,515,200 GGS jobs, while the public sector had 886,080 GGS jobs.... Among the states, California had the largest number of GGS jobs (360,245), accounting for 2.5% of employment in the state.”

ENERGY

Americans Want More Emphasis on Solar, Wind, Natural Gas. By Dennis Jacobe. Gallup Politics. Mar. 27, 2013. 1 p.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/161519/americans-emphasis-solar-wind-natural-gas.aspx>

“No fewer than two in three Americans want the U.S. to put more emphasis on producing domestic energy using solar power (76%), wind (71%), and natural gas (65%). Far fewer want to emphasize the production of oil (46%) and the use of nuclear power (37%). Least favored is coal, with about one in three Americans wanting to prioritize its domestic production.... Americans overall and across political and socioeconomic groups generally are most likely to call for more emphasis on solar and wind power.... Americans are sharply divided politically over achieving greater domestic energy production using more traditional energy sources such as oil, coal, and nuclear power.”

ENVIRONMENT

Lake Tahoe Water Clarity the Best in 10 Years. UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center. Feb. 27, 2013.

http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=10511

In an update to 2012's *Tahoe: State of the Lake Report*, researchers at the University of California, Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center report that Tahoe's summer clarity significantly improved last year. “The lake's clarity is measured by the depth at which a 10” white disk, called a Secchi disk, remains visible when lowered beneath the water's surface. The measurements have been taken since 1968, when the Secchi disk could be seen down to an average of 102.4 feet.... At 64.4 feet, summer clarity improved 13 feet from the 2011 value, but researchers say the persistent trend is still one of declining summer clarity.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Following the Money 2013: How the 50 States Rate in Providing Online Access to Government Spending Data. By Benjamin Davis, et al. Iowa PIRG Education Fund. Mar. 2013. 81 p.

<http://www.iowapirg.org/reports/iap/following-money-2013>

“In recent years, state governments across the country have created transparency websites that provide check-book-level information on government spending.... In 2013, for the first time, all 50 states provide some checkbook-level information on state spending via the Internet. In 48 states – all except California and Vermont – this information is now searchable.” California ranked 49th of 50 states overall in this Report Card.

HEALTH

Physical Activity, Park Access and Park Use among California Adolescents. By Susan H. Babey, et al. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Mar. 27, 2013. 8 p.

<http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/publications/search/pages/detail.aspx?PubID=1189>

“In California, 2.15 million adolescents (62.9%) do not engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity five or more days per week. Adolescents who visited a park in the past month and those who live in a park service area are more likely to meet this goal. Lower-income California adolescents are less likely to visit local parks and more likely to believe local parks are unsafe. Actions by state and local policymakers to increase park access and attractiveness, especially to underserved populations, may be an effective way to promote physical activity among California’s adolescents.”

HOUSING

How Housing Matters: Americans’ Attitudes Transformed by the Housing Crisis & Changing Lifestyles A Report of Findings. Hart Research Associates. Apr. 3, 2013. 26 p.

http://www.macfound.org/media/files/HHM_Hart_report_2013.pdf

The recovery from the housing crisis points to shifting views among Americans on homeownership. In a national survey, researchers found that 57% of respondents find buying a home less appealing, and 67% believe renting a home can be just as rewarding as owning a home. However, 7 in 10 respondents still believe in the economic and social stability that homeownership can bring to communities.

HUMAN SERVICES

Down and Out in Los Angeles and Berlin: The Sociospatial Exclusion of Homeless People. By Jurgen Von Mahs. Temple University Press. 2013. 191 p. (Available in the California State Library)

“Berlin and Los Angeles have been dubbed ‘homeless capitals’ for having the largest homeless populations of their respective countries.... [H]omeless people in both Germany and the United States experience ‘sociospatial exclusion’ in that their behaviors are criminalized [legal exclusion], their services are located in service ghettos [service exclusion], and their chances in the marketplace are impeded by their lack of resources and employability [market exclusion].... [S]ociospatial exclusion must be accounted for to maximize the effectiveness of homeless policy and service provision. [The author proposes] universal policy recommendations to improve local policy practice and service delivery and to overcome sociospatial exclusion, thus facilitating a more rapid and lasting exit from homelessness.”

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