



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 13-115

April 17, 2013

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*City-Attorney-Sponsored Unlawful Detainer in California Part I: Mandated Information 2013 Report to the California Legislature.* By Tonya D. Lindsey. California Research Bureau. Apr. 2013. 26 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/13/S-13-010.pdf>

"Unlawful Detainer (UD) refers to a tenant illegally occupying a rental property.... We asked, how do UD actors participate in the UD process? We find that per 100,000 people, Long Beach made the most intensive use of the UD program during 2011. Landlords directly responded to city attorney UD notices at a higher rate for weapon-related UD actions than for drug-related UD actions. A larger percentage of

weapon-related UD actions made it to court than drug-related actions did. While drug-related UD actions had the highest rate of tenants vacating prior to being noticed, weapon-related UD actions did for tenants vacating after being noticed.”

## ECONOMY

**2013 Thumbtack.com Small Business Survey: Methodology & Analysis.** By Nathan Allen, et al. Thumbtack; Kauffman Foundation. Mar. 26, 2013.

Report. 35 p.

<http://www.thumbtack.com/media/survey/2013/friendliness/v1/ThumbtackMethodologyPaper2013.pdf>  
**2012/2013 Rankings of States, Cities:** <http://www.thumbtack.com/survey#2013/states>

“A survey of nearly 8,000 small businesses throughout the country rates business climates of states and metro areas, providing clues to what these economic engines view as top concerns.... Training and networking programs were found to be the best predictor of overall scores, followed by a state’s economy and licensing requirements. Professional licensing – a source of frustration for many business owners – was 30% more important than tax codes in determining business-friendliness.... The larger the business, though, the more negatively it perceived its tax rate.” (*Governing*, Apr. 2, 2013).

## EDUCATION

**The Impact of Budget Cuts on California’s Community Colleges.** By Sarah Bohn, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Mar. 2013. 38 p.

[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R\\_313SBR.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_313SBR.pdf)

California Community College enrollment rates are at a 20-year low after \$1.5 billion in cuts between 2007-08 and 2011-12. Colleges have reduced staffing, cut course offerings, and raised class sizes to compensate for the cuts in state funding. Colleges have also prioritized continuing students’ access to classes, thus making it more difficult for new, first time students to register for the classes they need.

**Delivering on the Promise of Preschool: Investing in Social and Emotional Development and Early Math Skills.** By Sharon Huang. MDRC. Feb. 2013.

<http://www.mdr.org/delivering-promise-preschool-investing-social-and-emotional-development-and-early-math-skills>

Federal and state expenditures for children birth-to-age-5 preschool programs totaled more than \$30 billion in 2011. According to this study, the potential payoff is worth the investment, as demonstrated by model preschool programs that “... have been found to return \$4 to \$10 in future benefits per dollar spent” in helping prevent “risky behavior” and in “... boosting academic and labor market success.” However, challenges exist that could tarnish the promise of these preschools, especially regarding poor children’s lower scores on early literacy and math tests and the decline in preschool achievements that seem to occur as children age. Enhancing preschool children’s social and emotional development and early math skills are potential solutions to these challenges.

## EMPLOYMENT

**Regional and State Employment and Unemployment Summary – February 2013.** U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mar. 29, 2013. 20 p.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/laus.pdf>

“In February, the West continued to have the highest regional unemployment rate, 8.5%, while the South had the lowest rate, 7.3%.... California, Mississippi, and Nevada had the highest unemployment rates

among the states in February, 9.6% each.” However, California had a statistically significant over-the-month unemployment rate decline in February (-.02%) and a jobless rate decline (-1.2%). “The largest statistically significant job gains occurred in Texas (+80,600) and California (+41,200).”

## ENERGY

***Wind Energy: Additional Actions Could Help Ensure Effective Use of Federal Financial Support.*** By Frank Rusco. Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-136. Mar. 2013. 101 p.  
<http://gao.gov/assets/660/652957.pdf>

“GAO identified 82 federal wind-related initiatives, with a variety of key characteristics, implemented by nine agencies in fiscal year 2011.... The 82 initiatives incurred about \$2.9 billion in wind-related obligations and provided estimated wind-related tax subsidies totaling at least \$1.1 billion in fiscal year 2011, although complete data on wind-related tax subsidies were not available.... The 82 wind-related initiatives GAO identified were fragmented across agencies, most had overlapping characteristics, and several that financed deployment of wind facilities provided some duplicative financial support.”

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Entrepreneurial Assistance: Opportunities Exist to Improve Programs' Collaboration, Data-Tracking, and Performance Management.*** Testimony of William Shear, Director Financial Markets and Community Investment. Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-452T. Mar. 20, 2013. 19 p.  
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/653162.pdf>

This testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Small Business discusses GAO’s work on economic development programs that provide entrepreneurial assistance. GAO found that the 52 federal programs that support entrepreneurs “are fragmented and overlap based on the type of assistance they are authorized to offer ... and the type of entrepreneur they are authorized to serve.... [Further], agencies do not track program information on entrepreneurial assistance activities for many programs, a practice that is not consistent with government standards for internal controls. In addition, we found that 33 of the 52 programs had set goals for their programs, but 19 of these 33 programs did not meet any of their goals or only met some of their goals.”

## HEALTH

***State-Level Trends in Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance: A State-by-State Analysis.*** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Apr. 2013. 78 p.  
<http://www.rwjf.org/en/research-publications/find-rwjf-research/2013/04/state-level-trends-in-employer-sponsored-health-insurance.html>

This report provides a comprehensive 50-state comparison of trends in employer-sponsored insurance coverage rates, premium costs, and state variations. Between 1999/2000 and 2010/2011, the percent of the U.S. nonelderly population with ESI [employer-sponsored insurance] declined over 10%. California’s coverage fell 8.4%. Coverage in California for the poorest residents fell 6.8%, while the highest-income residents experienced only a 2% decline. The percent of 19-25 year olds covered by employer-sponsored health insurance rose 3.6%, but the percent of minors covered fell 7.9%.

## HOUSING

***Affordable Housing 2013.*** By Jennifer Burnett. Council of State Governments. Apr. 2013. 3 p.  
[http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/system/files/cr\\_affordablehousing\\_kc.pdf](http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/system/files/cr_affordablehousing_kc.pdf)

The recent recession created more difficulties for Americans in need of affordable housing. Job losses and stagnant wages contributed greatly to this problem. Those considered “severely cost burdened” (paying 30% or more in housing costs) in the middle income range (\$45,000 - \$74,999 annual income) grew from 2.7% to 5.1% from 2001 to 2010. At 49%, California is one of the three top states with the highest percentage of cost-burdened mortgage homeowners who pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Providing Foster Care for Young Adults: Early Implementation of California’s Fostering Connections Act.*** By Mark Courtney, et al. Chapin Hall, University of Chicago. Feb. 28, 2013. 49 p.  
[http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/Providing%20Foster%20Care%20For%20Young%20Adults\\_28.pdf](http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/Providing%20Foster%20Care%20For%20Young%20Adults_28.pdf)

"[M]any emancipated youth will experience poverty, homelessness, and contact with the criminal justice system after they exit foster care. The risks these youth face and their need for support during the transition to adulthood have been recognized since 1986 when Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, which covers adoption assistance and foster care, was amended to fund independent living services for emancipated foster youth and foster youth preparing for emancipation.... California became one of the earliest adopters of extended foster care when Assembly Bill 12, California’s Fostering Connections Act, became law in late 2010." This report examines the planning process for implementing California’s Fostering Connections Act as well as the new law’s early implementation.

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***DATALAB: Postsecondary and Pre-Elementary Education Data.*** National Center for Education Statistics.  
<http://nces.ed.gov/datalab/>

This link provides tools that allow the user to create tables and regressions using 15 NCES postsecondary survey datasets, browse 5,000+ tables from NCES’ publications, and download institutional data from 1986-87 to 2009-2010 that have been translated for longitudinal analysis.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***2013 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure.*** American Society of Civil Engineers. Mar. 2013.  
Report Card: <http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/>  
California Report Card: <http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/california/california-overview/>

The ASCE’s fifth Report Card since 1998 gives the nation’s infrastructure a “D+” grade, up slightly from four years ago. “Individual grades were given in the categories of aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, inland waterways, levees, ports, public parks and recreation, rail, roads, schools, solid waste, transit, and wastewater. Final grades were assigned based on capacity to meet future demand, condition, funding, future needs, operation and maintenance, public safety, resilience, and innovation.” The Report Card gave California a “C” grade, specifically noting that 68% of the state’s roads are in “mediocre” or “poor” condition, costing the average motorist \$586 per year in extra vehicle repairs

and maintenance. Further, 12% of California's 24,812 bridges are considered structurally deficient and 16.8% are deemed functionally obsolete.

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