



## Studies in the News

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Initial Report on CDCR's Progress Implementing its Future of California Corrections Blueprint.*

State of California Office of the Inspector General. Apr. 2013. 145 p.

[http://www.oig.ca.gov/media/reports/BIR/semiannual\\_reports/Initial%20Report%20on%20CDCRs%20Blueprint%20Implementation.pdf](http://www.oig.ca.gov/media/reports/BIR/semiannual_reports/Initial%20Report%20on%20CDCRs%20Blueprint%20Implementation.pdf)

"This report represents the results of our initial review of CDCR's [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's] implementation of the Blueprint.... The department has demonstrated good initial progress implementing its Blueprint goals. This report serves as a baseline review of the department's initial efforts, and subsequent reports will assess its progress meeting specified future benchmarks and goals of the Blueprint."

## ECONOMY

**2013 California Green Innovation Index.** By Doug Henton, Collaborative Economics. Next 10. Mar. 2013. 60 p.

<http://next10.org/sites/next10.huang.radicaldesigns.org/files/2013%20California%20Green%20Innovation%20Index%20031913.pdf>

“Since 2008, the Index has tracked economic impacts of innovative state policies that reduce carbon emissions. Trends identified in this year’s Index indicate that California’s clean economy is diversifying and advancing.... California has a long history of implementing innovating environmental and energy policies that have driven positive activity in our overall economy.... [This] Index documents the progress being made toward meeting the state’s 2020 emission reduction target.”

## EDUCATION

**State U Online.** By Rachel Fishman. New America Foundation. Apr. 2013. 48 p.

[http://education.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/FINAL\\_FOR\\_RELEASE\\_STATE\\_U\\_ONLINE.pdf](http://education.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/FINAL_FOR_RELEASE_STATE_U_ONLINE.pdf)

Florida has launched its first online-only university, and California and Texas look to do the same in the near future. Increasingly, it is important to establish guidelines and current practices for online university communities around the country. This report outlines a five-step process, starting with the Online Clearinghouse and ending with Shared Credentials Beyond State Borders is outlined, with examples of each step described in detail.

## EMPLOYMENT

**Greater than Seven in Ten Continue to Describe California’s Economy as Being in Bad Times.** The Field Poll. Mar. 2013. 7 p.

<http://www.field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/RIs2444.pdf>

In this latest Field Poll, more than seven in ten or 72% of California voters are “highly pessimistic” about California’s economy and describe it as being in “bad times.” Regarding the state’s unemployment picture, more than six in ten (61%) still believe the state’s unemployment situation is very serious, and about one in three voters (37%) “... do not expect job opportunities in the state to change in the coming year.” Another 25% expect the job picture to get worse as opposed to another 36% who think job opportunities will improve.

## ENERGY

**The Power of Wireless Cloud: An Analysis of Energy Consumption of Wireless Cloud.** Centre for Energy-Efficient Telecommunications. Apr. 2013. 12 p.

[http://www.ceet.unimelb.edu.au/pdfs/ceet\\_white\\_paper\\_wireless\\_cloud.pdf](http://www.ceet.unimelb.edu.au/pdfs/ceet_white_paper_wireless_cloud.pdf)

“Cloud computing has rapidly emerged as the driving trend in global Internet services. It is being promoted as a green technology that can significantly reduce energy consumption by centralising the computing power of organisations that manage large IT systems and devices.... However, focusing cloud efficiency debate on data centres alone obscures a more significant and complex problem and avoids the critical issue of inefficiency in the wireless access network.... Our energy calculations show that by 2015,

wireless cloud will consume up to 43 TWh, compared to only 9.2 TWh in 2012, an increase of 460%. This is an increase in carbon footprint from 6 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2012 to up to 30 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2015, the equivalent of adding 4.9 million cars to the roads.”

## ENVIRONMENT

***Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan.* California Natural Resources Agency. Mar. 2013. 17 p.**  
<http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/Library/DocumentsLandingPage/BDCPDocuments.aspx>

The California Natural Resources Agency is in the process of releasing the draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). Early chapters were published on March 14 and March 27. The remainder of the report was set to be released on April 27. “The comprehensive plan is the Brown administration’s proposal for new water intakes and tunnels and habitat restoration to reverse the decline of native fish populations in the Delta and provide reliable water deliveries for two-thirds of California’s population and much of the state’s agricultural economy. The plan has been developed over the last seven years, with substantial technical advice and input from federal agencies.”

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***The Fiscal Impact of Amendment 64 on State Revenues.* By Charles Brown, et al. Colorado Futures Center, Colorado State University. Apr. 24, 2013. 9 p.**  
<https://webcom.colostate.edu/coloradofutures/files/2013/04/CFC-Amendment-64-Study-final2.pdf>

“Colorado voters approved Amendment 64 in November 2012, legalizing the production, sale and use of adult recreational marijuana under Colorado law. Since then, various mechanisms of state government have been looking at how to implement the amendment, including how best to regulate and tax the sale of recreational marijuana.” This study weighs expected tax revenues from marijuana sales against incremental state expenditures related to legalization. Among its key findings is a warning that tax revenues from marijuana sales will not close Colorado’s structural budget gap.

## HEALTH

***Insuring the Future: Current Trends in Health Coverage and the Effects of Implementing the Affordable Care Act.* By Sara R. Collins, et al. The Commonwealth Fund. Apr. 2013. 44 p.**  
<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/Fund-Reports/2013/Apr/Insuring-the-Future.aspx>

“Using data from the Commonwealth Fund Biennial Health Insurance Survey of 2012, this report examines the current state of insurance coverage in the United States and its financial and health implications for working-age adults.... In 2012, nearly half (46%) of U.S. adults ages 19 to 64, an estimated 84 million people, did not have insurance for the full year or had coverage that provided inadequate protection from health care costs. Thirty percent, or 55 million people, were uninsured at the time of the survey or were insured but had spent some time uninsured in the past year.”

## HOUSING

**“Cost-Savings Associated with Prohibiting Smoking in U.S. Subsidized Housing.”**

By Brian A. King, et al. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, vol. 44, no. 6 (June 2013) pp. 1-4.

[http://www.ajpmonline.org/webfiles/images/journals/amepre/amepre\\_3767-stamped-041613.pdf](http://www.ajpmonline.org/webfiles/images/journals/amepre/amepre_3767-stamped-041613.pdf)

Prohibiting smoking in all U.S. subsidized housing could yield cost-savings of approximately \$521 million per year, including \$341 million in SHS-related healthcare expenditures, \$108 million in renovation expenses, and \$72 million in smoking-attributable fire losses. Prohibiting smoking in U.S. public housing alone would yield cost-savings of approximately \$154 million per year. Efforts to prohibit smoking in all U.S. subsidized housing would protect health and generate substantial cost-savings to society.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***The Missing “One-Offs”: The Hidden Supply of High-Achieving, Low Income Students.***

By Caroline M. Hoxby, et al. Brookings. Mar. 21, 2013. 49 p.

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Projects/BPEA/Spring%202013/2013a\\_hoxby.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Projects/BPEA/Spring%202013/2013a_hoxby.pdf)

“[T]he vast majority of very high-achieving students who are low-income do not apply to any selective college or university. This is despite the fact that selective institutions would often cost them less, owing to generous financial aid, than the resource-poor two-year and non-selective four-year institutions to which they actually apply.... Our results suggest that interventions are more likely to affect low-income students' college-going behavior if they [college admission staff] do not depend, for their efficacy, on the students being concentrated in a limited number of schools or small geographic areas.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Transitions to Alternative Vehicles and Fuels.*** Committee on Transitions to Alternative Vehicles and Fuels, et al. Mar. 22, 2013. 395 p.

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=18264](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18264) (Free guest registration required)

“This National Research Council report assesses the potential for reducing petroleum consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by the U.S. light-duty vehicle fleet by 80% by 2050. It examines the technologies that would contribute significantly to achieving these two goals and the barriers that might hinder their adoption. Four general pathways could contribute to attaining both goals - highly efficient internal combustion engine vehicles operating on biofuels, electricity, or hydrogen. Natural gas vehicles could contribute to the additional goal of reducing petroleum consumption by 50% by 2030.”

### About *Studies in the News*

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