



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

A Guide to Calculating Justice-System Marginal Costs. By Christian Henrichson, et al.
Vera Institute of Justice. May 2013.

Report. 28 p.: <http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/marginal-costs-guide.pdf>

Fact Sheet. 2 p.: <http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/marginal-costs-guide-fact-sheet.pdf>

"Governments are increasingly looking to economic analyses to inform their criminal justice policies and programs. The results will be useful to policymakers only if costs are calculated accurately. As discussed

in this guide, one challenge of collecting marginal costs is that although the process can seem straightforward, even small errors in calculations can compromise a cost-benefit analysis. Practitioners must devote the time and resources necessary to accurately calculate taxpayer costs. This attention to detail will make cost-benefit studies more valuable and can ultimately help generate justice programs and policies that are more cost-effective.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Less Than Equal: Racial Disparities in Wealth Accumulation.* By Signe-Mary McKernan, et al. Urban Institute. Apr. 2013. 6 p.**

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412802-Less-Than-Equal-Racial-Disparities-in-Wealth-Accumulation.pdf>

“Wealth is measured as total assets minus total liabilities/debt. Assets are the sum of financial assets and nonfinancial tangible assets.... Wealth disparities have worsened over the past 30 years. There is extraordinary wealth inequality between the races. In 2010, whites on average had six times the wealth of blacks and Hispanics. So for every \$6.00 whites had in wealth, blacks and Hispanics had \$1.00. The income gap, by comparison, is much smaller. In 2010, the average income for whites was twice that of blacks and Hispanics, meaning that for every \$2.00 whites earned, blacks and Hispanics earned \$1.00.... Because Hispanics and blacks are disproportionately low income, their wealth building is strongly affected by policies aimed at low-income families.”

“Young Women in Science and Technology: The Importance of Choice.” By Angeliki Dimitriadi. *Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship*, vol. 2, no. 5 (2013). 14 p.

<http://www.innovation-entrepreneurship.com/content/pdf/2192-5372-2-5.pdf>

Studies show that women participate in studying and working in science, engineering, and technology (SET) at lower rates than men do. “The under-representation of women in workforce related to SET careers - academia included - is a common issue in all countries regardless geographical areas....” The education level, attitude of the family unit, classroom experience, career guidance, gender stereotypes, and strong role models can help or hinder women’s participation in SET education and employment. “Awareness and sensitivity and training for teachers and kindergartens, schools and colleges, and adult educators are seen as an important first step in the right direction along with curricula reform as part of institutional change.... Mentoring and role model visibility is an additional step in targeting girls towards SET.... A gender-inclusive approach is needed to include men as well as women in the discussion, and curricula reforms have to be taken seriously.... In order for this to be achieved, transferability of best practices, new ideas, and policies is essential.”

ECONOMY

***The IP Commission Report: The Report of the Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property.* National Bureau of Asian Research. May 2013. 100 p.**

http://www.ipcommission.org/report/IP_Commission_Report_052213.pdf

This report provides an overview of the impact of international theft of American intellectual property on the U.S. economy. Findings include: while the exact amount of annual losses is difficult to determine, it is “likely to be comparable to the current annual level of U.S. exports to Asia – over \$300 billion.... [and] the major studies range in their estimates of China’s share of international IP theft; many are roughly 70%.” Due to the magnitude this theft has had on the economy and American jobs, as well as the increasingly sophisticated methods of stealing associated with cyber-crimes, the Commission states that more effective measures are required. The report includes short-term, medium-term and long-term remedies that policymakers can take to stem the tide.

EDUCATION

Reshaping the College Transition: States That Offer Early College Readiness Assessments and Transition Curricula. By Elisabeth Barnett, et al. Community College Research Center. May 2013. 5 p.

<http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/media/k2/attachments/reshaping-the-college-transition-state-scan.pdf>

States are assessing college readiness in 11th grade and offering transition curricula in courses, educational modules, or online tutorials to students whose assessments indicate the need for assistance to facilitate their transition to college. California has developed early assessments as a part of its state guidelines, and some local districts are making their transition curricula available.

EMPLOYMENT

Black Employment and Unemployment in April 2013. UC Berkeley Labor Center. May 2013. 21 p.
http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/blackworkers/monthly/bwreport_2013-05-03_61.pdf

“The unemployment rate for Blacks was 13.2% last month. This is according to the latest report on the nation’s employment situation released Friday morning by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in its monthly Employment Situation report. This rate was virtually unchanged from March, when unemployment in the Black community was 13.3%. For the nation as a whole, unemployment was 7.5% in the month of April; this was virtually unchanged from March when the national unemployment rate stood at 7.6%. Among whites, unemployment was 6.7%; among Latinos, unemployment was 9.0%. Comparable March 2013 figures were 6.7% and 9.2% respectively. Overall, total non-farm payroll employment increased by 165,000 jobs from last month.”

ENERGY

2013 U.S. Clean Tech Leadership Index. Clean Edge. June 2013. 52 p.
<http://www.cleantech.com/sites/default/files/CTLI-2013-Report.pdf>

This report “contains findings from the 2013 editions of Clean Edge’s State and Metro Indexes, which track activity in the U.S. based on a diverse set of underlying industry indicators at state and metro levels. Indicator performances are grouped into separate categories (for index weighting purposes) and ultimately used to calculate regional leadership scores. The STATE INDEX offers scores for all 50 states, derived from nearly 70 state-based indicators. The METRO INDEX uses more than 20 metro-based indicators to calculate scores for the 50 largest U.S. metropolitan statistical areas.” California ranks first among states and has five cities in the top ten metropolitan statistical areas.

ENVIRONMENT

Klamath Facilities Removal: Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report. U.S. Department of the Interior & CA Department of Fish and Game. Dec. 2012. (3 vols.) 2092 p.
<http://klamathrestoration.gov/Draft-EIS-EIR/download-draft-eis-eir>

The Department of the Interior released the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the removal of four dams from the Klamath River. The EIS states that the current dams impact water quality, degrade habitat quality, and expose migrating salmon to disease. The EIS looks at a number of alternatives, recommending the removal of four dams: Copco I, Copco II, Iron Gate and J.C. Boyle.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Distribution of Major Tax Expenditures in the Individual Income Tax System.

By Edward Harris, et al. Congressional Budget Office. May 2013. 31 p.

http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/43768_DistributionTaxExpenditures.pdf

Tax expenditures, including exclusions, deductions, preferential rates, etc., are distributed unevenly among households in the U.S. In 2013, “more than half of the combined benefits” of the 10 major tax expenditures “will accrue to households with income in the highest quintile (or one fifth) of the population.” These tax expenditures amount to losses in federal revenue estimated at \$12 trillion over the next decade.

HEALTH

“For States That Opt Out of Medicaid Expansion: 3.6 Million Fewer Insured and \$8.4 Million Less in Federal Payments.” By Carter C. Price, et al. *Health Affairs*, vol. 32 no. 6 (June 2013). 8 p.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/32/6/1030.full.pdf+html>

“With fourteen states opting out [of the Affordable Care Act], we estimate that 3.6 million fewer people would be insured, federal transfer payments to those states could fall by \$8.4 billion, and state spending on uncompensated care could increase by \$1 billion in 2016, compared to what would be expected if all states participated in the expansion. These effects were only partially mitigated by alternative options we considered. We conclude that in terms of coverage, cost, and federal payments, states would do best to expand Medicaid.”

HOUSING

Rental Housing in Rural America. Housing Assistance Council. Apr. 2013. 8 p.

http://www.ruralhome.org/storage/research_notes/rrn_rural_rental_housing.pdf

Forty-seven percent of rural renters are cost burdened (paying more than 30% of their income on rent), and nearly half of them spend more than 50% of their income on rent. Due to the lack of apartment structures in rural areas, nearly 43% of rural renters occupy single-family homes. California is on the list of the top ten states with the highest rural and small town rental rate and the largest number of rural and small town renter occupied units.

VETERANS

California Department of Veterans Affairs: It has Initiated Plans to Serve Veterans Better and More Cost-Efficiently, but Further Improvements are Needed. California State Auditor. Report 2012-119. May 2013. 63 p.

<http://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2012-119.pdf>

“This audit report concerns the California Department of Veterans Affairs’ (CalVet) management of the California veterans homes, including its efforts to improve operational efficiencies and revenue generation, and its planning efforts to leverage resources to serve more veterans. “ It finds a number of state laws and CalVet policies that limit the ability for the full cost recovery efforts of health care costs and hamper the maximum utilization of space at the homes. The report also points out the need for greater outreach and identifies weaknesses in oversight of state procurement guidelines for purchases made at the homes.

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