



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 13-125

June 26, 2013

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

21 counties exceed the jail capacity gap of inmate average daily population

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Poll: safety trumps privacy in federal tracking of phone calls

ECONOMY

Taxing the rich in the age of FDR

EMPLOYMENT

Promising strategies for employing people with disabilities

ENERGY

Redrawing the energy climate map

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Overview of retiree health care benefits for state employees

HEALTH

Boys with ADHD are at increased risk of obesity as adults

Evolving role of emergency departments in U.S. health care system

HOUSING

Immigrants contribute to U.S. economy via the housing market

HUMAN SERVICES

California ranks low in child well-being

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Biographical information about CA Governors

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Anticipated wave of retirements in railroad safety inspectors

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

California's County Jails. By Magnus Lofstrom, et al. Public Policy Institute of California.

June 2013. 1 p.

http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_show.asp?i=1061

This is a fact sheet containing general information, statistics, and costs related to the county jail system in California, especially since realignment began in October 2011. Since low-level felons can now go to county jails, there is no longer a 1-year maximum stay limit in county jails. The average daily population (ADP) in county jails has increased 16.5% since May 2011 to 80,864 inmates. Prior to realignment, the

ADP was steadily declining from a high of 84,275 inmates in September 2007 to 69,406 in May 2011. From September 2012, the ADP has been about 3,954 inmates over the jail capacity of 76,910 inmates set by the California Board of State and Community Corrections. Twenty-one counties have an ADP higher than this jail capacity cap, and 18 counties had a court-ordered population cap for at least one jail in their county. Although there is wide variance, the average daily cost is \$114 to house an inmate.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Public Says Investigate Terrorism, Even if it Intrudes on Privacy: Majority Views NSA Phone Tracking as Acceptable Anti-Terror Tactic. Pew Research Center/Washington Post. June 10, 2013. 14 p.

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/06-10-13%20PRC%20WP%20Surveillance%20Release.pdf>

“Currently 62% say it is more important for the federal government to investigate possible terrorist threats, even if that intrudes on personal privacy.... However, Republicans and Democrats have had very different views of the two operations. Today, only about half of Republicans (52%) say it is acceptable for the NSA [National Security Agency] to obtain court orders to track phone call records of millions of Americans to investigate terrorism. In January 2006, fully 75% of Republicans said it was acceptable for the NSA to investigate suspected terrorists by listening in on phone calls and reading emails without court approval. Democrats now view the NSA’s phone surveillance as acceptable by 64% to 34%. In January 2006, by a similar margin (61% to 36%), Democrats said it was unacceptable for the NSA to scrutinize phone calls and emails of suspected terrorists.”

ECONOMY

Their Fair Share: Taxing the Rich in the Age of FDR. By Joseph J. Thorndike. The Urban Institute Press. 2013. 349 p.

(Available in the California State Library)

“This book explores the emergence of the modern tax regime, focusing especially on the vital years between 1934 and 1943.... It then examines Franklin Roosevelt’s tax policies while governor of New York” and explores policies and laws that established new expectations regarding taxation that would be the foundation for many years afterwards. It concludes with a survey “evaluating post-war tax reform in light of New Deal precedents.”

EMPLOYMENT

“The Disability System and Programs to Promote Employment for People with Disabilities.” By David Wittenburg, et al. *IZA Journal of Labor Policy*, vol. 2, no. 4 (May 22, 2013) pp.1-25.

<http://www.izajolp.com/content/pdf/2193-9004-2-4.pdf>

The authors find that “...some intensive interventions targeted at specific populations showed positive employment impacts. The interventions that demonstrated the most promising effects tended to provide customized supports to more narrowly targeted subgroups, particularly younger persons and those with psychiatric impairments. Our findings also highlight the challenges that federal agencies face in developing broad employment initiatives, which have likely limited the interventions’ effects. There are substantive lessons to be learned from all demonstrations - including those that failed to have large impacts on employment. In particular, a number of demonstrations have shown the importance of starting with smaller pilots before full-scale implementation of a larger policy initiative.”

ENERGY

Redrawing the Energy-Climate Map: World Energy Outlook Special Report. International Energy Agency. June 10, 2013. 134 p.

<http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/media/weowebiste/2013/energyclimatemap/RedrawingEnergyClimateMap.pdf>

According to this report, “[t]he world is not on track to meet the target agreed to by governments to limit the long term rise in the average global temperature to 2 degrees Celsius.” It maps out the current status and expectations of global climate and energy policy; including specific measures for the energy sector that can be quickly and effectively implemented at no net economic cost (to help keep the two degrees Celsius target alive while international negotiations continue). The report uses California’s initiative as an example of plans to price carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Spotlight on Retiree Health Care Benefits for State Employees in 2013. By Joshua Franzel, et al. Center for State and Local Government Excellence. June 4, 2013. 7 p.

http://slge.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Center_NASRA_OPEB_Spotlight_June2013.pdf

“This brief uses recent data samples to highlight characteristics of health benefits states offer to their retired workforce while exploring how the health benefit differs from pension benefits available to this same group. In addition to these distinctions, this brief considers the underlying OPEB [other post-employment benefits] finances, approaches states take to paying for retiree health care, and the range of policy and program changes made to retiree health benefits by states since the recent 18-month recession ended in 2009.”

HEALTH

“Obesity in Men With Childhood ADHD: A 33-Year Controlled, Prospective, Follow-up Study.” By Samuele Cortese, et al. *Pediatrics*, vol. 131, no. 6 (June 2013) 10 p.

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2013/05/15/peds.2012-0540>

This study compared Whites diagnosed between the ages of 6 and 12 with Attention Deficit/Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) with Whites who did not have ADHD. The participants were interviewed at various ages. At age 41, each subject self-reported his weight and body mass index (BMI). Men who had been diagnosed with ADHD in childhood reported higher BMI and obesity rates than those who did not have ADHD. The results suggest that children with ADHD are at increased risk of obesity as adults.

The Evolving Role of Emergency Departments in the United States. By Kristy Gonzalez Morganti, et al. RAND Health. May 16, 2013. 79 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR280.html

Oftentimes, the cost of an emergency department (ED) visit can be one-tenth that of a hospital stay. This report explores the multiple roles and fiscal implications associated with the modern ED: “[E]mergency physicians are increasingly serving as the major decision maker for approximately half of all hospital admissions in the United States. This role has important financial implications, not only because admissions generate the bulk of facility revenue for hospitals, but also because inpatient care accounts for 31% of national health care spending. Although the core role of EDs is to evaluate and stabilize seriously ill and injured patients, the vast majority of patients who seek care in an ED walk in the front door and leave the same way.”

HOUSING

Immigrants Boost U.S. Economic Vitality through the Housing Market. Americas Society/Council of the Americas, et al. June 20, 2013. 2 p.

<http://www.renewoureconomy.org/sites/all/themes/pnae/immigration-and-housing.pdf>

Interactive map: <http://www.renewoureconomy.org/index.php?q=housingmap>

Using census data from 1970 to 2000, this report states that the “40 million immigrants in the United States have created \$3.7 trillion in housing wealth, helping stabilize less desirable communities where home prices are declining or would otherwise have declined.” Immigrant workers strengthen the housing market by driving housing demand with their purchasing power, increasing economic opportunity in communities where they locate, and shifting demand toward neighborhoods that have fallen out of favor.

HUMAN SERVICES

2013 Kids Count Data Book. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. June 24, 2013. 58 p.

http://www.childrenow.org/uploads/documents/casey_data_book_2013.pdf

“Since 1990, KIDS COUNT has ranked states annually on overall child well-being using an index of key indicators.... The latest data show continued incremental improvement in educational achievement and child health and safety, as well as a record low level of teen births. At the same time, children and families are still coping with the effects of the recession and continued high unemployment.” California ranks 41st in overall child well-being, 46th in economic well-being, 39th in education, 29th in health, and 42nd in family and community.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

The Governors' Gallery. California State Library.

<http://governors.library.ca.gov/>

“This website is a tribute to the individuals who have served as chief executive of the State of California from the birth of the state in 1849 to the present.... Governors' Gallery contains a portrait, a biography, and inaugural addresses for each governor. The biographies provide a brief glimpse into the rich political and personal life of each governor.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Rail Safety: Preliminary Observations on Federal Rail Safety Oversight and Positive Train Control Implementation. By Susan A. Fleming. Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-679T. June 19, 2013. 22 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/655298.pdf>

In this testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the GAO identified several key challenges to the Federal Rail Administration's (FRA) rail safety oversight program. First, the FRA forecasts that about a third of its inspectors will retire within the next five years, but the FRA has not developed clear plans to address this coming loss of expertise. Second, although the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 mandated that the FRA issue rules within four years requiring certain railroads to submit risk reduction plans, these final rules have not yet been promulgated. Third, the GAO expects that many railroads will be unable to meet the 2015 deadline specified in the 2008 Act for full implementation of Positive Train Control technologies.

About *Studies in the News*

Studies in the News (SITN) is a service provided by the California Research Bureau (CRB), a division of the California State Library. CRB provides independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the Governor, Legislature and State Constitutional Officers.

- SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed weekly. Archived issues are available at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb>.
- To add or remove your name from the SITN distribution list, or to update your e-mail address, please contact us at crb@library.ca.gov, or (916) 319-2691.
- SITN is available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.