



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Data Breach Report 2012. Attorney General's Office, Calif. Dept. of Justice. May 17, 2013. 40 p.

<http://www.docstoc.com/docs/159647789/BREACH-REPORT-2012>

"California landmark law on data breach notification, which requires businesses and state agencies to notify Californians when their personal information is compromised in a security breach, took effect in 2003.... [I]ts intent was to give consumers early warning that they were at risk of identity theft, so they could take defensive action.... In 2012, the Attorney General's Office received reports of 131 data breaches, each affecting more than 500 California residents." Among key findings of this report: more than 2.5 million Californians were put at risk by data breaches in 2012; more than 1.4 million Californians

would not have been at risk if the data had been encrypted; and more than half of the breaches (56%) involved Social Security numbers.

ECONOMY

Undocumented Immigrants' State and Local Tax Contributions. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. July 2013. 9 p.

<http://www.itep.org/pdf/undocumentedtaxes.pdf>

“Granting citizenship to 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States could boost state and local government coffers by about \$2 billion annually.... The state-by-state analysis ... is based on tallies of increased income, sales, excise and property taxes that undocumented immigrants would pay if they gained legal status. They already pay \$10.6 billion in taxes to state and local governments.” The report estimates state and local contributions for the 11.2 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S., as well as projected revenue increases due to immigration reform. California’s estimated revenues would increase over \$327 million. (*Reuters*, July 10, 2013).

EDUCATION

School Lunch: Modifications Needed to Some of the New Nutrition Standards. By Kay E. Brown. Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-708T. June 2013. 25 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/655543.pdf>

In this testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, the GAO stated that “[t]he National School Lunch Program served 31.6 million children in fiscal year 2012, in part through \$11.6 billion in federal supports.... School districts faced several challenges implementing the new lunch requirements in school year 2012-2013.... The meat and grain restrictions also led to smaller lunch entrees, making it difficult for some schools to meet minimum calorie requirements for lunches without adding items, such as gelatin.... GAO recommends that USDA permanently remove the meat and grain maximum requirements and allow flexibility to help districts comply with the lack of overlap in the calorie ranges for grades 6-8 and 9-12 lunches.”

EMPLOYMENT

Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements through 2020. By Anthony P. Carnevale, et al. Georgetown Public Policy Institute. June 2013. 111 p.

<http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/Recovery2020.FR.Web.pdf>

“The highest job growth post-recession has been for holders with a bachelor's degree or better.... Total jobs will increase from 140 million in 2010 to 165 million in 2020. There will be 55 million job vacancies between 2010 and 2020 due to net new jobs (24 million) and retirement (31 million).... By 2020, 65% of all jobs will require postsecondary education and training, up from 28% in 1973.... Of all jobs in 2020, 24% will require a bachelor's degree.... By 2020, fewer jobs will be available to people with less than high school or only a high school diploma. Jobs will increase for those with associate's degrees or better but flatten out overall at the highest educational attainment levels.”

ENERGY

California's Energy Future – The Potential for Biofuels. By Heather Youngs, et al. California Council on Science and Technology. May 2013. 64 p.
<http://www.ccst.us/publications/2013/2013biofuels.pdf>

“California has a policy goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG’s) to levels 80% below 1990 emissions (90% below 2005 emissions) by 2050. Transportation emissions currently account for 40% of California’s GHG emissions. The focus of this report is an assessment of the potential for biomass-based fuels to contribute to the energy needs of California, particularly for transportation, in 2050 while attaining the current policy goals for GHG emissions.”

ENVIRONMENT

Contaminants in Fish from California Rivers and Streams, 2011. By J.A. Davis, et al. Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP), California State Water Resources Control Board. May 22, 2013. 54 p.
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/rivers_study/rs_rptonly.pdf

Concentrations of contaminants such as methylmercury and pesticides in sport fish were found to be low at the majority of locations sampled in the first-ever systematic statewide survey of California rivers and streams. Fish high in the food chain in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region, however, such as largemouth, smallmouth and striped bass, and Sacramento pike minnow, showed a high accumulation of methylmercury.

HEALTH

Internet Pharmacies: Federal Agencies and States Face Challenges Combating Rogue Sites, Particularly Those Abroad. Government Accountability Office. GAO 13-560. July 2013. 55 p.
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-560>

“Rogue Internet pharmacies are often complex, global operations, and federal agencies face substantial challenges investigating and prosecuting those involved. According to federal agency officials, piecing together rogue Internet pharmacy operations can be difficult because they may be composed of thousands of related websites, and operators take steps to disguise their identities.... Despite these challenges, federal and state agencies as well as stakeholders have taken actions to combat rogue Internet pharmacies.”

HOUSING

“The Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Heat Risk-Related Land Cover in Relation to Residential Segregation.” By Bill M. Jesdale, et al. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, vol. 121, no. 7 (July 2013) pp. 811-817.
<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/121/7/ehp.1205919.pdf>

“Researchers at UC Berkeley used satellite imagery to find neighborhoods in hundreds of U.S. cities where there are few shade trees and a lot of heat-absorbing, impervious surfaces like pavement, cement or roofing. The authors paired that information with data from the 2000 Census to find that blacks were 52% more likely than whites to live in ‘urban heat islands’ – microclimates that can get an extra 5 to 10 degrees warmer during heat waves – while Asians were 32% more likely and Latinos were 21% more

likely. The study ... also found that people who live in more segregated cities, including whites, are more likely to live in heat-absorbing neighborhoods.” (*Los Angeles Times*, July 9, 2013).

HUMAN SERVICES

***The High Cost of Caring: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.* By D. Imelda Padilla-Frausto, et al. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. June 2013. 8 p.**

<http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/publications/Documents/PDF/grandparentspb-jun2013.pdf>

“[T]he actual income needed to support a basic standard of living for older adults with grandchildren in California is about twice the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), depending on the county. Using 200% FPL as an approximate measure, about two-fifths of older grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren in the state do not have enough income to make ends meet. The Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index (Elder Index) for California calculates that the costs of housing, food, and the older adults’ health care account for more than two-thirds of total household expenses for grandparents and the grandchildren they are raising. Despite the high cost of basic needs, public assistance for low-income older adults and children continues to be squeezed.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Contribution of the High-Speed Rail Program to Reducing California's Greenhouse Gas Emission Levels.* California High-Speed Rail Authority. June 2013. 27 p.**

http://www.hsr.ca.gov/docs/about/legislative_affairs/HSR_Reducing_CA_GHG_Emissions_2013.pdf

This report was prepared pursuant to Provision 10 of Item 2665-306-6043 of SB 1029, the Budget Act of 2012 (Chapter 52, Statutes of 2012), requiring the HSRA to analyze the net impact of the high-speed rail program on greenhouse gas emissions in California. The HSRA projects that the program would reduce carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions in the state by 160,000 to 330,000 metric tons per year in 2022, its first year of operation, rising to 550,000 to 1.05 million metric tons per year in 2026. These assume a “full ridership” forecast for the initial operating section in the Central Valley, with larger operational savings to follow as the system expands. The report states that the HSRA authority is “committed to achieving zero net GHG emissions related to construction activities,” partly through a tree-planting program.

VETERANS

***Working-Family Tax Credits Help Over 1 Million Military Families: Credits Keep More Than 140,000 Veteran and Active-Duty Families Out of Poverty.* By Arloc Sherman. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. July 2, 2013. 3 p.**

<http://www.cbpp.org/files/7-2-13pov.pdf>

“About one in four current or former armed forces families with children, or 1.5 million military families, receive either the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or the low-income component of the Child Tax Credit (CTC), two tax credits for low- and moderate-income working families, according to an analysis of Census and IRS data. In about 280,000 of these families, a parent is currently serving in the armed forces; in the rest, a parent is a veteran.” This brief includes state level estimated numbers of military families receiving the EITC or CTC across the nation.

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