



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***The Potential of Community Corrections to Improve Safety and Reduce Incarceration.* By Peggy McGarry, et al. Vera Institute of Criminal Justice. July 2013.**

Full Report. 36 p.:

<http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/potential-of-community-corrections.pdf>

Fact Sheet. 2 p.:

<http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/potential-of-community-corrections-fact-sheet.pdf>

"While mass incarceration has received significant attention in the media, less well known is how many offenders are sent to community supervision. In 2009, seven out of every ten offenders were serving all or part of their sentences in the community, a rate that has remained roughly the same over the last 30 years.... In 2009, 5.1 million – or one out of every 45 adults in the United States – was under some form

of criminal justice supervision in the community.... [Community Corrections] agencies face significant pressure to ease strained budgets, reduce institutional crowding, and provide a greater return on public safety dollars.”

ECONOMY

Numbers in the News: California Poised to Move Up in World Economy Rankings in 2013.
Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy. July 2013. 4 p.
<http://www.ccsce.com/PDF/Numbers-July-2013-CA-Economy-Rankings-2012.pdf>

“California’s economic recovery and economic crisis in Europe should allow the state to regain its No. 8 ranking in the global economy.... Steve Levy, the Palo Alto-based organization’s director, cited the latest data on California’s \$2 trillion economy and numbers from the World Bank to conclude that the state should stand alone in the No. 8 position behind the entire United States, China, Japan, Germany, France, United Kingdom (Britain) and Brazil.” This study provides an overview as well as comparisons between some larger economic states in the nation and regional rankings within California. (*Capitol Alert*, July 11, 2013).

EDUCATION

Hard Times: College Majors, Unemployment and Earnings 2013. By Anthony Carnevale, et al.
Georgetown Policy institute. May 2013. 17p.
<http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/HardTimes.2013.2.pdf>

Not every college degree is worth the same in the job market. Nursing and elementary education graduates have shown the lowest unemployment rates, whereas architecture and information systems have exhibited the highest rates. Engineering, computers, mathematics, and health degrees showed the highest earnings; recreation, social sciences, and art had the lowest earnings among recent graduates. Still, college graduates, on average, fared significantly better in employment outcomes and earnings than their less-educated peers. The choice of degree program helped determine earnings and employment as well.

A Review of the Nation’s Teacher Preparation Programs, 2013. National Council on Teacher Quality. June 2013. 112 p.
http://www.nctq.org/dmsStage/Teacher_Prep_Review_2013_Report

This national review of over 600 teaching programs found roughly 70% are not providing elementary teacher candidates with sufficient and current training in reading. Of the 71 programs reviewed for California, 64% received the lowest possible rating, which was attributed to the B.A. in Elementary Education in the 1970s being replaced with a 1-year post-B.A. teaching preparatory program.

EMPLOYMENT

To Train or Not to Train: Is Workforce Training a Good Public Investment? By Daniel Rounds.
California Senate Office of Research. May 2013. 16 p.
http://www.sor.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B3BDD1595-792B-4D20-8D44-626EF05648C7%7D/uploads/Policy_Matters--To_Train_or_Not_to_Train.pdf

“[C]urrent research suggests job training may lead to greater impacts on income and employability over the medium to long term for certain groups of workers, primarily low- skilled workers, workers with an outdated skill set, and workers with other barriers to employment.... Researchers estimate that workers can expect earnings gains of about 5% to 10% for every year of postsecondary college credit they

complete, with some variation depending on the study cited, the demographic group in question, and the type of educational institution providing the training or education.” Though there is some past evidence that work-first programs benefit workers, methodological problems make generalizing findings difficult, and, for those studies that are more methodologically sound, benefits of work-first are short-lived and matter more for workers who have in-demand skill sets already. Worker education and skill-level, medium to long-term benefit of training, and quality and intensity of training program are all factors to weigh when “determining when, how, and for whom to invest for workforce training.”

ENERGY

***U.S. Energy Sector Vulnerabilities to Climate Change and Extreme Weather.* U.S. Dept. of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. July 2013.**

Report. 83 p.:

<http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2013/07/f2/20130710-Energy-Sector-Vulnerabilities-Report.pdf>

Interactive map: <http://energy.gov/articles/climate-change-effects-our-energy>

“The nation’s entire energy system is vulnerable to increasingly severe and costly weather events driven by climate change.... The blackouts and other energy disruptions of Hurricane Sandy were just a foretaste, the report says. Every corner of the country’s energy infrastructure — oil wells, hydroelectric dams, nuclear power plants — will be stressed in coming years by more intense storms, rising seas, higher temperatures and more frequent droughts.” (*New York Times*, July 11, 2013).

ENVIRONMENT

***Californians and the Environment.* Public Policy Institute of California. July 2013. 35 p.**

<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=1065>

The recently issued 13th annual survey of Californian’s opinion on environmental issues examined attitudes on climate change, energy policy, fuel economy standards and AB 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act). The results revealed that 65% of the respondents preferred that the government act immediately to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a 9% increase since 2012. The survey also showed support for reducing emissions through energy policy such as requiring companies to produce fuel with lower emissions; setting higher limits on power plant emissions; and reducing emissions from new cars. The survey also revealed that a majority of respondents favor stricter regulations on hydraulic fracturing or fracking, in the state.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***States’ Use of Cost-Benefit Analysis: Improving Results for Taxpayers.* Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative. July 2013. 56 p.**

http://www.pewstates.org/uploadedFiles/PCS_Assets/2013/Pew_Results_First_50state_report.pdf

More states are using cost-benefit analyses to evaluate the effectiveness of state programs. However, many states face challenges with the time, cost and skilled staff necessary to carry out these studies. California leads the way among states in the production, scope, and use of such studies to support policy-making decisions.

HEALTH

Mental Health Care in California: Painting a Picture. California Health Care Foundation. July 2013. 46 p.

<http://www.chcf.org/publications/2013/07/mental-health-california/>

“Nearly 1 in 6 California adults has a mental health need, and approximately 1 in 20 suffers from a serious mental illness that makes it difficult to carry out major life activities. The rate among children is even higher: 1 in 13 suffers from a mental illness that limits participation in daily activities.” This report uses 2009-2010 data to provide an overview of mental health in California, including funding, use of services, and the role of care providers.

HUMAN SERVICES

Rising Demand for Long-Term Services and Supports for Elderly People. By Stuart Hagen, et al. Congressional Budget Office. June 2013. 44 p.

<http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/44363-LTC.pdf>

“By 2050, one-fifth of the total U.S. population will be elderly (that is, 65 or older), up from 12% in 2000 and 8% in 1950.... That growth in the elderly population will bring a corresponding surge in the number of elderly people with functional and cognitive limitations....The term long-term services and supports (LTSS) refers to the types of assistance provided to people with functional or cognitive limitations to help them perform routine daily activities.... LTSS expenditures for elderly people now account for an estimated 1.3% of gross domestic product (GDP). That share is likely to rise in the future as the population ages.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

2013 Distracted Driving: Survey of the States. Governors’ Highway Safety Association. July 2013. 56 p.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/puczoofr2uajvm6/2013_distraction.pdf

The Governors’ Highway Safety Association surveyed its membership in late 2012 to assess how states have been responding to what is now recognized as a significant safety issue on the nation’s roadways. Forty states now identify distracted driving as an important issue in their respective Strategic Highway Safety Plans, up from 28 states in 2010. Forty-one states and the District of Columbia now ban text messaging while driving, also up from 28, and bans were under legislative consideration in the remaining nine states as of early 2013. Eleven states now ban hand-held cellphone usage while driving, up from eight in 2010.

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