



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 13-136

September 11, 2013

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mortality in Local Jails and State Prisons, 2000-2011: Statistical Tables. By Margaret E. Noonan, et al. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Aug. 13, 2013. 41 p.

<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/mljisp0011.pdf>

This report is a compilation of data on the number of prison and jail deaths in the United States between 2000 and 2011. The numbers are broken out by cause of death, as well as state, age, gender and racial

demographic information. “In 2011, cancer was the most common cause of death in prisons, followed by heart disease, liver disease, respiratory disease, and AIDS-related deaths. As with previous years, cancer and heart disease accounted for more than half (56%) of all prison deaths in 2011.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***The Hole in Our Collective Memory: How Copyright Made Mid-Century Books Vanish.* By Paul J. Heald. University of Illinois College of Law. July 2013. 2 p.**
http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2290181 (Available at the California State Library)

“[T]here are substantially more new editions available of books from the 1910s than from the 2000s. Editions of books that fall under copyright are available in about the same quantities as those from the first half of the 19th century. Publishers are simply not publishing copyrighted titles unless they are very recent.... The books that are the worst affected by this are those from pretty recent decades, such as the 80s and 90s, for which there is presumably the largest gap between what would satisfy some abstract notion of people’s interest and what is actually available.” (*The Atlantic*, July 2013).

ECONOMY

***A Decade of Flat Wages: The Key Barrier to Shared Prosperity and a Rising Middle Class.* By Lawrence Mishel, et al. Economic Policy Institute. EPI Briefing Paper #365. Aug. 21, 2013. 18 p.**
<http://www.epi.org/files/2013/BP365.pdf>

“The weak wage growth over 2000–2007, combined with the wage losses for most workers from 2007 to 2012, mean that between 2000 and 2012, wages were flat or declined for the entire bottom 60% of the wage distribution (despite productivity growing by nearly 25% over this period).” This report concludes with recommendations to restore the buying power of low- and middle-income workers.

EDUCATION

“Who Pays the Tab for K-12 Education?” By Michael Griffith. *The Progress of Education Reform*, vol. 14 no. 4 (Aug. 2013) 7 p.
<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/08/47/10847.pdf>

Most “states split the cost of [K-12] education based on a district’s wealth – commonly referred to as the ‘ability-to-pay’.... Using property values as the only measure for a district’s ability can be problematic [because] there is not necessarily a correlation between property values and a property owner’s ability to pay taxes. This can be particularly true for areas in the state that have had skyrocketing property increases, such as lakefront property, that greatly outstripped any increases in local income.” This report addresses the issues associated with calculating school district wealth and discusses some alternatives to the traditional property value-based measure.

***California Higher Education: An Overview.* By Tonya D. Lindsey, et al. California Research Bureau. Sep. 2013. 2 p.**
<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/13/S-13-016.pdf>

More than 3 million students are enrolled in classes at the state’s nearly 150 public colleges and universities and more than 1500 private higher education institutions. Of Californians between the ages of 18-24, around 45% are enrolled in undergraduate or graduate courses, with women enrolled at a much higher rate than men. Although both men and women frequently obtain degrees in business, social

science, and fine arts, women also gravitate toward psychology and communications, whereas men tend to gravitate toward the fields of engineering, computer science and information systems.

EMPLOYMENT

Regional Concentrations of Scientists and Engineers in the United States. By Beethika Kahn, et al. National Science Foundation. Aug. 2013. 6 p.
<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf13330/>

“In 2011, about 5.7 million workers were employed in S&E [science and engineering] occupations across the United States.... The three most populous states – California, Texas, and New York – together accounted for more than one-fourth of all S&E employment.... [and] despite accounting for one in four S&E workers in the nation, had lower shares of their employed population in S&E occupations.... The two local areas with the largest S&E employment were in California – the areas in the vicinity of Santa Clara in Northern California and Los Angeles in Southern California.”

ENERGY

Measuring the Solar Potential of a City and Its Implications for Energy Policy. By Hugh Byrd, et al. University of Auckland, New Zealand. July 15, 2013. 15 p.
http://www.interest.co.nz/sites/default/files/solar_potential_of_a_city_.pdf

“This research investigates the maximum potential energy that can be made available by efficiently installing PV [photovoltaic] systems on buildings throughout a city, from the central business district (CBD) out to low density suburbs.... The results indicate that low dense suburbia is not only the most efficient collector of solar energy but that enough excess electricity can be generated to power daily transport needs of suburbia and also contribute to peak daytime electrical loads in the city centre. This challenges conventional thinking that suburbia is energy inefficient.”

ENVIRONMENT

Salton Sea Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Plan. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. Aug. 20, 2013. 243 p.
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2013/1133/>

“As part of efforts to identify an ecosystem restoration program for the Salton Sea, and in anticipation of direction from the Legislature, the California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Geological Survey have established a team to develop a monitoring and assessment plan [MAP]. The goal of the MAP is to provide a guide for data collection, analysis, management, and reporting to inform management actions for the Salton Sea ecosystem.”

HEALTH

The Aging of the Baby Boom and the Growing Care Gap: A Look at Future Declines in the Availability of Family Caregivers. By Donald Redfoot, et al. AARP Public Policy Institute. Aug. 22, 2013. 12 p.

<http://www.aarp.org/home-family/caregiving/info-08-2013/the-aging-of-the-baby-boom-and-the-growing-care-gap-AARP-ppi-ltc.html>

This report discusses the decline in the ratio of caregivers (family members, partners and close friends) to baby boomers in need of long-term services and supports (LTSS). “As the population in this age group [age 80 and over] increases during the next 20 years, the number of people in the primary caregiving years (ages 45–64) is projected to remain flat, due in part to changing family size and composition. As a result, the availability of potential family caregivers (mostly adult children) to arrange, coordinate, and provide LTSS is expected to decline dramatically and overall care burdens will likely intensify – especially as baby boomers move into late old age.”

HOUSING

Paycheck to Paycheck 2013: A Snapshot of Metropolitan Housing Affordability for Travel and Tourism Workers. By Maya Brennan, et al. Center for Housing Policy, National Housing Conference. Aug. 2013. 5 p.

http://www.nhc.org/media/files/Paycheck2013_Analysis.pdf

“Unfortunately for many travel and tourism workers, typical housing costs in many U.S. metro areas are beyond what they can afford. On the lower end of the income spectrum, housekeepers and wait staff cannot affordably rent a typical two-bedroom unit in any of the 207 metro areas studied, and can only afford to buy a home in a few of the lowest priced markets in the nation.” This report identifies the ten most expensive metro areas for homeownership and renting, several of which are in California, and discusses the trade-offs necessary for low- and middle-income workers who live in these metro areas.

HUMAN SERVICES

Poverty in California. By Sarah Bohn, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Aug. 2013. 2 p.

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/jtf/JTF_PovertyJTF.pdf

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/jtf/JTF_ChildPoverty.pdf

“Poverty in California” and its companion piece, “Child Poverty in California,” examine the state of California’s family and children in poverty based on data from American Community Survey and Current Population Survey of the Census Bureau. Findings include: “1) California typically has a higher poverty rate than the rest of the nation; 2) Latinos and African Americans have higher poverty rates than other groups; 3) Poverty varies dramatically in accordance with education level; 4) Poverty rates are particularly high among single-mother and less-educated families.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

“Legal Aspects of Conservation Easements: A Primer for Transportation Agencies.” By Tyson Smith, et al. *Legal Research Digest* 60 (Aug. 2013) 52 p.

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_lrd_60.pdf

“Conservation easements have become an increasingly popular and useful mechanism to transfer and protect interests in real property. This digest, written as a primer, provides an introduction and general

overview of key conservation easement topics, from their origin in common law to key concepts in creation and termination.”

VETERANS

VA Education Benefits: Student Characteristics and Outcomes Vary Across Schools. General Accountability Office. GAO-13-567. July 25, 2013. 48 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/656204.pdf>

“The majority of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education payments were made to a small percentage of schools receiving VA funding in fiscal year 2011, primarily through the Post-9/11 GI Bill. About 5% of schools (654 schools) receive more than \$3.8 billion.... These 654 ‘highly VA-funded schools’ ... generally had more positive outcomes than other VA-funded schools.... After controlling for differences in school and student characteristics, for-profit schools had lower retention rates compared to public and nonprofit schools. However, for-profit schools had graduation rates that were higher than public schools and similar to nonprofit schools.”

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