



## **Studies in the News**

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*Due to the federal government shutdown, Studies in the News will not be including resources from federal websites that are currently offline.*

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## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

***Coming of Age with Stop and Frisk: Experiences, Self-Perceptions, and Public Safety Implications.*** By Jennifer Fratello, et al. Vera Institute of Justice. Sep. 19, 2013.

Full Report. 136 p.:

<http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/stop-and-frisk-technical-report-v4.pdf>

Exec. Summary. 28 p.:

<http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/stop-and-frisk-summary-report-v2.pdf>

Fact Sheet. 2 p.:

<http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/stop-and-frisk-fact-sheet.pdf>

“Amid the debate about stop and frisk, its relationship to reductions in crime, and concerns about racial profiling, one question has to date gone largely unexplored: How has being stopped by police, and the frequency of those stops, affect those who experience these stops at a young age? This is a highly consequential question because a body of research indicates that negative encounters with police during an individual’s developmental years can erode his or her confidence in the justice system. In New York City, at least half of all recorded stops annually involve those between the ages of 13 and 25. In 2012, the most recent year for which data is available, just over 286,000 young people in this age group were stopped.”

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***New Census Data Show That More Than 6 Million Californians – Over One-Third of Them Children – Lived in Poverty in 2012.*** California Budget Project. Sep. 17, 2013. 5 p.

[http://cbp.org/pdfs/2013/130917\\_Census\\_Poverty.pdf](http://cbp.org/pdfs/2013/130917_Census_Poverty.pdf)

“In 2012, 6.02 million Californians had incomes below the poverty line. The poverty line varies by family size. The 2012 poverty line was \$23,283 for a family of four with two children. California’s poverty rate for 2012 – 15.9% – is about one-third higher than the 12.2% poverty rate in 2006, the year before the recession began. The change in the poverty rate between 2011 and 2012 was not statistically significant. The US poverty rate was 15.0 % in 2012. This is unchanged from 2011 and remains 2.7 percentage points above a recent low of 12.3 % in 2006.... Children account for a disproportionately large share of Californians living in poverty.”

## ECONOMY

***Rebuilding Household Wealth: Implications for Economic Recovery.*** By Craig K. Elwell.

Congressional Research Service. Sep. 13, 2013. 19 p.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43228.pdf>

“In the aftermath of the 2007-2009 recession, which involved a substantial loss of net worth and increase in the burden of debt, households’ actions to repair their severely damaged balance sheets by reducing debt and building wealth is thought by many economists to be a key factor dissipating the strength of consumer spending. Although this repair is necessary for building a stronger economy in the long run, it has slowed the economy-wide recovery and job creation in the short run. Where households currently stand in repairing their balance sheets is likely to influence the strength of consumer spending going forward.”

## EDUCATION

***Common Core State Standards 101. Alliance for Excellent Education. Aug. 2013. 15 p.***  
<http://www.all4ed.org/files/CommonCore101.pdf>

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) “represent the first time that nearly every state has set common expectations for what students should know and be able to do.... Districts, states, and professional organizations are providing professional development to teachers, creating curriculum materials, developing revised and new assessments, and engaging in other activities to prepare schools and students to meet the CCSS.... This brief will describe the CCSS initiative and its current status. It will discuss how the initiative came about, briefly describe the changes in instruction the CCSS call for, assess the current state of implementation, describe the views of supporters and critics, and discuss some of the keys to ensuring that the standards deliver on their promise.”

## ENERGY

***Advancing Smart Electricity Networks: A Report of the First Aspen Institute Initiative on Smart Energy and Network Technologies (INSENT) Roundtable. By Dave Grossman. The Aspen Institute. Aug. 23, 2013. 38 p.***  
<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/content/docs/pubs/INSENT%202013%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

“The first roundtable of the Initiative on Smart Energy and Network Technologies (INSENT) ... brought together experts from the information and communications technology (ICT), electricity and non-profit sectors, investors, business executives and government officials to discuss their visions for a ‘smart electricity network’ in the United States, what the barriers are to such a network and how best to advance smart energy networks.... Ultimately, participants seemed to coalesce around the idea of a smart electricity network as an open access, multi-directional transactional platform that enables ... new objectives such as clean power, distributed generation, consumer choice and innovation.”

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Understanding the Great Recession’s Impact on City Bond Issuances. By Susan K. Urahn. Pew Charitable Trusts. Aug. 2013. 12 p.***  
[http://www.pewstates.org/uploadedFiles/PCS\\_Assets/2013/Municipal\\_Bonds\\_Report\\_Final.PDF](http://www.pewstates.org/uploadedFiles/PCS_Assets/2013/Municipal_Bonds_Report_Final.PDF)

Research on 30 major cities in the United States., including Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco, finds that these cities collectively issued \$13.9 billion in refunding bonds in 2012, a mechanism used to refinance existing debt. This was the largest amount of refunding in two decades, and accounted for more than half (57%) of the total bonds originated by these cities. Cities did not issue as many new money bonds, due to low revenues during the recession and reluctance to take on further debt. Reliance on refunding bonds is in question, with interest rates edging upward as the economy improves.

## HEALTH

***Trends in Circumcision for Male Newborns in U.S. Hospitals: 1979-2010.*** By Maria Owings, et al. National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Aug. 2013. 5 p. [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/circumcision\\_2013/circumcision\\_2013.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/circumcision_2013/circumcision_2013.pdf)

“Boys born in the West are more likely to skip circumcision than they are to have the once common procedure. It's a dramatic change over the past 32 years. Back in 1979, about two-thirds of boys out West got circumcised in the hospital soon after they were born. By 2010, only 40% were.” A 2007 edition of this CDC study stated that the Western region's decline in circumcision rates might have to do with the increasing percentage of boys born in Latino families, who were found in other studies to be less likely to be circumcised than other boys. (NPR, Aug. 22, 2013)

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Resolving Consumer Identity Theft for Foster Youth.*** Alliance for Children's Rights. Aug. 5, 2013. 10 p. <http://kids-alliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/ID-theft-manual.pdf>

“Recognized as one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States, identity theft is a major concern for youth in foster care since many people have access to their personal information. In fact, some agencies estimate that as many as half of all foster youth in California have been victimized.... There are two common types of identity theft: (1) using another's personal information to obtain credit, goods, and services; and (2) using another's personal information at the time of arrest.” This manual explains a step-by-step process on how to resolve identity theft and lists applicable California law when resolving the problem.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Federal Data Transparency: Opportunities Remain to Incorporate Recovery Act Lessons Learned.*** By Stanley J. Czerwinski. Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-871T. Sep. 18, 2013. 16 p. Full report. 43 p.: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/657826.pdf>  
Testimony. 16 p.: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/657933.pdf>

In this testimony before the U.S. Senate Budget Committee's Government Performance Task Force, GAO's Director for Strategic Issues noted that GAO “recommended that the director of OMB, with the GATB (Government Accountability and Transparency Board), develop a long-term plan to implement comprehensive transparency reform, and increase efforts for obtaining stakeholder input to ensure reporting challenges are addressed. Further, Congress should consider legislating transparency requirements and establishing clear authority to implement these requirements to ensure that recommended approaches for improving transparency are carried out across the federal government.”

## VETERANS

***VA Health Care: Additional Steps Needed to Strengthen Beneficiary Travel Program Management and Oversight.*** By Debra A. Draper. Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-632. July 15, 2013. 29 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/655861.pdf>

The Veterans Health Administration's Beneficiary Travel Program, which "is designed to encourage eligible veterans to seek medical care by reducing travel costs to medical appointments," has more than doubled in size in the last five years to roughly \$860 million per year. These funds come from individual VHA medical center resources and thus compete directly with patient care. GAO applauded the VHA for some reforms, but found that internal controls were lacking from some of VHA's recent efforts to improve management of the program and that VHA had not provided timely guidance to its medical centers regarding implementation of its new Electronic Fund Transfer card systems for disbursement of funds to beneficiaries.

### **About *Studies in the News***

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