



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 13-143

October 30, 2013

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Trends in Sentencing and Corrections: State Legislation. By Alison Lawrence.

National Conference of State Legislatures. July 18, 2013. 16 p.

<http://www.ncsl.org/Documents/CJ/TrendsInSentencingAndCorrections.pdf>

“A decade ago, rising prison populations and costs seemed to be an uninterrupted trend. Today, however, many states have seen a decline in the number of individuals under correctional supervision. The U.S. Department of Justice recently reported that state prison populations decreased in 2011 for the second consecutive year, and the probation and parole population decreased for the third consecutive year. Recidivism rates ... also are declining or have remained steady in many states. These changes have occurred during a decade in which the rates of both property and violent crime have dropped, and been largely unaffected by the nation’s recent economic downturn.”

ECONOMY

Economic Impact Study of CalSTRS Benefit Payments in California Overview Report. Business Forecasting Center, Eberhardt School of Business, University of the Pacific. Aug. 7, 2013. 31 p.
http://www.calstrs.com/sites/main/files/file-attachments/calstrs_fy2012_impact_overview_report.pdf

“This report analyzes the economic impact of ongoing ... payments by the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS) in fiscal year 2011-2012 (FY2012) on California and its sub-regions. These payments totaled \$9.2 billion during FY2012, which equated to approximately \$7.6 billion in expenditures across California.... The state-wide total economic impact from CalSTRS benefit payments is estimated at: 92,815 jobs, \$4.4 billion in total labor income, \$11 billion in total output, and \$1.2 billion in associated tax payments to state and local government. Sections overviewing the economic impacts across California’s Assembly districts, Senate districts, counties, regions, and Congressional districts conclude this overview report.”

EDUCATION

A New Plan for a New Economy: Reimagining Higher Education. Little Hoover Commission. Oct. 2013. 84 p.
<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/218/report218.html>

California will need to graduate 2.3 million more students by 2025 than its current admissions, instruction, and graduation policies are going to turn out. At the same time, California’s public higher education institutions are not taking the lead in using innovations to help more students graduate closer to the stated goal of four years. The Commission proposes 10 recommendations to help address the myriad of problems in the system, including greater public participation in goal setting, linking portions of funding to positive progress toward benchmarks, creation of an oversight body to collect and publish data for evaluation, and creation of an Internet-based system for all students to track their progress.

A New Majority: Low Income Students in the South and Nation. Southern Education Foundation. Oct. 2013. 18 p.
<http://www.southerneducation.org/getattachment/0bc70ce1-d375-4ff6-8340-f9b3452ee088/A-New-Majority-Low-Income-Students-in-the-South-an.aspx>

“A majority of public school children in 17 states, one-third of the 50 states across the nation, were low income students – eligible for free or reduced lunches – in the school year that ended in 2011. Thirteen of the 17 states were in the South, and the remaining four were in the West.... Four states in the West – New Mexico, California, Oregon, and Nevada – had a majority of low income children in public schools, and, combined with a growing number of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch in recent years across the region’s other nine states, the West had a majority of public school children in 2011.” Nearly 54% of California’s public school students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

EMPLOYMENT

Fast Food, Poverty Wages: The Public Cost of Low-Wage Jobs in the Fast-Food Industry. By Sylvia Allegretto, et al. UC Berkeley Labor Center. Oct. 15, 2013. 26 p.
<http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/publiccosts/fastfoodpovertywages.shtml>

“Nearly three-quarters (73%) of enrollments in America’s major public benefits programs are from working families. But many of them work in jobs that pay wages so low that their paychecks do not generate enough income to provide for life’s basic necessities. Low wages paid by employers in the fast-food

industry create especially acute problems for the families of workers in this industry. Median pay for core front-line fast-food jobs is \$8.69 an hour, with many jobs paying at or near the minimum wage. Benefits are also scarce for front-line fast-food workers; an estimated 87% do not receive health benefits through their employer. The combination of low wages and benefits, often coupled with part-time employment, means that many of the families of fast-food workers must rely on taxpayer-funded safety net programs to make ends meet.”

ENERGY

A Spatial Hedonic Analysis of the Effects of Wind Energy Facilities on Surrounding Property Values in the United States. By Ben Hoen, et al. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Aug. 2013. 58 p.

<http://emp.lbl.gov/sites/all/files/lbnl-6362e.pdf>

“Previous research on the effects of wind energy facilities on surrounding home values has been limited by small samples of relevant home-sale data and the inability to account adequately for confounding home-value factors and spatial dependence in the data. This study helps fill those gaps. [W]e find no statistical evidence that home values near turbines were affected in the post-construction or post-announcement/pre-construction periods.”

ENVIRONMENT

“Global Premature Mortality Due to Anthropogenic Outdoor Air Pollution and the Contribution of Past Climate Change.” By Raquel A. Silva, et al. *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 8, no. 3 (July 11, 2013) 12 p.

<http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/8/3/034005/article>

Air pollution, in particular ozone and fine particulates, has been found to contribute to increased premature mortality. Air quality is affected by local climate, which means that one mechanism where anthropogenic climate change poses a risk to humans is by reductions in air quality. This study attempts to model the impacts of climate change on human mortality through its impact on air quality. The study estimates that anthropogenic change causes 2.5 million premature deaths annually, 470,000 related to increased ozone concentrations and 2.1 million due to increased fine particulate concentrations.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Research Brief: Odd-Year vs. Even-Year Consolidated Elections in California.

By Jose P. Hernandez. The Greenlining Institute. Oct. 2013. 13 p.

<http://greenlining.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Research-Brief-Odd-Year-vs-Even-Year-Consolidated-Elections-in-California.pdf>

Odd-year elections generally yield low voter turnout. In a survey of four large and two small cities in California that hold odd-year and even-year elections, researchers found that odd-year elections tend to be rather costly and have low voter turnout. In even-year elections, statewide issues may be more engaging to voters – and get them to pay attention to local measures. By consolidating local elections with statewide elections, cities that conduct odd-year elections could save taxpayer dollars and increase voter turnout.

HEALTH

“Association Between Influenza Vaccination and Cardiovascular Outcomes in High-Risk Patients: A Meta-analysis.” By Jacob A. Udell, et al. *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*, vol. 310, no. 16 (Oct. 23/30, 2013) pp. 1711-1720.

<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1758749>

“Among nontraditional cardiovascular risk factors, there remains interest in a potential association between respiratory tract infections, of which influenza and influenzalike illnesses are common causes, and subsequent cardiovascular events.... Based largely on observational findings, medical association guidelines recommend universal vaccination in patients with, or at risk of, cardiovascular disease for protection from general influenza complications.... Because prior meta-analyses included observational studies but omitted a systematic review of all influenza vaccination randomized trials, we set out to perform a systematic review and meta-analysis ... that studied cardiovascular events as efficacy or safety outcomes.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Insecure & Unequal: Poverty and Income among Women and Families 2000-2012.

By Joan Entmacher, et al. National Women’s Law Center. Sep. 26, 2013. 22 p.

<http://www.nwlc.org/resource/insecure-unequal-poverty-among-women-and-families-2000-2012>

“Although the economy continued its slow recovery in 2012, poverty rates for most groups were statistically indistinguishable from 2011, leaving poverty among women and children at or near historically high levels. Poverty rates for women were once again higher than for men, and were especially high for women of color, women who head families, foreign-born women, and women 65 and older living alone. The gender wage gap was unchanged for the year and the decade, undermining women’s ability to support themselves and their families. And income inequality remained stark.” The poverty rate for women in California (16.2%) is higher than the national average (14.5%) in 2012.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

“Bicycle-Transit Integration in the United States, 2001-2009.” By Rui Wang, et al. *Journal of Public Transportation*, vol. 16, no. 3 (Oct. 9, 2013) pp. 95-119.

http://www.nctr.usf.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/JPT_16.3.pdf

“This study provides an early evaluation of status and trend in bicycle-transit integrated travel over the first decade of this century. It reviews NHTS [National Household Travel Surveys] statistics to provide statistically robust evidence about the characteristics of the bicycle-transit integrated trips, where the integrators were from, and to which population groups the integrators belonged. Evidence shows that bicycle-transit integrated travel became more popular (especially among commuters) and, on average, longer in distance/time ... by 2009, bicycle-transit integration was no longer mostly for the well-educated, home owners, or those living in single family homes, because of the rise in using bicycles for transit access/egress among the bottom income group, least-educated, renters, and those living in multifamily units.”

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