



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Armed Persons with Mental Illness. California State Auditor. Report 2013-103. Oct. 2013. 107 p.
<http://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2013-103.pdf>

"This report concludes that the Department of Justice has not sufficiently reached out to superior courts or mental health facilities to remind them of firearm prohibition reporting requirements in state law.... As of July 2013, Justice reported that more than 20,800 persons were still deemed to be armed prohibited persons for a variety of reasons, not limited to mental health, and these persons had not had their

firearms confiscated.... Justice must improve its outreach ... and strengthen its management of the information it does receive to ensure it does all it can to protect the public.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Assessing Water Affordability: A Pilot Study in Two Regions of California. By Juliet Christian-Smith, et al. Pacific Institute. Aug. 2013. 26 p.

<http://www.pacinst.org/publication/assessing-water-affordability/>

“A new pilot study in California shows many households, even within affluent communities, routinely spend over the affordability threshold of 2% of their household income on their water bill.... [The study] looks at both an urban and rural case: the Sacramento metropolitan area and the Tulare Lake Basin.... The study’s results show that a significant number of areas within water systems have unaffordable rates, even if the system as a whole does not, and so it may be more important to consider household income rather than median income when assessing and addressing water affordability.”

ECONOMY

Economic Growth Widespread Across Metropolitan Areas in 2012. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce. BEA 13-42. Sep. 17, 2013. 23 p.

http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/regional/gdp_metro/2013/pdf/gdp_metro0913.pdf

“Real GDP increased in 305 of the nation’s 381 metropolitan areas in 2012, led by growth in durable-goods manufacturing, trade, and financial activities.... Real GDP in metropolitan areas increased 2.5% in 2012 after increasing 1.7% in 2011.... Of the ten largest metropolitan areas, the three with the fastest real GDP growth in 2012 were San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA (7.4%), Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX (5.3%), and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX (4.3%). The ten largest metropolitan areas, accounting for 34% of national GDP, averaged 3.1% growth in 2012 after growing 1.9% in 2011.”

The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy. By Bruce Katz, et al. Brookings Institution Press. 2013. 258 p.

(Available in the California State Library)

“This book provides many examples of how this economic, social, and political transformation is playing out across the United States. As the engines of economic prosperity and social transformation in the U.S., our nation’s top 100 metropolitan areas ... are home to two-thirds of our population and generate 75% of our national GDP.... In forty-seven of the fifty states, the majority of the state’s economy is generated by its metropolitan areas....” The authors believe this shift calls for federal and state officials to rethink how best to work with leaders at the local level to achieve and sustain success.

EMPLOYMENT

California’s Green Economy Trends: Relationships between Firms and Their Employment Outcomes. By Brandon T. Hooker. California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division. Aug. 2013. 28 p.

http://www.calmis.ca.gov/specialreports/CA_LMI_Trends_GreenFirmsStudy.pdf

“The purpose of this study was to analyze whether there were relationships between California firms that create green products or services and three employment outcomes: net job gain, net job loss, and no net change.... The results ... showed no discernible difference in the likelihood that a green or non-green firm would experience a net job gain.... The results of this study suggest a future direction for this research

that should focus on examining economic traits commonly held by all firms that create jobs in economic upswings and downturns, regardless of the goods and services they produce.”

California’s Gender Gap in STEM Education and Employment. By Matthew K. Buttice, et al. California Research Bureau. Nov. 2013. 2 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/13/S-13-019.pdf>

California is a national and global leader in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), both for education and employment. This position has benefited the state greatly. However, there is a gender gap in educational attainment and employment in STEM fields. Men receive STEM degrees and are employed in STEM fields at a higher rate than women. This Short Subject provides a first look at the differences between men and women in educational attainment and employment in STEM fields in California.

ENERGY

U.S. Natural Gas Exports: New Opportunities, Uncertain Outcomes. By Michael Ratner, et al. Congressional Research Service. Sep. 17, 2013. 31 p.

<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R42074.pdf>

“As estimates for the amount of U.S. natural gas resources have grown, so have the prospects of rising U.S. natural gas exports. The United States is expected to go from a net importer of natural gas to a net exporter by 2020.... What effect exporting natural gas will have on U.S. prices is a central question in the debate over whether to export. A significant rise in U.S. natural gas exports would likely put upwards pressure on domestic prices, but the magnitude of any rise is currently unclear.... Producers contend that increased exports will not raise prices significantly as there is ample supply to meet domestic demand, and there will be the added benefits of increased revenues, trade, and jobs, and less flaring. Consumers of natural gas, who are being helped by the low prices, fear prices will rise if natural gas is exported.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

What the Government Does with Americans’ Data. By Rachel Levinson-Waldman. Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law. Oct. 7, 2013. 88 p.

<http://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/publications/What%20Govt%20Does%20with%20Data%20100813.pdf>

An analysis of the retention, sharing and use by federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies finds that “in many cases, information carrying no apparent investigative value is treated no differently from information that does give rise to reasonable suspicion of criminal or terrorist activity. Basically, the chaff is treated the same as the wheat.” This report offers recommendations on the transparency of gathering and retaining information, limits on whose data can be collected, and greater regulation and oversight of agencies that gather this information.

HEALTH

Prescription Drug Abuse: Strategies to Stop the Epidemic. By Jeffrey Levi, et al. Trust for America’s Health. Oct. 2013. 64 p.

<http://rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/reports/2013/rwjf408045>

“Approximately 6.1 million Americans abuse or misuse prescription drugs. Abuse, particularly of prescription painkillers, has serious negative health consequences and can even result in death.” In 1978, California’s drug overdose mortality rate was 6.7 per 100,000 people. By 2010, that number had risen to

10.1. This report lists drug overdose mortality rates by state, identifies high-risk groups, and discusses the public health approach to reducing prescription drug abuse.

HUMAN SERVICES

Recent Demographic Trends in Foster Care. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Sep. 2013. 6 p.
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/data_brief_foster_care_trends1.pdf

The number of children in foster care has declined by 23.7% between 2002 and 2012, from 523,616 to 399,546. "While numbers declined among all major non-Hispanic race groups, reductions among African American children were the most dramatic, declining by 47.1% between 2002 and 2012 and accounting for nearly three-quarters (74%) of the overall decline.... [T]en states accounted for over 90% of the total decline, and three states (California, New York, and Florida), accounted for over 50%."

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

America's Economy. U.S. Census Bureau.
<http://www.census.gov/mobile/>

"The U.S. Census Bureau in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) ... added three key economic indicators to America's Economy, the Census Bureau's widely downloaded mobile app that provides constantly updated statistics on the U.S. economy, including monthly economic indicators and trends, along with a schedule of upcoming releases. These indicators join 16 others that were already available on America's Economy and means that the top four BLS data sets are now included in the app." (Press Release, July 16, 2013).

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

"On the Performance of the U.S. Transportation System: Caution Ahead." By Clifford Winston. *Journal of Economic Literature*, vol. 51, no. 3 (Sep. 4, 2013) pp. 773–824.
<http://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jel.51.3.773>

"Americans' annual expenditures in both money and time on transportation are enormous.... [C]onsumers spent \$1.1 trillion on gasoline and vehicles commuting to work, traveling to perform household chores and to access entertainment, and traveling for business and vacations, and spent an astronomical 175 billion hours in transit, which averages out to about 100 minutes per day for each and every American, valued at some \$760 billion." This article suggests that "our hugely important transportation system has been compromised by policies that have resulted in inefficient pricing, suboptimal investments, and inflated production costs that are manifested in congestion, delays, budget deficits, and excessive money and time costs to users and excessive government expenditures on transportation."

VETERANS

System Worth Saving: 2013 Task force Report on Women Veterans' Health Care. The American Legion. Sep. 6, 2013. 76 p.
<http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/2013-SWS-Report-WEB.pdf>

"The survey found improvements in the way that the VA delivers health-care services to their women veterans, though challenges with service and quality remained." Findings from the report include: women

veterans do not identify themselves as veterans and/or do not know what benefits they are eligible to receive; many VA facilities do not offer inpatient/residential mental-health programs for women veterans; and VA medical center facilities do not have plans to close the gaps in enrollment of and utilization by women veterans.

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