



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Follow the Money: How California Counties are Spending Their Public Safety Realignment Funds.
By Jeffrey Lin, et al. Stanford Criminal Justice Center. Nov. 2013.

Draft for review and comments. 89 p.: <http://www.law.stanford.edu/organizations/programs-and-centers/stanford-criminal-justice-center-scjic>

"The California correctional system is undergoing a dramatic transformation under Assembly Bill 109 ('Realignment'), a law that shifted responsibility from the state to the counties for tens of thousands of

defenders. To help manage this change, the state will distribute \$4.4 billion to the counties by 2016-2017. While the legislation directs counties to use these funds for community-based programs, counties retain a substantial amount of spending discretion.” Among the report’s draft findings is the observation that “[c]ounties that favor a greater investment in offender treatment and services ... are typified by strong electoral support for the Sheriff and relatively under-funded district attorneys and probation departments.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Copyright & Creation: A Case for Promoting Inclusive Online Sharing.* By Bart Cammaerts, et al. The London School of Economics and Political Science Department of Media and Communications. Sep. 2013. 18 p.**

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/172985274/LSE-MPP-Policy-Brief-9-Copyright-and-Creation>

This policy brief questions the UK’s Digital Economy Act (DEA), a law that seeks to protect media revenue from online piracy. The report “provides additional evidence that counters claims that the creative industries are suffering overall revenue decline. We show that new business models are enabling the industry to gain advantage by building on a digital culture based on sharing and co-creating. We find that the experience of France and countries that have started to implement graduated response measures targeting citizens is mixed. We conclude the DEA should not be implemented and that the measures should be reconsidered based on an independent assessment of the social, cultural, and political impact of punitive measures against citizens, and the risk that incentives for innovation and growth will be weakened.”

ECONOMY

***Iowa Harvests the Wind for Economic Development, Education, and Innovation.* By Carol Kreck. ECS Rural Education & Economic Development, Education Commission of the States. Aug. 2013. 4 p.**

<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/08/64/10864.pdf>

This paper examines how Iowa, a largely rural state, invested in innovative technology to create economic development opportunities, jobs, hands-on training and incentives for students to study STEM subjects—all from wind, Iowa’s year-round crop. It provides a timeline of the state’s wind policy, examples of alignments of the state’s higher education institutions curriculum to the state’s efforts to this endeavor, and concludes that other states can follow Iowa’s example to not only increase renewable energy but also their own economies.

EDUCATION

***Math in the Early Years: A Strong Predictor for Later School Success.* Education Commission of the States. Oct. 2013. 7 p.**

<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/09/46/10946.pdf>

“In recent years, state policymakers have emphasized the need to improve children’s reading skills early on because a lack in this essential skill is a strong predictor of low student performance and increased high school dropout rates.... Yet, while the emphasis on reading proficiency is critical, research shows that the development of mathematics skills early on may be an even greater predictor of later school success. Early knowledge of math not only predicts later success in math, but also predicts later reading achievement even better than early reading skills.... Education leaders should find ways to maximize children’s abilities to learn by evaluating the current state of mathematics instruction within schools, based not only on the current curricula, but also the time committed to instruction.”

EMPLOYMENT

***The Business Case for Racial Equity.* By Ani Turner. America Healing. Oct. 2013. 15 p.**
<http://www.wkkf.org/resource-directory/resource/2013/10/the-business-case-for-racial-equity>

“According to the U.S. Census Bureau, children will be ‘majority minority’ by 2018, and, overall, people of color will surpass 50% of the U.S. population by 2043.... We found that, if the average incomes of minorities were raised to the average incomes of whites, total U.S. earnings would increase by 12%, representing nearly \$1 trillion today.... When projected to 2030 and 2050, the results are even more startling. Minorities make up 37% of the working age population now, but they are projected to grow to 46% by 2030, and 55% by 2050. Closing the earnings gap by 2030 would increase GDP by 16%, or more than \$5 trillion a year.... These figures are initial approximations, and they represent upper bounds on potential economic benefits. They do not consider the cost of investments required to close the earnings gap.”

ENERGY

***A Regulator’s Guidebook: Calculating the Benefits and Costs of Distributed Solar Generation.* By Jason B. Keyes, et al. Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. Oct. 2013. 46 p.**
http://www.irecusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/IREC_Rabago_Regulators-Guidebook-to-Assessing-Benefits-and-Costs-of-DSG.pdf

“This paper first offers lessons learned from the 16 regional and utility-specific DSG [Distributed Solar Generation] studies summarized in a recent review by the Rocky Mountain Institute and then proposes a standardized valuation methodology for public utility commissions to consider implementing in future studies.”

***The Future of the U.S. Electricity Sector.* By Bill Dickenson, et al. The Aspen Institute. Sep. 6, 2013. 57 p.**
http://www.aspeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/content/docs/pubs/2013_energy_policy_forum.pdf

“The future of the U.S. electricity sector is hard to foresee—and it is never wise to overpay one’s fortune tellers—but there appear to be some key trends and technologies that may reshape future electricity markets and determine the innovativeness, resilience, security, and global competitiveness of the sector. Discussions of the sector’s past, present, and future formed the heart of the 2013 Aspen Institute Energy Policy Forum.” The forum examined visions for the future, potential game changers, lessons from China, resilience and cyber security.

ENVIRONMENT

***California State Parks: A Budget Overview.* By Matthew Buttice, et al. California Research Bureau. Nov. 2013. 39 p.**
<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/13/13-002.pdf>

“Of the fifty states, California spends the most on and earns the most revenue from its park system. However, it falls to the mid-range on spending in support of the park system on a per-acre basis. It falls further behind other states in the amount of park-generated revenue on a per-capita and per-acre basis. States that do well in generating revenue in their parks tend to be smaller and to have smaller park systems, mission statements that encourage economic development, or dedicated funding sources.”

HEALTH

Report to the Governor and Legislature, Fiscal Year 2012-2013. California Health Benefit Exchange. Nov. 2013. 34 p.

https://www.coveredca.com/resources/PDFs/2013_leg_report.pdf

Covered California, the new state health care exchange, is charged with implementing the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. In its annual report, Covered California gives a descriptive overview of the health care exchange, the process of educating and enrolling citizens, and the efforts underway to lay the groundwork for the next phase of reform.

HUMAN SERVICES

Community Eligibility: Making High-Poverty Schools Hunger Free. By Madeleine Levin, et al. Center on Budget and Priorities. Oct. 1, 2013. 38 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4026>

“Established in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, [Community Eligibility] allows schools in high-poverty areas to offer nutritious meals through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to all students at no charge.... Findings from Illinois, Kentucky, and Michigan, where school districts first implemented the option in the 2011-2012 school year, show ongoing growth in the number of schools choosing community eligibility and a striking increase in the number of students eating school breakfast and lunch.... This report analyzes the scope and impact of community eligibility in the seven states that implemented it in the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Metro Freight: The Global Goods Trade that Moves Metro Economies. By Adie Tomer, et al. Global Cities Initiative, The Brookings Institution. Oct. 2013. 30 p.

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2013/10/21%20metro%20freight/SrvyMetroFreight.pdf>

“This report advances a simple proposition: Because metropolitan economies cannot function unless they trade with each other, and because trade cannot occur without freight transportation networks, freight and economic development policies and practices must be coordinated and globally focused. In the process, it stresses the importance of considering trade at the critical sites of consumption, production, and goods movement: metropolitan areas.”

Metro-to-Metro: Global and Domestic Goods Trade in Metropolitan America. By Adie Tomer, et al. Global Cities Initiative, The Brookings Institution. Oct. 2013. 36 p.

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2013/10/21%20metro%20freight/SrvyMetroToMetro.pdf>

“The 100 largest metropolitan areas moved 7.8 billion tons of freight worth more than \$12.2 trillion in 2010 alone, surpassing all other regions nationally and signaling the importance of goods trade to the American economy. By focusing on domestic and international freight movement, this report is the first to examine goods trade at a metropolitan scale. Offering a new way to visualize freight movement, it highlights the crucial role played by metropolitan goods trade within the United States and abroad, in terms of both the volume and balance of this trade. In doing so, it helps reveal the tight interrelationship among metro economies within larger global value chains and addresses a shortcoming of national-level trade statistics.”

VETERANS

Profile of Veteran Business Owners: More Young Veterans Appear To Be Starting Businesses.
By Jules Lichtenstein. SBA Office of Advocacy. Issue Brief Number 1. Nov. 8, 2013. 6 p.

<http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/Issue%20Brief%201,%20Veteran%20Business%20Owners.pdf>

“Veteran business owners and entrepreneurs make important contributions to business creation and growth in the American economy. Their active duty and reserve service often provide them with important skills and leadership abilities that are directly relevant to business ownership. Because the economic welfare of veterans is an ongoing concern of policymakers, various programs have been designed to help support aspiring veteran entrepreneurs and business owners.” This brief provides an overview of changes to veteran business owner demographics and characteristics of veteran-owned businesses from 2008 to 2012.

About *Studies in the News*

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