



Studies in the News

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

The State of America's Children. Children's Defense Fund. Jan. 2014. 92 p.

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/state-of-americas-children/>

"For the first time the majority of children in America under age 2 were children of color in 2012 as were the majority of all children in 10 states," including California. "Nearly 1 in 3 children of color—11.2 million children—was poor and more than 1 in 3 children of color under age 5—3.5 million—were poor.... Over half a million public school students dropped out of grades 9-12 during the 2009-2010 school year. This

will cost taxpayers in the future billions of dollars a year in added benefits and services and foregone income tax revenue.”

ECONOMY

Estimating the Size and Structure of the Underground Commercial Sex Economy in Eight Major US Cities. By Meredith Dank, et al. Urban Institute. Mar. 2014. 348 p.
<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/413047-Underground-Commercial-Sex-Economy.pdf>

Little is known about the nature and scope of the underground commercial sex economies (UCSE) in the United States. This report focused on eight cities, including San Diego, between 2003 and 2007, and attempts to answer a number of questions on business operations, recruitment, and the effect of the Internet on the street-based commercial sex economy. Estimates of the UCSE in the eight cities in this study range from \$39.9 to \$290 million in 2007.

EDUCATION

What State Policymakers Need to Know about Funding Virtual Charter Schools. Education Commission of the States. Feb. 2014. 6 p.
www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/11/11/11111.pdf

“In the last ten years, enrollment in virtual charter schools has grown to more than 310,000 students in 30 states. Virtual charter schools differ in significant ways from traditional public schools and brick-and-mortar charter schools, and they have forced states to re-evaluate their school finance formulas. This report outlines the key differences and explores how states can change their funding systems to address the needs of this new type of public education.” The funding issues focused on in this report include student enrollment areas, the potential size of schools, how students are counted for funding purposes, and the cost of providing educational services.

Financial Aid Overview. Legislative Analyst’s Office. Mar. 13, 2014. 14 p.
<http://www.lao.ca.gov/handouts/education/2014/Financial-Aid-Overview-031314.pdf>

This report presents an overview of the state of student financial aid in California. The LAO recommends enacting share-of-cost policies to mitigate the negative effects of a likely tuition freeze, and asking the California Student Aid Commission to evaluate outreach programs to determine whether to continue funding.

EMPLOYMENT

“Understanding the Motives and Constraints That Lead People to Risky Occupations.”
By Amanda M. Michaud, et al. *The Regional Economist*, vol. 22, no. 1 (Jan. 2014) pp. 12-13.
(Available at the California State Library)

“A group of occupations representing about one-third of the labor force has twice the risk of disability that others have. People in these occupations are demographically different from the rest of the population. They also earn less and save less than other people do.” Heavily physical occupations, including work with industrial machines and transportation equipment, made up 42% of the high-risk occupations. People in riskier occupations tend to be less educated, have less savings and wealth, and are men.

ENERGY

Energy Insecurity Among Families with Children. By Diana Hernandez, et al. National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University. Jan. 2014. 12 p.

http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_1086.pdf

“Energy Insecurity (EI) is measured by the proportion of household energy expenditures relative to household income. Lower-income families are more likely to experience EI because they tend to live in housing that has not benefited from the structural improvements that wealthier Americans can afford. While economic energy insecurity is experienced across the spectrum, it disproportionately affects those who are poorest, who are nearest the poverty line.” The study finds that federal energy assistance programs are inadequately funded to meet the need. “While the U.S. has embraced energy conservation, there has not been enough emphasis on serving low-income populations who urgently need assistance.” (CUMC Newsroom, Feb. 21, 2014).

ENVIRONMENT

The Future of the Winter Olympics in a Warming World. By Daniel Scott, et al. University of Waterloo Interdisciplinary Center on Climate Change. Jan. 2014. 8 p.

http://www.academia.edu/5978021/The_Future_of_the_Winter_Olympic_Games_in_a_Warmer_World_-_Extended_Summary (Free registration required)

Local climate is an integral component to the success or failure of the Winter Olympic Games. Global temperatures are projected to increase as high as 4.8°C by the end of the 21st century. Current international efforts are hoping to limit such increases to 2°C, but that goal is expected to fall short. Additional warming will substantially decrease snow and ice cover in the Northern Hemisphere, rendering many of the previous Winter Olympic site locations unsuitable for winter sports. Sites such as California's own Squaw Valley may no longer enjoy "climactically reliable" conditions that would allow for winter sports.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

A Tale of 2000 Cities: How the Sharp Contrast Between Successful and Struggling Communities Is Reshaping America. By Louise Keely, et al. Demand Institute. Feb. 2014. 96 p.

<http://demandinstitute.org/2000cities/report>

This report on nine American cities helps to identify “community types” in the U.S. and how they are thriving or surviving. From profiles of affluent “metroburbs,” such as Huntington Beach, CA, to deflated real estate “bubble-communities,” such as Colton and Salinas, CA, this study outlines why some American cities continue to struggle after the Great Recession.

HEALTH

Psychosocial and Economic Health of Older, Nonpartnered Women in California. By Tonya D. Lindsey. California Research Bureau. Mar. 2014. 2 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/14/S-14-003.pdf>

“This report employs California Health Information Survey indicators of mental health, social environment, and economic security to better understand how non-partnered women’s mental health and economic security compares to partnered women’s. Older, non-partnered women were 40% more likely than their partnered peers to have had mild to severe psychological distress in the past 12 months. They were also

more likely than older, partnered women to be below 200% of the poverty level (80% more likely) and to have either a rental or mortgage payment (14% more likely).”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***California’s Health Care Workforce.* California HealthCare Foundation. Mar. 2014.**

<http://www.chcf.org/publications/2014/03/california-workforce>

“This series of Quick Reference Guides from the CHCF California Health Care Almanac examines specific segments of the state’s health care workforce, focusing on pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, physician assistants, health diagnostic and treatment therapists, clinical laboratory scientists and technicians, and imaging professionals.”

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

***Aerospace Manufacturing in California’s Economy.* By Patrick Rogers. California Research Bureau. Mar. 2014. 4 p.**

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/14/B-14-001.pdf>

“Aerospace encompasses a diverse range of productive activities, including the manufacturing of both civilian and military aircraft, space vehicles, guided missiles and associated parts. This Briefly Stated provides an overview of the aerospace industry in California; compares it to similar manufacturing sectors in the state; compares California to other states; and considers California’s position in two newly emerging areas of the industry—commercial spaceflight and drone manufacturing.”

VETERANS

***Employment Situation of Veterans - 2013.* Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Mar. 20, 2014. 26 p.**

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/vet.pdf>

“The unemployment rate for veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time since September 2001—a group referred to as Gulf War-era II veterans—edged down to 9.0% in 2013.... The jobless rate for all veterans also edged down to 6.6%. Twenty-nine percent of Gulf War-era II veterans reported having a service-connected disability in August 2013, compared with 15% of all veterans. This information was obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly sample survey of about 60,000 households that provides data on employment and unemployment in the United States.”

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