



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Key Factors in California's Jail Construction Needs. By Brandon Martin, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. May 2014. 8 p.

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_514BMR.pdf

"With new responsibilities and a significant increase in the average daily jail population (ADP), California's already crowded county jails face new pressures and challenges. Moreover, many county facilities were built several decades ago and were not designed for long-term detention. To address these constraints, the state has provided funding for jail expansion.... However, there may still be a need for additional funding.... Our analysis suggests that the jail capacity challenge is unlikely to be met exclusively through either increased jail construction or decreased reliance on incarceration. Meeting this challenge will probably require a thoughtful combination of efforts carried out jointly by the state and the counties."

ECONOMY

Exports and American Information and Communications Technology Companies and Workers. Technology CEO Council. Mar. 18, 2014. 34 p.

http://www.techceocouncil.org/clientuploads/reports/Exports%20for%20American%20ICT%20Companies%20and%20Workers-FINAL2_150DPI.pdf

“The report highlights the importance of ICT [information and communication technology] exports to each state economy. ICT hardware, software and services were the largest U.S. export sector in 2012, generating \$272 billion for the U.S. economy.” This report also breaks out the impacts at congressional district level. California far outpaced all states as an ICT exporter in 2012, with hardware, software and services valued at over \$62 billion; Texas, at \$47.9 billion, Washington and Florida at \$16.4 billion each, rounded out the top four ranks. (*SSTI Weekly Digest*, May 15, 2014).

EDUCATION

Trends in College Pricing 2013. The College Board. Feb. 2014. 40 p.

<http://trends.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/college-pricing-2013-full-report-140108.pdf>

California still has the lowest two-year college tuition and fees bill of any of the 50 states, even though the price of two-year college tuition has more than doubled to over \$1,400 since 2008. Tuition and fees in California’s four-year public universities increased 57% since 2008 to an average cost of just over \$9,000 per year, placing California slightly above the \$8,900 national average.

The Early Achievement and Development Gap. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Mar. 2014. 6 p.

http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/14/achievementgap/rb_AchievementGap.pdf

“The large gap in achievement and development between children growing up in poor and low-income families and their peers in more advantaged situations continues to be a concern to parents, the public, and policymakers. This brief describes research on the achievement and development gap – its origins, size, and what we know about how public policy can narrow the gap.... There are potentially multiple ways to help support the development of young children (e.g., parenting or health interventions); however, the most consistent evidence for supporting children’s school readiness skills surrounds high-quality early care and education (ECE) programs.”

EMPLOYMENT

Assessment of the Workforce System’s Implementation of the Veterans’ Priority of Service Provision of the Jobs for Veterans Act of 2002. By Stephanie Boraas, et al. Mathematica Policy Research. Mar. 22, 2014. 187 p.

http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/labor/workforce_implementation_veteran.pdf?spMailingID=7773276

“This report provides a detailed description of the activities and practices of a select set of American Job Centers (AJCs), documents promising practices in place at these AJCs, and identifies challenges to POS [Priority of Service] implementation that further guidance should address. Specific areas of interest in this study include (1) how veterans and eligible spouses are identified for POS, (2) POS procedures after veterans and eligible spouses are identified, and (3) service provision under POS. This study is based on site visits and telephone discussions with AJC staff, discussions with veterans’ service organization (VSO) representatives, and focus groups with veterans and eligible spouses.”

ENVIRONMENT

Draft California Communities Environmental Health Screen Tool, Version 2.0 (CalEnviroScreen 2.0). California Environmental Protection Agency. Apr. 2014. 143 p.

<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/ej/pdf/CES20PublicReview04212014.pdf>

Mapping Application: <http://oehha.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html>

CalEnviroScreen, an analysis tool that evaluates the vulnerability of geographic populations to environmental pollution, has undergone a significant update. The tool looks at both the presence of environmental contaminants that increase a community's overall pollution burden and demographic factors influencing the ability of the community to withstand that level of pollution. Version 2.0 includes a number of changes that may lead to better over-all measures. This version increases the level of geographic precision used in pollution analysis, adds new indicators, including drinking water quality and unemployment rate data, and makes several adjustments to underlying models. CalEnviroScreen 2.0 is currently in draft form. Public comments are being solicited before May 23, 2014.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Annual State-Local Tax Burden Rankings FY 2011. By Elizabeth Malme, et al. Tax Foundation. Apr. 2014. 16 p.

http://taxfoundation.org/sites/taxfoundation.org/files/docs/Burdens_2014_Final.pdf

This report measures state-local tax burden by “totaling the amount of state and local taxes paid by state residents to both their own and other governments and then dividing these totals by the state’s income.” This metric is presented as one way of finding out which state’s residents pay the most in state and local taxes. California ranks number four in this measure—just behind New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

HEALTH

“E-Cigarettes: A Scientific Review.” By Rachel Grana, et al. *Circulation*, vol. 129 (May 13, 2014) pp. 1972-1986.

<http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/129/19/1972>

This academic literature review includes studies from around the world on e-cigarettes, including the effects of secondhand exposure to vapor, smoking cessation and the current state of global regulation. “Health claims and claims of efficacy for quitting smoking are unsupported by the scientific evidence to date. To minimize the potential negative impacts on prevention and cessation and the undermining of existing tobacco control measures, e-cigarette use should be prohibited where tobacco cigarette use is prohibited, and the products should be subject to the same marketing restrictions as tobacco cigarettes.”

HUMAN SERVICES

“Helping Parents, Helping Children: Two-Generation Mechanisms.” By Sara McLanahan, et al. *The Future of Children*, vol. 24, no. 1 (Spring 2014).

Full Journal. 174 p.:

http://www.futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/24_01_FullJournal.pdf

Executive Summary. 2 p.:

http://www.futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/journals/journal_details/index.xml?journalid=81

“Poor children’s school problems start with the quality of the home environment. Parents and the home environment they create exert a powerful influence on children, beginning before they are born and continuing throughout childhood.... ‘[T]wo-generation’ programs, which serve parents and children simultaneously with high-quality interventions, can be more effective than programs that serve them individually.” This issue assesses past and current two-generation programs and identifies six mechanisms, through which parents and the home environment they create are thought to influence children’s development: stress, education, health, income, employment, and assets.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Traveler’s Tradeoff: Comparing Intercity Bus, Plane, & Train Fares Across the United States. By Joseph Schwieterman, et al. Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development. Apr. 2014. 17 p.

http://las.depaul.edu/chaddick/docs/Docs/Travelers_Tradeoff_140421_FINAL_PACKET.pdf

“This study evaluates the prices of travel on various modes of transportation—air, bus, and rail—in 52 city pairs in the United States with travel distances between 100 and 500 miles.... The results show that the differences in fares between modes are significant and larger than is commonly believed: intercity bus fares are 50-55% lower than on Amtrak, depending on the A/P scenario; single-occupant driving is substantially more expensive than bus travel, even for motorists who consider only the cost of fuel and tolls; the savings from traveling by bus and trains in comparison to air diminish sharply when trip distances are longer than 250 miles.”

VETERANS

Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military: Fiscal Year 2013. U.S. Department of Defense. Apr. 2014. 786 p.

http://sapr.mil/public/docs/reports/FY13_DoD_SAPRO_Annual_Report_on_Sexual_Assault.pdf

Under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011, the Secretary of Defense is required to report annually on sexual assaults in the military. This year’s report shows a 50% increase in the number of alleged sexual assaults involving one or more service members as either a victim or alleged perpetrator. Just over half of the 5,061 reported assaults involved service member assaults on service members.

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