



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 14-121

May 28, 2014

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Causes & consequences of the growth of U.S. prisons

ECONOMY

Transatlantic economy \$5 trillion, employs up to 15 million workers

EDUCATION

Report on number of newly available teachers in CA

EMPLOYMENT

Minimum wage earners by demographics and industry/occupation

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CA primary turnouts falling, better than other states

HEALTH

Expanded health insurance and CA's Asian, Pacific Island population

Neighborhood green space could affect mental health

HOUSING

Housing recovery bypassing many American communities

HUMAN SERVICES

Characteristics of individuals in near poverty

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Liability concerns about driverless cars should not delay consumer access

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences.

By Jeremy Travis, et al. National Research Council. May 2014. 465 p.

Free download at: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18613

“The U.S. penal population of 2.2 million adults is the largest in the world. In 2012, close to 25% of the world’s prisoners were held in American prisons, although the United States accounts for about 5% of the world’s population. The U.S. rate of incarceration, with nearly 1 of every 100 adults in prison or jail, is 5 to 10 times higher than rates in Western Europe and other democracies.... [T]he United States has gone past the point where the numbers of people in prison can be justified by social benefits.... A criminal justice system that made less use of incarceration might better achieve its aims than a harsher, more punitive system.”

ECONOMY

The Transatlantic Economy 2014: Annual Survey of Jobs, Trade and Investment Between the United States and Europe. By Daniel S. Hamilton, et al. Center for Transatlantic Relations, John Hopkins University. Mar. 2014.

Executive Summary. 28 p.:

http://transatlantic.sais-jhu.edu/publications/books/TA2014/TA2014_executive_Summary.pdf

Vol. 1 – Headline Trends. 48 p.:

http://transatlantic.sais-jhu.edu/publications/books/TA2014/TA2014_Vol_1.pdf

Vol. 2 – State by State and Country by Country. 76 p.:

http://transatlantic.sais-jhu.edu/publications/books/TA2014/TA2014_Vol_2_state_by_state.pdf

“U.S. companies are the largest source of onshored jobs in Europe and European companies are the largest source of onshored jobs in America ... [with] up to 15 million workers employed in the \$5 trillion transatlantic economy, which despite recent turbulence remains the largest and wealthiest market in the world.... U.S. companies’ earnings in Europe reached a record high of \$230 billion last year. In fact, American companies earned more from Europe than from Asia and Latin America combined.” See Volume 2, pages 9-11, and 14 for California information.

EDUCATION

Teacher Supply in California, A Report to the Legislature, Annual Report 2012-2013. By Marjorie A. Suckow, et al. Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Apr. 2014. 311 p.

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/reports/TS-2012-2013-AnnualRpt.pdf>

“Determining teacher supply in California is essential for policymakers as they analyze how current statutes and policies impact teacher recruitment, teaching incentives and teacher preparation. This report provides data collected by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) and addresses several questions regarding the supply of teachers newly available to teach in California classrooms. Assembly Bill 471 (Chap. 381, Stats. 1999; Education Code §44225.6) requires the Commission to report to the Governor and the Legislature each year on the number of teachers who received credentials, authorizations, permits and waivers..... The report incorporates the requirements specified in statute into a tool for policymakers and others interested in teacher supply.”

EMPLOYMENT

Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers, 2013. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mar. 2014. 17 p.

<http://www.bls.gov/cps/minwage2013.pdf>

“Among workers who were paid hourly rates in 2013, about 5% of women had wages at or below the prevailing federal minimum, compared with about 3% of men.... About 5% of Black workers, 4% of White workers and Hispanic or Latino workers, and 3% of Asian workers earned the federal minimum wage or less.... [A]bout 10% of those without a high school diploma earned the federal minimum wage or less, compared with about 4% of those who had a high school diploma (with no college) and about 2% of college graduates.... The states with the lowest percentages of hourly paid workers earning at or below the federal minimum wage were Washington, California, and Oregon (all less than 2%).”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Voter Turnout in Primary Elections. By Eric McGhee. Public Policy Institute of California. May 2014. 21 p.

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_514EMR.pdf

Although California's turnout for primary elections is falling, it is better than that of other states. In the 2012 primary, turnout was the second lowest on record, despite the new "top-two" election system, which is considered one electoral change that might increase voter turnout. Potential factors for continued lower primary turnout are the shift of initiative measures to the general election, and the perception that presidential candidate races have already been decided by the time California holds its primary election.

HEALTH

Eligible Uninsured Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders: 8 in 10 Could Receive Health Insurance and Marketplace Tax Credits, Medicaid or CHIP. By Minh Wendt, et al. ASPE Office of Health Policy, Department of Health and Human Services. Mar. 2014. 12 p.

http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2014/UninsuredAANHPI/rb_UninsuredAANHPI.pdf

"Under the Affordable Care Act, over 1.9 million eligible uninsured Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) gained access to new options for health care coverage starting January 1, 2014. Eight in ten, or 1.6 million, of these eligible uninsured AANHPIs may qualify either for tax credits to purchase coverage in the Health Insurance Marketplace (755,000) or for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (798,000)." California has over 35% of all eligible uninsured AANHPIs in the United States. The report describes the impact health care coverage would have on this population.

"Exposure to Neighborhood Green Space and Mental Health: Evidence from the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin." By Kirstin M.M. Beyer, et al. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol. 11, no. 3 (Mar. 21, 2014) pp. 3453-3472.

<http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/11/3/3453>

"Few population level studies have examined the relationships between green space and mental health. Further, few studies have considered the role of green space in non-urban settings. This study contributes a population-level perspective from the United States to examine the relationship between environmental green space and mental health outcomes in a study area that includes a spectrum of urban to rural environments.... Results suggest that 'greening' could be a potential population mental health improvement strategy in the United States."

HOUSING

Underwater America: How the So-Called Housing "Recovery" is Bypassing Many American Communities. By Peter Dreier, et al. Haas Institute, University of California, Berkeley. May 2014. 40 p.

http://diversity.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/HaasInstitute_UnderwaterAmerica_PUBLISH_0.pdf

"In the first report of its kind, we analyze negative equity and foreclosure data together with race and income data, at the ZIP code level, the city level and the metropolitan area level. The report shows that if we drill down to the neighborhood level, a startling number of communities across the country still face very high underwater rates." The report identified 100 of the hardest-hit cities, including 18 in California. In 71% of these U.S. cities, African Americans and Latinos account for at least 40% of the residents. The report concludes with policy recommendations for local government.

HUMAN SERVICES

Living in Near Poverty in the United States: 1966–2012. By Charles Hokayem, et al. U.S. Census Bureau. May 2014. 26 p.

www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p60-248.pdf?eml=gd

“This report describes individuals and families living near poverty—those individuals whose family incomes are close to, but not below, official poverty thresholds.... The rate of individuals in near poverty has remained more stable than the rate of individuals in poverty over the past 4 decades. Approximately 1 in 20 individuals, 4.7 %, lived in near poverty in the United States in 2012.... The near poverty population participated in federal and state assistance programs with participation highest in the National School Lunch Program and the SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] in 2012. A higher percentage of the near-poverty population than the poverty population qualified for the [Earned Income Tax Credit].”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Products Liability and Driverless Cars: Issues and Guiding Principles for Legislation.

By John Villasenor. Center for Technology Innovation at Brookings Institution. Apr. 2014. 25 p.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2014/04/products%20liability%20driverless%20cars%20villasenor/products_liability_and_driverless_cars.pdf

“This paper provides a discussion of how products liability law will impact autonomous vehicles, and provides a set of guiding principles for legislation that should—and that should not—be enacted. In some very specific, narrow respects, state-level legislative clarity regarding autonomous vehicle liability can be beneficial. Vehicle manufacturers that sell non-autonomous vehicles, for example, should not be liable for defects in third-party vehicle automation systems installed in the aftermarket. But broad new liability statutes aimed at protecting the manufacturers of autonomous vehicle technology are unnecessary.”

About *Studies in the News*

Studies in the News (SITN) is a service provided by the California Research Bureau (CRB), a division of the California State Library. CRB provides independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the Governor, Legislature and State Constitutional Officers.

SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed weekly. Archived issues are available at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.

To add or remove your name from the SITN distribution list, or to update your e-mail address, please contact us at crb@library.ca.gov, or (916) 319-2691.

SITN is available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.