



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Health Care for California's Jail Population. By Mia Bird, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. June 2014. 6 p.

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_614MBR.pdf

"The jail population has high health needs but faces substantial barriers to accessing health care. Available data suggests that rates of infectious diseases (such as tuberculosis and hepatitis) and chronic conditions (such as hypertension and asthma) are higher among incarcerated individuals compared to the general population. Inmates also have higher rates of mental health and substance use issues.... [N]ational statistics suggest that local jail inmates are more likely to have mental health problems than even state and federal prisoners.... In this report, we take advantage of the Jail Profile Survey (JPS) to

assess the recent level of health care provision in county jail systems, as well as trends in care over the past decade.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Political Polarization in the American Public: How Increasing Ideological Uniformity and Partisan Antipathy Affect Politics, Compromise and Everyday Life. By Michael Dimock, et al. Pew Research Center. June 2014. 121 p.

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2014/06/6-12-2014-Political-Polarization-Release.pdf>

“Republicans and Democrats are more divided along ideological lines—and partisan antipathy is deeper and more extensive—than at any point in the last two decades.... Partisan animosity has increased substantially over the same period.” Numbers of those who consistently hold ideological views have doubled over the past twenty years. “As partisans have moved to the left and the right, the share of Americans with mixed views has declined.” The share of Americans taking a roughly equal number of liberal and conservative positions across 10 ideological values questions in the survey dropped 10 points to 39% from 2004.

ECONOMY

The 2014 State New Economy Index: Benchmarking Economic Transformation in the States. By Robert D. Atkinson, et al. Information Technology & Innovation Foundation. June 2014. 80 p.

<http://www.itif.org/publications/2014-state-new-economy-index>

State economies are constantly changing and evolving, reacting to new products, businesses, laws and consumer demographics and demands. The challenge for state economic development is to encourage a type of economic evolution through policies and strategies to support state competitiveness. This 2014 edition builds upon six prior editions, using 25 indicators divided into five areas: knowledge jobs; globalization; economic dynamism; the digital economy; and innovation capacity. California ranks third, fueled by innovation capacity, venture capital, patents, entrepreneurship and skilled workforce indicators.

EDUCATION

The Effect of School Finance Reforms on the Distribution of Spending, Academic Achievement, and Adult Outcomes. By C. Kirabo Jackson, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. May 2014. 88 p.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w20118>

“The school finance reforms (SFRs) that began in the early 1970s and accelerated in the 1980s caused some of the most dramatic changes in the structure of K–12 education spending in U.S. history. We analyze the effects of these reforms on the level and distribution of school district spending, as well as their effects on subsequent educational and economic outcomes.... We find that SFRs have been instrumental in equalizing school spending between low- and high-income districts.... Event-study and instrumental variable models reveal that a 20% increase in per-pupil spending each year for all 12 years of public school for children from poor families leads to about 0.9 more completed years of education, 25% higher earnings, and a twenty percentage-point reduction in the annual incidence of adult poverty.”

EMPLOYMENT

***The Impact of Oakland's Proposed City Minimum Wage Law: A Prospective Study.* By Michael Reich, et al. Institute for Research on Labor and Employment and UC Berkeley Labor Center. June 2014.**

Report. 19 p.: <http://www.irle.berkeley.edu/cwed/briefs/2014-01.pdf>

Data and Methods. 7 p.: <http://www.irle.berkeley.edu/cwed/briefs/2014-01-data-and-methods.pdf>

“This study examines the effects of a \$12.25 minimum wage on Oakland workers and businesses. Drawing on a variety of government data sources, we estimate that more than a quarter of the Oakland workforce would benefit from the proposed policy, with the average worker earning an additional \$2,700 a year.... Workers’ hourly wages and annual incomes would rise, resulting in increased annual earnings of \$120 million per year.... Adults and workers of color would see significant benefits of a pay increase.... Increasing the minimum wage would have a modest impact on business operating costs and consumer prices.... The proposed 36% minimum wage increase in Oakland lies within the range of previous local minimum wage laws.”

ENERGY

***The Future of the Utility Industry and the Role of Energy Efficiency.* By Steven Nadel, et al. American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy. June 10, 2014. 100 p.**

<http://aceee.org/research-report/u1404> (Free registration required)

“The electric and gas utility industries are facing substantial changes. For decades, rising sales have contributed to increasing revenues and profits, but the combination of improved energy efficiency with the growing use of solar electric systems and other forms of ‘distributed energy’ has reduced growth rates, which could lead to small declines in future sales. But these potential small declines will not lead to the kind of ‘death spirals’ claimed by some industry alarmists.... Still, the industry and their regulators will need to make substantial changes in the next few years in order to continue providing quality service at a reasonable price, while providing utilities reasonable returns on their investments.” (*ACEEE Blog*, June 10, 2014).

ENVIRONMENT

***Sources, Uses, and Disposal of Water in Hydraulic Fracturing.* By Kellie Jean Hogue. California Research Bureau. June 2014. 2 p.**

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/14/S-14-014.pdf>

“Water is an integral part of hydraulic fracturing, an enhanced technique for oil and gas recovery that has garnered much media attention in recent years. Sources and uses of water vary, depending on the type of event, geographic site, and geologic situation. The second in our series on hydraulic fracturing in California, this Short Subject discusses the role of water in this popular technique: where it comes from, how it is used, the composition of hydraulic fracturing fluids, and what happens to the fluids after the event.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

2013-14 COSLA Survey: Overview: Results from the American Library Association's Survey of Chief Officers of State Library Agencies. By R. Norman Rose. American Library Association. Apr. 2014. 14 p.

<http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org/offices/files/content/ors/reports/COSLA1314ALASurvey.pdf>

"Libraries continue to provide their vital community service despite the cuts of the past five years. There continue to be reductions in hours and flat budgets—but perhaps the constant budget cuts are leveling off for public libraries. That flattening (and some increases) may not recover losses from years of state belt-tightening, highlighted in our trend graph. Public libraries continue to look for ways to keep pace with broadband needs—few respondents feel that their libraries are prepared to handle the bandwidth loads in the coming years."

HEALTH

Trends in Electronic Health Record System Use Among Office-based Physicians: United States, 2007-2012. By Chun-Ju Hsiao, et al. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. May 20, 2014. 18 p.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr075.pdf>

"This report describes trends in the adoption of EHR [electronic health record] systems by office-based physicians from 2007 through 2012. Three measures of EHR adoption are examined: use of any type of EHR system, and the availability of an EHR system that had features meeting the criteria of a basic or a fully functional system. EHR adoption trends by selected physician and practice characteristics from 2007 to 2012 are also reported." The results of a national survey show that "[d]uring 2007–2012, use of any type of EHR system and adoption of a basic system both increased in all categories of physician specialty and practice size." The percentage of office-based physicians using EHR increased from 34.8% in 2007 to 71.8% in 2012.

HUMAN SERVICES

Proposed EITC Expansion Would Increase Eligibility and Dollars for Rural and Urban "Childless" Workers. By Jessica A. Carson, et al. Carsey Institute. June 3, 2014. 4 p.

<http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/sites/carseyinstitute.unh.edu/files/publications/IB-Carson-Mattingly-EITC-2014-web.pdf>

"The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is touted for its success in encouraging work and reducing poverty. However, low-income workers without qualifying children are largely excluded from these benefits.... Proposed changes to the ... EITC will increase the share of childless workers eligible for the EITC equally in rural and urban places, although rural residents are more likely to be eligible under both current and proposed policies. The average increase in the credit—\$476—would be similar for married and single filers without qualifying children in both rural and urban places. On average, the proposal would more than double the current credit for childless workers."

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Modes Less Traveled—Bicycling and Walking to Work in the United States: 2008-2012.

By Brian McKenzie. U.S. Census Bureau. May 2014. 18 p.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/acs-25.pdf>

“This report highlights the geographic, social, and economic dimensions that shape work-related travel by bicycle and walking. It unpacks the local variation overlooked in national snapshots of nonmotorized commuting rates and it reinforces that local factors play an important role in shaping travel behavior. A regional comparison shows that bicycle commuting is highest in the West, where a handful of cities, particularly college towns, consistently show notably high rates of bicycle commuting.... Among the nation’s largest cities that experienced a significant change in the rate of bicycle commuting during the 2000s, almost all experienced an increase. Across large cities, changes in walking were more mixed over the decade. Where workers live also matters, as workers who live in cities had a higher rate of walking and bicycle commuting than those in suburbs or outside of a metropolitan area.”

About *Studies in the News*

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