



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Responses to Disabled Americans: Promising Approaches for Protecting Public Safety. Written Testimony of Nicholas Turner. Vera Institute of Justice. Apr. 29, 2014. 9 p.

<http://www.vera.org/pubs/nicholas-turner-testimony-law-enforcement-responses-disabled-americans>

"Addressing two primary concerns—the high rates of victimization against individuals with disabilities and the overrepresentation of individuals with mental illness in the criminal justice system—Turner outlines

both the leading research and most promising programs in the field that can help ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to services and criminal justice interventions, and the mentally ill are safely diverted from entering the justice system.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Unsafe and Harassed in Public Spaces: A National Street Harassment Report.* By Holly Kearl. GfK. Spring 2014. 66 p.**

<http://www.stopstreetharassment.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/2014-National-SSH-Street-Harassment-Report.pdf>

“Sixty-five percent of women reported experiencing at least one type of street harassment in their lifetimes. More than half (57%) of all women had experienced verbal harassment, and 41% of all women had experienced physically aggressive forms, including sexual touching (23%), following (20%), flashing (14%), and being forced to do something sexual (9%). For men, 25% experienced street harassment, too, including 18% who experienced verbal harassment and 16% who experienced physically aggressive forms.... Most harassed persons change their lives in some way as a result of the experience. The most common change was for harassed people to constantly assess their surroundings as a result of harassment (47% of women and 32% of men).”

ECONOMY

***Declining Business Dynamism in the United States: A Look at States and Metros.* By Ian Hathaway, et al. Brookings. May 5, 2014. 8 p.**

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2014/05/declining-business-dynamism-litan>

“Business dynamism is the process by which firms continually are born, fail, expand, and contract, as some jobs are created, others are destroyed, and others still are turned over. Research has firmly established that this dynamic process is vital to productivity and sustained economic growth. Entrepreneurs play a critical role in this process, and in net job creation. But recent research shows that dynamism is slowing down.... This decline has been documented across a broad range of sectors in the U.S. economy, even in high-tech.” Pulling from U.S. Census data, this report documents sustained declining business dynamism from 1978-2011, pervasive across sectors and throughout the nation. The report’s appendix compares average annual rates for two periods: 1978-80 and 2009-11 on state and local firm entry and exit rates and job relocation rates.

EMPLOYMENT

***San Diego’s Low Wage Workforce: A Complex Portrait.* National University System Institute for Policy Research. May 2014. 12 p.**

http://www.nusinstitute.org/assets/resources/pageResources/NUSIPR_Low_Wage_Earner_Analysis.PDF

“San Diego’s low wage earners are diverse, complex, and have varying levels of education and household income.... San Diego low wage earners are mostly young, single, and early in their careers.... Latinos make a disproportionate share of the low wage workforce.... Low wage earners have less formal education than wage earners citywide.... Restaurant, hospitality and sales positions are the most common low wage occupations.... There are a significant number of minimum wage workers that are part of high-income households.... With regard to the minimum wage debate, NUSIPR believes more data and analysis is needed before considering major economic policy changes.”

ENVIRONMENT

Wasting Our Waterways. By Jeff Inglis, et al. Environment California Research and Policy Center. June 19, 2014. 72 p.

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/reports/cae/wasting-our-waterways-0>

“Industrial facilities dumped 2.4 million pounds of toxic chemicals into California’s waterways statewide in 2012, making California’s waterways the 26th worst in the nation.... The ‘Wasting Our Waterways’ report comes as the Environmental Protection Agency considers a new rule to restore Clean Water Act protections to thousands of waterways in California and across the nation.... Overall, polluters dumped 1.67 million pounds of toxic chemicals into the San Francisco Bay watershed during 2012. This is 71% of all toxic water pollution documented for California’s waterways that year.” (*Press release*).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Lane v. Franks, et al. U.S. Supreme Court no. 13-483. June 19, 2014. 22 p.

http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/13pdf/13-483_9o6b.pdf

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court justices ruled that public employees are protected from retaliation when they testify in court about misconduct they observe on the job. First Amendment free speech rights apply to government workers just as they would to any citizen. The decision could have an impact on future whistleblowers and their willingness to testify in court.

HEALTH

Estimates of Diabetes and Its Burden in the United States. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. June 2014. 12 p.

<http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/statsreport14/national-diabetes-report-web.pdf>

Using various national testing systems, Census data and published studies, this report estimates the number of people who currently have diabetes or have been diagnosed with prediabetic symptoms. Currently, 29.1 million people in the United States, or 9.3% of the population, have diabetes. In 2012, 1.7 million new cases were diagnosed in adults age 20 years and older. American Indian (15.9%) and non-Hispanic black adults (13.2%) are among the highest risk groups.

HOUSING

Codes and Standards Consulting: California’s Residential Indoor Water Use. California Homebuilding Foundation. Mar. 2014. 10 p.

<http://www.mychf.org/go/linkservid/19A16F2E-C561-47B7-9EC0618A43897B42/showMeta/0/>

This report details conservation efforts in California’s indoor residential water use. Buildings constructed after 2011 conform to the 2010 California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) for maximum flow rates of toilets, faucets and showers. Retrofitting older homes with new plumbing fixtures could help conserve even more water. “If existing single-family housing (prior to 2011) updated their showerheads and faucets to become CALGreen compliant, over 136 billion gallons of water per year could be saved. This is equivalent to 418,40 acre feet of water, which is equal to 3.8% of the current reservoir capacity in California.”

HUMAN SERVICES

CMS's Reliance on California's Licensing Surveys of Nursing Homes Could Not Ensure the Quality of Care Provided to Medicare and Medicaid Beneficiaries. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. June 2014. 28 p.
<http://oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region9/91202037.pdf>

"[California Department of Public Health, Licensing and Certification Division] must perform licensing surveys of nursing homes every 2 years to determine whether they meet the licensing requirements. If a nursing home does not meet these requirements, the State agency can impose a fine, suspend or revoke the nursing home's license ... CMS [The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services] relied on the State agency's licensing surveys of nursing homes. However, we found that nursing homes did not always meet certain State requirements for employee health examinations and optional service units. The licensing surveys did not always identify these issues."

The Invisible Achievement Gap: How the Foster Care Experiences of California Public School Students Are Associated with Their Education Outcomes. By Wendy Wiegmann, et al. WestEd. 2014. 116 p.
<http://www.cacollegepathways.org/sites/default/files/the-invisible-achievement-gap-part-2.pdf>

This second report on foster care and education "underscores the relative educational disadvantage of students in foster care and highlights the differences in education experiences and outcomes by key characteristics of foster care placements, such as time in foster care, the type of foster care placement, and the number of foster care placements during the school year.... Finally, this report documents the association between foster care placement instability and school changes, low-standardized-test performance, as well as higher dropout rates and lower graduation rates."

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Hot Spots 2013. National Insurance Crime Bureau. June 2014.
https://www.nicb.org/newsroom/nicb_campaigns/hot_spots

"NICB's Hot Spots report examines vehicle theft data obtained from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for each of the nation's metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)... Although California tends to place high in this report, this is the first time that California has held nine of the top 10 spots for MSAs with the highest per capita vehicle theft rates. In 2012, it held eight and in 2011, seven." This link provides an interactive map that allows the user to examine the number of vehicle thefts and the theft rate per 100,000 people for each MSA in the United States.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Dangerous by Design 2014. By Geoff Anderson, et al. Smart Growth America. May 2014. 48 p.
<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/documents/dangerous-by-design-2014/dangerous-by-design-2014.pdf>

"[T]his report uses a Pedestrian Danger Index (PDI) that gives an indication of the likelihood of a person on foot being hit by a vehicle and killed. The PDI is based on the share of local commuters who walk to work ... and the most recent five years of data on pedestrian fatalities.... This report also analyzes the data to determine the types of roadways where pedestrian deaths are most common. The examination of data in the federal Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) reveals that people on foot were most often killed on higher capacity and higher speed roads classified as arterial." Five California metropolitan areas ranked among the most dangerous: Riverside-San Bernadino-Ontario (14th), Sacramento-Arden-

Arcade-Roseville (23rd), Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana (27th), San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos (29th), and San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara (30th).

VETERANS

***State Veteran Benefit Utilization: 2013 California Women Veteran Survey.* By Matthew K. Buttice. California Research Bureau. June 2014. 2 p.**

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/14/S-14-016.pdf>

“The military service of California's women veterans entitles them to a number of state benefits including employment assistance, property tax exemptions, and tuition fee waivers for dependents. In order to use these benefits and services, however, veterans need to be aware of their existence. Results from the 2010 National Survey of Veterans suggest that a majority of veterans may not be familiar with the benefits that are available to them. This Short Subject presents results from the 2013 California Women Veteran Survey, which asked respondents about their use and knowledge of a variety of veteran benefits and services offered by the state of California.”

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