



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***State Prison Health Care Spending: An Examination.* Pew Charitable Trusts, et al. July 2014. 32 p.**
<http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/Assets/2014/07/StatePrisonHealthCareSpendingReport.pdf>

“Under the landmark 1976 *Estelle v. Gamble* decision, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that prisoners have a constitutional right to adequate medical attention and concluded that the Eighth Amendment is violated when corrections officials display ‘deliberate indifference’ to an inmate’s medical needs.... This report examines the factors driving costs by analyzing new data on all 50 states’ prison health care spending from fiscal 2007 to 2011. It also describes a variety of promising strategies that states are using

to manage spending, including the use of telehealth technology, improved management of health services contractors, Medicaid financing, and medical or geriatric parole.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***American Time Use Survey.* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. June 18, 2014. 25 p.**
www.bls.gov/tus/

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) has released the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) results for 2013. ATUS is a supplemental survey given a subset of Current Population Survey (CPS) respondents 2-5 months after their last month in the CPS. According to the survey, the average American worked 7.6 hours per day on days they worked. Employed adults with no children engaged in 4.5 hours of leisure activity per day, compared to 3.5 for those with children in the household. More than half of all leisure time was reported to be used watching television. The survey also looked at time spent caring for children.

ECONOMY

***The Role of Transit in Support of High Growth Business Clusters in the U.S.* By Glen Weisbrod, et al. American Public Transportation Association. 2014. 92 p.**
<http://www.apta.com/resources/reportsandpublications/Documents/TransitHighGrowthClustersUS-Final2013-1124.pdf>

“This study addresses issues of business productivity, market access and transit service for high growth business clusters in the United States. The study draws on eight high-growth knowledge-oriented business clusters and their transportation conditions in six US cities to provide an estimate of the total national income and employment consequences of road accessibility challenges.” Findings include: location matters; existing firms are a magnet attracting additional firms to settle nearby; up to 480,000 jobs could be affected by 2040 by transportation capacity constraints; and, transit access to clusters could support 104,000 of these jobs resulting in \$13.6 billion in annual business output, \$5.7 billion in wage income and nearly \$8.6 billion in GDP.

EDUCATION

***States Moving from Accreditation to Accountability.* By Micah Ann Wixom. Education Commission of the States. June 2014. 6 p.**
<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/12/72/11272.pdf>

“Accreditation policies vary widely among the states. Since ECS last reviewed public school accreditation policies in 1998, a number of states have seen their legislatures take a stronger role in accountability—resulting in a move from state-administered accreditation systems to outcomes-focused state accountability programs. Even in states maintaining accreditation programs, accreditation is often a component of the larger accountability system that evaluates school, district and state educational performance on a number of indicators.... [California] has an education accountability system that does not include a formal accreditation process.”

EMPLOYMENT

***Women, Working Families, and Unions.* By Janelle Jones, et al. Center for Economic and Policy Research. June 2014. 27 p.**

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/women-union-2014-06.pdf>

“One of every nine women in the United States (11.8% in 2013) is represented by a union at her place of work. The annual number of hours of paid work performed by women has increased dramatically over the last four decades.... Meanwhile, women's share of unpaid care work and housework has remained high.... Since unions disproportionately raise wages at the middle and the bottom of the wage distribution, and since unions reduce gender wage disparities both across and within occupations, unionization works to reduce the gender pay gap.” Unionized women are more likely than non-unionized women to receive health-insurance benefits through their job, to participate in an employer-sponsored retirement program, and to have access to all forms of family medical leave, among other benefits.

ENERGY

***The Renewable Fuel Standard: Issues for 2014 and Beyond.* Congressional Budget Office. June 26, 2014. 38 p.**

<http://www.cbo.gov/publication/45477>

“The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) establishes minimum volumes of various types of renewable fuels that must be included in the United States’ supply of fuel for transportation. Those volumes—as defined by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA)—are intended to grow each year through 2022.... In recent years, the requirements of the RFS have been met largely by blending gasoline with ethanol made from cornstarch. In the future, EISA requires the use of increasingly large amounts of ‘advanced biofuels,’ which include diesel made from biomass (such as soybean oil or animal fat), ethanol made from sugarcane, and cellulosic biofuels (made from converting the cellulose in plant materials into fuel).... Policymakers and analysts have raised concerns about the RFS, particularly about the feasibility of complying with the standard, whether it will increase prices for food and transportation fuels, and whether it will lead to the intended reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.”

ENVIRONMENT

***Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Prenatal Residential Proximity to Agricultural Pesticides: The CHARGE Study.* Janie F. Shelton, et al. Environmental Health Perspectives. June 23, 2014. 30 p.**

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/advpub/2014/6/ehp.1307044.pdf>

Direct exposure to agricultural pesticides during pregnancy has been linked to neurotoxicity and is associated with developmental delays (DD) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnoses. This study sought to evaluate whether the proximity of a family’s home to agricultural pesticide releases was likewise associated with DD or ASD. The study found increased risk for those conditions among children whose mothers lived within a 1.75km buffer area around organophosphates, organochlorines, pyrethroids, and carbamates. The study found that vulnerable periods and associated disorders varied between the chemicals, but that all chemicals were associated with some increased risk.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***A State Official's Guide to Science-Based Decision-Making.* Council of State Governments. June 2014. 28 p.**

http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/system/files/SoundScience2014_FINAL_web_0.pdf

This guide provides background on how to evaluate scientific or technical information by explaining the importance of the scientific method. Policymakers can integrate their knowledge with the decision-making process via peer review, risk assessment and adaptive management. The goal of this guide is to help policymakers “engage stakeholders and non-governmental participants in a formal discourse meant to resolve issues using quality and verifiable science.”

HEALTH

***Covered California's First Year: Strong Enrollment Numbers Mask Serious Gaps.* By Jordan Medina, et al. The Greenlining Institute. June 2014. 27 p.**

<http://greenlining.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/iHealth-Report-print-friendly.pdf>

“A persistent gap remains between the demographics of Covered California enrollees, the overall state population and California’s uninsured population.” By comparing the number of enrollees to demographic data from the Census Bureau, the authors found that, during the open enrollment period, the non-English-speaking population did not seem to sign up for health insurance plans in proportionate numbers to the rest of the population. “This report includes analyses of each specified problem area and potential solutions designed to make sure all Californians, regardless of race, socioeconomic status or language spoken, can obtain health insurance through Covered California.”

HUMAN SERVICES

***Changes in Areas with Concentrated Poverty: 2000 to 2010.* By Alemayehu Bishaw. U.S. Census Bureau. June 2014. 27 p.**

<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/acs/acs-27.pdf>

“One in four U.S. residents lives in ‘poverty areas,’ ... up from less than one in five in 2000. These areas of concentrated poverty refer to any census tract with a poverty rate of 20 percent or more. The number of people living in poverty areas increased from 49.5 million (18.0%) in 2000 to 77.4 million (25.7%) in 2008-2012. ... [This report analyzes] changes in the spatial distribution and socio-economic characteristics of people living in such areas. More than half of people living in poverty lived in a poverty area, and about 30% of people living in poverty areas had incomes below the poverty level.” (*beSpacific*, July 2, 2014).

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Bicycling and Walking in the United States 2014.* By Andrea Milne, et al. Alliance for Biking and Walking. 2014. 268 p.**

http://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Advocate/Federal_Government_Affairs/Advocacy_Day/Advocacy_Day_2014/Biking%20and%20Walking%20in%20the%20US.pdf

“The most recent nationwide data on bicycling and walking mode share show that only 1.0% of all trips taken in the U.S. are by bicycle, and 10.4% are on foot (NHTS 2009). Of commuters nationwide, 2.8% get to work by walking and 0.6% get to work by bicycle. These numbers are slightly higher in large cities (5.0% and 1.0%, respectively). Though these numbers are low, they represent a continuing gradual increase in bicycling and walking in the U.S.... [Bicycling and walking have a] positive impact on job

growth, individual transportation costs, retail sales, traffic congestion, air quality, property values and stability, health and worker productivity, and events and tourism.... San Francisco has, by far, the densest network of bicycle facilities with 7.8 miles of lanes, paths, and routes per square mile in the city.”

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