



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Recalibrating Justice: A Review of 2013 State Sentencing and Corrections Trends.

By Ram Subramanian, et al. Vera Institute of Justice. July 2014. 48 p.

<http://www.vera.org/pubs/state-sentencing-and-corrections-trends-2013>

"In 2013, 35 states passed at least 85 bills to change some aspect of how their criminal justice system addresses sentencing and corrections.... [P]olicy changes have focused on the following five areas: reducing prison populations and costs; expanding or strengthening community-based corrections; implementing risk and needs assessments; supporting offender reentry into the community; and making better informed criminal justice policy through data-driven research and analysis." California passed two

bills supporting the reentry of offenders into the community: AB 218 (employment applications: criminal history) and AB 720 (healthcare enrollment).

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Fertility of Women in the United States 2012.* By Lindsay M. Monte, et al. Census Bureau. July 2014. 26 p.**
<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p20-575.pdf>

“[C]hanges in fertility are important because recent research suggests that women’s childbearing is related to their rates of employment, their educational attainment, and their economic well-being.... Some highlights of the report include: Births to adolescents continued to decline, and more than one in five women with a birth in the past 12 months reported at the time of the survey that they were living in someone else’s home. The majority of first births occur in marriage, as they have for decades, but the most recent cohort of young mothers is much more likely to have had their first birth in a cohabiting relationship than in marriage.”

ECONOMY

***America’s Top Metros: Who’s Leading the Recovery, and Why.* By Tom Gray, et al. Center for State and Local Leadership at the Manhattan Institute. June 2014. 52 p.**
http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/cr_89.pdf

This study examines the economic viability of the largest 100 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in the U.S. from 2009–2012 to identify those that managed to thrive and those that lagged behind during the recession, as measured by growth in economic output (GDP), personal income, and jobs. The analysis did not turn up a simple formula of factors leading to the growth or decline of a MSA, but it provides tentative conclusions about conditions that help foster economic leadership. The study emphasized the importance of maximizing the strengths and demographic trends of the MSA; higher educational attainment generally associated with greater economic success; and slow recovery of economic growth, which had been dependent upon construction before the recession.

EDUCATION

***Investing in Children: Child Development Accounts as an Early Childhood Intervention.* By Terri Friedline, et al. New America Foundation. July 2014. 26 p.**
http://assets.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/Friedline-Schuetz-CDAs_as_Early_Childhood_Intervention.pdf

“Child Development Accounts (CDAs)—specially designed accounts opened in children’s own names—are a preventive, economic intervention that can complement investments made by existing early childhood interventions and advance their mission of helping children reach their full potential. Poverty is an inhibitor of children’s opportunities for educational and economic advancement. Federal, state, and local governments have dedicated substantial resources to mitigating the effects of poverty. CDAs are a complementary strategy with great potential but one that is underutilized. The positive outcomes of CDA ownership and development can be supported by appropriate policy design and by providing appropriate, intentional preparation to children about their CDAs.”

EMPLOYMENT

California's Paid Family Leave Program: Ten Years after the Program's Implementation, Who Has Benefited and What Has Been Learned? By Brie Lindsey, et al. California Senate Office of Research. July 2014. 17 p.

http://www.sor.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B3BDD1595-792B-4D20-8D44-626EF05648C7%7D/uploads/Paid_Family_Leave_FINAL.pdf

“Californians’ access to paid family leave [PFL] was increased greatly with the passage of Senate Bill 1661 (Kuehl, Chapter 901, Statutes of 2002).... However, evidence suggests there are many Californians eligible for PFL who are not using it.... The proportion of claims filed by men has nearly doubled from 17.3% in 2004 to 30.2% in 2013.... The percentage of claimants in the two lowest income brackets has decreased gradually over the past nine years.... Over the past decade, more than one-fourth of female claimants consistently have had low incomes (up to \$24,000 per year), while fewer than 10% of men have. Conversely, over the last decade the proportion of male claimants with higher-end incomes (over \$72,000 per year) has grown from 26.3% to 36.2%, while the proportion of female claimants in the same earnings bracket has grown from 11.1% to 22.9%.”

ENERGY

“A Roadmap for Repowering California for All Purposes with Wind, Water, and Sunlight.”
By Mark Z. Jacobson, et al. *Energy* (July 2014) 55 p.

<http://web.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/Articles/I/CaliforniaWWS.pdf>

“This study presents a roadmap for converting California's all-purpose (electricity, transportation, heating/cooling, and industry) energy infrastructure to one derived entirely from wind, water, and sunlight (WWS) generating electricity and electrolytic hydrogen.... The California plan is similar in outline to one developed for New York State ... but expands, deepens, and adapts the analysis for California in several important ways.... This roadmap can serve as a template for plans in other states and countries.” The report offers a set of short-term policy steps that can be taken to foster the proposed conversion to WWS.

ENVIRONMENT

Land Subsidence from Groundwater Use in California. By James W. Borchers, et al. California Water Foundation. Apr. 2014.

Full Report. 193 p.: http://www.californiawaterfoundation.org/uploads/1397858208-SUBSIDENCEFULLREPORT_FINAL.pdf

Summary Report. 41 p.: <http://californiawaterfoundation.org/uploads/1397858037-SubsidenceShortReportFINAL%2800248030xA1C15%29.pdf>

In response to drought conditions, groundwater pumping has dramatically increased in California's agricultural districts. This has led to accelerating land subsidence across the state, which can: impact the water capacity of canals, streams and rivers; reduce the effectiveness of flood control levees, causing physical damage to buildings and other infrastructure; and create land fissures that allow for the contamination of shallow aquifers. The report proposes increased monitoring to better understand this ongoing problem.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Understanding the U.S. National Innovation System. By Robert D. Atkinson.
The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation. June 2014. 27 p.
<http://www2.itif.org/2014-understanding-us-innovation-system.pdf>

“This report first briefly describes the historical evolution of the U.S. national innovation system. It then describes the broad elements of the national innovation system organized around what is termed the ‘innovation success triangle’: the business environment, regulatory environment, and innovation environment. In addition, for each element it provides a subjective and informal ranking of the U.S. strengths relative to other nations.”

HEALTH

“Association Between Class III Obesity (BMI of 40-59 kg/m²) and Mortality: A Pooled Analysis of 20 Prospective Studies.” By Cari M. Kitahara, et al. *PLoS*, vol. 11, no. 7 (July 2014) 14 p.
<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1001673>

Class III obesity in adults is defined as a body mass index (BMI) of over 40 kilograms per square meter. This report pooled 20 studies from the United States, Sweden and Australia, and analyzed mortality rates of those classified with Class III obesity, compared with those of normal weight. The results of these studies point to a strong correlation between morbid obesity and a shortened life expectancy. “Class III obesity is associated with substantially elevated rates of total mortality, with most of the excess deaths due to heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, and major reductions in life expectancy compared with normal weight.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Raising Expectations: A State Scorecard on Long-Term Services and Supports for Older Adults, People with Physical Disabilities, and Family Caregivers. By Susan C. Reinhard, et al. AARP.
June 19, 2014. 120 p.
http://www.longtermscorecard.org/~media/Microsite/Files/2014/Reinhard_LTSS_Scorecard_web_619v2.pdf

This report is “a multidimensional approach to measure state-level performance of LTSS [Long-Term Services and Supports] systems that assist older people, adults with disabilities, and their family caregivers. This second edition ... measures LTSS system performance across five key dimensions: (1) affordability and access, (2) choice of setting and provider, (3) quality of life and quality of care, (4) support for family caregivers, and (5) effective transitions. Performance varies tremendously across the states, with LTSS systems in leading states having markedly different characteristics than those in lagging states.” California is in the top quartile, ranking 9th in overall system performance.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Governing Guide to Financial Literacy: Connecting Money, Policy and Priorities.

By Justin Marlowe. e.Republic. June 18, 2014. 44 p.

[http://825d0007e19cfb8330f5-](http://825d0007e19cfb8330f5-793aa0e2839afbbc4a0b9a46376ed589.r13.cf1.rackcdn.com/GOV14_FinancialLiteracy_v.pdf)

[793aa0e2839afbbc4a0b9a46376ed589.r13.cf1.rackcdn.com/GOV14_FinancialLiteracy_v.pdf](http://825d0007e19cfb8330f5-793aa0e2839afbbc4a0b9a46376ed589.r13.cf1.rackcdn.com/GOV14_FinancialLiteracy_v.pdf)

This publication serves as a guide to anyone who needs an overview of public finance. Readers will learn about sources of state and local revenue, expenditures, how to invest for long-term projects, and preparing for pension costs. The guide includes a review of public finance terminology and government accounting principles.

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