



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Does San Francisco’s Community Justice Center Reduce Criminal Recidivism? By Beau Kilmer, et al. RAND. Oct. 2014. 25 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR735.html

“In 2009, San Francisco opened a community court, the Community Justice Center (CJC), to serve the Tenderloin and adjacent neighborhoods, a traditionally high-crime area. Community courts are expressly oriented toward improving outcomes for offenders by addressing factors often linked to criminal behavior (by incorporating access to treatment and services within the criminal case management process); they

also emphasize ties to a specific neighborhood.” This report concludes that the CJC reduces the risk of rearrest, and may be beneficial to acquaintances of offenders as well as the community.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Sports-Related Concussions in Youth: Improving the Science, Changing the Culture.* By Robert Graham, et al. National Academies Press. 2014. 356 p.**

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18377

(Free registration required)

“[This study] reviews the science of sports-related concussions in youth from elementary school through young adulthood, as well as in military personnel and their dependents.... This report recommends actions that can be taken by a range of audiences—including research funding agencies, legislatures, state and school superintendents and athletic directors, military organizations, and equipment manufacturers, as well as youth who participate in sports and their parents—to improve what is known about concussions and to reduce their occurrence.... [If] the youth sports community can adopt the belief that concussions are serious injuries and emphasize care for players with concussions until they are fully recovered, then the culture in which these athletes perform and compete will become much safer.” (Pub Med).

ECONOMY

***Tri-Valley Rising: Its Vital Role in the Bay Area Economy.* Bay Area Council Economic Institute. Oct. 2014. 55 p.**

http://www.bayareaeconomy.org/media/files/pdf/BACEI_Tri_Valley_report.pdf

This report assesses the economic activity and transportation system in the Tri-Valley, an area comprising the cities of Livermore, San Ramon, Pleasanton, Dublin and Danville. Since 1994, Tri-Valley technology jobs have surged by 86%, outpacing the growth rate for all jobs in the area. From 2000 to 2012, the Tri-Valley area has added 40,000 jobs across all sectors. Growing employment within the area and an increasingly mobile workforce that commute to Silicon Valley, San Francisco and other parts of Alameda County are competing with distribution centers in the Central Valley that are transporting goods to Bay Area ports. The report finds its current transportation system is insufficient for sustained economic growth.

EDUCATION

***States and the (Not So) New Standards—Where Are They Now?* By Tonette Salazar, et al. Education Commission of the States. Sep. 2014. 7 p.**

<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/14/21/11421.pdf>

“States began adopting the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in 2010 after they were launched by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. Five years later, policymakers in numerous states continue to debate the Common Core and related elements, such as how to assess the standards. This brief provides a sampling of state legislative activity and executive branch action around the CCSS.... Concerns about the Common Core—whether arising from worries about data privacy or anxiety over control of classroom content—have drawn widespread media attention. It should be noted that the vast majority of states adopting the Common Core continue to support the effort.”

EMPLOYMENT

The U.S. Health Workforce—State Profiles. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Resource Administration. Aug. 2014.

Report. 104 p:

<http://bhw.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/supplydemand/usworkforce/stateprofiles/usworkforcestatesprofiles.pdf>

California. 4 p.:

<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/supplydemand/usworkforce/stateprofiles/california.pdf>

This compilation uses American Community Survey Public-use Microdata Sample, Census Bureau Working Age population, and Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System data to provide estimates on health workforce and graduation numbers. In California, there were an estimated 255.3 physicians, 743.1 registered nurses, and 170.9 social workers per 100,000 working-age population. There were an estimated 3.7 physician, 31.8 registered nurse, and 7.5 social worker graduates per 100,000 working-age populations during 2010. Other occupations include medical management, dental, aids, and pharmacy.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Improving Government Performance, Anticipating Citizens' Needs. Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Aug. 2014. 9 p.

<http://d1c25a6gwz7q5e.cloudfront.net/reports/2014-08-21-Improving-Government-Performance-Anticipating-Citizens-Need.pdf>

Federal, state and local governments can make use of predictive analytics to assess needs and implement a wide range of government programs. This brief offers some suggestions to be successful in using this technology: have clear policies on what information your agency will or will not collect; check to see what data is already being collected; and determine how data will be stored and if it will be compatible with other databases. The potential future of real-time data analysis can ultimately improve delivery of government services.

HEALTH

¿Cómo Están los Niños? The Health of Latino Children and Families in California. The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. Oct. 2014. 51 p.

<http://lpfch-cshcn.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Como-Estan-Los-Ni%C3%B1os.pdf>

“The health of Latino children and families is of increasing importance to California and the nation. The factors affecting Latino children’s health today will have lifelong consequences for their own health, and for the future well-being of California’s population and economy.” Using data from three national and statewide health surveys, this report discusses the health status of Latino children in California as well as their access to quality healthcare. The report recommends the use of a “whole child” approach to health policy by expanding access to healthcare, overcoming culture and language barriers, and educating families and communities on the benefits of exercise and proper nutrition.

HOUSING

Affordable Housing Cost Study. California Department of Housing and Community Development, et al. Oct. 6, 2014. 73 p.

<http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/docs/FinalAffordableHousingCostStudyReport-with-coverv2.pdf>

This report was prepared by the four California state agencies responsible for affordable housing. “Working over the course of a year, the study team collected and analyzed data from hundreds of multi-family projects completed in California during the past decade, resulting in the largest and most comprehensive data set of its kind ever assembled for the state.” Some findings: local factors can drive up the cost of affordable housing as much as 7% per unit; land costs influence overall cost factor more than previously believed; some developers have managed to combine cost savings with quality and safety—these developments should be further studied for best practices.

HUMAN SERVICES

Poverty in the United States: 2013. By Thomas Gabe. Congressional Research Service. Sep. 25, 2014. 81 p.

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33069.pdf>

“The poverty rate ... was reported at 14.5% in 2013, a statistically significant drop from the estimated 15.0% in 2012. Poverty in the United States increased markedly over the 2007-2010 period, in tandem with the economic recession (officially marked as running from December 2007 to June 2009), and remained unchanged at a post-recession high for three years (15.1% in 2010, and 15.0% in both 2011 and 2012). The 2013 poverty rate of 14.5% remains above a 2006 pre-recession low of 12.3%, and well above an historic low rate of 11.3% attained in 2000 (a rate statistically tied with a previous low of 11.1% in 1973).”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Millennials in Motion: Changing Travel Habits of Young Americans and the Implications for Public Policy. By Phineas Baxandall, et al. U.S. PIRG Education Fund. Oct. 2014. 51 p.

<http://uspirg.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/Millennials%20in%20Motion%20USPIRG.pdf>

This report “is intended to help policy-makers and the public make better informed and more responsive transportation decisions. The changing preferences and habits of the Millennial generation provide a golden opportunity to address many long-standing transportation problems, from traffic congestion to oil dependence and from car crashes to air pollution. The time has come for the United States to take advantage of that opportunity by shifting our transportation priorities in ways that provide a broader range of choices to Millennials and all Americans.”

VETERANS

The State of the American Veteran: The Los Angeles County Veterans Study. By Carl Andrew Castro, et al. USC School of Social Work. Sep. 2014. 64 p.

http://cir.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/USC010_CIRLAVetReport_FPpgs.pdf

“Service members encounter a series of needs as they transition out of the military. These include securing employment and housing, addressing physical or mental health issues and adjusting to civilian culture.” This report “surveyed 1,300 veterans living in Los Angeles County. In addition focused group interviews were conducted to supplement the findings from the survey.” The report found that many

veterans are not prepared to transition to civilian life, and their wide range of needs are often not addressed by service organizations. Recommendations include location-specific housing transition assistance, job placement, and local support services to assist veterans.

About *Studies in the News*

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