



Studies in the News

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Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Laws that criminalize homelessness in U.S., CA cities

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

The impact of race, class, and gender on life opportunities

ECONOMY

50-state survey: federal R&D totals \$117.3B, CA top awardee with \$18.1B

EDUCATION

PPIC recommendations: CA's school accountability program

Primer on preschool to 3rd grade education initiatives

EMPLOYMENT

Long-term unemployed still struggling

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Latino voters and their impact on 2014 midterm elections

HUMAN SERVICES

Overview of federal child welfare programs & funding levels

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

50 state energy efficiency scorecard, CA ranks 2

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Survey ranks attitudes toward public transit

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

No Safe Place: The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities. By Tristia Bauman, et al.
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. July 2014. 71 p.

http://www.nlchp.org/documents/No_Safe_Place

“This report provides an overview of criminalization measures in effect across the nation and looks at trends in the criminalization of homelessness, based on an analysis of the laws in 187 cities that the Law Center has tracked since 2009. The report further describes why these laws are ineffective in addressing the underlying causes of homelessness, how they are expensive to taxpayers, and how they often violate homeless persons’ constitutional and human rights.” Among the California cities mentioned in this report include: Bakersfield, Berkeley, Fresno, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Modesto, Oakland, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, and Santa Barbara.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***The Long Shadow: Family Background, Disadvantaged Urban Youth, and the Transition to Adulthood.* By Karl Alexander, et al. Russell Sage Foundation. June 2014. 300 p. [Available at the California State Library]**

“For 25 years, the authors of *The Long Shadow* tracked the life progress of a group of almost 800 predominantly low-income Baltimore school children through the Beginning School Study Youth Panel (BSSYP)... Data from the BSSYP shows that by adulthood, white men of lower status family background, despite attaining less education on average, were more likely to be employed than any other group in part due to family connections and long-standing racial biases in Baltimore’s industrial economy. Gender imbalances were also evident: the women, who were more likely to be working in low-wage service and clerical jobs, earned less than men. African American women were doubly disadvantaged insofar as they were less likely to be in a stable relationship than white women, and therefore less likely to benefit from a second income.”

ECONOMY

***Federal Funds for Research and Development: Fiscal Years 2011-13.* National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. NSF 14-312. July 2014. 346 p. <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf14312/pdf/nsf14312.pdf>**

This report presents data collected by the Survey of Federal Funds for Research and Development for fiscal years 2011-2013. Federal investment in research and development has grown by 22.5% from fiscal years 2002 to 2012, but commitments declined following the spike in funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. In 2012, federal agencies committed \$117.3 billion for research and development activities across the country. The top seven states were the same in 2012 as they were in 2011. At \$18.1 billion, California received the most federal funding, followed by Maryland, Virginia, Massachusetts, Texas, Alabama and New York. The report provides a number of detailed tables and charts, with some historical data.

EDUCATION

***Designing California’s Next School Accountability Program.* By Paul Warren. Public Policy Institute of California. Oct. 2014. 48 p. http://www.pplic.org/content/pubs/report/R_1014PWR.pdf**

“There are now four K–12 accountability programs operating in California, each with its own strengths and weaknesses. The sheer multiplicity of goals and performance indicators is confusing. California can do little to change the federal accountability program, but it can—and should—revise the state’s accountability programs so they send strong, consistent signals that student achievement is the core objective of the K–12 system. Our analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the current programs leads us to propose several steps that merge state and local accountability programs and create a more straightforward approach to improving schools and student outcomes.”

***Initiatives from Preschool to Third Grade: A Policymaker’s Guide.* By Sarah Daily. Education Commission of the States. Oct. 2014. 28 p. <http://www.ecs.org/docs/early-learning-primer.pdf>**

“This Early Learning Primer serves as a reference guide for policymakers and their staffs on the most commonly requested topics from preschool to third grade. The brief discusses effective strategies to support children on their path to third-grade academic success. “Each section of this brief provides an

overview of each topic, a brief summary of the research rationale, a status of related initiatives across the nation, specific state examples, questions for critical decision points and links to further reading.”

EMPLOYMENT

***Left Behind: The Long-term Unemployed Struggle in an Improving Economy.* By Carl Van Horn, et al. John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development. Sep. 2014. 45 p.**

<http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/products/left-behind-long-term-unemployed-struggle-improving-economy>

“This report explores the experiences of unemployed Americans, and especially the long-term unemployed, by surveying a sample of 394 unemployed workers looking for work, of whom 389 have been unemployed for more than six months (297) or who were unemployed for a period of more than six months at some point in the past five years (92). Also surveyed were 463 individuals who currently have jobs. This research provides a detailed record of the enduring effects of the Great Recession on the unemployed and long-term unemployed five years after the economy started growing again in June 2009.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Latino Voters and the 2014 Midterm Elections.* By Mark Hugo Lopez, et al. Pew Research Center. Oct. 2014. 50 p.**

http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/2014/10/2014-10-16_hispanics-in-the-2014-midterm-elections.pdf

Despite the increasing number of eligible Latino voters in the U.S. since 1974, voter turnout has been low for midterm elections—lagging “significantly behind other racial and ethnic groups.” In this year’s elections, Latino voters made up 11% of all eligible voters nationwide. However, their impact in the 2014 midterm elections may be minimal, particularly in states with close senate races since Latinos account for only 4.7% of eligible voters in the eight states with close Senate races.

HUMAN SERVICES

***Child Welfare: An Overview of Federal Programs and Their Current Funding.* By Emilie Stoltzfus. Congressional Research Service. Sep. 16, 2014. 37 p.**

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43458.pdf>

“In recent years, Congress has appropriated just above or below \$8 billion in federal support dedicated to child welfare purposes. Most of those dollars (97%-98%) were provided to state, tribal, or territorial child welfare agencies (via formula grants or as federal reimbursement for a part of all eligible program costs).... This report begins with a review of federal appropriations activity in FY [fiscal year] 2014 as it relates to child welfare programs, including the effect of the automatic spending cuts, known as sequestration. The bulk of the report provides a short description of each federal child welfare program, including its purpose and recent (FY2012-FY2014) funding levels.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

State Energy Efficiency Scorecard. American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE). Oct. 22, 2014.

<http://aceee.org/state-policy/scorecard>

“The 8th edition of the Scorecard finds that states continue to lower energy costs, reduce pollution, and save their consumers money by increasing energy efficiency. Massachusetts edged out California as the most energy efficient state for the 4th year in a row. California and New York led the way in energy-efficient transportation policies. California’s requirements for reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have led it to identify several strategies for smart growth, while New York is one of the few states in the nation to have a concrete vehicle-miles-traveled reduction target. ACEEE found that states that enforce and adequately fund an energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) drive investments in utility-sector energy efficiency programs. The states with the most aggressive savings targets include Arizona, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Who’s on Board: 2014 Mobility Attitudes Survey. By David Bragdon, et al. RSG. Sep. 2014. 27 p.

<http://transitcenter.org/ourwork/mobility-attitudes-survey/>

“The survey, the largest of its kind, sampled nearly 12,000 people from a selection of 46 metro areas across the country, including a mix of ‘transit progressive’ cities (such as Miami, Denver, Seattle, and Minneapolis) and ‘transit deficient’ cities (such as Tampa, Dallas, Fresno, and Detroit) revealing several surprising trends about today’s public transit commuters: Riders of all ages and in all regions place the greatest value on factors like travel time, proximity, cost, and reliability above safety, frequency, and perks like Wi-Fi when choosing whether or not to take public transportation. There is a high demand for quality public transportation nationwide, but such infrastructure is often missing in the places where people currently live.” (*Metro*, Sep. 18, 2014).

About *Studies in the News*

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