



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

“The National Football League: Does Crime Increase on Game Day?” By David E. Kalist, et al.
Journal of Sports Economics. Published online ahead of print. Oct. 23, 2014. 21 p.
<http://jse.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/10/20/1527002514554953.full.pdf+html>
(Available at the California State Library)

“This article investigates the effects of National Football League (NFL) games on crime. Using a panel data set that includes daily crime incidences in eight large cities with NFL teams, we examine how various measurements of criminal activities change on game day compared with nongame days. Our findings ... indicate that NFL home games are associated with a 2.6% increase in total crimes, while financially motivated crimes such as larceny and motor vehicle theft increase by 4.1% and 6.7%, respectively, on game days. However, we observe that play-off games are associated with a decrease in financially motivated crimes.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

The Global Gender Gap Report 2014. World Economic Forum. Oct. 2014. 395 p.

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR14/GGGR_CompleteReport_2014.pdf

Country profiles: <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/>

The United States ranks 20th overall in this year's gender gap report following the top five, which are Nordic countries, as well as Nicaragua, Rwanda, the Philippines, Burundi, South Africa, Canada and many European countries. The report ranks countries using an index of equality (1) and inequality (0) in economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, political empowerment, and overall. The United States' rankings were 4th for economic opportunity, 39th for educational attainment, 54th for political empowerment, and 62nd in health and survival.

ECONOMY

Sources of Economic Hope: Women's Entrepreneurship. By Alicia Robb, et al.

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Nov. 2014. 17 p.

http://www.kauffman.org/~media/kauffman_org/research%20reports%20and%20covers/2014/11/sources_of_economic_hope_womens_entrepreneurship.pdf

The report looks to changes that have occurred in American society since 1948, such as the increasing number of women who have entered the labor force and their gains in higher educational attainment, and suggests the changes served as the impetus for the growth of the U.S. economy during the 20th century. A slowdown in growth may affect sustained economic viability. The report suggests that another period of economic growth might be stimulated through tapping into an economic arena where women continue to be underrepresented, such as high-growth entrepreneurship, and provides policy recommendations to foster greater opportunities for women to do so.

EDUCATION

It's About Time: Learning Time and Educational Opportunity in California High Schools.

By John Rogers, et al. UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education and Access. Nov. 2014. 27 p.

<http://idea.gseis.ucla.edu/projects/its-about-time/Its%20About%20Time.pdf>

"This survey asked a representative sample of high school teachers to report on how factors inside and outside of their schools shaped students' learning time and teachers' work.... [W]e show that time loss is far greater in high-poverty high schools than in low- or low and mixed-poverty high schools. Our analysis highlights the ways that economic and social stressors outside of school and poor conditions within schools contribute to this time loss. We also note that teachers in high-poverty schools take on a broad set of added responsibilities in order to support their students that have important implications for how learning time is experienced in these schools. We conclude with thoughts on learning time and equal educational opportunity."

ENVIRONMENT

California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment: Proposed Non-Energy Research Portfolio.

California Natural Resources Agency. Nov 2014. 65 p.

<http://resources.ca.gov/climate/fourth/>

As part of the implementation of the California's Climate Change Research Plan, the Natural Resources Agency is releasing a proposed portfolio of projects for California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment.

The goal of the portfolio is to identify “key research themes, [describe] specific projects included in each theme, and [indicate] funding allocations for the non-energy sectors.” This document is ultimately intended to serve as the basis for the request for proposal (RFP) to be released by the Natural Resources Agency.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Drones and Aerial Surveillance: Considerations for Legislators.* By Gregory McNeal. Center for Technology Innovation, Brookings Institution. Nov. 2014. 34 p.**
<http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports2/2014/11/drones-aerial-surveillance-legislators>

This paper offers recommendations on drafting legislation concerning drones. The author cautions against “warrant-based,” and “technology-centric” approaches to regulating or banning drones. To prevent overly broad restrictions on this technology, the author suggests using a “property-rights” approach to drafting legislation, which would allow landowners to exclude aircraft, persons, etc., from airspace surrounding their property. He also suggests creating “duration-based” legislation (outlining a specific amount of time a person may be under surveillance) and publishing data gathered from this surveillance on a regular basis.

HEALTH

***Wind Turbine Noise and Health Study.* Health Canada. Oct. 2014. 7 p.**
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/noise-bruit/turbine-eoliennes/index-eng.php>

Health Canada, in conjunction with Statistics Canada, undertook a two-year study to investigate the prevalence of health effects among a sample of Canadians living near wind turbines. The study consisted of measurements of low-frequency noise generated by wind turbines, combined with health surveys. Wind turbine noise was not found to be statistically associated with self-reported sleep disorders, illnesses or quality of life, but was found to be associated with annoyance toward wind turbine features such as noise, lights, vibrations and visual impacts. The report suggests steps wind turbine operators might take to accommodate neighboring communities.

HUMAN SERVICES

***America’s Youngest Outcasts: A Report Card on Child Homelessness.* By Ellen L. Bassuk, et al. American Institutes for Research. Nov. 2014. 130 p.**
<http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/mediadocs/280.pdf>

“[This study] calculates that nearly 2.5 million American children [one in every 30 children] were homeless at some point in 2013.... The problem is particularly severe in California, which has one-eighth of the U.S. population but accounts for more than one-fifth of the homeless children with a tally of nearly 527,000.... The report included a composite index ranking the states on the extent of child homelessness, efforts to combat it, and the overall level of child well-being. States with the best scores were Minnesota, Nebraska and Massachusetts. At the bottom were Alabama, Mississippi and California.” (*Sacramento Bee*, Nov. 17, 2014).

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Getting to the Route of It: the Role of Governance in Regional Transit. By Joshua Schank, et al. Eno Center for Transportation. Oct. 2014. 96 p.

<https://enotrans.r.worldssl.net/wp-content/uploads/wpsc/downloadables/Transit-Governance1.pdf>

“This report not only examines the governance of individual transit agencies, but also the larger interactions between organizations and the influence of funding and governance on the way investments and decisions are made...The San Francisco Bay Area is the least consolidated of the case study transit regions with 26 independent operators providing transit service across seven counties. However, the region’s MPO, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), provides a measure of consolidation in that it serves as a coordinating body and distributes funding among the operators.... MTC appears to be effective at coordinating and distributing resources using performance measures without causing major political disruptions or depriving some agencies of funding.”

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