



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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*Studies in the News* is going on hiatus for the holidays. We will resume publication on Wednesday, January 7, 2015.

Contents this week:

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Recommendations, caveats on the use of body-worn cameras

### **ECONOMY**

NAFTA: 20 years later

### **EDUCATION**

15 years of CA educator reforms: highlights

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Young people are optimistic about employment opportunities

12% of CA board of director positions held by women

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Wind energy's role in emissions reduction in the United States

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

50-state survey of fiscal spending between 2012 and 2014

### **HEALTH**

Mass. insurance data suggest ACA may support self-employment

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

CA poverty rate higher with SPM than official poverty measure

### **TOOLS OF THE TRADE**

California drought visualized with open data

### **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

SF, LA among top ten U.S. metro areas for accessible transit

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program: Recommendations and Lessons Learned.*

By Lindsay Miller, et al. Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Dept. of Justice.

Sep. 2014. 92 p.

<http://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/resources/472014912134715246869.pdf>

"The recent emergence of body-worn cameras has already had an impact on policing, and this impact will only increase as more agencies adopt this technology. The decision to implement body-worn cameras should not be entered into lightly. Once an agency goes down the road of deploying body-worn

cameras—and once the public comes to expect the availability of video records—it will become increasingly difficult to have second thoughts or to scale back a body-worn camera program.... This publication ... will demonstrate why police departments should not deploy body-worn cameras carelessly.... [D]epartments must anticipate a number of difficult questions ... such as the public's interest in seeing body-worn camera footage versus the interests of crime victims who would prefer not to have their images disseminated to the world.”

## ECONOMY

***NAFTA 20 Years Later.* PIIE Briefing No. 14-3. The Peterson Institute of International Economics. Nov. 2014. 60 p.**

<http://www.piie.com/publications/briefings/piieb14-3.pdf>

Twenty years ago, the United States, Mexico and Canada enacted the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which advanced economic integration amongst the three countries. It started a public debate about the merits of trade agreements between richer and poorer countries that is still being argued in the present. NAFTA created opportunities in all three countries while generating worries over job losses, companies' relocations and other displacements. This report uses 20 years of data to review some of the claims to assess both the benefits and costs incurred by each trade partner.

## EDUCATION

***Preparing World-Class Teachers: Essential Reforms of Teacher Preparation and Credentialing in California.* By Louis Freedberg, et al. EdSource. Oct. 2014. 40 p.**

<http://edsources.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/pub-14-Teacher-Preparation.pdf>

“It has been more than 15 years since the last major reform of California's system of teacher preparation and credentialing (with the passage of Senate Bill 2042 in 1998). Fortuitously, numerous groups have carried out a substantial amount of work that focuses on this crucial element of the state's education system.... This EdSource report is intended to highlight the most promising reforms proposed by these panels and other groups that would contribute to a more effective teaching force.... On the basis of that work, EdSource has identified seven key challenges—and the most promising strategies to address them at a local and statewide level.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***In the Shadow of the Great Recession: Experiences and Perspectives of Young Workers.* Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Nov. 2014. 60 p.**

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/econresdata/2013-experiences-and-perspectives-of-young-workers-201411.pdf>

“Despite a changing labor market that is recovering slowly from the recession, many young adults remain optimistic about their job future. The survey found that 45% of respondents are optimistic about future employment opportunities compared to 21% who are pessimistic and 34% who are not sure.... The survey results show that young workers are responding to the labor market's increasing demand for postsecondary credentials and degrees.... Nonstudents who are interested in additional education named financial considerations as their top barriers to enrollment. Despite the importance of education and work experience, intangibles still play a role in the labor market. According to the survey results, finding a job is still heavily based on personal connections.” (*Press release*, Nov. 18, 2014).

**2014—2015 UC Davis Study of California Women Business Leaders.** By Amanda Kimball. UC Davis Graduate School of Management. Dec. 4, 2014. 47 p.

<http://gsm.ucdavis.edu/uc-davis-annual-study-california-women-business-leaders>

This report provides a census of women directors of publicly-held California corporations. Its purpose is to contribute to the conversation about women's acceptance in the upper echelons of business. "Overall, women hold just 11.5% of board seats and highest-paid executive positions—a 0.6% increase over last year. One quarter—101 (25.3%)—of our California 400 have no women among their directors and highest-paid executives. This has improved marginally from 107 (26.8%) companies last year. Of the 3,340 board director seats, women hold 403 (12.4%) and men hold 2,837 (87.6%). A linear projection of the current rate would predict women holding 19.9% of California director positions in 2020 and 44.8% in 2040."

## ENVIRONMENT

***More Wind, Less Warming: How American Wind Energy's Rapid Growth Can Help Solve Global Warming.*** By Gideon Weissman, et al. Environment California Research and Policy Center. Fall 2014. 28 p.

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/reports/cae/more-wind-less-warming>

"Power plants are the biggest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States.... If America were to take advantage of just a fraction of its wind energy potential to get 30% of its electricity from the wind by 2030, the nation could cut carbon emissions from power plants to 40% below 2005 levels. That much wind power would help states meet and exceed the carbon dioxide emission reductions called for by the Environmental Protection Agency's draft Clean Power Plan, and help the nation meet its commitment to cut U.S. carbon pollution by 26 to 28% by 2025."

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***State Expenditure Report: Examining Fiscal 2012-2014 State Spending.*** By Brian Sigritz, et al. National Association of State Budget Officers. Nov. 19, 2014. 114 p.

<http://www.nasbo.org/sites/default/files/State%20Expenditure%20Report%20%28Fiscal%202012-2014%29.pdf>

This report provides a detailed review of state spending by program area—including K-12 and higher education, public assistance, Medicaid, corrections, and transportation—and an overview of general fund revenue sources. As the economy has improved, and federal funds from the Recovery Act have shifted downward, the amount of general fund expenditures has increased in the states. Medicaid expenditures have risen due to expansion through the Affordable Care Act. In fiscal 2013, general fund revenues increased by 7%—with strong growth in personal income taxes (9.8% increase). For fiscal 2014, general fund revenues increased more slowly, at only 1.4%, due to lower tax revenues.

## HEALTH

***"Does Health-Care Reform Support Self-Employment?"*** By Didem Tüzemen, et al. *Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Economic Review*, vol. 99, no. 3 (Third Quarter 2014) pp. 27-45.

<http://www.kc.frb.org/publicat/econrev/pdf/14q3Tuzemen-Becker.pdf>

"This article examines the effects of improved health insurance access on the rate of self-employment using evidence from the health-care reform enacted in 2006 in Massachusetts.... [I]mproved access to health insurance might have supported self-employment in the state, preventing a sharp decline in the self-employment rate that other states have experienced." Using employment data from Massachusetts before and after enactment of its health insurance reform measures, the report suggests the Affordable

Care Act may encourage self-employment at the national level by removing the barrier of health insurance.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2013.* By Kathleen Short. U.S. Census Bureau. Oct. 2014. 24 p.**

<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-251.pdf>

“The nation’s poverty rate was 15.5% in 2013, down from 16.0% in 2012, according to the supplemental poverty measure [SPM] ... The 2013 rate was higher than the official measure of 14.5%, but similarly declined from the corresponding rate in 2012.... Unlike the official poverty rate, SPM takes into account the impact of different benefits and necessary expenses on the resources available to families, as well as geographic differences in housing costs.” California is one of 13 states where the supplemental rates were higher than the official statewide poverty rates. The 3-year average poverty rate from 2011 to 2013 was 16% with the official measure but 23.4% using the SPM in California. (*Press release*, Oct. 16, 2014).

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***California Drought, Visualized with Open Data.* U.S. Geological Survey. Dec. 2014.**

[http://cida.usgs.gov/ca\\_drought/](http://cida.usgs.gov/ca_drought/)

“The State of California is experiencing one of the most severe droughts on record, which has implications for citizens of California and beyond. Many State, Federal, and Tribal agencies make routine observations of the water cycle. This website graphically visualizes these data to help understand the effect of drought on rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs.... The data presented here are drawn from free and publicly accessible sources. In addition, the analytical, graphical, and software tools used are open-source and available for public re-use.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Access Across America: Transit 2014.* By Andrew Owen, et al. Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota. Sep. 2014. 110 p.**

<http://www.access.umn.edu/research/america/transit2014/news/>

“This study estimates the accessibility to jobs by transit in 46 of the 50 largest (by population) metropolitan areas in the United States using transit schedules from January 2014.... Rankings are determined by a weighted average of accessibility, giving a higher weight to closer jobs. Jobs reachable within ten minutes are weighted most heavily, and jobs are given decreasing weights as travel time increases up to 60 minutes. Based on this measure, the 10 metro areas with the greatest accessibility to jobs by transit, and for which sufficient data are available, are: (1) New York; (2) San Francisco; (3) Los Angeles; (4) Washington; (5) Chicago; (6) Boston; (7) Philadelphia; (8) Seattle; (9) Denver; (10) San Jose.”

### **About *Studies in the News***

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