



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Annual Evaluation of Contracted Sex Offender Treatment Programs. California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Office of Research. Jan. 2015. 31 p.

http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Adult_Research_Branch/Research_Documents/FY2013-14-Annual-Evaluation-of-Contracted-Sex-Offender-Treatment-Programs.pdf

"CDCR's Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) contracts with external treatment providers for evidence based sex offender treatment services designed to decrease an offender's risk for recidivism. This report covers the reporting period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, and presents offender demographics and characteristics of Sex Offender Treatment Program participants. This report also establishes a cohort of offenders for future recidivism analyses as we track the effectiveness of these programs." During fiscal year 2013-2014, DAPO contracted for a total of 6,429 treatment slots. A total of

4,860 offenders participated, including 3,867 offenders who received services and 993 referrals waiting to receive services.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***The Lost Generation of the Great Recession.* By Sewon Hur. Social Science Research Network. Dec. 2014. 33 p.**

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2546188

(Available at the California State Library)

“This paper analyzes the effects of the Great Recession on different generations. While older generations have suffered the largest decline in wealth due to the collapse in asset prices, younger generations have suffered the largest decline in labor income. Potentially, the young may benefit from the purchase of cheaper assets, especially if they have access to credit.... Overall, the young suffer the largest welfare losses, equivalent to an 8% reduction in lifetime consumption.... Policies such as the Making Home Affordable Program [have] helped alleviate the welfare losses of the most vulnerable group, the young and highly leveraged.”

ECONOMY

***Mapping Opportunity in California’s San Joaquin Valley.* By Jonathan K. London, et al. UC Davis Center for Regional Change. Feb. 2015. 20 p.**

http://www.shfcenter.org/assets/Health%20Fund/SJV_Mapping_Opportunity_Report_Feb_2015.pdf

“The enclosed findings highlight discrepancies in the availability of economic, educational, health, housing, civic and other opportunities across the San Joaquin Valley’s communities. For example, many rural areas have historically experienced exclusion from municipal services such as clean drinking water and sewage. In urban areas, youth drop out of schools at much higher rates than in the region overall. Moreover, in one community highlighted by the study, the predominantly Latino population has only a 12% rate of homeownership, compared to 60% for the region as a whole. These disparities must be addressed for the San Joaquin Valley to thrive.”

EDUCATION

***The 2015-2016 Budget: Rethinking How the State Funds School Facilities.* Legislative Analyst’s Office. Feb. 2015. 12 p.**

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2015/budget/school-facilities/school-facilities-021715.pdf>

To address the ongoing needs of school facility funding, the Legislative Analyst’s Office outlines a suggested grant-based plan for financing school facility projects: “(1) establish an annual per-student facility grant; (2) base the grant on the replacement value of existing school buildings and an estimate of their average useful life; (3) adjust the grant to reflect local resources, with larger grants for districts with lower property wealth; (4) adjust the grant during the transition to account for existing state debt service incurred on the district’s behalf; (5) provide one-time funds to address the existing backlog of facility projects; and (6) require school districts that receive grant funds to adopt five-year facility accountability plans.”

EMPLOYMENT

Hispanic Immigration and U.S. Economic Growth. By James Gillula. IHS Economics. Feb. 2015. 21 p.

<https://www.ihs.com/info/0215/hispanic-immigration-economic-growth.html>

(Free registration required)

“The US economy is nearing a period when labor force growth will slow sharply as an ever larger proportion of the Baby Boomer generation retires. During this time, Hispanic employment will continue to show strong growth, even under conservative assumptions about Hispanic immigration.” Though labor force growth is expected to accelerate in the near future, it is also expected to slow down from 2020 to 2034. “The Hispanic population will play an increasingly significant role in US employment growth because Hispanics are a younger and faster-growing segment. Under conservative assumptions about Hispanic immigration, we project that Hispanic employment growth will average 2.6% per year over the next 20 years and rise from 16% of US employment in 2014 to 20% in 2034.”

ENERGY

“Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions From U.S. Liquefied Natural Gas Exports: Implications For End Uses.” By Leslie S. Abrahams, et al. *Environmental Science & Technology*, vol. 49 (Feb. 4, 2015) pp. 3237-3245.

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/es505617p>

This study is the first peer-reviewed paper that quantifies whether exporting U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) is good for the climate due to a reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. “We find that exported U.S. LNG has mean precombustion emissions of 37 g CO₂-equiv/MJ when regasified in Europe and Asia.... GHG reductions were found if Russian pipeline natural gas was displaced ... as long as U.S. fugitive emission rates remain below the estimated 5-7% rate of Russian gas.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Review of California’s Risk-Assessment Process for Pesticides. Committee to Review California’s Risk-Assessment Process for Pesticides. National Research Council. 2015. 67 p.

<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/21664/review-of-californias-risk-assessment-process-for-pesticides>

(Free registration required)

“The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) conducts human health risk assessments as part of its mission to ensure the protection of workers and public health in the state. The risk assessments identify potential health hazards posed by pesticides ... and estimate exposure to characterize potential risks to humans.... [This report] examines DPR’s processes of hazard identification, exposure assessment, dose-response analysis, and risk characterization to determine whether they are consistent with best practices. This report also evaluates the methods used for setting priorities among pesticides for risk assessment and identifies possible options for improving efficiency and productivity. Recommendations ... will help make the process more transparent and defensible.”

HEALTH

Persistent Organic Pollutants and Early Menopause in U.S. Women. By Natalia M. Grindler, et al. PLoS One. Jan. 28, 2015. 12 p.

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0116057>

This study seeks to determine whether exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) is associated with an early decline in ovarian function, specifically as early menopause. EDCs may be found in a wide variety of products from flame retardants to pesticides to certain cosmetics. Using longitudinal data from a national health survey, the research team found that women with the highest levels of 15 isolated EDCs in their bodies went through menopause anywhere between two and four years earlier than did women with lower levels of these EDCs.

HUMAN SERVICES

Measuring Access to Opportunity in the United States. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Feb. 2015. 4 p.

<http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-MeasuringAccessstoOpportunityKC2-2015.pdf>

“The SPM [Supplemental Poverty Measure] measures the impact of a number of important social programs such as SNAP and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and accounts for rising costs and other changes that affect a family’s budget. Unlike the official poverty measure, the SPM is adjusted for geographic variations in the cost of living.” Based on the SPM 2011-2013, California’s child poverty rate would be 40% without any government interventions (27% with government intervention). However, “using the SPM, California has the highest child poverty rate among states, followed by Arizona and Nevada.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

“Policy and Procedures Concerning the Use of Airport Revenue; Proceeds from Taxes on Aviation Fuel.” *Federal Register*, vol. 79, no. 216 (Nov. 7, 2014) pp. 66282-66288.

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-11-07/pdf/2014-26408.pdf>

“This action confirms FAA’s long-standing policy on Federal requirements for the use of proceeds from taxes on aviation fuel. Under Federal law, airport operators that have accepted Federal assistance generally may use airport revenues only for airport-related purposes. Local taxes on aviation fuel are subject to airport revenue use requirements. State taxes on aviation fuel (imposed by either an airport sponsor or a non-sponsor) are subject to use either for a State aviation program or for airport-related purposes. The statutory revenue use requirements apply to certain State and local government taxes on aviation fuel, as well as to revenues received directly by an airport operator. This document formally adopts, through an amendment to the Revenue Use Policy, FAA’s interpretation of the Federal requirements for use of revenue derived from taxes on aviation fuel.” The effective date for this ruling is December 8, 2014.

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