



## 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 6, 2016.

The California Research Bureau is seeking an Assistant Director (CEA A) with a passion for nonpartisan public policy analysis. Deadline to apply is January 15.

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

*Policing for Profit: The Abuse of Civil Asset Forfeiture, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.* By Dick M. Carpenter II, et al. Institute for Justice. Nov. 2015. 186 p.

<http://ij.org/report/policing-for-profit/>

"The widespread failure of civil forfeiture laws to protect property owners from unjust forfeitures ... makes plain the pressing need for reform. The cost and difficulty of navigating a complex legal process to fight a forfeiture, plus the often low values of property seized, deter many from seeking their day in court.... Most

jurisdictions also force innocent property owners to prove their innocence in order to recover property.... Between low standards of proof and poor protections for innocent owners, most civil forfeiture laws create an unlevel playing field, where it is easy for the government to take property, but hard for people to fight for it back.”

## EDUCATION

***Going It Alone: Can California’s K-12 School Districts Adequately and Equitably Fund School Facilities?*** By Jeffrey M. Vincent, et al. Center for Cities and Schools, UC Berkeley. Nov. 2015. 33 p.

[http://citiesandschools.berkeley.edu/uploads/Vincent\\_Jain\\_2015\\_Going\\_it\\_Alone\\_final.pdf](http://citiesandschools.berkeley.edu/uploads/Vincent_Jain_2015_Going_it_Alone_final.pdf)

Researchers analyzed school facility spending trends in California school districts, and found that the “majority of school districts underspend on facilities,” and that wealthy districts raise and spend more capital funds for facilities than do districts serving low-income populations. Poorer school districts tend to spend from their general operating funds for maintenance and operations—which can take away funding education programs. The researchers recommend the state bolster its funding support for school district facility needs and make adjustments based on local wealth, in order to improve standards for school facility planning and budgeting, and create an inventory of statewide K-12 facilities for monitoring and public accountability.

## EMPLOYMENT

***Age and Gender Differences in Long-Term Unemployment: Before and After the Great Recession.*** By Alexander Monge-Naranjo, et al. Federal Reserve Bank of Saint Louis. Nov. 10, 2015. 2 p.

<https://research.stlouisfed.org/publications/economic-synopses/2015/11/06/age-and-gender-differences-in-long-term-unemployment-before-and-after-the-great-recession>

“[M]en and women of all ages experienced a rise in long-term unemployment after the Great Recession. [W]e document the lesser-known fact that long-term unemployment affected older women more strongly. This group experienced a remarkable change: from a low pre-recession long-term-unemployment-to-unemployment ratio of 14% to a post-recession rate of 50%.”

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Turning to the Wind.*** By Kim Norman, et al. Frontier Group and Environment American Research & Policy Center. Dec. 3, 2015. 30 p.

<http://environmentcaliforniacenter.org/sites/environment/files/reports/CAE%20Wind%20Report%20Nov15.pdf>

This report uses data on wind generation and carbon dioxide emissions reductions from the U.S. Energy Information Administration to estimate total emissions savings for each state from 2001-2014. Over this period, California wind generation totaled 91,634 megawatt-hours resulting in 72 million metric tons of averted carbon dioxide emissions. As of September 30, 2015, California ranks second in current installed wind power capacity (6,022 megawatts). The report estimates the projected impact of the Production Tax Credit on wind energy in California in 2020 in added wind capacity to range between 548-2,742 megawatts, averting somewhere between 1,140,938 and 5,704,691 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Reinvesting and Renewing: for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Community and Economic Benefits Study of San Francisco's Branch Library Improvement Program.*** San Francisco Public Library. Sep. 2015. 68 p.

<http://sfpl.org/pdf/about/commission/ReinvestingRenewing.pdf>

"When the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) completed its recent 14-year Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP), the city Controller's Office released an impact study detailing the economic benefits and returns on investment that the program stimulated throughout the city. The 68-page report ... revealed that for every dollar invested in BLIP, San Francisco realized a return of between \$5.19 and \$9.11. In addition, branch libraries were able to enlarge their collections, improve technology resources, and expand service across the community through partnerships and programs. The study also found that capital investments and additional operating spending associated with the program contributed more than \$330 million in indirect and induced (secondary and tertiary) benefits to the city's economy." (*Library Journal*, Nov. 19, 2015).

## HEALTH

***Isocaloric Fructose Restriction and Metabolic Improvement in Children with Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome.*** By Robert H. Lustig, et al. *Obesity*. Published ahead of print. Oct. 26, 2015. 8 p.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/oby.21371/pdf> (Available at the California State Library)

"The study tested 43 obese children between 9 and 18 with at least one other chronic metabolic disorder, by removing sugar, but maintaining calorie levels.... After just nine days on the sugar-restricted diet, virtually every aspect of the participants' metabolic health improved, without change in weight.... 'The source of the calories determines where in the body they go. Sugar calories are the worst, because they turn to fat in the liver, driving insulin resistance, and driving the risk for diabetes, heart, and liver disease,' [lead author Robert] Lustig said. 'This has enormous implications for the food industry, chronic disease, and health care costs.'" (*San Jose Mercury News*, Oct. 29, 2015).

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Who is Homeless? Different Definitions of Homelessness by State.*** The National Network for Youth. Nov. 2015. 26 p.

<https://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/Different-Definitions-of-Homelessness-by-State-NN4Y-2015.pdf>

States have differing definitions of homelessness, which leads to inconsistency in services provided, especially for homeless youth. This study found that "25% of states have no statutory definition of homelessness or of homeless youth, child or minor.... While it is clear that some states touch more than one of these categories, it is also clear that youth in a particular living arrangement may not be able to access the same services in one state that they could in a neighboring state. This may cause some youth, including minors, to cross state lines in order to try to access programs unavailable to them in their home state, making themselves more vulnerable to potential support networks closer to 'home.'"

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Foodborne Outbreak Online Database (FOOD Tool).*** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/foodborneoutbreaks/>

When two or more people get the same illness from the same contaminated food or drink, the event is called a foodborne disease outbreak. The Foodborne Outbreak Online Database (FOOD) tool provides data by state on all outbreaks, number of illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths from foodborne disease. There is also a search function by food/ingredient, and location of preparation. This tool is a handy reference for health public policy experts.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***California's Innovation-Based Economy: Policies to Maintain and Enhance It.*** By Ross DeVol, et al. Milken Institute. Dec. 2015. 78 p.  
<http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications/view/753>

“To maintain its leadership in innovation, California must provide a competitive business environment in which prospective and existing companies can conduct research.... However, California also suffers from the widely held perception that it is inhospitable to businesses in terms of tax policy, regulatory regime, and other costs of doing business.... For this report, Milken Institute researchers conducted one of the most thorough analyses of the landscape of research and development (R&D) spending in California. The report demonstrates the key role of R&D in the state’s economy, and proposes ideas for spurring businesses to continue and intensify their research activity.”

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

*Studies in the News* (SITN) is a service provided by the California Research Bureau (CRB), a division of the California State Library. CRB provides independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the Governor, Legislature, and State Constitutional Officers.

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