



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

January 20, 2016

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## EDUCATION

*Trends in College Spending: 2003-2013: Where Does the Money Come From? Where Does It Go? What Does It Buy?* By Donna M. Desrochers, et al. Delta Cost Project, American Institutes for Research. Jan. 2016. 34 p.

<http://www.deltacostproject.org/sites/default/files/products/15-4626%20Final01%20Delta%20Cost%20Project%20College%20Spending%2011131.406.P0.02.001%20..pdf>

"[A]lthough after half a decade of state disinvestment in higher education, per-student funding levels looked better in 2013, they were nevertheless well below levels seen earlier in the decade and unlikely to fully recover soon. Second, as a result of lower public support, students now pay a majority of education-related institutional costs—indicating that even when faced with significant revenue constraints, colleges and universities were unwilling or unable to make drastic spending cuts. Instead, they turned to students to increasingly finance their operations, further reinforcing the notion of education as a private, rather than a public, good."

***The Arts in Early Childhood: Social and Emotional Benefits of Arts Participation; A Literature Review and Gap-Analysis (2000-2015).*** By Melissa Menzer. National Endowment for the Arts. Dec. 2015. 34 p.

<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/arts-in-early-childhood-dec2015-rev.pdf>

“This review provides compelling support for a positive relationship between arts participation and the development of social and emotional skills in early childhood.” However, the author finds some remaining questions to be answered, calling for more research on how the arts relate to positive social-emotional outcomes over time, how demographic variables such as low-income or high-crime neighborhoods affect social and emotional skill development and participation in the arts, how arts participation may affect children with cognitive or physical disabilities, and how the art form (dance, theatre, etc.) affects social and emotional outcomes.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

***UC Davis Study of California Women Business Leaders: A Census of Women Directors and Highest-Paid Executives.*** By Amanda Kimball. UC Davis Graduate School of Management. Nov. 17, 2015. 49 p.

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

“[T]he number of companies with no women among their directors and highest-paid executive positions dropped below 100 for the first time ever [and] the number of female CEOs among these California companies rose from 14 to 17. Despite ... progress, the numbers of women in corporate leadership ... continue to be disappointing. There is only one woman for every eight men ... among directors and highest-paid executives at these high-profile companies.... [T]he California legislature passed a resolution ... calling for public companies to add more women to their boards.... [T]he resolution has not had a discernable impact on the proportion of women on the boards ... since it took effect. Unless ... trends change dramatically, California companies are unlikely to meet the resolution’s goals by December 2016.”

## **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

***A Retrospective Analysis of the Benefits and Impacts of U.S. Renewable Portfolio Standards.*** By Ryan Wiser, et al. National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Jan. 2016. 82 p.

<http://eetd.lbl.gov/sites/all/files/lbni-1003961.pdf>

This study looks at historical benefits and impacts of all state RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standards) policies with a focus on the benefits of three key domains: greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and water use. Further analysis of the impacts of gross job additions, wholesale electricity market suppression and natural gas price suppression aims to measure the potential significance of benefits and impacts of policy choices at the state level. California is one of 29 states with RPS policies. According to the study, new renewable resources (predominantly wind) displaced 13.9% of formerly fossil-generated energy in 2013.

***Central Basin Municipal Water District: Its Board of Directors Has Failed to Provide the Leadership Necessary for It to Effectively Fulfill Its Responsibilities.*** California State Auditor. Dec. 2015. 105 p.

<http://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2015-102.pdf>

The California State Auditor’s recent audit of the Central Basin Municipal Water District determined that executive management instability, a lack of essential policies, loss of liability coverage, improper establishment of a legal trust fund, questionable contracting policies, spending unrelated to its mission, and a lack of adherence to hiring policies—all due to a lack of poor management by the Board—have

rendered the district unable to fulfill its responsibilities. The report summarizes the situation and offers recommendations for improvement of the situation to get the Board back on a proper track.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***State Policy Reports Special Issue: The State-Federal Balance of Payments. Federal Funds Information for States, vol. 33, issue 21 (Nov. 2015) 8 p.***

<http://www.ffis.org/system/files/private/publications/2015/v3321.pdf>

**(Available at the California State Library)**

“How much does each state get back for every dollar it sends to Washington? After many years without an answer to that question, a new analysis by the New York comptroller’s office tackles the issue.... The federal tax code and federal spending are designed to move resources from those who have relatively more to those who have relatively less.” This issue uses the raw data compiled to calculate the ratio of spending per dollar paid in taxes. It provides a number of 50-state comparison tables that display historical changes and rankings of how the states fared. California ranks 42<sup>nd</sup>, receiving 0.99 cents for every \$1.00 of tax paid, below the U.S. average of \$1.22.

## HEALTH

***What Does a Deductible Do? The Impact of Cost-Sharing on Health Care Prices, Quantities, and Spending Dynamics. By Zarek C. Brot-Goldberg, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. NBER Working Paper No. 21632. Oct. 2015. 77 p.***

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w21632> **(Available at the California State Library)**

This report “examined what happened at a large company that switched its employees from free medical care with no cost-sharing to a high-deductible plan. They found that employees actually did spend less after the switch, but no evidence that they were doing so by learning how to shop for the best-value care. Instead, they just used less of everything, including valuable services. The consumers weren’t very adept at valuing these services or their needs, the researchers found. Even those who could be sure they would exceed their deductible by the end of the year tended to reduce their spending more while they still owed the deductible.” (*Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 14, 2015).

## HUMAN SERVICES

***2016 California Children’s Report Card: A Survey of Kids’ Well-being & a Roadmap For the Future. Children Now. Jan. 2016. 90 p.***

<http://www.childrenow.org/files/6214/5192/8816/CN-2016CAChildrensReportCard.pdf>

Children Now conducts an annual survey that measures California’s responsiveness to the well-being of its children. This report examines California’s policies in areas of education, health and welfare. California received a grade of C or D for most issues, with the category of Health Insurance receiving the highest grade (A-), but in the category of Childhood Trauma & Resilience they received the lowest grade (D-).

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Adult Education Consortium Tracker.*** Legislative Analyst's Office. Nov. 12, 2015. 42 p.  
<http://lao.ca.gov/Education/WorkforceEd/Consortia>

The Legislative Analyst's Office has released a new web tool that provides visualization tools to explore funding, enrollment and demographic data for the 71 consortia that are participating in the Adult Education Block Group program. Aggregate statistics are available for the state, or broken out by county.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***A Global High Shift Cycling Scenario: The Potential for Dramatically Increasing Bicycle and E-bike Use in Cities Around the World, with Estimated Energy, CO2, and Cost Impacts.*** By Jacob Mason, et al. UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies. Nov. 12, 2015. 42 p.  
[http://its.ucdavis.edu/research/publications/publication-detail/?pub\\_id=2549](http://its.ucdavis.edu/research/publications/publication-detail/?pub_id=2549)

"Cycling plays a major role in personal mobility around the world, but it could play a much bigger role. Given the convenience, health benefits, and affordability of bicycles, they could provide a far greater proportion of urban passenger transportation, helping reduce energy use and CO2 emissions worldwide. This report presents a new look at the future of cycling for urban transportation (rather than recreation), and the potential contribution it could make to mobility as well as sustainability. The results show that a world with a dramatic increase in cycling could save society US\$24 trillion cumulatively between 2015 and 2050, and cut CO2 emissions from urban passenger transport by nearly 11% in 2050 compared to a High Shift scenario without a strong cycling emphasis."

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