



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

California Data Breach Report. California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General.

Feb. 2016. 111 p.

<https://oag.ca.gov/breachreport2016>

“In the past four years, the Attorney General has received reports on 657 data breaches, affecting a total of over 49 million records of Californians. In 2012, there were 131 breaches, involving 2.6 million records of Californians; in 2015, 178 breaches put over 24 million records at risk. This means that nearly three in five Californians were victims of a data breach in 2015 alone.” These breaches occurred in all parts of our economy including retail, medical, government, and schools and universities. Types of breaches included: malware and hacking (greatest threat, 54% of total number of breaches), physical breaches (theft or loss of unencrypted data, declining threat at 17% of total breaches), and breaches caused by errors (misdelivery of email, accidental exposure on internet, 17% of total breaches).

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Parenting in America: Outlook, Worries, Aspirations are Strongly Linked to Financial Situation.
By Kim Parker, et al. Pew Research Center. Dec. 17, 2015. 105 p.

http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2015/12/2015-12-17_parenting-in-america_FINAL.pdf

“A new Pew Research Center survey ... finds that for lower-income parents, financial instability can limit their children’s access to a safe environment and to the kinds of enrichment activities that affluent parents take for granted.... Along with more negative ratings of their neighborhoods, lower-income parents are more likely than those with higher incomes to express concerns about their children being victims of violence.... Concerns about teenage pregnancy and legal trouble are also more prevalent among lower-income parents.”

EMPLOYMENT

2016-2017 Economic Forecast and Industry Outlook: California and Southern California Including the National and International Setting. By Robert A. Kleinhenz, et al. Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, et al. Feb. 2016. 100 p.

<http://laedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2016-2017-LAEDC-Economic-Forecast-Report.pdf>

This report discusses the economic outlook of the Los Angeles region. “[California] is poised to add more than 650,000 jobs this year and next, pushing down the current 7% unemployment rate to about 5.9% by 2017.... The healthcare sector is projected to add nearly 29,000 jobs in the next two years. Professional, scientific and technical services, which will benefit from a boom in areas such as Silicon Beach, are forecast to add 21,700 new positions. The construction sector should also see jobs grow by 9,800, bolstered by the tight housing market and also expectations that interest rates will rise in the future.” (*Los Angeles Times*, Feb. 17, 2016).

ENERGY

California Public Utilities Commission Annual Report: 2015. By Michael Picker, et al. California Public Utilities Commission. Feb. 2016. 31 p.

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC_Public_Website/Content/About_Us/Annual_Reports/2015%20CPUC%20Performance%20and%20Accountability%20Annual%20Report_v004.pdf

“This report highlights major activities and key actions of the CPUC in regulating the State’s energy, water, transportation, and communications industries in 2015. The CPUC is tasked with ensuring that Californians receive safe, reliable utility service and infrastructure at reasonable rates, with a commitment to environmental quality and a prosperous California economy. Our responsibilities involve regulating a wide range of companies, from energy and water utilities to telecommunications companies, railroads, and transit operators. California consumers pay a cumulative \$50 billion annually for services produced by these companies. Our principal goals this year have been to 1) improve CPUC’s accountability and accessibility while modernizing the agency, 2) strengthen and enforce the safe operation of California utilities, and 3) continue implementation of California’s climate change initiatives.”

ENVIRONMENT

Catch Reconstructions Reveal that Global Marine Fisheries Catches are Higher than Reported and Declining. By Daniel Pauly, et al. *Nature Communications*. Jan. 19, 2016. 9 p.

<http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2016/160119/ncomms10244/pdf/ncomms10244.pdf>

This study uses global data on marine fisheries catches from a decade-long multinational “catch reconstruction” project to refute global catch estimates from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Whereas the FAO suggests that 1996 global catches were 86 million tons and declined from there, the authors suggest that the catch peaked much higher than previously thought—130 million tons—and concomitantly, the decline was much stronger as well.

HEALTH

Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, January-September 2015. By Michael E. Martinez, et al. *National Center for Health Statistics*. Feb. 2016. 33 p.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/insur201602.pdf>

This report presents selected estimates of health insurance coverage for 37 states, including California. “The number of uninsured persons has declined in the past 2 years.... Among adults age 18–64, the percentage uninsured decreased from 16.3% in 2014 to 12.9% in the first 9 months of 2015.” The report shows that California’s rate of uninsured adults decreased from 16.7% in 2014 to 11.6% in 2015, a statistically significant drop.

HUMAN SERVICES

Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Medicaid Enrollees: State Strategies. By Kathy Moses, et al. *Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc.* Jan. 2016. 10 p.

http://www.chcs.org/media/Housing-SGC-Brief_Final2.pdf

“[M]ore cost-effective opportunities to address the housing and health care needs of chronically homeless individuals ... are particularly robust in states that have expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), where most chronically homeless individuals are eligible for Medicaid. In these states and elsewhere, there is keen interest in expanding access to permanent supportive housing models, particularly given their demonstrated potential for health care cost savings through reduced hospitalization and emergency department (ED) use.... Recognizing that housing stability is a core social determinant of health, states may want to consider the strategies outlined in this brief to use Medicaid funding for essential housing-related services.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

State Integrity 2015: California Gets C- Grade in 2015 State Integrity Investigation; Second to One in Combating Corruption and Promoting Transparency. By Robert B. Gunnison. *The Center for Public Integrity*. Nov. 12, 2015.

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/11/09/18822/how-does-your-state-rank-integrity>

“California gets a failing grade of ‘F’ for public access to information, and only a barely passing grade of ‘C -’ for state integrity.... The Golden State received a score of 73, or a C - ... in the data-driven assessment of state government accountability and transparency.... The study ranked states in 13 individual categories, including electoral oversight and judicial accountability. In its highest grades,

California got an 'A' for its state budget processes and state pension fund management." (*Politico California Playbook*, Nov. 9, 2015).

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