



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

“Assessing Risk-Based Policies for Pretrial Release and Split Sentencing in Los Angeles County Jails.” By Lawrence M. Wein. *PLOS*, vol. 10. no. 12 (Dec. 29, 2015) 10 p.

<https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/faculty-research/publications/assessing-risk-based-policies-pretrial-release-split-sentencing-los>

“Court-mandated downsizing of the CA [California] prison system has led to redistribution of detainees from prisons to CA county jails, and subsequent jail overcrowding. Using data that is representative of the LA County jail system, we build a mathematical model that tracks the flow of individuals during arraignment, pretrial release or detention, case disposition, jail sentence, possible recidivism during pretrial release, after a failure to appear in court, during non-felony probation and during felony supervision.... In our model, policies that offer split sentences (i.e., low-level felon sentences split between jail time and mandatory supervision) to all low-level felons optimize the key tradeoff between public safety and jail congestion by ... simultaneously reducing the rearrest rate by 7% and the mean jail population by 20% relative to the policy LA County used in 2014.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Gender Bias in Open Source: Pull Request Acceptance of Women versus Men. By Josh Terrell, et al. PeerJ PrePrints. Feb. 9, 2016. 25 p.

<https://peerj.com/preprints/1733/>

"While [researchers] hypothesized that women's code would be less likely to be approved, the reverse was in fact true. After examining just over 3 million contributions, they found that women were slightly more likely than men to have their code contributions integrated into open-source projects. But this edge disappeared when a profile picture, a username containing a traditionally female moniker, or another cue indicated that the user was a woman." (*Slate*, Feb. 17, 2016).

EDUCATION

ASES Survey Results – Year Two. Partnership for Children and Youth. Apr. 2016. 8 p.

<http://partnerforchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/ASES-Daily-Rate-Survey-Memo-Year-2-Final.pdf>

California's After School Education and Safety (ASES) program funding has remained stagnant for a decade, while program costs have increased. This 2016 survey of ASES providers of learning programs finds that "[w]ith nearly 100 more respondents in 2016, the percentage of respondents reporting negative impacts rose (2015: 89%, 2016: 92%). More alarmingly, in only one year respondents are reporting a greater number of negative impacts illustrating that the strain on providers is quickly worsening without action by the State. The number of respondents reporting a reduction in staff hours is up 28%, and reported reductions in students served are up 46%. Other negative impacts surveyed remained constant or grew slightly from last year."

EMPLOYMENT

\$15 Minimum Wage in California: Who Would be Affected by the Proposal to Raise California's Minimum Wage? By Ken Jacobs, et al. UC Berkeley Labor Center. Mar. 2016. 12 p.

<http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/15-minimum-wage-in-california/>

"[A] new [minimum wage] law raises the current \$10 an hour pay floor to \$10.50 in January 2017 for employers with more than 25 workers.... Some 5.6 million Californians, about a third of the state's workforce, will eventually get a raise under the new law.... Of those, 96% are adults and 37% have children.... California's law allows a governor to pause the wage hikes in the event of an economic downturn. Nonetheless, opposition to the rise has been fierce, particularly from restaurants and retailers, the two most affected industries.... However, some local businesses welcome the raise." (*Orange County Register*, Apr. 4, 2016).

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

California's Water Market. By Ellen Hanak, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Mar. 2016. 2 p.

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/jtf/JTF_WaterMarketJTF.pdf

This fact-based overview of California's water market suggests that it is a tool for managing scarce supplies, trading has been flat since the early 2000s, the farm sector accounts for most sales, these sales

also support the environment, approving transfers is complicated, and reform could help the water market in California to run more smoothly.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Permanent Trust Funds: Funding Economic Change with Fracking Revenues. By Devashree Saha, et al. Brookings Institution. Apr. 2016. 28 p.

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2016/04/19-fracking/Permanent-Trust-Funds-Saha-Muro-418.pdf>

“This paper seeks to provide a better understanding of the role that severance taxes coupled with permanent trust funds can play in sustaining long-term economic growth and shared prosperity in the face of resource-based boom-bust cycles.... Severance taxes linked to well-managed permanent trust funds offer a significant economic development option for states that have just witnessed the huge potential of unconventional oil and gas development to generate significant, albeit cyclical, economic activity and revenue. Having missed the last decade’s opportunity to link an oil and gas boom to transformation through targeted investment, states should prepare now to leverage the next windfalls.”

State Revenues From Gambling: Short-Term Relief, Long-Term Disappointment By Lucy Dadayan. The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, State University of New York. Apr. 2016. 44 p.

http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/government_finance/2016-04-12-Blinken_Report_Three.pdf

“States expanded allowable gambling options significantly in the past two decades, particularly in the wake of the Great Recession when more than a dozen states authorized new options in an effort to generate more revenues... Between 2008 and 2015, inflation-adjusted tax and fee revenues from commercial casinos grew by more than \$1.3 billion in states with newly authorized casinos, but declined by \$1.4 billion in states with established casinos, for a net decline of 1.5% nationally.... Gambling expansion is understandably appealing to officials wishing to raise revenue without raising taxes, but the long-term revenue is uncertain and potential economic and social costs require careful consideration.”

HEALTH

California’s Uninsured: Coverage Expands, but Millions Left Behind. By Paul Fronstin. California HealthCare Foundation. Mar. 2016. 20 p.

<http://www.chcf.org/publications/2016/03/californias-uninsured>

“This report, part of CHCF’s Almanac series, looks at the state’s uninsured population after the first year of full implementation of the ACA [Affordable Care Act].... From 2013 to 2014, the percentage of Californians who had individually purchased insurance or Medi-Cal increased. Californians age 21 to 24 experienced the largest drop of any nonelderly age group in the percentage that was uninsured, from 25% in 2013 to 16% in 2014. Of the state’s remaining uninsured, 1 in 4 was between the age of 25 and 34, and more than half (57%) were Latino.” CHCF also provides quick reference guides and infographics in its continuing series on ACA coverage.

HUMAN SERVICES

“Six-year Mortality in a Street-Recruited Cohort of Homeless Youth in San Francisco, California.” By Colette L. Auerswald, et al. *PeerJ*, vol. 4 (Apr. 14, 2016) e1909.

<https://peerj.com/articles/1909.pdf>

“[A] study of homeless youth living on the streets of San Francisco found that they have a 10 times higher mortality rate than their peers, mostly due to suicide and substance abuse.... The study involved 218

youths 15 to 24 years of age, two-thirds of them male and one-third female.... During that six-year period, 11 died – eight men and three women, or 5% of the study group – 10.6 times higher than expected for a similar group matched for age, race and gender.... In this study, young women were slightly more likely to die than young men.” (*Berkeley News*, Apr. 14, 2016).

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Evolving Technologies Change the Nature of Internet Use.* By Giulia McHenry. National Telecommunication & Information Administration. Apr. 19, 2016. 5 p.**

<https://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2016/evolving-technologies-change-nature-internet-use>

“Americans’ rapid move toward mobile Internet service appears to be coming at the expense of home broadband connections, according to the latest computer and Internet use data released by NTIA. At the same time, many Americans are using a wider range of computing devices in their daily lives. Both of these findings suggest that technological changes are driving a profound shift in how Americans use the Internet, which may be opening a new digital divide based on the use of particular types of devices and Internet services.”

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