



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

July 27, 2016

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Hate Crime in California 2015. Office of the Attorney General. June 2016. 38 p.

<http://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/downloads/pdfs/hc15.pdf>

Published every year, this report provides statistics on hate crimes that occurred in California in 2015, including the number of hate crime events, hate crime offenses, victims of hate crimes, and suspects of hate crimes. In 2015, the number of hate crime events increased by 10.4%, from 758 in 2014 to 837 in 2015. Hate crime events involving a religious bias increased 49.6% (from 127 in 2014 to 190 in 2015), with anti-Islamic (Muslim) bias events increasing from 18 in 2014 to 40 in 2015. Also, hate crime events specifically involving Hispanic ethnicity increased 35% (from 60 in 2014 to 81 in 2015). The number of victims of reported hate crimes increased 10.4% (from 943 in 2014 to 1,041 in 2015), and the number of reported hate crimes suspects increased 4.9% (from 799 in 2014 to 838 in 2015).

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Poorer than Their Parents? Flat or Falling Incomes in Advanced Economies. By Richard Dobbs, et al. McKinsey Global Institute. July 2016. 112 p.

<http://www.mckinsey.com/global-themes/employment-and-growth/poorer-than-their-parents-a-new-perspective-on-income-inequality?cid=other-eml-alt-mip-mgi-oth-1607>

“As recently as between 1993 and 2005, all but 2% of households in 25 advanced economies saw real incomes rise.... Yet this overwhelmingly positive income trend has ended.... Our analysis details the sharp increase in the proportion of households in income groups that are simply not advancing—a phenomenon affecting people across the income distribution. And the hardest hit are young, less-educated workers, raising the spectre of a generation growing up poorer than their parents.... In the United States, a child born to parents in the bottom fifth of the income distribution in 1986 had only a 9% chance of making it into the top fifth as an adult.... Studies in the United States found no difference in individual mobility between two periods—1987 to 1996 and 1996 to 2005—despite the increase in income inequality in the second period.”

EDUCATION

Credit Supply and the Rise in College Tuition: Evidence from the Expansion in Federal Student Aid Programs. By David O. Lucca, et al., Federal Reserve Bank of New York Staff Report. Revised July 2016. 60 p.

https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/research/staff_reports/sr733.pdf

This study looks at the potential relationship between the rising costs of higher education and the increase in student borrowing—mainly through federal student loan programs. The researchers wanted to know the “extent to which increased access to student credit has contributed to rising tuition” They found that “institutions more exposed to changes in these programs increased their tuition disproportionately around these policy changes, with a pass-through effect on tuition from changes in subsidized loan maximums per qualifying student of about 60%, and smaller but still positive pass-through effects of Pell Grant aid and the unsubsidized federal loan program. The subsidized loan effect is most pronounced for more expensive degrees, for those offered by private institutions, and for two-year degrees or vocational programs.”

The Condition of Future Educators 2015. ACT, Inc. July 2016 16 p.

<http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Future-Educators-2015.pdf>

“The percentage of aspiring educators who meet the ACT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks is lower than the national average in every subject area except English. In science and math, the gaps are significant. In short, not only are fewer students interested in becoming educators, but those who are interested have lower-than-average achievement levels in three of the four subject areas measured by the ACT. In addition, 30% of these students missed the benchmark in all four subject areas.... These findings raise a key question: How can the education field capture the interest and attention of more students—particularly the best and brightest students?”

EMPLOYMENT

USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences/Los Angeles Times Frequency Questionnaire: Q.61 to Q.63. Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research. May 19-31, 2016. 27 p.

<https://gqrr.app.box.com/s/4vekev5avzwhvw1zybpdnuh2acdsqrxe>

“California voters strongly support an increase in both the state and the federal minimum wage.... Large numbers of Californians anticipate some drawbacks to the wage increase. Eighty-seven percent believed that prices will rise ... but 11% disagree.... [P]oll’s respondents saw positive impacts of a minimum wage increase. Sixty-nine percent said that the change would give lower-income workers more money to spend, and 58% said that businesses will benefit from less employee turnover and higher customer satisfaction. Public opinion was more divided on the question of whether a wage increase would lift lower-paid workers out of poverty, with 52% in agreement and 45% in disagreement.” (*Press Release*, June 9, 2016).

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Renewable Energy and Jobs—Annual Review 2016. By Rabia Ferroukhi, et al. International Renewable Energy Agency. June 2016. 20 p.

http://www.irena.org/DocumentDownloads/Publications/IRENA_RE_Jobs_Annual_Review_2016.pdf

“Driven by growth in wind and solar, renewable energy employment in the United States increased by 6% in 2015 to reach 769,000 jobs. Solar employment continued its rapid expansion—growing by almost 22% to reach 209,000 in 2015. Jobs in the solar industry grew 12 times as fast as overall job creation in the U.S. economy, and surpassed those in oil and gas extraction (187,200) or coal mining (67,929). Most solar jobs (194,200) are in solar PV (photovoltaic), with relatively few in solar heating/cooling (10,400) and CSP (concentrating solar power) (4,200). The installation sector accounts for 57% of these jobs, with manufacturing representing less than 15%. Almost two thirds of all solar jobs in 2015 were in the residential market, 22% in the utility-scale segment, and 15% in commercial installations. Given the U.S. Congress’ extension of the federal Investment Tax Credit through 2021, continued fast growth is expected.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

An Economic Framework for Comparing Public-Private Partnerships and Conventional Procurement. By Jane Dokko, et al. U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Economic Policy. May 2016. 22 p.

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2784728

“In spite of its potential to benefit taxpayers, procurement of infrastructure through a public-private partnership (PPP) can be complex and difficult to structure.... This discussion paper aims to demystify infrastructure PPPs by explicitly describing the conditions under which a PPP can be a better choice for procurement over conventional methods.... This paper also describes ... steps for a government sponsor to take before a project being procured through a PPP is started” and best practices for successful PPP implementation.

HEALTH

“Medical Marijuana Laws Reduce Prescription Medication Use in Medicare Part D.”
By Ashley C. Bradford, et al. *Health Affairs*, vol. 35, no. 7 (July 2016) pp. 1230-1236.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/35/7/1230.full.pdf+html>

“[The authors] scoured the database of all prescription drugs paid for under Medicare Part D from 2010 to 2013. They found that, in the 17 states with a medical-marijuana law in place by 2013, prescriptions for painkillers and other classes of drugs fell sharply compared with states that did not have a medical-marijuana law. The drops were quite significant: In medical-marijuana states, the average doctor prescribed 265 fewer doses of antidepressants each year, 486 fewer doses of seizure medication, 541 fewer anti-nausea doses and 562 fewer doses of anti-anxiety medication. But most strikingly, the typical physician in a medical-marijuana state prescribed 1,826 fewer doses of painkillers in a given year.”
(*Washington Post*, July 13, 2016).

HUMAN SERVICES

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit: Some Agency Practices Raise Concerns and IRS Could Improve Noncompliance Reporting and Data Collection. Government Accountability Office. GAO-16-360. May. 2016. 77 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/677056.pdf>

“LIHTC [Low-Income Housing Tax Credit] encourages private-equity investment in low-income housing through tax credits. The program is administered by IRS and allocating agencies, which are typically state or local housing finance agencies established to meet affordable housing needs of their jurisdictions.... Allocating agencies that administer the ... LIHTC program have certain flexibilities for implementing program requirements and the agencies have done so in various ways.... This report reviews how allocating agencies administer the LIHTC program and identifies any oversight issues.”

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