



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

August 10, 2016

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

2016 Mid-Year Law Enforcement Officer Fatalities Report. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. July 2016. 4 p.

<http://www.nleomf.org/assets/pdfs/reports/2016-Mid-Year-Officer-Fatalities-Report.pdf>

"The attacks on police in Dallas and Baton Rouge.... contributed to a grim tally this year. Through last week, 32 officers were shot and killed in the line of duty.... More than half of the officers fatally shot died in ambushes.... Overall, the memorial fund said that 67 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty through last week, up from 62 over the same period last year. The new report shows that 21 of these deaths were not 'felonious incidents.' Instead, they stemmed from car crashes, job-related illnesses and, in one case, an officer who drowned." The report said that 32 officers were shot and killed this year compared to 18 in 2015, a 78% increase. In California, 3 offers were killed in 2016. (*Washington Post*, July 27, 2016).

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Big Disparities Persist in Californians' Access to Broadband Internet at Home, Even as More Are Going Online. The Field Poll. Aug. 2016. 4 p.

<http://www.field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/RIs2545.pdf>

"Most of the increase in broadband Internet connectivity is due to the growing popularity of mobile, smart phone devices. There has been a near doubling—from 8% to 14%—in the proportion of Californians who access the Internet at home only through a smart phone. While this is enabling more to get online, these users have more limited functionality when connecting to the Internet than those connecting from a desktop, laptop or tablet computer. In addition, some smart phone users face limitations in data access based on their monthly cell phone plans."

EDUCATION

Recruiting Teachers to Rural Areas. By Stephanie Aragon, et al. Education Commission of the States. June 8, 2016. 5 p.

<http://www.ecs.org/ec-content/uploads/Rural-SPED-Teacher-Shortages-June-2016.pdf>

This response to a request for information summarizes recent state policies to address the shortage of teachers in rural areas. Some of the programs highlighted in this report are Colorado's creation of an education coordinator position within its higher education agency, Mississippi's loan repayment program and alternative licensing for teachers in a "shortage subject or geographic area," and various forms of partnerships between universities and state education agencies—such as helping people in professional STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields transition to teaching, and recruiting teacher candidates from local areas.

EMPLOYMENT

May 2016 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Fund Forecast. Employment Development Department. July 2016. 12 p.

http://www.edd.ca.gov/About_EDD/pdf/edduiforecastmay16.pdf

"In 2012, the feds began raising federal payroll taxes on California employers to whittle down the UIF debt. The extra tax bite is now nearly \$2 billion a year, and the debt is expected to drop to \$1.3 billion by the end of 2017. However, that may be just in time for the next recession to strike. The Department of Employment Development says in a recent report, 'The current financing structure leaves the UI Fund unable to self-correct and achieve a positive fund balance sufficient to withstand an economic downturn.'" (*Sacramento Bee*, July 19, 2016).

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Hydropower Vision: A New Chapter for America's 1st Renewable Electricity Source. By Jose Zayas, et al. U.S. Department of Energy. July 26, 2016. 628 p.

<http://energy.gov/eere/water/articles/hydropower-vision-new-chapter-america-s-1st-renewable-electricity-source>

"The *Hydropower Vision* analysis finds that U.S. hydropower could grow from 101 gigawatts (GW) of capacity to nearly 150 GW by 2050. Growth under this modeled scenario would result from a combination of 13 GW of new hydropower generation capacity (upgrades to existing plants, adding power at existing dams and canals, and limited development of new stream-reaches), and 36 GW of new pumped storage

capacity. If this level of growth is achieved, benefits such as a savings of \$209 billion from avoided greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions could be realized, of which \$185 billion would be attributable to operation of the existing hydropower fleet. Transformative technical innovations able to meet the co-objectives of environmental sustainability and low-carbon energy will be critical to enabling additional hydropower growth beyond these levels.”

HEALTH

***Healthy Mouth, Healthy Start.* By Matthew Mariani, et al. The Children’s Partnership. July 2016. 12 p.**

<http://www.childrenspartnership.org/research-list/healthy-mouth-healthy-start-improving-oral-health-young-children-families-early-childhood-home-visiting/>

“Early childhood home visiting programs, focused on the health and development of pregnant women and young children, can play a critical role in getting children off to a good start when it comes to oral health.... Drawing from interviews with leaders in the home visiting and oral health communities and a literature review, this issue brief examines how oral health is incorporated into the early childhood home visiting models that serve the largest number of young children in California: Healthy Families America, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, Welcome Baby, and Early Head Start (home-based option).”

HUMAN SERVICES

***Work Requirements Don’t Cut Poverty, Evidence Shows.* By LaDonna Pavetti. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. June 7, 2016. 19 p.**

<http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/6-6-16pov3.pdf>

“House Republicans will likely propose work requirements for safety net programs in their plan to address poverty, but the evidence indicates that such requirements do little to reduce poverty, and in some cases, push families deeper into it.... The evidence from an array of rigorous evaluations, however, does not support the view that work requirements are highly effective, as their proponents often claim.... Rather than instituting or expanding work requirements, policymakers should maintain a strong safety net that can help individuals and families weather hard times—and invest more in programs that help public benefit recipients build the skills and acquire the work experience they need to succeed in today’s labor market.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Mapping Broadband Health in America.* Federal Communications Commission. Aug. 2016.**

<https://www.fcc.gov/health/maps>

Broadband Health Double Burden Areas is “a web-based mapping tool that will enable and inform more efficient, data-driven decision making at the intersection of broadband and health. By allowing users to ask and answer questions about broadband and health at the county and census block levels, the tool provides critical data that can help drive broadband health policies and connected health solutions for this critical space. The mapping tool is an interactive experience, showing various aspects of connectivity and health for every state and county in the United States. Users can generate customized maps that display broadband access, adoption and speed data alongside various health measures (e.g., obesity, diabetes, disabilities and physician access) in urban and rural areas.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

“Graduated Driver Licensing Night Driving Restrictions and Drivers Aged 16 or 17 Years Involved in Fatal Night Crashes – United States, 2009-2014.” By Ruth Shults, et al. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Update*, vol. 65, no. 29 (July 29, 2016) 6 p.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6529a1.htm?s_cid=mm6529a1_w

“Fatal crash risk is higher at night for all drivers, but especially for young, inexperienced drivers. To help address the increased crash risk for beginner teen drivers, 49 states and the District of Columbia include a night driving restriction (NDR) in their Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) system. NDRs have been shown to reduce crashes among newly licensed teens, with higher reductions associated with NDRs starting at 10:00 p.m. or earlier. However, in 23 states and the District of Columbia, NDRs begin at 12:00 a.m. or later, times when most teen drivers subject to GDL are not driving.” This report shares state data regarding the proportion of drivers aged 16 or 17 years involved in fatal crashes at night.

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