



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Juvenile Justice in California 2015*. Office of the Attorney General. June 2016. 130 p.

<http://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/downloads/pdfs/jj15.pdf>

"[This report] provides insight into the juvenile justice process by reporting the number of arrests, referrals to probation departments, petitions filed, and dispositions for juveniles tried in juvenile and adult courts.... [It also] presents juvenile justice statistics in four sections: Arrests, Referrals, Petitions, and Adult Court Dispositions." Some of the statistics include: 71,923 juvenile arrests were reported by law enforcement agencies in 2015; over half (58.2%) of juveniles were arrested for a misdemeanor offense; nearly one-third (29.7%) were arrested for a felony offense. Of those arrested, 51,693 were males, 20,230 were female; a higher percentage of whites were arrested for misdemeanors (62.9%); a higher percentage of blacks were arrested for felonies (40.4%). Juveniles arrested for felonies totaled 21,381; 34.3% (7,341) were for violent offenses and 31.3% (6,685) were for property crimes.

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

**Libraries 2016.** By John B. Horrigan. Pew Research Center. Sep. 2016. 30 p.

[http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2016/09/PI\\_2016.09.09\\_Libraries-2016\\_FINAL.pdf](http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2016/09/PI_2016.09.09_Libraries-2016_FINAL.pdf)

“When asked to think about the things that libraries could do in the future, notable numbers of Americans respond in a way that can be boiled down to one phrase: ‘Yes, please.’ Public libraries, many Americans say, should offer programs to teach people digital skills.... Yet, Americans are also divided on a fundamental question about how books should be treated at libraries: 24% support the idea of moving books and stacks in order to make way for more community- and tech-oriented spaces, while 31% say libraries should not move the books to create such spaces.... There is also a growing sense that libraries can help people decide what information they can trust: 37% of Americans feel that public libraries contribute ‘a lot’ in this regard, a 13-point increase from a survey conducted at a similar point in 2015.”

## EDUCATION

**STEM 2026: A Vision for Innovation in STEM Education.** By Courtney Tannenbaum, et al. American Institutes for Research. Sep. 2016. 73 p.

<http://www.air.org/system/files/downloads/report/STEM-2026-Vision-for-Innovation-September-2016.pdf>

This report outlines six core principles in STEM education, as formed in a series of recent workshops sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. These “interconnected components” are: 1) “engaged and networked communities of practice,” 2) “accessible learning activities that invite intentional play and risk,” 3) “educational experiences that include interdisciplinary approaches to solving ‘grand challenges,’” 4) “flexible and inclusive learning spaces,” 5) “Innovative and accessible measures of learning,” and 6) “societal and cultural images and environments that promote diversity and opportunity in STEM.”

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

**Bridging the Gap: Do Fast Reacting Fossil Technologies Facilitate Renewable Energy Diffusion?** By Elena Verdolini, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. July 2016. 34 p.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w22454> (Available at the California State Library)

Brief. 1 p.: <http://www.nber.org/digest/oct16/w22454.html>

As renewable energy penetrates the global market, the cost of backup energy sources will need to be factored in for accurate calculations of the cost of transitioning. “In the study, the researchers took a broad look at the erection of wind, solar, and other renewable energy plants (not including large hydropower or biomass projects) across 26 countries ... over the period between the year 1990 and 2013. And they found a surprisingly tight relationship between renewables on the one hand, and gas on the other.” The report found more renewables were installed in countries that have fast reacting fossil fuel plants available to compensate for occasional variations in supply. (*Washington Post*, Aug. 11, 2016).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

**Common Claims about Proposition 13.** By Carolyn Chu, et al. Legislative Analyst’s Office. Sep 19, 2016. 54 p.

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3497>

“The ballot measure limited property taxes to 1% of assessed valuation, barred reassessments except when a property was sold, and capped increases at 2% a year.... [This created] huge variations in the tax

bills even among similar, neighboring properties and similar homeowners.... [It] heightened the reliance of many communities on ... sales, utility and hotel taxes, over which local authorities have more control. These have increased six times faster than property taxes.... The state also lacks data on whether ownership transfers of commercial property are being concealed, which could be ... cheating local governments out of billions in potential revenue.... Proposition 13 didn't necessarily relieve Californians of paying for the services they demand from local government; ... the burden has been shifted ... so that poorer taxpayers are shouldering more of these costs." (*Los Angeles Times*, Sep. 30, 2016).

***Sober Living Homes in California: Options for State and Local Regulation.* By Jason MacCannall and Kellie Jean Hogue. California Research Bureau. Oct. 2016. 23 p.**

[http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/16/CRB\\_SoberLivingReport\\_2016.pdf](http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/16/CRB_SoberLivingReport_2016.pdf)

"Under the social model of recovery from substance abuse disorders, the sober living home has become an important resource for persons in recovery in California and elsewhere. Since the law generally treats sober living homes as residences rather than treatment facilities, state and local governments do not require them to carry licenses or impose other regulations outside of the general regulations on housing, zoning and land use. The proliferation of sober living homes in some places has raised concerns that they are being operated more like businesses than homes, impinging on the residential use and character of areas where they are concentrated. This report explores recent efforts to regulate sober living homes at the state and local level, the legal challenges that local ordinances in California have faced and policy options for regulation of these establishments at the state level."

## HEALTH

**"Adults with One or More Functional Disabilities—United States, 2011-2014." By Alissa C. Stevens, et al. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 65 no. 38 (Sep. 30, 2016), pp. 1021-1025.**

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6538a1.htm>

"Knowing the characteristics of persons living with multiple disability types is important for understanding the overall functional status of these persons. CDC analyzed data from the family component of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) for the years 2011–2014 to estimate the percentage of adults aged 18–64 years with one, two, three, or four or more disability types, by selected demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. Overall, 22.6 million (11.9%) working-age adults were found to have any disability, and in this population, most (12.8 million) persons had only one disability type. The report found that "[a]s the number of disability types increased, the prevalence of low socioeconomic status indicators generally increased as well."

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Family Interventions for Youth Experiencing or at Risk of Homelessness.* By Michael Pergamit, et al. Urban Institute. July 2016. 107 p.**

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/205401/FamilyInterventions.pdf>

"Most programs serving youth experiencing homelessness use some form of family intervention to address conflict and help reconnect youth with families.... Yet despite the prevalence of family intervention work, no systematic review has assessed the evidence on family intervention strategies.... We conclude that research has uncovered a few effective family intervention strategies that provide insight into what makes these strategies successful." The report cautions that "[m]ore research is also needed on how to target family interventions to key subgroups, such as youth who are racial and ethnic minorities and/or lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ)."

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Urban Design, Transport, and Health: Series from the Lancet Journals.*** The Lancet. Sep. 23, 2016.  
<http://www.thelancet.com/series/urban-design> (Free registration required)

“Worldwide, the majority of people already live in cities and by 2050, it is estimated that 75% of 10 billion people have cities as an important social determinant of health. Air pollution, physical inactivity, noise, social isolation, unhealthy diets, and exposure to crime play a very important part in the non-communicable disease burden. This 3-part Series explores how integrated multisector city planning, including urban design and transport planning, can be used as an important and currently underused force for health and wellbeing within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals in both high-income countries and low-income and middle-income countries.”

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