



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 15-114

April 8, 2015

Contents this week:

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

LAO: Programs to help crime victims in CA must improve

### **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

Survey: Californians willing to change to reduce water use

### **ECONOMY**

The growing distance between people and jobs in metro America

### **EDUCATION**

Head Start: linking data to state early care and education programs

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Study: L.A. minimum wage increase projected as overall benefit

### **ENERGY**

CEC staff report: new computer and monitor standards would save millions

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Urban heat island mitigation may worsen Central Valley air quality

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

County economic trends show uneven post-recession recovery

### **HEALTH**

End-of-life decisions and policy implications

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

Comprehensive poverty package is stronger than individual policies

### **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

Report explores barriers, offers solutions for transportation spending

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*The 2015-16 Budget: Improving State Programs for Crime Victims.* Legislative Analyst's Office.

Mar. 2015. 24 p.

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/Publications/Detail/3215>

“About 150,000 violent crimes are reported annually in California. However, a recent study by the U.S. Department of Justice found that, on average, only about three-fifths of violent crimes are reported to law enforcement. This suggests that there could be over 250,000 violent crimes each year in California. Many of these victims require medical care, mental health counseling, legal services, and other assistance as they recover from the crime and participate in the justice system.... In this report, we (1) review existing

victim programs, (2) identify challenges regarding the current structure and delivery of these programs, and (3) recommend steps to help address these challenges.”

## **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

***Key Findings from a Recent Survey on Water Conservation in California.* By David Metz, et al. Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates. Mar. 17, 2015. 9 p.**

<http://www.acwa.com/sites/default/files/post/2015/03/summary-key-findings-ca-water-conservation-survey.pdf>

“The survey results clearly show that awareness and concern about the drought is essentially ubiquitous, with overwhelming majorities both very concerned about the drought and water shortages, and feeling that drought or not, we essentially live in a state of perpetual water shortage.... Most Californians say they have already reduced their water usage during the current drought, and are anticipating continuing these new practices even after the current drought ends.... [G]etting Californians to reduce their water usage will require overcoming feelings that they have already done what they can, that changes are expensive or difficult, and a general reluctance to let landscaping die.”

## **ECONOMY**

***The Growing Distance Between People and Jobs in Metropolitan America.* By Elizabeth Kneebone, et al. Brookings. Mar. 2015. 25 p.**

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2015/03/24-job-proximity/Srvy\\_JobsProximity.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2015/03/24-job-proximity/Srvy_JobsProximity.pdf)

“For local and regional leaders working to grow their economies in ways that promote opportunity and upward mobility for all residents, these findings underscore the importance of understanding how regional economic and demographic trends intersect at the local level to shape access to employment opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged populations and neighborhoods. And they point to the need for more integrated and collaborative regional strategies around economic development, housing, transportation, and workforce decisions that take job proximity into account.”

## **EDUCATION**

***Linking Head Start Data with State Early Care and Education Coordinated Data Systems.* By Elizabeth Jordan, et al. The Early Childhood Data Collaborative. Mar. 2015. 16 p.**

<http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/ecdc-head-start-brief.pdf>

Head Start plays an important role in early child care in the U.S., serving over 1 million children and employing more than 230,000 staff members. Several states link their Head Start data with other state-level early childhood programs. Researchers have found that this linkage creates greater coordination across programs, and provides a better picture of their states' early childhood education workforce, program quality, outcomes and services. This brief outlines how state and federal policymakers can work with Head Start to report and share data.

## EMPLOYMENT

***The Proposed Minimum Wage Law for Los Angeles: Economic Impacts and Policy Options.*** By Michael Reich, et al. UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment. Mar. 2015. 99 p.

<http://irle.berkeley.edu/cwed/briefs/2015-01.pdf>

“The Los Angeles City Council is considering a citywide minimum wage increase to \$13.25 by 2017 and \$15.25 by 2019, followed by annual increases indexed to inflation.... By 2017, we estimate that 542,000 workers in Los Angeles, or 37.8% of the covered workforce, will receive a wage increase from the proposed law.... Overall, we estimate that firms’ operating costs will increase by 0.5% by 2017 and 0.9% by 2019 as a result of the proposed law.... On the cost side, we find that employers will pass on their increased operating costs to consumers via prices.... We find that the benefits of the proposed minimum wage law will largely outweigh the costs.”

## ENERGY

***Analysis of Computers, Computer Monitors, and Signage Displays.*** By Harinder Singh, et al. California Energy Commission. 2014 CEC-400-2015-009-SD. Mar. 12, 2015. 70 p.

[http://docketpublic.energy.ca.gov/PublicDocuments/14-AAER-02/TN203854\\_20150312T094326\\_Staff\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://docketpublic.energy.ca.gov/PublicDocuments/14-AAER-02/TN203854_20150312T094326_Staff_Report_FINAL.pdf)

Computers, monitors, and digital sign displays account for about 5% of electricity use in California. “Staff’s analysis shows that proposed computer monitor and signage display standards are technically feasible and cost-effective to consumers and would save a significant amount of energy statewide.” This staff report estimates that proposed standards from the California Energy Commission would save California businesses and consumers \$434 million in electricity costs per year after stock turnover.

## ENVIRONMENT

**“Challenges Associated with Adaptation to Future Urban Expansion.”** By Matei Georgescu. *Journal of Climate*, vol. 28, issue 7 (Apr. 2015) pp. 2544-2563.

<http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/full/10.1175/JCLI-D-14-00290.1>

As California will continue to make room for millions of new residents through the next century, one impact will be increasing urbanization and associated local temperature increases due to urban heat island effects. This study modelled the effect of mitigation strategies, such as green roofs, cool roofs, and hybrid roofs on local temperature. The models show these strategies reduce daytime warming, but also results in reduced convective airflow, which can also increase the ability of the Central Valley’s inversion layer to trap pollution. As a consequence, urban heat mitigation may actually further contribute to reduced air quality in the valley.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***County Economic Tracker 2014: Progress Through Adversity.*** By Nicholas Lyell, et al. National Association of Counties. Jan. 2015. 4 p.

<http://www.naco.org/research/Pages/county-tracker-2014.aspx>

“Economic data reveals that all county economies faced challenges through the latest downturn, but growth accelerated across county economies in 2014. Most county economies still have not recovered in terms of unemployment, many already had 2013 declines in county wages and others are still below their

pre-recession peaks when it comes to jobs, economic output (GDP) or housing markets. The analysis also shows that economic growth is spreading, with jobs and unemployment rates improving across nearly all county economies. This progress through adversity indicates the success of county economic development efforts, but also the continued need for a strong local-state-federal partnership in securing a strong economy.”

## HEALTH

***Dying in America: Improving Quality and Honoring Individual Preferences Near the End of Life.***  
By the Committee on Approaching Death: Addressing Key End of Life Issues. National Academies Press. 2015. 639 p.

<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/18748/dying-in-america-improving-quality-and-honoring-individual-preferences-near>

(Available at the California State Library)

This NAP report is part of a continuing series on end-of-life decisions and palliative care for the dying. “The committee offers five recommendations in the areas of care delivery, clinician-patient communication and advance care planning, professional education and development, policies and payment systems, and public education and engagement, which collectively offer a roadmap for progress in the nation’s approach to end-of-life care and management.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Reducing Poverty in the United States: Results of a Microsimulation Analysis of the Community Advocates Public Policy Institute Policy Package.*** By Kye Lippold. Urban Institute. Mar. 2015. 50 p.

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/2000151-reducing-poverty-in-the-united-states.pdf>

“This report examines the effects of a package of policies that aim to alleviate poverty through increased work supports and other measures.... The policy package as a whole is simulated to reduce the SPM [Supplemental Poverty Measure] poverty rate in 2010 from 14.8% to 7.4%.... This represents a drop of 50 to 58% in the number of people in SPM poverty. The direct cost of the policy package is estimated to be \$332 billion to \$399 billion. These results suggest that a comprehensive policy package can have substantial antipoverty effects, even during a deep recession.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Moving Dollars: Aligning Transportation Spending with California’s Environmental Goals.***  
By Ethan N. Elkind, et al. UCLA School of Law, et al. Feb. 2015. 32 p.

<http://webshare.law.ucla.edu/Emmett/climate-and-business/moving-dollars.pdf>

“[A] group of transportation advocates, experts and public officials gathered at the University of California, Los Angeles in October 2014 for a discussion sponsored by the University of California Berkeley and Los Angeles Schools of Law. Ultimately, the participants envisioned a transportation system that provides greater and more affordable access for all residents, while furthering environmental and public health goals through reduced emissions. The system should support a growing, dynamic, and equitable economy through enhanced access to destinations, while improving upon existing infrastructure and land use patterns. Mobility options should seamlessly connect between interregional and local transit, as well as eventual high speed rail.”

### **About *Studies in the News***

*Studies in the News* (SITN) is a service provided by the California Research Bureau (CRB), a division of the California State Library. CRB provides independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the Governor, Legislature and State Constitutional Officers.

SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed weekly. Archived issues are available at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.

To add or remove your name from the SITN distribution list, or to update your e-mail address, please contact us at [crb@library.ca.gov](mailto:crb@library.ca.gov), or (916) 319-2691.

SITN is available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.