



## Studies in the News

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Contents this week:

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

The difficulty in measuring costs of local jails to taxpayers

### **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

Survey: high value placed on privacy

### **ECONOMY**

Economic survey sheds light on post-recession households

### **EDUCATION**

State approaches to dual enrollment costs

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Contingent workforce challenging to define; differences found

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Reducing short-lived climate pollutants in CA

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Ensuring improvement of the CA state workforce

### **HEALTH**

Comparing CA exchange plan coverage to commercial plans

Teen driver crash rates higher than any other age category

### **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

Rail transit agency incident response: current knowledge and practice

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

*The Price of Jails: Measuring the Taxpayer Cost of Local Incarceration.* By Christian Henrichson, et al. Vera Institute of Justice. May 2015. 36 p.

<http://www.vera.org/pubs/price-of-jails>

“Jails are more expensive than previously understood, as significant jail expenditures—such as employee salaries and benefits, health care and education programs for incarcerated people, and general administration—are paid for by county or municipal general funds, and are not reflected in jail budgets. Drawing on surveys from 35 jail jurisdictions from 18 states, this report determined that even the jurisdictions themselves had difficulty pinning down the cost of their local jail or jail system. [This report] also highlights how the surest way to safely cut costs is to reduce the number of people who enter and stay in jails. In doing so, jurisdictions will be able to save resources and make the investments necessary to address the health and social service needs of their communities.” Alameda County (Oakland, CA) is included in the survey.

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Americans' Attitudes about Privacy, Security and Surveillance.*** By Mary Madden, et al. Pew Research Center. May 2015. 50 p.

[http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/05/Privacy-and-Security-Attitudes-5.19.15\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/05/Privacy-and-Security-Attitudes-5.19.15_FINAL.pdf)

“Americans feel privacy is important in their daily lives in a number of essential ways. Yet, they have a pervasive sense that they are under surveillance when in public and very few feel they have a great deal of control over the data that is collected about them and how it is used. Adding to earlier Pew Research reports that have documented low levels of trust in sectors that Americans associate with data collection and monitoring, the new findings show Americans also have exceedingly low levels of confidence in the privacy and security of the records that are maintained by a variety of institutions in the digital age.”

## ECONOMY

***Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2014.*** Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. May 27, 2015. 108 p.

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/communitydev/shed.htm>

“This report analyzes results of the Board’s second *Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking*, conducted in October 2014, and compares them with results from the previous year’s survey. The survey aims to capture a snapshot of the financial and economic well-being of U.S. households, as well as to monitor their recovery from the Great Recession and identify perceived risks to their financial stability.” The survey covers a broad range of topics related to household security, including retirement planning, savings, employment, and credit access.

## EDUCATION

***State Approaches to Funding Dual Enrollment.*** By Jennifer Zinth. Education Commission of the States. May 2015. 11 p.

<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/18/92/11892.pdf>

Dual enrollment offers high school students the opportunity to attend college in order to take coursework that could be credited towards a high school diploma or college degree. Many states offer dual enrollment programs, and are “reframing” them to include middle-achieving students in academic and career/technical education courses. This report describes the efforts of some states to alleviate costs to parents for these programs. In Florida and Iowa, school districts pay for tuition costs, in North Carolina and Minnesota, the state pays, and in Utah, the state and student share in the costs. These funding mechanisms require significant commitment from the paying institution, but these states have found an increase in minority and low-income students participating in such programs.

## EMPLOYMENT

***Contingent Workforce: Size, Characteristics, Earnings, and Benefits.*** U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-15-168R. May 20, 2015. 74 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/669766.pdf>

“The size of the contingent workforce can range from less than 5% to more than a third of the total employed labor force, depending on widely-varying definitions of contingent work. Based on GSS

[General Social Survey] data, we estimated that a core group of contingent workers, such as agency temps and on-call workers, comprised about 7.9% of the employed labor force in 2010. We found that compared to standard full-time workers, core contingent workers are more likely to be younger, Hispanic, have no high school degree, and have low family income.... Because contingent work can be unstable ... it tends to lead to lower earnings, fewer benefits, and a greater reliance on public assistance than standard work.”

## ENVIRONMENT

***Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy: Concept Paper.*** California Environmental Protection Agency, Air Resources Board. May 2015. 34 p.

[http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/shortlived/concept\\_paper.pdf](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/shortlived/concept_paper.pdf)

“Short-lived climate pollutants are powerful climate forcers that remain in the atmosphere for a much shorter period of time than longer-lived climate pollutants, such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Their relative potency, when measured in terms of how they heat the atmosphere, can be tens, hundreds, or even thousands of times greater than that of CO<sub>2</sub>. The impacts of short-lived climate pollutants are especially strong over the short term. Reducing these emissions can make an immediate beneficial impact on climate change.” (*Press Release*, June 5, 2015).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***High Risk: State Departments Need to Improve Their Workforce and Succession Planning Efforts to Mitigate the Risks of Increasing Retirements.*** California State Auditor. Report: 2015-608. May 2015.

Full Report. 53 p.: <https://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2015-608.pdf>

Fact Sheet. 1 p.: <https://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/factsheets/2015-608.pdf>

“This report presents the results of our high risk audit concerning the status of workforce and succession planning in the State. Specifically, our audit assessed guidance that the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) provides state departments to develop workforce and succession plans and the status of three departments’ workforce and succession plans ... (Office of Emergency Services), ... (Caltrans), and ... (Social Services).” This is an update to a prior report published in 2009 and includes progress updates from all four departments, along with recommendations to improve state workforce and succession planning efforts.

## HEALTH

**“California Hospital Networks are Narrower in Marketplace Than in Commercial Plans, but Access and Quality are Similar.”** By Simon F. Haeder, et al. *Health Affairs*, vol. 34 no. 5 (May 2015) pp. 741-748.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/34/5/741.full>

“The *Health Affairs* study analyzed hospital networks available to Californians through private commercial coverage and through Covered California during the initial enrollment period of 2013 to 2014.... The study included 338 hospitals in 19 regions. Overall, Covered California enrollees had about 83% of the number of hospitals in-network as those with private insurance, according to the study. However, geographic access was about equal between plans. About 92% of Covered California consumers were within at least one hospital network, compared to 93% for private plans. Quality of hospital services also did not suffer in exchange plans.” (*California Healthline*, May 6, 2015).

**Teen Driver Crashes: 1994-2013.** By Brian C. Tefft. AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. May 2015. 17 p.

<http://newsroom.aaa.com/2015/05/teen-drivers-put-everyone-risk/>

“This study investigates the changes and trends in the number of teenage drivers aged 15-19 involved in police-reported crashes each year for the 20-year period from 1994 through 2013, and also quantifies the number of those drivers, their passengers, occupants of other vehicles, and non-occupants such as pedestrians and bicyclists who were injured and killed in crashes involving teenage drivers over the study period.” The study found that teen-driver crash rates are higher than any other age category. While the overall number of teen-driver crashes is down, “the majority of people killed (66%) and injured (67%) in crashes involving a teen driver are people other than the teens themselves.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Critical Incident Management and Clearance Practices for Rail Transit: A Synthesis of Transit Practice.*** By Daniel K. Boyle, et al. Transit Cooperative Research Program. Apr. 15, 2015. 110 p.

[http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrp\\_syn\\_114.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrp_syn_114.pdf)

“The report documents the current state of the practice on the approaches and frustrations that rail transit agencies have experienced regarding incident response. The synthesis summarizes the major issues faced by agencies in responding effectively and in identifying successful strategies and how post incident evaluation affects response to the next incident. It can aid rail transit agencies in identifying solutions that work in the real world and also in providing a concise guide for communities and their responders. A literature review and detailed survey responses from 51 of 61 agency/rail mode combinations, a response rate of 84% are provided. In addition, six case examples offer more detailed information.”

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

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