



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Hate Crime in California: 2014. Office of the Attorney General. July 2015. 38 p.

<http://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/cjsc/publications/hatecrimes/hc14/preface14.pdf>

Published every year, this report provides statistics on hate crimes that occurred in California. "These statistics include the number of hate crime events, hate crime offenses, victims of hate crimes, and suspects of hate crimes." According to this report, the number of hate crimes decreased by 12.2%, from 863 in 2013 to 758 in 2014. The total number of hate crime victims and suspects also decreased this past year.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

The Tradeoff Fallacy: How Marketers are Misrepresenting American Consumers and Opening Them Up to Exploitation. By Joseph Turow, et al. Annenberg School for Communication. June 2015. 24 p.

https://www.asc.upenn.edu/sites/default/files/TradeoffFallacy_1.pdf

“New Annenberg survey results indicate that marketers are misrepresenting a large majority of Americans by claiming that Americans give out information about themselves as a tradeoff for benefits they receive. To the contrary, the survey reveals most Americans do not believe that ‘data for discounts’ is a square deal.... Our findings, instead, support a new explanation: a majority of Americans are resigned to giving up their data—and that is why many appear to be engaging in tradeoffs.... By misrepresenting the American people and championing the tradeoff argument, marketers give policymakers false justifications for allowing the collection and use of all kinds of consumer data often in ways that the public find objectionable.”

ECONOMY

“The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and Its Effects on American Indian Economic Development.” By Randall K. Q. Akee, et al. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, vol. 29, no. 3 (Summer 2015) 24 p.

<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/jep.29.3.185>

“The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), passed by the US Congress in 1988, was a watershed in the history of policymaking directed toward reservation-resident American Indians. IGRA set the stage for tribal government-owned gaming facilities. It also shaped how this new industry would develop and how tribal governments would invest gaming revenues. Since then, Indian gaming has approached commercial, state-licensed gaming in total revenues. Gaming operations have had a far-reaching and transformative effect on American Indian reservations and their economies. Specifically, Indian gaming has allowed marked improvements in several important dimensions of reservation life. For the first time, some tribal governments have moved to fiscal independence. Native nations have invested gaming revenues in their economies and societies, often with dramatic effect.”

EDUCATION

The Condition of College and Career Readiness 2014: First Generation Students. ACT, Inc. June 2015. 20 p.

<http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/2014/states/pdf/FirstGeneration.pdf>

This report offers recommendations on what states can do to promote college readiness, particularly among first generation students. They point to signs of poor preparation for college, as measured by components of the ACT (American College Testing) assessment: “Approximately 9% of all 2014 ACT-tested first-generation high school graduates met all four of the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks indicating academic readiness for credit-bearing first-year college courses in English Composition, College Algebra, Biology, and the social sciences. At the same time, 18% of all 2014 ACT-tested first-generation high school graduates met only one Benchmark, and 52% met none.”

ENERGY

Preparing for CO₂ Regulations for Existing Power Plants: Key Points to Look for in the Final Clean Power Rule. By Julie DeMeester, et al. Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University. July 2015. 7 p.

https://nicholasinstitute.duke.edu/sites/default/files/publications/ni_pb_15-04.pdf

“This policy brief identifies key points to look for in the EPA’s forthcoming final rule, including potential differences between the proposed and final versions.... [These points are]: changes in final state emissions targets; changes in interim targets glide path; treatment of new natural gas units; treatment of under-construction nuclear units; specific rules and flexibility on rate-to-mass conversion; submission deadlines for state plans; further guidance regarding multi-state trading options.”

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

“Metrics for Assessing the Quality of Groundwater Used for Public Supply, CA, USA: Equivalent-Population Area.” By Kenneth Belitz, et al. *Environmental Science & Technology*, vol. 49 no. 14 (June 26, 2015) 8 p.

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.est.5b00265>

“Data from 11,000 public supply wells in 87 study areas were used to assess the quality of nearly all of the groundwater used for public supply in California. Two metrics were developed for quantifying groundwater quality: area with high concentrations (km² or proportion) and equivalent-population relying upon groundwater with high concentrations (number of people or proportion). Concentrations are considered high if they are above a human-health benchmark.... On a statewide-scale, about 20% of the groundwater used for public supply has high concentrations for one or more constituents (23% by area and 18% by equivalent-population).”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

California’s Latino and Asian American Vote: Dramatic Underrepresentation in 2014 and Expected Impact in 2016. Policy Brief no. 10. By Mindy Romero. California Civic Engagement Project, UC Davis Center for Regional Change. July 2015. 10 p.

<http://explore.regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/ourwork/projects/ccep/ucdavisceppolicybrief10>

This brief assesses the impact of these two groups in the 2014 election and its anticipated impact on the 2016 elections. It also examines disparities in voter participation at a granular level. Highlights include: only 17.3% of eligible Latinos and 18.4% of eligible Asian Americans voted in the 2014 general election; Latinos accounted for 39% of the state’s population yet made up only 15.4% of voters in 2014, while Asian Americans made up 13.3% of the state’s population and accounted for 7.4% voting in 2014; and counties in the San Joaquin Valley, Los Angeles and San Diego counties experience the lowest eligible turnout rates of eligible Latino and Asian American voters.

HUMAN SERVICES

2015 Kids Count Data Book. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. July 1, 2015. 56 p.

<http://www.aecf.org/resources/the-2015-kids-count-data-book/>

“Since 1990, KIDS COUNT has ranked states annually on overall child well-being using an index of key indicators [on Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family and Community].... The latest data show continued incremental improvement in educational achievement and child health and safety, as well as a record low level of teen births. After continuing to climb since 2008, child poverty finally decreased slightly in 2013.” California rankings in most domains have gone up from the previous year, having its overall child well-being ranked 38th from 40th. In particular, Health has shown a big increase rising to 14th from 26th.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

States in Motion: Visualizing How Education Funding Has Changed Over Time. By John C. Osborn, et al. EdSource. July 26, 2015.

<http://edsources.org/2015/states-in-motion-school-finance-naep-child-poverty/83303>

“The project explores numerous datasets through interactive charts for all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. The idea behind the project is to take a historical look at how the economic and social conditions have changed for each state over time, and how those changes have impacted investment in education and student achievement. Each section explores specific data in chart form and offers context in related text.”

VETERANS

MyVA Integrated Plan (MIP). U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. July 30, 2015. 50 p.

http://www.va.gov/opa/myva/docs/myva_integrated_plan.pdf

“The Department of Veterans Affairs has released a 50-page document, MyVA, outlining its improvement goals in the aftermath of last year’s internal report of doctored waiting lists that hid how long veterans waited for care. The document portrays a behemoth organization attempting, in the wake of cost controls and increased demand for services, to streamline services through such initiatives as a realignment into five regional districts, including a North Atlantic district, better access to services through improved staff training, and ... better delivery of health care through hiring and coordination of services.” (*Masslive.com*, July 31, 2015).

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