



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Report claims no racial bias in police shootings

ECONOMY

California could boost GDP by 8% with workforce parity

EDUCATION

19% of UC students experience very low food security

Early childhood workforce compensation

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Zero-emission vehicle adoption rates soar in CA

Report analyzes drinking water quality in CA schools

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

California's majority-minority state not reflected in its democracy

HEALTH

President Obama on the Affordable Care Act

HUMAN SERVICES

Tools to detect SNAP fraud still in development

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

An Empirical Analysis of Racial Differences in Police Use of Force. By Roland G. Fryer, Jr.
National Bureau of Economic Research. Working Paper No. 22399. July 2016. 63 p.
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w22399> (Available at the California State Library)

"[T]his paper takes first steps into the treacherous terrain of understanding the nature and extent of racial differences in police use of force. On non-lethal uses of force, there are racial differences—sometimes quite large—in police use of force, even after accounting for a large set of controls designed to account for important contextual and behavioral factors at the time of the police-civilian interaction.... [A]s use of force increases from putting hands on a civilian to striking them with a baton, the overall probability of such an incident occurring decreases dramatically but the racial difference remains roughly constant. Even when officers report civilians have been compliant and no arrest was made, blacks are 21.3 (0.04)% more likely to endure some form of force. Yet, on the most extreme use of force—officer-involved shootings—we are unable to detect any racial differences in either the raw data or when accounting for controls."

ECONOMY

The Power of Parity - Advancing Women's Equality in the United States. By Kweilin Ellingrud, et al. McKinsey Global Institute. Apr. 2016. 68 p.

<http://www.mckinsey.com/global-themes/employment-and-growth/the-power-of-parity-advancing-womens-equality-in-the-united-states>

California could add an estimated 8% to its state gross domestic product if it raised its employment of women to the same level as men. On a city level, Sacramento has the highest parity score in the state at .86, San Francisco is next highest at .69, and Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Diego score around .60. California's state score of .67 puts it higher than the .64 national average.

EDUCATION

Student Food Access and Security Study. By Suzanna M. Martinez. Nutrition Policy Institute, University of California. July 2016. 29 p.

<http://ucop.edu/global-food-initiative/best-practices/food-access-security/student-food-access-and-security-study.pdf>

"The UC Food Security and Access Study found that 19% of UC student respondents had very low food security, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture defines as experiencing reduced food intake at times due to limited resources. Another 23% of survey respondents were considered to have low food security, defined as reports of reduced quality, variety or desirability of diet, with little or no indication of reduced food intake. Using the USDA's definition of food insecurity, which combines low and very low food security, a combined 42% of students UC systemwide reported having experienced a reduced quality of diet or reduced food intake in the past 12 months." Results from this survey have led to a call for expansion of food pantries at all UC campuses, and greater coordination among the campuses and outside partners to address this issue.

Early Childhood Workforce Index 2016. By Marcy Whitebook. Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California at Berkeley. July 2016. 120 p.

<http://cscce.berkeley.edu/files/2016/Early-Childhood-Workforce-Index-2016.pdf>

This report is a summary of early childhood workforce conditions and policies in the 50 states. The researchers found that low wages and lack of educational attainment persist in early child care. They recommend state strategies to address this problem, focusing on "essential elements," such as qualifications, compensation, financial resources, workforce data and work environments—and list how each state is progressing in these areas, with an overall assessment of "stalled," "edging forward," or "making headway."

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

2016 California Green Innovation Index. By Christopher Thornberg, et al. Next 10. June 2016. 64 p.

<http://next10.org/2016-gii>

This index "tracks key economic and environmental indicators at the regional, state, and international level." These indicators are: solar, energy productivity/electricity, clean tech patents/investment, transportation, agriculture, and international rankings. One of the major findings is that "solar generation and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) adoption rates have increased dramatically in California—1,378% in just 5 years for solar generation, and 244% in two years for ZEV registrations—signaling major market disruption as clean energy technology hotspots take root across California, and not just in traditional innovation hubs."

Are We Providing Our School Kids Safe Drinking Water? An Analysis of California Schools Impacted by Unsafe Drinking Water. By Jenny Rempel, et al. Community Water Center, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water. May 2016. 29 p.

https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/communitywatercenter/pages/824/attachments/original/1462465769/CWC_MCL_05.05.16b.pdf

“This report assesses the magnitude, location, and characteristics of the impacts of unsafe water in California public schools, and provides a basis to guide further research and public policy solutions. Neither the state nor local jurisdictions maintain a record of school water system providers, so this report matches 6,974 California schools with public water systems through both direct matching and spatial correlation. It then uses spatial analysis to overlay water quality violations to assess the magnitude of water quality violations on schools. This first-of-its-kind report provides Californians with insights into a statewide problem that has gone unmeasured, untracked and unaddressed for too long.” The report estimates that “the range of schools impacted by unsafe drinking water between 2003-2014 is 979-1,688 schools, or 14-24% of all study population.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Unequal Voices: California’s Racial Disparities in Political Participation. By John Dobard, et al. Advancement Project, et al. June 2016.

Report. 32 p.: <http://advancementprojectca.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Unequal-Voices-Single-Pages-Low-Res-6-28-16.pdf>

Appendix. 8 p.: http://advancementprojectca.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Appendix_Final-6-28-16.pdf

“Since 2000, California has been a majority-minority state where no racial group holds a numerical majority. Yet California’s democracy does not accurately reflect that demographic reality.... Using voter and civic engagement data collections from 2004 to 2014, we analyze data on voter turnout in presidential, midterm, and local elections, data on voting by mail, as well as data on participation beyond the ballot box—contacting public officials, supporting political campaigns, attending political meetings, protesting, engaging in consumer activism, and discussing politics.” The report provides key findings and recommendations for increasing civic engagement throughout a broader swath of society.

HEALTH

“United States Health Care Reform: Progress to Date.” By Barack Obama. *JAMA*. Published ahead of print. July 11, 2016. 8 p.

<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2533698>

“Since the Affordable Care Act became law, the uninsured rate has declined by 43%, from 16.0% in 2010 to 9.1% in 2015, primarily because of the law’s reforms. Research has documented accompanying improvements in access to care (for example, an estimated reduction in the share of nonelderly adults unable to afford care of 5.5 percentage points), financial security (for example, an estimated reduction in debts sent to collection of \$600-\$1000 per person gaining Medicaid coverage), and health (for example, an estimated reduction in the share of nonelderly adults reporting fair or poor health of 3.4 percentage points).... Although partisanship and special interest opposition remain, experience with the Affordable Care Act demonstrates that positive change is achievable on some of the nation’s most complex challenges.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Enhanced Detection Tools and Reporting to Combat Recipient Fraud Are in Development. Government Accountability Office. GAO-16-719T.

June 9, 2016. 22 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/677779.pdf>

In 2014, the 11 states GAO studied have used detection tools required or recommended by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to combat Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipient fraud. “However, 8 of these states reported difficulties in conducting fraud investigations due to reduced or stagnant staff levels and funding despite program growth.... As of May 2016, FNS reported progress in studying current anti-fraud approaches and developing better data on them, and is in the process of developing the final tools and guidance states need to help enhance the integrity of the SNAP program.”

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