



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***California's Historic Corrections Reforms.* By Magnus Lofstrom, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Sep. 2016. 36 p.**

<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=1208>

“California has reduced the number of offenders incarcerated in the state without broadly increasing crime rates. But so far, the state’s historic reforms have not lowered California’s high recidivism rates or corrections spending.... October marks the five-year anniversary of public safety realignment, the major reform that shifted responsibility for lower-level felons from the state prison and parole systems to county

jail and probation systems. The passage of Proposition 47 in 2014 led to more changes....” This report assesses the impact of reforms and their effect on the future in the following areas: (1) incarceration; (2) crime rates; (3) recidivism, and (4) spending. (*Press Release*, Sep. 27, 2016).

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Immigrant and Native-born Populations in Rural and Urban Places. By Andrew Schaefer, et al. Carsey School of Public Policy. Oct. 2016. 8 p.
<https://carsey.unh.edu/publication/rural-immigrant-demographics>

Using American Community Survey data, this report explores the demographic characteristics of both immigrant and native-born populations by metropolitan status. “We find that the rural immigrant population is disproportionately of working age (thus comprising fewer children or seniors), more racially and ethnically diverse, and less educated than the rural native-born population. Rural immigrants are more likely than urban immigrants to come from Mexico and are less likely to be naturalized citizens.”

ECONOMY

Film and Television Tax Credit Programs Progress Report. By Amy Lemisch. California Film Commission. Oct. 2016. 31 p.
<http://www.film.ca.gov/res/docs/CA%20Tax%20Credit%20Progress%20Report%2010-27-2016%20FINAL.pdf>

California recently expanded its film tax credit program from \$100 million annually to \$330 million annually. The California Film Commission reports that the first full year of this expansion successfully generated \$1.5 billion in direct in-state spending, including \$600 million in below-the-line wages. The pre-expansion tax credit program did not generate the same per-year benefits. A separate fund for targeting TV shows, which are more consistent, longer-term projects, helped attract six major shows to relocate from other states to California. The study also found increased employment in the entertainment industry, as reported by industry labor organizations.

California's First Film Tax Credit Program. By Brian Weatherford. Legislative Analyst's Office. Sep. 2016. 28 p.
<http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2016/3502/First-Film-Tax-Credit-Prog-092916.pdf>

This analysis of the Film Tax Credit found that “about one-third of the film and television projects receiving incentives under this program would probably have been made in California anyway. We suspect that this level of ‘windfall benefits’ to some credit recipients may be low compared to other tax credits, which would suggest that the first film tax credit program targeted the types of production vulnerable to being filmed outside the state relatively well.... In general, we advise policy makers to reject such tax incentives. We have, however, acknowledged that California’s adoption of a film tax credit is understandable in light of the actions taken by other states to lure Hollywood productions away from California.”

EDUCATION

In School and On Track 2016. California Attorney General's Office. 2016. 43 p.
<https://oag.ca.gov/truancy/2016>

Chronic absenteeism and chronic truancy rates remain rather high in California elementary schools, at 7% and 25.2% respectively. This report summarizes county-level data on school attendance, and offers examples of school districts working to improve attendance, generally through better communication with parents, collecting meaningful data, and an ongoing commitment to addressing the problem.

EMPLOYMENT

The Gender Pay Gap and California's Low-pay Workers. By Tonya D. Lindsey. California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. Video presentation for the California Pay Equity Task Force. Oct. 24, 2016.

http://www.women.ca.gov/Portals/70/CALowWageWorkersWageGap_Final_TLindsey_TDL_20161017.wmv

This video identifies and analyzes the nearly 2 million low-pay workers in California, defined as those earning less than \$24,000 per year for full-time year-round work. Forty-five percent are women and over half are Latinx, ages 25-44 and have a high school diploma/equivalent or less. The low-pay women workers are overrepresented in many occupation sectors from health services to management. There is a significant gender pay gap for women in the low-pay farming fishing, and forestry occupation sector as well as in the cleaning and maintenance, sales, food work, and production occupation sectors.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Solving the Housing Affordability Crisis: How Policies Change the Number of San Francisco Households Burdened by Housing Costs. By Jeff Belisario, et al. Bay Area Council Economic Institute. Oct. 2016. 30 p.

<http://www.bayareaeconomy.org/report/solving-the-housing-affordability-crisis/>

"[T]his report compiles a list of 20 housing-related state and local policies ... and analyzes their impacts on net affordability [in San Francisco.... The lack of housing affordability ... causes families to be pushed out of job markets in search of affordable housing, increases displacement, and impacts the environment by elongating commutes." Key takeaways from this report: 1) policy matters, as demand for housing in San Francisco continues to intensify; 2) building housing of all types alleviates cost burdens; and 3) the overall impact of affordability matters.

HEALTH

The State of Mental Health in America 2017. Mental Health America. Oct. 2016. 47 p.

<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/issues/state-mental-health-america>

Using Census data and national health surveys, this report seeks to determine the state of mental health prevalence in the United States, as well as access to insurance and qualified practitioners. State mental health policies have an effect on the well-being of the population. State rankings explore which states are more effective at addressing mental health needs and substance abuse problems. The report finds that 1 in 5 adults have a mental health condition. Rates of youth depression are steadily worsening, with 80% of youth receiving little or no treatment. California ranks 23rd overall in prevalence of mental illness and rate of access to care, in a combined score of 15 measures. This number is up from the 2011 report, in which California ranked 33rd.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

California Health Care Quality Report Cards. Office of the Patient Advocate. Oct. 2016.

<http://www.opa.ca.gov/pages/reportcard.aspx>

“California’s Office of the Patient Advocate released its annual report cards on health plans and medical groups—tools meant to help guide consumers and employers as they shop for coverage during the upcoming open enrollment season. The report cards assign ratings to the 10 largest HMOs and five largest PPOs in the state, based on quality of care and patient experience. It also rates more than 200 physician groups. Quality of care measures include ensuring that heart patients’ blood pressure is well managed and that children get their immunizations.... This new feature enables consumers to search and compare medical groups in their county and find the medical group with the best quality and lowest cost.” (*California Healthline*, Oct. 24, 2016).

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